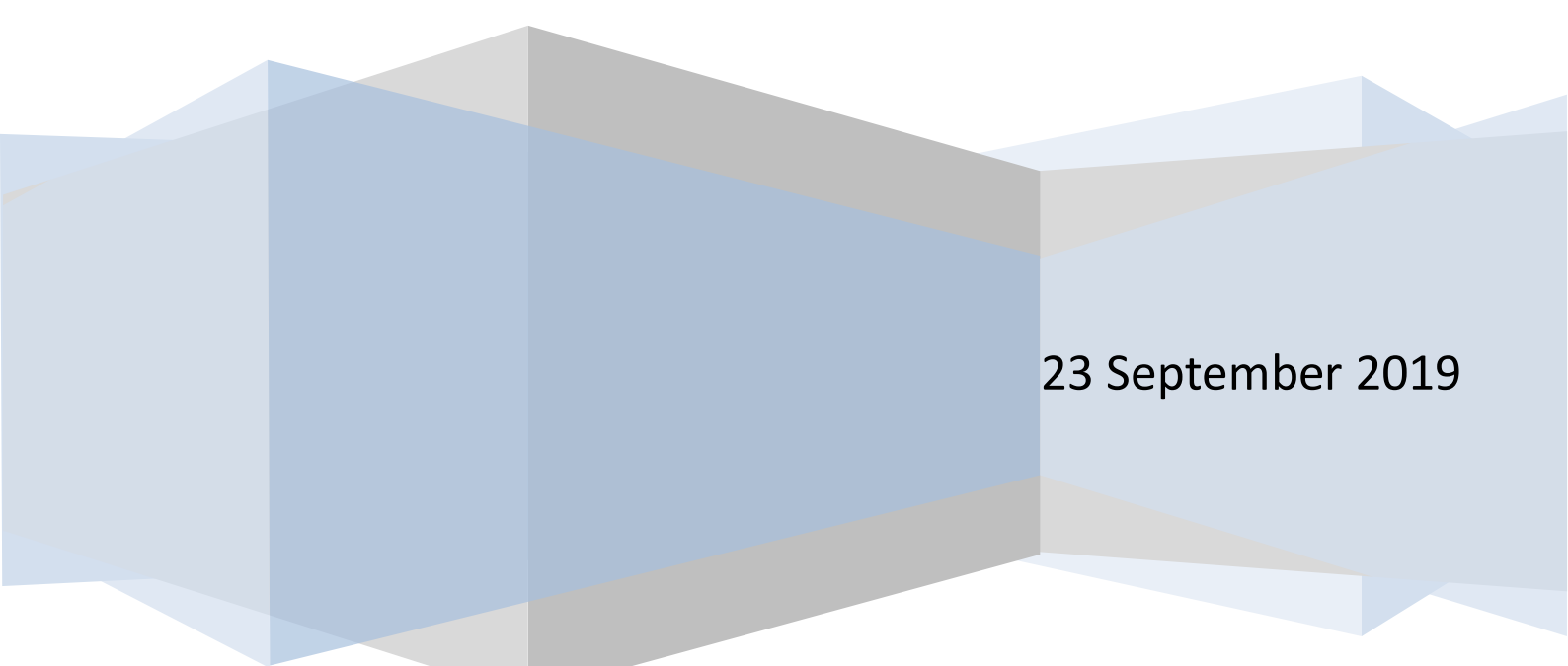


Prepared for the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project
Harford County Committee

An Investigation of Racial Terror Lynchings: Cecil County, MD.

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Cecil County, MD

Introduction

Purpose of the Study

This report prepared for the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project – Harford County Committee documents the occurrences of racial terror lynchings in Cecil County. Across the nation, there were many racially motivated lynchings, but to a significant degree these murders have not been examined, and little is known, especially outside of the few that grabbed headlines in the nation’s newspapers. To address this gap in our understanding of the past, the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project was established to work to advance the cause of reconciliation by documenting the history of racial terror lynchings, advocating for public knowledge of these murders, and working to honor and dignify the lives of the victims.

Part of the mission of the state organization is to establish workgroups in the counties around the state, and the Harford County Committee is addressing the matter there. That committee has as an ancillary objective, the encouragement of the formation of a task force in Cecil County or at least the documentation and acknowledgment of the matter.

A few scant records report that John Jones was murdered in Cecil County on July 27, 1872, for allegedly setting a house on fire in Warwick. Beyond this minimal knowledge, little else is known about this social injustice in the corner of the state bordering on Delaware and Pennsylvania. However, matters of this nature have not been researched in a cursory or systematic fashion. Thus this report, prepared for the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, investigates the surviving evidence and traces associated with these crimes, using customary research methods and evidentiary guidelines to develop proof-points and flush out determinations supporting evidence-based historical Interpretations.

