

THE LEXINGTON DISPATCH.

A Representative Newspaper. Covers Lexington and the Borders of the Surrounding Counties like a Blanket.

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October 1911

"STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT"

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NEGRO DESPERADO BURNED AT STAKE.

Pennsylvania Mob Apply the Torch—Victim Taken from Hospital.

At Coatsville, Pa., on Sunday night Zacariah Walker, a negro desperado, was carried on a cot from the hospital and burned to a crisp by a frenzied mob of men and boys. The negro, who the night before shot and killed Edgar Rice, a special policeman of the Worth Iron mills, was first dragged to the scene of the shooting, begging piteously for mercy.

He had been arrested by a posse late Sunday afternoon after a search which stirred the country. The posse finally found him hiding in a cherry tree. The negro with the last bullet in his revolver shot himself in the mouth, falling from the tree. He was removed to the hospital and placed under guard.

Thousand People in Mob.

A few minutes after 9 o'clock a crowd numbering almost 1,000 persons appeared at the hospital. The leaders were denied admission but they quickly smashed the window frames and crawled through the corridor. When Walker was first taken to the hospital he was strapped down in order to prevent his escape. The mob, seeing this, gathered up the bed and placing it on the shoulders of four men, started for the country. When half a mile from the hospital they entered a field and quickly gathered up a pile of dry grass and weeds, placed the bed containing their victim on it.

Women Took Part.

A match was applied and the flames shot up quickly, entirely enshrouding the screaming victim. That not a vestige of the murderer be left, the mob tore down the fence along the road and piled the rails on the burning negro. After waiting for half an hour the mob dispersed. A curious feature of the burning was the fact that there were almost as many women in the crowd as men.

During the march from the hospital to the scene of the burning of the negro, not a policeman was encountered by the mob. Even the man on duty in the hospital made no effort to stop the leaders who gained admittance to the institution.

Has a Fine Crop.

Ex-County Commissioner S. Rufus Smith has one of the best crops to be seen on Black creek. It is estimated that his cotton will make a bale to the acre, and his corn and peas can't be beat. Mr. Smith is one of the most progressive farmers of his section.

WM. DENT MARRIES SWANSEA COUPLE.

Assisted in Ceremony by Clerk of Court, Judge Drafts, N. P. Shipp.

Marriages on Saturday are somewhat unusual in this neck of the woods; but, after all, since the marriage license law came into effect nothing seems to be unusual when Cupid sets his head. On Saturday evening, after all the county officers had closed their offices and were in the act of leaving for their respective places of abode, Thomas Davis and Marcella Holley, a negro couple, appeared upon the scene and at once made their way to the Judge of Probate's office. They came all the way from Swansea, by way of Columbia, to secure the license.

The license secured, Clerk of Court Frank W. Shealy suggested that the marriage be performed right then and there. To this the couple agreed, and at once made inquiry as to who could be found to tie the matrimonial knot. This was not a hard proposition, however, since all of the county officers hold notary commissions, signed by Governor Blease, and County Auditor Bill Dent was called upon. Mr. Dent readily agreed, but asked that he be assisted in the performance of the solemn duty.

As soon as it became known that a marriage was about to be performed in the court house in which several were to participate the crowd began to gather and it was not long before there were plenty of witnesses.

Assisting Mr. Dent were Clerk of Court Frank W. Shealy, Deputy Clerk N. P. Shipp and Judge of Probate Drafts. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Clerk of Court Shealy, in his usual happy manner, suggested that the old custom of kissing the bride be carried out, and with his face beaming in smiles the groom "smacked" the bride and the ceremony was over. Immediately after the marriage Thomas and Marcella left on foot for Swansea, their future home.

Will Buy Cotton.

Lexington is going to have another cotton buyer in the person of Mr. J. S. Rowell, who has an announcement elsewhere in this issue. This means that Lexington is to be what she has always been—the best cotton market in this section of the State.

Mr. Rowell can be found at the depot, but a telephone call over No. 11 will bring him up town.

Mr. Rowell will keep in close touch with the markets, and will pay top prices.

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