

# JIM TAYLOR LYNCHED.

Taken from the Chestertown Jail  
and Hung to a Tree.

## A DETERMINED BODY OF CITIZENS.

Led by a Rope to Death—Jail Doors  
Beaten Down and the Sheriff Over-  
powered—Colored People Indignant—  
The First Lynching in Kent.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]  
CHESTERTOWN, MD., May 18.—Last night  
James Taylor, the negro who brutally as-  
saulted the ten-year-old daughter of Mr.  
John Silcox, of Kennedyville, was taken  
from the Chestertown jail and hanged  
to a small tree, not fifty yards distant  
from the jail. As stated in THE SUN yesterday,  
guards were placed about the jail and re-  
lieved every hour. Word reached Chester-  
town from Kennedyville that the lynchers  
would surely be here, and that the Chester-  
town people would be expected to hold the  
prisoner. As early as 9 o'clock they arrived  
and held a meeting near the jail, but it was  
so secretly held that the crowd about the jail  
did not know of their arrival.

### MAKING TERMS.

At this meeting a representative from the  
commissioners of Chestertown appeared be-  
fore them and made one request in their be-  
half, and it was that the negro be carried to  
Kennedyville before being hung. This the  
men would not agree to, but said they would  
promise not to lynch him within the town  
limits as far as was in their power. A tree  
on the place of Mrs. E. R. Whitekes, about one  
mile from town, was thereupon agreed upon  
as the place for the execution. This repre-  
sentative also requested the leader of the  
mob, whom he did not know, not to riddle  
the man's body or mutilate it in any way.  
This was heartily acceded to. They stated  
that their object in resolving to do this thing  
was for the betterment of the county, the  
protection of wives, mothers and children,  
and for the protection of a poor ruined girl  
from the eyes of hundreds in a court-house  
and the questions of a paid attorney. The  
men composing this party seemed to be men  
of good standing and sound judgment, and a  
more nervy squadron would be hard to find.

### AROUND THE JAIL.

Around the jail the crowds were gather-  
ing, and on Dugan's corner, opposite the jail,  
fully one hundred men were congregated.

One square further down on Main street  
the colored people were gathered in large  
numbers, but when THE SUN reporter moved  
around among them just before the affair no  
complaining of any kind was heard.

### QUIET IN THE JAIL.

In the jail all was quiet and secure. The  
sheriff's wife compelled him to stay by her  
side, and it was for a time feared that her  
life would be also sacrificed on the eventful  
night. In the front corridor Mr. John H.  
Greenwood was stationed. In the back cor-  
ridor, into which Taylor's cell opened, stood  
Deputies Frank Plummer, Amos B. Kelley,  
Albert L. Dugan and William B. Plummer.  
These men said they were well prepared and  
did not expect any trouble.

Jim Taylor was dozing on his cot in the  
end cell, No. 6, when he was awakened to be  
apprised of the situation.

### PROTESTING HIS INNOCENCE.

"Jim," said the questioner, "do you know  
what is going on outside?"

"Yes, sir. They is gwine to kill me, I  
reckon."

"Are you ready to die?" he was asked.

"Yes, sir; I think I am. I have belonged to  
the church for three years and I feel pre-  
pared to go."

"Now, Jim, tell us whether you did the  
crime they say you did."

"No, sir; I am an innocent man, and I am  
not afraid to say so even while I am expect-  
ing to meet my God in a few minutes."

He was told how awful it was to die with a  
lie on his lips, and he replied that he knew it.  
These were the last words he was heard to  
utter.

### THE MOB ENTERS THE JAIL.

In the rear of the jail several masked men  
from this vicinity stood waiting, armed to the  
teeth. The double gate leading from Cross  
street to the stable-yard were wide open,  
while the small yard gate was in charge of  
the watchman. The conditions were now  
all favorable to the lynching, and toward the  
jail a crowd of 500 people were seen advanc-  
ing closer and closer. They drew near with-  
out any noise whatever. The yard gate was  
easily passed through, and the sixty armed  
men marched to the side door of the jail, which  
leads directly to the jail corridor. The  
leader called for a sledgehammer, and in an  
instant a heavy-built person stepped forward  
and with six good, hard blows, accompanied  
by an axe, the heavy door gave way,  
and it required but little force to  
set aside the several men who tried to  
block their way. Officer Kelley was caught  
by the throat and bears the marks of the  
man's nails. The keys were demanded, but  
they were not to be found. The negro was  
soon located and work was commenced to  
get at him. When the first blow was struck  
on the lock Officer Dugan protested, but  
when told that his life would be taken if he  
made any trouble he quietly stepped aside,  
and in a few moments the works of the lock  
fell jingling to the brick floor and several of  
the men entered the cell.

### LED BY A ROPE.

The rope was placed over the negro's head  
and then he was led through the corridor to  
the steps. In going down the steps he fell,  
but he was helped to his feet and led on out  
to the stable-yard, where the big crowd was  
in waiting, and immediately the cry of  
"Don't go any further, do it right here,"  
was raised, and it was found impossible to go  
further, for in what seemed like an instant,  
the man with the rope had climbed a small  
maple tree on Cross street, opposite the end  
of the jail, and there he was hanged until  
dead. His hands were not tied, and during  
the march from the jail to the tree he kept  
hold of the rope around his neck.

### DEAD IN ONE MINUTE.

He was dead in one minute after he left  
the ground and had not made any move-  
ments with hands, feet or mouth. The hub  
on which he was hung was so low to the  
ground that the man's head just towered  
above those of the crowd. Every man in the  
crowd was armed, and cries of "Don't shoot"  
arose, and not a shot was fired. The lynchers  
seemed to be cool and deliberate, there was  
no drinking, and not a single shot was fired  
during the whole evening. When cries of  
"Don't shoot" were heard the crowds of col-  
ored people who were not far away ran, and  
so did many of the whites.

### CORONER'S INQUEST.

The coroner soon came and had the body  
lowered and placed in the old engine-house  
by Undertaker Dodd. The crowd dispersed  
very orderly without any disturbance, and  
many persons living within a square of the  
jail, although not in bed, did not know of the  
affair. Coroner Phipps summoned the fol-  
lowing jury of inquest this morning: Fore-  
man, Lewin S. Fowler, J. W. Lambert, J. K.  
Aldridge, M. A. Foulson, W. T. Matthews, T.  
S. Birdley, B. N. S. Wilkins, C. C. Morgan, A.  
I. Dugan, Geo. B. Westcott, T. W. Eliason,  
Jr., who brought in a verdict that the de-  
ceased came to his death from the hands of  
masked men, unknown to the jury, who  
broke open the jail and by a rope hung  
James Taylor to a tree near the jail.

### COLORED PEOPLE INDIGNANT.

Taylor was buried at the almshouse today.  
The colored people are very indignant at the  
affair, but nothing has developed here yet.  
Dan Wright was committed to jail for de-  
nouncing the affair and shaking his fist in a  
white man's face and being generally disor-  
derly today. This is the first lynching that  
ever occurred in Kent.

WILMINGTON, DEL., May 18.—A Clayton  
(Del.) special to the Every Evening says:  
"Little Nellie Silcox, the victim of the  
negro's brutality, died yesterday."