

The following pages include two articles about the riot of 1918 in downtown Winston-Salem where two of our ancestors helped to protect the Town Hall and City Jail from being overtaken by a white lynch mob.

Robert “Rob” Young (1st cousin of Jim Young) was on duty as a volunteer fireman and was shot and killed by one of the rioters when he was ordered to turn a fire hose on the lynch mob.

E. C. Young (Earl Calvin – Jim Young’s brother) was a Patrolman with the Winston Salem Police Department and stood along with the Home Guard to defeat the lynch mob.

The first article is the story as it appeared in the New York Times on 11/18/1918.

The second article was written by a Winston-Salem historian in 2013 that gets to the bottom of what really happened on that day and the aftermath in the months to come.

Chief Thomas and part of the combined police force. Left to right front row: L.W. Kimball, former Chief of Salem, Chief J.A. Thomas, A.C. Wall, Asst. Salem Chief. Second Row: Frank Apple who operated a meat market on the side, R.W. Bryant and Rob Young who later resigned and, as a civilian, was killed in the 1918 riot. Third row: R.L. Blackburn and J.T. Thompson already a 20 year veteran of the Winston force. Back Row: N. B. Williams and Sanitary Inspector Charles Pratt. (WSPD photo)



The New York Times – Nov. 18, 1918

Southern Race Riot Costs Five Lives

Army Tank Corps Called to Quell a Lynching Mob in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Battle with Home Guards

Jail-Storming Crowd Overcomes Them, as Well as Police and Fire Companies

Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 17, 1918 – The death toll in the riot here tonight which followed efforts of a mob to storm the jail and lynch a negro prisoner had been increased to five—a woman spectator, a city fireman, and three Negroes. The police believe that a detailed search tomorrow will show that at least seven persons were killed.

Racial tensions were high in America following World War I. In 1919 alone, 25 race riots, mostly by whites, rocked the nation's cities. More than 70 blacks are known to have been lynched following the war. Resentment came to a head when whites returning from the war found blacks holding jobs normally reserved for whites. The growing black population in Winston-Salem heightened tensions in the city. The Ku Klux Klan, which enjoyed resurgence after the war, marched through local neighborhoods.

This building tension came to a head on Saturday November 16, 1918, as white couple Jim and Cora Childress strolled toward Pulliam's store about one half mile from their home. As she and her husband reached the Southern Railroad trestle, over what is now Inverness Street, they were accosted by a black man who hit Jim over the head with a pistol, robbed Cora of \$2.25, dragged her down into a ravine and allegedly raped her.

There are many confusing variations to what occurred next. The sheriff was summoned to the scene and deputies began looking for a man fitting a somewhat vague description offered by Cora who claimed that she could identify him. They observed a man generally fitting the description and a pursuit began. The Sheriff joined in and the man turned and fired, hitting the Sheriff in the hand. The posse lost the assailant and the Sheriff ordered a roundup of suspects. A number of people were initially arrested but released. Police stopped Russell High on Sunday afternoon on the corner of Fourth and Depot streets for carrying a concealed weapon. High, a black man recently moved here from Durham was reported by the Sheriff as having "borne a good reputation, had been industrious, and had spent the greater part of the time in his room..." The police were convinced that he had nothing to do with the attack. Rumor abounded that the police had arrested the man and charged him with rape.



Forsyth County Court House

On Sunday afternoon, November 17, a large group of whites gathered on Courthouse Square and rumors of lynching began. By evening, the crowd had grown estimated to be between 2,000 and 3,000. There was a lot of drinking and some of the crowd began to break into hardware stores and steal firearms to force a jailbreak. The Mayor, other civic leaders and even Cora Childers appeared and tried to reason with the crowd...to no avail. The crowd was chanting "We want that nigger! We want to lynch him."

Mayor Ralph W. Gorrell called in the Home Guard, (the Forsyth Riflemen having been activated for service in World War One and were in Europe). The Home Guard was made of mostly old men and young boys; certainly not the disciplined paramilitary unit that made up the Forsyth Rifles. The Home Guard surrounded the jail and called for the fire department with the idea they could disperse the crowd using fire hoses. The hoses were aimed at the crowd and water turned on. Gunfire erupted from the direction of the crowd. Police, Sheriff's deputies and the home guard returned the fire. Several people were hit including Rachel Levy a 13 year old girl, killed by a stray bullet while watching from a second story window; a citizen who was part of the mob; a home guardsman; and Bob Young. Young had been a member of the Winston-Salem Police in 1913. Later, he was a city fireman. At the time of the riot, he was a shoe salesman. When the fire department was called to disperse the crowd, he helped man the hose...and died in the gunfire. Police Sgt. Cofer was wounded in the hand. Officer Robert Bryan was also injured and absent from duty for three weeks. At some point during the foray the mob broke through and rushed into the lobby and down to the cell block. Shots rang out. The bullets, presumably meant for High, hit one of the mob instead. Police and the Home Guard pushed them out of the building.

The crowd broke and ran down 4th Street into the black residential section. Gunfire was heard throughout the night until about 3:00 AM Monday morning. Several black residents were killed for whom death certificates exist. Eyewitnesses say that many other blacks were killed as well, but their bodies were stuffed into culverts or thrown onto railroad boxcars and sent out of town.



The Mayor summoned National Guard troops from Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh who patrolled the streets. A tank was set up on the square. By daylight on Monday, while the night of gunfire and violence had ended, Gatling machine guns were set up on Fourth Street aimed toward the black residential area in anticipation of a counterattack that never came.

Russell High was taken by authorities to Raleigh early Monday morning for his protection. He served time for his weapons violation and was never seen in

Winston-Salem again.

In the following days, a number of people were charged with inciting a riot and attempting to break into a public jail, which was then a capital offense. Sixteen white men were convicted and given sentences ranging from 6 to 14 months on the county road gang. One black man was convicted of the murder of a Southern Utilities Company worker and executed in Raleigh.



Strange thing about the World War I era South, thousands of whites riot, a few whites are killed, most probably from bullets from guns fired by whites, a number of blacks die, no one knows how many, tanks and Gatling guns are deployed to defend against blacks who haven't done anything, and only one black man is convicted and executed for murder of one white man. And we wonder why we have racial tension.

SOUTHERN RACE RIOT COSTS FIVE LIVES

Army Tank Corps Called to Quell a Lynching Mob in Winston-Salem, N. C.

BATTLE WITH HOME GUARDS

Jail - Storming Crowd Overcomes Them, as Well as Police and Fire Companies.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., Nov. 17.—The death toll in the riot here tonight which followed efforts of a mob to storm the jail and lynch a negro prisoner had been increased at midnight to five—a woman spectator, a city fireman, and three negroes. The police believe that a detailed search tomorrow will show that at least seven persons were killed.

Upward of a score of persons are believed to have been injured, five or six of them seriously. They are mostly white persons, and include two members of the Home Guard, which was called out when the mob made its second visit to the jail after shooting a negro and accidentally wounding a white prisoner in the afternoon.

Among the dead are Rachael Levi, a young woman bystander, who was shot through the lungs, and Robert Young a fireman, who was also shot.

Five of the more seriously injured, including two members of the Home Guard, were taken to hospitals, but many others were treated at their homes.

The mob first formed this afternoon about 3:30 o'clock, and stormed the jail. Three shots were fired, and the negro accused of shooting the two men and attacking Mrs. Childress was seriously wounded, while a white prisoner named Tragg also was hit in the arm by a stray bullet.

After some difficulty the police succeeded in clearing the crowd out of the building, and then the Mayor called out the Home Guards. Quiet reigned for a time, but later the report went around that the negro shot was not the man that had been sought. By nightfall the mob had reformed and started marching to the jail, which was surrounded by Home Guards.

