

# VICTIM HANGED FROM TREE AND BODY BURNED

**Mob Outwits Guards and  
Drags Wounded Slayer  
From Cot.**

**3000 SEE CRIME**

**Salisbury (Md.) Negro  
Slew Lumberman, Then  
Shot Himself.**

SALISBURY, Md., Dec. 4.—  
With parade, rope and fire, Salis-  
bury executed judgment tonight on  
Matt Williams, 35-year-old Negro  
murderer.

Four hours after he killed his  
employer, Williams was dragged  
from a hospital, paraded through  
the streets by an incensed mob  
and hanged from a tree in front of  
Wicomico county Courthouse.

Later, the body was saturated  
with gasoline and burned before a  
crowd of 3000 men and women amid  
curses and cries of approval.

**First Lynching in Years.**

It was the first lynching in Mary-  
land in 20 years.

Williams murdered Daniel J. Elliott,  
67-year-old lumber dealer, to culmi-  
nate a long grudge over wages, police  
say.

After shooting Elliott, the killer  
tried to commit suicide, but inflicted  
only a slight wound on the temple.  
He was shot again in trying to escape  
and placed under guard in Peninsula  
General Hospital.

**300 Men in Mob.**

The mob, numbering about 300,  
formed in the center of the town and  
marched on the hospital at 8 P. M.

By tricking the guards, the mob  
spirited the suspect from his cot. He  
was swathed in bandages which blind-  
folded him and almost concealed his  
face.

The mob paraded the struggling  
suspect through Salisbury's main  
street three blocks to the Courthouse.  
There, on a small green in front of  
the entrance, they hanged him from  
a limb of a tall maple tree. He was  
left hanging there 20 minutes.

Then the body was cut down, car-  
ried two squares to a vacant lot and  
burned.

Williams had been employed by El-  
liott for more than eight years. Re-  
cently he had complained about  
wages. His grudge spurred him to  
action today, police say, and at 4  
P. M. he entered his employer's office  
and shot him through the back of  
the head and then turned the gun  
on himself.

**Son Finds Victim.**

The lumberman's son, Daniel, Jr.,  
30, ran to the office to find his father  
slumped in the chair, the Negro groan-  
ing on the floor. He carried his  
father to an automobile and sent  
him to a hospital.

Returning to the office, young Elliott  
saw Williams staggering through a  
lumber yard which adjoined the office.  
Picking up the pistol from the floor  
where Williams left it, Elliott gave  
chase and fired once, the bullet strik-  
ing the fugitive in the head and fell-  
ing him.

He was taken to the hospital under  
guard of Deputy Sheriff Don Park and  
Police Chief N. H. Holland.

State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey,  
who took a statement from Williams  
at the hospital, said the Negro told  
him Elliott had been "robbing him"  
by paying him only 15 cents an hour.

About 7 P. M. the mob started form-  
ing in Main st. in front of the Wi-  
comico Hotel, its members talking in  
low tones. A half hour later the de-  
cision was made and the mob started  
for the hospital.

**Guards Outwitted.**

While the two guards were parley-  
ing with the main mob at the front  
door of the hospital a smaller group  
sneaked in the rear and dragged Wil-  
liams out, his head and face covered  
with bandages.

The guards made no attempt to  
halt the parade, headed by the strug-  
gling Williams and his brawny cap-  
tors. Nothing was said until the

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# Mob of 300 Lynches Wounded Slayer

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crowd reached the Courthouse, where a larger crowd already had gathered.

"Where's the rope?" someone demanded.

Someone produced it. The rope was tossed over a limb about 25 feet from the ground. The knot was quickly adjusted.

At this point the doomed man seemed to realize his predicament. He started to struggle. Six or seven husky men punched him viciously.

At a signal, eight men jerked sharply on the rope, lifting the victim about three feet. Then the hangmen walked back until the body was drawn high among the branches.

Three times the body was lowered and jerked upward.

After the body was cut down the crowd continued to increase until a throng of 3000 was gathered about the spot where the body was burned.