

DRAGGED TO HIS DEATH.

HENSON GIVEN SHORT SHRIFT BY ANGRY LYNCHERS.

Twenty Armed and Masked Men Break in the Jail at Ellicott City and Take the Murderer of Daniel Shea From His Cell—They Hurry Him Nearly a Mile Away and Hang Him to a Dogwood Tree—The Doomed Man Struggles Fiercely With His Captors.

[Special to The American.]

Ellicott City, May 28.—Nothing has been talked of here today except the lynching, at an early hour this morning, of Jacob Henson, the young colored man who was under sentence of death for the brutal murder of Merchant Daniel F. Shea on February 19 last. Henson, as stated in the later editions of today's American, was taken from his cell in the county jail by an armed mob, and hanged on a dogwood tree on Merricks lane, about three-quarters of a mile from the jail. The affair was carried through with despatch, and few of the citizens of the town knew of the occurrence until this morning. It is generally believed that the lynching party, all of whom wore masks, and were more or less armed, were citizens of Ellicott City, and their summary

dogwood tree. On their way they found one of Henson's shoes, and two masks, that were made of some light fabric, like muslin. Henson's feet were within a short distance of the ground, and he was not only dead, but his body was cold and rigid. Chief Vansant immediately went back to the town, and summoned a jury of inquest, with Gerhardt Butkee as foreman. In the bright moonlight the jury walked out the lonely country road. They made a weird spectacle viewing the remains under such conditions. The body was cut down, placed in a pine coffin, and driven to the jail, while the jury went to their respective homes, to meet again at nine o'clock in the morning.

At eight o'clock this morning Dr. W. E. Hodges held a post-mortem examination, and reported to Coroner B. H. Wallenhorst that Henson's neck had not been broken, but that he had

Died From Strangulation.

When the jury met they rendered a verdict that Henson had come to his death from the hands of parties unknown.

Hardly had the jury disbanded before a mob of curious people forced their way into the corridor of the jail, where the body lay, and gazed at it with much interest. Around the dead man's neck was a scapula, and at his feet were some wild-flowers that some one had cast into the rough coffin. A few feet away was the cell he had been taken from a few hours before, and on a bench outside of it lay a Bible, and some other religious work he had been reading. In the crowd that came to see the body were some well-dressed women, and after they had gratified their morbid curiosity, some of them loitered in the corridor of the jail, not five feet away from the coffin, and discussed all manner of up-to-date topics. What disposition could be made of the body puzzled Chief Vansant. Jacob Henson, the father of the dead man, who lives on the outskirts of the town, said he did not want to have anything to do with it, but later in the day the chief learned that David Henson, a brother of the dead man, living in Baltimore, would receive the remains. Chief Vansant then tele-



MARCHING TO HIS DOOM.

action was taken for the reason that they feared that Governor Brown would commute the murderer's sentence to life imprisonment. June 7 was the date set for Henson's execution. Since the question of Henson's sanity has been raised several physicians have visited the jail and examined the prisoner. On Monday another delegation, consisting of Drs. L. G. Smart, of the Sheppard Asylum; Chas. G. Hill, of Mount Hope, and R. W. Dashiell and William Lee, members of the State Lunacy Commission, were sent here by Governor Brown to examine the prisoner. They made a report of their examination to the Governor today to the effect that Henson was responsible, as will be seen elsewhere in The American. The citizens, however, could not foresee this, and they feared that the execution would not take place at the appointed time, and the lynchers, it is supposed, came to the conclusion that they would take time by the forelock, and make sure that Henson suffered death.

The plans were laid in the quietest manner, and when the people of Ellicott City went to their repose on Monday night, they little realized that Henson would be a dead man before daylight. Not the slightest apprehension was felt at the jail, which was in charge of Deputy Warden Robert H. Holtman, in the absence of Warden John J. Lilly, who was at Wheeling, W. Va., attending a court case. No death watch guarded Henson, and the only near companion he had was William Wicks, another colored man, who is waiting trial for alleged mayhem.

The Jail Surrounded.