Scope of Study and Research Design

Focusing on the period from 1850 to 1940, this investigation seeks to answer four research questions. They are:

1. Beyond the murder of John Jones at Bethel on the C & D Canal were there additional occurrences in this jurisdiction?
2. What are the interpretations suggested by an examination of the surviving trace of historical evidence related to the John Jones murder?

3. If additional incidents are identified, what interpretations and narratives are supported by the evidence? and
4. Are there recommendations for further research in Cecil County?

With this question set framing the investigation, a structured sampling methodology was utilized. This included: A) The literature review, the study of previously produced secondary works; B) An examination of manuscript collections at the Historical Society of Cecil County, original sources most likely to yield insights on extrajudicial hangings. This included diaries, letters, and non-published sources; C) The reading of digital and print newspapers found at Chronicling America, Ancestry, newspapers.com, newspaperarchive.com, and the Historical Society of Cecil County; D) an examination of tax, probate and census schedules to assess familial and residential relationships by using the decennial census of the United States, the U.S. Census Bureau Slave Schedules for 1850 and 1860, and local tax records. This also involved searching probate records, which are found at the Register of Wills Office and online at FamilySearch.org; E) and a search of the criminal justice system records for Cecil County. This included the Circuit Court, the local justice of the peace courts (or magistrates), the jail register, and the coroner's inquests and investigations. The circuit court records are found at the Clerk of the Court's Office in the courthouse in Elkton, while the Historical Society archives holds the minor court dockets.

Records repositories used were the Historical Society of Cecil County, the Clerk of the Court, and the Register of Wills. Digital content was accessed at FamilySearch, Ancestry, Newspapers.com, Google, newspaperarchive.com, and ChroniclingAmerica, and the Library of Congress.

To guide the investigation, a working definition of lynching was essential. The NAACP meeting at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1940 agreed on this definition so it will frame the study: "Lynching involves the extra-legal killing of a person by a group of at least three people acting under the pretext of service to justice or tradition."¹

Background

In the spring of 2007, Professor Sherrilyn Ifill held an open discussion on lynching's legacy on the Eastern Shore at the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Chestertown. While facilitating the

conversation on the long silence that followed these grim incidents, the Civil Rights Attorney pointed out that these terrible crimes did not bypass Kent County.

In Cecil County, local works of history were silent on this matter, seeming to indicate that Cecil County had escaped this dark chapter in the nation's past. However, as Professor Ifill, the speaker at the Kent County meeting suggested, we took a focused, but cursory look at this question in 2007 to see if the accepted interpretations stood up to a preliminary examination.²

That brief review indicated that Cecil County had at least two incidents of racial injustice. A few scant national records reported that John Jones was murdered in Cecil County on July 27, 1872 for an alleged arson in Warwick, MD. That was discovered by searching the registries on the web, which noted the occurrence. Using this new finding, the original newspapers were read and one of those brief articles mentioned that a young man named Frederick was lynched in the First District (Cecilton).

However, beyond those most minimal traces -- a few scant sentences published long ago in newspapers -- little else was known about the racial terror lynchings in the northeastern corner of Maryland. Twentieth-century researchers, local historians, and writers had not examined the subject as nothing appeared in newspapers, historical publications or files at the county's heritage organizations. After some cursory, ephemeral reporting of a column inch at best, the tragic incidents rapidly faded from the pages of local papers and memory. Nearby Delaware newspapers picked up on the 1872 crime, and city newspapers across the country reprinted those accounts, resulting in its inclusion in early national cataloging initiatives. The 1861 murder, however, received only a couple of sentences in the local press and the story did not circulate more broadly in publications outside Cecil County.

As memory of the episodes quickly faded and one generation gave way to another, the troubling violence was hastily erased from the collective history. Also, at the time there were perfunctory or no investigations, no indictments, and no legal consequences for these mob killings. Newspaper editors, too, were more than eager to move along to other matters of the day and some failed to cover the attacks.

Population

To provide some background information, the decennial census was consulted as a data point for determining population: In 1860, 23,862 people resided in Cecil County, according to the Census Bureau. Eighty-four percent (n = 19,994) were white, twelve percent (n = 2,918) were free people of color, and four percent (n = 950) were enslaved. The highest concentration of enslaved people, by far, was in the lower districts of Cecil County where the two incidents occurred. Ten years later in 1870, the population stood at 25,874. Eighty-four percent (N = 21,860) were white, and fifteen percent (N = 4,014) were people of color.

