

RAPIST SHOT TO DEATH BY A MOB AT GRAHAM

Attacked Little 7-Year-Old Girl Near Elon College; Was Being Taken To Trial

Graham, Aug. 26.—While Judge Oliver H. Allen, of Kinston, waited yesterday afternoon to have the prisoner arraigned in superior court for assault upon a 7-year-old girl near Elon College yesterday morning, an angry crowd of Alamance citizens seized John Jeffress, a negro, from Sheriff C. D. Story in the courthouse yard and shot him to death in the woods a mile and a half south of here on the Belmont road. The officers were overpowered on almost the identical spot where James Ray fell mortally wounded on July 19, when the Durham machine gun company was guarding the jail.

The 7-year-old daughter of Lou Rudd, who lives a mile and a half east of Elon College, went to the field yesterday morning to take her father a drink of water. John Jeffress, a negro from Wake Forest, jumped from the bushes near the home and assaulted the little one. Soon a posse of 25 citizens headed by President W. A. Harper, of Elon college, were on his trail, and the news of the crime was broadcasted.

Negro Arrested by Citizens

When the negro appeared at Graham station at 1 o'clock, Maj. J. J. Henderson, prominent Graham attorney, and J. A. Dickey took him in custody and placed him in the county jail. The negro admitted the attempt, it is stated, but denied completing his purpose.

Alamance superior court in regular session was ready for the negro's trial, and Judge Allen of Kinston, and Solicitor Sam M. Gattis immediately decided to put the wheels of justice in motion. The father and mother and the little girl were summoned, the stags all set and everything put in readiness.

Court Addresses Crowd

Quickly the news had spread and from everywhere the crowds had gathered. Every inch of space in the courtroom was taken while outside the people stood on each other on every street. There were thoughts of a lynching if they were not dispersed.

At 4 o'clock the court announced its readiness to begin with the trial and Sheriff Story and his deputies went to the county jail a hundred yards away to get the prisoner. Judge Allen in his fatherly manner talked to the crowd in the court room, urging them to be calm and to let that justice be done in an orderly and lawful manner. He spoke of the great provocation to violence under which they labored and declared his sympathy with them, but felt it would be extremely unfortunate to yield to it, especially since the court was all ready to administer justice.

When the officers had gone a few yards from the jail, a mob of angry citizens, variously estimated in number appeared, and quick as a flash overpowered the sheriff and his assistants. The negro was whisked away in a big automobile to a section of woods on the Belmont road and there shot to death.

The men declared responsible for the killing are said not to be natives of this county and their names are unknown here. It is claimed that they came in a big automobile.

Grand Jury Returns Bill

The grand jury had already returned a true bill against the negro and all was ready for the trial. The father and mother of the little girl had identified the negro as the man they saw run away to the woods. The little girl had said he was the negro.

After the negro was shot down, his body was left beside the road and thousands of people from the surrounding country visited the