**Wilmington’s *The Daily Record* Editorial, 1898**

This editorial, printed in Wilmington’s *The Daily Record*, a primarily African American newspaper, was printed on August 18, 1898. It is often believed to have been written by the editor Alex Manly, but could have been written by the associate editor William L. Jeffries. The editorial was written in response to a speaker in Georgia, Mrs. Rebecca Fulton, who suggested the protection of white women by continuing lynching African American men. She said that black men were a danger to white women because of the possibility of rape. However, this article claimed that many of these so-called rapes were actually consensual relationships between white women and black men that had become known to the community. It also accused white men as being just as bad in their relationships with black women. The editorial also led to articles in other, more well-known papers, such as the *News and Observer* out of Raleigh, deriding the paper and African American men and encouraging white men to protect their wives and daughters. The document is believed to have sparked the violent race riots, in Wilmington, that soon followed and was run numerous times by some Democratic newspapers as a way to encourage greater turn-out on election day. The editorial may very well have sparked anger in many voters and therefore aided the Democrats in returning to power on election day. [[1]](#footnote-1)

1. The North Carolina Collection: UNC University Libraries, "August 18, 1898: Wilmington Record Editorial." Accessed September 5, 2012. http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/1898/sources/0818.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)