

Summary Justice

A Lynching in College Town

Pitch Deck

Historical Feature 120 Min

Doug Hunt & Joe Rufo

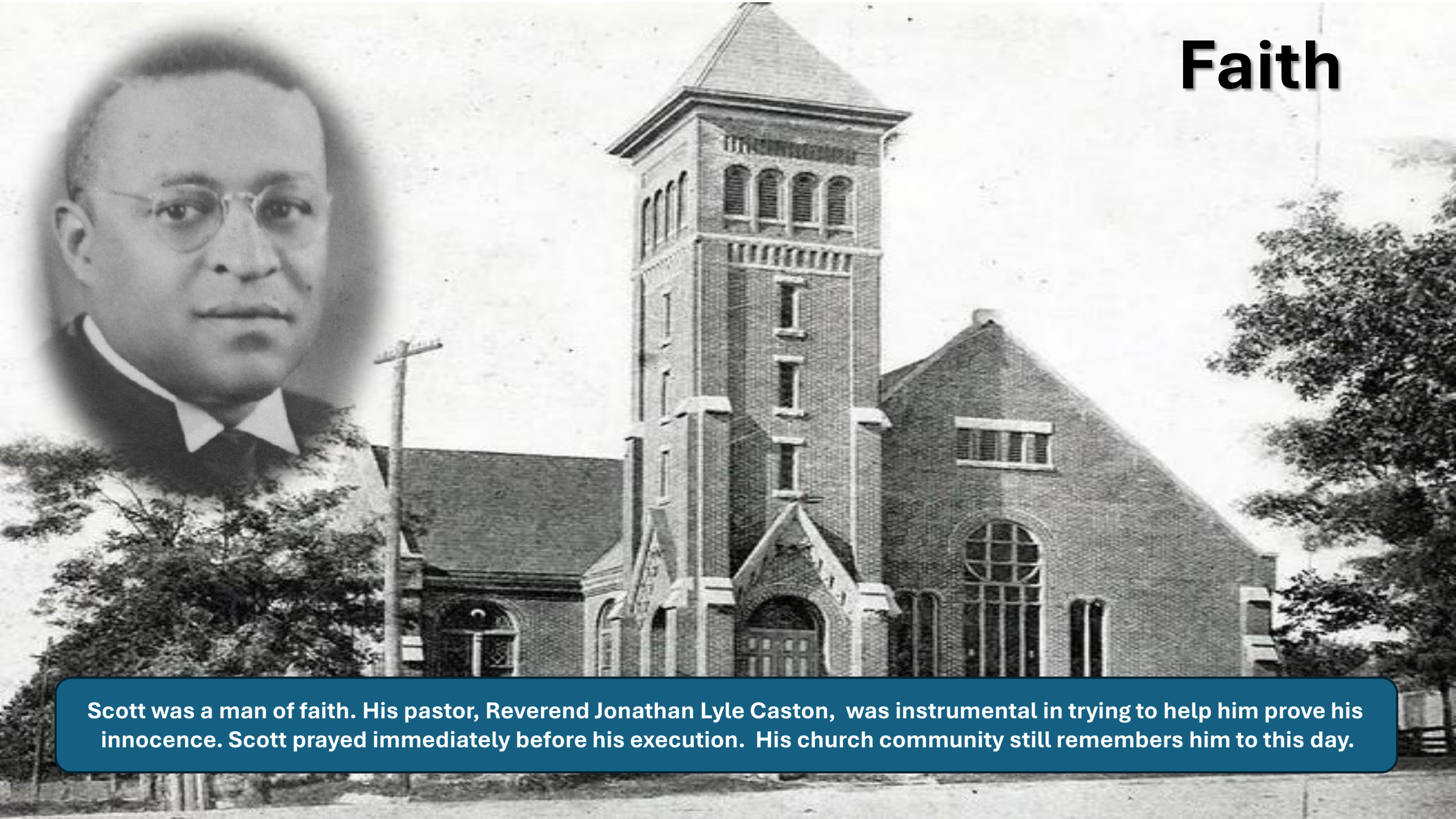
This is a picture of the actual Stewart Bridge from which James T. Scott was lynched.

Mistaken Identity



Summary Justice is a true story of mistaken identity. A young white girl is raped, police gather suspects based on her description of the assailant. The girl picks the wrong man – James T. Scott. After a sloppy investigation Scott is indicted. He is vilified in a local newspaper which calls for “summary justice.” That same day a mob abducts Scott from his jail cell and lynches him. Later the girl identifies another man as her attacker. The lynch mob leader is tried and acquitted.

