

RETURN TO U-H  
FILE

800.9-181

800.9

In reply refer to  
U-H/811.4016/40

June 2, 1921.

*file*

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I enclose herewith a copy of a communication, presumably a circular letter, dated February 21, 1921, from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City, to the Editor of La Informacion, a pamphlet published monthly by the Mortgage Bank of Santiago, Chile.

Enclosed with the letter in question is a leaflet entitled "An American Lynching--Being the Burning at Stake of Henry Lowery, at Hodena, Arkansas, January 26, 1921, as told in American Newspapers". The circular, with its enclosure, is apparently being mailed to newspapers in South America with the request that they "comment on the phases of American civilization which this publication reveals".

The foregoing information was transmitted to the Department from a reliable source in Chile under date of April 8, 1921, and is furnished as being of possible interest and any action which you may wish to take.

Very truly yours,

Enclosure:

From Santiago, Chile,  
April 8, 1921.

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Special Assistant to the Attorney General,  
Department of Justice.

U-H/LAW/MEP

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

**50 Fifth Avenue, New York**  
**Telephone Watkins 8000**

**(SCROLL)**

**February 21, 1921.**

**Editor, La Informacion,**  
**Santiago, Chile,**  
**South America.**

**Sir:**

**The National Association for the Advancement of Colored  
People sends you herewith a leaflet entitled: "An American  
Lynching - Being the Burning at Stake of Henry Lowry, at  
Helena, Arkansas, January 26, 1921, - As told in American  
Newspapers."**

**The Association has refrained from any comment what-  
soever, only publishing facsimiles of newspaper headlines  
and text.**

**May we ask you to comment on the phases of American  
civilization which this publication reveals?**

**Very truly yours,**

**(signed) James Weldon Johnson**  
**Secretary.**

**Enclosure.**

# AN AMERICAN LYNCHING

Being the Burning at Stake of Henry Lowry  
at Nodena, Arkansas, January 26, 1921,  
as Told in American Newspapers.

*Published by*

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
*for the*  
ADVANCEMENT *of* COLORED PEOPLE

70 Fifth Avenue  
New York



## MAY LYNCH 3 TO 6 NEGROES THIS EVENING

### DEPUTIES' STORY OF HOW NEGRO IS TAKEN FROM THEM

### LOWRY NEARS TREE ON WHICH IT IS PLANNED TO HANG HIM; TAKEN THRU MEMPHIS TODAY

### MAY BE WHOLESALE KILLING AT WILSON

WILSON, Ark., Jan. 26—A wholesale lynching at Nodena, Ark., tonight appears probable.

A mob, which took Henry Lowry, negro murderer, off a train at Sardis, Miss., this morning is now en route to Nodena with the prisoner, according to the best reports available here.

It is rumored that Lowry will be lynched tonight with two other negroes, now held in jail, who are alleged to have shielded him and assisted in his escape to El Paso, where he was captured.

There is also a rumor that another negro, not now under arrest, may be taken in tow before the hour of the lynching.

The mob that has Lowry in charge is now en route to Nodena, it is said.

It is rumored here that the mob will skirt Memphis and cross the Mississippi river in launches at Richardson's Landing, Tenn., just opposite Nodena where the murders were committed on Christmas day.

Richardson's landing is several miles above Memphis in Tipton county.

The mob will not bring Lowry thru the town of Wilson. This much is positive.

### Mob Takes Slayer Of Two From Train At Sardis; Carry Him 100 Miles By Auto.

## RUMORED OTHERS WILL DIE

While five of their number detoured around Memphis in a closed automobile with Henry Lowry, negro murderer, who is to be lynched at Nodena, Ark., tonight, other alleged members of the mob which took him from officers at Sardis, Miss., early this morning, came to Memphis and dined at Hotel Peabody today.

The alleged members of the mob were met at the hotel by dozens of other men who came to Memphis from nearby towns in Arkansas this morning. Nearly 100 of them were gathered in the hotel lobby, laughing and talking and preparing to return to Arkansas tonight.

