Asheville Daily Citizen.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 9, 1897.

A FIENDISH SUNDAY CRIME

Committed by a Negro Brute Near Weaverville.

THE PEOPLE ARE AROUSED

VIGOROUS SEARCH IS BEING MADE FOR THE MAN.

Miss Kittie Henderson Assaulted While On Her Way Home From Sunday School.

Sunday School.

One of the darkest crimes in the pages of Buncombe's history startled the people of the Weaverville section of the county yesterday. The perpetrator is a young negro, and his victim Miss Kittie Henderson, a pretty girl and daughter of John Henderson, who lives about a mile and a half from Weaverville, near the Coleman homestead.

Yesterday morning Miss Henderson went to Sunday school at Alexander chapel and about 11:30 was on her way home. When at a crossroads not far from her home she was startled by the sight of a negro who appeared to be stealing upon her. A moment later the negro sprang upon her, caught her about the throat and bore her to the ground.

Miss Henderson is a partial cripple as a result of an attck of meningitis some years ago, and was unable to resist successfully the strength of the black brute, who dragged her a short distance into the woods.

Then probably fearing discovery because of his proximity to the road, the negro dragged his resisting victim still further from the highway, stopping this time at a point about 31 paces from the roadside. There he choked her almost into insensibility, consummated the assault and made off.

Miss Henderson begged and prayed of her assailant that he would let her go; that she was only a poor crippled girl, but her prayers were unavailing to change the purpose of the negro who was armed with a pistol and threatened to kill her.

Miss Henderson, suffering greatly from her injuries and in an hysterical condition, made her way to the Coleman homestead, and J. S. Coleman had the authorities at Weaverville notified. The news spread through the community rapidly and soon searchers were out, some of them armed, and they scoured the country, but without success. It was thought that the brute had at once gone to an association meeting a few miles away, and became a part of the crowd of near 1000 negroes in attendance. He had about 40 minutes start of his pursuers. The search was kept up last night and the river bridges and roads in the northern part of the county were watched closely.

Miss Henderson was taken to her home, and attended by Dr. James Gill of Weaverville and Dr. D. E. Sevier of Asheville. She described the negro as being heavily built and about 22 or 24 years old, and said she could recognize him if she were to see him again.

Miss Henderson is about 22 years old and of a family that has the respect of the people of the community.

Miss Henderson was brought to the city today and taken to the office of Dr. H. B. Weaver, where medical attention was given. Later she was taken to her home.

Asheville Daily Citizen.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 10, 1897.

THE NEGRO IS CAPTURED

Assailant of Miss Henderson Found.

HE IS FULLY IDENTIFIED

REFUSED TO CONFESS IN HER PRESENCE.

He Confessed Later, However—Brought to Asheville for Speedy Trial—Details of the Case.

Bob Brachett, the negro who has

Bob Brachett, the negro who has been hunted since Sunday last as the fiend who so fearfully assaulted Miss Kitty Henderson on that day, was captured at 4 o'clock this morning by Goodson Ramsey, in the cabin of Sandy Ray, a negro preacher living on Whittemore Branch, near the Madison county line.

The negro had come to the house only a short time before he was caught, and had asked that he might sleep there. Permission was given, and he crawled into bed. When Ramsey located the negro, he at once went in the house for him and Brachett did not deny that he was the man wanted, and made no resistance. He picked up his shoes, and, after being tied, was led into the road and the start was made for the return to the scene of the crime.

ON THE WAY TO HENDERSON'S.

Deputy Joe M. Chambers, who was in the searching party that captured Brachett, told THE CITIZEN that the whole of the distance on the road from the time of the capture until the deputies from Asheville arrived, was devoted by the cooler heads in quelling the spirit that was rife for a quick hanging.

There were additions to the crowd surrounding Brachett all the morning, and when Weaverville was reached there were at least 300 men and boys in the company. Many of the men carried shot guns and the utmost quiet prevailed as the procession crowded along the road.

MET THE OFFICERS.

The deputies met the crowd with their prisoner at the top of the hill, half a mile beyond the Henderson residence, and, riding up to the men leading Brachett, Deputy Reynolds said to them that he was sent by Sheriff Worley and Commissioner Brown to say that a special term of court would be called at once, if they were sure of their man, and that justice would certainly be done.

