

# TAKING ERASTUS BROWN FROM THE JAIL AT UNION TO LYNCH HIM.

when he pursued and felled her to the earth with a stone. She was partially stunned, but fought and screamed until the negro was frightened away.

Miss Fehring was picked up, unconscious, by neighbors, and received medical attention. Although seriously hurt and suffering intensely from nervous shock, she may recover.

Brown, who was inky black and 15 years old, was caught the next day. Bloodhounds were used to track him. The officials having him in charge took him before the injured girl. She sat up in bed, her big eyes staring as if at an apparition, from the bandages that bound her head.

"That's the man! That's the man!" she said, covered her face with her hands and fell back into a faint.

To save the negro's life the captors took him to the woods, announced that he had been hanged, described the scene in great detail, then secretly hurried the prisoner to the jail at Union.

For a few hours the secret was kept, then the facts leaked out and the hanging Saturday morning ended the uncertainty.

## THE MOB'S ARRIVAL.

### Description of the Events That Led Up to the Lynching.

#### REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Union, Mo., July 10.—As Judge Marshall A. Coleman, Presiding Judge of the County Court, was sitting on the porch of the Union Hotel, with two companions about 1:30 o'clock this morning, he observed a party of about 50 horsemen ride into town from the east. They came quietly and the majority rode directly to the jail, while others rode around the square and assumed the duty of guards.

Judge Coleman attempted to send word to the Sheriff, who was boarding in the western part of town, but the messenger was stopped on the way by three men with guns, who told him to go back, and threatened him if he should attempt further to notify the Sheriff.

Coleman then sent word to Judge Denny, and then with two or three others attempted to go to the jail, but they were stopped before getting close to where the prisoner was confined. Judge Coleman is almost a helpless cripple and not able to walk a step without crutches. He, however, attempted to plead with the crowd to desist, but while treating him in a respectful manner, they refused to listen to him.

Upon reaching the jail no time was wasted in getting inside. A spring wagon was driven up to the jail door from which tools for their work was taken.

The jail at Union is composed of four cells, upstairs and downstairs, with a hallway through the middle.

The jail proper is of stone, floor, ceiling and walls, with a brick addition in front, in which there is a calaboose upstairs and a storeroom below. The stairway is also located in this part of the building.

It took but two blows of a sledgehammer to break in the outer door of the outer hallway, and in another instant the crowd was upstairs and pounding at the solid iron door which opened into the corridor. In a few minutes this was opened by the use of sledgehammers and cold chisels. The bolt of the lock, which is an inch thick and 3/4 inches wide, was cut.

Once inside this door, the next door, which

four men, apparently lifeless, placed in a spring wagon and driven out of town to the east.

By this time some eight or ten citizens were up and followed the mob out of town, keeping at a safe distance in the rear.

The negro was taken through the long covered wooden bridge which crosses the Bourboise half a mile east of town. Here all followers of the mob were stopped for half an hour or so by the rear guard in the dark bridge.

Soon word came back that all was over. Then, with an admonition to those who were following to be slow about it the men guarding the bridge joined those who had gone ahead with the negro.

After all was quiet the citizens went ahead. They had not gone more than 200 yards through the bottom before they found the lifeless body of Brown dangling from a small willow tree that was hanging over the road. His feet were within three feet of the ground.

There are cleared fields on both sides of the road where the hanging was done.

The willow tree is about 1 foot in diameter at the base and at the point where the rope was tied was not over 8 inches through. It is not more than 30 feet high and bends out over the road in such a manner as to be easy for a party to drive a wagon under it, and after adjusting the rope drive out from under and leave the victim hanging.

It is presumed that the hanging was done in this manner.

About 3 o'clock Sheriff Puchta was awakened and told what had happened and that it was all over. He immediately notified the Coroner, and they got a wagon and brought the body back to jail.

About 1:30 a. m. the mob was noticed in town. At 2:10 a. m. it left Union with the negro in the spring wagon. A little before 4 o'clock, the Sheriff and Coroner brought the lifeless body back to town.