Literature Review

Almost entirely, the matter of racial terror in Cecil County had not been examined in Cecil County and there was no secondary literature related to this matter. After the matter briefly received a column inch or two in local newspapers, the mob violence was never mentioned in the source.

The Data

September 26, 1861

Newspaper Narratives -- A negro man, the property of Capt. M. C. Pearce of Elkton was hung by the citizens of Cecilton, the county's two local newspapers reported. It was alleged that he attempted to rape a young lady, the daughter of John V. Price of Cecilton. After she escaped, "the citizens of Cecilton seized the miscreant and hanged him on the nearest tree," the Cecil Whig wrote.³

The Cecil Democrat provided this version of the story in its local news column:

"News reached Elkton yesterday from Sassafras Neck "that a young negro named Frederick, belonging to Capt., M. C. Pearce of this town [Elkton] committed a rape on a young lady about fourteen years of age in Sassafras Neck, on last Thursday. He was arrested taken to Cecilton and thence taken to ⁴a tree in the vicinity of the act and hung. These are the facts as reported to us."⁵

The Elkton correspondent to the Philadelphia Inquirer added that the "residents of Cecilton upon hearing of the outrage, caught the negro and hung him to the nearest tree."⁶

Biographical -- Frederick is identified as a “young negro man,” the property of Capt. M. C. Pearce, in newspaper accounts. The 1853 Return of the Assessors for Slaves notes that the captain owned one slave, Fred. He was six years old when the assessor recorded the information, reporting that this enslaved youngster had a tax valuation of \$75.⁷ This Frederick would have been about thirteen years old at the time of the lynching. Some newspapers had reported that the victim of mob violence was about the same age as the girl.

Figure 1. Return of the Assessor. Cecil County. 1853. Slave Assessment

1853

Office of

THE RETURN OF

Of CECIL COUNTY to the County Commissioners in pursuance of the 21st Section of the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland of January

PART 2.

MALES.

NAMES OF OWNERS.	Under the age of 12 years—their names.	Ages.	Their value.	From 12 to 21 years—their names.	Ages.	Their value.	From 21 to 45 years—their names.	Ages.	Their value.	From 45 to 60 years—their names.	Ages.	Their value.
Carns John George		6	75									
Pearce Matthew (Capt) Freda		7	75									
Pearce James L.							Enos	28	4.00			

Two newspapers wrote that the young daughter of John V. Price was assaulted. The 1860 Population Schedule of the U.S. Census Bureau lists Jno. V. Price, a 40-year-old farmer as a head of household in the Cecilton District. There are two young daughters, Ann (14) and Ellen (11) in the household. The Democrat stated that the young girl was fourteen years old.⁸

Table 1. 1860 Census, Jno. V. Price, Head of Household

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation
Jno. V. Price	40	M	W	Farmer
Mary A.	47	F	W	
Geo. H.	18	M	W	

Ann E	14	F	W	
Ellen E.	11	F	W	
Wm. Ross	18	M	W	Hand

Matthew C. Pierce – A former resident of Elkton in the late 1850s and the 1860s, his obituary in the Cecil Democrat on Dec. 31, 1881, stated that the captain died on Friday morning at 2 o'clock at his residence in Wilmington. He had moved there about 1872. The captain was born in Pottsville, PA in April 1805 and his early life was sent at sea. Later he was appointed to a responsible position on the Union line of steamers from Baltimore to Philadelphia and he was captain of the "palace [Luxurious] steamer McDonald," which stopped at Frenchtown and transferred passengers to the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad. About 1826, he married Eliza Groome, a sister of Col. John C. Groome. This marriage resulted in a large family of children, three of whom were living at the time of his death. He was buried in the family lot in St. Stephen's Cemetery, where his wife and deceased children are buried.^{9,10}

Maps & Geography – Sassafras Neck is land in Cecil County lying between the Sassafras and Bohemia rivers. Cecilton, a small town, was the population center with 472 residents in 1870, but this expansive territory of prime farmland also included the villages of Earleville and Warwick.¹¹

Figure 2. Martenett's Map of Cecil County, 1858, Sassafras Neck



Price is a common family name in Sassafras Neck, and several households are identified on the Martenet's Map of Cecil County. At Earleville, a village about three miles from Cecilton, a J B. Price is listed on Martenett's Map of Cecil County and the Est. of J. Price is recorded, in the 1877 Atlas of Cecil County.

Criminal Justice System – An examination of the Circuit Court and Justice of the Peace Court dockets was made, producing no data relevant to this line of inquiry. The Circuit Court Docket is complete for this period, but it contained no pertinent information. Many local magistrate court records have survived, and there are dockets for the Cecilton court, but the volume for 1861 is missing. A check for coroner's inquest failed to produce results.