IDENTIFIED.

The negro was then told to strip off the shirt he was wearing and to put on the one he had discarded immediately after the outrage on Sunday. The rope that bound his right wrist was then unfastened and the negro hustled out of the big checked shirt into one of plain domestic.

Deputy McDonald repeated the request of the physician, and a party of less than a dozen of the men with shot guns moved into the grove at the house. In less than a minute the restrainer of the officers was forgotten and the little yard was crowded.

Goodson Ramsey and Charley Rymer retained their hold of the rope by which the prisoner was bound and, together with Deputy McDonald, entered the front room of the dwelling.

Dr. Gill then told the deputy that, unless the crowd was kept outside the house, his patient could not come into the room, and, as the negro backed himself against the fireplace and stood in the full light of an opposite window, Miss Henderson with her mother came in. A chair was given the young lady and she was seated in front of Brachett. Evidences of emotion were suppressed by the young lady as she exclaimed:

"Oh what made you treat me so last Sunday, when I told you I was crippled and helpless! Why did you choke me as I prayed to God to defend me, and you threatened to kill me if I was not quiet. I would know you among a thousand, and do swear that you are the man."

THE NEGRO'S DENIAL.

Dr. Gill then asked Brachett: "Did you ever see this lady before?" and the negro doggedly replied, "Never saw her before."

"Yes you did," said Miss Henderson, "I knew you the minute my eyes flashed on you."

Brachett was then told to put on his hat, and the young lady reaffirmed positively that he was the man.

The prisoner was again asked if he was the man who had committed the assault and he said: "Don't think I ever saw her; no, sir, never saw her."

The crowd outside had by this time learned of the negro's identification, and loud cries were raised against him. Deputy McDonald stood before the negro, and stated that he had a warrant for him and wanted to take him to Asheville.

"I will pledge myself that the Commissioners will call court next week for his trial," said the officer; and with his captors the negro stepped out of the house.

"God knows he ought to be lynched" yelled a man near the door, and the air was thick in an instant with cries of "Lynch him!" "hang him!" "Bring him out and we'll tear his head off."

As the negro stepped from the door Miss Henderson appeared on the step and exclaimed:

"I prayed in my helplessness that God would spare my life and send friends to avenge me, and now they have came to help me."

In the midst of her cries the negro was moved close beside the horse ridden by Deputy Reynolds, who, with others, were appealing for quiet from the increasing demands to kill the man, but over all, the echo came back, with the fury of men who had caught their victim well nigh red handed, "Hang him! hang him!"

Deputy Reynolds then broke into the din with the remark, "Men, if you hang him, you are all known and will be tried for murder."

"That's all right," replied the perspiring maddened crowd, "We'll take care of that."

GAVE HIM UP.

But there was a waver of hesitation, and Walter Vandiver of Weaverville, rose in his stirrups and with a few ringing words to the men to save the fair name of the county from what would be a dastardly crime, the calmer ones, who had all along been moving through the crowd as peacemakers, succeeded in making themselves heard, and the negro, who had become ashen in his terror was started toward Asheville. A man called out as the party left:

"There he goes to the chain gang for a few months, where they'll make a trusty of him."

While riding behind W. B. Brown, on the way in, the negro confessed his guilt. He told Mr. Brown he had been in Asheville for about a week, and was on his way back to Big Ivy when he met the young lady in the road. He did not, he said, heed her cries to be left unmolested, and was now sorry that he did not do so.

IN JAIL.

The ride to Asheville was without event, and at 3:15 the deputies, accompanied by an escort of about 50 horsemen, reached the city with the prisoner, who was mounted behind Wiley B. Brown. The party came up North Main, then down South Main to Eagle and thence to the jail. Several hundred people followed. After the prisoner was placed in jail a majority of the crowd dispersed when asked to do so by the officials.

SPECIAL TERM.

Chairman Brown of the Commissioners this afternoon telegraphed Judge Ewart requesting a special term at once to try Brachett.

Asheville Daily Citizen.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 11, 1897.

EXTRA

LYNCHED

Brachett, the Negro Rapist Pays the Penalty.

WORD FROM WEAVERVILLE

The Military Did Not Reach the Scene.

Bob Brachett, the negro rapist, has paid the penalty for his Sunday crime going to his death at the hands of a party of lynchers.

