

# JOHNSON LYNCHED

**Brooklyn Lock-Up Unprotected—  
Guards Gone and Mob Drags  
Accused Murderer From  
Jail.**

**WAS SHOT TO DEATH.**

**No Clue to Party—Lynchers Guard  
Secret—Deed Done Quietly.**

Activity aplenty is manifested today by the officials of Anne Arundel county, whose headquarters are in this city, and who, by their busy actions, rather than by anything they stopped to say, indicate that they will leave no stone unturned to get to the bottom of the lynching of King Johnson, who was taken out of the lockup at Brooklyn yesterday morning and shot to death by a mob.

With the grand jury scheduled to re-assemble on Thursday of this week, State's Attorney Green and Sheriff Beasley, are working like Turks to gather strong evidence to present to that body, and there is every indication that the wheels of justice will move rather more swiftly than has been the case in the past when lynching occurred in Anne Arundel between regular terms of court.

The grand jury was ordered last week to re-assemble for the purpose of considering the case of Albert Tyler, the Eastport wife murderer, who is now in the county jail here. However, the Brooklyn lynching case will be presented for its consideration as soon as the Tyler case is completed, according to present expectations.

Mr. Green and Sheriff Beasley lost no time this morning in getting to work. These two conferred together and then held a long consultation with Judge Brashears of the Circuit Court.

Following this consultation, the State's Attorney went to the jail and there spent a long time with Reedbird Chase, the colored man who was a witness to the shooting of Schwab, in revenge for whose killing Johnson was lynched, and who had a narrow escape from being taken out by the mob in mistake for the man they were after.

Chase was brought to Annapolis yesterday and lodged in the county jail, where he now is. Up to the present time he has refused to change his testimony before the Brooklyn coroner's jury, to whom he swore he heard nothing of the getting of Johnson, who was in the cell next to him. However, it is thought that now he is safely away from the easily entered Brooklyn lockup, and behind bars which will protect him for a time at least, he will possibly remember some of the things that went on when the other colored man was lynched. What he has to say will be the main clue that the authorities now have to present to the grand jury when it meets Thursday.

At 2 o'clock yesterday morning, Brooklyn jail, this county, was broken into by a band of eight white men and King Johnson the colored man otherwise known as King Davis, accused of the murder of Frederick A. Schwab, white, over a game of pool Saturday night was dragged from the lockup and lynched.

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The jail was unguarded. Although it is flanked on both sides by houses, in one of which a policeman was sleeping, the mob found it easy to break the lock from the back door and enter. Johnson and Hubert Chase, also colored, who was being held as a witness against him, were in cells upstairs.

In the darkness of early morning the mob almost mistook Chase for Johnson, and would have probably lynched the wrong man, but for the appeals of Chase. The lock was forced off with an iron bar and throwing back the door, the men crowded into the small cell. One had an 18-foot piece of clothesline, with a noose already made in it. They tried to slip the loop over Johnson's neck and hang him to the iron ceiling of the cell.

Johnson fought for his life and in his frenzy scratched and struck at some of the men. He was finally forced into a corner and beaten over the head with the iron bar until unconscious. They dragged his body down the stairs, out of the jail and two hundred yards over a field, until they came to a new road known as Second avenue. Here the negro was thrown over a small embankment and one of the men fired four shots into his body at such close range that the powder burned his coat. The shots all penetrated his right lung and caused death.

The body was discovered at quarter of six yesterday morning. A jury was summoned and Justice Potee and Coroner Brookes called a number of those who lived near the jail, all said they heard nothing but shots and that they thought these had been fired by night revelers. Chase repeated, under oath, his denial of knowing what had transpired. The jury brought in a verdict of death by bullet wounds fired by unknown person or persons.

Chief Irwin said he had no clue to the identity of those in the mob and that he was doing all he could to get evidence upon which to act. He conferred with State's Attorney Green, of this city, over the telephone and saw him here today. At Fairfield, the home of Edwin, white residents expressed no sympathy for Johnson, while the negroes were cowed.

The county officials here criticised the action of Chief of Police Irwin in leaving Johnson unguarded part of the night. Because of the intense race feeling, a guard was requested at the home of Frank Schwab, at Fairfield, where the body of his brother lies.

According to Johnson, (who was lynched) he told the following story when arrested after the crime:

"We had been playing pool in Miller's saloon all the evening. With Frank Schwab, a brother of Frederick, I had shot a game shortly before midnight, when the place closed up. I had won and that seemed to make the other white men in the place mad at me. Some of them began saying things about me, and I told them what I thought of them, particularly of Frank Schwab, and told them I could bat any of them at pool.

"When I started to go home to bed Reedbird Chase, another colored man, came along. We got about a couple of squares from the saloon when Frank Schwab came up to me. His brother, and also his brother-in-law, Thomas Gleeson, were with him. The man asked me why I had called his brother names in the saloon, and came right up to me and hit me with his fist. That staggered me, and as soon as I got straight again I pulled out my revolver and shot him. He started to back away and I fired two more shots over his head. Then I saw Schwab fall on the ground and I went on home."

Reedbird Chase and the other men said they did not see the dead man strike Johnson. Johnson claimed that all the other men were turned away at the time he was struck by Schwab, but they stated that they would have seen the blow.

Schwab's brother and brother-in-law pursued the two colored men for a while, and upon returning saw that the shot had resulted in death. They went to a telephone and called the police in Brooklyn. Chief Irwin was afraid that the colored man would escape and go to Baltimore, and posted himself at the Brooklyn end of Long Bridge. Officers Alexander Johnson and John Helmer went to the home of the negro in Fairfield and found him in bed. With him was Chase. Both were placed under arrest by the officers and they made no resistance.

A coroner's jury, summoned by Mr. John W. Marshall, of Brooklyn, rendered a verdict of death due to a shot fired by King Johnson. The bullet had penetrated the left breast and after passing through the heart had lodged in the tissues surrounding the spinal column. Justice John E. Potee held Reedbird Chase as a State's witness.

The dead man was about 25 years old and single. He worked in one of the factories near Fairfield, and had been a resident of the town for several years. The colored man was also single and 28 years old. He came to Fairfield several weeks ago from St. Mary's county.