The five men who have Lowry passed Millington at noon en route to Richardson's Landing, Tenn., where they are to cross the river on a ferry. Nodena, Ark., is just opposite.

Reports received here indicate that Lowry and three or four other negroes—perhaps even more—are to be lynched at Nodena tonight. The other negroes are alleged to have aided Lowry to escape to El Paso, Tex., after he had killed two white persons and wounded two others at Nodena on Dec. 25.

### No Street Parade

The mob leader announced at Sardis, Miss., this morning that Lowry would be paraded thru Memphis streets and taken across the Harahan bridge here.

Police immediately guarded all roads entering the city to prevent them from bringing the prisoner here. The mob must have learned of this en route from Sardis, for as they neared Memphis, Lowry was surrounded by five men in a closed car who "kaped" the city.

The other men, it is alleged, drove their autos into Memphis and went directly to the Peabody hotel.

Deputy sheriffs R. H. Dixon and J. J. Greer, from whom the prisoner was taken by the mob at the train stopped at Sardis mingled with the crowd in the hotel lobby. They were met here by Sheriff Blackwood of Mistake county, Arkansas, who was to have accompanied them to Osceola with the prisoner tonight.

None of the men in the Peabody lobby would admit that they were members of the mob that boarded the train, but several of them evaded the question on a laughing mood.

Some of the men were muddy and appeared to be travel stained as the result of a long automobile trip over muddy roads.

Sheriff's Deputies Dixon and Greer, of Wilson, Ark., who were bringing Henry Lowry from New Orleans today, told in the Peabody hotel lobby in Memphis how the black was taken from them at Sardis, Miss. Their stories follow:

### Dixon's Story

Deputy Dixon in explaining how the mob captured the negro, said: "I was laying on a seat just across from him, and Deputy Greer had just finished combing his hair when the men rushed in. We took turns about sleeping, you know."

Three of them grabbed Greer and took his gun. One of them slammed the door, which caused me to raise up. I was leaning on my elbow when three big men jumped on me. My gun rolled under me and I thought that they would break my neck before they got it."

"After they started out with the negro, Greer and I got down, but several of them came back and told us to come on and get off the train. 'You've got the negro, let us go on to Memphis.' I said: 'You heard us, come on and get off this train.' One of the leaders replied:

"I then asked for my gun back, explaining they could take the snids out of it. No, you might have some more shells," one of the leaders said. We then got off the train and the men with the negro headed north in an automobile.

"I could not identify any of the men. They were not from Wilson."

Deputy Dixon says that he and Deputy Greer were under orders to take the prisoner to Little Rock.

Deputy Dixon said that he was forced to surrender the negro out of El Paso, Tex., to a posse of negroes led by a white man, who he thought was a lawyer, to take the case. The matter had been taken up with the governors of both Arkansas and Texas, and every effort is being made to prevent his being taken to El Paso, Tex.

### Sheriff's Story

In his room at the Peabody hotel, Sheriff Dwight H. Blackwood of Mississippi county, Ark., said:

"Nearly every man, woman and child in our county wanted the negro lynched. When public sentiment is that way, there isn't much chance left for the officers. Of course, we may believe that the negro ought to be killed for what he did, but as officers it is our duty to carry out the law."

"I knew several days ago that they had men at Texarkana, Hoxie and Jonesboro and that we wouldn't have a chance going that way, so we took the only route left open. We found later that they had men at New Orleans and were stopped off when my men left that place. I believe that there were some Arkansas men in the crowd, but they didn't let my men see them."



(CONTINUED FROM NEWS STORY  
ON PRECEDING PAGE)

## FEED DRY LEAVES TO SLOW FIRE WHICH COOKS LOWRY

Continued From Page 1

in the direction of Osceola. It was whispered that they would divide at Osceola, one squad taking the southbound train for Marion, where Jenkins was confined, and the other squad going to Blytheville for Williams. The latter were to travel in automobiles.