Faith



Scott was a man of faith. His pastor, Reverend Jonathan Lyle Caston, was instrumental in trying to help him prove his innocence. Scott prayed immediately before his execution. His church community still remembers him to this day.

Media Influence



A local newspaper publishes a front page story that calls for saving the cost of a trial and delivering "Summary Justice" to Scott. He is lynched less than 12 hours after the newspaper hits the streets.

Huberis



The political, the judicial and the legal systems all failed to react to the heightened tensions as a result of newspaper coverage. Not one of the leaders even considered measures to protect their prisoner.



Malfeasance

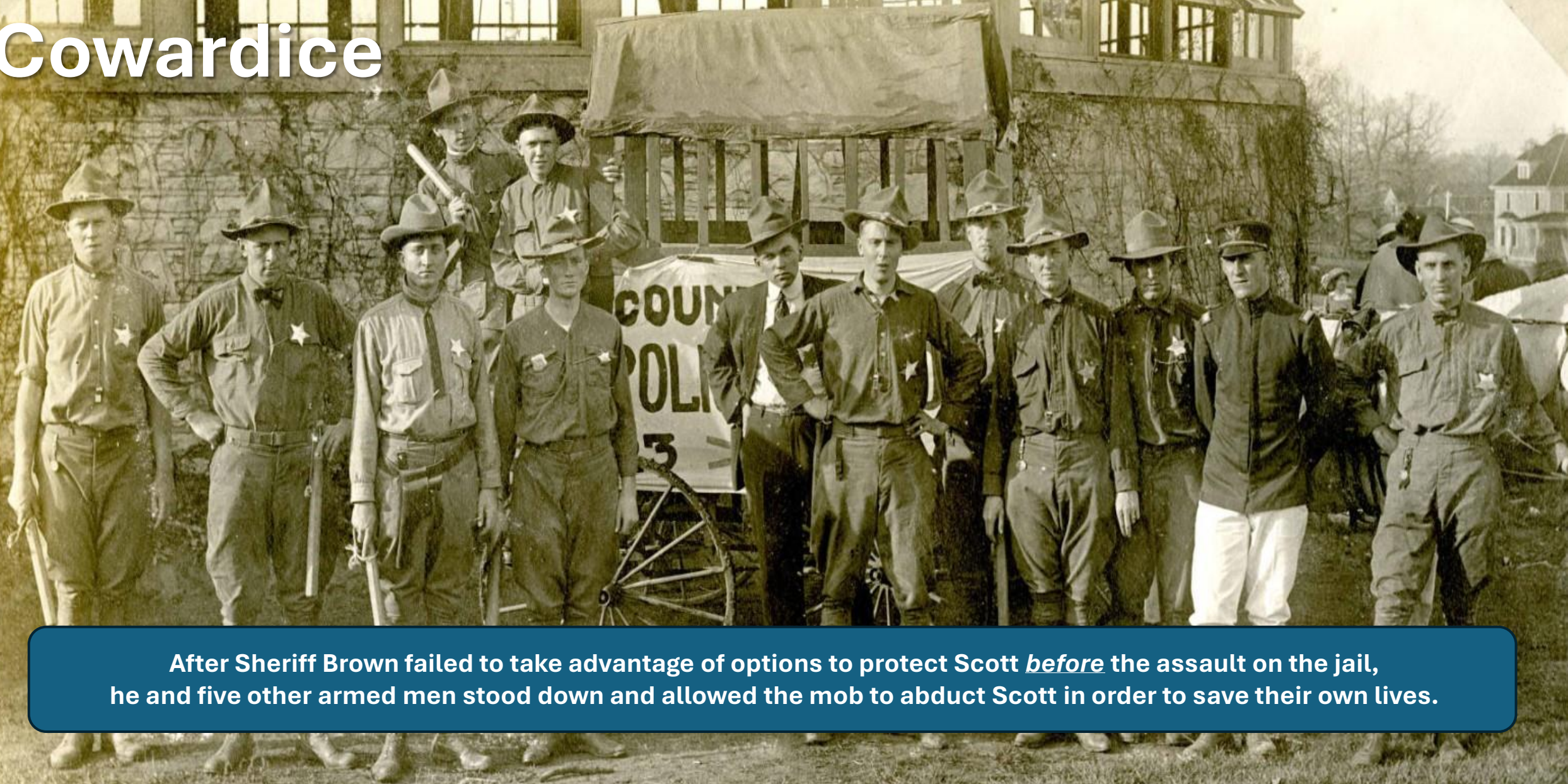
Options that could have been employed to prevent the disaster were ignored by the Sheriff until it was far too late. The safe keeping of an accused-but-not-convicted man was his responsibility.

