

Lefena
John
July 1902

SLAIN ON WAY HOME

Farmer Shot on Lonely Road Near Herndon, Va.

NEGRO SUSPECTED OF CRIME

**Murdered Man Was Walking Along Road
When Attacked—No Witnesses to
Crime—Victim Was Unconscious When
Found—Supposed Murderer Thought to
Be Coming to Washington.**

Herndon, Va., July 28.—A cold-blooded murder, perhaps the result of a long-harbored spirit of revenge, was committed near this village shortly before noon today. The victim was William H. Wilson, a respected citizen of the community, a farmer, proprietor of a sawmill, and a veteran of the once famous Confederate troop commanded by Gen. Mosby. He was fifty-five years old, married, and had an adopted daughter. He was shot down beside the roadway where it winds through a lonely stretch of woodland while walking from the railroad station at Herndon to his home near Sterling village. The spot where the deed was done is about one and one-half miles from Herndon on the road that leads past the Wilson home and Dranesville.

The aged man was found at noon, slowly bleeding to death from a wound in the groin. He had been shot from ambush, to all appearances, and had not moved after receiving his death wound. Although he was breathing when discovered, he was totally unconscious, and was, of course, unable to throw any light on the mystery surrounding the tragedy. He died before surgical assistance could be summoned.

As hastily as possible the authorities of Fairfax County, in which the murder was committed, were notified. They took steps to secure the arrest of the murderer, if possible, and ordered an inquest over the body, which was removed to Herndon.

The inquest was held at 4 o'clock, Dr. C. F. Russell acting as foreman of the jury, and Dr. E. L. Roby as clerk. Dr. B. B. Detweiler and Dr. W. B. Averill, who had been called to attend the wounded man, were members of the jury, and in a very few minutes a verdict was rendered to the effect that Wilson came to his death from a gunshot wound at the hands of some person or persons unknown. The sheriff of Fairfax County had in the meantime notified the sheriffs of Loudon and Alexandria counties, and posses were soon organized and in armed pursuit of the murderer.

Craven Suspected of Crime.

Circumstantial evidence leads the authorities of the counties mentioned to suspect a negro named Charles Craven of the murder. The victim was a member of a jury four years ago which convicted Craven of a crime for which he was sent to the penitentiary. It was only recently that he returned from prison to his old haunts at Leesburg, Sterling, and Herndon. It is alleged that he has served several terms in jail and no less than three terms in State's prison. Several days ago a negro, supposed to have been Craven, held up and robbed a small white boy near Leesburg. The lad recognized his assailant and made a complaint to the police. Craven is supposed to have been in hiding in the vicinity of Herndon since that time.

The fugitive was seen within a short distance of the scene of the murder this forenoon, when he stopped at a house and asked for food. There were no men at the house, and the negro acted in a very insolent manner. He was furnished with food as he demanded, and upon leaving he took the direction in which the shot was heard not long afterward. The latest information obtained by the authorities up to the time darkness fell was that Craven was seen going down the turnpike in the direction of Leesburg at 4 o'clock. He was then about six miles from Leesburg. A very liberal reward was offered during the afternoon by the authorities of Loudon and Fairfax counties for his capture.

The Washington authorities were notified from Fairfax Court House early last night to be on the lookout for Craven, as he was supposed to be on his way to this city. Policemen in citizens' clothes were posted at all the points where the fugitive could cross the river into the city. The officers of Fairfax and Alexandria counties also posted guards on the roads leading to Washington, in the hope of intercepting the murderer in his effort to escape.

"Slain on Way Home," *The Washington Post*, 29 Jul 1902, p. 2;
digital image, *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*
(<http://www.proquest.com/> : accessed 15 Oct 2005).

**From *The Mirror*
July 31, 1902**

(The punctuation and spelling are as they appeared in the original document.)

ASSASSIN STILL FREE

**But Hundreds of Men in Pursuit
And Blood Hounds on the Trail – Sure to be Caught**

ALL LOWER LOUDOUN EXCITED

**Particulars of the Most Dastardly Crime
Committed in the History of Our County –
Victim a Member of Mosby's Command.**

While returning from Herndon, to his home near Sterling on Monday afternoon, Mr. William Wilson, a prominent farmer in Broad Run district, this county, was shot from ambush and almost instantly killed by a negro believed to be Charles Craven.

