

John Thomas

Date: April 25th, 1909

Place: Blossburg

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In the 1900s, brutal killings of African Americans were nothing less than normal. In fact, the murders were very much expected in places like Alabama. Most murders of black people during the 1900s were so normal that they were left unsolved.

On April 25, 1909, John Thomas was 25 years old and lived in Jefferson County. Andy Roy arrested him for the alleged attack of a white woman, Mrs. Patterson. At night, Roy was supposed to walk Mr. Thomas from the jail in Birmingham to the one in Bessemer. The city would have known such transportation of a black man could be open to the threat of a lynching. Even so, they only had Roy accompany him.

During the transport, a group of white men easily took Mr. Thomas from Roy's custody. His bullet-ridden body was found the next day in the woods. A white cloth mask was found near his body as well.

Mr. Thomas was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery. No other information about his life could be found.

Selected Sources

"Alabama Deaths and Burials, 1881–1952." Index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2010. Index entries derived from digital copies of original and compiled records.

"Lynch Negro for Brutal Assault," The Birmingham News, April 26, 1909, page 1. "The Happenings of the Week," Goodwater Enterprise, April 30, 1909, page 1