

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

Lynch Law in Maryland.

ATTEMPTED OUTRAGE ON A LITTLE WHITE GIRL—THE GUILTY NEGRO WRETCH CAUGHT AND HANGED.

POOLESVILLE, MONTGOMERY CO., MD., Jan. 12. George Washington Peck, a negro man, aged about 21 years, and a rather notorious character in this vicinity, was arrested at Beallsville, two miles distant, on Saturday morning last, for an attempted outrage upon the person of a bright and pretty little girl, named Ada Hays, the adopted daughter of H. M. Reeves, a respectable farmer of the neighborhood, and while in custody of County Constable Hugh Miles was taken by a party of masked lynchers and hanged to a tree until dead. The particulars of the affair are as follows:

Saturday morning Ada Hays, who has been living with Lemuel Beall, a storekeeper in the village of Beallsville, had gone to the stable yard with a bucket to milk the cows, and while engaged in this duty was caught by George W. Peck, a colored man also in the employ of Beall, and dragged to a hole in a straw rick, evidently previously prepared for the accomplishment of his vile purpose. The screams of the little girl fortunately attracted the attention of Rev. Mr. Almea, pastor of the Baptist Church, who resided near by, and who immediately ran in the direction from whence the screams proceeded, and discovered the negro in the act of perpetrating his fiendish crime. His first impulse was to use a pistol he had with him, but upon second thought concluded to allow the law to take its course. He informed Mr. Beall, and the two sought the services of Constable Miles. Upon his arrival Peck, who had remained in the yard, started to run towards the woods, but after a short chase he was captured and taken before Justice Donahue. He admitted his guilt, and stated that he would have accomplished his purpose had he not been interfered with. He was committed by the magistrate and taken to Poolesville by Constable Miles, who intended taking him to Rockville jail yesterday. After being confined for some time in the Odd-Fellows' Hall, Peck was taken by Miles over to W. T. Walter's store, where he (the constable) desired making some purchases. Groups of men had been seen engaged in excited discussion, and threats of lynching were heard, but as yet no attempt was made. Hardly, however, had the two entered the store before a horseman rode up and fired a pistol shot. This seemed to be a signal, for almost immediately about thirty-five masked men sprang from different quarters and entered the building. Officer Miles made a stubborn resistance, but was quickly overpowered, and in his struggles was considerably injured. A noose was placed around the neck of Peck, and he was dragged out, and who, frantically and piteously beseeching his captors to spare his life, said that he did not want to die, etc. But his entreaties were of no avail with these stern and determined men. He was hastily taken across the road, thrown over a post and rail fence into a vacant lot, and the rope drawn through the fork of a locust tree about seven feet high, and then fastened to the fence. When it was thought he was dead, the crowd slowly dispersed; not, however, before firing a volley of shots at the body, some of which took effect.

This occurred near the hour of twelve at night. Yesterday morning a horrible and ghastly spectacle was presented to the people of the place in the dangling and distorted form of the would-be ravisher. He was left to hang until about nine o'clock, within fifty yards of the Presbyterian Church, and near the centre of the town. At that hour a jury of inquest was summoned by Justice Donahue and the body cut down. After hearing the testimony, some of the jurors insisted upon having an indorsement of action of the mob inserted in the verdict, but as this was not the unanimous voice, it was found necessary to discharge this body and summon another, which rendered a verdict of death by strangulation at the hands of unknown parties. The jury was composed of Chas. Elgin, Tremont Jones, Frank Williams, Wm. Griffith, Lemuel Beall, Richard Spates, Frank Spates, Frank Sparrough, Charles Matthews, G. Mackintosh, Thos. Davis and Thos. Fife.

The body was buried in the field, but was exhumed this morning by colored people and given burial in their churchyard, near the village. Great excitement and terrible indignation was produced in this usually quiet little town and throughout the surrounding country by this occurrence. It will be remembered that only as late as last April a similar scene was enacted within a distance of 15 miles of this place, in the lynching of the negro, James Carroll, at Point of Rocks, for a brutal assault on Mrs. Thomas, at Licksville. Peck was of rather slight build, very dark complexioned, and weighed about one hundred and fifty pounds. He had been in prison several times, and was one of the convicts who escaped from Rockville jail a few years ago. He was also discovered once before in the act of perpetrating upon another young girl an assault similar to that which he attempted Saturday, and for which he has just paid so terrible a penalty, but succeeded in escaping punishment. Dr. Ayler reports Ada Hays as suffering from severe bruises, but not seriously injured.