A Mad Salisbury Mob Lynches Colored Man

Matthew Williams, Negro, who killed Daniel J. Elliott, prominent box manufacturer, in his office Friday afternoon was hanged from a tree in the court house green at Salisbury at 8.05 o'clock Friday night and twenty minutes later his body was cut down and burned on a vacant lot on the edge of Salisbury's Negro settlement.

A few minutes before 8 P. M. six men entered the Peninsula General Hospital, where Williams was under treatment in the Negro ward for a self-inflicted pistol wound, lifted him from his bed and ordered him to walk with them to the street.

There more than 300 waiting men and women surrounded the Negro and walked with him to the court house green at Main and Division street, three blocks distant.

One of the crowd had obtained a rope while the mob was moving toward the green. SSeveral men flung it over a limb of a tree about 25 feet from the ground, and two others tied one end of it around the bandaged-swathed neck of the Negro.

The men holding the rope tugged the Negro about fifteen feet above the ground as the mob, which had grown to about 2,000 applauded.

The Negro was raised and lowered several times as the mob's shouts rose and fell. Finally the rope was secured and Williams left hanging in the green.

He was suspended in the green for about 20 minutes, as the mob, constantly swelling, looked on. Then several stepped forward, slashed the rope, and picked up the Negro's body, shouting to the mob to follow them.

G. Murray Phillips, Wicomico county Sheriff, stepped forward and ordered the men to drop the Negro's body, but he was brushed aside by the mob, which had started to close in.

They dragged the body to a lot on Poplar Hill avenue, within easy view of scores of Negro homes, and, after drenching it with gasoline, set afire.

More than 2,000 persons, most of them members of the mob which had witnessed the hanging, but many new recruits, grouped about the prye. They did not dispense until the last flame had flickered out.

The lynching spirit rose suddenly in the town a half hour before the hanging. Several men standing near the court house green, who apparently had been discussing the killing of Mr. Elliott, raised the cry:

"Let's lynch Williams!"

As they walked toward the hospital they repeated that cry, and scores of men fell in behind them; the mob members appeared from stores, side streets, corners, and when the crowd reached the hospital there were about 300 closely grouped.

The crowd was orderly, and stood by without a shout or untoward movement while six men attempted to enter the front door of the hospital.

Police Chief N. H. Holland and Deputy Sheriff John Parks, guarding the entrance, refused to allow them to pass. The delegation fell back, considered the situation a moment, and then went around to a side door of the institution and entered.

The mob's representatives, it was reported later, went directly to the hospital superintendent, Miss Helen B. Wise.

One of them said to her:

"Shall we take him quietly "

She is reported to have replied:

"If you must take him, do it quietly."

They reappeared in a few moments with the Negro, whom they had taken from his bed in the Negro ward on the first floor. Williams' head was so heavily bandaged he could not see, and he was guided to the center of the mob and then escorted to the court house green.

TOWN RESUMES ITS NORM

An hour after the lynching party had broken up the town of almost 11,000 resumed its normally quiet. There were only the usual number of persons in the downtown section, and Negroes who appeared in Main street went about their business as though nothing had happened.

Williams, believing himself underpaid, shot and killed Mr. Elliott, his employer, as the latter sat in his office Friday afternoon talking to a business acquaintance on the telephone.

The Negro then shot himself thru the chest, falling to the floor beside the desk of his employer. Both shots rang out i nthe ear of Thomas Chatham, produce broker, six blocks away to whom Mr. Elliott had been talking.

There were no witnesses to the shooting, and Mrs. Lena Tingle, secretary to Mr. Elliott, who was in the room adjoining his office, told the police she did not hear any conversation between her employer and the Negro before the shooting.

Uncle Eben

"Suspicion," said Uncle Eben, "mighty often consists in realizin' whut you'd be tempted to do if you had de other feller's chance."—Washington Star.

Governor Ritchie Saturday night ordered W. Preston Lane, Jr., Attorney-General of Maryland, to assist Wicomico county authorities in the apprehension and "vigorous prosecution" of members of the mob that less than twenty-four hours before lynched and burned a wounded Negro murderer, Matthew Williams, at Salisbury.

At the same time the Governor announced that if Yuel Lee, the Negro accused of the murder of a family of four at Taylorsville, is tried in Dorchester county, he will see that the Negro and his attorney, Bernard Ades, of Baltimore, are protected. He said he would provide protection for them whether or not the county authorities request it.

Shortly after the Governor issued this order an announcement was made in Cambridge, Md., that the case of Lee, which was to have come up in the Circuit Court there Tuesday, had been sent to the Court of Appeals.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENLS

Congressman T. Alan Goldsborough of the First Maryland District says he is assured that the reports to Congress on the surveys of a proposed inlet at Ocean City from the AtlanticOcean to Sinepuxent Bay, the dredging of Pocomoke River, Knapps Narrows, channel on Smiths Island from Chesapeake Bay to Tangier Sound, the Upper Thoroughfare Deals Island, and Honga River and Tar Bay, will be made to Congress prior to January 1.

The report on the survey of the proposed inlet at Ocean City will be submitted by the District Engineer at Wilmington, Del., and the reports of all other surveys for projects on the Eastern Shore will be made by the District Engineer at Baltimore.

Mr. Goldsborough has submitted a resolution to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors providing for a survey for additional dredging on Smith's Island from Tangier Sound to Chesapeake Bay, and has introduced the following Bills; providing for preliminary examinations and surveys; Waterway on Smith's Island from Tangier Sound to Chesapeake Bay; Fox Creek, a tributary of Honga River; Little Island Creek, tributary of Greater Choptank River; Little Creek, a tributary of Eastern Bay; Rock Hall harbor, and Plain Dealing Creek and Oak Creek, in Talbot County.

Immense Meteorite

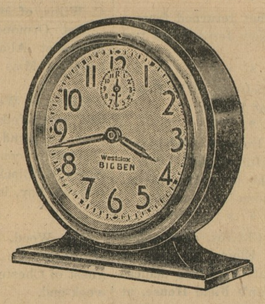
In the Tanganyika region of South Africa, a land surveyor has found the largest meteorite yet discovered. It consisted of a mass of iron and nickel weighing about eighty tons.



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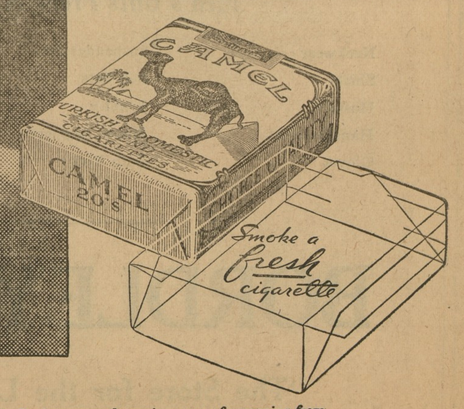
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