

WHITE SUPREMACY AND MARILLA STREET - Ed Sebesta 4/3/2018

Marilla Street was named by Rev. William Ceiton Young, a prominent 19th and 20th minister and neo-Confederate in Dallas, for his mother Marilla Ingram Young. There is an erroneous idea that it is named after his wife, but his wife was named Mary S.C. Pipkin Young. Young himself reported in the *Dallas Morning News* (DMN) interviews that he named Marilla after his mother.

Rev. W.C. Young moved to Dallas from Columbia County, Arkansas in 1865. He was born in Trigg County, Kentucky, August 7, 1827 and died March 25, 1921 in Dallas. He was prominent in Methodist affairs and helped found the first Methodist church in Dallas.

As Dallas city alderman in the 1870s he also named Canton St. for the town he was born in, Cadiz St. for the Trigg county seat, Alma for a son that died, and Evergreen for the Alabama town his wife was born in. He was proud to have named Ervay Street for former Dallas mayor Henry S. Ervay for Ervay's part in the overthrow of Reconstruction.

Young became a minister in 1849 of Methodist Episcopal Church South, the pro-slavery half of the Methodist church when the denomination broke up over slavery before the Civil War.

Young was known to be very active in Democratic Party affairs both before the Civil War and afterwards during Reconstruction. He was District Clerk of Columbia County Arkansas in 1858-59, and Dallas County, Texas in 1867-68. He was an alderman for the City of Dallas for three terms from 1873 to 1875. The Democratic Party in the slave states was uniformly pro-slavery before and during the Civil War and afterwards uniformly worked to overthrow the multi-racial democracy of Reconstruction and instituted a system of white supremacy.

During the Civil War he was assigned as a Missionary Chaplain to Gen. Cabell's Arkansas Confederate unit in 1865. It seems that he was also worked delivering supplies to the Confederate army in 1863.

Gen. Cabell's committed hideous war crime atrocities at the 1864 Battle of Poison Springs in Arkansas. It was so notorious that African American Union regimes had a battle cry, "Remember Poison Springs" during the Civil War. After the battle the 29th Texas Cavalry execution squads roamed the battle field to execute wounded African American soldiers chanting "Where is the First Kansas Nigger now? All cut up to pieces and gone to hell." Some were scalped. The captured Union wagons were used in a contest to crush "nigger heads" under the wheels. (Terms these used.)

This occurred before Young was assigned, but this did not prevent Young from embracing the war record of Cabell's unit nor considering Cabell a great hero.

At an 1885 reunion of Arkansas ex-Confederates Young is a member of that organization and when at the reunion a cane was given to Cabell, Cabell was overcome and speechless and so Young gave Cabell's address of gratitude for the cane for him.

Later Young was a member of the Sterling Price Camp No. 31 of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) and records show he was actively involved at least since 1894 and as late as 1917 in official roles and activities and not merely as a passive member.

The Sterling Price Camp was involved in the erection of the Confederate War Memorial whose dedication speeches made it clear that its purpose was to establish the Confederacy as a heroic self-sacrifice for states' rights ideology which would be employed to prevent any civil rights legislation to protect African Americans.

The organizations of ex-Confederates had a racist agenda, but this paper will focus on a particularly notorious act of Gen. W.L. Cabell and the Sterling Price Camp.

In 1906 in Hamilton County, Tennessee a white woman was raped and public outrage included threatening to throw Sheriff Joseph F. Shipp and Judge McReynolds out of office. Ed Johnson was arrested and in a farce of a trial found guilty. Two African Americans lawyers, Parden and Hutchins, stepped forward then to appeal for a new trial which enraged racist Judge McReynolds. They were able to get a U.S. Supreme Court hearing and an appeal was granted by Justice John M. Harlan. The law offices of Parden and Hutchins were burned.

Sheriff Shipp conspired to have Ed Johnson lynched and withdrew all the guards, except one elderly guard, from the jail the night of the lynching. Johnson was hanged and since he wasn't dying fast enough shot multiple times and a note was left on Johnson, "To Justice Harlan. Come get your n---r now." Shipp and others were brought to the only criminal trial in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court and found guilty of criminal contempt of court and sentenced to prison.

Gen. W.L. Cabell as commander of the Trans-Mississippi Dept. of the UCV issued a letter asking U.S President Taft to pardon Shipp which was published in the *DMN* on the basis of reconciliation over the Civil War. The Sterling Price camp meet on Nov. 21, 1909, read Cabell's circular, and voted unanimously to request that Shipp be given a full pardon.

Marilla as the street upon which Dallas City Hall is located is given symbolic importance and through this gives honor to a nasty racist William C. Young.

A longer paper with detailed footnotes will be online at <http://www.templeofdemocracy.com/marilla-street.html>.