Hardware stores were broken into, and revolvers, shotguns and other weapons and ammunition taken. As the mob marched it increased in size, and when its objective was reached it numbered several thousand. The Mayor sought to address the crowd, but could not be heard. In the meantime fire companies had arrived, and when the mob broke for the jail the firemen turned water on them.

Firing immediately followed, and Young was shot dead and a bullet hit Mrs. Levi. The Home Guards answered the volley, but the mob quickly overpowered them and went into the jail. Two members of the guard were badly hurt by being thrown bodily down a stairway which they were guarding.

Apparently the mob did not find the negro it sought, for no more of the prisoners were fired upon. After an hour or more the mob left the jail and started marching through the business section of the town. Gradually it broke into groups, and for a time it was feared that there would be a general race riot, as some of the groups headed for the negro quarter. Late tonight, however, there had been no clash between the whites and blacks.

RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 17.—Governor Bickett tonight arranged with the military authorities at Camp Polk to send 250 members of a tank battalion to Winston-Salem to assist in quelling the riot in that city.

GREENSBORO, N. C., Nov. 17.—The Greensboro Home Guards left here tonight by special train for Winston-Salem, N. C., to assist in quelling the riot there.

North Carolina Room — Forsyth County Public Library
The Great 1918 “race riot”
by Fam Brownlee – 11/9//2013

Anyone who thinks that history is easy need go no further than a remarkable series of books published in the late 19th century: *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*.

Not long after the war ended, “The Century” magazine began publishing essays about the war by commanding officers on both sides. Some sharp-eyed editor noticed that these gentlemen disagreed about nearly everything, especially when they were writing about the same battle. So a monumental project began...the gathering of battle descriptions from as many commanders as possible on a battle by battle basis. The result is a wonderful lesson on human nature and perception.

If you are reading three essays on a particular battle, you are reading about three different battles. If there are seven witnesses, then there are seven battles, and so on. As any good detective can tell you, the same goes for crime...having one eyewitness is fine, even if the witness is dead wrong, but having two or more is not.

Everyone is entitled to their own point of view. But no one is entitled to their own facts. Just ask the normally reliable “60 Minutes”, which recently presented a segment on the Benghazi consulate episode which was wholly made up.

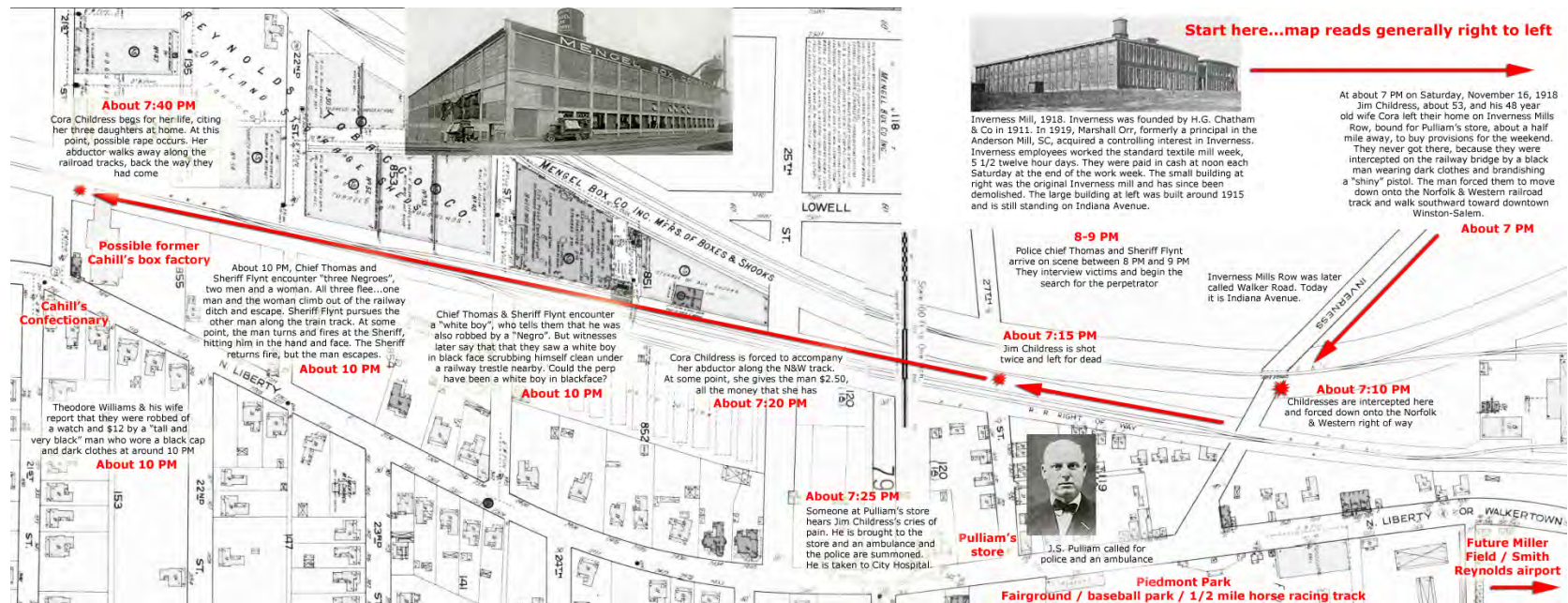
Winston-Salem has at least its share of historical myths. R.J. Reynolds alone generated enough to fill several books. But perhaps no event in our local history has more mythology connected with it than the events of November 16-17, 1918. We have several copies of a UNC master’s thesis that pretty much gets it right, but apparently the only ones who have read it are me and the bookworms.

People commonly refer to the event as a “race riot”, which it was not. There was a riot, all right, but it was a “white riot” powered by wannabe lynchers and teenaged boys out for some excitement. A few people got killed, but some accounts talk about hundreds of deaths, almost certainly prompted by the wild rumors that were flying around town on Sunday night, November 17. Those rumors were thoroughly checked by the local newspapers. All were unfounded.

I once asked the famous brick maker George Black about that night. Usually, he was an eyewitness to everything, with an incredibly detailed memory. But this time he failed me. “Lord, I can’t tell you a thing,” he said. “Somebody said there was shooting down at the square. So I locked the door and turned off the lights...ain’t nobody home at the Black residence, so don’t come knocking.” We both laughed.

The event was divided into two parts, the precipitating event on Saturday and the riot on Sunday. I’ve decided to break it into two parts, starting with Saturday’s events.

The map below tells most of the story.



A few additional observations:

1. There were many wild rumors about the Saturday night event. The perpetrator broke into the Childress's home and killed Mrs. Childress's baby. Or he snatched her baby from her arms on the railroad tracks and bashed its brains out. And so it goes.
The truth is that the Childress's youngest child was eleven years old at the time and that none of their children were involved in the Saturday events at all. And of course, everything played out along the Norfolk & Western railway tracks, not in anyone's home.
2. Both newspapers, the police and many citizens speculated that the "white boy" encountered by Chief Thomas and Sheriff Flynt near the Mengel Box Company was the actual perpetrator of all the crimes. It was not uncommon at the time for white criminals to do their crimes in "blackface". Unfortunately, the boy could not be found later for questioning.
3. The three people who ran from Chief Thomas and Sheriff Flynt, including the one who wounded the sheriff, were never found. In fact, no one was ever arrested for any of the crimes that occurred that Saturday night.
4. It is likely that Cora Childress was the victim of a rape, or, at least, an attempted rape that night. But she never made that claim directly. The only evidence is this timid Victorian interrogation, witnessed by a Journal reporter:
Chief Thomas: "Were you offered any violence?"
Cora Childress: "Yes."
Chief Thomas: "Did he accomplish his purpose?"
Cora Childress: "Yes."
Chief Thomas decided that that meant that Cora had been raped, but she never made such a claim directly.