Mr. Wilson had been in Herndon on business and was supposed to have had money in his pockets, as he was a man who usually carried considerable money on his person. It is the negro who held up, and robbed young Steadman at Tuscarora Creek last week, the particulars of which have been stated in these columns. He was seen in Herndon Monday morning. At about one o'clock he appeared at the residence of Mr. Frank Van Dusen, and demanded something to eat.

Being refused he left in a rage. A few minutes later Mr. Wilson was seen to pass and a pistol shot was heard. The sound of fire arms in that community is rare, and an investigation was made from the Van Dusen homestead, which resulted in finding Mr. Wilson mortally wounded. He was speechless and died in a few minutes. His pockets had been rifled, which shows that the murder was committed for gain.

Thus it is seen that the circumstances point to Craven as the murderer. Immediately a posse was organized at Herndon and started in pursuit. Soon another company started from Sterling, both of which were met at Goose Creek by a large number of citizens from Leesburg, accompanied by Sheriff Russell. The chase was

continued all night without success. The negro was seen several times, and three shots were fired at him by Mr. Jno. Hutchison, who met him on the road.

Our local authorities, who are ever on the alert, telegraphed at once to State officials for blood hounds, which arrived in Washington at about 11 o'clock Tuesday night. Special conveyances had been provided by Mayor White and others, and the keeper of the dogs, two detectives and a number of other persons started for the scene of the murder, arriving there at about 2 o'clock.

Owing to the rain the dogs were useless, but they were put on the trail at an early hour Wednesday morning and the trail was followed till about four o'clock, when the rain again interfered. The murderer was chased to within 2½ miles of Leesburg at that time by three hundred armed men and the faithful dogs.

The river is picketed, making it impossible for him to cross over in Maryland.

Another posse will start out tonight (Wednesday) with the blood hounds and no doubt before this paper goes to press the fiend will be caught, and if caught, will probably be lynched.

CRAVEN CAUGHT

A telephone message from Ashburn Thursday morning, states that Craven was caught at that place about 10 o'clock.

LATEST—Craven lodged in jail here Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. Big excitement.

CRAVEN LYNCHED.

A mob of about 300 from Fairfax County arrived in Leesburg about 1 o'clock today, and began an assault on the jail. The officers were overpowered and the jail doors battered down, and about two o'clock they left with Craven and about a mile from town he was hanged and his body was riddled with bullets.

The Mirror
August 7, 1902

THE CORONER'S INQUEST

Verdict Rendered – Some Prominent Men Arrested

Since the lynching of Chas. Craven on Thursday, Leesburg has been in a somewhat excited and demoralized condition. Shortly after the crime was committed Coroner Clagett summoned a jury composed of Messrs. W. W. Chamblin, Jno. White, Henry Sellman, Jno. Rinker, E.B. Harrison and Edward Titus, who at once began an inquiry. After four days of hard work they returned about three o'clock Tuesday afternoon with a verdict, which, omitting the caption and names, reads as follows:

"The jurors, sworn to inquire when, how and by what means the said Chas. Craven came to his death, upon their oaths do say that on July 31, 1902, Charles Craven was taken from the county jail of Loudoun county, Va., to a point on the Washington turnpike, one half mile east of Leesburg, Va., and hung by the neck with a rope and the body riddled with bullets and shot, resulting in death. A large number of persons were implicated in the lynching. From the conflicting testimony given the jury are only able to connect the following persons with the breaking in of the jail and lynching the prisoner. (Here follows the names) We therefore find that the said Charles Craven was willfully and feloniously killed by being shot by several persons, the names of some of those who participated as principals and accessories before the fact being unknown to us, but amongst whom were the aforesaid named above."

To the great disappointment of the expectant groups which had gathered about the courthouse, the names in the verdict were not made known and this precaution in itself was an indication that arrests were contemplated.

Upon the inquisition, in accordance with his duty, Coroner Clagett at once issued warrants, charging the men whom the jury had implicated with the murder of Chas. Craven, and turned them over to the Sheriff. Most of these names have been kept a secret but of necessity several of them have become known.

