

Mooreville, N. C.,  
Feb. 8, 1890

It has been Pres. N. C. T. S. A.

Dear Sir and Bro,

I was instructed to  
lay before you a very important mat-  
ter, and first will make a statement  
of the facts in the case.

A certain member of our Alliance  
left a few months ago for Missis-  
sippi, and made application through  
his agent (also a member of our  
Alliance) for a dimit.

The ballot was taken 16 for 9 against.  
At the next regular meeting a paper  
was received protesting against giving  
him a dimit, on the ground of  
certain rumours which were in circula-

tion to the effect that he had obtained ~~written~~ illegally, but as the paper was unsigned was declared out of order. Then several members got up in open Alliance and stated what they had heard on rumour etc and which was understood by certain members to be charges against him. On motion it was referred to the Board of Arbitration. At our meeting today the Board not having met in the meantime, the matter was again brought up, and it was maintained that there were no charges brought at the last meeting but only certain rumours were stated.

A motion then prevailed that the motion referring to the Board be erased from the minutes, and the Secy was ordered to advise his demit, which he did, <sup>though against his will</sup> (Now please tell us what we ought to have done in the matter, and also the

following and signed  
1 Must charges be in writing, or can a member bring verbal charges in open Alliance against another  
2 Can a member be tried on rumour  
3 Was it in order to refer the matter to the Board, when no written charges were made, and only rumours brought up, but which were generally supposed to be correct ~~and~~ and supported at the time to be charges  
4 If so was the expunging motion in order, and had the Alliance any right to discuss the matter until the Board had tried the case and made a report,  
5 Could the Secy refuse to advise his demit when the Pres had ordered him to do so, (some of the members found fault with me for ~~so doing~~ issuing it and claimed that I could have refused.)

6 Has a member of an Alliance any right to tell a member of good stand-

anything  
ing in another Alliance, <sup>contain bus-</sup>  
~~ness~~ that is transacted in his All-  
iance

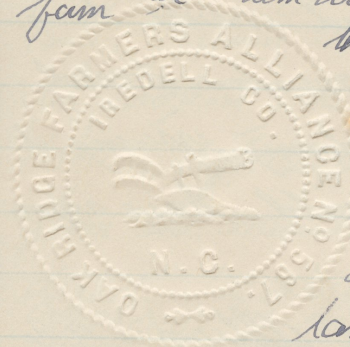
I enclose you a copy of the charge  
a rumour which were taken down  
by me at the time they were first  
brought up.

Please answer and oblige

Yours fraternally

A. W. Johnson

I fear that I have not made myself clear  
enough. You understand the matter hang  
on a lectureably whether "rumours" could be called  
"charges". To make it a little more clear in what  
form the "rumour" were brought up, I would repeat  
that several numbers got up in  
open Alliance and told stated  
what they had heard, and  
that had been told them, by  
the accused brother before he went  
away, by the man on whose  
land the cotton was raised, and  
by the brother who ginned the cotton, all subjects  
were understood at the time to be charges.

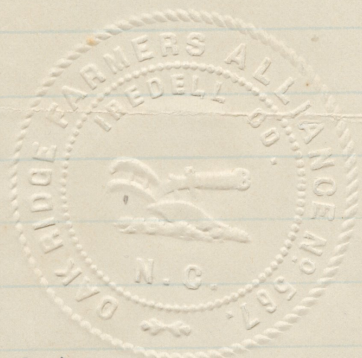


The charges brought against Bro  
Life were

That he went to the gin of Bro. R.  
S. Kennedy and got a bale of cotton  
raised by Jake Byers (Col) on the land  
of Mr. Pithel. That he allowed said  
Byers to represent to the ginmen that  
he had sold the bale of cotton to Bro  
Life, and Byers' initials were marked  
out and ~~his~~ <sup>Life's</sup> ~~own~~ put on.

That he hauled said bale to Merriwell  
and sold it as his own knowing that  
the rent had not been paid, and that cer-  
tain merchants had a mortgage on the  
cotton, and that he paid the money received  
for the cotton to Jake Byers, with the ex-  
ception of \$10<sup>00</sup> which Byers owed him.  
All the above charges were brought against

Bro. G. M. Lipe in open Alliance, at the  
regular meeting of Oak Ridge Alliance  
No 567 held on Saturday Jan 25, 1890



Feb 8, 1890

I have not erased "charge" and put  
rumor in its place, because I wanted  
you to see it as it was taken  
down at the time

A. W. Colson