One week earlier at eleven AM on November 11, 1918, the armistice that ended what would become known as World War I took effect. But it would be some time before US troops returned to American soil. Winston-Salem, like most cities, had its own local militia, known as the Forsyth Rifles (eventually Co G, 120th Infantry, NC National Guard). The Rifles were a well-trained, well-disciplined unit, designed to handle just such events as occurred in Winston-Salem on November 17, 1918.

Unfortunately, since the regular Army was engaged in Europe, the Forsyth Rifles, as a part of the NC National Guard, had been dispatched to New Mexico to help deter raids across the border by Pancho Villa. When that National Guard unit came home in 1917, they were immediately redeployed to South Carolina to train for an infantry role in Europe, so the only available local militia was a unit known as the Home Guard, made up of much older and much younger and less experienced men than the Rifles.

As you will see, the Home Guard performed pretty well, even heroically in most cases, on the night of November 17, 1918, but it is difficult to deny that had the Rifles themselves been present, things would have turned out much better.



Members of the Forsyth Rifles in Cuba during the Spanish-American war. Captain Jesse. C. Bessent, who commanded the Home Guard during the November 1918 event, is at the right in the front row. Bessent eventually retired with the rank of colonel. Bessent was an insurance agent. The NC Room has his 1907 copy of the Sanborn Insurance maps.

On Sunday morning, November 17, 1918, the Winston-Salem Journal reported the assault on Jim and Cora Childress the night before along the railroad tracks near Inverness Mill and that despite an intense search by local residents, white and black, and the police; no one had been arrested for the crimes.

Around noon, a young black man, Russell High, was arrested at the corner of Fourth and Depot Streets and charged with carrying a concealed weapon. Chief Thomas took High to the Childress home on Inverness Row and had Cora Childress come out onto the porch to see if she could identify High as her abductor.

Since there were several neighbors present in the yard, Thomas asked Cora not to say anything in front of them. After a few minutes, he asked if she had looked at High sufficiently, to which she replied with a nod. Inside the house, she told the chief that she was unable to identify High as her abductor.

Thomas took High back to the city jail, but the damage had already been done. Hysterical neighbors took Cora's nod as confirmation that High was the guilty party, and rumors began to

spread. In mid-afternoon a group of men, mostly from the Inverness area, began congregating near the city jail. By four o'clock, the number had grown to 100-200. As word spread, curious citizens began gathering to see what would happen. By six o'clock the number of people in the jail area may have been as high as three thousand.

By then, Chief Thomas had determined that High had recently come to Winston-Salem from Durham, that he had a good reputation and that he was in no way connected with the crimes committed on Saturday night.

A number of prominent citizens, including Mayor Ralph W. Gorrell, attorney William M. Hendren, 1st Baptist Church pastor the Reverend Doctor Henry A. Brown, and others spoke to the crowd, pleading with them to go home and let justice take its course.

Meanwhile, Chief Thomas had had Cora Childress brought to the jail for a second attempt at identification. Concurrently, the Home Guard had been placed inside the Town Hall, with fixed bayonets but under orders not to fire.

Unfortunately, the public viewing on Inverness Row had already interfered with the logical process, and Judge Lynch was in the crowd in the person of one Frank Hester, who was "whooping and shouting". "Bring out the woman!" the mob cried.

A little before six o'clock, when Cora did not appear, the mob surged into the building. One source reported their number as 500, which is preposterous, because nowhere near 500 people could have fit into that part of the building. One older Home Guardsman was pushed down the steps, wrenching his back. Inside, pandemonium reigned.

Since it was still the day shift, Luther Brown was in charge of the jail keys. The mob demanded that he give them up. Instead, he produced a gun and refused, which was the first of many acts of heroism.

The mob managed to break into the tiny cell block and confront High, who was "greatly excited", as one might imagine. He denied the charge and begged to be taken from the mob to a place of safety.

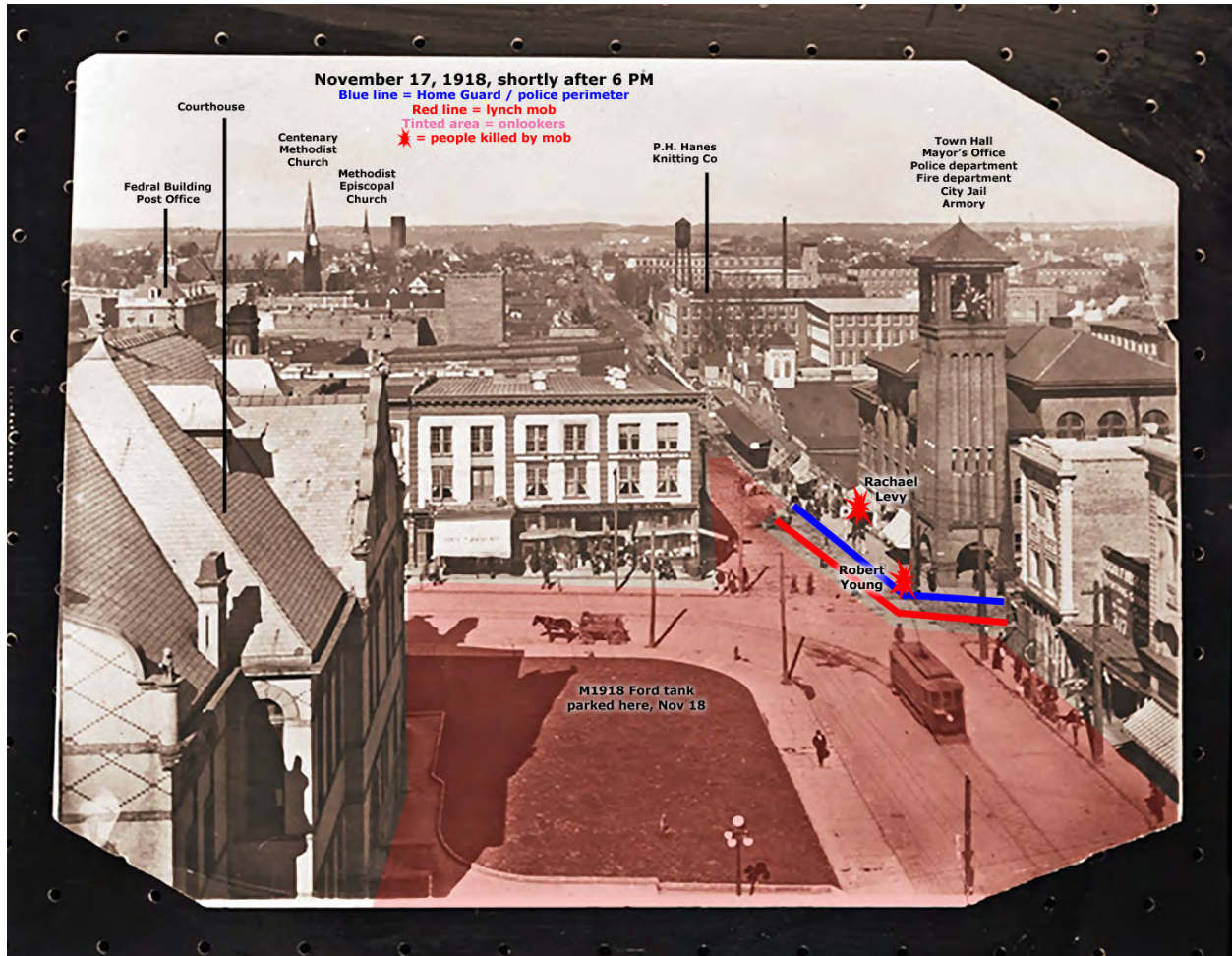
Brown later testified that A.R. Castevens seemed to be the leader of the mob, which was shouting "We are the Inverness Cotton Mills crowd, and we've come after the nigger! We're going to have him!"

