

# NEGRO LYNCHED

## Band Of Eight Whites Breaks Open Brooklyn Jail And Drags Him Out.

### NO ONE THERE ON GUARD.

#### Four Bullets Fired Into Man, Who Murdered F. A. Schwab.

#### TOWN UNAWARE TILL MORNING

Police Chief Irwin Says He Has No Clues To Those In Party—Another Negro Imprisoned There Nearly Taken For One Wanted—Lynchers Maintain Secrecy When At Work.

#### The Lynching In Brief:

KING JOHNSON, known otherwise as King Davis, colored, was dragged from his cell in the lockup at Brooklyn, Anne Arundel county, early yesterday morning, where he was held for the murder of Frederick A. Schwab; and was shot to death by a band of white men, who had come from Fairfield.

No one seems to have witnessed the affair except those in the party, and no arrests have been made.

A coroner's jury impaneled at Brooklyn rendered a verdict that the negro came to his death as the result of bullets fired by a person or persons unknown.

At Annapolis county officials criticised the action of Chief of Police Irwin in leaving Johnson unguarded part of the night.

Because of the intense race feeling, a guard was requested at the home of Frank Schwab, at Fairfield, where the body of his brother lies.

A band of eight men broke into the jail at Brooklyn, Anne Arundel county, at 11 o'clock yesterday morning and lynched King Johnson, otherwise known as King Davis, a negro, who had murdered Frederick A. Schwab at Fairfield, three miles away, early Sunday morning.

The jail was unguarded. Although it is flanked on both sides by houses, in one of which a policeman was sleeping, the mob found it easy to break the lock from the back door and enter. Johnson and Hubert Chase, also colored, who was being held as a witness against him, were in cells upstairs.

#### NEARLY GOT WRONG MAN.

In the semi-darkness of the cells the crowd mistook Chase for Johnson and was making short work of the lock when his frenzied appeals finally led the men to poke Johnson out from under his cot and identify him. Swearing Chase to secrecy, they attacked Johnson's cell.

The lock was forced off with an iron bar and, throwing back the door, the men crowded into the small cell. One had an 18-foot piece of clothesline, with a noose already made in it. They tried to slip the loop over Johnson's neck and hang him to the iron ceiling of the cell.

Johnson fought for his life and in his frenzy scratched and struck at some of the men. He was finally forced into a corner and beaten over the head with the iron bar until unconscious. They dragged his body down the stairs, out of the jail and 200 yards over a field, until they came to a new road known as Second avenue.

#### FOUR SHOTS INTO HIM.

## FOUR SHOTS INTO HIM.

Here the negro was thrown over a small embankment and one of the men fired four shots into his body at such close range that the powder burned his coat. The shots all penetrated his right lung and caused death.

The body was found at 5.45 o'clock in the morning by William Miller, a blind carrier for THE SPX, and his helper, George Coulbourne, as they drove over the road.

Not until Chief Irwin was notified and Dr. Charles H. Brooke had gone with him to view the body did it become known that Johnson had been lynched. Following the trail of the victim's blood the police traced it to the open door of the vacant cell. Chase, frightened by the threats of the night visitors, swore to the police that he had not seen a mob nor heard any commotion. He said he had heard several persons talking, but thought that they were policemen on guard.

## JURY ACTS NO ONE.

A jury was summoned and Justice Potee and Coroner Brooke called a number of those who lived near the jail. All said they heard nothing but shots and that they thought those had been fired by night revelers. Chase repeated, under oath, his denial of knowing what had transpired. The jury brought in a verdict of death by bullet wounds fired by unknown person or persons.

Every inhabitant of Brooklyn who could possibly do so went to the station house. All the morning the place was filled. By afternoon the novelty had worn away and the town was as quiet as usual. There was some expression of indignation from townfolk, who said that the general public might think Brooklyn lawless.