Henson occupied the first cell on the right side of the corridor, near the main door, while Wicks had the freedom of the corridor. Adjoining the jail proper is the warden's residence, and the only occupants in it yesterday morning when the lynchers put in their appearance were Deputy Warden Holtman and his wife, Mrs. Sallie Lilly, his mother-in-law, and Mrs. Jennie Donnellon, his sister-in-law. Deputy Holtman went to bed after ten o'clock, and was not aware of the presence of the lynching party until his wife awoke him and told him there were some men in the back yard. Deputy Holtman rushed to a door leading to a portico that overlooks the back door, and just as he stepped on the portico he saw a masked man standing below with a shotgun leveled at his head. Near him stood another masked man armed in a similar manner. The man with the raised weapon shouted: "— — — get inside that door, or I'll make mincemeat of you." Deputy Holtman then realized the purpose of the men, and, jumping inside the door, told his wife to hide the keys of the cell, and at the same time he dashed down the back staircase, so he could reach the jail corridor. Just as he reached the bottom of the steps another shotgun was thrust in his face, and the masked man behind it hissed out: "Stay up there or I'll murder you." This man's companion was armed with an ax. Deputy Holtman had been caught in a trap, and there was nothing left for him to do except remain quietly in his room, as he could neither make his escape or give an alarm.

Dragged From His Cell.

To reach the jail corridor from the house the lynchers had to pass a heavy iron door, but this was soon opened after the lock had been knocked off with an ax. Beyond this was a frail wooden door, which soon gave way to the lynchers. Wicks, who had been in the corridor of the jail, heard the men approaching, and became so badly frightened that he crept in a cell that had been fitted up as a library, and hid himself under some furniture. From his room Deputy Holtman heard the determined men knock the lock off the cell occupied by Henson, and heard the poor, trembling wretch yell: "Lord, have mercy upon me." This he repeated three times, while the men were getting him into a shirt and a pair of trousers, and incidentally placing a rope of half inch hemp around his neck, which was tied in a regular hangman's noose. This operation took but a few minutes, and, without further ceremony, Henson was dragged, screaming, through the jail corridor, then through the house, and out was dragged, screaming, in the mean-corridor, then through the house, and out into the back yard. In the meantime consternation was reigning on the second floor of the household, where Deputy Holtman and the ladies of the house were. The ladies had become greatly agitated, and their fear became more intense when they thought that the lynchers would execute Henson in the yard of the house. They screamed to the lynchers, who appeared to be about twenty in number, to take the man away, and the lynchers lost no time in doing so. When Henson was taken from his cell he was dressed in a cotton shirt, a pair of trousers and a pair of shoes. Just beyond the yard of the house is a field that lies at the foot of the Patapsco Institute, now conducted as a summer boarding-house. The incline here is very steep, and Henson was dragged up this slope with a rope around his neck. At the brow of the hill he lost one of his shoes, which was found some time after the lynching had been discovered. Henson must have also fallen at this spot, for there was a trace of blood, evidently caused by a running sore on the wretch's leg. The lynchers made up their minds that they would not be disturbed in their work, and they kept Henson moving until they had reached a point on Merricks lane, fully three-quarters of a mile from the jail, and at a point that commands a splendid view of the valley below. The party selected for a gallows a dogwood tree, under which trailed sweet-smelling honeysuckles, and which is located in the center of a space of ground occupied by four very handsome dwelling houses. To the right is the home of Mr. Reuben Johnson, a prominent lawyer of the county; on the left is the home of Mr. Walter Henneman; to the rear that of Mr. George Shellingner; and in front the domicile of Mrs. Rouse. When the tree was reached it is likely that Henson's arms and legs were bound with cords, as the ground gives evidence that

A Terrific Struggle Took Place.

The honeysuckle was ground to a pulp, and the ground was dotted with heavy foot prints. Henson was strung to a limb not over seven feet from the ground, and the end of the rope tied to the trunk of the tree. The lynchers did not mutilate the body in any way, but left a placard pinned to the breast of the dead man, with the writing next to it as follows: Ellicott City, May 27.

Henson Hung.

Gov. Brown forced the law-abiding citizens to carry out the order of our Court. We will uphold our Court and Judges. We respect them. Brown cant RUIE OURS.

WITE CAPS.

As soon as the lynchers had gotten clear of the jail, Deputy Holtman lost no time in communicating the news to Chief Joseph E. Vansant, of the local police force. This was just one o'clock in the morning. Chief Vansant and Deputy Holtman then started to look for the body, and, by the barking of the dogs, were led in the direction of Merricks lane, where, at exactly 1:50 o'clock in the morning, the two officials came upon the lifeless body of Henson dangling from the

graphed to Rebecca Ireland, No. 202 West Mulberry street, who is an aunt of David Henson, asking her if he should ship the remains to the above address.