July 29, 1872

Newspaper Narrative – Near the midnight hour on Sunday, July 28, 1872, the occupied residence of Walter J. Griffith, one mile from Head of Sassafras in Kent County was set on fire and burned to the ground. The frame, three-story house was located on about 200 acres, cultivated principally as a fruit farm. The owner employed several African-American laborers and following some difficulty with John Jones on Saturday he ordered him to vacate one of the houses on the farm, which he did.¹²

On Monday three African-Americans were brought before Magistrate William Bell in Warwick on the charge of firing the dwelling. This created a great deal of excitement and the countryside gathered at Warwick. Several additional African Americans had been arrested as the search for suspects went on, but all were eventually released, except Jones, his eleven-year-old stepson (sometimes identified as George Simpson), and another companion, Robert T. Handy (some source identify this man as George Simpson).¹³ The boy appears to have been alarmed into making a confession by the threats and excitement of the crowd, the Cecil Whig stated.

At the hearing, Magistrate Bell ordered that John Jones, the boy, and Robert T. Handy committed to the Cecil County Jail for further investigation. No constables were available so James L Merritt, a young man, was deputized to take charge of the three prisoners and deliver them into the custody of the sheriff. Special Constable Merritt put the men in his carriage (two manacled; one riding free) for the 15-mile, four to five-hour journey to the county seat. Merritt started with the three prisoners from Warwick Monday evening around dusk (between 8 and 8:30 p.m.).

As they passed through the woods somewhere between Bohemia Mill and Pivot Bridge, a group of disguised men surrounded the carriage and took the prisoners. After discharging all the bullets in his pistol, Merritt “put whip to his horse and drove for Elkton with all possible speed, arriving in town about half-past ten o’clock. The sheriff was notified of what had occurred, and Merritt retired for the night “well satisfied with having reached safe quarters after his perilous adventure.” An examination of the carriage in the morning discovered two bullet holes through the top of the vehicle.

The next morning Sheriff Thomas and Deputy White arrived from Elkton, they found one of the man “strung up by a rope around his neck to the limb of a hickory tree,” about fifty yards in the woods, according to the Delawarean. No trace of the other two men was found, according to the Middletown Transcript

While the Sheriff continued his search Deputy White went to Chesapeake City to notify the authorities. Justice Chrisfield (various spelling) with a jury composed of Thomas Conrey, foreman; Joshua L. Craig, Wm. T. Reed, Franklin Boulden, Harry McVey, James G. Layman,

Josh S. Hendrickson, Joseph H. Brooks, E. H. Biddle, H. C. Biddle, Reuben Lake, and William C Lake reported to the scene to investigate and held an inquest.¹⁴

As prescribed by judicial practices of the day, the coroner's jury viewed the body and interviewed the single witness, Merritt, the only person to have any knowledge of the affair.¹⁵ He testified that he left Warwick with the prisoners between seven and eight o'clock and had passed along the road about seven miles while in going by the woods opposite Price's farm, the horse attached to his carriage was seized by a man in the road, and in an instant several men surrounded the wagon one firing a shot at him. He returned fire emptying a six-barrel revolver, but what the results were he did not know. The prisoners were taken from the wagon, the man Jones being carried to the woods. His companions started to run and Merritt, fearing for his own life, put whip to his horse and hastened on to Elkton, he told the jurors.¹⁶

It was not known what became of the other two. "The pants leg of Handy and his pocketbook were found by the Sheriff near the death spot of Jones, which would seem to indicate that he had to struggle to get away."¹⁷

Following the inquest, the body was enclosed in a coffin and buried near the spot he was hung.¹⁸