Chief Irwin said he had no clues to the identity of those in the mob and that he was doing all he could to get evidence upon which to act. He conferred with State's Attorney Green, of Anne Arundel county, over the telephone and will see him today at Annapolis. At Fairfield, the home of Schwab, white residents expressed no sympathy for Johnson, while the negroes were cowed.

## MET ON DARK NIGHT.

In the dark of a moonless night the eight men had gathered on the Fairfield road leading to Brooklyn, where in the red brick jail was Johnson. It was after midnight when these men resolved to revenge the murderer of Schwab.

The facts of the lynching party and of the program were learned from a man who was an eyewitness. The band did not hesitate on the road and none of its members appeared afraid of detection.

From this eyewitness was learned the manner in which the mob was formed, of the decision to avenge the life of their comrade and to strike terror into the large negro population of the little village close to the north shore of Curtis creek. Not only did the details of the lynching gain wide circulation, but the police learned many interesting things that may aid them in ascertaining the identity of the lynchers.

## PLANNED SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

Down on the Shell road from Fairfield came the men who had passed judgment in secret on the negro. Several of the men came from their night work to avenge Schwab's death. The program was arranged Sunday afternoon, just 15 hours after Schwab had fallen in the muddy road in front of his brother's home with a bullet hole through his heart. Frank Schwab, the brother, and Thomas Gleason were fired at after Frederick A. Schwab had fallen.

The men from Fairfield went straight up the deserted road toward the Brooklyn jail. They walked in pairs and some smoked pipes.

## SCATTER AS THEY APPROACH.

As they neared Brooklyn the line scattered, the lynchers to be walked far apart, making of any suspicion that might be

east in their direction. It was learned that some members of the party were from Brooklyn. They had gone to Fairfield and reported the location of the cells in which Johnson and Chase were confined.

At 12.45 o'clock Chief Irwin, Patrolmen Hawkins, Johnson and Helmer went to their homes. It was not until an hour later that the first blow to get the negro was struck.

#### **THEY ENTER FROM REAR.**

The jail stands in from the main street and access was gained from the rear. Favorable circumstances aided the party. Back of the jail are vacant fields overgrown with weeds and thorn bushes. Recently a new cut has been made through the field, the street being known as Second Avenue.

It is like a ravine, and here the lynch-ers bided their time. From various sections of Brooklyn came the crack of pistols, this being no uncommon occurrence at Christmas.

Under the mantle of darkness the band decided to strike. The town was without police protection and the lynch-ers were armed. A dim light burned on the second floor of the jail, which has no keeper, and not far from this light Johnson was asleep. He was stretched on a board, and in the next cell was Chase. Little time was lost by the party after one of them made a detour to ascertain if the streets were deserted.

#### **REPORTS "ALL CLEAR!"**

This member reported "All clear!" Only the bark of dogs was heard as the band hurried down the side alley to enter the gate of the jail yard. One carried a strapping line and another a crowbar. Few words were spoken. Opening the side gate, six gathered about the iron-barred door, the bar was inserted at the hasp of the lock and the door sprang back. While two of the gang stood guard in the shadow of a tree others hurried to the cellroom.

Once on the second floor the cells of the negroes were sought. Awakened by the noise of the rattling of the door, Chase was on his feet, peering through the steel bars. Around the mouths of some of the men were pieces of cloth, while hats and caps were pulled down over their eyes.

#### **AT CHASE'S CELL FIRST.**

"Get him out, quick!" commanded one. Not an instant was lost. First matches were struck and held to the cell of Chase, for the party thought it Johnson's cell. Chase pleaded with the lynch-ers to do him no harm, declaring that he was innocent.

The locks were examined again and then that on the door of Johnson's cell was wrenched from its bolts with the crowbar. Chase told the lynch-ers that Johnson was in the next cell. When matches were held there, the features of the negro, well known to the men from Fairfield, were revealed. He had awakened.

