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Virginia.

DISPATCH
RICHMOND, VA.

7 July 2 1901

VICTIM OF LYNCHERS.

JOSEPH WALTON (COLORED) HANGED BY A BRUNSWICK CO. MOB.

THE JAILOR WAS OVERPOWERED

Negro Was Charged With the "Usual Crime," But the Evidence Was Circumstantial—He Lost His Life Early Monday Morning—Details.

LAWRENCEVILLE, VA., July 1.—(Special.)—A lynching for an alleged attempt to commit the "usual crime" was the fate of Joseph Walton, a negro recently arrested in this county.

He was taken from the county jail Sunday night by a crowd of about fifty men, carried four miles to Gholsenville Bridge, and then hanged.

Mr. C. I. Mitchell, the jailer, was forced to deliver the prison keys to the mob. He describes the affair as follows.

"Between 12 and 1 o'clock some men knocked at my front door and aroused me. I went to the door, and opening it, saw about fifty masked men. As soon as the door was opened some one asked me for the jail keys.

SHERIFF HAD NO CHOICE.

"Upon my inquiring what they wanted with them, several replied: 'It is none of your business. The sooner you get them the better for you.'

"All carried pistols or guns, except two. They made me go to my room and get the keys."

Leaving a guard at Mr. Mitchell's house to prevent him from giving an alarm, the nocturnal visitors went to the jail, and finding the prisoner, tied his hands securely. After adjusting a rope about his neck, the men dragged him from his cell into the jail-yard and out into the street. Then fastening the rope around his neck to a jumper, they carried him to the bridge across the Meherrin river and hanged him. Death was caused from strangulation.

As soon as Mr. Mitchell was permitted to leave his house he went to the residence of Sheriff Turnbull, stated to him what had happened, and the officers immediately went in pursuit of the mob. But on reaching the river they found the

dead body of the negro swinging from the bridge.

An inquest was held to-day, and the verdict of the jury was that Walton came to his death at the hands of an unknown mob.

THE CRIME COMMITTED.

The crime for which Walton lost his life was committed last Thursday night near Triplett Post-Office, in the southeastern portion of the county, and the evidence against him was mostly circumstantial.

He was employed by Mr. J. H. Clarke and slept on a pallet in the room occupied by his sons. He was in the room at 12 o'clock Thursday night, and at 2, when the screams of Miss Clarke aroused the household, he was absent and found some time later in the woods nearby.

Tracks leading from the window were found to correspond with his.

Miss Clarke was asleep when the man entered the room, but awoke when he took hold of her. Her screams frightened him off before she could identify him.

She is a girl of only 16 years and remarkably pretty.

The action of the indignant citizens of South Brunswick has caused considerable comment. Many murders have been committed in the county within the past three years, but in no case has the death penalty been inflicted.

Juries have brought in verdicts of murder in the first degree time after time, but new trials, not on technicalities, but on the evidence, have been granted by the courts.

LYNCHED IN THE PUBLIC PARK

West Virginia Negro Pays Penalty for Shooting Chief of Police.

[SPECIAL TO THE RECORD-HERALD.]

ELKINS, W. Va., July 22.—William Brooks, colored, was lynched in City Park here this afternoon by a maddened mob of 500 half an hour after he had shot and fatally wounded Robert Lilly, chief of police.

Brooks was creating a disturbance in the lower end of town and when Chief Lilly tried to arrest him the negro fled into a house. The officer followed and clinched with him. While they were rolling on the floor the officer's revolver dropped from his pocket and Brooks seized it and shot Lilly through the abdomen.

Brooks then jumped from a window and was instantly pursued by the crowd which had been attracted by the fight. He was captured after a chase of half a mile and carried to the park, where his body was soon swinging from a tree.