

Massacre of a Negro on Clarkson Street



From "The Riots at New York," *Harper's Weekly*, 1 August 1863.

One of the first victims to the insane fury of the rioters was a negro cartman residing in Carmine Street. A mob of men and boys seized this unfortunate man on Monday evening, and having beaten him until he was in a state of insensibility, dragged him to Clarkson Street, and hung him from a branch of one of the trees that shade the sidewalk by St. John's Cemetery. The fiends did not stop here, however. Procuring long sticks, they tied rags and straw to the ends of them, and with these torches they danced round their victim, setting fire to his clothes, and burning him almost to a cinder. The remains of the wretched negro hung there till near daylight on Tuesday morning, when they were removed by the police. This atrocious murder was perpetrated within ten feet of consecrated ground, where the white headstones of the cemetery are seen gleaming through the wooden railing.

Basic Facts About the 1863 New York City Draft Riot

1. Lasted 4 days (July 13, 1863 – July 15, 1863)
2. The mob numbered at its largest in the thousands of people
3. 119 people were killed (many of whom actually participate in the riot)
4. 11 African Americans were murdered
5. 300 civilians, soldiers, and police were wounded
6. \$1.5 million in property damage
 - *New York Tribune* building and Brooks Brother's stores attack
 - Provost marshal's office and Colored Orphan Asylum burnt to the ground.