At that point, someone fired a shot at High, but hit, instead, another mob member, Jack Rumble, in the stomach. That allowed the Home Guard to push the mob out of the building, where they established a perimeter at the intersection of Fourth and Main Streets.

Cora Childress was brought out to address the crowd. She told them that she was unable to identify High as her assailant, and that his gun was not "shiny" like the one she had seen on Saturday night. But by this time, there was no reason left. Someone fired a shot at the light at the entrance to the Town Hall.

By then, the fire department had joined the police and Home Guard. Captain Bessent later stated that he was left with only two choices, "...fire into the crowd or turn the hose on them." At about six o'clock, he chose the second option.

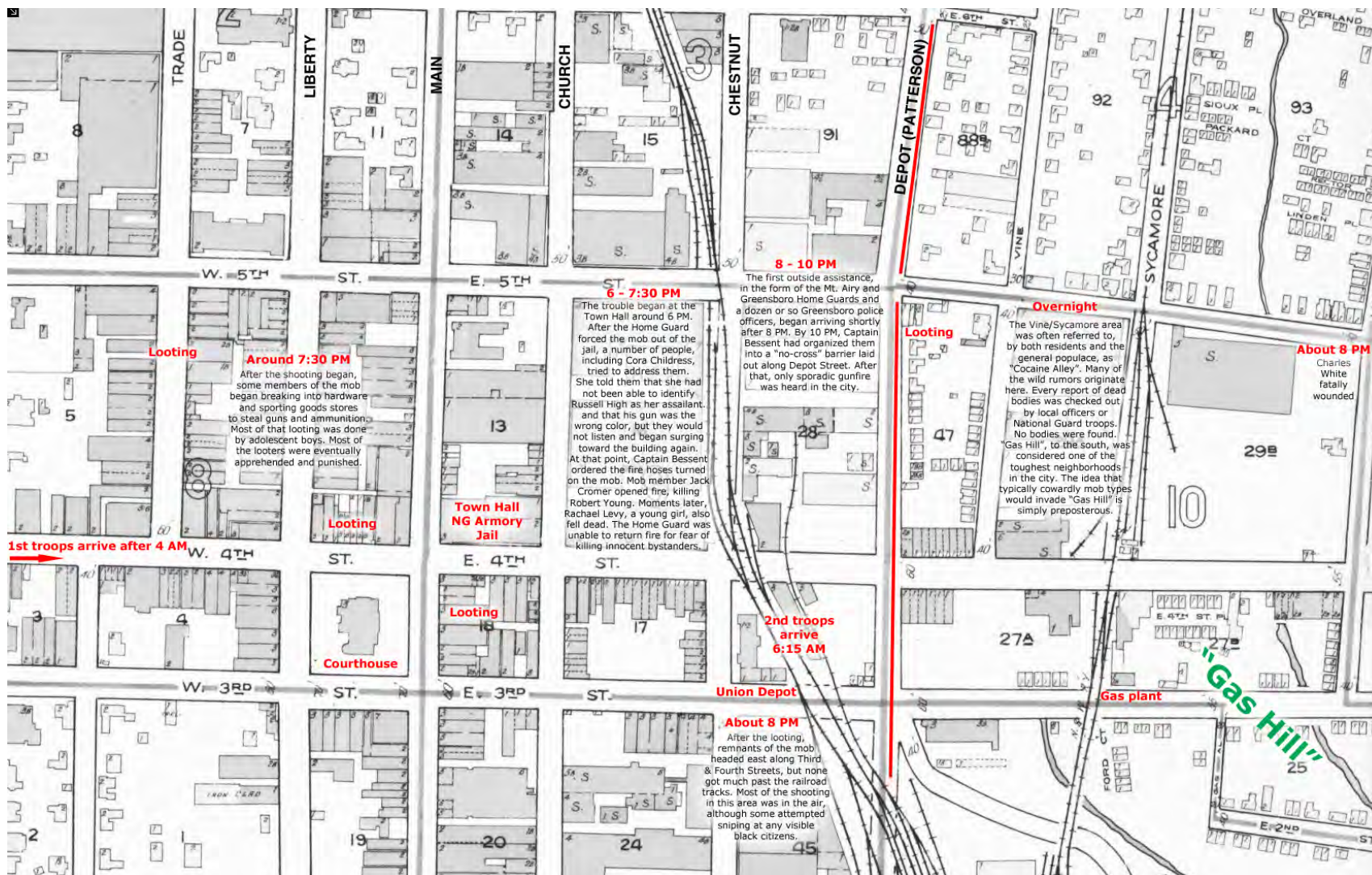
The mob reacted angrily to the hosing and one of them, Ernest “Jack” Cromer, an employee of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company who was standing in the middle of Main Street, shouted “kill them all” and fired four or five rounds at the firemen. Robert Young, a former city policeman who was volunteering with the fire department while awaiting induction into the military, fell dead on the spot.



At this point, general firing of guns broke out. Lillie Levy, a Russian Jew, operated a clothing store at 405 North Main Street in a retail space built into the ground level of the Town Hall. Her daughter, Rachel, who had just celebrated her 13th birthday, poked her head out to see what was going on. She was struck by a stray round and killed.

Robert P. Rawley, a Home Guardsman, was hit in the arm. He had his wound dressed and was told to go home, but he refused and stepped back into the line.

At around the same time, an intense rain storm hit the city, and most of the law abiding curious fled for home, leaving a few dozen hardcore lynchers at the scene. Members of the mob scattered, breaking into several nearby hardware and sporting goods stores to steal guns and ammunition. At one store, they were greeted by the owner, who leveled a pistol at them and said “Boys, you will probably get me, but the first one through the door is a dead man.” The mob moved on.



Much of the shooting from then on was done by teenaged boys, many of them still in short pants. And most of the shooting was done into the air. Many of the windows in the Town Hall were shattered by gunfire or rocks and bricks. And the hard core crowd surged eastward along Fourth Street, toward the nearest black neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, in those neighborhoods, the word had spread about the doings at the Town Hall. Most black citizens emulated George Black...locked their doors and turned out the lights. But some decided to capitalize on the situation and some looting broke out in scattered areas.

At that point, Mayor Gorrell contacted the mayors of Greensboro and Mt. Airy and governor Bickell in Raleigh, asking for help. The Home Guards from Mt. Airy and Greensboro, along with 8-10 Greensboro police officers, were immediately dispatched by train for Winston-Salem. Governor Bickell ordered federalized National Guardsmen from Camp Green, near Charlotte, and Camp Polk, near Raleigh, to the Twin City.

Sometime around eight o'clock, a group of armed looters stopped a car near the intersection of Fifth and Linden Streets. The driver, Charles White, a lineman for the Southern Public Utilities Company (forerunner of Duke Power) said "Nothing doing boys, let me by. I'm an electric light man."

According to a statement by one of the looters, Jacob Jackson, White started to drive on but a man called "Horse" stepped in front of the car and another man, Will Davis, jumped on the running board. Jackson said that he then saw Davis thrust a dark colored pistol between the stays of the car top and fire. White then drove away, stopping at the Hutchins drugstore on Liberty Street near Fourth, where first aid was administered. White died the next morning.

