

Henry Berry Lowry

G.L. Barton

Nine days after the wounding of George Applewhite Sheriff Roderick McMillan called out a small posse of nine whites to help him scour the swamps for the elusive and seriously wounded former slave who had simply vanished from the face of the earth without a trace. The date: April 26, 1871.

McMillan frequently made such excursions through the swamps on the pretense of tracking down the Lowry Gang. The high sheriff was well aware, however, of the fact that Henry Berry would be kept well informed of the posse's whereabouts; the Indian leader had countless eyes and ears scattered throughout the Scauffletown area serving as lookouts for him. It was seldom, if ever, a federal command or posse entered the swamps without Henry Berry being well aware of their express purpose and whereabouts. But the sheriff had to present the appearance of being relentless and persistent in his quest to rid the county of the Lowry Gang; his voters expected it. More likely than not, this was the reason that he called out only nine whites to help him in his charade.

The posse was not expecting to find anyone at the home of Henry Berry located on the southern tip of Back Swamp near Asbury Church. Much to their amazement, however, the enticing sound of a banjo greeted their ears, coming from the direction of Henry Berry's cabin. The Indian legend's love for music was well-known.

Dollar signs clouded the posse's vision. Could it be possible the entire gang was inside the cabin? If they bagged the entire gang how much would each member's share of the bounty be?

McMillan was determined to take advantage of their uncommonly good luck at not being detected by any of Henry Berry's many friends and sympathizers. Perhaps the size of the posse had something to do with this. The posse made their way ever so carefully nearer the cabin. When they neared the edge of

the clearing which surrounded the cabin, the posse spotted the armed guard; the whites knew Henry Berry would not be inside the cabin without an armed lookout posted somewhere outside. The lookout proved to be Boss Strong, Henry Berry's brother-in-law and most trusted friend and companion. Strong was walking along the edge of the clearing keeping his keen senses ever alert to the first sign of distress or danger. He was armed with a double barreled shotgun plus a number of hand guns.

Not far from the cabin sat the ever elusive Applewhite. He was relaxing, simply enjoying the nice spring day. The men spotted Henry Berry inside the cabin with his wife and three children. He was serenading them with his banjo. No other members of the Gang could be seen.

McMillan and the men held a brief and quiet strategy meeting. It was decided that with so much bounty money involved there was but one alternative.

The plan of action was to shoot Boss Strong, as the rest of the gang (if there were any more in the cabin) attempted to escape from the cabin they would all be shot down. If this failed they were prepared to rush the cabin and simply overpower the Indian inhabitants. A badly-aimed shot was fired at Strong. Because the Indian youth was still walking his post, the bullet missed its mark completely. Strong instantly flung himself to the ground. He crawled around the cabin, bullets striking all about him, and entered the cabin. Applewhite followed suit.

With total disregard to the three children-one of whom was an 8-month-old baby - and the woman inside, the posse began riddling the cabin with shots. The inhabitants of the cabin returned the fire.

It seemed Henry Berry was trapped once again. What was in store for him now?

More next week.

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Pembroke Normal Class of 1926 Meets



Shown above are members of the 1926 Class of the Pembroke Normal High School. They are, left to right: Ms. Zetta Lloyd; Ms. Dora O. Locklear; Ms. Lucinda L. Ballard; Ms. Docia C. Lowry; Ms. Mildred O. Jacobs; Ms. Sallie R. Maynor. Standing left to right: Claude Sampson; James A. Sampson; John David Brewington; Kermit Lowry; Marvin Carter; Dawley Maynor; John L. Carter and Theodore Maynor.

Those living, not present, were Mrs. Anna Dial Thompson; Aloza Goins; and Lonnie H. Oxendine.

The deceased members are: Alton B. Brayboy; James K. Brayboy; and Lacy Dial.

The group used the evening reminiscing about the activities of the class during the high school days. Also, each member gave a brief resume of his or her activities since 1926.

all members of the class have retired to private life.

The youngest member of the class is Kermit Lowry; the oldest is Claude A. Sampson. The one with the largest family is John D. Brewington; the smallest family is Dawley Maynor.

Kermit Lowry traveled the greatest distance to the reunion. His home is Bristol, Tennessee.

This was the second reunion of the class in fifty-one years.

The class decided to make the reunion an annual affair. They will meet the last Friday night in August each year.



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