A telephone message to THE CITIZEN from Weaverville shortly after 3 o'clock stated that a report had just reached the town to the effect that Brachett was lynched at Hemphill's school house, about two miles from the town at 2:30.

The message also stated that the lynching party numbered nearly 1000 persons.

The military, the message said, did not go farther than the Henderson home, near which the crime was committed.

LATER.

A later message says that the military and all those who were in the vicinity of the Henderson house had left for the scene of the lynching.

It is said that Miss Henderson was taken to the scene.

The crowd at the place where the lynching occurred at the last estimate, numbered 1500.

Brachett told THE CITIZEN two days ago that he came to Buncombe from Caswell county about "12 and seven months" ago, as he put it, and that he was 23 years old. He had worked on farms in Madison county.

CONFIRMATION.

At 4:50 p. m. a telephone message from Weaverville said that the lynching took place at Hemphill school house about 3 p. m. There was no interference by the militia.

Another message says bicyclists had passed a point four miles this side of Weaverville, going to Asheville, who said they saw the negro's body hanging where it was strung up. The people were dispersing to their homes, and all was quiet.

There was no shooting by anybody.

THEY STORMED THE JAIL

Locks, Doors and Brick Walls Broken.

AN OUT OF TOWN BAND

PRISONERS LIBERATED, BUT BRACHETT NOT FOUND.

No Resistance Made by the Authorities—Jail Not Greatly Injured.

For several hours last night a portion of Asheville was in the hands of a howling and tipsy mob, not a cool and determined body of sober men impelled in their action by a laudable impulse and motive. It was bent upon the destruction of something, regardless of what that was. That the object destroyed was inanimate apparently made slight difference.

Long before Bob. Brachett, the negro who criminally assaulted Miss Kitty Henderson near her home in the vicinity of Weaverville Sunday last, was brought to town, men stood in groups and discussed the probability of a lynching should the negro be imprisoned in the county jail. While a great many entertained the view that this might be done, a large majority of those who were heard to discuss the situation, were inclined to think the great danger over after the prisoner had been safely incarcerated. The probability existed, however, and Sheriff Worley took a precaution that saved the neck of the negro rapist temporarily, at least.

Immediately after the prisoner was placed in jail spies who were in sympathy with those who believed he should summarily expiate his crime were placed about the jail that they might know of the fact should he be taken away by the officers. These spies performed their part imperfectly, however, and by sunset many conflicting stories were being told as to whether he had been removed. Practically all of the lynching party refused to credit the story of his having been taken away, which was done about 7 o'clock, and after the darkness had well set in the talk of taking the lynching step was renewed in earnest. The assertion that the negro had been taken away in a carriage by Jailer Laney and Deputy Sheriff McDonald, was only a ruse to mislead, the would-be lynchers united in saying. Cooler heads cried peace, but there was no peace. On court square men talked openly of becoming members of the lynching party. Rev. J. T. Betts reasoned with several of those who talked loudest, but with no avail.

HELD A MEETING.

In the meantime active preparation to put into effect the plan of lynching were being made in another part of the city. About 200 men, principally from the country, had assembled in the vacant lot west of the Banner warehouse and had expressed in no uncertain manner their determination. Some one of the number told briefly what they were there for, and what he said was applauded. A few were armed with guns, and altogether there were many suggestions of trouble, as the men could be seen in the shadow tempered by a nearby electric light.

The meeting adjourned a few minutes after 8 o'clock and the men, after discussing the situation among themselves, for a short time, started in a body for court square. As the crowd marched up North Main street with some semblance of order, recruits were constantly added. To the observer court square offered a suggestion of the Commune of Paris. A large number of boys under 20 years of age, fell into line. There seemed to be a momentary pause and then every avenue leading to the jail was filled. In a surprisingly short time the main crowd was there, and had filled the street in front of the jail yard and many of the vacant lots in the vicinity. In fact everybody was there—except the police. They were near—some of them—but did nothing.

RUSH ON THE JAIL.