By the time White was shot, the white mob had settled in around the Union Depot, the main train station at the corner of Third and Chestnut Streets, firing wildly in the air and taking pot shots at any black person who showed his face on the other side of the railroad tracks. One of those, George Johnson, a laborer, was hit and killed. He is the only known black victim of the riot.

The newspapers mentioned two other black victims, a man and a woman. But a careful reading of death certificates issued at the time reveals that no other black people died that night or in any subsequent days from anything other than natural causes.

The first reinforcements, from Mt. Airy and Greensboro, arrived sometime between eight and nine o'clock. By ten o'clock, Captain Bessent had deployed them along Depot Street in a "no-cross" line that applied to both white and black citizens. By midnight, only scattered gunshots could be heard anywhere in the area.

At around four AM, the detachment of guardsmen from Camp Green, about 75 men under the command of Major G. B. Wilcox, arrived. It was thought best that they avoid the depot area, so they went to the railroad siding near the Methodist Children's Home, from whence they were marched double time up Summit Street and along Fourth Street to the armory in the Town Hall. As soon as they were settled in, they relieved the local Home Guard, who were by then near exhaustion.

Two hours later, the detachment from Camp Polk, 18 officers and 250 men, with two machine guns, two automatic rifles and one M1918 Ford tank, arrived at the depot. They were marched the two blocks to the courthouse, which would become their home and headquarters. The tank was parked on the northeast corner of the square, opposite the Town Hall.



In the hours before dawn, all persons abroad were stopped and searched for weapons. A few arrests were made, but the riot was already over. The local chapter of the American Red Cross brought the troops blankets, apples, cigars and tickets good for a hot drink at any downtown drugstore, and showed them where the local YMCA was located.

Once the sun was up on Monday the 18th, the local police, freed from more urgent duties, began rounding up and arresting those responsible for the previous day's depredations. Over the next few days, virtually all of them would be tried and punished in the local courts, most receiving 7-11 months on the chain gang.

On Tuesday, the 19th, most of the troops returned to their bases, leaving about 100 behind just in case. Those were gone within a few days.

Jack Cromer was arrested and charged with the murder of Robert Young. He was convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair, but that sentence was later commuted to life in prison.

Three black men were charged in the murder of Charles White. Jacob Jackson was the prime witness. Jim Scales was found "not guilty". Will Jones was sentenced to seven years in the state penitentiary. Will Davis was found guilty of first degree murder, and on January 17, 1919, sentenced to die in the electric chair on March 11, 1919.

Our UNC master's thesis says that that sentence was carried out. But neither of the local newspapers reported an execution on that date. And Davis is not on the master list of those executed since 1910 compiled by the former North Carolina Department of Corrections. Perhaps his sentence was also commuted. Perhaps someday we will find out what happened. The police were never able to determine who was responsible for the deaths of Rachel Levy and George Johnson.

But to many, the most important prosecutions were of those who broke into the Town Hall intent on lynching a prisoner. In 1893, the North Carolina legislature became one of the first to pass an "anti-lynching" law. It had been invoked only once before, during the administration of governor Robert Glenn, Winston-Salem's only governor, to punish perpetrators of a successful lynching.

Under this law, anyone accused could not be tried in the county in which the offense had occurred. So those arrested in this case were to be put on trial in Dobson, the seat of Surry County. The trial was held in February of 1919. Nineteen men were charged. The result:

- Andy Gilliam, not guilty.
- Will Walton, judgment suspended.
- None Myers, nol pros. (Case dropped)
- Lawrence Caldwell, Jack Rumble, \$150 fine, plus costs.
- George Douthit, Pleas Cline, Winn Carter, Walter Kiser, Grover Kiser, J.E. Savage, 14 months on the chain gang.
- Frank Hester, 16 months on the chain gang.
- John Brandon, two years, \$500 fine, plus costs.
- Arthur Manly, three years, \$500 fine, plus costs.
- J.L. Mabe, Carl Fields, four years, \$500 fine, plus costs.
- Pierce Hammonds, Ira Whitaker, A.R. Castevens, Cris Chapple, six years, \$500 fine, plus costs.

After the National Guard troops arrived on Monday morning, Russell High was sent under heavy guard by train to Raleigh for his protection. Ironically, we have no idea how his "carrying a concealed weapon" charge came out.

In the aftermath, much praise was heaped upon the local police and the Home Guard for standing their ground and refusing to allow the mob to have its way. And grateful thanks were extended to the Mt. Airy, Greensboro and National Guard folks for helping out in an emergency.

But Captain Bessent published an open letter to the citizens of Winston-Salem, pointing out that the gathering of the merely curious, pressing in as it did on all sides, prevented the police and the Home Guard from taking more effective measures against the mob. He suggested that the next time something like this happened, they should go home and stay there.

Above we named mostly the bad guys in this event. I would now like to try to name the good guys. Unfortunately, we do not know the names of our own **Home Guard**, or even how many of them there were. Maybe someone can rectify that down the road. For the moment, we can name six:

- **Frank O'Brien**, who wrenched his back when pushed by mob members down the steps of the Town Hall.
- **Ray Rawley**, who was shot in the arm and returned to the line after receiving first aid.
- **Gray Trulove**, who was shot in the foot but also returned to the line.
- **Lieutenant Charles Morrall** a customs agent in the Federal Building.
- **Lieutenant Ham Horton**, a dentist, who was peppered in the face by a shotgun blast but also remained in the line.
- **Jesse Bessent**, who commanded the Home Guard throughout this trying ordeal.

We can do a bit better with our local **police force**, because their names were listed in the 1918 city directory:

- City jail turnkeys: Luther Brown, E.D. Rothrock
- Patrolmen: **E.C. Young**, S.L. Swaim, R.L. Blackburn, J.L. Matthews, H.C. Whiteheart, C.A. Pratt, T.R. Hendrix, P.W. Dalton, E.E. Wooten, J.R. Bryant, A.C. Wall, J.W. Mabe, T.J. Reavis, J.D. George, R.L. Hatcher, B.J. Lea, B.R. Reich, C.W. Holder
- Plain clothesmen: T.A. Earley, R.W. Bryan
- 2nd Sergeant: J.T. Thompson
- 1st Sergeant: J.J. Cofer
- Chief: J.A. Thomas

Turnkey Brown was one of the heroes of the day. It was almost unheard of in lynch law days for a mere turnkey to defy an armed mob. Brown also provided key testimony that led to the convictions of many of the jail breakers.

Officer Elsie E. Wooten was shot in the jaw and sent to the hospital.

1st Sergeant Jesse Cofer, also a fire department member, and **Detective Robert Bryant** were both shot in the hand. Both remained in the line.

On the morning of the 18th, the Journal included in its list of the injured **Policeman Adams – shot and wounded**. No one named Adams was included in the police list in the city directory, nor could anyone named Adams be found listed elsewhere as a city policeman. The Journal might have meant someone else. But I am perfectly willing to list anyone's name that stood up for law and order that night.

