

EXTRA

JOE VERMILION'S FATE.

Lynched at Upper Marlboro' by a Band of Masked Men.

A JAILER OVERPOWERED.

Seized at the Prison Door and Covered with Pistols.

THE VICTIM DRAGGED TO A BRIDGE,

His Body Left Hanging for the Coroner's Investigation—What Led to the Untimely Death of a Prisoner Who Was Charged with Setting Fire to Barns and a Dwelling—A Son's Revenge for the Loss of His Father's Home—Six Men Arrested by Constables at the Point of the Pistol—One Brother Accuses Another of Being an Incendiary. [Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

UPPER MARLBORO', Md., Dec. 3.—About 1:30 o'clock this morning a band of masked men came to the jail, overpowered the keeper and broke open the cell of Joe Vermilion, took him out and lynched him on the bridge leading to this village.

As soon as J. A. Ridgway, the jail-keeper, opened the door two men grabbed him and covered him with pistols. They then went upstairs, broke open the cell, cut the leg-locks from the floor, leaving them on the prisoner and put a rope about his neck. They then dragged him to the bridge and immediately executed their work. His body is still hanging, waiting an inquest during the day.

History of Vermilion's Arrest.

On the night of November 22, John Vermilion, who lived near Hall's Station, Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, and who was well known to the court officials of Prince George's county, was forcibly taken from his home and tied to a tree. The unknown visitors then removed his furniture and set fire to his log-cabin. Fearing bodily harm, the man promised to leave the vicinity immediately, whereupon he was released and left for parts unknown. He has several sons. A number of young men living near Hall's and Corington were arrested on November 23 and tried before Justice Ryan, who ordered them released.

On Monday, November 25, considerable excitement prevailed near Mulliken's Station, on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, because of the burning of two large barns and a tenement house, which were fired by incendiaries.

The Saturday night before, almost at the same hour, the buildings were seen burning in different parts of Queen Anne's district. Thomas Black, who lived near Mulliken's Station, suffered the greatest loss. In his barn were stored 10,000 pounds of tobacco and his entire crop of hay and fodder. About 9 o'clock this building lay in ashes. At 9:25 a barn on the farm of Gen. Horn, tenanted by Walter Ryan, the magistrate who acquitted the young men brought before him for assaulting Vermilion, which contained this year's crop, together with farming implements, was seen to be on fire. Though every assistance was rendered, it soon succumbed to the flames. A small unoccupied house belonging to James Hamilton was also burned.

On the theory that the buildings were set on fire out of revenge for his decisions and for the treatment of Joe Vermilion, it was determined to arrest the whole family of Vermilions, who had taken up their residence at Penning's Station. A tramp, giving his name as Wm. Wright, was also arrested as an accomplice. When arrested he had in his possession a seven-shooter, and threatened any one approaching him. He denied any knowledge of the burning and said he was at the residence of ex-Gov. Dowle when the affair happened.

The Vermilion family have taken up their residence near Penning's Station, and constables have been sent there to arrest the father and a third brother. Much indignation is expressed here, both as to the burning of the Vermilion property and the supposed incendiarism of Saturday night.

Accordingly constables from Upper Marlboro' went to the home of the Vermilions and arrested Edward, John, Jr., George, Lloyd and Joseph Vermilion, all grown men and the fathers of large families. Charles Bell, a brother-in-law of the Vermilions, was also taken into custody. The constables took the six prisoners at the point of revolvers after they had been ordered to throw up their hands.

Joe Vermilion was particularly ugly in his behavior. Before he would consent to accompany the officers he had to be roughly handled. He was an escaped prisoner from the House of Correction, who was wanted by the superintendent of that institution to serve a remaining eighteen month's sentence.

A Brother's Accusation.

John Vermilion, Jr., told the officers that his brother Joe was the cause of the trouble. John said that on Saturday night, November 23, about 9:45 o'clock, Joseph, who had been living in the woods, came to his house and threatened to get even with those who would not give his father justice in the affair of the night before (Friday), when the elder Vermilion's house was burned by a band of men who tied him to a tree, and only released him on his promise to leave the neighborhood. Both the father, who was in John's house, and John himself tried to persuade Joe from carrying out the threat, whereupon he left. About 11:30 Joe returned to the house and asked to be admitted, carrying in his hand a coal-oil can. He told John that he had a little fire of his own. He immediately left, and nothing was known of his whereabouts until he was arrested. Bell, the son-in-law, was charged with burning his own house, which he rented from James Hamilton. He denied the charge and said Joe did it after leaving the barns. Many thought that Joe would never reach the jail alive, as the excitement prevailing at and about Mulliken's was so great that fears of violence were entertained. John Vermilion, Sr., aged 73 years, the father of the men arrested, was not arrested.

Sent to Jail.

At a preliminary hearing before Justice Harris, Mr. E. E. Dand, State's attorney, being present, John Vermilion, Jr., testified as to the burning of his father's house near Hall's Station. Lloyd Vermilion testified that he saw his brother Joe on Saturday afternoon about 4 o'clock with a coal-oil can. Joe stated he was going to burn out Mr. J. T. Clark that night, as he had burned one of his houses some two years ago. Messrs. J. T. Clark and Walter Ryan testified that they were aroused by the cry of fire, and stated the amount of their loss by the burning of their barns Saturday night. Joe Vermilion pleaded not guilty, and said he was not in the county at the time. He was sent to jail to await the action of the grand jury and immediately placed in irons after resisting the officers. As there was no evidence to implicate any one else, the charge of arson against the other Vermilions was dismissed, but thirteen citizens of Mulliken's neighborhood swore out peace warrants against each of the other Vermilion boys, and they were placed in jail in default of \$500 bail.