There was a brief halt at the gate leading into the yard and then there was a rush. The rest is a sad story of lawlessness. Chief of Police James was there but he did not apparently realize the extent of his duty. Sheriff Worley was also on hand and made an effort to deputize every other man in the crowd, but the plan proved ineffectual. When approached the men would walk off, shake their heads or in some way manifest the fact that their sympathies were elsewhere. The helpless Sheriff then backed himself against the door and made a show of resistance. The crowd cried loudly for the keys, but Sheriff Worley declined to surrender any keys he might have had, and the jailer was not to be found. Sheriff Worley endeavored to reason with the unreasoning crowd. He suggested that he take two or three representatives of the mob inside the jail and prove his assertion that the Brachett of their hate had been removed. But

his words could only reach the ears of a few and they were in no compromising mood. By the efforts of those behind, the leaders of the mob were pressed nearer the door. Instantly the sheriff was brushed aside, and the weak struggle for law and order ended ignomimously. As the battering ram, improvised by the use of a heavy piece of timber, pounded effectually against the not too heavy wooden door, the lovers of order could only stand aside. The aggregation of law breakers had no recognized leader and in consequence had no organization. It is believed that a few determined men could have held the mob at bay. But the determined men were not to be found. Solicitor McCall was a spectator. Patrolman Reynolds, who had during the afternoon acquitted himself so creditably, was not on duty there. He was on the Square when the crowd went through it, however.

DOOR BURST OPEN.

Not heeding the impotent opposition, the leaders soon burst the door down and the interior of the jail quickly filled. Then for several hours the work of destruction went uninterruptedly on. With crowbars, hammers and pieces of metal the cells were broken open, the walls battered and prisoners released indiscriminately. While the work of destruction was in progress City Attorney Locke Craig, Solicitor McCall and others made repeated efforts to get the mob to desist. More than once Mr. Craig tried to make compromise propositions to the men who were doing such useless damage.

The perspiring men hammered away, however, and all words counseling peace were drowned in the conflicting sounds made by the blows of the numerous instruments. All efforts to recognize men and appeal to them personally were in vain, as the moment a match was struck, it would be blown out by the mob's sympathizers. Implements with which to do the destruction were passed to the workers on the interior of the jail through the grating of the windows by men and boys stationed on the outside. Once a boy handed up a sledge hammer to the workers in plain view of the Sheriff and several hundred people and yet the bold young sympathizer walked away without his identity being inquired for.

DILIGENT SEARCH.

It was near 11 o'clock before the crowd's spirit of vandalism seemed satisfied. Then the hammering suddenly ceased. Candles were lighted and a diligent search of the jail's every part was made. The search included a look into the outbuildings and even into Jailer Laney's private home.

And then the crowd gave it up in disgust. One of the leading spirits, a man said to be hailing from the section about Weaverville, stood before the would-be lynchers and swore long and loud at those who had spirited Brachett away. He immediately struck a responsive chord in the breasts of his hearers, and was applauded lustily.

Having thus given vent to its feelings, the disappointed crowd slowly dispersed, discussing the situation in an excited manner, as they retreated.

PRISONERS RELEASED.

In all six prisoners were released from their cells. One of the men liberated was James Payne, who was detained for killing a woman in Madison county. He was brought to the jail here for safe keeping.

Geo. Hensley a second alleged Madison murderer, also brought here for safe keeping, was also liberated, but was recaptured before leaving the jail yard.

Clay McCarty was released, but later

returned to the prison. Young McCarty escaped by donning a cap of one of the messenger boys of the Western Unioin Telegraph company, and passed the outside door unrecognized.

The three United States prisoners, D. H. Brandell, J. D. Sheppard and James Kilpatrick, are gone.

No negro prisoner was allowed to leave his cell.

The damage done the jail is not so great as was at first reported. Chairman Brown of the Board of County Commissioners gives it as his opinion, based on mechanics' estmates, that the damage will not exceed $100. The principal damage done was by the breaking of locks and bolts.

TAKEN FROM OFFICERS.

Report reached here this morning that a body of men boarded the vestibule at Biltmore this morning, proceeding under the idea that the route of the officers and prisoner had been east. At Terrell's, the siding near the west end of the Swannanoa tunnel, the officers started to get on the train, when the prisoner was taken from them. The Terrell correspondent of THE CITIZEN's wires as follows:

TERRELL, N. C., Aug. 11.—[Special]—Brachett was brought heret hrough the country last night from Asheville by two officers, intending to board No. 16 at Swannanoa tunnell for Raleigh. At 1:40 an unknown mob, 75 strong, gathered her awaiting No. 16. The officers boarded the train with their prisoner. Loud cries of "Hang the officers and the negro!" were heard. A rush was made and soon Brachett was taken by the mob. The officers escaped. Brachett was carried by here in the direction of the scene of the crime at 3 a. m.