The Sheriff had no sooner received the warrants than he began to search for the parties and to start his deputies after men in their respective districts. The first man to be arrested was S.H. Grimes, a butcher, residing in the town of Leesburg. He was at once carried before Justice Harrison, who not having authority to accept bail in such cases, committed him to jail to await further examination Wednesday morning. Upon his appearance the next morning, Mr. Grimes, through his council, Mr. W.E. Garrett, waived further examination. He was at once sent on to the Grand Jury. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Z.L. Weaver and Mr. John Lefever, both of Broad Run district, appeared before Justice Harrison, and stated that, having heard warrants were out for their arrest, they desired to surrender themselves to the authorities. Dr. Z.L. Weaver, acting under the advice of his council, Mr. Walton Moore, waived an examination, as likewise did Mr. Lefever, who has retained Judge J.B. McCabe. Thereupon they were also sent on to the Grand Jury. The three men then applied to Judge R.H. Tebbs for bail. After hearing much of the evidence, pro and con, which was produced before him by the above attorneys and by Commonwealth's Attorney Garrett, Judge Tebbs consented to accept bail and fixed the size of the bonds for Dr. Z.L. Weaver, and Samuel H. Grimes at \$15,000 each, and for Mr. Lefever at \$20,000. All were

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able to furnish satisfactory bonds and were recognized for their appearance before the Grand Jury on Monday.

Dr. Z.L. Weaver is a popular young physician residing in Sterling. He is about twenty-eight years old, of a pleasing personality and married.

Mr. John Lefever is a prosperous and popular young farmer, and lives near Waxpool. He has a joint interest with his brother in about 400 acres of land. He is of a happy disposition and about thirty years old, and has host of friends in Broad Run District. He is a brother in-law of Rev. Mr. Popkins, a prominent Baptist minister.

Much interest was manifested in the examination and the Court House was crowded from beginning to close.

MOB HANGS CRAVEN

Steel Doors of Leesburg Jail
Are Battered Down.

LYNCHED IN GRAVEYARD

Work of Vengeance Interrupts an
Emancipation Celebration.

Protesting His Innocence of the Murder of
William H. Wilson, the Negro Is Hanged
to a Tree and a Volley of Shots Fired
Into His Body — Sheriff, Mayor, and
Clergymen Appeal in Vain for the Honor
of Loudoun County — Inquest to Be Held

Special to The Washington Post.

Leesburg, Va., July 31.—"I'm innocent. I didn't kill a white man named Wilson." These words of Charles Craven, the alleged murderer of William H. Wilson, did not save him from death this afternoon at the hands of a mob near Leesburg. As soon as the negro uttered the name of Wilson a score of young Fairfax County farmers jerked the trembling wretch into eternity. Half a hundred rifle balls pierced the body as the rope tightened, and streams of blood flowed from the wounds in the negro's body and trickled to the ground from his bare feet.

The scaffold was a scrubby oak tree in the corner of a colored burying ground half a mile from Leesburg, on the Georgetown pike. The rope which strangled the man was thrown over a limb less than ten feet from the ground, and when the executioners had sprung their improvised trap they gave the rope a hitch about the tree, deserted their victim, and joined the crowds which rushed back into Leesburg as soon as they caught a glimpse of the victim.

Old Virginia never tires
Of seeing crows and building bloody fires.

So shouted a member of the mob as the life blood of the young negro spurted in answer to the rifle shots. But the cry was not repeated. It was not a popular one with the crowd, and the mob refused to build a fire beneath the dead negro. The hanging was not a hasty one. Although cool-headed citizens urged that the negro be left for the law to deal with, few ventured the opinion that Craven was innocent.

Clergyman's Appeal Unheeded.

"Men, remember you are wiping out every law of Loudoun County when you do this deed," the Rev. E. S. Higgs, rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, exclaimed as the mob forced Sheriff Russell and his deputies away from the entrance to the jail and began to try the strength of the iron doors of the cell rooms with sledge hammers. Sheriff Russell and Jailer Laycock refused to turn the keys over to the mob, and urged that Fairfax County, where the murder was committed, be allowed to care for the prisoner. But arguments were of no avail with the 500 earnest men who were seeking revenge for the cruel murder of William H. Wilson near Herndon last Monday.

"There's not a jury in the United States that would not convict the man," the clergyman protested, as the men cut their way through the steel which stood between Craven and death. "Why take the law in your own hands when it is certain that the man will be punished." But the pleadings of the minister were useless. Again and again the mob demanded the keys of the cell room and the cage in which Craven was locked with a number of other colored prisoners. The jailer and his wife were firm. The battering continued and finally the heavy steel door which separates the prisoners from the residence portion of the jail gave way.

