



Character Sketch of Jailer Will Hall

Age when picture was taken: est. 48

Deputy Sheriff and Jailer Will Hall

Character Sketch

Of the “six men in the Jailer’s Kitchen” when the mob staged their assault on the Boone County Jail, Deputy Sheriff Will Hall was among the strongest supporters of standing up to the mob.

When the assault first began with a brick being thrown through his kitchen window, Hall’s first instinct was to grab his shotgun and defend his home and the jail. He immediately called for Reinforcements, and once they arrived, he petitioned those in charge to defend the jail as well.

As deputy Sheriff, Hall was second in line to Sheriff Brown, but at the jail that night, Judge Henry Collier and County Prosecutor Ruby Hulen were the men in charge of the situation. Thinking perhaps like lawyers trying to avoid wrongful death lawsuits if anyone in the crowd were to be killed by stray bullets, Collier and Hulen chose not to address the mob with a more violent tone, Instead choosing to reason with its leaders – something that had almost no chance of success.

Once they were shouted down by the mob, the six men in the kitchen vanished into the kitchen, giving up any chance of saving James Scott’s life. Though Boone County assumed all responsibility for caring for and protecting Scott from harm, the extent to which those officials addressed those responsibilities was laid bare by the mob. The county employees surrendered their prisoner to an angry mob set on killing him in the ensuing moments.

While Jailer Hall has to share some of the burden of responsibility for the loss of his prisoner, it is quite clear that he was overruled by county superiors.



Summary Justice Partners, llc

SIDE

64-66

HALL (O.S.) (shouting)

Listen here, men! Listen to me now, you goddam fools!

Jailer Hall stands with his shotgun leveled, chest high, at the door.

HALL (Shouting)

Back off! You hear me? This place is my home , goddam it! I've got two barrels ready for the first man tries to come through that door. I'll kill him sure.

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Hall sets down his shotgun and reaches for the phone.

HALL

Operator! I need Judge Collier at 310 right now! (beat) Judge, this is Hall down at the jail. We got problems here! The Sheriff is outside and there's a huge crowd gathering. They want to take that negro boy, Scott. (beat) Alright, please hurry and bring everyone you can find with you!