

BLOODY LYNCHING FIGHT

CONFLICT BETWEEN A SHERIFF'S POSSE AND MOB.

**CALVIN SNIPES, A NORTH CAROLINA
MURDERER, LYNCHED — ELEVEN
DEPUTY SHERIFFS AND ELEVEN
MEMBERS OF THE MOB KILLED—
MANY WOUNDED.**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 4.—“Twenty-two killed and as many more injured,” is the story that a messenger from Bakersville, N. C., brought to Johnson City about noon to-day.

A story that surpasses anything in the annals of North Carolina history is the lynching of Calvin Snipes and the result in dead and wounded men.

Eleven deputies fell dead in their tracks in a resolute effort to guard the jail, and eleven of the attacking party were also killed in their desire to get the murderer and save Mitchell County the expenses of a legal hanging.

Bakersville is the county seat of Baker County, one of the wildest districts in all this country. It is there that the illicit distiller of mountain dew has plied his vocation for years.

KILLED.

Those of the Sheriff's posse killed are as follows:

J. N. WILLIAMS.
D. F. RICHIE.
R. N. JONES.
P. B. SAMS.
R. E. JOHNSON.
WILLIAM REED.
T. N. BECKNER.
J. W. LAWS.
N. R. PANNELL.
G. N. HALLIFIELD.
TOM HALL.

The names of those of the mob killed are:

JOHN WORK.
WILLIAM OSBORNE.
T. G. BAILIFF.
WILL PERRY.
JOHN OSBORNE.
PHILIP CROWDER.
JIM NANCE.
WILL BUTLER.
HAGEY BYRD.
OWEN THOMAS.
JACK PHILLIPS.

The names of the others are not yet known.

Snipes was awaiting trial for the murder of Isaac Osborne, but, as the law has been administered too loosely, nobody believed he would be convicted. For fully two months plans for lynching him have been under way. Petitions were openly circulated by the dead man's brother to get men to help in the work.

Over 500 men signed the paper and held themselves in readiness to move to Bakersville at any moment. The Sheriff heard of the contemplated assault and Monday night placed thirty guards around the jail. The mob made an attack that night, but was unsuccessful, being put to flight by the Sheriff and posse.

The mob was reorganized yesterday, and about midnight last night between 300 and 500 men, armed with rifles and pistols, assembled on the outskirts of Bakersville.

Two brothers of the murdered man were ring-leaders, and the mob was composed of what are termed “good citizen.” They moved on the jail in a body. As they neared it, knowing how well it was guarded, they began firing promiscuously.

The Sheriff and posse returned the fire. Eleven deputies had fallen before the jail was taken. The prisoner, after being secured, was hanged to a tree and his body riddled with bullets.

In the mob eleven had been killed by bullets from the rifles of the deputies, both the Osbornes dying before the act they so much wished to see had been done.

When the mob first started out it was the intention to execute summary justice upon two other murderers, Tom and William Whitson, who several years ago murdered in a most brutal manner Kit Byrd, but were only caught and tried recently, and were sentenced to be hanged on Jan. 17.

The battle was so fierce, however, that the mob had enough of blood by the time they had secured Snipes, and the two brothers were overlooked.

A late report states that the fighting was still going on to-night, but this cannot be confirmed. It is said that of the score or more wounded, whose names cannot be learned to-night, at least eight or ten will die. But they are scattered at their homes for miles around.

The facts which led up to the terrible affray are as follows:

Aaron Wiseman and Calvin Snipes were partners in an illicit distillery in Mitchell County, N. C., and had told William Osborne and Isaac Osborne, two brothers, where the distillery was situated. William Osborne reported the distillery to the officials at Bakersville, N. C., and helped them to destroy it. Wiseman and Snipes suspected Isaac Osborne as the reporter.

On the night of Aug. 27, 1892, Snipes and Wiseman, armed with rifles, went to the house of Isaac Osborne and called him up. Mr. Osborne came to the door and the two men opened fire, almost riddling him with bullets.

Wiseman and Snipes were arrested, but sufficient evidence could not be obtained against Wiseman and he was released. Snipes was bound over to the Superior Court on purely circumstantial evidence. He was placed in jail and after being confined about two weeks, confessed to the killing in the manner related.

The whole country is going wild over the war between law and order, and recruits are arriving hourly from the adjoining cities for both sides.

Bakersville is a mining town. It grew like the wild when the mines were first discovered in that vicinity, and the population is composed largely of a rough element.

Twenty-eight miles from a telegraph station, it is hard to track a desperado, and immunity from punishment has made criminals bold and defiant.