(SIDE 1)

LYNCHING OF JULY PERRY

November 3, 1920

On Election Day, November 3, 1920, black residents in the Occee area who owned land and businesses were eager to vote. Despite a terrorizing Ku Klux Klan march through the streets of Orlando three days prior, Mose Norman and other African Americans attempted to vote. They were turned away. After seeking advice from Orlando Judge John Cheney, Norman again attempted to vote. Armed whites stationed at the polls immediately assaulted him. Reportedly, he fled to the home of his friend and business associate, July Perry, A mob seeking to capture Perry and Norman surrounded and burned Perry's home. Norman escaped, but Perry suffered a severe wound and was arrested, transported to Orlando, and jailed in the Orange County Jail, a block away from this site, on Orange Avenue. The next morning a lynch mob took Perry from his cell, beat him severely, and hanged him within sight of Judge Cheney's home. His lifeless body was shot repeatedly. For two days, a white mob burned 25 black homes, two black churches, and a masonic lodge in Ocoee. Estimates of the total number of black Americans killed during the violence range from six to over thirty. Survivors fled, never to return. The entire black community of Ocoee was driven out within a year, forced to abandon or sell land and homes they owned. The Ocoee Election Day Massacre represents one of the bloodiest days in American political history. July Perry is buried in Orlando's Greenwood Cemetery.

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(SIDE 2)

RACIAL VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Thousands of black people were the victims of lynching and racial violence in the United States between 1877 and 1950. The lynching of African Americans during this era was a form of racial terrorism intended to intimidate black people and enforce racial hierarchy and segregation. Lynching was most prevalent in the South. After the Civil war, there was violent resistance to equal rights for African Americans and an ideology of white supremacy led to violent abuse of racial minorities and decades of political, social, and economic exploitation. Lynching became the most public and notorious form of terror and subordination. White mobs were usually permitted to engage in racial terror and brutal violence with impunity. Many black people were pulled out of jails or given over to mobs by law enforcement officials who were legally required to protect them. Terror lynchings often included burnings and mutilation, sometimes in front of crowds numbering in the thousands. Many of the names of lynching victims were not recorded and will never be known, but over 300 documented lynchings took place in Florida alone. Orange County had thirty-three documented lynchings—the highest of all counties in the state.

The Equal Justice Initiative 2018



the southwell co. 928 N. ALAMO • SAN ANTONIO, TX 78215 ph. (210) 223-1831 fax (210) 223-8517 approved (no corrections) approved as noted revise and resubmit signed by: date: PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN ONE (1) COPY. FAILURE TO SIGN THIS PROOF WILL RESULT IN RESUBMITTAL FOR YOUR SIGNATURE.	CUSTOMER: EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE 122 COMMERCE ST MONTGOMERY, AL 36104 SHIP TO: TBD	
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