The mob failed to reach Osceola in time to catch the southbound train, and after riding back and forth across the country for several hours finally began to disperse and go home. It was evident that the leaders were practically exhausted from their long trip with Lowry, who was taken away from Arkansas officers, at Sardis, Miss., early Wednesday morning of the negro confined there. After things settled down again at Nodena, I hurried to Wilson and from there to Blytheville.

### Gets on to Blytheville.

Going up to Blytheville, I ran across Kenneth Rayner, who used to pound a typewriter for Charley Metcalf. Kenneth is now an honest-to-goodness lawyer in Blytheville but had rushed down to Nodena to witness the burning of the negro.

At Blytheville Rayner and myself hurried to the new county courthouse to see if the mob had arrived. Scores of men were hanging around police headquarters and in front of the city jail. We learned that members of the American Legion had been called out to assist in guarding the prisoners.

Rayner telephoned officials at the courthouse that he and I were coming over. He took this precaution in order that none of them would shoot at us when we started across the courthouse lawn. After a few questions we were finally admitted and told to go upstairs.

### Squads Guard Town.

Squads of men were stationed at points of vantage throughout the building. The prisoners were confined in the jail next door, but a glance showed that the guards would be able to sweep the entire building with their high-powered rifles.

Men rushed through the building, guarding doors and flashing lights in each other's face. The situation appeared a bit ticklish and several times I wished that I had remained outside with members of the mob. The guards in the building were under instructions to shoot the minute that an attempt was made to rush the jail door.

### Danger of Shooting.

However, I was more afraid that they would start shooting each other even before the mob arrived. The majority of them were a bit excited, and with the build-

ing in darkness, it was impossible to tell which were guards.

I remained in the courthouse until around 1 o'clock this morning, and then left to secure something to eat and see if I could hear anything of the mob which started from Nodena. I remained in a cafe around the corner from the jail until after 2 o'clock and, when no signs of the mob were seen, I finally went over to the hotel and "turned in."

### Lack of Leader Saves Negro.

The only thing that saved the Williams negro from meeting the same fate as Lowry was lack of a leader. Several times it was whispered around "Come on, let's go get him," but no one volunteered to lead the attack.

The police chief then hurried thru the city, warning those who were standing around the various stores and cafes that they had better go home. Other places were closed up to prevent the mob from congregating. They could not stand the cold weather long, and gradually the crowd thinned out.

### Says He Was Not Drunk.

Lowry maintained throughout the trip from Texas, and even while death was creeping over him, that he did not know why he killed Craig and his daughter. Asked if he was drunk, he replied in the negative, but added that he had taken a couple of drinks.

The negro laughed frequently during his trip from Sardis, Miss. As members of the mob told jokes to pass away the time, the negro smiled and laughed and seemed to enjoy this as well as anyone in the posse. He never once appeared down-hearted, and his nerve held up to the last.

Arrangements for three seven-passenger Cadillacs were made at Memphis before the posse started to Sardis. These were used throughout the trip from Sardis as far as the Tennessee side of the river at Richardson's Landing. From there on the roads were impassable for an auto and the negro was transferred to a wagon.

### Eats andLaughs.

Lowry was eating salted peanuts as he neared the scene of his death. When the posse stopped to eat, the negro too requested that he be fed. He ate a hearty meal and laughed at the jokes of the mob members a few minutes before he was tied to the stake.

It was the original intention of the mob to stage the attack near midnight. It was planned to take all three negroes to the Craig plantation and burn them at the stake. However, a few details of the plans miscarried, and the leaders found it advisable to dispose of Lowry before starting after the other two negroes, Williams and Jenkins.

### Still May Be Lined.

Though Williams and Jenkins escaped death last night, the general

impression here, as well as in Wilson and Blytheville, is that the pair will be put to death before they are ever brought to trial. It is understood that mob leaders deemed it inadvisable to attack the Blytheville jail with it heavily guarded, but that a plan had been worked out to suddenly sweep down on the building when they are least expected and remove Williams.

The general impression here is that an investigation of the lynching will be ordered by the governor, but it is expected to result in naught, as Sheriff Blackwood himself has stated that it appeared to him that every man, woman and child in the county was determined to have Lowry burned. He says that he did everything possible to protect the slayer, but that the mob was so well organized that it was impossible to get him safely back into Arkansas.