#### **NEGRO FIGHTS FOR LIFE.**

The door flew open and the men were met by blows from the negro. He fought like a tiger, realizing that his end was near and hoping with his powerful strength to beat off his foes. The lynch-ers did not escape uninjured. Several were bruised on the face.

The fight made by Johnson was short. The steel crowbar was raised and descended with a crash on his skull. Down he went in a heap. A rope brought with the intention of stringing him up at the cell door was used to drag him from the cell.

#### **ONE PULLED A PISTOL.**

The blow from the crowbar rendered him unconscious. One man pulled out a pistol.

"Don't shoot in here," came the command of the leader and not a shot was fired in the station house. By his arms and feet, the negro was dragged down the stairs and out into the side alley. Quickly the band took him across the field to the ravine. All along the soggy ground was the trail of blood.

The body was thrown down the embankment and a minute later one man of the party emptied four bullets into the breast of the negro. One of the bullets struck close to the heart and others punctured the lungs.

By this time a fog had lowered and the lynch-ers disappeared in the darkness.

#### **CARRIER'S BOY SPIES BODY.**

## CARRIER'S BOY SPIES BODY.

Three hours later, while dawn was breaking, Mr. Miller, THE SUN carrier, who is blind, was being driven along Second avenue by Coulbourn, a lad 14 years old. The horse was cantering slowly, when suddenly it became frightened and dashed down the road.

"What's the matter?" questioned Mr. Miller, and Coulbourn replied that he noticed a man lying in the road. The lad was frightened and lost control of the horse. Soon he checked the reins and the horse was brought to a stop just as they saw a man crossing the road.

"Who's that?" asked Coulbourn. The man was Edward Bender, 418 Market street, Brooklyn.

"There's a man lying in the road down here. I nearly ran over him," exclaimed young Coulbourn.

Bender had been visiting friends and was returning home. It was about 5.30 o'clock. He hurried back to the body and saw that it was a negro and that he was bleeding profusely.

### POLICE ARE NOTIFIED.

"I bet it's that negro who shot Schwab," said Mr. Miller, and he ordered Coulbourn to drive immediately to the home of Chief of Police Irwin, who was yet in bed.

After notifying the Chief Mr. Miller drove to the home of Justice Potce. A negro employed by Deputy Sheriff Huber came along the road a short time later and espied the body.

Without stopping to make an investigation he dashed down the road at high speed, rushed into the home of Sheriff Huber and announced that he saw a man whom he believed had been murdered.

Within a half hour Chief Irwin, Justice Potce, Deputy Sheriff Huber and Dr. Brooke hurried to the road, led by the negro.

### OFFICIALS ARE SURPRISED.

When Chief Irwin and Dr. Brooke leaned over the body it did not occur to them, they say, that it might be the negro who had been in the jail. When they turned him over and recognized the features of Johnson they were surprised.

Both glanced instinctively toward the jail. It looked secure enough with its barred windows, but taking up the bloody trail, which was apparent on the surface of the field, they came to the back door of the jail and found it open. The broken lock was on the ground.

### FIND CELL EMPTY.

Inside were bloodstains which led to the stairway and, up to the top, where, at the first turn was cell No. 1, which had been occupied by Johnson. It was empty. On the floor was a coil of rope about 18 feet long, and when Irwin unwound it he found at the end a well-made noose.

This coil of rope was the only evidence which the lynchers had left behind them. In the back yard were evidences of blood.

The cell presented a scene of confusion which bespoke the struggle which had taken place. Pieces of paper in which Johnson had received food had been torn to shreds when the men scuffled about in the inside.

### AUTOPSY IS PERFORMED.

The body of the negro was carried to the station house and an autopsy performed by Dr. Brooke. In describing the result of his post mortem he stated:

"The negro had five scalp wounds and four bullet wounds. While the scalp wounds were severe they were not the cause of his death, nor was his skull broken in any place. I believe the lynchers hit him over the head with some instrument, rendered him unconscious and then dragged him down the stairs. Naturally, a man with scalp wounds will bleed profusely, but it was not fatal.