Later THE CITIZEN's correspondent sent another special from Black Mountain. It was received at 2 p. m.: "It is certain that the negro was hurried across the river at Swannanoa, headed for Henderson's home."

At 3:40 the following was received from Black Mountain:

"McDonald with Brachett stopped at Swannanoa last night, but learning the train did not stop kept on to Terrell. Brachett was pushed on the car and the crowd swarmed on him like yellow jackets, overpowering McDonald. The train kept on through the tunnel and stopped at the east end, where the party with the negro got off. McDonald just passed here for Asheville on No. 11.

TROOPS CALLED OUT.

This morning Governor Russell ordered out the Asheville Light Infantry to assist the sheriff to preserve law and order, and the sheriff notified the officers of the company. At 11:15 o'clock the first alarm calling the members to the armory was sounded from the fire bell. A large crowd congregated on the square, and the "keep off the grass" signs were discarded. Only those who were directly concerned were allowed to enter the armory, the door being guarded by Chief of Police James, Patrolman Reynolds and Corporal Charles Johnson.

About 12:30 the company came from the armory, and entering carriages, set out for Weaverville. The company went out 43 strong, including Maj. Smith, Capt. Bookhart, Adjutant Alexander and Lieutenant Stewart. A few hisses were heard as the company left. Sheriff Worley was a member of the party.

FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Col. V. S. Lusk received a telegram from Governor Russell stating that if Brackett were not lynched and the jury convicted him, the Governor would guarantee that the negro would be hanged in two weeks. The dispatch was sent to Weaverville by special messenger.

Asheville Daily Citizen.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 12, 1897.

CORONER'S INQUEST BEGUN

Inquiry Into the Death of Bob Brachett Begun.

SOUVENIRS OF LYNCHING

SCENES IN THE VICINITY OF THE HENDERSON HOME.

Brachett's Body Brought to the City Last Evening—The Trip Described by a Member of the A. L. I.

The scene about the Henderson home yesterday caused ones mind to revert to the old Methodist camp meeting. The small and old frame house sits immediately on the left of the main Weaverville road. about a mile and a half from that town. To the rear of the house, there is a strip of woods, in front is a clump of trees, and on one side of the house and across the road there is a clover field. Many of those at the house had started from their homes early in the morning, and their horses were jaded and hungry. Hence many horses were grazing in the clover while horses were hitched to every convenient tree in the yard and the woods close by. Just before noon there were probably 200 people at the Henderson home. Only a few of the men carried guns, but it was asserted that almost every man had a revolver in his pistol pocket. There was considerable drinking and noisy talk, the military company being the subject of the most of the conversation.

When the A. L. I. first appeared on the scene in charge of Maj. White G. Smith, Capt. T. W. Bookhart, Adj. L. B. Alexander and Lieut. R. S. Stewart, every countryman professed ignorance of the whereabouts of the lynching party. This was then about 1:30. After a wait of several minutes a rumor gained rapid circulaion to the effect that the mob were detaining Brachett at the Hemphill school house, about 4 miles northeast of Weaverville. Presumably, the lynchers would have returned to the scene of the crime, but feared interruption from the military. The rumor was generally circulated, and this was the signal for the company to move on.

Maj. White G. Smith and Sheriff Worley rode forward leaving the members of the company in their carriages about 300 yards down the road. Here a large number of men and boys surrounded Maj. Smith and Sheriff Worley and indicated that the company would not be allowed to pass the Henderson home; that they would die before permitting it. Two or three men who seemed to be drinking were leading the countrymen and were particularly threatening. Orders were then sent back to the company to alight from their carriages, which they did, and the company was formed in battle array, but remained where it was formed. When Major Smith and Sheriff Worley were halted it was by determined looking men, armed and threatenig, and the situation was not pleasant for a few moments. One member of the company complained of feeling ill, and there were not a few white faces, but, on the whole the company behaved well. The entire halt covered perhaps 10 minutes, but at least one member of the A. L. I. has declared that the time was an hour and a half.