### Why Deputies Detoured.

In explaining why his deputies, detoured thru New Orleans with their prisoner, the sheriff said that the mob had scouts posted all the way from El Paso, Tex., to Little Rock. He hoped to throw them off the trail by sending the prisoner thru New Orleans, starting him on his way 24 hours before he was scheduled to leave.

Deputies Dixon and Greer would have stood no chance of retaining the negro at Sardis, as scores of men were present and all were heavily armed. The original plan was to take the negro off the train at or near Memphis, but at the last minute this plan was changed for fear that Memphis authorities might attempt to interfere.

Lowry had a reputation for being a peaceful negro in this section. This was his second season on the Craig plantation. No cause can be discovered for the fatal shooting Christmas Day, tho the general impression is that the negro was angered because low prices of farm commodities had wiped away his profits.

### Murders Two

Lowry pursued a negro woman to the Craig home, threatening to shoot her. When O. T. Craig stepped to the door to remonstrate with him, Lowry shot him to death and then killed Mrs. C. O. Williamson when she rushed to his side. Two sons, Hugh and Richard, were wounded by the negro, but both recovered.

Lowry escaped to El Paso, Tex., but was captured as he was about to cross into Mexico. He was being brought back to Little Rock for safekeeping, when he was taken away from the officers.

## EX-POSTMASTER WILL BE TRIED NEXT MONTH

Wm. F. Mackey, Memphis, formerly postmaster at Nesbitt, Tenn., will stand trial in federal court in February on a charge of embezzlement. He was arrested here yesterday by federal officers. It is alleged he appropriated a small amount of government funds.

# ANXIETY TO HEAR FROM HOME CAUSE OF NEGRO'S DEATH

Safe in El Paso, Murderer  
Writes Friend.

## INTERCEPT LETTER

Could Have Crossed Border  
to Mexico.

NOBENA, Ark., Jan. 27.—The death of Henry Lowry can be attributed directly to his anxiety to hear from home. A letter written to a lodge member at Turrell, Ark., resulted in his capture at El Paso, Tex., as he was preparing to cross the border into Mexico.

Lowry directed the letter to Morris Jenkins with the request that he go to the home of J. T. Williams, another negro, living near Wilson, Ark., and learn the whereabouts of his (Lowry's) wife. The Jenkins negro instead of doing as requested, wrote a letter to Williams. The letter was intercepted, and El Paso officials were asked to arrest the slayer.

Letter Lowry Wrote  
The letter to Jenkins follows:  
Mr. Morris Jenkins, Turrell, Ark.  
Dear Friend and Brother—It affords me no small pleasure to write you a few lines to let you hear from me. This leaves me very well in health and I truly hope these few lines will find you and family well and doing.  
I listen I have made it to the border line, but I have not crossed yet. I have run out of money and not being to get me a job to work some. Soon as I get money enough I am going over in Mexico. If costs me \$10 to cross over I will have you paid from my wife and girl or Williams. Will you and tell me all you know about the matter. Now I am not sure nothing in the paper here where I am at. I don't know a thousand miles from you now and as soon as I get some more money I am going on further. I am now in El Paso, Tex., right on the border so you write me if you can and let me hear how is every thing.

Back your letter to S. M. Thompson 1201 East Third St. El Paso, Tex. If you have not heard from J. T. Williams I would be glad for you to go down there for me. I don't want to put you to so much trouble but you know how it is with me. I can't take no risk. I want to hear from you. I don't know how the thing is filling. I hit her with a plente but you know how it is with the white people at El Paso like this.  
Now listen you go up there for me. I will dean you the road so you can't miss it without asking anyone the way to Williams' house. You go to his house and get him to carry you where my wife is and tell her to write what how is everything and what she is going to do and what can she do and see if she get her money out of them war camps.

