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Alonzo Mann, 87, Who Said Lynch Mob Killed Wrong Man

AP

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn., March 19— Alonzo Mann, who broke a 69- year silence to say the wrong man was convicted of a notorious killing and hanged by a lynch mob that led to a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, died Monday from pneumonia at the age of 87.

Three years ago Mr. Mann, a resident of Bristol, Va., after keeping silent since 1913, said in a sworn statement that Leo Frank, a Jewish pencil merchant, was innocent of the murder of 14-year-old Mary Phagan at an Atlanta pencil factory.

He said the real killer was Jim Conley, a janitor at the factory.

In 1983, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles disregarded Mr. Mann's sworn affidavit and pleas by three Jewish organizations and declined to pardon Mr. Frank, saying it was impossible to determine the truth after 70 years.

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