

some justice of the peace, that they will faithfully and diligently perform and execute all the duties required of them, a certificate of which oath shall be filed with the clerk of the Circuit Court, and be recorded among the records of the county, and the recording fees paid by the county.

135. The duties of such police shall be as follows: to guard by night the various thoroughfares and avenues of escape for absconding slaves; and for this purpose they shall class themselves, or be classed by the county commissioners, in such manner that, on every night during the year for which they may be appointed, (or as soon thereafter as may be practicable,) the said points and places or districts of county shall be guarded and diligently watched by at least three of such force, and that they shall so continue to alternate that only one-third of such police shall be on duty during any night, except on occasions of public holidays and during Christmas week, or other special occasions, when the whole police force that may be available shall be on duty.

136. And if in the opinion of the county commissioners there shall be localities or districts requiring the service of a special police not embraced in the above plan, they may appoint such additional number, not exceeding three, who shall not be compelled to alternate, unless so directed by the county commissioners, and who shall be governed and directed by said commissioners in reference to such special duties.

137. The whole or part of the police force may be regulated by the county commissioners, in regard to the times they shall perform duty, or cease to perform it, if they shall think expedient to exercise such power.

138. They shall arrest and secure in the public jail all absconding slaves.

139. They may arrest and punish, by a reasonable number of stripes, all free negroes and slaves who may be found roaming about after ten o'clock at night, in spring, summer and autumn, five miles from their homes or places of residence, and nine o'clock in winter, without a permit or authority, unless they shall be on proper business and have a reasonable excuse.

140. They shall disperse and punish, as constables do, all tumultuous or disorderly assemblages of negroes, free or slaves.