Tell her I want her to get where I can write her. I want her to come to me later. I will tell her how to come when she gets so she can come. By the time she get I don't know if I will try to send her some money. It takes \$10 on the Dallas train for to bring her here.  
I am got a job that pays me \$10 a month and board so I guess in a few months I will send her some money so I will try to get to the road to Williams' house from Wilson on the next about.

The negro then drew a crude plan of the road from Wilson, Ark., to the home of Williams.

The letter was signed "S. M. Thompson."

A postscript read: "My mail comes to my home, 1201 E. Third st. Be sure to tell my wife any time she writes me from there mail it to you and you mail it to me."

The letter was written in pencil, but the El Paso address had been written in ink. The letter was posted Jan. 11.

## NO TROOPS ORDERED TO NODENA, ARK. GOV. M'RAE MAKES FRUITLESS EFFORT TO REACH SHERIFF AS MOB PLANS FOR LYNCHING BEE

Gov. McRae of Arkansas told The Press over long distance telephone this afternoon that he has not ordered state troops to proceed to Nodena, Ark., to prevent threatened lynchings there tonight.

"I can't get in touch with Sheriff Blackwood of that county, so I wouldn't know who to send the troops to," Gov. McRae said. "I understand that Sheriff Blackwood is at the Peabody hotel in Memphis and I have tried to telephone him there, but they say he is not in his room.

"What's the sheriff doing in Memphis? Why isn't he on his job? It's the worst outrage in the world to put a man to death without giving him a trial, and the sheriff that county should be getting busy. He hasn't called upon me for assistance.

"They had no business bringing that negro over the route they took. They should have brought him thru Arkansas and taken him direct to the penitentiary at Little Rock.

"I had heard that the negro was taken off a train at Sardis, Miss., this morning, but I didn't know they were bringing him back to Arkansas."

## NEGRO TAKEN FROM TRAIN AND HURRIED TOWARD CRIME SCENE; MOB MEMBERS AT LOCAL HOTEL

While five of their number detoured around Memphis in a closed automobile with Henry Lowry, negro murderer who is to be lynched at Nodena, Ark., tonight, other alleged members of the mob which took him from officers at Sardis, Miss., early this morning, came to Memphis and dined at Hotel Peabody today.

The alleged members of the mob were met at the hotel by dozens of other men who came to Memphis from nearby towns in Arkansas this morning. Nearly 100 of them were gathered in the hotel lobby, laughing and waiting and preparing to return to Arkansas tonight.

The five men who have Lowry passed Millington at noon en route to Richardson's Landing, Tenn., where they are to cross the river on a ferry. Nodena, Ark., is just opposite.

Reports received here indicate that Lowry and three or four other negroes—perhaps even more—are to be lynched at Nodena tonight. The other negroes are alleged to have aided Lowry to escape to El Paso, Tex., where he had killed two white persons and wounded two others at Nodena on Dec. 25.

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Police immediately guarded all roads entering the city to prevent them from bringing the prisoner here. The mob must have learned of this en route from Sardis, for as they neared Memphis Lowry was turned over to five men in a closed car, who skirted the city.

The other men, it is alleged, drove their auto into Memphis and went directly to the Peabody hotel.

Deputy Sheriff H. H. Dixon and

J. J. Greer from whom the prisoner was taken by the mob at the train stopped at Sardis, are packed with the crowd in the hotel lobby. They were met here by Sheriff Blackwood of Mississippi and Arkansas, who was to have accompanied them to Osceola with the prisoner tonight.

None of the men in the Peabody lobby would admit that they were members of the mob that lodged on the train, but several of them evaded the question in a laughing manner.

Some of the men were paraded and appeared to be travel-stained as the result of a long automobile trip over muddy roads.

### THE MEMPHIS PRESS



Daily except Sunday by MEMPHIS PRESS CO. Independent Politically, Financially, Commercially. Entered at Memphis Postoffice as Second-Class Mail Matter.

### Which Is the Better Way?

**O**n a railroad train a negro in the custody of officers of the law. The negro is being taken to stand trial for the murder of two people. He will be convicted and will be executed. In due time he will pay the proper penalty for his crime.

