

JUDGE ALLEN PLEADS FOR SANCTITY OF LAW

Perpetrator of Crime at Elon College Pays Extreme Pen- alty As Victim of Mob Law; Law-Abiding Citizens of Ala- mance County Outraged By Deed of Irresponsible Men

Graham, Aug. 25.—While Judge Oliver H. Allen, of Kinston, waited this afternoon to have the prisoner arraigned in Superior court for the raping of a 7-year-old girl near Elon college this 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 19th, when the Durham machine gun company was guarding the jail.

The 7-year-old daughter of Lee Rudd, who lives a mile and a half east of Elon college, went to the field this morning to take her father a drink of water. John Jeffress, a negro from Wake Forest, jumped from the bushes near the home and raped 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 stage 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 jostled each other on every street. If there were thoughts of a lynching they were not discussed publicly.

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 see that justice took its course in an orderly and lawful manner. He spoke of the great provocation to violence under which they labored and declared his sympathy with it 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 tonight. 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.

Physicians had testified before the grand jury that an examination of the victim of the tragedy showed that the negro had accomplished his purpose. The girl is said to be a few days less than seven years old.

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

Solicitor Much Chagrined.

It was a determined set of men that pursued the negro from Elon College this morning, but they had no other thought than to let justice take its course. President Harper was one of these men, and was in the courthouse to appear as a witness. The father of the outraged girl had no other thought than that the negro would be fairly tried.

Solicitor S. M. Gattis was in the court-room this afternoon ready to prosecute in the name of the State. His feeling over the outcome was one of extreme disappointment.

Not a Shot Fired.

There was not a shot fired; not even a gun drawn during the minute scuffle between the mob and officers. Sheriff Story said tonight that resistance would have been folly as the mob was made up of between 25 and 50 determined men. There were at least 150 additional men nearby whose sympathies were with the mob, he stated tonight.

Answering a direct question, Sheriff Story declared that he did not know anyone in the mob. The man who led the mob and took the prisoner away, the sheriff said, must have just moved into the county and was not known to him. There have been no arrests in connection with the negro's death. Whether there is a likelihood that there will be arrests the sheriff did not know.

Sheriff Story said tonight that Graham is quiet. There appears to be no race feeling. The negro was not a resident of Alamance county.