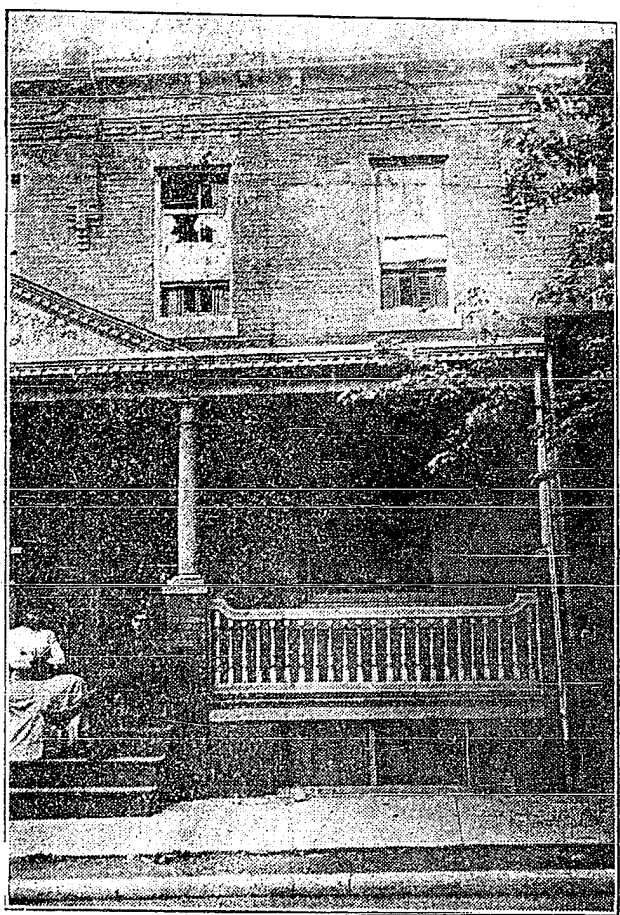


“POOR WHITES” BECOME ENRAGED BECAUSE COLORED WOMAN BOUGHT HOUSE.



Front view of House that Rowdies Bombarded



The Rear view

A riotous mob of more than a thousand people, all of whom are white, placed in jeopardy the lives of five Afro-Americans; broke all windows, and in various other ways partly destroyed the property of Mrs. Mary E. Montague, 1904 N. St. Bernard St., West Philadelphia, Tuesday night, July 1st.

The trouble which grew out of Mrs. Montague purchasing a house in a neighborhood, in which it seems Afro-Americans are not wanted, began on Saturday when the family took possession and continued until Tuesday night when their aggravated neighbors formed a mob, whose business it seems was to “rid the neighborhood of the niggers,” so as to speak.

The occupants were first annoyed by the small children who threw fire works on the porch, at the windows and on the occupants. The gangs of children were supplemented by the older people until large threatening crowds were annoying the new neighbors nightly. Growing bolder, Tuesday night the mob began to use bricks, stones and afterwards firearms to demolish the property, threatening the occupants with death if they remained on the premises until the evening of the following day, Wednesday. Accompanying pictures taken by the Tribune staff photographers show in part the damage done to the property.

Help was only secured after a young man, a visitor, succeeded in escaping from the rear. He was hotly pursued by the mob, and was finally forced to take refuge in a saloon at 52nd St., and Westminster Ave., where the proprietor in order to protect him from the mob, locked him in a closet, and telephoned the police for help. The lone policeman who responded in answer to the call when acquainted with the conditions sent in a “riot call,” two wagon loads of officers answering, who restored order after much disorder and excitement.

Strange to say no patrolman was anywhere near during the two hours this mob threatened the lives of these people, notwithstanding help had been asked for Sunday. It is hinted by some, too, that the police continued until nearly ten o'clock.

The riotous disturbance on Tuesday began shortly after eight and were in sympathy with the mob and stayed out of the way purposely.

“It was dreadful,” said Miss Irene Montague, when speaking of the affair to the writer. “We never thought there would be so much trouble over nothing. Mother didn’t know that the neighbors would object to us. We bought the house through a colored agent and the former owner never in any way led us to believe that we would not be agreeable neighbors. We moved here Saturday. It was not until we were moving in that I found out there would be any objection to us, the children calling us names, and a few of the neighbors making insulting remarks. Sunday, the smaller children threw fireworks on the porch, while the older people looked on, laughing and enjoying themselves more or less. Nothing happened Monday to amount to anything. But, Tuesday, well it seems that they had reserved for their final and bitterous attack. It really is a miracle that we were not killed, as it is no one was injured. I am glad my friend was a fast runner, or I fear he would not have gotten away without being injured.”

The Department of Public Safety has promised that a thorough investigation will be made. Several plain clothed men and detectives have been detailed to apprehend the culprits. Information reaches the writer that several important arrests will be made in a few days.

The Philadelphia Branch of the Association for Advancement of Colored People is actively interested in this case, and have had an investigator on the scene, who has gathered some very important data.

It is also alleged that there is a very plain case against one store-keeper in the vicinity, whom it is said sold fire works at half-price so as to “blow the niggers out.”

The Tribune is interested in this case, and will give the details from week to week, as fast as we get a hold of them.