Coroner N. G. Miller held an inquest at 8 o'clock. The jury was composed of August Goebel, H. Colkins, John Mueller, A. Renner, C. M. Buck and A. Kramolowsky.

The jury found that Erastus Brown came to his death by hanging by parties to the jury unknown, and that the immediate cause of his death was strangulation.

The body is now in the storeroom in the front part of the jail. Brown's wife and father were both notified by Coroner Miller of the hanging, and they are expected to take charge of the body; if not, the county will bury it.

The young woman upon whom the assault was made, Miss Annie Fehring, is getting well.

Prosecuting Attorney Charles E. Farrar had the young woman examined by Drs. Isbell of Washington, Poppenhusen of Union, and Rusk of Villa Ridge. They found no physical evidence that criminal assault had been committed upon her. This is in accordance with the young woman's story. She, too, stoutly maintained from the first that the brute did not accomplish his purpose.

It is supposed that the mob came from Villa Ridge, as it came from that direction and left in that direction.

No efforts have as yet been made to apprehend the men who composed the mob. They were partly disguised.

All is quiet in town to-day. Brown had admitted assaulting the girl. He had waived a preliminary examination before Justice J. W. Keller on Thursday.

## Effect in Delivery.

Edwin Forrest was once present at a discussion as to how much the effect of a production depended upon its delivery. As a last argument he recited the Lord's Prayer in such an impressive manner that the whole company was bathed in tears. Further discussion was effectually ended.

ordinance seeking a franchise to build a loop around Fourth street from Locust to Elm. The other two have been reported by the Railroad Committee with amendments, increasing the sum to be paid into the city treasury by the company.

The Sarah street line will connect with the main line at Sarah street and run north over double tracks to Ashland avenue, westwardly to Fair avenue, across Natural Bridge road to Grant street, and thence over a loop along Algernon street, Adelaide avenue and back to Grant street. The Union avenue franchise calls for the building of a much shorter line. The two, when completed, will give the Suburban valuable cross-town lines in the West End.

Another important bill is that of the Southern Electric road, asking the right to extend its line to the Fair Grounds. Connection will be made with the main line at Seventh and Howard streets, and from there the road will run out Howard street to Blair avenue, thence north to Benton, west to Garrison avenue, thence north to Montgomery, west to Grand avenue, turning into Cottage avenue and west to Warne and thence north over the latter to Natural Bridge road.

Under the provisions of the ordinance the company will be allowed to charge but one fare over the entire line from the Fair Grounds to the city limits below Carondelet. The amendments reported call for additional compensation for the city in return for the franchise, and, as the company is disposed to accept the ordinance as amended, the bill will, in all probability, pass both houses. This is the first road in the city to petition for the right to run funeral cars over its lines. At present it reaches but one cemetery, but a further extension to Bellefontaine and Calvary cemeteries is in contemplation.

The latest petitioner for the privilege to extend its lines is the St. Louis Railroad Company, owning the Broadway cable. Its ordinance calls for the building of a double track out Keokuk street from the end of the cable road to Nebraska avenue, thence south of Elchberger avenue, over to Pennsylvania, and south to Itaska street in Carondelet. This is to be an electric road, and will carry the passengers from the cable clear down to the southern end of the city for a single fare, a transfer being given at the connecting point.

Active competition on the part of the Southern Electric, which is about to extend its line to the northern end of town and further out into the Broadway Company's business, and the Union Depot lines, forced the Hamilton syndicate, owners of the cable, to reach out in a southerly direction in order to prevent the Broadway line from being hemmed in by competitors.

The Lindell Railway is another applicant for a franchise. It seeks to build one block of road from the end of its Page avenue line to the city limits to connect with its newly-purchased Midland road, running out into the county seven miles. This bill is pending in the House and will be passed. As soon as the tracks can be laid the company will begin running its Page avenue cars clear through to the end of the Midland.

## Temperature Was Torrid.

### REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Bloomington, Ill., July 10.—There was little moderation of the fearful heat to-day. Despite the storm and rain of last night the mercury went up to 86 in the shade to-day, and with the excessive humidity the temperature was horrid. Many workmen were obliged to quit work. No prostrations have occurred.