

## LYNCHING IN MARYLAND.

### Joseph Cocking, Suspected of a Double Murder, Hanged by a Mob.

LA PLATA, Md, June 27—Joseph Cocking, who was awaiting trial here for the murder on April 23 of his wife and sister-in-law, was taken from the jail at an early hour this morning and hanged. The mob of executioners had been quietly organized and the authorities were taken wholly by surprise.

The citizens of the town had no intimation of the affair and did not suspect that anything was wrong until at sunrise they found the body of the wretched man hanging lifeless from the limb of a tree, a few yards from the jail building.

For several years Cocking had been the proprietor of a country store at Hill Top, a hamlet nine miles from this place. On the night of April 23 his wife and Miss Daisy Miller, his sister-in-law, were murdered in their rooms, being beaten and hacked to death with a hatchet.

Cocking was found lying on the floor of the cellar, his clothing bespattered with blood and several slight scratches about his face and hands. His feet were tightly bound with a piece of rope.

His story was that two men had entered the house, and after assaulting him had bound him and thrown him into

the cellar. He explained the absence of the cord about his hands by stating that he had severed it by means of a piece of broken glass.

An investigation satisfied the police that Cocking was the perpetrator of the crime, and a perfect chain of circumstantial evidence pointed to him as the murderer. He was indicted and taken to Baltimore for safety, the excitement having been so great that the authorities feared violence.

After a few weeks' stay in the Baltimore jail, Cocking was returned to La Plata for preliminary hearing. His counsel asked that the case be tried in St Mary's county, and the case was set for trial in the next term of court at Port Tobacco. Since his return Cocking had been morose and taciturn. He refused to discuss the murder or his chances of acquittal on the grave charge against him.

The motive for the dastardly double murder has never been learned.

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