Mrs. Ireland replied to Mr. Vansant's message by saying that she would not receive the body. She said she had intended to give Henson decent burial had he been executed according to law, but that she did not propose to bury him after he had been lynched.

The lynching did not cause any great amount of excitement in Ellicott City, and many of the people seem to have anticipated such an occurrence. Preparations had been made to hang Henson on June 7, and a scaffold had been built by Fred Whalen, who lives a few miles from the town, but had not been taken to the jail. A great many persons visited the place of the lynching, and cut away portions of the dogwood tree as mementoes. The first man the lynchers held up was an old colored individual who reveals in the name of "Joe" Generous. "Joe" slept in a shop near the jail, and, hearing the noise, put his head out of the window to see what it was all about. He was immediately covered with a shotgun, and, when the lynchers went away, he immediately began to drown his fright with "firewater." He was in a very mellow condition later in the day, and, putting on a very mysterious air, desired to sell his information of the affair for \$15. No one came up with the money, however, and after a time the old man desired to compromise on a drink.

The lynching of Henson is the second affair of the kind that has occurred at Ellicott City. The first occurred twelve years ago, when an armed mob took Richard Snowden, colored, from the jail and lynched him near the "Cat Rocks," which spot is across the big ravine and in a direct line north from the place where Henson was hanged to the dogwood tree. Snowden was charged with assaulting a colored girl.

Henson's Crime.

Henson was convicted of the murder of Daniel F. Shea, who kept a small store on Main street, wherein he was killed on February 17. The dead body was discovered two days later by Chief Vansant, who had noticed that the store had been closed and nothing seen of Mr. Shea. The murder had been committed with a hatchet, and twenty-three wounds were found on the body. The county authorities could not find any direct clue. Detective Herman Pohler was sent from Baltimore to ferret out the case. On the second day Detective Pohler, with the assistance of Chief Vansant, arrested Henson, who afterward confessed to the murder. He also admitted that he had stolen several hundred dollars from the dead man, but told so many conflicting stories as to where he had hid it that it was never found. The authorities believe that Henson did not get more than \$50, if he got that, and he either lost it or gave it away. He was tried and convicted for the crime, and sentenced to be hanged on June 7.

THE GOVERNOR INDIGNANT.

Severe in His Condemnation of the Ellicott City Lynchers.

Governor Brown was outspoken yesterday in his indignation and condemnation of the lynching of Henson, which he considered a reflection upon the community in which it occurred and upon the Commonwealth. He further stated that he had received a largely-signed petition from a number of citizens of Howard county some days since asking for executive clemency on the ground that there was grave doubt in their minds as to the mental and moral responsibility of the prisoner. He first called upon the State Lunacy Commission to investigate the case. In addition to this he requested Dr. Rohe, of the Maryland General Hospital for the Insane; Dr. Hill, of Mount Hope; Dr. Smart, assistant physician in charge of the Sheppard Asylum, and Dr. R. W. Dashiell, to also examine the prisoner. These gentlemen, together with Dr. William Lee, secretary of the State Lunacy Commission, visited and examined the prisoner on Monday, and yesterday re-commissioned, visited and examined the prisoner on Monday, and yesterday reported that he was, in their opinion, both mentally and morally responsible. "Under these circumstances, in advance of their report, and without the slightest reason for apprehension that the sentence of the law would be interfered with, the action of the lawless mob in breaking into the jail and hanging the prisoner cannot," said the Governor, "be too severely condemned. Indeed, no excuse whatever can be given for it, and no doubt, it will be made the subject of inquiry by the grand jury at their next session."

The Governor then referred to his recommendation to the last General Assembly, as follows:

"I, therefore, recommend that the enactment of a law providing that all criminals who shall be sentenced to suffer the death penalty shall, as soon as sentence is pronounced, be conveyed to the Maryland Penitentiary, and there confined until the time of execution, and that the sentence shall in all cases be carried out under the direction of the sheriff of Baltimore city and of the respective counties of the state where the conviction was had." "This, if a law," said the Governor, "would prevent the lynching of prisoners by excited mobs, and would fulfil the intention of the law in having executions conducted privately as far as possible."

Nicotine Neutralized

MAIL POUCH TOBACCO

No Nerves Quaking
No Heart Palpitating
No Dyspeptic Aching

ANTI-DYSPEPTIC