Armed men board the train. From the officers of the law they take the negro. They put him into an automobile and carry him thru parts of three states to the scene of the crime. With bravado it is announced that he will be lynched at a certain hour.

The crime of which the negro is accused is atrocious. Each a state should himself meet death as quickly as legal process will allow. There is no doubt but that he will die quickly.

Another negro committed a murder that is even more atrocious, if possible, than the first. He is arrested at his home. There are many people around, some of them close friends of the victim's son coming home. There is every opportunity for Judge Dixon to help this second negro. But the second negro is taken off in a public way and, swarming the country, certain victims of lynchings.

Which is the better way?

# LOWRY LYNCHERS ANNOUNCE PROGRAM NEGRO TO PAY MOB'S PENALTY FOR CRIME

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# The News-Scimitar

SIXTH  
EDITION

VOLUME 41

MEMPHIS, TENN., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 26, 1921

FOURTEEN PAGES

NUMBER 22

## AVENGERS SET 6 O'CLOCK AS LYNCHING HOUR

### *Husky Arkansas Men Take Henry Lowry, Craig Slayer, From Train and Whisk Him Away.*

MILLINGTON, Tenn., Jan. 26.—A party of seven in two automobiles with Henry Lowry, negro murderer of two members of the Craig family on Christmas day, stopped here at 12:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon on the way from Sardis, where they took the prisoner from officers, to Richardson's

landing, where they will cross and be joined by a party waiting on the Arkansas side, prepared to lynch Lowry promptly at 6 o'clock.

The party stopped at Fowler's restaurant for lunch. The negro was taken into the restaurant and kept under observation while the party ate.

The negro said nothing, but showed the strain he was under. He realized that he was on his way to death. A number of Millington citizens were attracted to the restaurant, and a few accompanied the party to the landing. They are not expected to cross the river.

Nothing occurred to mar the serenity of the journey. The party ate leisurely and after finishing went to E. A. Harrold's store, where a quantity of rope was purchased. It was said that the rope would be used in place of chains for the automobiles. The road is very bad and slippery at the approach to the landing.

The cars apparently were making very good time. About one hour and a half before they reached Millington it is thought that the same machines passed through Whitehaven. Very likely the men drove to Memphis, around the Parkway and out the Millington road. Citizens at Raleigh said they did not recall seeing cars of this description.

Wilson and Nodena are across the river from Richardson's Landing.

# NEGRO BURNED AT STAKE

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY  
EXCLUSIVELY BY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS SERVICE  
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# The News-Scimitar

FIRST  
PRICE THREE CENTS  
EDITION

VOLUME 41

MEMPHIS, TENN., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 27, 1921

FOURTEEN PAGES

NUMBER 23

## 500 WATCH SLAYER ROAST FOR 30 MINUTES

# LYNCHING PARTY ON WAY TO ARK. TO PASS THRU MEMPHIS

## Negro Who Killed Two On Christmas Day Taken From Officers At Sardis, Mississippi

Henry Lowry, negro murderer, was taken from officers on a train at Sardis, Miss., at 5 a. m. today by a mob of heavily armed men who are now enroute to Memphis in automobiles, according to word received from Sardis this morning.

The mob, it is said, is taking Lowry back to Wilson, Ark., near where he shot and killed two white persons on Dec. 25, and is to cross the Harahan bridge over the Mississippi river here.

### Parade Down Main St.

"We are going to parade him thru Main st. when we pass thru Memphis," the leader of the mob boasted at Sardis. "Then we are going to take him to Arkansas, and that will be the end of him."

Altho the roads are in very bad condition, the mob is expected here before noon. As the roads to the Helena ferry are impassable, there is no other route by which they can cross the river.

Lowry, who escaped immediately after the murders, fled to El Paso, Tex., where he was captured last week. Arkansas officers were bringing him back to stand trial. Deputies Greer and Dixon left New Orleans last night with their prisoner on Illinois Central Train No. 1.

### Tells Plans to Marshal.

Thirty minutes before this train was due in Sardis at 4:55 this morning, five or six muddy and mud-stained automobiles rolled into the little town. Several men alighted from each auto, and went to the Illinois Central depot.