A shout went up and scores of excited men forced their way through another iron door into the corridors surrounding the steel cages. Half a dozen negro prisoners who were in jail for minor offenses pleaded for mercy.

"Don't kill me! Please, sah, don't let them kill me!" one of the negroes begged, as he threw up his hands and protested that he was not the man wanted for murder. Others fell on their knees and began to pray.

For a time the lynchers were unable to locate Craven. He concealed himself in a dark part of one of the cages and his pursuers were unable to distinguish him. Finally guns were thrust through the bars of the cages and the excited men demanded that the prisoner be turned over to them or they would shoot all the men in the cage.

Woman Defied the Mob.

"He's locked in a back cage in another corridor," a member of the mob shouted, and a score of the excited men rushed to the steel door leading into another corridor and sought to batter it down. The keys were demanded of Mrs. Laycock, who forbade the rioters to enter her apartments and denied them the keys.

"He's been taken out the back way," another man cried. This shout made the crowd only more furious. The cool-headed members of the party paid no attention to the cry, for hundreds of farmers, armed to the teeth, had surrounded the jail for two hours, and were urging the men on the inside to deliver Craven over to them. Escape would have been impossible. Sheriff Russell had planned to take the prisoner to the Potomac and deliver him over to the authorities in Washington for safe-keeping, but hundreds of pickets about the jail made it impossible to carry out this plan.

Craven soon saw that it would be impossible for him to escape the wrath of the mob, and stepped out into the middle of the cage in which he was confined. He was instantly recognized by a score of men, who were peering through the bars. The negro announced that he knew it was useless for him to try to hide, and protested that he was innocent of murder. The heavy iron cage proved quite a barrier between the lynchers and their prey. Sledge hammers and crowbars were used upon the heavy locks, but they yielded slowly.

Ring of the Sledges Heard Outside.

The ringing of the sledge hammers upon the steel locks could be heard plainly

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MOB HANGS CRAVEN

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by the hundreds of people who had gathered about the jail, and shouts greeted the sound. The cell room cannot be seen through the outside windows of the jail, and only the men who could crowd into the corridors were able to witness the work of the welders of the sledges. Men who stood in the front door of the jail within view of the workmen announced their progress to the hundreds who were waiting outside.

At last the great steel locks yielded under the continued blows, and forty minutes after entrance into the jail was gained the lynchers laid their hands upon Craven. Before the man was led from the jail Charles Harrison, a prominent young attorney of Leesburg, climbed to a conspicuous place on the porch at the front of the jail and shouted:

"Men, it's only fair to Loudoun County that you take this man into Fairfax County to suffer the penalty of his crime." Shouts of approval greeted this announcement. Most of the farmers in the crowd were Fairfax County men, who had known and respected William H. Wilson, the Confederate veteran, whose death Craven was charged with. Again and again the law-abiding citizens of Loudoun County who were in the crowd urged that there be no violence done in this county. The sledge hammers were in the hands of young Fairfax County men. They took no pains to conceal their residence, and were enthusiastic in endorsing the suggestion that the negro be taken to the spot near Herndon where he was supposed to have fired the shot which ended the life of one of Fairfax County's most estimable citizens.

Watched by Awe-stricken Negroes.

"Here he comes!" the mob shouted, as the negro was pushed out of the jail by half a dozen young farmers. The whites surged about the victim and enveloped him in a wave of excited humanity, which followed the Georgetown pike past the eastern boundary of Leesburg. Women and children sat in windows which overlooked the pike and watched the infuriated mob as it carried its victim away. Frightened negroes stood a safe distance from the prison and looked on with ill-concealed alarm. The emancipation day celebration, which was being held in the fair grounds, had lost its attractions for the colored people. They deserted the exercises and came to town to watch one of their race meet his fate. Colored men and women stood in groups and discussed the mob's action in whispers. They voiced no protest. It would have been useless.

"This is an emancipation day hanging!" members of the mob shouted as the negro was led to his death.

A rope was thrown about Craven's neck as soon as he was taken from the jail. Demands were made that he be strung up on one of the electric light poles which line the pike near the prison, but the citizens of Leesburg were insistent and urged that non-residents should spare the reputation of the town.

"On to Fairfax!" was the cry that was taken up by Loudoun County men. The crowd walked the negro rapidly more than half a mile. Shouts and jeers greeted Craven's pleadings for mercy. He was protected from the blows of men who would have assaulted him, however, and cool-headed leaders managed to keep members of the mob from dragging the man and shooting him, as was suggested.

Work of Death Done in an Hour.

The walk from the jail to the lonely potter's field, with its simple rows of headboards, required about twenty minutes. At a quarter past 1 o'clock the mob attacked the jail. Forty minutes later it led its prisoner forth from the steel cage, and at 2:15 it swung him to death. In just one hour the man paid the penalty of a crime which circumstantial evidence charged to him.

"They can cut him down and bury him right beneath that tree," a member of the mob remarked as the negro's lifeless body swung to and fro above the nameless graves. "It's where he would have gone anyway, and he's not fit to live any longer. The world's better off without him."

The sentiments of the man who witnessed the lynching were similar to an expression Craven's mother made Wednesday morning when seen at her home about three miles east of where her son met death.

"He's been in trouble since he was a little boy," the gray-haired old negro woman remarked. "Every time I hear from him he's in jail for something. I'll be glad when he's out of the way, for he's never caused me anything but trouble."

Sheriff Russell and his deputies did not follow the mob which bore Craven away. As soon as the lynching was over news of the man's death was carried to the sheriff, and he notified Coroner H. O. Clagett, who summoned a jury to investigate Craven's death. The following were named as jurors: W. W. Chamblin, John G. White, E. B. Harrison, John A. Rinker, H. C. Sellman, and E. F. Tlius. After these men had viewed the body of Craven the coroner ordered that it be cut down, and instructed an undertaker to provide a coffin and prepare the body for burial a few feet from where he was hanged. The coroner tried to employ negroes to dig the grave, but was unable to find a colored man who was willing to do the work.

Inquest to Be Held To-day.

The coroner notified the jurors that an inquest will be held to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock to investigate the man's death. Although the men who forced entrance to the jail were unmasked, but few of them were recognized by the people of Leesburg. The men who were active in leading the mob are said to have been chiefly residents of Fairfax County, who have been patrolling the Georgetown and Leesburg pike ever since the murder of Wilson. The man who led the mob in its attack upon the jail was a brawny young farmer who wore a blue shirt, a large hat, lined on the underside of the brim with calico, and a pair of brown overalls. His blue shirt could be seen continually at the head of the attacking crowd. It was he who seemed to lead his followers through steel door after steel door, and he was one of the men who brought Craven from the cell.

All the spectators noted the leadership of the young farmer and referred to him as "the man in the blue shirt." Rev. B. H. Ferguson, pastor of the Leesburg Methodist Church, who was among the citizens who did all in their power to avert the hanging, said of the young leader:

"That man would lead any army to success. Nearly all the other men in the crowd were excited. That man was unmoved. He was the strength of the mob and others could not help following him. When his associates wavered in the face of opposition from officers and law-abiding citizens, that man inspired them with courage."

The world will probably never know who "the man with the blue shirt" was. He disappeared immediately after the lynching. The party which dealt so harsh-

ly with Craven scattered in all directions as soon as the body was riddled with bullets. It is rumored that a grand jury will be called at Leesburg in a few days to investigate the affair.

Capture of the Fugitive.

Only the coolness and nerve of half a dozen men kept Craven from being hanged shortly after he was captured near Ashburn this morning at 10 o'clock. A party consisting of Ernest Norman, John Higgins, Jenks Bryant, Maurice McNeely, and Ellsworth Simpson tracked Craven to a straw stack about two miles from Ashburn. Norman located the negro in the stack, covered him with his rifle, and compelled him to surrender. Craven was taken at once to Ashburn. An excited crowd of more than 100 farmers gathered at the station there and demanded that the prisoner be given to them. Temple Ellmore, a little man more than seventy years old, and Andrew Norman, a farmer well past the half century mark, ordered the crowd back, and managed to keep it in check until a train headed for Leesburg arrived. Craven was hurried into the train and the conductor pulled away from the station before the disgruntled crowd could get possession of the negro.

News of the capture of Craven was telegraphed to Leesburg, and 500 excited men tried to take the man away from Sheriff Russell and his deputies as soon as the train arrived. Col. E. V. White and a number of other citizens of Leesburg assisted the officers in fighting back the excited crowd and managed to get Craven into a carryall. The threatening mob followed the prisoner to the jail. Craven was terrified by the threats of the armed men and begged the sheriff to protect him.