For the moment, the Mt. Airy boys will have to remain anonymous. But thanks to the Greensboro Daily News, we know who came to help from that quarter. We are not given the names of the 8-10 Greensboro policemen, but here is the full roster of the **Greensboro Home Guard** on that night:

- Privates: S.E. Shuping, Percy Brewer, J.H. Kennan, P.A. Hayes, O.P. McArthur, Wm. C.A. Hammel, J.S. Betts, C.H. McKnight, Nescue Lewis, R.S. Petty, Mack Floyd, W.L. Palmer, John L. Crawford, L.K. Thompson, E.C. Love, N.R. Ham, R.L. Blaylock, W.L. Brewer, R.P. Bullard, S.W. Bagley, M.L. Bush, M.M. Boyles, J.E. Cartland, J.J. Smith, W.H. York, W.B. Vought, W.S. Ross, John L. Thacker, E.W. Pearce, B.W. Marsh, J.E. Albright, Howard Gardner, W. Ernest Boyles, L.M. King, W.M. Ridenhour, C.G. Harrison, J.T. Rieves, H.S. Alderman, K.F. Winstead, W.N. Iseley, F.M. Hood, F.M. Grantham, R.C. Strudwick, F.N. Milloway, S.J. Stern, G.W. Foushee, J.G. Foushee, R.E. Pearce.
- 2nd lieutenant: H.R. Bush
- 1st lieutenant: Eli Oettinger
- Captain: L.J. Brandt

Some of these guys showed up at the train station without proper arms. The Odell Hardware store was opened on Sunday night to provide them with appropriate weapons.

In 1910, James and Cora Childress were living with their three daughters in Mount Airy, NC, where James was employed as a driller at the Mount Airy Granite Quarry. Around 1914-15, they moved to the Inverness Mill area, just outside the Winston-Salem city limits. When James arrived at City memorial Hospital on the evening of November 16, 1918, he was listed in critical condition. But he survived his injuries.

After his recovery, the Childress's moved back to Mount Airy, where James found work as a janitor in a textile mill. James died sometime in the 1920s. Cora died on September 29, 1931. At the time, she was living in the household of one of her daughters, who herself had become a widow.

FIVE ARE KILLED AND 25 WERE INJURED HERE LAST NIGHT IN TRAGEDY FOLLOWING AN ATTEMPT TO LYNCH NEGRO AT CITY HALL

Promiscuous Shooting of Some of Those in the Great Crowd That Thronged Around the City Hall Results in the Injury of Many People--Trouble Started When Fire Hose Turned on Mob, Mr. Robert Young Being Shot and Killed by Some One in Crowd--Rachel Levi Shot While Watching the Crowd from a Window---Appalling Tragedy Visits the Twin-City at the Close of a Peaceful Sunday--Officers Look Upon the Tragedy as Resulting from Carelessness of Boys Unduly Excited--Pandemonium in City was Increased When Members of the Crowd Broke into Hardware Stores and Secure Guns and Ammunition---City Thundered all Night with Volleys from Guns, Most of Which Was Done by Boys Firing Aimlessly Into the Air.

THE DEAD

Miss Rachel Levi—A young white girl who was killed while she was watching the crowd from a window on Main street.

Mr. Robert Young—Killed while playing fire hose on the mob.

THE INJURED

Mr. Frank O'Brien, member of the Home Guard, back badly wrenched when he was pushed or knocked down the steps at the city hall.

Mr. Charlie White—Serious gunshot wound in the bowels.

Mr. Jule Stith—Shot with a shot-gun, the shot taking effect in his head, eye, cheek, hand and arm.

Mr. Cecil Alley—Shot in the face and chest.

Policeman Adams—Shot and wounded.

Mr. R. P. Rawley, member of the Home Guard, shot in the arm.

Policeman Cofer—Slightly injured.

Smith—Shot but not seriously hurt.

Mr. Robert Jordan—Painfully shot about the face and leg.

Mr. A. J. Farrell—Hit by birdshot in the face.

Policeman E. E. Wooten—Hit in face and neck with birdshot.

Dr. H. V. Horton of the Home Guards—Hit by glancing shot on the hand.

Frank Sprinkle—Hit in head and leg by shot.

G. C. Whit—Shot.

Gray Truelove—Shot in the foot.

James Richardson of No. 927 Twentieth street—Shot in the back of the neck.

R. E. Denny—Slightly hurt.

The following were taken to the city hospital suffering from gunshot wounds: Miss Margaret York; Messrs. Lin Helver, and Jack Rumble.

A colored woman whose name was not learned was taken to the hospital.

Three colored men were reported to have been killed and several colored people were injured.

Five people, two white and three colored, are known to be dead, 20 are known to have been injured, six other white people are known to have been hurt although their names could not be learned, and several other people were reported to be killed or wounded in outlying districts of the city as a result of the promiscuous use of fire-arms here early last night growing out of an attempt by a mob to lynch a colored man taken in custody by the officers yesterday who was supposed to have been guilty of shooting Mr. Jim Childress, outraging his wife, and later shooting Sheriff Flynt.

CAUSE A MYSTERY

The cause of the bloody ending to the event is more or less of a mystery, the officers being of the opinion that it was a tragic result of the attempt of a mob of boys to do violence to a prisoner thought by the officers and the officials not to be the man wanted, and whom they decided to protect. The officers look upon it as one of those sad occurrences wherein people lose control of themselves and do things without reasoning.

LIST WILL INCREASE

Allowing for the unprecedented number of rumors during the night, it is not unlikely that daylight will reveal many more unfortunate victims of the tragedy. Calls for ambulances that could not be filled and reports of people having been hurt in different sections came in throughout the night, and it is certain that the list contained in today's paper is incomplete. A complete list of those hurt could not be secured as many of them were lost in the crowd as they were not taken to hospitals, no record of their injuries was kept.

The same applies to the colored people killed and hurt. Reports that were fairly well confirmed told of three negroes having been killed. It is possible there were one or two more, although that statement is based only on opinion.

MOVED A BODY

A citizen stated that he saw some men moving what he is certain was a man's body across the street last night in the darkness. He thinks that possibly some of those hurt were moved away by their friends or by those who shot them.

It is possible that not all of the trouble reported from different sections of the city was caused by the trouble in front of the city hall. Some of the cases reported may have been entirely apart from the general commotion.

THE FIRING BEGINS

The mob had clamored for entrance to the city hall but there had not been any fire-arms used as far as known up to the time that the fire hose was brought into play.

An officer who was on the scene most of the time stated last night that he could not tell definitely just how the firing began, or where it came off. However, shortly after the hose was turned on shots were heard and one of the firemen with the hose dropped in his tracks.

At that time there was a general turning loose of fire-arms, and Rachel Levi, the little white girl who was killed, was struck while she was looking out of a store on Main street.

The fusillade continued for some moments, although apparently most of the people in the crowd were shooting aimlessly into the air.

Shortly afterwards, people in the crowd broke into several stores handling fire-arms, and then there was a great increase in the amount of firing, many people on the outskirts thinking that the mob was trying to take the city hall by storm.

HOME GUARDSMAN HURT

While the mob was in front of the city hall, some of them went up the steps and either knocked or pushed three members of the Home Guard down the steps, injuring Mr. Frank O'Brien, badly wrenching his back. He was carried to the City Hospital and was reported to be getting along well last night.

ANOTHER GUARDSMAN HURT

Another member of the Home Guard, Mr. R. P. Rawley, was shot in the arm. A gentleman who was with him at the time declared that he exhibited a spirit

of bravery that deserves the greatest commendation. After having been shot in the arm, he had his wound dressed and immediately returned to his post of duty, although some fear was entertained that the bone in his arm was shattered.

MAYOR GORRELL SPEAKS

Mayor R. W. Gorrell spoke to the crowds that surged about the city hall and on the streets near-by shortly after four o'clock, in which he stated that the officials were quite sure they had gotten the wrong man, and that the officers said that they were not sure they had the guilty party in custody.

Mayor Gorrell's remarks were met with the cry from the crowd, "Bring the woman out," evidently meaning thereby to call Mrs. Childress to see what she had to say.

