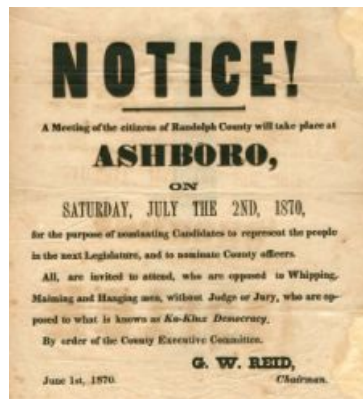


Shoffner Act ^[1]

Shoffner Act



(Click to see large image).

by Allen W. Trelease, 2006 Courtesy of UNC Libraries.

^[2]

The Shoffner Act, introduced by state senator T. M. Shoffner of [Alamance County](#) ^[3] and passed in 1870, empowered the governor to suspend habeas corpus and use militia to restore order in counties where [Ku Klux Klan](#) ^[4] terrorism raged out of control. Governor [William W. Holden](#) ^[5] invoked the act that year to suppress the Klan in Alamance and [Caswell Counties](#) ^[6], igniting the so-called [Kirk-Holden War](#) ^[7] and leading to Holden's impeachment and removal from office.

References:

J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, *Reconstruction in North Carolina* (1914).

Allen W. Trelease, *White Terror: The Ku Klux Klan Conspiracy and Southern Reconstruction* (1971).

Additional Resources:

The Kirk-Holden War, ANCHOR: <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/kirk-holden-war> ^[8]

Governor Holden speaks out against the Ku Klux Klan: <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/governor-holden-speaks-out> ^[9]

Argument in the impeachment trial of W.W. Holden, governor of North Carolina: full stenographic reports revised and corrected. Available from <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/argument-in-the-impeachment-trial-of-w.w.-holden-governor-of-north-carolina-full-stenographic-reports-revised-and-corrected/2148946> ^[10] (accessed August 3, 2012).

Image Credit:

Broadside published by the Randolph County Executive Committee of the Republican Party on June 1, 1870. North Carolina Collection, Call Number Cb329.1 N87r. Courtesy of UNC Libraries. Available from <http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/ref/nchistory/jun2006/notice.html> ^[2] (accessed August 3, 2012).

Subjects:

[Law and legal history](#) ^[11]

[Politics and government](#) ^[12]

[Reconstruction \(1865-1876\)](#) ^[13]

Authors:

[Trelease, Allen W.](#) ^[14]

Origin - location:

[Alamance County](#) ^[15]

[Caswell County](#) ^[16]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[17]

1 January 2006 | Trelease, Allen W.

Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/shoffner-act>

Links

^[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/shoffner-act> ^[2] <http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/ref/nchistory/jun2006/notice.html> ^[3]

<https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/alamance> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/ku-klux-klan> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/holden-william-woods-research> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/caswell> [7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/kirk-holden-war> [8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/kirk-holden-war> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/governor-holden-speaks-out> [10] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/argument-in-the-impeachment-trial-of-w.w.-holden-governor-of-north-carolina-full-stenographic-reports-revised-and-corrected/2148946> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/laws> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/politics-and-gove> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/reconstruction> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/trelease-allen-w> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont/a> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont/c> [17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia>