

About 1 o'clock yesterday morning Simon Adams a negro entered the room of the two daughters of Judge E.H. Almond, who resides ten miles away above the city. The circumstances unquestionably show that his object in breaking into the room, which was only accomplished after considerable trouble, was a most foul one. He was fortunately discovered by Miss Jessie Almond, and his capture was effected by her father, who heard her screams. Early yesterday morning Judge Almond started the Negro to town, securely bound in the hands of a trustworthy keeper. The Negro was later turned over to Bailiff A. B. Land, to bring him into the city. Bailiff Land was overtaken by a crowd of six or eight men in the woods two miles above the city, and his prisoner was taken from him. The Negro was "lost" in the woods between North Highlands and Clapp's Factory, west of the river road. All day yesterday parties searched for his body but without success. It is known positively that he was lynched; however, it is supposed that he was either shot or drowned in the Chattahoochee River. Last night it was reported that the body had been found in the river, but the rumor proved to be erroneous. The lynching was all the talk in the city yesterday, and when reports of it came in early in the morning great excitement was caused and a number of people immediately went out to the scene of the reported occurrence. The affair seemed to be a badly tangled one and it was exceedingly hard to get at the details. It was known that Adams had been lynched, but those who were trying to learn the details found it to be a hard task. Judge Almond is one of the best known and most highly respected farmers of the northern part of the county. He is the justice of the peace in the Nances district. His daughter, Miss Jessie who had such a thrilling adventure is quite well known here where she had been attending St. Elmo Institute. The Negro Simon Adams had been employed on his place three years. Adams was nineteen years of age. He ran away from his home in another county three years ago and came here. The Almond residence is a two-story one, and the room of Miss Jessie, aged 17 and her younger sister aged 10 years is up in stairs. To get into the room the Negro piled boxes and barrels outside, managing his way to get on the roof of a porch. From the porch he raised the window and stepped into the room. As his foot fell from the window sill Miss Jessie Almond was awakened. She instantly perceived that someone was in the room, and jumping up, ran screaming out of the room, towards her father down stairs. Judge Almond heard the screams, and sprang up, seized his shot gun and a lamp, and called to his son to follow him. The two went up stairs; but did not at first see anyone. There are two rooms up stairs and the father and son searched both. There are four closets in the two rooms and in the fourth one searched, which was in the room of the young ladies, the intruder was found. Judge Almond leveled his gun on him and he and his son seized him and bound him. All the circumstances left no doubt as to the intentions of the intruder, whom they recognized at once as Adams. So wrought up was Judge Almond that he felt like shooting the wretch on the spot, and perhaps would have done so in his intense indignation had not thought that the affair would seriously shock his wife, who was ill in the house, restrained him. In the meantime members of the household were screaming and the neighborhood was soon aroused. Judge Almond, who was in the city yesterday states that he placed a chain about the Negro's neck and otherwise bound him securely. Early in the morning he placed him in a wagon and started him to town, in the care of a trustworthy person, with instructions to deliver to the Columbus authorities. Judge Almond did not accompany the Negro at the time. The Negro was brought on down the



Hamilton Rd. as far as the Denson's store, in Beallwood, and then was carried across the country to the woods west of the river road a short distance from where the narrow-gauge railroad crossed that road. As to what occurred at that juncture for there is some confusion. It was the original impression that the negro was taken from his keeper at Denson's store and was hurried across the country through Beallwood, back of the Young place, to the North Highlands and there lynched. Bailiff A. B. Land made the following statement to an Enquirer-Sunday reporter yesterday afternoon: He was at Denson's store about eight 'o'clock in the morning. He was told to get the Negro, Adams, and carry him to Columbus. He was informed that the Negro was over in the edge of the North Highlands woods, just west of the river road. He went there and found the Negro, with two or three persons about him. A boy seemed to have him in charge. The boy asked him if he was an officer; he told him that, he was, and the Negro was turned over to him. Bailiff Land go into the wagon and began driving it through the woods towards the North Highlands pavilion. The reporter asked Mr. Land why he did not go straight on to town with his prisoner, by the regular road, instead of cutting through the woods. He replied that it was his idea to go on around North Highlands, and thus not attract any attention, and slip his prisoner safely to the city. The road he was on at the time would have led to the pavilion Mr. Land said that he was overtaken in the woods by a crowd of men who drew Winchester rifles on him and made him give up his prisoner. Asked as to the number, he humorously replied that to him at that moment every man looked like three. He said that he did not recognize anybody was concerned in the guns than in the men behind them. It is known however, that there were not more than six or eight men in the crowd. The hold-up of Bailiff Land occurred about two hundred yards from the river road, and not very far from the southern edge of the woods. At the time Mr. Land was seen by the reports, the newspaper man had just started to the city from a search through the woods and Mr. Land was coming out to the scene with a friend from the city, in a wagon. Mr. Land thought that he would perhaps find the body of the Negro near the place where he had been taken from him. The two parties combined and went into the woods and made a thorough search of that vicinity, but could find nothing. It had been intimated to Mr. Land that he could find the body within a hundred yards of where he was taken from him. The party searched the trees for a considerable distance, but could find nothing. Mr. Land left the woods about 4:30 'o'clock in the afternoon, after a fruitless search. Mr. Land was asked by the reporter if the persons who were with Adams when he first took charge of him were in the crowd that took the Negro from him. It was his impression that they were not. Adams was taken away from Bailiff Land about eight 'o'clock, and by that hour reports of the prospect of a lynching had reached the city. People from Columbus were on the scene by nine 'o'clock, and the search of the woods for the body was begun. No one had the slightest doubt but that the Negro had been lynched. A number of men went out in buggies, and Beallwood and the woods extending from North Highlands to Clapp's Factory were given a thorough search. The forest west of the river road is quite an extensive one it being fully a mile to the river, and a number of parties spent hours in the woods following up clues, real or imaginary. It was at first expected that the body would be discovered quickly, but as hours passed and no discovery was made, the affair seemed to deepen into a mystery. There are two suppositions as to the course pursued by the party that took the Negro from the officer. One is that they kept on down towards the river and then continued to Clapp's factory. A



woman who lives near the narrow-gauge railroad states that they went up the main river road to a branch, and then turned back into the woods. No matter whether the Negro was put to death near North Highlands or near Clapp's factory It is a fact that the party of lynchers were at the factory. A Negro woman who lives near the old factory stated yesterday afternoon to an Enquirer-Sun reporter that about nine 'o' clock in the morning she saw a party of men at the mouth of Clapp's creek, where it empties into the river. They all had guns, and she saw that something unusual was up. The men stopped and took off their coats. She did not notice whether there was a Negro with them or not. She became so impressed with the idea that something unusual was going on that she became frightened and ran home carrying her children with her. Another Negro woman of the vicinity was similarly impressed. It is possible that it was at the mouth of this creek that Adams met his death. In the latter part of the morning some fifteen or twenty shots were heard in the direction of Clapp's factory. One report is that the Negro was forced into the water and told to swim for his life, and that as he did he was shot. Another report was that he was simply drowned, a heavy weight tied to his body. Another supposition was that he was either killed or shot on one of the islands in the river. Yesterday afternoon a party consisting of Messrs. Frank Springer W. C. Moshell, Will Eifler, and Charlie Springer found a number of Winchester and pistol shells, and also shot gun shells. There were about twenty of shells, and they looked as if they had been but recently fired-in fact the smell of powder still lingered about the place. The shells were found on a island near Clapp's factory. Two Enquirer-Sun reporters made thorough search of the woods in the vicinity of the lynching yesterday spending three or four hours, following various clues. All sorts of stories were afloat but most of them were born the lively imaginations which seem to be stimulated by occasions like the One man was encountered who has seen the body of the Negro strung at a spring not far from the old Clapp factory burying ground. The newspaper men took a tramp of about a mile to the spot. The man had said that "when you found the spring you would see the body," and it was not until afterwards that this peculiar statement was fully appreciated. The branch-a laughing little brook that seemed to get larger further up its course the party went sustained by several springs along route, but the original spring seemed hard to find. At length, however, the birthplace of this remarkable stream was discovered. A peaceful looking "aunty" was washing clothing nearby. She was the only Negro on the place. She was considerably interested in hearing about the lynching which was news to her. The generally accepted theory was that the body of the Negro was placed in the river. Last night it was reported that the body of the Negro had been found in the river at North Highlands. So general was the impression that a note was sent out to Coroner Robinson, to go out and hold an inquest. It was reported that the body had been turned over to Alex Tolles, the colored understater Tolles was seen by a reporter at midnight, and said that he had not seen the body and did not know that it had been found. It was afterward learned that the body had not been recovered.