



Grafton Boone and Tip Wells as escorts to Annapolis. It was necessary to bind him in order to get him safely to jail. This was done with leather hame-strings. The deputies left Jacobsville with their prisoner at 7.30 P.M.

Deputy Boone stated that he and Wells were driving leisurely along toward Annapolis, not dreaming that any persons desired to take the prisoner from them. They had passed over New Bridge, which spans the head of Magothy river, and had gotten about half way up the hill, on the south side, when more than a score of men swarmed into the road from the woods and stopped his team. Instantly he was looking down the bores of a double-barreled gun, and twenty pistols were shown by others of the party. He was commanded to leave the carriage and make quick time from the neighborhood. Seeing that he hesitated, the lynchers, all of whom were masked, told him he would certainly come to grief if he resisted. Wells was unceremoniously dragged out of the carriage and told to "git." Boone then alighted and left the place. During the brief time the above events were transpiring Briscoe sat calm and unmoved. One of the lynchers said to him: "You're an innocent-looking son of a gun, ain't you?"

"I don't know whether I am or not," replied he.

These were the last and only words Boone heard Briscoe utter. It was his opinion, as well as others, that Briscoe died game. After the lapse of an hour Boone went back to the scene in search of his team. He found it near where he was forced to leave it. He also saw the body of Briscoe swinging from the limb of a tree.

Wm. D. Parsons, who was passing the scene of the lynching on his way to Jacobsville, Thursday morning, saw the body and reported the fact to Justice Jacobs. That magistrate sent a message to Justice Thomas Boone, requesting him to summon a jury of inquest. The following jurors were sworn: J. L. Tydings, foreman; Percy Williams, A. Siemon, A. J. Ashburn, James Meek, Wm. Postliff, George A. Gray, Calvin G. Chestnut, Hamilton T. Williams, Jackson Johnson, Thomas Burke and E. L. Breining. The jury heard the testimony of Parsons and Deputy Sheriff Boone. The coroner sent a messenger to William Booz, colored, father-in-law of Briscoe, that the body was at his disposal. Booz replied that as Briscoe was in the hands of the State when he was seized and hung, he preferred to let the State bury his remains. The jury rendered the following verdict: "That George Briscoe came to his death on the 27th day of November, in the year 1884, in the third district of Anne Arundel county; was hanged by the neck and died of strangulation by a person or persons unknown." After rendering the verdict the members of the jury dug a grave at the foot of the dogwood tree, and buried the remains in a rude pine coffin, which had been hastily improvised. The head rests at the foot of the tree, and a pine stake marks the foot of the grave. Dr. Geo. H. Crow, who cut the body down at 2 P. M., Thursday, states that there was no discoloration of the face or protrusion of the eyes and tongue, and the neck was not broken. He thought the man died gradually of strangulation. There were a few shot found in the back and neck of the body. The punctures looked as if they were a week old. It was thought Briscoe received these slight wounds at the hands of a gentleman in the neighborhood whom he is alleged to have tried to rob more than a week before he met his death. It is stated that Sheriff Fowler will bring the matter to the attention of State's Attorney Munroe. The lynchers were all well masked, and it will be difficult to fasten the deed upon any one of them.

Mrs. Richard Phelps, whose house was entered by some one, supposed to be Briscoe, was so severely frightened by the affair that she has been critically ill ever since. There is a neck composed of about 2,000 acres of land situated between Stoney and Rock creeks. In this district more than twenty burglaries have taken place, it is stated, in the past twelve months, and upwards of \$1,500 in money have been stolen. It is well known that the same man committed all of them, the marks of the chisel used by the burglar showing that the same tool was used in all cases. It was the general belief that Briscoe was the robber. He did little or no work, and yet he always seemed to have plenty of money. He was in jail last spring awaiting trial on the charge of stealing \$700 from Richard Phelps. While he was incarcerated the burglaries ceased. They began again as soon as he was released from jail and went back to the neighborhood. He served a term of five years in the penitentiary for robberies committed in Kent county. He returned there after serving out his time, but was warned to leave. He profited by the warning and went to the scene of the robberies in Anne Arundel about three years ago. Among the numerous sufferers by the burglaries are Messrs. James Solley, Edward Forman, Samuel Chase, Henry Stallings, Howell Hodges, Frank Hodges, Richard Phelps, Addison Johnson, the Oakley brothers, Justice Thomas S. Jacobs, Thos. Scheminant and James S. Armiger. All these robberies were committed within a radius of three miles. Many of them were bold to recklessness. Briscoe was searched before being sent to jail. He had two dollars on his person and six policy tickets. His is the only case of lynching that ever occurred in the third district.