

31 LYNCHINGS IN MARYLAND SINCE THE YEAR 1882

28 of the Victims were
Colored, and Only 3
White.

SALISBURY MOB OF 1898 RECALLED

Whites then Battered
Down Jail Door.

Since 1882, Maryland has had 31 lynchings, according to Tuskegee Institute Records. Of the victims, 28 were colored and 3 were white.

Records prior to 1882 are not available, but it is known that Maryland slaves, like those in other states, were frequently lynched for the murder of overseers or owners.

The Negro Year Book figures for the U.S. for the decade from 1850 to 1860 alone show 46 slaves put to death for killing overseers or owners of them, 26 were lynched.

Believes in Governor

In a statement concerning the lynching in Salisbury, Bishop William H. Heard, of the Baltimore area, told an AFRO reporter:

"Lynching ought not to be, under any conditions. There can be no instance where it can be justified.

"I believe that the Governor, through the district attorney, will punish the parties concerned, and I do not believe that the parties concerned are hard to find.

"I believe they are known to all who are concerned. All that is needed is to stand by the district attorney and the Governor, and bring them to justice.

"If this lynching is tolerated, it will occur in any city of this country, but if the guilty ones are punished, there will be no second occurrence."

SALISBURY (Lynchtown), Md.—A few of the older citizens of this mob-ridden city recalled Sunday the last lynching in Salisbury when Garfield King, popular church worker, was taken from the jail and hanged back of the court house on May 24, 1898.

One of the town's oldest citizens recounted the happening that led up to the orgy. King, who was well known throughout Wicomico County as a worker in the church, lived at Allentown, several miles from Salisbury near Princess Anne.

On May 23, he went into a store which was owned and operated by Simon Kenny, white. As he entered the store, King accidentally stepped on the foot of Kenny, who was sitting with his feet across the doorway.

The men engaged in a quarrel, during which Kenny struck King in the face. King went to his home and obtained his revolver. When he returned, he fired several shots at Kenny, all of which entered his body. Kenny died a few hours later.

King was taken to Salisbury jail. The following day the citizens of Princess Anne, Cambridge, and Salisbury collected in Salisbury and attacked the jail. They battered down the jail door and seized King. He was hanged a few hundred feet away from where Matthew Williams was hanged here on December 4.

It has been 33 years, 6 months and 10 days from that time until Salisbury witnessed its last murder by mob in the recent killing of the youthful Williams.

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Amber

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