

## Hook and Ladder fire company

...Among my [W. Oscar Brice] first recollections is the old fire company – a hook and ladder brigade – the apparatus being still in use as a part of the present fire department by a negro company. The uniform of this old company was a red flannel shirt, with brass buttons – a sort of slouch hat pinned on one side, cavalry fashion, and black trousers. As I recall it, this was a quasi military organization, all militia companies having been disbanded under the Radical regime. I remember though the parades they had, and a photograph was taken of them in front of the old Woodward house where Judge Buchanan now lives, which I thought was a great picture. This fire company afforded our community not only protection against fire, but it was the safeguard of the people from possible riot.

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