

"Yamasee Indians were Negroes, what were known afterwards as the fiercest of the Indians tribes of the South- the well known Yamasee Indians were Africans"

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The large negro population on the coast of South Carolina is quite different from this here described. The mayor of Beaufort says the town is remarkable for quiet and good order. For 20 years past not a single individual has been killed or seriously injured in any disturbance within the corporate limits. (See Handbook of South Carolina, p. 663.) That is the statement of the mayor of Beaufort, and Beaufort is perhaps the blackest spot in the whole South; that is to say, the negro population predominate more there than anywhere else. There is a peculiar historical fact connected with that town that I would like to mention to the commission. That is the place where the Federal troops first set the negroes free. It was done on those islands in the neighborhood of Beaufort, and they are now there the predominant race, and this mayor refers to them as a quiet community. A most peculiar thing is this Quatrefages in his book on the human race asserts the fact that the African lived on these islands long before the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. He is high authority, and he says that the Yamasee Indians were negroes, what were known afterwards as the fiercest of the Indian tribes of the South—the well-known Yamasee Indians were Africans.

Q. (By Mr. PHILLIPS.) Is it a fact that they were much darker than the other Indians?—A. Yes; it is a fact.

Q. And the hair was different, too?—A. So it is stated by one of the most distinguished ethnologists in the world. Another corroborative proof is that the Spaniards found that 1 negro was equal to 10 Indians for work, and they therefore imported these Indian negroes and carried them to the West Indies to experiment with.

The State guarantees \$3 per pupil enrolled in case the school taxes do not produce that much, and allows each school district to levy a maximum tax of 4 per cent on property for the maintenance of the schools.

The school law requires that instruction be given in agriculture in the public schools. Little has been done in this direction. In our school district a school has recently been opened in which botany and nature study are taught, and we are going to try and develop the school on the agricultural line.

Clemson College is an excellent technical school with professors and full equipment of laboratories and work shops, including a very complete textile school. There are some 400 students in attendance, and several hundred applicants have been refused for lack of accommodations. There is also a negro school at Orangeburg, which is partly supported by the State and partly by the Government, which is said to be doing very good work.

Q. (By Mr. A. L. HARRIS.) How is your school fund raised?—A. The school fund is raised by a State tax of 3 mills on property and by a \$1 poll tax, the poll tax being expended in the district in which it is raised. The other tax—the 3-mill tax—is divided in the county.

Q. Your poll tax goes to the support of the common schools?—A. To the support of the common schools in the locality in which it is collected.

Q. Your schools are divided into colored and white schools, are they?—A. Yes.

Q. Do the colored schools get the same amount per capita that the white schools get?—A. No; I can not give the exact proportion in money, but the plan is this: The law allows the trustees of the school district to distribute the funds

Note to the reader.....

Creek Freedmen Cow Tom negotiated and signed the 1866 Creek Treaty on behalf of the Creek Nation which granted citizenship to those Creeks of African descent (Freedmen). Cow Tom was also of Yamasee Indian descent.

The Creek, Seminole, Yamacraw and Yamasee Indians were all tribes of the Creek Confederacy. Africans and Creeks, Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr.