Posses Chase Frank Mob: Prisoner Rushed From Slate Farm In An Automobile

IN HANDS OF MOB

Prisoner Rushed From State Farm
In An Automobile

Mob of Twenty-Five Men Invades Dormitory, Overpowers the Warden, and Takes Charge of prisoner. "Will Place Frank's Body on the Grave of Mary Phagan in Marietta" Declared Member of Mob. Frank Made Desperate Resistance.

At 6 o'clock this morning posse of state officers and citizens from Baldwin and a number of other counties were still vainly seeking the mob which shortly before midnight last night abducted Leo M. Frank from the state prison farm, at Milledgeville, where, he has been confined since his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

One posse from Milledgeville is headed by Captain J. H. Emms, member of the legislature. He was one of the first to learn of the action of the mob at the state prison farm. Officials in practically every county in the state have been notified to be on the lookout, and the governor has announced that he will extend the Baldwin county authorities every aid in his power.

Milledgeville, Ga., August 16—A mob variously estimated at between twenty-five and seventy-five in number, overpowered warden, superintendent and guards at the Georgia state prison farm, near here, at 11 o'clock tonight and quickly got Leo M. Frank and rushed him away in an automobile.

First reports that it might be friends of Frank were dispelled when a prisoner said he had heard a member of the mob say that Frank's body would be placed in the tomb tomorrow on the grave of Mary Phagan, at Marietta. Frank was serving a life term for the murder of the girl.

The mob was orderly, but worked with quick precision. Eight automobiles took the men to within a short distance of the prison. First all wires from the prison, and all except one from Milledgeville, were cut.

Five men went to the house of J. T. Smith, warden, covered him with pistols and stood guard over him. Other men went to the house of J. M. Burke, superintendent of the prison, and held him under cover of their guns.

Practically every other member of the mob then rushed to the stockade gate nearest the dormitory where Frank was being housed. Only yesterday the physicians discharged him from the hospital, where he had been since being maimed and assaulted in the dormitory by William Crook.

Gov. Dockery's telegram.

GOVERNOR DOKERY.

When notified by The Constitution early this morning of the affair, Governor Motors declined. "I am both excited and agitated, and I am glad that a great wrong has been done. That man will surely be hanged." Governor Motors also expressed the assurance that he would protect every officer in the official power to apprehend the prisoner. He asked the governor's assurance that he would use every effort to locate the body of Mary Phagan and have it removed to the grave of Mary Phagan and that the governor would act to protect the body from the mob.}

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Rainey were at the farm and had re-
tired to their rooms just before the
mob came. They did not leave the
room until the crowd had captured
Frank and had left the farm. They
will leave for Macon this morning
for Atlanta. Mrs. Leo Frank was also
in Milledgeville last night.

PLANNED
WORK WELL.

Macon, Ga., August 15.—A long di-
tance telephone message from Mil-
ledgeville via Augusta confirmed the
rumor that a party of 25 men in auto-
mobiles had taken Leo M. Frank from
the state farm there at 11:45 p.m. and
had left with him in the direction of
Eatonon. A message from Eatonon
stated the automobiles had not passed
through that city at 1 o'clock this
morning.

When the mob first reached the state
farm they separated into three groups.
One went back to the home of Captain
Burke, the farm superintendent, and
after calling him from the house they
covered him with guns and shot off his
handcuffs on him. This group took Captain Burke to the
prison farm dormitory and forced him
to open the door.

Another group secured and hand-
cuffed Warden Smith in the same man-
ner as the other had done Captain
Burke. Two guards sleeping on the
porch were overpowered and handcuffed also.

Warden Smith, and Captain Burke
both declared they failed to recognize
any body that had taken them off the
farm, but one of the convicts overheard a re-
mark dropped by one member of the
mob that they intended to take Frank
to Marietta.

When the party reached the farm they
overpowered Warden Smith and the
guards who have been sleeping on
the front porch of the prison dormi-
ory since Frank has been confined there.
All of them, including the war-
den, were handcuffed, and with the loss
of little time, Frank was secured and
loaded onto automobiles while the cars
then hurried away at full speed in the
direction of Eatonon.

SATTERFIELD
NOTIFIED.

J. H. Satterfield, bookkeeper at the
farm, was awakened by some of the
convicts after the men had left with
Frank. As soon as he learned what
had happened he hastened to Mil-
ledgeville and notified Representative
Satterfield.

The mob apparently planned their
work well, for they carried it through
without a hitch. Between Milledge-
ville and the State Farm and between
the Milledgeville and Macon, they cut the
telephone wires and it was fully an
hour or more after they had secured
Frank that a message was sent over the
wire by the warden.

As far as could be learned at an
early hour this morning, none of the
escaped convicts were found. Some
of them are said to have worn
masks and all were heavily armed.

Not a shot was fired and no one
was injured as far as known.

ALL QUIET
IN MARIETTA.

Marietta, Ga., August 17.—If any
residents of this town were in the mob
they were not discovered at the prison farm last night, or if it
was intended to bring him to Marietta, it
was not generally known here at 9:15 o'clock this morning. Nothing has
occurred at that hour to disturb the
usual calm of the town.

Leo M. Frank was found guilty of the
murder of Mary Phagan on August 25,
1913. He was the superintendent of
the National Peneli company in At-
lanlta, in the basement of which the
murder was found. Parrot, the prison
watchman on the morning of April 27,
previous.

Repeated attempts were made in the
state court to obtain a new trial for
Frank, but without avail. Attempts to
obtain a writ of habeas corpus in the
federal district court at Atlanta, and
finally in the supreme court of the
United States were futile.

On the night of June 31, this year,
two days before the date set for the
trial, Frank was rescued from the
county jail in Atlanta and rushed to the state prison farm upon
orders from Governor Slaton, now re-
membered, who announced that he had granted the peti-
tion made in Frank's behalf asking that
his death sentence be commuted to
life imprisonment.

The taking of Leo M. Frank from
the prison last night was the culmination of many threats of mob
violence against his life.

But one attack, however, had pre-
viously actually been made upon Frank.
This was about a month ago, when,
William H. McPherson, a Negro from
Frank's town, composed a letter to
the governor and the prison com-
misions. In a few weeks, however, an
investigation at the state prison and,
upon the confession of Creen, who as-
sumed all responsibility for the act, ex-
garanteed by the release of all pris-
on officials from re-
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