Mr. W. M. Hendren made an attempt to introduce Rev. Dr. H. A. Brown. Mr. Hendren asked if there was anyone in the crowd who would disbelieve a statement made by Dr. Brown. The attempt was drowned out by the crowd.

MR. P. H. HANES

Mr. P. H. Hanes, Sr., also spoke briefly to the assembled crowd, in an effort to get it to disperse.

Rev. W. L. Hutchins

Rev. W. L. Hutchins, a former pastor of Burkhead Methodist church and now field director for the United War Work campaign, spoke to the crowd of his former associations with the people of the city, and stated that he had often spoke to the people in their places of business. "You know I have your interests at heart," he said.

Mr. Hutchins made a strong plea to the crowd to listen to him for just a moment, and his final act was a call to prayer.

At that time, some one in the crowd shot three times apparently at the light in the entrance of the city hall building.

MR. H. G. CHATHAM

Mr. H. G. Chatham made an attempt to get the attention of the crowd by stating that many of those present have sons in France. He was never able to speak with any degree of satisfaction.

OTHER TALKS

It is probable that other talks were made by citizens asking the members of the crowd to desist, but the cheering and talking drowned out every speaker who made an effort to get the attention of the crowd.

RUMORS RAMPANT

Rumors were rampant. Bad as the situation was, the hundred and one rumors that were afloat in the city only added to the general excitement. Frequently people testified on the best authority that ten had been killed and unusually large numbers had been wounded.

One excited man went about giving information that members of the mob were throwing dynamite into the city hall. Many repeated this rumor on the streets, and it gained wide headway in the city.

Rumor after rumor, apparently starting from no-

GUNS AND AMMUNITION TAKEN BY MEMBERS OF CROWD FROM STORES

Much of the Desultory Firing Done in the City Last Night Was with Guns Taken from Hardware Stores

MR. ROBERTS HELD MEN FROM STORE

Firing of Guns in Various Parts of the City Added to the Excitement of Citizens Throughout Night

Two white people are dead, at least fifteen more or less seriously hurt, one colored man is at the point of death and two or three others evidently seriously injured as a result of the tragedy last night.

The trouble started by shots being fired following the turning of the hose upon the crowd burning in front of the Municipal Building, which resulted in the death of Mr. Robert Young, and the wounding of Miss Rachel Levi, and just before the hardware stores were broken into and all guns, pistols and ammunition, a member of the Journal force arrived upon the scene and found the streets almost dark, and heavy firing was going on in the direction of the City Hall, coming from there, and going towards the Temple. In search of a doctor was a young man badly wounded in the foot. He refused to give his name.

Members of the mob were at that moment going in through the broken door of Hinge's Place, taking out guns, pistols and ammunition. They were armed with very young boys. As they came out upon the streets and square they began firing the weapons taken from the store. There were not enough guns in the Hinge Place to arm all the members of the mob, and by a seemingly instant the streets were filled with the search of other stores.

The first store to be entered was Wall-Hucker. This was stripped of guns and pistols. An attempt was next made upon the Hardware Store. The glass of the door was smashed, and the mob entered. The small arms, guns in hand, the mob entered the store and began firing. The first one to come in at that door will get shot. No one made the attempt to enter the store in the direction of Brown-Huggins store. Mr. Rogers was before the store and pleaded calmly with the mob to abandon its purpose of entering the store, and was repeatedly pushed from before the glass entrance. The mob, however, did not listen, and again blocked the entrance. The mob entered the store, and with a crash of falling glass the mob rushed into the store.

At about that moment about the direction of Trade store, gave out the store, and the mob entered. At Dalton Brothers several things besides guns were taken, these including two wheels and many knives and razors.

Further shooting. As soon as the stores had been looted and fired upon in all parts of the city, about the public house and the Hotel. Although the firing was steady and continuous, the mob did not leave the city. The mob was not being fired through the doors of the Hotel. The mob was not being fired through the doors of the Hotel. The mob was not being fired through the doors of the Hotel.

At City Hall. Firing was heavily renewed about the city hall. The mob was directed against the sides of the building. The mob was directed against the sides of the building. The mob was directed against the sides of the building.

No Shots Fired by Guard. Dr. H. V. Horton, in command of the Guard, said that no shots had been fired by that body or any member of it. Although two of the members had been hit in the stomach, and the night was very dark, the mob was not fired by the Guard. The mob was not fired by the Guard. The mob was not fired by the Guard.

Firing Done by Boys. It was observed that the greater part of the firing was done by boys of fourteen to seventeen or eighteen; many of them were old and steady thieves, and not a few of them did not mind the shooting. The mob was not fired by the Guard. The mob was not fired by the Guard. The mob was not fired by the Guard.

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TWO PEOPLE KILLED AND 25 HURT HERE LAST NIGHT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.)

where, swept over the business section of the city and into homes, the excitement having been increased by the firing of revolvers and rifles into the air at various points in the city.

Volleys would be fired in various sections and people would think the trouble had broken out at new points, but those in a position to know say that most of the firing of this kind was the harmless variety, the weapons being fired aimlessly into the air, increasing the noise and general confusion, without doing any special damage.

In every public crisis, rumors play a part in this city as well as elsewhere, but there were probably more false reports started amid the excitement last night than at any other time in the history of this city.

MANY NARROW ESCAPES

Many citizens told of narrow escapes from having been struck by bullets. One man stated that a man standing immediately next to him on the street dropped when struck by a bullet.

THE CROWD CLEARS

After the actual firing began, the curiosity seekers immediately beat a retreat and it was not long until the streets about the city hall became more and more empty.

BIG CROWD GATHERS

The crowd began gathering about the city hall shortly after three o'clock, and hundreds of people soon stopped, most of them because of curiosity. All eyes were centered toward the municipal building and the entrance to the building, where a number of prominent local men were making an effort to persuade the crowd to desist from its purpose.

The crowd was so dense and the noise so great that it was impossible to hear any of the speakers across the street. Many people were lined up along Fourth and Main streets, and several hundred were standing on the northeast corner of the courthouse square. It was impossible to tell much of what was done on the second floor of the building where officers and members of the Home Guard were on duty defending the city hall.

The dense crowd swarmed up to the doors of the building, and the commotion was exceedingly great. Occasionally, loud cheering could be heard, but the crowd was so strung out that one part of it could not tell what was going on in another place.

Several attempts to make announcements were made from the window of police station. The cheering at times was so deafening that no one could understand what was being said.

The rear guard of the crowd, and probably the majority of it according to opinion, was composed of those who stopped out of curiosity.

BARGAINS

—IN—

Coats and Suits

COME TODAY

PARRISH DRY GOODS CO.

434—Liberty St.—434

"ALWAYS THE BEST FOR THE MONEY"

Hot Chocolate

Piping hot and made delicious. Come and wait for the cars while you get a good drink at our fountain.

Phone 107

O'Hanlon's

IS THE PLACE

Phone 174

"The South's Greatest Drug Store"

A fire-alarm came in while the crowd was assembled, and many thought that it would take away a part of the crowd, but they only cheered when the fire truck went by. A short time after the alarm was rang out, and the fire truck returned to the municipal building.

PRISONER NOT SHOT

Contrary to the rumor abroad yesterday afternoon, the prisoner was not shot. Rumor had it that the mob when they broke into the jail some one fired three shots, one of them striking the prisoner and another hitting another prisoner in jail. It is said that a shot was fired but no one was injured.

A TERRIBLE CLIMAX

The tragedy came at the end of a peaceful Sabbath Day, and everyone felt the joy of peace again with the signing of the armistice. A public meeting in the interest of the United War Work Drive was in progress at the courthouse for the colored people when the trouble first started, and the white people were looking forward to the mass-meeting last night at the first Presbyterian church.

