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The Lynchings of 1934

Fifteen people, all Negroes, were lynched during 1934, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute. This number is thirteen less than the number, twenty-eight, lynched in 1933; seven more than the number, eight, in 1932; two more than the number, thirteen, in 1931; and six less than the number, twenty-one, in 1930. Eight of those lynched were in the hands of the law, three of these being taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

In fifty-one instances officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven of these being in Northern and Western States, and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed, or the guards augmented, or other precautions were taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. Fourteen white men, fifty-seven negro men and three negro women were saved from violence.

The offenses charged against those illegally done to death were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; association with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

Mississippi led in the number of lynchings, six; Florida and Louisiana came next with two each; and one each was recorded for Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas.

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