"You won't let them kill me! Don't let them kill me, Mr. Russell; I am innocent," the negro beseeched as he clung to the arm of the sheriff in fear. When the man was taken into the jail the mob again tried to get the prisoner, but the sheriff and a number of influential Leesburg citizens managed to hold the crowd at bay while Craven was locked in a cell.

Mayor Orders Saloons Closed.

"Close every barroom in Leesburg; whisky shan't hang anybody here today," was the peremptory order given by Mayor B. V. White when he saw the demonstration provoked by the arrival of Craven. His order was strictly enforced, and Mayor White was among the men who stood by Sheriff Russell and Jailer Laycock in their effort to keep the mob out of the jail.

Sheriff Russell called on the governor for help, and received a reply that the Alexandria Light Infantry would be sent to quell the mob. Before the special train on which the militiamen were to come was made up, Craven was taken from his cell, and the sheriff wired the Alexandria soldiers that their services would not be needed.

When the news of the negro's capture spread among the posses which were scouring the country along the Georgetown pike east of Leesburg, scores of horsemen began to pour into town and swelled the crowd that surrounded the jail. Most of the men wore working clothes and were armed with muskets and shotguns. Rusty pistols protruded from the belts of most of the farmers. Leesburg had not seen such a demonstration since the war.

Young men predominated among the armed horsemen. The badge of Mooby's men, who held a reunion in Leesburg Wednesday, fluttered from the hickory shirts of some of the men and indicated that there were veterans in the party who were not strangers to warfare. Craven was placed in jail at 11 o'clock. Half an hour later the situation was threatening. The Georgetown pike was pouring determined men into Leesburg at an alarming rate.

Clash of the Races Threatened.

Shortly before noon the emancipation day parade passed the jail. The Sugarland Colored Band headed the procession and played "America" as the negro parade wove its way through the muttering crowd, which was taking on strength that was so soon to wreak vengeance on a man whose race was celebrating its freedom. Taunts and jeers greeted the colored marshals, who wore gay sashes and headed the procession. Some of the armed horsemen got into an altercation with some negroes who tried to force their way through the crowd, and police officers were called to prevent trouble.

Although Craven could not see the crowds from his cell, he heard them and knew the fate that was threatening him. When seen in his cell half an hour before the attack was made on the jail, Craven declared that he was innocent and maintained that he had never seen William H. Wilson, the man he is said to have killed.

"I didn't burn Henry Smith's barn, but I was sent to the penitentiary for it," the man said. "As soon as I got back they said I stole \$1 from the little Steadman boy. I didn't steal the money from him. I shot craps with him and won it. I heard that the officers were trying to get me for stealing and was hiding from them. Then I heard that they said that I killed Wilson. If I could have got in to give myself up to the sheriff, I would have done it."

His Whereabouts on the Fatal Day.

Craven gave ready answers to questions concerning his whereabouts on Saturday and Sunday of last week and on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, but he hesitated when asked where he was on Monday, the day that William H. Wilson was murdered near Herndon. Finally he said that he guessed he was at Sycoline, a colored settlement several miles from Leesburg, in the afternoon, and was at his mother's house during the morning. The man's mother stated repeatedly yesterday morning, and her daughters corroborated the report, that Craven did not come to her house late in the afternoon Monday. He was positively identified by several men who saw him in the vicinity of the murder shortly after noon Monday. He said that he had been hiding in the woods near Ashburn and Sterling ever since last Saturday, with the exception of the time he was in Sycoline. Craven wore only a sleeveless gauze undershirt and a pair of yellow overalls when seen in his cell. He said he had lost and discarded all his other clothes. When his questioners left the cell he asked anxiously what would be done with him and declared that he hadn't the face of a murderer and should not be suspected of killing Mr. Wilson.

LEADERS IN LYNCHING

Witnesses Testify Against Bradley and Lowenback.

NEGROES PLACED UPON STAND

Leesburg Saloonkeeper Identified as Active in the Mob That Killed Craven—
Bradley Is Held Under Arrest at Jail and Another Alleged Participant Taken Into Custody at Frederick, Md.