LITTLE EXCITEMENT

The local officers seemingly had the situation well in hand as the mob had been cleared from the city hall and most of them were standing near the steps at the entrance leading into the building. Aside from occasional shouts there was no violence for a time, although citizens were pleading with the members of the mob to desist from their purpose, stating that they were confident they had the wrong man in charge.

THE CLIMAX COMES

The climax came when the fire hose was turned on the mob, that from all indications starting the shoot-which soon spread to the proportion of an epidemic. Shot after shot was fired, many and possibly most of them into the air. But the crowd became excited and the constant firing of pistols and guns did nothing to soothe the nerves of the people.

LITTLE DEFINITE INFORMATION

The work of sifting out the facts of the tragedy was made so difficult by the many false rumors put out, that little definite information was secured. It will probably require daylight and sober thought to enable the officials to tell just what the extent of the trouble is.

PEOPLE HELD ALOOF

The opinion expressed by citizens that the majority of the crowd was composed of onlookers is borne out by the fact that most of the crowd held back in the distance, content to watch developments without participating actively in them.

RAIN HELPED MUCH

The rain that swept over the city early last night did much to disperse the crowd. However, it did not keep small crowds from firing guns and pistols in different sections, notably on East Fourth street and around the union station.

The officer stated that most of the firing was done by boys who were shooting into the air. The crowds on the streets began to disperse rapidly as the firing began, especially in view of the fact that several people were struck.

Just before the shooting began, it is said, rocks and coal and other things were thrown at the building where the hose was being brought into action.

MRS. CHILDRESS PRESENT

Someone in the crowd during the afternoon sent an automobile to the home of Mrs. Jim Childress and brought her to the city. She was taken to the cell occupied by the negro and she is said to have stated that she did not think he was the right man.

MOB OF BOYS

The officer stated that most of those that seemed active were boys, there having been few men in the crowd according to his memory. This statement was borne out by others who saw the mob in action.

AN UNFORTUNATE EVENT

The event will go down in history as one of the most unfortunate and meaningless tragedies that has ever occurred here. Little was accomplished except the death of several innocent people and the suffering of many others. The local officers were of the opinion that the prisoner was not the man wanted and naturally they wished to protect him from violence.

Every effort was made to reason with the mob to no avail. It was from all appearances one of those unfor-

GUNS AND AMMUNITION TAKEN BY MEMBERS OF CROWDS FROM STORES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.)

Many of the boys who could hardly have reached their twenties. The only argument that appeared to be made was that the firing before they had entered all the ammunition.

Many Wounded

Everywhere wounds were encountered; most of the injuries being caused by shot rather than by bayonets, and as the ammunition taken from the stores was for the most part sporting shells loaded with small shot they were very likely due to the fact that the boys were firing at random in the air. This, however, did not seem to be true in all cases.

At about this time Mr. Charlie White, of the Public Utilities Company drove up a Ford car which was a boy in the car with him, who immediately disappeared. Mr. White was in desperate pain, and not able to speak coherently. He was assisted with him, phoned a call to the station and found a bunch of boys who were firing into some of the old shacks building near what is known as Long Branch. Many colored people from time to time, but not a single shot was seen to be aimed at them. What happened on the outside of the store was not seen. The whole affair seemed to be due to the fact that the boys were not in control of themselves through sheer at being unable to reach the store in the city jail arrested and being suspected of having committed the crime. It was not long before the city Saturday night and from being captured at having the firearm's turned upon them as they gathered about the city building. They were further excited by the firing in the many wild rumors constantly circulating through the city.

Another Man Hurt

As the car bearing Mr. White was driven off, a second car arrived in front of the store. The car was with a young man who was badly shot in the legs. He was carried into the store for medical attention. His name is injured.

Wild Rumors

Wild and exaggerated rumors were constantly being passed from mouth to mouth. It was reported that Mr. G. C. Tucker had been killed, that Mr. Joseph Adams had been killed, that the dead were lying in heaps just below the store, and that the station and found a bunch of boys who were firing into some of the old shacks building near what is known as Long Branch. Many colored people from time to time, but not a single shot was seen to be aimed at them. What happened on the outside of the store was not seen. The whole affair seemed to be due to the fact that the boys were not in control of themselves through sheer at being unable to reach the store in the city jail arrested and being suspected of having committed the crime. It was not long before the city Saturday night and from being captured at having the firearm's turned upon them as they gathered about the city building. They were further excited by the firing in the many wild rumors constantly circulating through the city.

Winston-Salem Man Is a Soldier for a Day When He Secures His Release

Mr. Elford Hine of This City Has an Unusual Experience at Philadelphia as Result of Signing of the Armistice

SERVED AS PRIVATE PART OF TWO DAYS

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—A Soldier for a day is the unique and unusual experience of one of Winston-Salem's most prominent and best known business men. Elford Hine, owner of the Hine's Shoe Store, one of the largest and most complete retail shoe stores in North Carolina. Hardly 24 hours had passed from the time he was captured by the Germans and taken into the service before orders were received from Washington to permit him to return home. He was released by the Winston-Salem city authorities and returned to his home in Winston-Salem. He was released by the Winston-Salem city authorities and returned to his home in Winston-Salem. He was released by the Winston-Salem city authorities and returned to his home in Winston-Salem.

tunate tragedies written in the book of destiny that occur sometimes to the regret of all people.

QUIET REIGNS

Quiet was normally restored early in the night although occasional shots could be heard even late at night and early in the morning. It is the opinion of officers that a night's sleep and a little sober thinking of the terror's suffering caused will prevent any further trouble here.

Your Guiding Mind

will not always have control of the fortune you have built up, be that fortune large or small. Your first duty to those dependent on you is to conserve for them the fruits of your labor.

The one best way to make a will wisely providing for their security, by naming this company as Executor and Trustee.

You are cordially invited to discuss with our officers the advantages of this action to your family.

Wachovia Bank & Trust Co.

Capital \$1,250,000
Surplus \$250,000

Member Federal Reserve System

APALACHIAN TRAINING SCHOOL SUSPENDED \$200

Roanoke, Nov. 17.—Prof. Perry Case, of the Atlantic Christian College of Wilson, was at the Training school on Thursday afternoon in the interest of the 100 United War Work Council. School was suspended for an hour to give him the chance to preach the important message to the students, which he did in a most satisfactory and pleasing manner. The school appointment was 10:00, but the main session was held at 11:00, and lasted 45 minutes, and more will be added.

TODAY'S STYLES TODAY

KANN'S

FASHION SHOP FOR WOMEN

ART IN FLOWERS

W. MORGENROTH

Leading Florist

FLOWERPHONE 812

118 West Fourth St.

GET IT AT WATKINS

Don't Delay

Selecting those Christmas Cards. Novelties of this nature are going to be awfully hard to get, and we advise that you make your selections at once. Our assortment is unusually attractive now.

WATKINS BOOK STORE

The Best Grade of Furs in The City

Every fur a beauty, combined with the best workmanship. Positively the highest grade of furs shown in the Twin-City. These furs include poiret fox, black fox, beaver, natural fox, blended Russian sable, mole, etc. No woman in Winston-Salem can afford to miss viewing these furs. You will be surprised at the unusually low prices.

STORE OPEN TODAY

8 a. m. to 11 a. m.
2 p. m. to 8 p. m.

BUY YOUR CIGARS HERE. AND SMOKE THE BEST ON SUNDAY

THE ZINZENDORF PHARMACY

YOUR DRUG STORE