

TWO NEGROES LYNCHED FOR SMITH MURDER

Another in Jail and Fourth, Who Fired Shot, Surround- ed in Swamp

VALDOSTA, Ga., May 13.—Will Head, the negro who stole the rifle with which Sidney Johnson shot Hampton Smith and his wife, in Brooks county Thursday night, was swung to a limb at the forks of the road at Troupeville last night by citizens of Brooks county.

Will Thomson, another negro, implicated in the shooting of the Smiths, was strung up to a limb at Camp Ground church, in the neighborhood where the crime was committed. Another negro, Hays Turner, said to have been in the plot to kill the Smiths, is in jail at Quitman.

Sidney Johnson, whose family resided near here, is said to be surrounded in Knight's swamp east of this city, by a posse of two hundred men, with the sheriffs of three counties, Lowndes, Brooks and Berrien, on the scene with track dogs. Johnson came from the swamp last night, supposedly to surrender, but when he saw the crowd of men he ran back. He was fired upon several times. The swamp is so dense with undergrowth and brambles that it is impossible to make headway in it.

The negro, Will Head, who was lynched near Troupeville, confessed the part he took in it, his confession bearing out statements made by Mrs. Smith as to who did the shooting, and also as to Head's getting his supper early that night under pretext of wanting to go off on a visit which was really a part of his scheme to steal the rifle from the house.

Mrs. Smith's condition was better this morning.

The ring-leader, Johnson, was a negro who had been paid out of the chain-gang two weeks ago by Mr. Smith. The evident object of the negroes was to rob the place.

When Mrs. Smith was jerked from the porch after Mr. Smith was shot dead in his room, she was shot through the shoulder and left for dead. While the negroes were robbing the house, turning up drawers and trunks in search of money, she crawled off through the bushes and briars in the rear of the house and down a deep gulley to a small branch, where she used her apron in staunching the flow of blood. She hid behind a log for two hours while the four negroes were looking for her. She finally crawled over a wire fence and ran through the fields for half a mile to the home of an old negro family to whom she told of the tragedy. These negroes spread the alarm among the white neighbors.