Special to The Washington Post.
Leesburg, Va., Aug. 2.—Twenty witnesses were examined to-day before the coroner's jury in the Craven lynching case. About half of the witnesses were negroes, but they implicated no men as actively engaged in the affair, save those who had previously been identified by white witnesses. More testimony was given to-day connecting Scott Bradley with the lynching as one of the leaders. He was to-day identified as the man who had hold of the rope when Craven was brought out of jail.

Charles Lowenback, a Leesburg saloonkeeper, was identified by half a dozen witnesses as active in the lynching, having hold of the prisoner when he was taken from the jail, and one of the first to shoot him after he was strung up. Allen Darnes was also recognized by a witness as one of the men who fired at the negro.

J. H. Leslie, a young business man of Leesburg, thought he recognized Nipple as the man who climbed the tree, but was positive that he was not the man who fired the first shot. Nipple was also identified by a number of other witnesses as one of the men who helped bring the prisoner out of jail.

Tried to Prevent Lynching.

At the beginning of the morning session County Treasurer T. H. Vanderverter was called to the stand. He identified Bradley, Lowenback, and Williams as active leaders of the mob. He said he did all he could to prevent the lynching, and thought it might have been prevented had not news arrived that the militia had been ordered out.

Cecil Connor, a lawyer, refused to testify when first called to the stand, but proceeded to give his testimony when threatened with contempt of court. He said that with three exceptions the people of Leesburg tried to prevent the lynching. These were, he said, Samuel Grimes, Thomas Fisher, and Scott Miskell. John Lefevre, Marvin Wilson, a nephew of the murdered man; Bradley, Lowenback, Sumner, Dr. Weaver, Moses Wrenn, Nixon Shryock, and Tyler Moffatt were also mentioned by the witness as present.

Five witnesses followed, but they said that they had not recognized any one in the mob. The negro witnesses testified that they identified Bradley, Lowenback, and Darnes as the principal members of the lynching party.

Scott Bradley and a man named Thomas Paxson, who were put in jail on the night of the lynching for being drunk and disorderly on the street, were given a hearing on that charge last evening, but at the request of Commonwealth's Attorney E. E. Garrett were detained ten days in jail to await the meeting of the grand jury, on Monday, August 11.

Nipple Pleads Innocence.

Frederick, Md., Aug. 2.—Harry Nipple, of this city, was arrested here to-day upon information furnished by Sheriff Russell, of Loudoun County, charged with having broken into the jail at Leesburg and with having been an accessory to the murder of the negro Craven, who was lynched a few days ago. Nipple was taken before Justice John Wood, who sent him to jail to await a hearing on Thursday, when the Virginia authorities can present their case against the accused.

It is alleged that Nipple was a leader of the mob and was one of the men who battered down the jail doors with a sledge hammer. Nipple admits having been in Loudoun County when Craven was lynched, but denies all knowledge of the lynching. He has employed counsel to defend him.

GRAVEN CASE ARRESTS

Twenty Thousand Dollars
Bail Was Required.

NAMES OF THE MEN INDICTED

John Lefevre and Dr. Z. L. Weaver Surrender Themselves and Waive Preliminary Examination—Bradley and Paxson Still in Jail—Officers Leave to Bring Knipple Back to Leesburg.

Special to The Washington Post.

Leesburg, Va., Aug. 6.—Twenty thousand dollars is the amount of bail fixed by the court in the case of John Lefevre, charged with the murder of the negro Craven. Two other men are under bail for \$15,000 each upon a similar charge. Two more arrests were made to-day and warrants are in the hands of officers to be served upon the other men indicted by the grand jury and not yet arrested.

Dr. Z. L. Weaver, of Sterling, came to town this morning and surrendered himself to the authorities. Accompanied by his counsel, R. Walton Moore, of Fairfax, he appeared before Justice C. F. Harrison and waived a preliminary examination. He was then promptly taken before Judge R. H. Tebbs upon application for bail.

Names of the Accused.

At this point for the first time the names of the ten men reported were read in open court, together with the complete verdict of the coroner's jury, by Commonwealth's Attorney E. E. Garrett. They included Scott Bradley and Ernest Paxson, who have been in jail for some days; Dr. Weaver, Charles Knipple, who has been arrested in Frederick, Md.; Samuel Grimes, arrested here yesterday; John Lefevre, Marvin Wilson, George Williams, and another man of the name of Williams, whose first name was unknown to the jury. On the witness stand Dr. Weaver denied that he instigated or in any way assisted in the lynching. He admitted pushing Rev. E. S. Hinks out of the door, but stated that he had apologized to the minister for it afterward.