Finally the crowd of sympathizers were dissuaded from their purpose, and the company was then ordered forward and passed the Henderson home unmolested, save that the members were jerred and hooted at unmercifully. The company marched a short distance past the house and were again allowed to take their places in the carriages.

Perhaps fortunately, the military company reached the scene of the lynching about 20 minutes too late. Probably half a hundred men and several women were present when the act was committed. Few people from town were there in time to see the negro put to death. Brachett met his fate calmly. Kittie Henderson, the young woman outraged by Brachett was there, and to her the negro again confessed his guilt.

confessed his guilt.

After the hanging the lynchers quietly dispersed without any shooting and by the time the main crowd had reached the church, few if any of the lynching party could be seen. Some said a man who lived out side of the State, and others even said Miss Henderson placed the rope about the black victim's neck. It was, however, a man. After the rope was in position, Brachett was lifted up, the rope was fastened to a limb, and then the negro dropped. He died easily.

The relic hunters of the crowd then took charge of the scene. The tree upon which the negro was hung came very near disappearing. Even the man's clothing and the rope were drawn on for relics. Many of the grewsome mementoes were seen on the streets last night and were prized very much by those to whom they belonged.

One of the strange sights at the scene of the lynching was to see a number of women walking about, wearing small twigs taken from the tree on which Brachett was hanged.

Maj. Smith had orders from the Governor to call out the Richland Rifles of Waynesville if necessary.

One humorous note is sounded in the tragedy by a placard on the jail gate, "Keep Out." It was not there Tuesday night.

A man was summoned by the Coroner this morning for service on the jury, and he remarked that he couldn't serve as he belonged to the Royal Arcanum. The excuse didn't work.

Sheriff Worley says the United States government will make an effort to secure the names of and prosecute those who were implicated in releasing the United States prisoners at the county jail.

WITH THE A. L. I.

A member of the Asheville Light Infantry, which went to Weaverville, said today: "The company responded promptly to the alarm, and in 10 minutes was ready for the start, but had to await the sheriff's orders. The roads were bad, which delayed us on the trip a little. When near the Henderson house order to halt was given by Maj Smith, and he and Sheriff Worley rode forward to meet the crowd. Their horses' bridles were caught by men who said they would die before they would let the officers pass. When Maj. Smith and the sheriff cam eback the latter ordered the company to alight, and Maj. Smith told Capt. Bookhart to take command, using his own discretion.

"When the order for the company to form was given there was a cry of "Rally!" but the crowd began to scatter. The crowd then agreed to let the militia pass, and the idea seemed to be that it had been working for time in order to get Miss Henderson to the scene of the lynching. Judge H. B. Carter and Former Mayor Cocke aided in calming the crowd at the Henderson house. As we moved off there was no demonstration further than hissing and cry to "Rally!" but there was no demguying. There was a delay in collecting the carriages and when we reached a point two miles from the scene the news was brought that Brachett had already been lynched. The company went on to the spot, but there was no further incident.

"The members felt sure there was going to be trouble for a time. One became ill and asked to be excused, but was sent back into ranks. The company was under fine control and acted as one man. The members were complimented on their behavior by Capt. Bookhart last night. We carried 1000 rounds of cartridges."

And then the member added: "But when the command to form was given my thoughts turned right back to the folks at home."

INQUEST BEGUN.

The holding of an inquest was gone into a short time after the hanging. Sheriff Worley summoned a jury composed of F. A. Fanning, Dr. A. B. Ware, W. P. Brown, A. W. Fullam, Clarence Ledford and D. G. Noland. W. P. Brown supplied the Testament with which witnesses were sworn. John M. Campbell, H. C. Jones and W. H. Deaver were the magistrates. Several witnesses were examined but the words, "I don't know," formed the usualy reply to questions. The inquest held at the scene was not accepted as final, but the negro's body was taken down and brought to Asheville last night. It was taken to Jesse R. Starnes' undertaking rooms and was there viewed this morning by a jury summoned by Coroner Reed, the jurors being J. E. Henderson, T. I. VanGilder, J. A. Nichols, G. S. Powell, W. A. Blair, and C. H. Miller. The inspection was made about 11 o'clock and then the members of the jury repaired to the grand jury room where the hearing of the evidence was begupn. Following is the the testimony taken:

timony taken:

Chief of Police W. A. James: Was in Asheville all day yesterday. Was at City Hall when the crowd started for the jail on Tuesday night. Got to jail at same time as sheriff. Came up town to get officers. When got back did all could to prevent parties breaking the jail. Recognized a few of the men who went in the jail, but most of them were strangers. Brachett was put in the jail and afterward moved. Know nothing as to how he met his death.