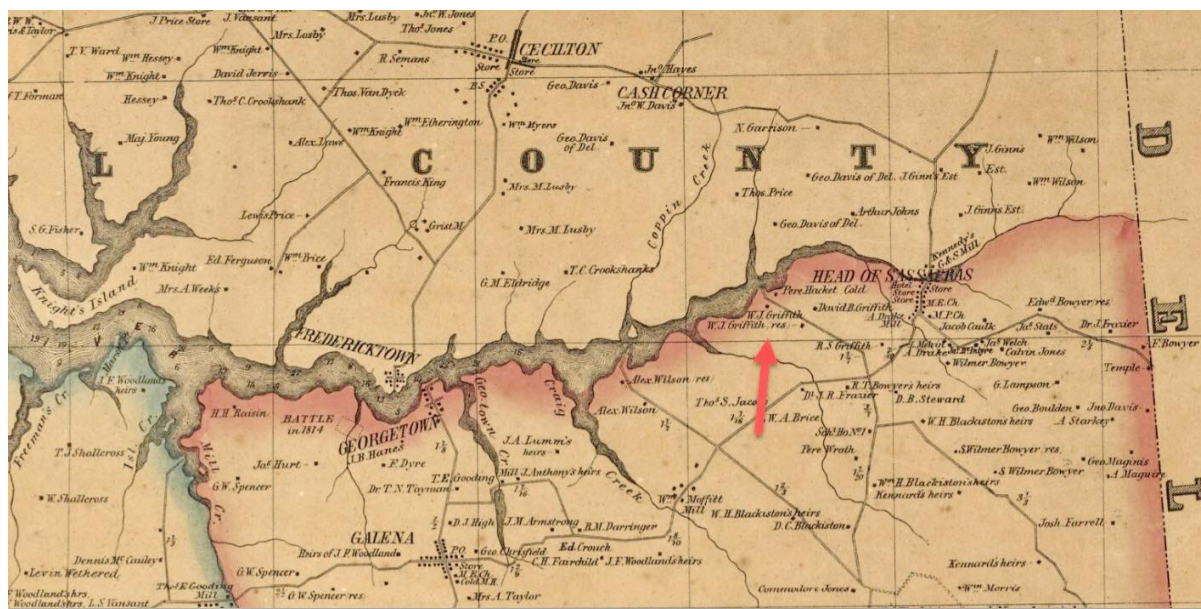
When the September term of the Circuit Court commenced its session, Judge Stump "charged it to use all possible diligence to ferret out the perpetrators of the lynching outrage which occurred a few weeks ago near Back Creek. He paid a tribute to Cecil county Juries in general and declared that nowhere could justice be more surely obtained then here. Hence there was no excuse for anyone to take the law in his own hands, and those who did so should not escape the penalties incurred by their misdeeds."¹⁹

The Helena Weekly Herald reported that Baltimore papers, both Democratic and Republican, were calling upon Governor White to take immediate steps to procure the arrest of persons engaged in "lynching the negroes in Cecil County Maryland, on Monday last." Intimation is made that the Sheriff [sic] in whose hands the negroes were when they were seized by assassins, were in collusion with them, and really knows who the guilty parties are."²⁰

Maps & Geographical Information

The Maryland Directory for 1878 notes that Sassafras, a Kent County community, is in a productive farming region and it had a population of 200 people. Several farmers reside near Sassafras, including Robert S and Walter J. Griffith.²¹

Figure 3. Simon J. Martenets Map of Kent County (1860)²²



Biographical Information

John Jones – The victim of mob violence, John Jones (aka John Johnson), was a native of Queen Anne’s County and had been tried there some years ago for larceny the Kent County newspaper reported while the Cecil Democrat remarked that “the entire party are comparative strangers about Sassafras and are believed to have migrated from Talbot County.”^{23,24} He was about 45 years of age, about 5 feet eleven inches tall, the Cecil Democrat added. At the time of the incident, Jones occupied a tenant cottage on the Griffith farm, together with his wife and 11-year-old stepson.

Walter J. Griffith – The U.S. Census Population Schedule for 1870 lists a Walter J. Griffith 23 as a farmer and head of household near Sassafras.²⁵

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation
Walter J. Griffith	23	M	W	Farmer

Annie R. Griffith	22	F	W	
Mary Crouch	47	F	W	
Richard Anderson	23	M	B	Laborer
Charles Bell	20	M	B	Laborer
Charles Brown	12	M	B	Waiter

Criminal Justice System Records – An examination of the Circuit Court and Justice of the Peace Court Records were made, producing no data relevant to this line of inquiry. The Circuit Court Docket is complete from this era, but it contained no information about this matter. Several of Magistrate Bell’s dockets have survived, but the volume for 1872 was missing in the holdings at the Historical Society of Cecil County. A check for coroner’s inquest failed to produce results, locally.

An 1872 Cecil Whig editorial called this murder “one of the most horrible outrages against law, order, and the peace of the community that ever disgraced Cecil County.” The editor also brought up the 1861 murder:

“There is a case on the docket of the court of this county now, bought to recover damages from the county by Mr. Pierce [sic] for the hanging by a mob of one of his colored slave men charged with committing rape. This outrage occurred near Cecilton some time in 185—[sic]. Mr. Pierce maintains that his colored man was innocent of the crime for which he was mobbed and hanged.”²⁶

The editor was referring to the 1861 Sassafras Neck Incident. An attempt to locate the referenced case in the chancery, equity, and criminal dockets was made, but collaborating information was not found.

