

## KANSAS LYNCHERS FOILED.

### BRAVE CITIZENS OF SALINA THWART A BLOODTHIRSTY MOB.

**A Negro Identified by Mrs. Frost as Her  
Brutal Assailant but Able to Prove an  
Alibi—Battled Over for Hours  
and Finally Rescued.**

SALINA, Kas., April 11.—For five hours last night mob law reigned supreme in this city and if it had not been for the determined stand taken by the better class of citizens, a lynching would certainly have been the result.

A negro named Hudson was arrested Sunday charged with being the brute who terribly maltreated Mrs. J. M. Frost and her infant last week. The injured woman identified him as the guilty man, but four reputable witnesses testified at the investigation yesterday that Hudson was at a farm house six miles from town the night of the crime and that they saw him only a few minutes before the time the crime was committed, so that it would have been a physical impossibility for him to have committed it. It thus became simply a question between the veracity of four witnesses and the confidence of the people in the woman's ability to identify her assaulter, but, with a clear understanding that her decision would probably mean death to Hudson, Mrs. Frost unhesitatingly pronounced him guilty.

A majority of the best citizens, however, felt that while there was such strong evidence in favor of the man he ought not to be dealt with summarily, but the lower elements seemed to thirst for blood. No mob would perhaps have been raised in Salina sufficient to break the jail so strong was the law-abiding sentiment, but when large crowds from Niles, Bennington and other towns arrived in the city shortly after dark they found plenty of encouragement.

#### HELD BACK ONLY FOR A TIME.

About 11 o'clock an organization was formed of 100 men in favor of lynching Hudson. Fully 1,000 people gathered about the jail, but they were not active, either for or against lynching. At first it was not believed that the mob would be allowed to enter the jail yard. In the crowd were a number of negroes who begged the whites to have patience and wait for further evidence before taking the law into their hands, but this only served to increase the excitement.

Finally a rush was made for the jail door. The mob, however, lacked leaders and the guards effectively intimidated the mob for a short time by firing into the air, but when it became evident that the officers would not fire into the crowd the mob grew bolder and finally succeeded in destroying the fence which surrounded the jail.

No resistance was offered after the mob had entered the jail yard and only a few were injured in the short fight between the guards and the mob at the fence.

Crowbars were then furnished to the mob and in half an hour the heavy iron door of the jail had been battered down. When the lynchers entered they were obliged to search the jail thoroughly before they could find their victim.

#### THE MAN PLEADS INNOCENCE.

When the wretch was discovered he was taken into the large room of the jail where a rope was placed around his neck. It was decided that Mrs. Frost should again be given an opportunity to decide upon his identity, consequently the mob took him to the National hotel where the woman is and she again pronounced him guilty.

The wretched man was then dragged into the street and permitted to speak. He was remarkably calm and his voice could be clearly heard as he declared himself innocent. He said that he realized that he was about to die and wished to take an oath in the face of death that he was innocent. He was not in Salina the night of the crime, and if given a fair trial, could prove himself innocent. He spoke no word of bitterness on account of his impending fate and all he said with regard to the woman's statement was: "The lady is mistaken and, if you had given me a trial I could have proved it."

The hotel is in the main portion of the city and the best citizens were beginning to realize the disgrace it would bring to the city to hang a man with a preponderance of evidence still in his favor. Half of the mob was drunk and in no condition to consider their action, and the others were of the vicious element which is always ready for reckless work.

#### RESCUED BY BRAVE CITIZENS.

It was evident that Hudson's talk was affecting some of the men, for murmurs began to be heard that the man should be given a chance. This decided the mob to act promptly, and with a savage oath one of the leaders told Hudson to stop talking and say his prayers. Then F. F. Garver, a prominent lawyer, made a speech pleading that the negro be taken back to jail and the issue of a legal trial be awaited. His voice was soon drowned in the yells of the lynchers, but the few words he had spoken met with a response in the heart of all law-abiding citizen, and a small but compact body of men numbering perhaps a dozen, formed and hastily pushed their way through the mob to where the negro was surrounded. Their appearance was quiet and before the half-drunken leaders of the gang could realize the purpose of the little band of citizens, Hudson had been surrounded by his saviors and the rope cut from his neck.

Then began a desperate struggle. The mob attempted to secure Hudson again, but the citizens kept him within a strong circle, and the heroic action of the few gained recruits from those who had heretofore been idle spectators.

One hundred men were soon desperately fighting around the prisoner, some seeking to destroy him and the citizens determined to save him. The citizens gradually worked their way to the sidewalk and then to an open stairway. They thrust Hudson into this and closed the end with a strong guard.

#### THE MOB FINALLY DEFEATED.

Then for over an hour a struggle was fiercely waged for the possession of the stairway. The citizens remained cool. None were armed and none of them attempted to injure their assailants. The mob, on the other hand, was armed with revolvers and clubs, and it is miraculous that no one was killed, although several were badly bruised by being struck on the head with revolvers or clubs. Among those were T. F. Garvers and J. L. Bristow, editor of the *Salina Republican*.

After a long, fierce struggle the mob began to despair. The law-abiding element was constantly growing stronger, and finally, when Mayor Cravens ordered the mob to disperse or suffer the consequences, the victory was fairly won.

The negro was then secreted and is being carefully guarded in a place of safety unknown to the mob. He will be given a fair trial when the excitement subsides.

Much rejoicing is felt to-day over the saving of the man's life, for all realize the disgrace the lynching would have brought upon this city.

The damage to the jail aggregates several hundred dollars.