
BRUTAL BLACK HANGED

Joseph Craddock, Who Killed Three Negroes, Lynched by a Mob

SHREVEPORT, La., Nov. 3.—Joseph Craddock, a negro, was strung up by an infuriated mob, composed chiefly of blacks at Taylorstown in Bossier Parish, about seventeen miles from Shreveport Sunday night. Craddock's crime was a particularly atrocious one. He secured an ax and approaching the home of

Wesley Chambers, a negro cotton picker, called him into the open, saying that he had something to tell him. Wesley responded and Craddock whispered something in his ear. As the negro turned to go home, Craddock cleft his head in two with the ax. When Chambers fell on the ground Craddock frightfully mutilated the body with his weapon, seeming to take a fiendish delight in bringing the blood.

He then walked across the open ground surrounding the Chambers cabin and observing Dan Washington, a negro, crept upon him and struck him on the head with the sharp edge of the ax. Not satisfied with this crime, Craddock went to the door of the Chambers cabin and called Mercer, the brother of Wesley Chambers. Suspecting nothing, Chambers came to the door, and was immediately beaten down with the ax and frightfully injured. Wesley Chambers died almost instantly, Mercer Chambers yesterday afternoon, and Dan Washington cannot possibly live.

After committing the triple killing Craddock walked to Taylortown and mingled with the negroes there, subsequently joining in a game of craps. He was perfectly unconcerned when captured and admitted the killing of the three men, saying he did it just for fun, and expected to have more fun in hell.

Craddock was captured by a small posse of white men, but a crowd of between 250 and 300, composed largely of negroes, swooped down upon the posse and took possession of him. He was at once hanged to a tree and buried beneath it after being pronounced dead.

The men killed were inoffensive negroes.