

WOUNDED DEPUTY TELLS OF FRAY

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BULLETS FLEW THICK

June 15, 1915

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"Have had conversation with Mayor Robinson of Winnsboro and he reports that situation is under control. Do not think that you could give further assistance by your presence here. Condition of wounded unchanged."

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Fairfield Sheriff Tells Physician He Expects Death, Deputy's Condition is Serious

"I expect I'll die, but I did my duty," Sheriff Hood of Fairfield remarked, in the hearing of J. C. Buchanan, M. D., as he was being lifted into a special train yesterday to be brought to Columbia for surgical attention, after having been shot in several places in defending a Negro prisoner against a mob.

On the trip to Columbia the wounded sheriff was in a comatose condition most of the time. He was accompanied by Dr. Buchanan and by J. E. Douglas, M. D. as well as by Mrs. Hood.

Examination at the hospital indicated that Sheriff Hood had been hit by three shots, producing four wounds, three of them in the abdomen, causing 15 perforations. The intestines were resected in two places, other perforations were sewed up and wounds in other parts of the body were dressed. Early last evening his condition was described at the hospital as "critical."

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MINI SHARP EMAIL SAVE PRINT

New evidence collected in 1946 lynching case

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Officials said they collected items from property in Walton County, Georgia
- In 1946, a white mob beat and repeatedly shot four black sharecroppers
- One victim, Dorothy Malcom, had her unborn baby cut from her womb
- Case was last documented mass lynching in the United States

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INTERACTIVE

By Doug Gross
CNN

TEXT SIZE

ATLANTA, Georgia (CNN) – State and federal investigators said Tuesday that they spent the past two days gathering evidence in the last documented mass lynching in the United States: a grisly slaying of four people that has remained unsolved for more than six decades.



Relatives of the Malcoms and Dorseys stand at their loved ones' fresh graves in this 1946 photo.

In a written statement, the FBI and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said they collected several items on a property in rural Walton County, Georgia, that were taken in for further investigation.

On July 25, 1946, two black sharecropper couples were shot hundreds of times and the unborn baby of one of the women cut out with a knife at the Moore's Ford Bridge. One of the men had been accused of stabbing a white man 11 days earlier and was bailed out of jail by a former Ku Klux Klan member and known bootlegger who drove him, his wife, her brother and his wife to the bridge.

The FBI statement said investigators were following up on information recently received in the case, one of several the agency has revived in an effort to close decades-old cases from the civil rights era and before.

"The FBI and GBI had gotten some information that we couldn't ignore with respect to this case," GBI spokesman John Bankhead said.

Georgia state Rep. Tyrone Brooks, a longtime advocate for prosecution in the Moore's Ford case, called news of the search encouraging.

"We just hope and pray they can bring some of these suspects to the bar of justice before they die, because they're all getting up in age," said Brooks, the president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials.

Investigations like the one into the Georgia slayings may have gotten another boost in the past week. A U.S. senator agreed to unlock a bill that would create a "cold case unit" at the U.S. Justice Department.

Cold-case Convictions

- 1977: Ex-Klansman Robert Chambliss convicted of 1963 church bombing that killed four black girls in Birmingham, Alabama
- 1994: Byron de la Beckwith convicted in 1963 sniper murder of Mississippi civil rights activist Medgar Evers
- 1998: Former Klan leader Samuel Bowers convicted in the death of NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer Sr., killed in 1966 firebombing of his Mississippi home
- 2001, 2002: Thomas Blanton Jr. then Bobby Frank Cherry convicted of involvement in 1963 Birmingham church bombing
- 2003: Earnest Avants convicted in 1966 slaying of handyman Ben Chester White, purportedly to lure the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Natchez, Mississippi
- 2005: Edgar Ray Killen sentenced to 60 years in prison for the 1964 "Mississippi Burning" manslaughter of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi
- 2007: Former sheriff's deputy and Klansman James Ford Seale convicted in the 1954 deaths of two Mississippi teenagers

The legislation is sponsored by Democratic U.S. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia and passed 422-2 in the House. But Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Oklahoma, used an obscure Senate rule to freeze the bill, just as he routinely does on efforts that require government spending.

The plan would authorize \$10 million a year for the next 10 years for the Justice Department to create a unit prosecuting pre-1970 civil rights cases. Another \$3.5 million would go annually toward the department's cooperative efforts with local law enforcement.

But last week, a spokesman said Coburn would lift the hold in exchange for a vote on cutting Justice Department spending in other areas.

Law enforcement officials say they face a daunting task prosecuting the deaths of Roger and Dorothy Malcom and George and May Murray-Dorsey.

Many of the dozen or so men who opened fire on the couples with shotguns, rifles and a machine gun are now dead, they say. And in the days following the massacre, residents of the community about 40 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia, were tight-lipped with federal agents sent by President Truman to investigate.

But advocates like Brooks say they think there was enough evidence in FBI files at the time to bring a case against the suspects. He said his group has identified five suspects in the slayings who are still alive.

Morgan County chief sheriff's Deputy Bruce Wright said the 12-acre area searched Monday and Tuesday may have once been a working farm. The written statement said the current residents of the area are not suspects.

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-- Sources: CNN, The Associated Press

Bankhead and Wright said a bomb squad was called in to detonate some old military-style ordnance found on the property, but those explosives were not thought to be relevant to the Moore's Ford case.

The lynchings were officially re-opened for investigation by former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes nearly eight years ago and were on a list of revived cold cases cited by former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales early last year.

Brooks said he and other advocates have noticed renewed activity by investigators in the area since then.

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"We can feel their presence when we're there," he said. "Every time we do something, people show up that we've never seen before, and we know they're not regular folks who live in Walton County. We don't get in their way, and we don't ask many questions."

Historians say there has never again been a documented case of as many people being lynched -- killed by mob without due process -- in one attack in the United States since Moore's Ford.

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CNN's Elliott C. McLaughlin contributed to this report.

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July 200 - go to - Leavenworth Ind. -
left toward White Oak - 1st dirt
to left (has a closed road sign) old
church site on left - buried across
fence line beside church, but not
church cemetery (old Methodist Church)

Sheriff Young, Keith
This is where Jules Smith
is buried as per W T Barefoot.

10/4/02

635-3034

Jules Smith had ravished Clyde Isenbower's wife and Clyde was to avenge his wife. Isenbown and Sheriff Wood were kin and the story says Sheriff Wood was suppose to turn Jules Smith over to Clyde Isenbower and his vigilantes. Preacher Isenbower, Clyde's brother, had all the guns his brother used in the shoot-out and when Rev. Isenbower died at 94 years of age, someone stole all the weapons.

Supplement to story

Isenbower Nephew in:

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Jacksonville, Fla.

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PS
W.T. & Rev. Isenbower
were close friends!