History of lynchings in Indiana

Data indicates that there have been 21 reported lynchings in Indiana’s history and one survivor of an attempted lynching.

Pulaski County
1 reported lynching

Carroll County
1 reported lynching
- Amer Green, Oct. 1887, accused of abduction and murder

Kosciusko County
1 reported lynching

Henry County
1 reported lynching
- Eli Ladd, Feb. 1890, alleged confrontation with whites

Hancock County
1 reported lynching
- (—) Keemer, June 1875, accused of rape

Johnson County
1 reported lynching

Clark County
3 reported lynchings
- George Johnson, Squire Taylor and Charles Davis, Nov. 1871, accused of murder

Spencer County
2 reported lynchings
- Jim Henderson and Bud Rowland, Dec. 1900, accused of murder

Warrick County
1 reported lynching
- John Rolla, Dec. 1900, allegedly killed deputy sheriff

Vigo County
1 reported lynching
- George Ward, 1901, accused of murder

Sullivan County
1 reported lynching
- James Dillard, Nov. 1902, accused of rape

Knox County
1 reported lynching
- Holly Epps, Jan. 1886, accused of murder

Posey County
5 reported lynchings
- William Chambers, Jim Good, Jeff Hopkins and Ed Warren, Oct. 1878, accused of ravishing white women
- Dan Harris Sr., Oct. 1878, allegedly killed deputy sheriff

Grant County
2 reported lynchings; 1 saved
- On Aug. 7, 1930, James Cameron Jr., Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith were lynched in Marion, initially charged with robbery, murder and rape. Shipp and Smith died, but, miraculously, with the rope already around his neck, Cameron was saved. He was tried and convicted as an accessory to murder and spent five years in prison.

In the 1940s, Cameron founded three chapters of the NAACP and later served as Indiana’s State Director of the Office of Civil Liberties. In 1988, he founded America’s Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee. Cameron is thought to be the only known survivor of a lynching attempt in the United States.


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