"We are here to take that negro off the train and carry him back to Wilson, Ark.," the leader of the mob said as he approached Night Marshal W. F. Johnson, "and we hope we won't have to cause any trouble here."

Behind him were about 15 grim and determined-looking men, none of whom said a word.

Marshal Johnson invited them across the street to the Sardis hotel, to wait until the train arrived and built a warm fire for them.

"Our names," the mob leader continued as they sat around the fire, "are Smith, Brown and Jones."

The leader chatted with the marshal, but none of the other

men spoke a word, apparently by order.

"We've got 50 automobiles spotted out along the road between here and Memphis, and when we get to Memphis we are going to parade the negro right thru Main st. before we cross the bridge," the leader continued.

The train's whistle was heard, and at a command from their leader the men left the hotel and followed him to the depot. On the platform they formed in single file.

### Disarm Officers.

The moment the train stopped each man drew a revolver and the leader boarded the negro coach, followed closely by the others. Not a word was spoken.

Lowry was handcuffed to Deputy Greer, who was asleep, while Deputy Dixon stood guard.

Approaching them from behind, the mob members seized the deputies and disarmed them. One of them took the handcuff keys from Deputy Dixon's pocket and released Deputy Greer's wrist.

With the negro between them they filed out of the coach leaving the officers behind.

### Take Deputies Off Train

Just as the train started off again, the mob leader commanded Conductor Sutton to stop it. He did.

Deputies Greer and Dixon were then made to leave the train, altho they begged to be allowed to proceed to Memphis.

"No," the mob leader said, "you'll stay here and wait for the next train. It will be along at 6:39 o'clock."

Waiting until the officers alighted and the train pulled out, the mob placed Lowry in one of the automobiles and departed. They were driving northward when last seen.

"It was the coolest job I ever saw," said A. I. Campbell, night telegraph operator at the depot, who witnessed the scene thru one of the coach windows.

"Not a word was spoken, except by the leader, and every man seemed to know win advance just what he was supposed to do," Campbell said. "They didn't draw their pistols until the train arrived, and

then they all drew them at once. Some of them had two guns.

### None Wear Masks.

"Several other negro passengers got up and moved to the other end of the coach when the mob entered. And those fellows were all men, too—there wasn't a boy in the crowd. None of them wore masks."

During his conversation at the hotel the mob leader stated to Marshal Johnson that he had been apprised by a telegram from New Orleans that the officers and the negro were on that train.

Apparently nobody but the marshal and the telegraph operator knew the mob was in Sardis.

Deputies Greer and Dixon came to Memphis on the next train that left Sardis. They gave Lowry's overcoat, which the mob left behind, to the marshal as a souvenir.

### Christmas Day Crime.

The mob did not return the deputies' revolvers.

On Christmas Day Lowry shot and killed O. C. Craig, 72, wealthy planter residing near Wilson, Ark., and his daughter. He also wounded his two sons, Richard and Hugh Craig.

The negro escaped a mob which scoured the country for a week and fled to El Paso, where he was located by means of letters which he wrote to relatives in Wilson. He was preparing to flee into Mexico. El Paso police arrested Lowry and held him until Arkansas officers arrived to take him back.

# Arkansas Gazette.

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## GOVERNOR IRATE AT LYNCHING OF NEGRO

### Will Ask for Law Providing for Removal of Weak-Kneed Officers.

THE DAILY TIMES: CHATTANOOGA, TENN.,  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1921.

#### BARBARISM A NATIONAL CRIME.

The lynching of the negro Henry Lowry by an Arkansas mob near Nodena, in that state, an account of which appeared in these columns Thursday morning, was accomplished with something more of diabolism than usually attends such lawless outbreaks. There have been frequent instances of burning victims, but it has usually been done after death. In this instance the man was bound to a heap of dry timber, his body saturated with kerosene and then burned and tortured until death ended his agony. The governor of Arkansas has made some perfunctory remarks about the enormity of the crime, and threatens an investigation, but that will be about all there will be to it.

