

BRISCOE REPORTED LYNCHED.

Taken from an Anne Arundel Constable and Hanged to a Tree.

[Reported for the Baltimore Sun.]

Capt. John Mills, of the steamer *Gazelle*, who arrived yesterday evening from Stoney Creek, Anne Arundel county, states that George Briscoe, colored, was lynched by a party of masked men at New Bridge on Wednesday night. Capt. Mills claims to have received his information from reliable persons who were familiar with the facts. He states that Detectives Droste and Siebold carried Briscoe down to Jacobsville on Wednesday afternoon and delivered him into the custody of Justice Jacobs. Briscoe was arrested in this city on a warrant issued by Justice Jacobs charging him with robbing the residence of George Schievenent, of Anne Arundel county, on November 18.

After the detectives reached Jacobsville with Briscoe he was given a hearing by Justice Jacobs. There were many persons present at the hearing. Briscoe's manner before the magistrate, Capt. Mills states, was offensive both to the official and persons present. When he was committed the prisoner, it is said, asked the magistrate with an oath what right he had to commit him to jail? This, it is reported, angered the people to such a pitch that there were mutterings of lynching him on the spot. The hearing took place late in the afternoon. In the evening a constable took charge of Briscoe and started with him for Annapolis.

At New Bridge, where the road crosses the upper waters of the Magothy river, a large party of masked men, according to the report, surrounded the constable, took Briscoe and hung him to a tree. The spot where the hanging is said to have taken place is very lonely and distant from habitations.

The cause assigned for the lynching was the frequent robberies that have occurred in the neighborhood of Stoney Creek recently and the belief that Briscoe was the robber. The events which led to the tragedy form a chapter of interesting reading. Last spring Dr. Lynch's house was entered through a window and robbed of \$700. Suspicion pointed to Briscoe, but nothing came of it. There were other petty robberies in the neighborhood last summer. They grew so frequent that ladies were afraid to remain in their homes after nightfall without the men of their families staying home.

A general feeling of insecurity ensued. This was heightened by the robbery of J. C. Armiger's dwelling about four weeks ago. The thief secured by the operation \$150 in money. Shortly afterwards Addison Johnson's store was broken open and robbed of money. The dwelling of Thomas Jacobs was also entered and robbed of money. Richard Phelps's house was entered one night, but the burglar was seen by Mrs. Phelps, who gave the alarm, and he made good his escape. After this a vigilance committee visited the dwelling of Briscoe to warn him to leave the county. The visit was paid at 2 o'clock in the morning. They were surprised to see him make his appearance as soon as they called him, all dressed, as if he had not been in bed. He grew very angry, and said he would shoot somebody if they fooled with him. Words passed between the crowd and Briscoe, and some one fired the contents of a shotgun into the house.

That night, at about 12 o'clock, the residence of George Schievenent was entered and robbed of \$20. But the vigilants had not heard of the robbery when they visited Briscoe's house. All these robberies, Captain Mills states, were evidently committed by one man, as they were all done in the same manner. Each time the robber gained entrance to a house by prying up a shutter with a chisel and lifting it off its hinges.

These frequent robberies wrought the people in the neighborhood of Stoney Creek up to a pitch of exasperation which has been ready to burst forth at any moment for the past three weeks. Many colored folks, Capt. Mills states, also felt incensed about the situation, and muttered threats against Briscoe, whom they suspected. But Briscoe did not seem to care for the public feeling against him, and when spoken to showed great bravado.

Briscoe is described as a bright mulatto, forty years old. He was married. It was stated by Capt. Mills that Briscoe was familiar with the neighborhood and knew the habits and houses of all the people in the country side. It is stated that the body of the lynched man was suffered to hang to the tree yesterday up to a late hour in the afternoon. It is not known that any steps had been taken to ferret out the lynching party or hold an inquest over the remains.