

MURDER AND LYNCHING.

**Edward White Shot by David Johnson—
The Latter Hanged by a Mob.**

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

CUMBERLAND, MD., Sept. 14.—The quiet town of Westersport, this State, opposite Piedmont, W. Va., was the scene today of a peculiar and horrible double tragedy—a deliberate murder, followed by a lynching. The victim of the first crime was Edward White, an employe of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad shops at Piedmont, and his slayer was David Johnson, a middle-aged man, generally supposed to be insane.

Shortly after twelve o'clock today White, who lives in Westersport, was on his way to dinner, accompanied by several other persons, and started up a ladder leading to a path going toward his home on Westersport hill. Johnson was in the path at the top of the ladder, and, without saying a word, he fired on the unsuspecting White with a double-barreled shot-gun. He fired twice, both loads taking effect in White's head, killing him instantly.

The murdered man was aged about 35, and leaves a wife and seven children. He bore an excellent reputation, and was not known to have had any trouble with Johnson. The murderer was about 50 years old, and leaves a family. He had lived in Piedmont many years, and formerly worked at the Baltimore and Ohio shops there. Lately he has not had regular employment, but was sexton of one of the Piedmont churches. It is said he had tried to kill several men, and had threatened White. It is said the propriety of locking him up as a dangerous man had been often discussed, but never acted on. From all accounts religious mania, combined with homicidal tendency, seem to have been his trouble. Johnson was an old resident of Piedmont, and was a leading witness in the case of *Dryden vs. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company*, tried in Baltimore.

He was placed in the lock-up at Westersport and Sheriff Hook was telegraphed to come up, probably with a view to his safe removal to Cumberland jail, as the citizens were much incensed over the affair, White having been very popular. Before the sheriff reached Piedmont Johnson had paid the penalty of his crime. All the evening an angry crowd surrounded the lock-up and at eight o'clock it became a blood-thirsty, surging mob.

Finally the flimsy building was entered and the trembling man was led out and hung from a beam of the county bridge over George's creek. It is said his body was buried into the creek. No further details are known here. There was intense excitement in both Piedmont and Westersport, which are on opposite sides of the river. The lynching is said to be the first in Allegany county.

KOWLESBURG, W. VA., Sept. 14.—David Johnson, who was lynched tonight, was a Scotchman, living at Westersport, Md. He had been for a long time very much incensed against the Irish. He was thought to be out of his head, as there was no reason known for his being so opposed, to persons of that nationality.

About a week ago Johnson made an attack with a hammer on a fellow-workman named Rooney, in the same boiler shop where White worked. He was discharged from the shop and has been doing nothing since. It is not known whether his killing of White today grew out of the discharge. About three years and a half ago Johnson's son was very badly crushed in one of the mines of the Cumberland region. He lay for three years perfectly helpless, and the father had this care on his mind, which is believed to have affected his reason. About three months ago the son died.