"He was not hacked with a hatchet. There were no marks on his body except the bullet wounds. These were four, and all of them .32-calibre balls, had penetrated his right lung. They all struck in a circle not more than five inches in diameter, and the first one was sufficient to cause his death. The bullets were fired at close range, and I believe that from the manner in which they entered the body he was shot after he had fallen face downwards on the ground."

### JURY LEARNS LITTLE.

By 10 o'clock in the morning Coroner Potce had impaneled a jury. After it viewed the body it assembled at a clubhouse nearby and held an inquest. While many residents who live in the vicinity of the station told the jury that they had heard shots fired early in the morning they could give no tangible information which would lead to the identity of the lynching party.

It was thought by the jury that Chase the negro held as a witness against Johnson, would be able to identify some of the lynching party, but he failed to do so.

It was the opinion of several jurors the

# NEGRO LYNCHED

of eight cells, four facing the front and four the back. In each cell is an iron bench with thin and broad pieces of iron lapped.

[Continued from Page 14.]

Chase was threatened that if he told anything he heard or saw he would suffer the same lawless punishment that was to be meted out to Johnson. It was this opinion that led them to grill the negro on this point. But he stood steadfast to the story he first told of having heard nothing but whispering.

## VERDICT BROUGHT IN.

After hearing the testimony of a number of residents who told of hearing pistol shots, but who could not state at what hour or by whom they were fired, the jury went into deliberation and inside of 10 minutes had reached the following verdict:

"That King Johnson came to his death on the morning of December 25 by having been shot by persons unknown to the jury."

The foreman of the jury was Joseph W. Marshall. The others were Walter McPherson, William Connor, George Hammerbacher, Joseph Wilkinson, W. C. Brown, Frederick Irwin, George Koenig, Robert Stansbury, George Gardner, George Potee and Edward Anderson.

There are houses on either side of the jail. The back windows of those on the right and on the left look into the jail yard. One neighbor said he was in his back yard at 2 o'clock, but heard nothing. Others who seemed to know something or to have heard something were keeping quiet and making no secret of the fact that they intended remaining quiet so as "not to get into the mess."

## LEFT AFTER MIDNIGHT.

Chief of Police Irwin and Patrolman Helmer and Deputy Sheriff Huber did not leave the lockup until after midnight Sunday.

Johnson, they say, showed no fear of being lynched. However, when he was being brought to Brooklyn, he said:

"I hope they won't bother us while we are going to the station house."

After Irwin and Deputy Sheriff Huber had departed for their homes, Helmer, who lives just two doors from the station house, went to his home. He says he saw several persons in the vicinity, but paid no attention to them.

Yesterday he met one of the men who told him that as he had left the station house a man had remarked:

"It doesn't make any difference if he is locked up or not. We know where he is, and we can get him before morning."

## STATE'S ATTORNEY TOLD.

As soon as Irwin got the facts of the lynching he communicated with State's Attorney Green, who lives in Annapolis. Mr. Green instructed him to make an investigation and not to leave a stone unturned in arresting the participants.

"I am going to do my duty and I intend to keep at this case until I find who the guilty persons are," said Chief Irwin. "I am opposed to lynching and I feel it is an outrage that the gang should not have let the law take its course."

## COULD NOT BALK MOB.

Mr. Irwin stated that he approved of having a watchman on guard at the station house, but he said that no one man would have been able to prevent the mob from getting the negro from the lockup.

But for difficulty in getting a coroner's jury on Sunday Johnson would have been taken to Annapolis on that day and placed in a cell there. Chief Irwin said that the jury was assembled Sunday afternoon and that at the end of its deliberations it was found too late to take Johnson to Annapolis. Arrangements had been made to take him yesterday morning.

Irwin says that it is customary for him and another officer to go to the jail late at night, especially when there are prisoners there, and remain until 1 o'clock in the morning.

