

NEGRO HAD CLOSE CALL

Crowd Shoots Him At Pocomoke City For Attempted Murder.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

Pocomoke City, Md., June 12.—Edward Watson, a negro farm hand, was severely beaten and wounded here tonight by an infuriated crowd of Somerset county people for a murderous assault he made upon his employer, Mr. Samuel S. Barnes, in the afternoon. The negro narrowly escaped lynching.

Mr. Barnes is at the Peninsula General Hospital, Salisbury, in a dying condition. He is not expected to live through the night.

The assault took place on the Barnes farm, about a mile from King's Creek, Somerset county. Mr. Barnes, who is one of the most prominent farmers of Somerset county, had a dispute with the negro over some farm work, when the negro struck him with a piece of scantling, dealing several blows over the head, after which he stamped upon him and kicked him in the face several times. Watson then hurriedly left the place, going toward Virginia. News of the assault soon spread over the neighborhood and a posse of white men, armed, started in pursuit of the negro, while Drs. Fisher and Lankford hurried to Salisbury with Mr. Barnes, who was operated on by Drs. Dick and Tull for fracture of the skull.

The negro was caught at Pocomoke City, near the railroad station, at 8 o'clock tonight and almost in an instant a large mob gathered around.

Balliff Stroud demanded that he be given up to their care and a determined effort was made by the authorities to get the negro off to Princess Anne on the 8.30 train, but the violence of the mob which was pressing closely on all sides prevented the attempt. The negro was then quickly rushed up Clarke avenue and placed in the lockup, which was surrounded by a mob numbering nearly 500 persons.

While on his way from the station the negro was beaten severely on the head by clubs and bricks thrown at him by the mob and received also a bullet wound. He is not dead, however, as had at first been reported.