

## Otis Brown

On April 24 1886, a mob killed Otis Brown near Five Mile Creek in Jefferson County. According to reports, two white men, Tanner and Phillips, ate dinner near Douglas Mills' bridge in North Jefferson County on their way to Birmingham. Supposedly, two black men, Otis Brown and Austin Pettus, approached and asked for change for a \$10 bill. Phillips pulled out his wallet to give the black men change, and one of the black men took his wallet. They ran off with the wallet, and Mr. Brown pulled out his gun to stop the white men in pursuit. As Tanner continued to approach the men, according to the report, Mr. Brown shot Tanner in the chest. Tanner was taken to a medical house for attention.

Residents near Five Mile Creek heard about the shooting. Twenty-five men, with their bloodhounds, tried to find the two black men. They found Mr. Brown in a cave and shot him to death. It's unclear if Mr. Pettus escaped or also became a victim of racial terror. Otis Brown is another male killed without a trial or conviction of guilt.

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### Selected Sources

"Birmingham: Special to the Advertiser," *The Montgomery Advertiser*, May 5, 1886.

"Douglass Mills," *The Times and News* (Eufaula, Alabama), April 25, 1886.

"Shot and Robbed: Two White Men Attacked by Negroes," *Birmingham Iron Age*, April 24, 1886.