DISCUSSION

A few of the newspapers editorialized about the Jones murder. One, the *Middletown Transcript* wrote this: “We do not favour lynch law, for there is punishment prescribed by law for all offenses. In some cases, however, the punishment is not severe enough and lynching is the only way by which offenders can get their just deserts. It seemed very certain that Jones was guilty of the crime of which he was charged and the punishment in Maryland, we believe is a term of one year in the penitentiary. This punishment is not sufficient for a case of this kind for it was not Jones’ fault that the four inmates of the house were not burned to death. . . . But he has now, probably, gotten his just deserts and the affair will prove a warning to other evildoers and secure the safety of life and prosperity in the community.”²⁷

The Helena Weekly Herald reported that Baltimore papers, both Democratic and Republican, were calling upon Governor White to take immediate steps to procure the arrest of persons engaged in “lynching the negroes in Cecil County Maryland, on Monday last.” The intimation is made that the Sheriff [sic] in whose hands the negroes were when they were seized by assassins, were in collusion with them, and really knows who the guilty parties are.”²⁸

The New National Era in Washington, D. C said:

The recent hanging of a colored man named John Jones in Cecil County, by a band of disguised ruffians, demands at the hands of our State Authorities the promptest and most vigorous action. The crime is simply murder and every man engaged in it deserves to suffer the penalty which the law attaches to murder. . . . It seems most singular that Mr. Merritt should start on his journey to Elkton (some nine miles distant) with three prisoners in his custody at 8 o’clock in the event. One account says that a wagon containing six white men followed closed behind Mr. Merritt’s wagon. Seven miles from Elkton a party of disguised men took possession of the prisoners, and Mr. Merritt, after firing his revolver (whether it was aimed at any one does not appear) drove rapidly away From our present information we would not be warranted in saying that there was a collusion between the party having the prisoner in custody and the men who murdered him, but certainly the circumstances were suspicious. We hope that Governor Whyte will see that this case is not disposed of by an evasive verdict of a coroner’s jury, ‘came to his death by hanging, at the hands of persons to the jury unknown,’” or by the usual palliative, ‘every good citizen deplored the melancholy occurrence.’ If Green [sic] were guilty no one would have apprehended his acquittal, because he was a negro. He would have been tried in a court that is probably able to administer impartial justice, but certainly there is nothing in the political opinions of the judges of the persons who are summoned as jurors that would be likely to create an unreasonable prejudice in favour of a negro prisoner

charged with a capital offense. We think the public sentiments in Kent County would justify the hanging of a negro proven to be guilty of arson. . . . If Jones wantonly burned Mr. Griffith's house, he would undoubtedly have suffered the extreme penalty of the law." When the State takes hold of one of its citizens, put manacles on his hands and deprives him of his power of self-défense, it puts itself under an obligation to protect him from violence, and it is bound to punish every man who assaults him. . . The lynching of a defenseless prisoner is one of the most barbarous of all crimes.²⁹

Other Incidents

This investigation found a few additional rumors about lynchings and some incidents where these murders were talked about but never occurred or were prevented by the actions of officials. For example, after Sheriff J. Myron Miller was murdered by Tony Duke (Italian) in the jail yard in Elkton, "Residents of Elkton soon became visibly enraged at the murder of the Sheriff," and throughout the afternoon men gathered around jail where Duke was locked up and talked of forming a lynching party at night. The authorities soon realized that something had to be done if a lynching was to be prevented, and he was taken to Baltimore from a side door of the jail at 5 p.m. and hurried to the station where three officers escorted him to the Baltimore City Jail.³⁰ Duke had previously resided at the Cecil County Insane Asylum at Cherry Hill.

In another instance, city papers provided an account of a "drunken lynching bee at Rowlandsville on Christmas." The Midland Journal wrote that a man named Webster "was haltered with a pair of lines taken from a set of harness and in a spirit of fun (?) suspended by the neck from the wagon bridge and left hanging until life was nearly extinct. The report created considerable commotion and accounts differ as to its authenticity, some stating there was nothing of the kind happened, while others say – Like Mark Twain on his reported death – that it was greatly exaggerated but something of the kind did actually take place."³¹ No additional evidence on the Rowlandsville incident was found.

The antebellum years, particularly the decade before the War, were a tense time for all people residing in the Maryland border counties along the Mason Dixon Line. Of note for this study is the land around the Sassafras River, an area with a strong concentration of large scale commercial farming. Since so many enslaved individuals lived here, some self-emancipating themselves in those years, the enslavers in this area established slave patrols.

During one tragic incident involving a patrol on the Sassafras River (the border between Cecil and Kent counties), some stories of lynching were circulated.

