

= Avenged ( 1910 film ) =

Avenged is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film is a melodrama focusing on John Warren , a young clerk , who is struck by a taxi cab while crossing the street . The chauffeur who struck him , Allen , decides to flee as a crowd gathers around John . Allen ditches his taxi on a country road and takes a train , successfully escaping . Six years later , the poor , ill and crippled John has become a timekeeper in a mining town . John 's wife , who has taken care of him , sickens and dies . Allen , unaware of John 's identity , attempts to comfort him and listens to John 's story . After learning Allen wrecked his life , John attempts to shoot him , but the specter of his wife stays his hand . John goes to her grave , forgives Allen , and dies . No cast or production credits are known for this film . Released on October 7 , 1910 , the film was a distinct departure from other Thanhouser releases and was sharply criticized by reviewers . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from October 8 , 1910 . It states : " John Warren , a prosperous young clerk , is run down by a taxi cab while crossing a city street . The chauffeur , Allen , afraid of the consequences of his carelessness , makes his escape when he sees a crowd gathering around his victim . He abandons his machine on a lonely country road , and catching a westbound train , succeeds in making good his escape . Six years later finds John , now a cripple , living in a mining town with his devoted wife . Here John , incapacitated from other work , lives out a miserable existence as the timekeeper at the mine . Here , also , Allen comes , applying for work as a miner . They do not recognize each other . John , poor and ill , is visited by another misfortune . His beloved wife , who has clung to him through all the years of his adversity , sickens and dies . His one joy in life is taken from him . John refuses to be comforted by Allen , who feels deep sympathy for the poor cripple . While reciting his sad history to Allen , John learns for the first time that Allen is the man who , by crippling him , wrecked his life . At last the vengeance he has sought all these years is within his reach . He raises his gun to end Allen 's existence , when a vision of his wife appears , breathing the message , ' Vengeance is Mine , sayeth the Lord . ' John rushes from the house to the grave of his loved one , and there , after forgiving Allen , dies at peace with mankind . "

= = Production = =

The writer of the scenario is unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . The film director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil . Film historian Q. David Bowers does not attribute a cameraman for this production , but at least two possible candidates exist . Blair Smith was the first cameraman of the Thanhouser company , but he was soon joined by Carl Louis Gregory who had years of experience as a still and motion picture photographer . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . The cast credits are unknown , but many 1910 Thanhouser productions are fragmentary . In late 1910 , the Thanhouser company released a list of the important personalities in their films . The list includes G.W. Abbe , Justus D. Barnes , Frank H. Crane , Irene Crane , Marie Eline , Violet Heming , Martin J. Faust , Thomas Fortune , George Middleton , Grace Moore , John W. Noble , Anna Rosemond , Mrs. George Walters . In one scene , the appearance of the wife was described as being facilitated by " trick printing " , and was possibly created by a double exposure . Bowers notes that the sister was listed as the wife in the official synopsis , but it is unlikely that such a distinction in cast roles was ever made in the inter @-@ titles due to the confusion . Bowers stated that names were used in to keep track of who was who , but patrons were unaware of the characters ' names .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on October 7 , 1910 . The film likely had a wide national release , with advertising theaters known in Kansas , Maryland , Illinois , Oklahoma , and Minnesota .

The film received negative reviews in trade publications and it was deemed a distinct departure from the nature of other Thanhouser releases . The film 's plot was criticized by reviewers for being concerned main character 's misery . In response to the illogical plot , the The New York Dramatic Mirror reviewer stated , " Why the cripple should go West as soon as he is able to hobble isn 't clear ; perhaps the West is such a delightfully vague term that it induces haziness of reasoning . " The reviewer also noted the inexplicable reason why Allen , who originally fled , would suddenly consent to be willingly murdered by John . The reviewer opined that the story was almost maudlin in places and the acting was not sincere because the actors knew the plot was absurd . The Moving Picture World also reviewed the film quite negatively , " Possibly the dramatic qualities of this picture are sufficient reason for its existence ; but it has no other reason . It is not entertaining . It is not instructive . It cannot amuse . The shadow of death pervades it and the horror tragedy is the principal factor . It is such a departure from the usual Thanhouser that it seems as though the regular producer was absent when it flipped past the company 's censor . " Advertisers for the film listed it in a variety of ways from a strong drama to having real mining activities . The film is presumed lost .