Antebellum, Civil War & Reconstruction

Selection by educators in Chapel-Hill Carrboro City Schools, part of the 2021 cohort of *The 1619 Project* Education Network

Education Network

Julian Carr Dedication of Silent Sam

The following is an excerpt from Julian Carr's speech at the dedication of Silent Sam on June 2, 1913. Julian Carr was a North Carolina industrialist, philanthropist, white supremacist, and Ku Klux Klan supporter. The town of Carrboro is named after him.

"The present generation, I am persuaded, scarcely takes note of what the Confederate soldier meant to the welfare of the Anglo Saxon race during the four years immediately succeeding the war, when the facts are, that their courage and steadfastness saved the very life of the Anglo Saxon race in the South – When "the bottom rail was on top" all over the Southern states, and to-day, as a consequence the purest strain of the Anglo Saxon is to be found in the 13 Southern States – Praise God.

I trust I may be pardoned for one allusion, howbeit it is rather personal. One hundred yards from where we stand, less than ninety days perhaps after my return from Appomattox, I horse-whipped a negro wench until her skirts hung in shreds, because upon the streets of this quiet village she had publicly insulted and maligned a Southern lady, and then rushed for protection to these University buildings where was stationed a garrison of 100 Federal soldiers. I performed the pleasing duty in the immediate presence of the entire garrison, and for thirty nights afterwards slept with a double-barrel shot gun under my head."