It has long since ceased to be said that these mobs are made up of vagabonds, toughs, bums and vicious idlers—this one was, apparently, composed of determined and responsible men, respected in the communities where they live and altogether representative of the sentiment of their neighbors. State authority will, therefore, hardly reach them.

In such circumstances, a great impulse will be given to the movement for

a federal law against this crime. There will be those who, while objecting to federal interference in purely state affairs, will not be long in concluding that there may be a federal issue in the preservation of the civilization of the republic. The most ardent state righter will hardly dispute the statement that burning human beings at the stake is barbarous, inhuman, savage and un-American. The federal government may, without offense, declare that such practices are repugnant to the spirit and the soul of the republic, and that those who indulge them are outlaws and enemies of their country and its institutions. Treason is a national offense, and so may burning human creatures at the stake come to be a crime such as treason. Lynch law run mad, as carried out by this insensate and inhuman mob, is a direct and flagitious assault upon the civilization of the American people and a wanton and unpardonable crime against the moral and spiritual sense of the nation. The nation may, therefore, decide that it may, without violating the rights of any state, take cognizance of this heinous savagery and provide a penalty for it so drastic and severe as to render it exceedingly dangerous for future mobs to indulge it.

Governor McRae last night characterized the burning of John Henry Lowry, negro, near Nodena, as "most disgraceful and inexcusable" and said he will recommend the passage of legislation to provide for the removal of officers who do not prevent lynchings of prisoners in their custody or within their jurisdiction. The governor was first informed of Lowry's fate by a Gazette reporter.

Ever since the negro's capture at El Paso, Tex., where he was taken for a double murder near Wilson on Christmas Day, the governor has exerted every effort to have the prisoner placed in the penitentiary at Little Rock for safekeeping pending trial of his case, and thus far the only result obtained has been the assurance that the American Legion at Blytheville will do everything possible to prevent the lynching there of two negroes who are held on charges of harboring Lowry while posses hunted him.

The telegram from Blytheville was received by the governor last night. It acknowledged receipt of a message requesting that the Legion take action to support the civil authorities and said "We will do all in our power to prevent lynching of negroes in jail here." The message was signed by Welch Foster, commander of the post at Blytheville. Three negroes are held at Mariou who also are charged with aiding Lowry.

#### Appeals to Legion Posts.

The governor's message to the Blytheville post and to R. E. Lee Wilson Jr., post commander at Wilson, which town is near Nodena, was sent yesterday afternoon. It follows:

"I call upon you as commander of the American Legion Post to use every means at your command in assisting civil authorities to uphold law and order and prevent lynching of the negro who will arrive at Nodena tonight. Please proceed there at once and co-operate with the civil authorities if possible, but I rely upon you and the ex-service men of the American Legion to stop lynching at all hazards." No message was received from Post Commander Wilson last night.

This message was dispatched when the governor was informed of the raid of the lynching party upon the train at Sardis, Miss. Previously Governor McRae had sent telegrams, telephone messages and letters in an effort to have the prisoner brought direct to Little Rock.

#### The Governor's Statement.

Governor McRae's statement in full follows:

"I make no comment on the round about way in which the negro was brought from El Paso. I have no sufficient facts before me, and it is possible that none of the many messages I sent by telegraph, telephone and letter may have reached the officer in charge of the man. But I consider the happening most disgraceful and inexcusable. The negro had surrendered and had consented to return without requisition, relying upon a fair trial by the courts. This I had promised him, considering that he would be brought directly here, where he could be held safely until the time of the trial.

"I shall recommend to the legislature the enactment of a law which will place the responsibility directly upon the officers having custody of prisoners, and will recommend some act by which a sheriff who permits, or does not prevent, the lynching of a prisoner in his charge, be removed from office inasmuch as the negro was taken from an interstate train and brought from Mississippi into Arkansas where he was killed, the matter may come within the purview of federal authorities, and it is possible that this occurrence may result in the enactment of federal statutes for the prevention of crimes which should be prevented by our county officers."