

Alexander McArthur Draft

Corrected by proceeding drafts

Alexander McArthur deputy sheriff for the county of Wayne being duly sworn deposes and says that on Monday the 17th day of June last about a quarter before four o'clock pm he was at the jail of the said county in the city of Detroit. As aforesaid – That there were assembled around the said jail a large number of Blacks, and Mulattos armed with sticks, clubs, knives, pistols, swords and other unlawful weapons avowing with loud threats their determination to rescue the said prisoners Thornton Blackburn then in the custody of the said John M Wilson Sheriff of the said Country – that apprehensive that they would carry their threats into execution he endeavored by reasoning with them to persuade them to disperse, but without effect, they telling him that they expected some of them would be killed but that they were determined to rescue the prisoner at all hazards. That a second time he went out among the crowd who brandishing their weapons over him, threatened the extremity of violence - and that all his efforts to dispense them were unavailing. That he was about to return into the jail when he perceived the prisoner Blackburn standing on the steps on the jail door, in the act of drawing from his bosom a pistol which he presented to the breast of the jailor named Lemuel Goodell and instantly after turning around pointed the pistol at the said sheriff declaring while using the said pistol as aforesaid that if they did not leave Blackburn go he would shoot him the said jailor. The crowd of Blacks and mulattos crying out at the moment shoot him _ shoot him _ blow him through that the Sheriff was holding the said prisoner Blackburn fast when a number of the said blacks and mulattos among which this Deponent was able to identify on Lewis

Austin rushing forward seized upon the said prisoner, Blackburn and dragged him around a stage couch which had been drawn up to receive the said Prisoner. The said Sheriff was forcible pulled by the said blacks and mulattos down the steps of the jail while endeavoring to detain the said prisoner Blackburn when a number of the said Negroes, Blacks and Mulattos pressed in between the Sheriff and the prisoner and shuck at him the said Sheriff frequent and violent blows and whilst he was defending himself a stone thrown by one of the said black s and Mulattos struck the said sheriff on the face and he in the act of falling discharged his pistol at this moment one of the said Blacks named as he believed Beatty rushed upon this said sheriff and with a heavy club stuck him upon the side of the head and repeated the blow on the back part of the head. The said Sheriff was thereby stunned and rendered insensible and this deponent avers that he verily believes that the intention of the same Blacks and mulattoes so assembled and especially the said Beatty was to take the life of the Said Sheriff John M. Wilson.

And this deponent further saith that after the rescue as aforesaid, he saw the prisoner put into a cart by the said Blacks and Mulattos unlawfully assembled as aforesaid who then shouting and huzzaing at their success drove away into the woods.

This deponent further declares that he was able to identify actually engaged in the said riot and unlawful assemble and in affecting the rescue as aforesaid the following named individual viz. Thornton Blackburn, the said Beatty Lewis Austin, Prince Williams, Peter Lands Alexander, Butler, John Lloyd, and Madison Mason, all Blacks and mulattos.

The deponent further declares that he verily believes that Ruth Blackburn the wife of the prisoner was active in exciting the said Blacks and Mulattos to assist in the rescue

of her husband the said Thornton Blackburn - that while in custody she threatened him and said the said deponent and declared that she would be revenged - that she could not do it herself she would get others to do so. And he disposes further declares that he believes that the said Rutha was an accessory to the concealment and the harboring of the said prisoner Thornton Blackburn after his rescue as aforesaid, having previously to his rescue, by artifice and fraud made her escape from the said Jail. This deponent further states that the said Thornton Blackburn, Rutha Blackburn, Beatty Lewis Austin, Prince Williams, Peter Sands, Alexander Butler, John Lloyd and Madison Mason are now as he believe is the province of Upper Canada to which they have fled for the purpose of avoiding the punishment due to their crimes and misdemeanors as aforesaid.

A. McArthur

Subscribed and sworn to before me the day and year first above written
Henry Chipman