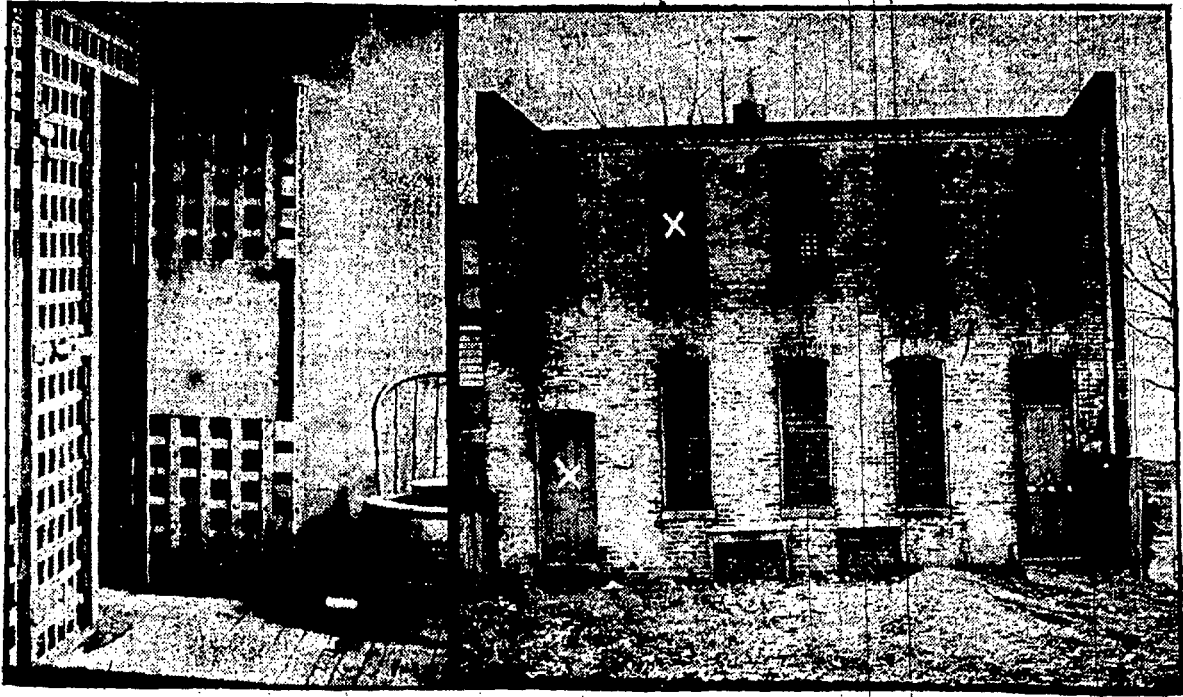
Some persons in Brooklyn said that several of the officers on duty at Brooklyn had said to them earlier in the evening that there would be trouble at the jail during the night and they hoped that nothing serious would happen. This led some to believe that the mob was expected, but Irwin says this is not true.

## TWO STORY AND OF BRICK.

The Brooklyn lockup is a two-story brick building. The front windows are heavily barred and conspicuous on the heavy oaken front door is a huge hasp, bolt and lock, the latter weighing several pounds.

On the first floor is a fenced-off portion, where there is a desk for the "squire" to hear police cases, while a coal stove blazes on the other side. Beyond a partition on this same floor is a special cell used for extraordinary cases and beside it is a narrow stairway leading to the second floor. The second floor is a cellroom, made up

## Scenes At The Brooklyn Lynching



WHERE NEGRO MURDERER WAS DRAGGED OUT AND SHOT TO DEATH



To the left upper hand is the cell occupied by Johnson, the negro lynched, while to the right is the rear of the Brooklyn Jail. The cross marks denote the window of Johnson's cell and the door through which entrance was effected. The bottom, from right to left, includes Foreman Joseph W. Marshall, of the coroner's jury; Chief of Police Irwin and Frederick A. Schwab, the man murdered by Johnson.