By McCall: Whom did you recognize?

James: Milt Ledford, J. W. Morris, (not certain about this being Morris initials). Ledford was violent. These were the only ones I recognized who went in. I admitted others whom I knew were guided by good intentions. The city and county officers used moral suasion to stop people from going in.

Mrs. C. C. McCarty: Know nothing as to the way the colored man Brachett came to his death. He was taken out of the jail soon after 7 o'clock by Mr. McDonald. I went with the sheriff and others to jail gate before crowd entered and told them the prisoner was not there. Knew nobody concerned in breaking the jail.

J. F. Austin: Was not at the killing of Brachett. Was at the jail Tuesday night. Heard threats made by a man named Ross. Don't know his first name. Would know him if saw him again. Was inside the jaiil and a man named Smith was threatening to tear down the jail to find Brachett.

W. T. Herritage: Went to Henderson's Wednesday and heard there that the mob was coming with the prisoner to hang him at the scene of the outrage. Went to where the crowd had the negro and in answer to questions he said he was the man. Brachett was then tied. Guns were leveled to shoot at the negro, but the crowd said they might shoot somebody and no shots were fired. Did not know any of the men who did the lynching. Miss Henderson and her mother were there and remained until the negro was dead. It was 10 minutes past three when men lifted the negro on their shoulders as the rope was pulled up and tied, and at five minutes of four the sheriff came. There were no masks on the men's faces. There were 15 men who brought the negro up, and about 100 spectators. The man who tied the rope to the limb slid down the rope, stamped on the negro's head and then kicked him in the face. Witness thought the man in the tree was trying to break Brachett's neck. The 15 men who hung him were the ones who had brought him from Terrell's.

The hearing then adjourned til 10 a. m. Friday.

m. Friday.

WHISTLED.

The Salisbury Sun says: "Wednesday morning as the Chattanooga train passed Biltmore about 2 o'clock, it was boarded by a mob of 50 or 60 infuriated men. They had no tickets but were well supplied with axes, guns and pistols, and were quite a surprise to the train crew. When approached by Capt. Mauney, who told them they would have to pay fare, the men only showed their weapons and whistled."

Asheville Daily Citizen.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 13, 1897.

VERDICT OF THE INQUEST

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF BOB BRACHETT.

A Number of Witnesses are Examined, but Little Not Already Known Brought Out—Hanged by Unknown Men, the Jury Say.

The investigation by the coroner's jury of the lynching of Brachett on Wednesday proceeded this morning from yesterday's adjournment. Solicitor McCall was present and questioned the witnesses as the inquiry progressed.

W. E. Breese, jr., was the first witness called and testified that he was summoned by the sheriff and went with a posse to Reems Creek where the negro was found hanged. Knew none of the parties there.

Claude Miller: Saw negro hung, but knew none of the lynchers. There were no Asheville men in the lynching party.

Mrs. Samuel Davidson: Saw a colored boy in a crowd of men who stopped at my house Wednesday morning. A member of the family said there were 30 in the crowd with the darkey. Knew none of the party. The crowd said they were very hungry and asked for breakfast. In half an hour they went in the dining room and soon after left. Some had guns. Ben Patton was in the yard but he afterward went home. Sent the negro something to eat.

S. W. Davidson: Crowd with a negro took breakfast at my house. All were strangers. They said they were going to lynch the negro. The only name I heard called was Pressley.

Ex-Patrolman R. K. Stephenson: When the negro was brought to the school house the crowd mixed up and he was put up. Knew none of the men. A spare built man with a moustache had a good deal to do with it.

