Beyond the Rope

Beyond the Rope is an interdisciplinary study that draws on narrative theory and cultural studies methodologies to trace African Americans’ changing attitudes and relationships to lynching over the twentieth century. Whereas African Americans are typically framed as victims of white lynch mob violence in both scholarly and public discourses, Karlos K. Hill reveals that in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, African Americans lynched other African Americans in response to alleged criminality, and twentieth-century black writers envisaged African American lynch victims as exemplars of heroic manhood. Beyond the Rope illuminates the submerged histories of black vigilantism and black-authored narratives of the lynched black body in order to demonstrate that, rather than being static and one-dimensional, African American attitudes toward lynching and the lynched black evolved in response to changing social and political contexts.

Dr. Karlos K. Hill is Associate Professor of History at Texas Tech University.
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Beyond the Rope

The Impact of Lynching on Black Culture and Memory

KARLOS K. HILL
Texas Tech University
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Acknowledgments

There are many people who contributed to making this book possible. For starters, no one could ask for better mentors than Peter Rachleff, James Stewart, Sundiata Cha-Jua, and David Roediger. Peter Rachleff and James Stewart inspired me to do professional history. During my undergraduate days when the thought of writing a graduate thesis seemed farfetched, both Rachleff and Stewart encouraged me to pursue a PhD in history. Unbeknownst to them, they were to be the foundation of my academic career. During graduate school, Sundiata Cha-Jua encouraged me to pursue the history of lynching as a dissertation topic. Since then, he has helped guide the book project and more importantly has modeled how to do research, writing, and teaching that matters. For this, I will always be grateful. David Roediger’s support has been nothing short of angelic. Dave provided detailed feedback on the manuscript from beginning to end. His generosity is inspiring. He is truly a model of a mentor-colleague.

My colleagues and friends at Texas Tech University are wonderful. Aliza Wong and Gretchen Adams read early drafts of the book proposal. Even in the book’s early stages, they spurred me on and helped me see the broader significance of the project. Aliza deserves particular praise in that her thoughtful feedback always nurtures one’s creativity, and her boundless generosity uplifts the soul. In addition, colleagues Saad Abi-Hamad, Manu Vimalassery, Paul Bjerk, Emily Skidmore, Jacob Baum, Miguel Levario, Sean Cunningham, Zach Brittsan, Corby Kelly, and Maurice Hobson supported the project in indirect but nonetheless meaningful ways.
I hope I can return the favor someday. In the final stages of the book revision process, TTU’s Competitive Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences grant allowed me to take a semester of leave in order to finish the book. During this period, I was able to do some of my best thinking and writing.

The editors at Cambridge University Press are first-rate in every way. David Moltke-Hansen, Mark Smith, and Lou Bateman read and critiqued several versions of the book proposal. Their thoughtful and incisive criticism pushed the book project in new and productive directions. Deborah Gershenowitz’s guidance of the project has humbled me. With her support and expertise, my initial manuscript has flowered into a book.

Finally, this book is dedicated to my family. In particular, without the unconditional support of my wife and partner, Jennie Hill, this book project would not have been possible. Through it all, she has modeled what it means to be a caring and supportive spouse.

Lubbock, Texas
August 2015