

# On The Courthouse Lawn

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nearly 5 000 black americans were lynched between 1890 and 1960 over forty years later sherrilyn ifill's on the courthouse lawn examines the numerous ways that this racial trauma still resounds across the united states while the lynchings and their immediate aftermath were devastating the little known contemporary consequences such as the marginalization of political and economic development for black americans are equally pernicious on the courthouse lawn investigates how the

lynchings implicated average white citizens some of whom actively participated in the violence while many others witnessed the lynchings but did nothing to stop them ifill observes that this history of complicity has become embedded in the social and cultural fabric of local communities who either supported condoned or ignored the violence she traces the lingering effects of two lynchings in maryland to illustrate how ubiquitous this history is and issues a clarion call for american communities with histories of racial violence to be proactive in facing this legacy today inspired by south africa s truth and reconciliation commission as well as by techniques of restorative justice ifill provides concrete ideas to help communities heal including placing gravestones on the unmarked burial sites of lynching victims issuing public apologies establishing mandatory school programs on the local history of lynching financially compensating those whose family homes or businesses were destroyed in the aftermath of lynching and creating commemorative public spaces because the contemporary effects of racial violence are experienced most intensely in local communities ifill argues that reconciliation and reparation efforts must also be locally based in order to bring both black and white americans together in an efficacious dialogue a landmark book on the courthouse lawn is a much needed and urgent road map for communities finally confronting lynching s long shadow by embracing pragmatic reconciliation and reparation efforts professor ifill has written a sobering and eye opening book on one of america s darkest secrets on the courthouse lawn offers a compelling examination of lynchings and describes the failure of people and institutions to adequately address one of america s tragedies racial amnesia would suggest we forget this history professor ifill assures us that we cannot and should not forget it this is a must read for anyone willing to examine our history carefully and learn from it professor charles j ogletree jr jesse climenko professor of law harvard law school and executive director of the charles hamilton houston institute for race and justice on the courthouse lawn is an elegantly written and persuasively argued case for local communities to confront their history of lynching and racial violence as a means of healing race relations explaining how truth and reconciliation worked in south africa ifill explores the possibilities and offers concrete advice on how it could be widely employed in the united states it is certainly worth trying mary frances berry geraldine r segal professor of american social thought and professor of history university of pennsylvania in calm objective but no less moving detail sherrilyn ifill s book provides the stories that illuminate the photographs and postcards of lynchings the punishment meted out to some 5 000 black people deemed guilty without trial for matters large and small during the first half of the twentieth century too late for justice for the victims of lynch law professor ifill urges that an american version of south africa s truth and reconciliation commission could bring long denied acknowledgment to whites and a measure of consolation to blacks derrick bell author

of faces at the bo

published by the kentucky historical society and distributed by the university press of kentucky we have all spied them as we blast down i 75 scanning the roadside for anything of interest or rolled past one while trying to find an elusive gas station in an unfamiliar small town perhaps we have even stopped to read one outside the local courthouse since 1949 the kentucky historical highway marker program has erected more than 1 800 markers that highlight the rich diversity of the state s local and regional history as well as topics of statewide and sometimes national importance they provide on the spot kentucky history lessons depicting subjects as diverse as a seven year old boy who served as a drummer in the revolutionary war to a centuries old sassafras tree roadside history is a key to the markers enabling travelers to read kentucky history without stopping to see each marker as they pass there are two indexes arranged by subject and county

beth conway shervey examines the cultural consequences of an equity theatre in a small midwestern farm town although many in the midwest and beyond know the story of the little theatre on the square in sullivan illinois shervey is the first to consider what the existence of such a theatre means to perceptions of life in the town to tell the story of sullivan and of its star theatre in a cornfield from the perspective of the residents involved shervey uses oral history and and dozens of photographs by david w mobley the theatre s longtime photographer sullivan resembles most small towns in the midwest and the little theatre differs little from most professional summer stock theatres yet taken together the small town and its theatre are clearly unusual and the existence of the theatre obviously alters perceptions of life in the small town before the theatre opened in 1957 sullivan decidedly was a product of its time the town sported a strong local chapter of the wctu moral people avoided taverns liberals and catholics were the minorities and the population was predominantly white while the theatre didn t effect instant change it did introduce people to sullivan who were obviously different stars such as betty grable cesar romero margaret hamilton and pat o brien came into town aspiring actors and those behind the scenes also mingled with the residents of sullivan as a result shervey finds sullivan faced such issues as racism homophobia urban liberalism and alcohol consumption at a much faster rate than similar towns for some the theatre disrupted a sense of the normal for others the theatre made life in sullivan different and interesting breaking the restrictive bonds typically associated with small towns

