

HENSON LYNCHED.

The Howard County Murderer
Hanged by a Mob.

ELLICOTT CITY JAIL BROKEN OPEN.

The Prisoner Left Hanging to a Tree with a Placard Bearing the Words "Governor Brown Forced the Law. Abiding Citizens to Carry Out the Verdict of the Jury."

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

ELLICOTT CITY, Md., May 28.--Jacob Henson, the young colored man who was tried and convicted in the Howard County Court and sentenced to be hanged on June 7, was taken from the Ellicott City jail at a few minutes after 12 o'clock this morning and hanged to the limb of a dogwood tree.

The lynching was the work of a dozen or fifteen determined men, who thus avenged the murder of Daniel F. Shea, which was one of the most brutal crimes ever committed in this section. The lynchers feared that the Governor of Maryland might be induced to interfere and commute the dead man's sentence to life imprisonment.

The grounds for this apprehension came from the recent repeated visits to the jail of one or two specialists in mental diseases to inquire into Henson's sanity and the reported intention of Governor Brown himself to come out here for the same purpose one day this week.

Upon this mission four doctors were here Monday afternoon. These were Dr. L. G. Smart, of Sheppard Asylum; Dr. Charles G. Hill, of Mt. Hope Retreat; Dr. R. W. Dashiell and Dr. Wm. Lee, members of the State lunacy commission.

The night was exceedingly dark. At the jail a few of the lynchers wore hoods, others had on long garments that hung over their heads and down to their waists, and others still improvised a disguise with nothing more than a pocket-handkerchief.

Henson's cell was the first to the left in front. He was looked in behind the iron bars of the corridor, as well as the door of his cell.

The door which the family of Warden Lilly use was battered down with a stout piece of iron. The noise did not arouse the prisoner in his cell, nor was he awakened until the lock on his door gave way under the blows of the sledge-hammer. As the lynchers rushed in he screamed to them to have mercy on him.

He was taken, after being bound and gagged, to Merrick's lane, beyond Patapsco Heights, and there was hanged to a dogwood tree. The course taken was over Institute Hill.

Henson nearly told what he did with his victim's money. He walked nearly all the way to the place of his execution, but fainted toward the last and was dragged and carried.

A placard was left pinned to his breast, on which was written: "We respect our court and judges. Governor Brown forced the law-abiding citizens to carry out the verdict of the jury. WHITE CAPS."

Warden Lilly is not at home tonight, being engaged as a witness in a court case in Wheeling, W. Va. The jail was in charge of his son-in-law, Robt. H. Hollman, who was overpowered when he appeared from his bedroom.

Guards were stationed in and around the prison. The warden's family begged the men not to hang the culprit in the jail, and they took him away.

Mr. Shea was murdered for his money in his little Ellicott City store on the night of Tuesday, February 19. Henson was in his employ and had been treated with great kindness. The crime was fastened upon him in a full and voluntary confession made to Detective Herman Pohler, who worked up the case, on Thursday night following. Henson's trial and conviction took place at the March term of court.

Henson in his confession stated that he had gained entrance into the store of his employer about the time of closing, which was a little before 9 o'clock. He struck his victim with a hatchet, which he picked up from the floor. Then he locked and barred the front door and backed the head of Mr. Shea as he lay in the corner.

Henson declared he did not remember how many times he struck, but twenty-five distinct gashes were counted when the murdered man was prepared for burial.