Court adjourned until 2 o'clock, and in the mean time John Lefevre came in and surrendered to the officers. He and Samuel Grimes were then given a similar hearing upon the question of bail, and upon consideration, Judge Tebbs decided to admit all three of the applicants to bail. That of Dr. Weaver and Grimes was fixed at \$15,000 each, and that of Lefevre, whom one of the witnesses at the coroner's inquest said seemed to be the chief marshal of the affair, was fixed at \$20,000. All three gave the bail required and were set at liberty. Nothing that has occurred since the lynching has seemed to impress the citizens more with the seriousness of the affair than the amount of the bail required of the accused parties.

No Application for Bail.

Bradley and Paxson are still in jail, having made no application for bail. Sheriff H. H. Russell went to Frederick, Md., to-day for the purpose of bringing Charles Knipple to Leesburg. He was arrested at the request of Sheriff Russell, and Gov. Smith, of Maryland, has since honored a requisition of Gov. Montague for him to be brought to Leesburg. The other men have not yet been arrested, but it is thought that several others will come in to-morrow.

It is rumored that one of the men indicted has threatened, if the case against him is pressed, to give out the names of many prominent citizens of Leesburg who, he alleges, participated in the lynching.

THREE MEN INDICTED

Grand Jury's Finding in the Craven Lynching Case.

ONE VOTE RELEASED OTHERS

Lowenback, Knipple, and Bradley Must
Stand Trial for Their Alleged Complic-
ity in the Lynching—Ballot 6 to 4 in
Case of the Other Five Men—The Jury
Was Three Days at Its Work.

Special to The Washington Post.

Leesburg, Va., Aug. 13.—The grand jury of Loudoun have at last returned their finding in the Craven lynching case, indicting three men. Filing from the jury room about 3 o'clock, after continuous session during a period of three days, the ten jurors looked worn and exhausted by their labors. When it was announced that the investigation was over and the work of this body completed, crowds eager to hear the result of so many days' deliberation quickly filled up the courtroom.

After the usual preliminary steps had been taken, the court was informed by the foreman, Mr. Robert Walker, that a verdict had been reached, and that true bills had been found against three only of the eight men against whom indictments had been preferred. These were Charles Lowenback, Harry Knipple, and Scott Bradley. It was said that from the evidence before the grand jury these three men were found more deeply implicated than any others charged with complicity in the lynching.

Lacked but One Vote.

George Williams, Marvin Wilson, John Lefevre, Eli Paxson, and Samuel Grimes were discharged, no indictment being found against them. As to these latter, the vote of the jurors was said to be six for conviction and four for release. Under the law, seven votes are required for conviction.

The action of the grand jury is variously commented on. Judge Ebbs, in discharging the jury, said that he had attempted to perform his duty, and had no criticism to make of the grand jury's action.

ALLEGED LYNCHER FREED.

Special to The Washington Post.

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ALLEGED LYNCHER FREED.

Scott Bradley Exonerated by Leesburg Jury After Short Deliberation.

Special to The Washington Post.

Leesburg, Va., Sept. 15.—It took the jury just nine minutes to return a verdict of not guilty in the case of Scott-Bradley, who has been on trial here since Friday for complicity in the lynching of Charles Craven, colored, on July 31. The verdict is generally approved by the public. By agreement of counsel, the case was submitted without argument at 3:30 yesterday afternoon. The examination of witnesses for the prosecution was concluded Saturday evening at the hour of adjournment. The evidence of the prosecution was negative in character and indirect. The morning session yesterday was occupied with a searching examination and cross-examination of witnesses for the defense. Notwithstanding the testimony introduced by the State on Saturday, the counsel for the defense effectively weakened the case of the prosecution.

Several witnesses testified that they saw others besides Bradley wearing Confederate badges, that Bradley did not have hold of the rope, that Craven was led from the jail by others, and that Bradley walked down the turnpike and was not near Craven at any time. One witness positively stated that he was in a buggy with the crowd having Craven in custody, that he passed Bradley on the way, and arrived at the scene of the hanging after the shooting and before Bradley got there. A witness also testified that Bradley was not near the tree on which Craven was hanged. Similar evidence was adduced by the twenty witnesses examined by the defense, which concluded its case and rested at 1 o'clock. At 3:30 the case was given to the jury, with the above result.