

Excitement on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

It was rumored about town yesterday, says the Baltimore American of Thursday, that another Abolition and negro insurrection, had broken out in Talbot county, Md.; that the country people were in the greatest consternation, had deserted their homesteads and flocked into the town of Easton and St. Michael's in great numbers. It was also currently reported that two hundred and fifty guns had been discovered secreted on Peaker's Island and that a large body of slaves was prepared at a moment's notice to pounce down upon the whites and massacre them. As a matter of course, little credence was given the rumors—many of which were of the wildest character. An investigation, however, showed that the people of Talbot are in a state of considerable excitement, and that many of these reports, and others much more exaggerated, had obtained currency and belief among them. At Easton and Saint Michael's a number of families had congregated from the surrounding country, leaving their houses shut up and deserted. Armed patrols guard the country, while all the towns and villages have bodies of armed men ready for the insurgents.

We learn from Captain Beckworth, of the schooner Peri, of this city, that the stampede and excitement originated with a negro woman belonging to Wm. Townsend, Esq., who resides some five miles from St. Michael's.—According to her story she was met by two strange men, who, after threatening her life if she betrayed them, told her that if Brown was hung at Charlestown, a large number of whites and blacks were combined to lay the whole county of Talbot in ashes, murder the white people, carry off all the money, etc., etc. This ridiculous story, told by the negro woman, gained credence, and Mr. Townsend fled to St. Michael's. The alarm then became general, and hence the thousand and one rumors afloat at present. Captain Beckworth also states that the story of the 250 muskets on Peaker's Island is entirely unfounded.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands