

Black Women Lynched, Too: The actual number is unknown. The small number of cases recorded suggests a larger number of cases unrecorded. Minimal scholarship has been conducted. Many of the women were raped and/or sexually abused prior to being hung. Some were pregnant. The names and anecdotes of the few black women herein represent, respect, and serve to remember all women lynched in America.

Celia, a black slave woman (girl) purchased at fourteen, was immediately and repeatedly, raped by her white owner. Pregnant for the third time by him and quite ill, Celia fought off his last rape attempt by hitting him with a piece of wood that killed him instantly. Her case was tried in court where it was decreed Celia had no sexual rights over her own body as her body was owned by her owner. Thus, the sexual demands of her owner were within the law and Celia was found guilty of murder and hung. – Missouri, December 21, 1855.

Betsy McCray, a black woman and her daughter Ida, along with her son Belfield, were held at the jail in Carrollton, Mississippi pending murder investigations. Investigators concluded Betsy and her son participated in planning, but with their alibis, they did not commit the murder. Despite this, a mob of about five hundred white citizens of Carroll County took them from the jail, bound their hands and carried the two women and man outside the town, hanged them to a tree, and fired hundreds of shots into their hanging bodies. - Salt Lake Herald, September 30, 1885.

Grace Blanton, a black woman was lynched with Richard Goodwin, also black, both accused of robbing a local store. It is not stated that they were confirmed criminals. They simply robbed a store and were hanged. Their cases had not progressed through the legal system. Still, without a legal conviction or a history of causing problems in the community, this Louisiana community held that the lynching was warranted. - Floyd, West Carroll, Louisiana, May 5, 1887.

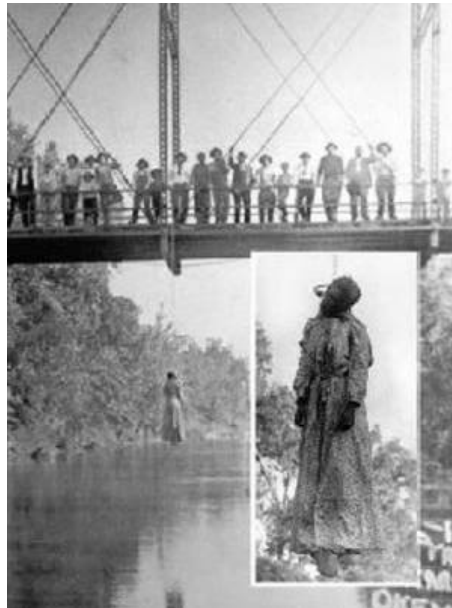
A fourteen year-old black girl, daughter of John Hastings, was lynched for a murder it was known she did not commit. Despite having no connection to the murder of Zip Norment, a white man of Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, a murder for which her father was accused, she and her sixteen year-old brother were hanged in Louisiana while their father was held in custody in Mississippi. Lynching based on relationships was not uncommon, but victims were generally physically near the accused criminal at the time of their lynching. In this case, Hastings was sitting in a jail in Mississippi when a mob went to the Hastings' home in Louisiana and lynched his son and daughter who were not implicated in the murder of Norment. - Natchez, Mississippi, October 29, 1892.

Lou Stevens, a Negro woman, was hanged from a railway bridge. She was charged with being accessory to the murder of her white paramour, who had shamefully abused her. - Hollandale, Mississippi, 1892.

Ballie Crutchfield, a black woman, was suspected of theft, as suggested in two varying

accounts. One implicated her in the “suspected” purse theft of her brother and that she was shot to death and thrown into a creek. The other account claimed Ballie found a lost purse that contained \$120 and did not return it and that she was lynched by a mob of whites who took her from her cabin. A coroner’s jury investigated the cause of death and returned the verdict that she came to her death at the hands of parties unknown.- Rome, Smith County, TN March 16, 1901.

Mrs. Wallace, a black woman, details unknown, was lynched with David Wallace (husband), Wallace (child), Wallace (child) (blacks). - Hickory Grove, Simpson County, Kentucky, October 4, 1908.



Laura Nelson, a black woman, was accused of murdering a white deputy sheriff who discovered stolen goods in her house. She and her son, about age fifteen, were taken from jail, dragged some six miles to the Canadian River and hanged from a bridge. It is noted that Laura was raped by members of the white mob before she was lynched. - *The Crisis*, Okemah, Oklahoma, July, 1911.

Bertha Hathaway, a young black girl of twenty, was a tenant on the Norman Hadley farm in Georgia. Hadley was a well to do white, unmarried farmer and nephew of the white sheriff. Blacks were leaving the south in record numbers and white farmers were having difficulty finding laborers. It was said that a Henry Anderson wanted to marry Bertha and perhaps take her away. Hadley, however, was infatuated with Bertha. He disregarded warnings to stay away from her and reportedly on Sunday afternoon, January 21, he went to Bertha’s house to get her to come out and meet with him. He was shot from an ambush. Bertha was arrested with three black suspects, charged with Hadley’s murder and jailed. According to the account noted here, Bertha was innocent. Still, two nights later, on the 23rd of January, an estimated mob of 100 white men broke into the jail and lynched Bertha and the three men. Their bodies were riddled with an estimated 300 bullets. - Hamilton, Georgia, January 23, 1912.

Marie Scott, a seventeen-year old black girl was home alone when two white men broke in and assaulted her. Her screams attracted her brother to her rescue who fought off the attackers. In so doing, one of the white men was killed. The next day a white mob came to lynch her brother but found he had escaped. They lynched Marie. - Oklahoma, *The Crisis*, June, 1914.

Stella Young (Long) and her friend Mary Dennis, both black women, were lynched after Boise Long, a black man charged with stealing hogs, was about to be arrested at the home he and the two women shared. Boise shot and killed the arresting constable then escaped. The next day a mob of some 200 took five prisoners, including the two women, about a mile out of town and hanged them all from one oak tree while Boise remained at large. Mary Dennis was a mother of two children and pregnant; Stella Young had four children. None of the white lynch mob was ever indicted. - Newberry, Florida, August 19, 1916.

Mary Turner, a black woman, was lynched for loudly asserting her husband's innocence and protesting as he was being lynched. Mary and Hayes Turner were former black tenants of the Hampton Smith farm. Smith brutally whipped Mary because of her refusal to work longer without pay and Hayes went to the house to confront Smith. Both men were armed and fighting occurred, but neither was killed. Smith had a reputation for abusing his workers. Another worker, Sidney Johnson, also black, after having been beaten and abused, did shoot and kill Smith in his house, wounded his wife, and fled. Though a hunt for Johnson pursued, a mob of whites came to lynch the innocent Hayes and two other black men. They grabbed Mary who was loudly protesting and pleading Hayes' innocence, and included her in their lynching. Mary who was pregnant, was hung by her feet, had gasoline thrown on her clothing and set on fire. Her body was cut open and her infant, who fell to the ground with a little cry, was crushed to death by the heel of one of the white men present. Mary's body was then riddled with bullets. Johnson was later captured. After the lynching more than 500 Negroes left the vicinity leaving hundreds of acres of untilled land behind. - Brooks County, Georgia, May 19, 1918.

Sources: *Lynchings of Women in the United States: The Recorded Cases, 1851-1946* Kerry Seagrave; *Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching*, Crystal N. Feimster; https://baylor-ir.tdl.org/baylor-ir/bitstream/handle/2104/8418/Lauren_Davis_masters.pdf?sequence=1; *Thirty Years of Lynching in the United States: 1889-1918*, Paul Finkelman.