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racial trauma still resounds across the united states while the lynchings and their immediate aftermath were devastating the little known contemporary consequences such as the marginalization of political and economic development for black americans are equally pernicious on the courthouse lawn investigates how the lynchings implicated average white citizens some of whom actively participated in the violence while many others witnessed the lynchings but did nothing to stop them ifill observes that this history of complicity has become embedded in the social and cultural fabric of local communities who either supported condoned or ignored the violence she traces the lingering effects of two lynchings in maryland to illustrate how ubiquitous this history is and issues a clarion call for american communities with histories of racial violence to be proactive in facing this legacy today inspired by south africa s truth and reconciliation commission as well as by techniques of restorative justice ifill provides concrete ideas to help communities heal including placing gravestones on the unmarked burial sites of lynching victims issuing public apologies establishing mandatory school programs on the local history of lynching financially compensating those whose family homes or businesses were destroyed in the aftermath of lynching and creating commemorative public spaces because the contemporary effects of racial violence are experienced most intensely in local communities ifill argues that reconciliation and reparation efforts must also be locally based in order to bring both black and white americans together in an efficacious dialogue a landmark book on the courthouse lawn is a much needed and urgent road map for communities finally confronting lynching s long shadow by embracing pragmatic reconciliation and reparation efforts

once upon a time it was impossible to drive through the south without coming across signs to see rock city or similar tourist attractions from battlegrounds to birthplaces and sites in between heritage tourism has always been part of how the south attracts visitors and defines itself yet such sites are often understudied in the scholarly literature as the contributors to this volume make clear the narrative of southern history told at these sites is often complicated by race influenced by local politics and shaped by competing memories included are essays on the meanings of new orleans cemeteries stone mountain georgia historic charleston south carolina yorktown national battlefield selma alabama as locus of the civil rights movement and the homes of mark twain margaret mitchell and other notables destination dixie reveals that heritage tourism in the south is about more than just marketing destinations and filling hotel rooms it cuts to the heart of how southerners seek to shape their identity and image for a broader touring public now often made up of northerners and southerners alike

nearly 5 000 black americans were lynched between 1890 and 1960 and assherrilyn ifill argues the effects of this racial trauma continue to resound while the lynchings were devastating the little known contemporary consequences such as the marginalization of political and economic development for blacks are equally pernicious ifill traces the lingering effects of two lynchings in maryland to illustrate how ubiquitous this history is and she issues a clarion call for the many american communities with histories of racial violence to be proactive in facing this legacy

in his yoknapatawpha fiction william faulkner takes his readers to a literary microcosm which is characterized by an inseparable interconnectedness of space time and man as he probes into the layers of southern space and history faulkner selects and arranges the geographical and historical idiosyncrasies of his southern environment unifying them by his artistic imagination to create a web of spatio temporal images tracing the writer's creative handling of his sources this book examines faulkner's unique combination of fact and fiction of reality and imagination it makes transparent the process by which faulkner applies his individual experience of place and heritage to design a narrative world in which space and time are equal ranking determinants of human reality

war memorials are symbols of a community's sense of itself the values it holds dear and its collective memory they inform us more perhaps about the period in which the memorials were erected than the period of the war itself kelly mcmichael in her book sacred memories the civil war monument movement in texas takes the reader on a tour of civil war monuments throughout the state and in doing so tells the story of each monument and its creation mcmichael explores texans motivations for erecting civil war memorials which she views as attempts during a period of turmoil and uncertainty severe depression social unrest the rise of populism mass immigration urbanization industrialization imperialism lynching and jim crow laws to preserve the memory of the confederate dead to instill in future generations the values of patriotism duty and courage to create a shared memory and identity based on a largely invented story and to anchor a community against social and political doubt her focus is the human story of each monument the characters involved in its creation and the sacred memories held dear to them

the compelling real life story of the criminal investigation indictment and trial of edgar ray killen the preacher and former ku klux klansman finally convicted in june 2005 for the deaths of three civil rights workers forty one years after their brutal murders a stunning final chapter to the case immortalized in the movie mississippi burning

cases decided in the united states district courts united states court of international

trade and rulings of the judicial panel on multidistrict litigation

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