Capt. T. W. Bookhart told of the order received from the sheriff for the services of the Asheville Light Infantry and of his telegram to the Governor. Were ready to move in 30 minutes, delay on account of carriages and waiting reply from Governor. Took his company to the scene of lynching, and on the way was stopped for about 20 minutes, but after a little persuasion went on and found the victim of the mob hanging to an oak tree. Knew none of the parties who detained the company on the road. Were not molested at all, but were jeered and hissed at.

Deputy Sheriff McDonald testified that he left the jail by authority of the sheriff to take the prisoner to a place of safety. He got his man to Terrell's after hours of wandering and at each spot they stopped the negro dropped on the ground and was at once asleep, and when he was aroused to go on he tightly gripped the hand of the officer. At Terrell's a mob took his prisoner away. The operator at Terrell's refused to wire a message from the officer to Biltmore as it was not a Western Union office.

John Cruise, jr.: A crowd of about 200 started from the jail for Kenilworth Inn. Only four or five went to the Inn, where the watchman told them the negro was not there. Went to Terrell's by train from Biltmore, where a crowd took the negro away from McDonald. Knew none of them. After some of the crowd went off with the negro others went into a peach orchard and got some apples.

Coroner Reed stated to the jury that M. M. Ledford asked to be allowed to testify and the jury acceded to the request.

Mr. Ledford stated that he understood that Mr. McCall wanted to find out everything about the proceedings, and he only knew that he was at the jail. Witness and Mr. McCall were both in the mob. Knew nothing of the lynching. Heard 5000 people at the jail say they would lynch the negro if they could get him; witness said so, and would have done it if he had been there. Went, at Sheriff Worley's request, to find the keys of the jail. The crowd pushed witness in the jail. Did not help break it open. Was talking to Mr. McCall when jail was broken.

No additional facts were presented in the testimony of Alderman B. Burnett, S. A. Dorsett and Wayne S. Ray, and at 12 o'clock a recess was taken until 3 this afternoon.

Mrs. Henderson and Deputy Sheriff Chambers were under summons, but failed to appear before the jury.

After recess Mr. Lincke and Rufus Laney testified and the jury returned the following verdict:

"State of North Carolina, Buncombe County, August 13, 1897. We, the jurors summoned by the Coroner of Buncombe county to hold an inquest over the body of Robert Brachett, deceased and to make inquiry as to when, how and by what means deceased came to his death, find from the evidence as follows:

"That on the 11th day of August, 1897, at about 2:30 o'clock p. m. near Hemphill's school house, Buncombe county, the deceased, Robert Brachett, was hanged by the neck until dead by about 15 men whose names are to us unknown."

The jury was: J. A. Nichols, G. S. Powell, T. I. VanGilder, J. E. Henderson, W. A. Blair, C. H. Miller.

Solicitor McCall has been approached by persons who "advise him as a friend to let the matter drop," referring to the matter of the lynching. Sheriff Worley, it is said, has also been threatened should he aid the prosecution.

FROM THE SHERIFF.

Sheriff Worley, speaking of the criticism to which he has been subjected because of his course in trying to protect the prisoner and the jail, says he did just what he believed best in every instance; that he made no effort to call out the miltary to protect the jail because it had been deemed best to remove the prisoner. This was done at the advice of Solicitor McCall, Chairman Brown of the Commissioners, and others. The sheriff said he did not then want to call out the militia for fear that loss of life would result. He had tried to compromise and reason with the crowd, he said, and had told them Brachett had been taken away. Further, he said, he had tried to deputize men to protect the jail property, but they would not be deputized.

Sheriff Worley said he believed Chief of Police James did his duty and also that Patrolman Grant gave valuable assistance. The sheriff says he appreciates very much the aid given him by the A. L. I.

REGARDING THE FIRST NIGHT.

F. M. Jones, speaking about the scenes in the jail yard Tuesday night, said: "About the time the front door was broken open Sheriff Worley asked me to come up and help him keep the crowd back. I went to the door and asked the sheriff, 'Is the negro in jail?' and he said he was not. I then told him he was the sheriff and certainly ought to know whether the man was there. I told him that if the man was not there the sheriff had a right to take the keys and show the crowd the fact, and also offered to stand at the door and do what I could to keep the crowd out while he was doing this, and believed that by this plan damage to county property could be avoided. The sheriff replied that he did not have the keys, the man was not in jail, and he would not show anything. Some time after this, however, I understand he made a propositon to show a portion of the crowd that the man was not there."