

The Lynching Of Leo Frank – 100 Years On



CRIME FEATURED GNEWS

By Alexander Baron



158
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One hundred years ago today, convicted child killer Leo Frank was kidnapped from the State Penitentiary at Milledgeville, Georgia, driven to Marietta, and strung from a tree. It was a gruesome though surely a fitting end for a man who had slain a young white girl of humble birth and had then tried to put not one but two innocent Negroes in the frame. Well, one was entirely innocent, Jim Conley was an accessory after the fact, but although much of the evidence appeared to point towards him, the really incriminating evidence pointed towards Frank.



Mary Phagan

The murder of young Mary Phagan and the subsequent trial of the wealthy factory manager Frank was and remains one of the most sensational cases in the annals of American crime, right up there with the Lindbergh case, **OJ Simpson**, and **Jodi Arias**. It remains controversial to this day, although much of this controversy is manufactured.

Mary Phagan’s body was found in the basement of the Atlanta factory where she worked long hours for a pittance. As he was responsible for security, it was hardly surprising Newt Lee was first on the scene, and merely for reporting this murder he became a prime suspect. Frank did his best to point the finger at Lee, and when that failed he switched to Jim Conley, who pushed a broom and did other odd jobs. Conley and Frank appear to have had a strange relationship, which could have been explained by his doing other jobs for the factory manager which were not strictly part of his duties, like keeping watch while Frank had sex with women in his office.



The Atlanta Georgian, April 29, 1913, announcing that the police are closing in on Leo Frank for the murder of Mary Phagan

When Frank stood trial in July and August of 1913, Conley was considered the star witness, but he was far from the only witness. Frank was duly convicted and sentenced to death, losing all his

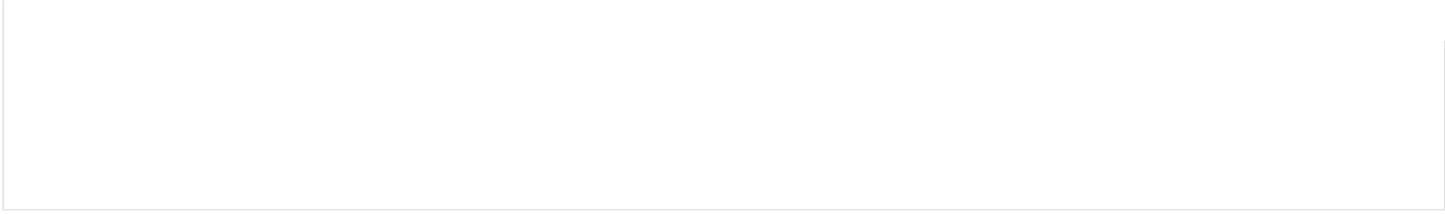
appeals, but in May 1915, his sentence was commuted, and it was this that so enraged the good citizens of Atlanta that they organised a posse, and with official compliance sprung Frank from prison and murdered him.



Leo Frank was lynched in Georgia in 1915.

Because Frank was a Jew, the usual suspects have screamed “anti-Semitism”, and do to this day, but that claim is incredibly lame. Are we really expected to believe that in the Deep South at this time Jews were lower down the food chain than blacks? Jim Conley wasn’t even allowed to use the same toilet as a white man, much less rub shoulders with him as equals. Also, although he had further troubles with the law after his release, no woman or girl, white or black, ever pointed a finger at Conley and accused him of interfering with her. If Conley really had murdered Mary Phagan he would surely have gone on to commit another sexual crime, because it is well attested that men of that type cannot help themselves, as evinced for example by **Russell Bishop** who was cleared of the October 1986 double murder of two 9 year old girls then went on to kidnap a 7 year old, who was raped and left for dead.

What is the truth about the murder of Mary Phagan and the guilt or otherwise of Leo Frank? There are two excellent sources for this, both of which point to Frank’s guilt: a **lengthy contemporaneous article** by a local lawyer and politician, Tom Watson; and a superb **dedicated website**.



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Wisenhimer wrote the following

This article was poorly written.

1. Complete lack of actual sourced facts.
2. Complete lack of discussion that there was no evidence that could reasonably be considered proof beyond all reasonable doubt as to Frank's guilt.
3. Completely ridiculous that because Jews were usually not "lower down the food chain than blacks," they could not be victims of anti-Semitism.

Responding to Wisenhimer:

- 1) Here are the best primary and secondary sources on the Leo Frank case

Primary Sources (what really happened?)

- 1.1) Leo Frank Trial Brief of Evidence, 1913 (available online)
- 1.2) Leo Frank Georgia Supreme Court Records, 1914 (available online)

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Wisenhimer • 2 years ago

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