Mrs. Gray in Toils Again — Claim New Yorker Invented Numbers

97-Year-Old Blind Ex-Slave Dies; 135 Relatives Survive

Boston Woman Predicted Death in Lone Interview, Last October

GAVE DESCRIPTION OF HORRORS OF SLAVERY

Masters Sold Slaves to Get Their Wives

By C. ELLIOTT FREEMAN, Jr.

BOSTON—Mrs. Mary E. Crosby, 97-year-old blind former slave, known to thousands as Mother Mary, was found dead at her home, 40 Village Street, Sunday afternoon, by her niece, Mrs. Sarah Norman, with whom she shared an apartment.

Believing the aged woman unconscious, Mrs. Norman called Dr. Joseph W. Devine of South Boston, who pronounced her dead.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at the Graham undertaking parlors. The Revs. William S. Nawnell, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, and William Bembury, former pastor of Morgan Memorial Church of All Saints, officiated. Interment was in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Mrs. Crosby is survived by 125 nephews and nieces in this city, Cambridge, New York, Washington, Virginia and Florida. In Cambridge alone there are thirty-eight nieces. Mrs. Crosby was a widow; her husband having died over twenty-five years ago. She was born, the last of twenty-two children, in Halifax County, Va. The date of her birth is believed to have been March 20, 1838.

Death Prediction Recalled

Mother Mary disliked publicity, but late in October she reluctantly granted an interview, stating that "lately she had been suffering from strange pains" which led her to believe her end was near.

She predicted that she would not live to see the new year "come in," and her prediction, as usual, were right. In granting her only interview (she requested that it be written again at her death) the blind former slave said: "I hate to talk at times of those horrible days, but I am one of my people and I want the young men and women of my race to know the suffering and humiliations their mothers and fathers went through.

Slaves Couldn't Visit

"My parents were James and Millie Fisher, and her owner was Dick Edmond. The slaves on his plantation were not allowed to visit each other without a permit, said to visit one another was unforgivable sin, even though the slaves visited loved ones.

The penalty for this violation of their master's orders was a dozen lashes on the bare back.

"We were stripped naked, women as well as men—and our feet and hands were tied," she explained, as her eyes grew wide filled with tears. "We were whipped with a whipper made of round leather whip, with many knots in it which would tear the skin as soon as it struck you."

Salt Rubbed in Wounds

"Salt was rubbed in the bleeding wounds to prevent gangrene, we were told. So inhuman and devilish was Dick Edmonds that his overseer threatened to whip us if we cried or showed any signs of pain." the Centenarian said. In spite of her fear of the slaves, they were required to witness the whippings, according to Mrs. Crosby, who said the children stood powerless while their wives and daughters suffered the torture of the lash.

Slaves Robbed of Virtue

"I have lived in an earthly hell, and I am sure that I will go straight to my Jesus, when my spirit leaves this frame of clay," Mother Mary whispered. "I have seen white men on the plantation steal the virtue of little slave girls 13 and 14 years old, and just before the baby was born they would pick out some slave of the plantation and make him marry the girl.

"White women knew of the intimacies that existed between their husband and slave women, but they were afraid to say anything. They were as much followed to go with the master's slave girl. If a slave wife did anything to make love to one such, it meant a merciless beating.

Husbands Sold

"A slave man was often made to leave his cabin to make love some white man on the plantation while he had an affair with his wife. Very often it would be the same woman herself."

Asked if the slave ever objected to this state of affairs, she said: "We did not dare to do so. I have seen many slave husbands sold onto another plantation because the boss was jealously in love with the slave took a fancy not want her husband to sleep with her.

"Black slave husbands were forced to live with other women, the children of the boss—as their own. Two or three boss children of slaves killed themselves after they had been forced to have intercourse with the boss. How many times slave wives would be so ashamed, before their husbands that they would run under bush and hide after they had been forced to be intimate with the boss."

Evanti and Johnson Choir Presented New Year's Day

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Mme. Lillian Evanti and the Hall Johnson Choir were presented New Year's Day by the 135th Street Library before a packed house, which included William H. Dawson, Fredi Washington, Harry T. Burleigh and other musicians.

Special Prayer Delivered at Anti-Lynch Meeting

O LORD, HOW LONG?

By the REV. DR. WILLIAM LLOYD IMES

Pastor, St. James Presbyterian Church, New York City at Inter-faith Anti-Lynching Mass Meeting, January 6, 1935

O Lord, How Long?
How long shall evil flaunt itself unchecked and unafraid?
How long shall Right be upon the scaffold and Wrong upon the Throne?

How long shall men, women, and children worship at the shrine of the lynch God and do him reverence,
While others worship Mammon, some lust, some power?
O Lord, How Long?
Thou knowest, Thou King of Kings, O Lord of Lords.
Until the cities be without inhabitants and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land?
Nay, rather until Thy power shall work through us and justice run down like a mighty stream.
O dwell in us, Mighty Spirit, and use us to Thy Holy Will.

Telegram to President Asking Him to Back Anti-Lynching Measure

The following is the text of the telegram sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt from the anti-lynching mass meeting at Broadway Tabernacle, New York City, January 6.

Great interfaith American citizens' mass meeting at Broadway Tabernacle, New York City today respectfully but vigorously urges upon you that the full force of your administration be placed squarely behind the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill to the end that this abominable crime which holds up our nation to the scorn of civilized world may be speedily ended.

We sincerely trust that your omission of specific reference to lynching in your opening address to the Congress on January 4, means that you plan to send a special message to the Congress urging prompt passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill and does not mean any lessening of interest on your part. We applaud your vigorous statements of the past against lynching and urge that there be no lessening of your unyielding opposition to this crime.

Many Southerners of both races have reached the conviction with other American citizens that lynching will never be ended unless Federal aid is given to the States as in the case of kidnapping. Formation of vigilantes at Shallowville, Tex., season, following wanton destruction of $150,000 court house and State trucks and other equipment proves, as nothing else has, how futile it is to expect effective action in prevention of lynching or punishment of lynchers by present local authorities in many States.

We believe that the Costigan-Wagner Bill will act as a spur to States, and that America owes it to itself to put the full force of the Federal government back of the States through the Costigan-Wagner Bill that we may stamp out this infamous crime.

Pickens Tells How He Rode First Class En Route to Haiti

With WILLIAM PICKENS (For ANP)

It is now Sunday (December 30) and we have just finished "church services" in the lounge. We have passed the Cape Haitien lighthouse on the Acklin Islands, where they still fly the British flag. These islands were given to Spain by Columbus but later taken by the British. Tomorrow we have passed the last outlying