

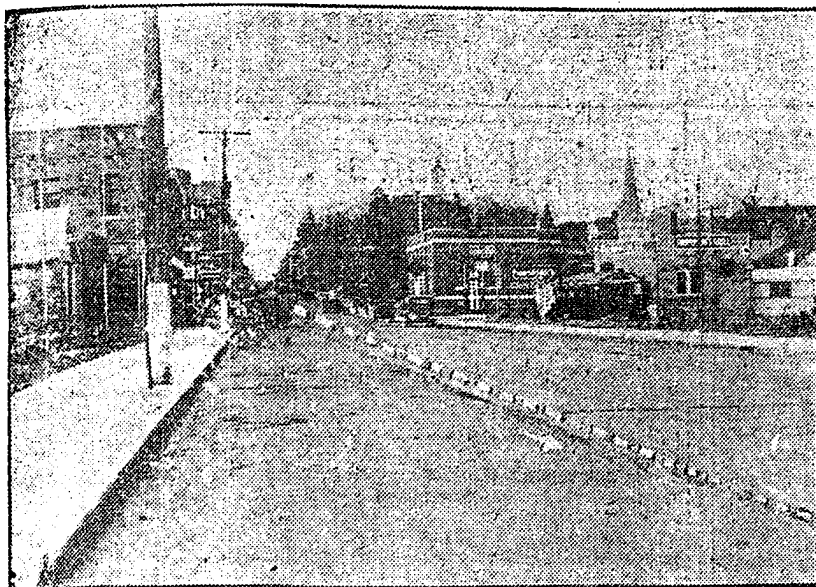
LYNCHERS IN SALISBURY HAD RIGHT-OF-WAY: TOWN'S COMIC OPERA POLICE ...

Afro-American (1893-1988); Dec 12, 1931; ProQuest

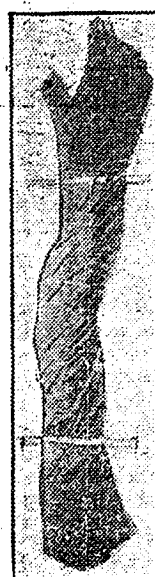
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Views in Salisbury, Maryland's Lynch Town, where Blood-Thirsty Fiends Ran Amuck Last Week

—Photos made Sunday morning by Afro Staff Photographer.



This photo shows the main street of Salisbury, Maryland's lynch-town, through which leading citizens dragged the body of 23-year-old Matthew Williams, after hanging him in front of the court house. Arrow and dotted line show route over which the body was dragged.



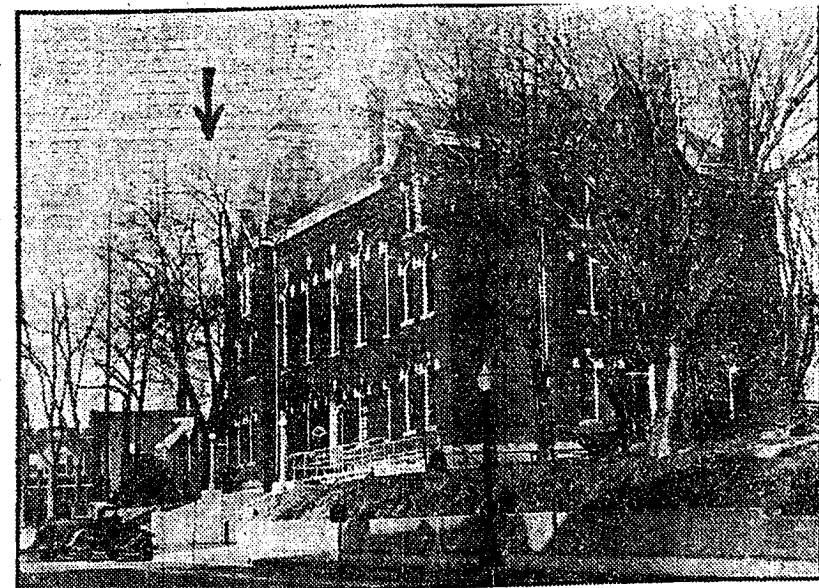
A sample of the oil-soaked rope used by the lynchers.



The vacant lot and tree where Matthew Williams was burned by fiends. In the background is the garage where they stole 45 gallons of gas to pour on the dead man's body. This is where the sheriff told the mob he thought they had done enough.



Matthew Williams, 10 years ago, when he first went to work for the lumber man



The court house in Salisbury, Maryland's lynch town, located on the Main Street. Black arrow points to tree upon which Williams's body was hanged, suspended over sidewalk. White arrow points to exact limb on tree from which body was jerked up and down several times.

LYNCHERS IN SALISBURY HAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Town's Comic Opera Police Made No Effort to Halt Orgy that Attracted 2,000.

TOWN'S MILITARY UNIT NOT CALLED

Police Carted Body Out of Town, Buried it, then Brought it Back.

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.— Sober minded people of the Eastern Shore are hard put in their efforts to fathom the action of Lynch Town's comic opera police who carried the charred and mutilated body of Matthew Williams out into the woods after the lynching orgy and covered it with leaves and burlap.

The actions of the police officials were pathetic throughout the whole barbarous demonstration.

When the mob first gathered at the hospital the authorities were on the scene but their resistance was "so feeble that the victim was dragged from his cot and carried to the scene of the hanging. Here police officials showed another spirit of valor after the youth had been hanged and after forcing their way through the crowd demanded that the body be cut down.

With the hoots and boos of the milling horde ringing in their ears the officials were again cowed and made off without retrieving the body from the hoodlums.

Police Went Home

Whether they went home and went to sleep or not are matters of conjecture, but they did not reappear on the scene until about two hours later when the howling mob was burning the body.

Here they made another feeble effort to rescue the body from the flames, but gruff voices ordered them from the scene of the burning. The brave guardians of the law again skidcoed and another hour elapsed. When finally the body had been dragged up and down the street and finally strung up on a lamp post, the ire of the police was finally aroused. With a half dozen of the mob leaders still whooping it up around the burned body the police rushed to the scene and a deputy sheriff is reported to have said: "You boys have been making fools of us long enough. We are going to take that body. You've had your fun now and you ought to be satisfied."

With everybody too drunk and tired to shoot them off, the body was cut down and the gallant officers had at last performed their duty. Fully five hours had elapsed between the attack on the hospital and recovery of the body by the officials. In the meantime a unit of state militia was in the city and could have been rounded up in a few minutes. A number of state police could have been called from

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SALISBURY MOB PLAYED 5 HOURS

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the sub-stations between Salisbury and Elkton.

Pull Prize Boner

The Salisbury police did not reach their heights of comedy until after they had recovered the body. They did not know what to do with it. With the family of the victim clamoring for the remains of their loved one, with a city morgue at their disposal; the police hit upon the original idea of tossing the body into a truck and carrying it several miles out into the country and covering it with burlap and leaves.

After they had returned to town and repaired to their respective homes, the officials decided that this was not the proper procedure. They then piled into trucks again, rounded up a colored undertaker and returned to the spot and brought the body back to the city.

Describes Body

Eye witnesses to the lynching described the remains of the victim after it had been burned by the mob. The whole upper portion of the body was completely charred beyond recognition. The hair and skin was burned off completely, leaving a skull covered with soot. The eyes were destroyed, leaving only the black holes. The upper portion of the body and the lower limbs were burned to a crisp. With this hideous form the mob leaders toyed and made sport like a cat with a mouse for about five hours.