Here is one of those incidents. On June 24, 1856, George Vasant while on patrol duty with George Clayton was murdered at the Head of Sassafras. On that Monday night the watch encountered an African-American on the road and when Vasant attempted to seize him, he received a blow that nearly severed his head from his body. “The villain was not identified by either of them; several have been arrested, but as yet no clue has been had to the murder.”

A writer from Georgetown on the Kent County side of the river added this:

“Our county was last night the seat of another murder. George Vanzant who resides in Head of Sassafras village, attempted to arrest a runaway negro . . . who immediately turned on him, and with one blow of a large corn knife, severed his head from his body. He immediately expired. The negro was pursued some distance by a Mr. Clayton who being unprepared to act on the defensive, was compelled to give up the chase, and he is still at large. The citizens of Kent have suffered greatly of late on account of the exit of so many slaves and it is to be regretted that the adjoining states have men, or rather [illegible word] in them, who are so fond of negro associates and so regardless of the principles of honor, so to come into our midst and carry off the property of our citizens . . .”

Additional traces indicating that a lynching occurred have not been located, but if there was an occurrence, it could have taken place on either side of the river or in nearby Delaware, as the state line is less than a mile away.

Validity and Reliability Assessment

Work with newspapers provides interpretive challenges as often conflicting or vague information is reported. That occurred in these cases, but it involved derivative or secondary data. There is sufficient, valid and reliable evidence to conclude that there were two open, unsolved murder cases in Cecil County. These two incidents occurred and there is collateral information to provide this interpretation of the evidence. The problem comes when you move beyond the crime and try to determine supporting facts, such as the location, the time, those involved or the supporting details of the story. But while important, these are secondary to the occurrence proof-points.

CONCLUSIONS

The investigation consisting of a comprehensive review of the evidence identified two verified lynchings in Cecil County.

- On September 26, 1861, an African-American boy about 14-years-of-age belonging to Capt. Matthew Carroll Pearce was arrested near Cecilton (perhaps the Earleville area) for allegedly attempting to rape a young 14-year-old girl, the daughter of John Price. He was arrested and taken to Cecilton where one newspaper reported that the matter was investigated. He was then taken to a tree in the vicinity of the act and hung. Another narrative reports that after the young girl escaped the citizens of Cecilton seized Frederick and hanged him from the nearest tree. The location of this extrajudicial hanging is between Cecilton and Earleville, in Sassafas Neck.

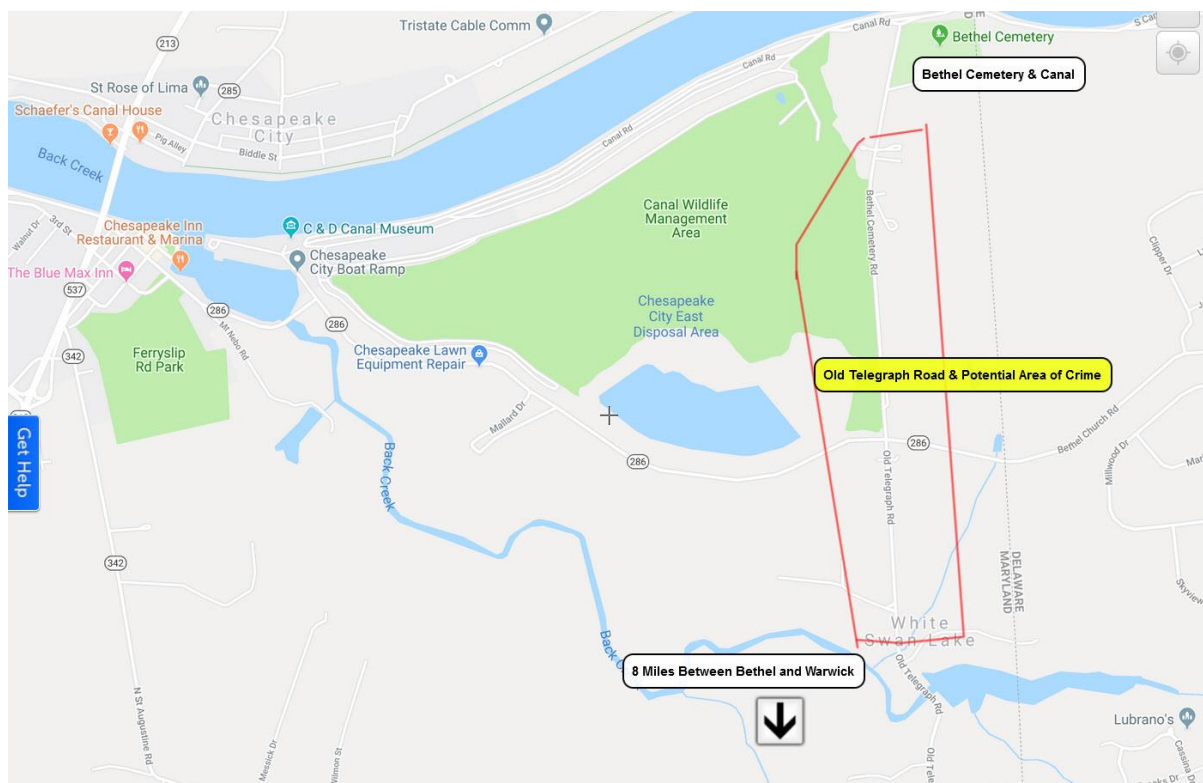
Figure 4 Scribble Map (Aug. 2019) of area of occurrence



