

THE SOMERSET PRISONERS.

Taken From Princess Anne to Salisbury and then on to Baltimore.

The eleven colored men who are charged with being implicated in the murder of Constable Carver in Somerset county last Wednesday night, an account of which was published in last week's *Advertiser*, were taken to Baltimore Saturday and placed in the city jail.

The men are Geo. Parker, Geo. Brown, Geo. Holden, Alfred Conquest, John Hall, John Handy, Geo. Hammond, Elmer Cooper, Theo. Smith, Leonard Conquest and John Williams.

They were placed two in a cell on murderer's row, with the exception of John Handy, who is regarded as one of the ringleaders, and for that reason he was placed in separate confinement.

After the lynching of Innes Kemp in the jail at Princess Anne the authorities were afraid that the remaining prisoners would meet a similar end if they were allowed to stay in Princess Anne, and by the advice of Judge Henry Page they were placed on a special train and brought to the Salisbury jail. There was danger, too, of a conflict between the white and colored people, a crowd of colored people having armed themselves and declared their intention to protect the prisoners.

The prisoners were afraid to be separated here, and at their request they were all placed in one cell. The guards who accompanied the sheriff to Salisbury were Levin Wilson, H. P. Griffith and Lewis Lankford. They, with Deputy Sheriff Dryden, remained in jail with the men all night. The transfer was made so quietly that few people knew the prisoners were in Salisbury, and when the fact became known there was an uneasy feeling, as it was reported that a mob from Somerset had declared they would follow the prisoners wherever they were carried.

Jailer Dryden told a graphic story of the killing of Kemp in the jail at Princess Anne Thursday night. He said that when he was aroused it was about 2 o'clock a. m. and some one called out to him that Charles Miller had a prisoner there. He got up and, only partly dressed, unlocked the jail door. There in a wagon was a man tied and as soon as the two men who had the supposed prisoner came within a few feet they dropped the bogus prisoner and caught the jailer. Pointing a pistol at him, they told him to keep quiet and deliver over the keys. At this time about seventy-five men emerged from the surrounding buildings and filled the corridors of the jail. The jailer refused to deliver over the keys, so the crowd brought in their battering rams and went to work. Finally they secured the keys opening the cell door, emptied about fifty bullets in the side of Kemp, riddling his body.

John Handy, one of the prisoners, said in an interview: "The killing of the constable was done by Kemp. He was the ringleader and the only man who either hit or cut the constable. We were all at the store, but none but Kemp was drinking. He got into a quarrel with the constable, and after that they began to tussle. Seeing that there was going to be trouble we tried to get Kemp away, and I caught hold of him and tried to get him to go home. The constable followed him out of the store and struck him with a bottle, after which they got into another row. We all left the place at once and did not hear any more about it until we were arrested as witnesses. We were frightened when the mob came in the jail to kill Kemp as we thought they were going to kill us all."

When Sheriff Sterling arrived in Salisbury at 12 o'clock Saturday, he consulted Judge Holland in regard to taking the prisoners to Baltimore. The Sheriff said that an armed body of lynchers went to Princess Anne to kill all the prisoners, and, finding that they were not in the jail there, went to the railroad station and telegraphed to superintendent Dunne, of the N. Y. P. & N. railroad, for a special train to come to Salisbury with enough cars to carry 175 people. The request was declined by the railroad people. Judge Holland fearing that the mob would be here Saturday night and probably get at the prisoners authorized the sheriff to take the men to Baltimore jail. The sheriff left on the 2 o'clock train for Baltimore with the men all handcuffed.

The remains of Constable Carver were interred at Rehoboth, last Sunday.
