

Loudoun County - The Confederate Statue is a black mark



The following post is a departure from what is normally discussed on this blog. In this post I am going to discuss the Confederate Statue in front of the Loudoun County Courthouse. In my opinion, the statue is an affront to justice. The fact that it is erected in 1908 was a very cowardly act and does not, in any way, belong at the Courthouse.

By 1908 the Federal troops vacated the South (Virginia included), the South was also in the firm grip of Jim Crow at that time. The former-slaves of Virginia were sadly losing the rights and privileges that were gained after the Civil war. The statue was a statement that the former Confederates were back in power. In fact they were back in power and they were attempting to re-establish white rule.

There is nothing noble or to be celebrated about wanting to enslave a people. There is nothing noble about restricting the rights of a particular group of people. That is what the Confederacy sought and fought to do. Imagine, being a former-slave in Virginia in 1908 and watching in horror as the statue was erected. Not only erected but celebrated. Imagine being a black man arriving at the Courthouse for the administering of justice in 1908, walking past the statue that celebrates those who wanted to keep you enslaved. The outcome of your case was, for the most part, already pre-determined. The white man reigned supreme in Jim-Crow Virginia. The judges were in on it, former slaves faced incredible bias in the Courts.

In stark contrast to the confederate Statue in Loudoun, stands the Freedman's Memorial in Lincoln Park close to the Eastern Market in DC. The Freedman's memorial in Lincoln park celebrates the emancipation of the slaves. The confederate statue in Loudoun memorialized the attempt to keep the enslaved. The difference in the mindset between Loudoun and DC is quite stark, despite the relatively proximity of the two locations.

Unfortunately, the backwardness that plagued Loudoun County in 1908 still exists today. There are no longer physical lynchings but the judicial lynchings are in abundance. Those who do make it to the bench in Loudoun are from the local pool of attorneys in Loudoun, which is not a promising thought.

In my opinion, the Statue needs to go and Loudoun needs to move forward.