Mob Mentality & Rage



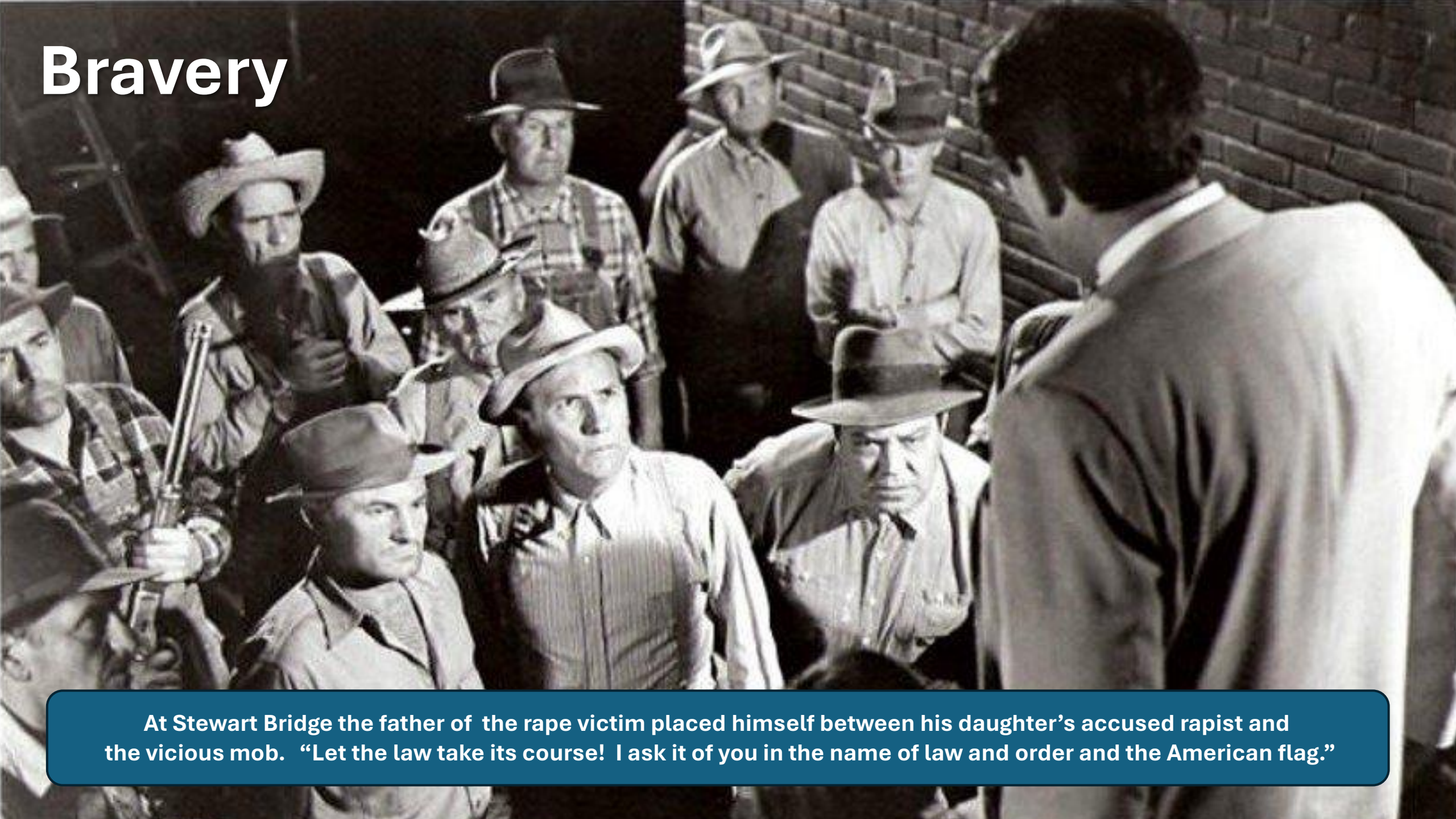
Unbridled rage ensues – a result of the newspaper’s provocative reporting – and a huge mob stages an assault on the county jail in order to abduct James Scott and kill him.

Cowardice



After Sheriff Brown failed to take advantage of options to protect Scott *before* the assault on the jail, he and five other armed men stood down and allowed the mob to abduct Scott in order to save their own lives.

