

upon such examination, appear to be for the use and benefit of the party applying therefor, the clerk shall refuse to grant it.

92. Any two justices of the peace in said county, on the application of three or more judicious persons, may issue a requisition for as many inhabitants of said county, subject to militia duty, as they may think necessary, not exceeding fifteen in any one company, to be denominated a patrol.

93. Such patrol shall serve for a period of not less than four nor more than eight hours.

94. The justices shall appoint two discreet persons of the patrol, to be captains.

95. The patrol shall make diligent search through the district prescribed in their authority, and disperse all unlawful and riotous assemblages of negroes, and apprehend and seize all negroes and slaves whom they may have reason to suspect have unlawfully absented themselves from home, or have illegally emigrated from another State, or are in any manner violating the law.

96. They shall, as soon as convenient, take all persons whom they may apprehend, before some justice of the peace of the county, for examination; and if, upon full investigation, the justice shall be of opinion that such person has run away from the service of his master, has illegally emigrated to this State, or has in any manner violated the law, he shall commit him to the county jail, to be dealt with according to law.

97. If they shall have reason to suspect that any runaway negro or slave is concealed or harbored in any dwelling or out-house of any negro within their search, they shall demand to be admitted into the same, for the purpose of search; and if the owner or occupant shall refuse to suffer such entry and search, they may use all necessary force to effect the same, and, in any action or suit brought by any owner or occupant, for any entry made in virtue of this section, the defendant may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence.

98. If any person named in such requisition or patrol, on being duly notified and summoned by the justices of the peace, or by their authority, shall neglect or refuse to obey such sum-