

Vigilantes got involved in Norman case

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ago between Hezekiah Norman and myself; was an action begun against Hezekiah Norman and I was to be a witness . . . ”

Though the 12 men who dropped by unexpectedly at William Norman's house under cover of dark-

ness were “partly masked,” the plaintiff testified that he recognized their voices. Their mission was intimidation, and they certainly meant business. Said Norman, “I asked them to take off the handkerchief (from his eyes) but they told me that they would kill me if I looked. I was notified by (Marquis) Reed and (John) Carson not to appear in court against Hez Nor-

man.”

The plaintiff's account of the incident was followed by those of his family — wife and children, one of whom had run to a neighbor for help on the night of the alleged attack. With slight variations, all told accounts that sounded as if they had been carefully rehearsed in an attorney's office.

Next week: The case continues.