Bravery



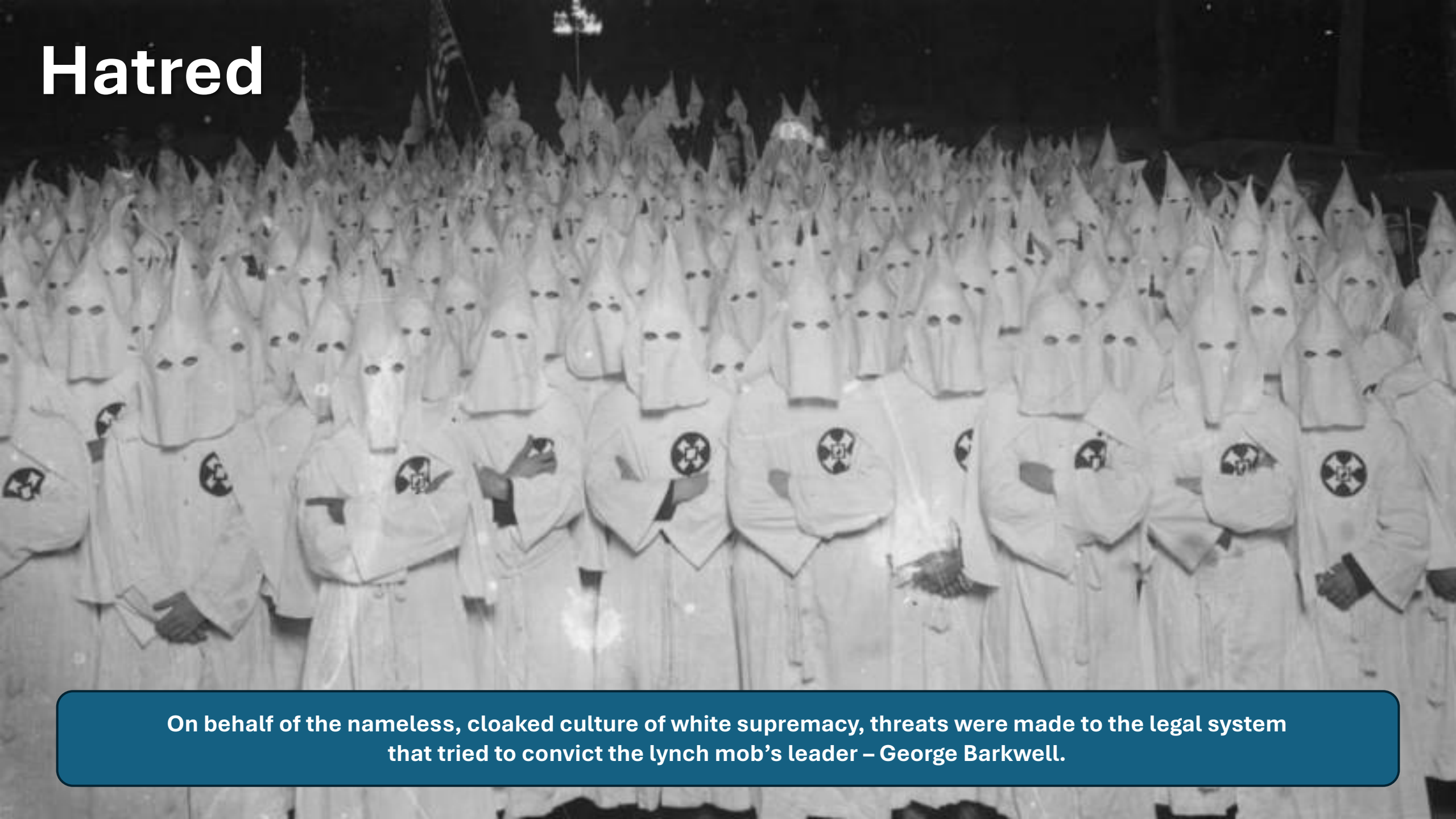
At Stewart Bridge the father of the rape victim placed himself between his daughter's accused rapist and the vicious mob. "Let the law take its course! I ask it of you in the name of law and order and the American flag."

Grief



We see James Scott's wife run through the neighborhood in the dark of night to tell his mother what has happened to her son, and we feel their collective pain.

Hatred



On behalf of the nameless, cloaked culture of white supremacy, threats were made to the legal system that tried to convict the lynch mob's leader – George Barkwell.

Anger



Having lost her son to a brutal mob attack as law enforcement stepped aside, Scott's mother Sarah spared no formalities when confronting D.A. Ruby Hulen who promised her a conviction of the mob leader, George Barkwell.



Racial Prejudice

How could George Barkwell be convicted for killing James Scott when the jury looked like this?
How thoughtful was a deliberation that lasted just eleven minutes?

Contact

Joe Rufo

JosephJRufo@GMail.Com

(860) 389-0786

Thank You!