- Around the 9 o'clock hour on the evening of July 29, 1872, John Jones was taken from the custody of a special constable and lynched, alongside the old Telegraph Road a short distance south of the community of Pivot Bridge on the C & D Canal. When the Cecil County Sheriff and Deputy arrived early the next morning, Jones was found swinging from a small hickory tree near the fruit farm of John Price. The coroner's

jury rendered a verdict of “death by hanging at the hands of persons unknown to the jury.” This remains an unsolved murder case. The location of the 1872 murder is on the old telegraph road not too far south of the present-day Bethel Cemetery along the C & D Canal. At the time of the incident there was a small village there known as Pivot Bridge. One paper, the Middletown Transcript, wrote that the occurrence took place one-half mile below Pivot Bridge.³²

Figure 5. Scribble Map (Aug. 2019) of Area of Occurrence



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

To strengthen the response to the questions in this investigation, additional fieldwork and archival research should be done:

- *Criminal Justice System Records* -- Additional work should be done to locate dockets of the magistrates in Warwick and Cecilton, as well as the civil or criminal files related to the suit brought by Captain Pearce. The holdings at the Maryland Archives were not studied so many of the records have been retained in Cecil County, some of these criminal justice system records may be found there. In addition, a more extensive search for the coroner, the coroner's jury and the inquest should be

undertaken at the archives. The records at the Cecil County Courthouse and the Historical Society of Cecil County were examined without producing positive findings.

- *Land Records* -- The land records of Cecil County should be researched to more precisely pinpoint the location of the murders. The examination of those records was not undertaken in this limited study.
- *Newspapers* – Additional research with digitized and print newspapers should be done related to the rumors of lynchings to be able to more positively conclude that there were not occurrences related to these or other incidents.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Improving Lynching Inventories with Local Newspapers: Racial Terror in Virginia, 1877-1927
De Fazio- Gianluca - <http://crdh.rrchnm.org/essays/v02-04-improving-lynching-inventories/#fn:6>
- ² Dixon, Mike. "Cecil County Lynchings - A Dark Chapter in the Past." Window on Cecil County's Past. 2007. Accessed August 05, 2019. <http://cecilcountyhistory.com/cecil-county-lynchings/>.
- ³ "Attempt by a Negro to Commit a Rape on a White Girl." Cecil Whig. September 28, 1861.
- ⁴ Cecil County Assessment Books. Slave Register. (1858-1861)
- ⁵ "Rape." Cecil Democrat, (Elkton), September 28, 1861
- ⁶ "Lynch Law at Cecilton - Hanging of a Negro." Philadelphia Inquirer, September 30, 1861.
- ⁷ Return of the Assessors. Cecil County. Slave Schedule. 1858
- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 1860 Decennial Schedule
- ⁹ "Death of Captain Pearce." Cecil Democrat (Elkton), December 31, 1881, VOL XL. NO. 50 ed.
- ¹⁰ Find A Grave database, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117233457/matthew-carroll-pearce>) for Matthew Carroll Pearce, Saint Stephens Episcopa Cemetery, Earleville MD.
- ¹¹ Scott, Joseph. A Geographical Description of the States of Maryland and Delaware. Philadelphia, PA: Kimber, Conrad, and Co. , 1807.
- ¹² The Recent Lynching in Cecil County." Baltimore Sun, August 3, 1872.
- ¹³ "Arson and Lynch Law." Cecil Democrat, August 3, 1872
- ¹⁴ "Arson and Lynch Law." Cecil Democrat, August 3, 1872
- ¹⁵ "Fire - A Case Lynching." Kent County News (Chestertown), August 3, 1872.
- ¹⁶ "The Recent Lynching in Cecil County." Baltimore Sun, August 3, 1872.
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