

COOK TAKEN FROM JAIL.

SEIZED BY A MASKED MOB:

LED AWAY WITH HIS NECK IN A NOOSE.

Shot in the Neck, Hanged to a Limb of a Tree and Stripped of His Clothes—Cook Reported to Have Confessed.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

WESTMINSTER, MD., June 2.—This morning about one o'clock about thirty men on horseback, masked, and with an open wagon in their midst, rode rapidly through town to the jail, surrounded and broke in the front door.

They seized the sheriff, overpowered him and bound him. Then they broke through the iron door with crowbars and seized Townsend Cook, the colored man charged with outrage. They bound the negro, who made no outcry, put a rope around his neck, carried him out of the jail and placed him in the wagon.

They then surrounded the wagon and rode rapidly through the town the way they had come. Five or six remained to guard the sheriff until the others had got out of town, and then rapidly followed.

They went towards Mount Airy. They had a leader, who gave all orders, which were obeyed with the quickness and discipline of soldiers.

The mob took Cook out the Mt. Airey road about a mile and hung him to the limb of a tree beside the road. They fired two bullets into the back of his neck. No one was allowed to accompany them, and when, about 3 o'clock some citizens found the body, life was gone.

Blood was streaming down the body from the bullet-holes in the neck. The mob had stripped off all his clothes except his trousers, and had tacked the following note to the tree:

"This man confessed his crime."

This was written in lead pencil on the back of an old letter. On the other side was a printed letter-heading, reading:

"Law Office of Milton G. Urner, Frederick."

Underneath this, written in ink, was "H. H. Dem—Dear Sir," the last of the name being torn off. An inquest will be held at daylight.

THE SUN of Monday morning contained the particulars of the offense which was charged against Townsend Cook. Mrs. Carrie V. Knott lives with her husband, John Knott, on the county road leading from Mt. Airey to Watersville, and two miles from Mt. Airey. She has a child of 18 months. While Mr. Knott was away from home at work on Saturday afternoon it is charged that Cook entered the house, demanded food, and then struck her with a club and assaulted her. Cook was arrested the same day and taken to Westminster.