



Prominent Lynch Mob Member
Red

Character Sketch of “Red”

“Red” is the name given to one of two prominent lynch mob members in the feature. His character is based on Elmer Woods from Columbia, MO, who was indicted after the lynching. He was charged with impeding the duty of a police officer. (The lynch mob’s leader, George Barkwell, is the only member of the mob who was charged with first degree murder.)

At various points in the feature, Red is seen as a “follower,” or sometimes an “organizer,” and other times a more sadistic participant in the events of April 28-29, 1923. We could find no specific, step-by-step accounting of these individual prominent lynch mob members – other than Henry ‘Hamp Rowland – and thus the “Lou” and “Red” designations in order to spread out that blame for the events over any number of people who likely participated.

SIDES

INT. BOONE COUNTY JAIL PORTCULLIS GRATE CORRIDOR – NIGHT

The chisel man and Red, wielding a sledgehammer, resume their positions. Red takes aim at one of the grate's hinges.

A ROWDY

Pour it on, Red!

His backswing begins.

RED

One, two, three.

Another resounding clank.

INT. BOONE COUNTY JAIL COLORED SECTION - NIGHT

BARKWELL

I think he's in here.

The flashlight beam finds Scott on one cot, Watson cowering on another.

RED

Which one's Scott? Where is he?

BARKWELL

Tell us straight or we hang every nigger we find in here.

JAMES

I'm James Scott. I didn't touch that girl. He did!

James points directly at Watson. Watson bolts upright.

WATSON

He's lying! That girl saw HIM!

BARKWELL

Bring up the torch.