

The Farmer's Register

Guest Editorial by Link Deas

It's the night of November 21st. Young, strong, Tom Robinson walks home from work on my farm. As he walks past the Ewell house, he hears a girl's voice beckoning him inside. This voice is not unfamiliar. It belongs to Mayella Ewell. She calls him inside to bust up a chiffarobe for her. She turns around and finds Tom Robinson standing there with a stern look on his face. And then, things got violent. He beat her and he choked her. Then, he took advantage of her. Mr. Ewell came running in at the sound of his girl's screams. And Tom Robinson fled the house.

So this is the story. According to the Ewells. But that whopper is a total lie. The Tom Robinson case, trial, and aftermath, was not just disgraceful to the name of Maycomb-- but flat out unjust.

From the beginning, everything boiled down to race. The trial happened in the first place because of it. Had Tom Robinson been a white man, this case probably might have never happened. Had Tom Robinson been a white man, he most likely would have been found innocent.

But everybody knows that every single jury in the state of Alabama would've voted the black man guilty if it was him against a white man, no matter the case. No matter the evidence. This injustice was evident in Mr. Robinson's trial as well. The evidence was almost overwhelming against the Ewells story. There were so many cracks and flaws in it. But it didn't matter because any white jury

would convict any black man. Tom Robinson didn't have a fair trial because of his race.

Not only that, but Tom Robinson has a crippled left arm, courtesy of it getting stuck in a cotton gin when he was a boy. The majority of Mayella's injuries were on the right side of her face. As Mr. Finch proved, it is virtually impossible for someone punching with just their right arm, like Tom Robinson, to put the majority of their punches on the right side of her face. On the other hand, Mr Ewell is left handed and *would* punch with his left arm, which would put most of the blows on the right side of her face. Tom Robinson couldn't even use his left arm, let alone punch with it.

In addition, I have experience working with this young man. It was quite clear that he was a fine young man and a credible worker. He was honest and just. He could never have done something as atrocious as he was accused of. Plus, Tom Robinson had practically no criminal record. He always was a lawful citizen. He had no history of doing anything like this.

On his record, it does say that he was arrested for 30 days for getting in a fight. Most people saw this as enough for him to be considered as having a criminal record. This is outright ABSURD!

There is a difference between a jailing for a fight and a jailing for the raping and beating of an innocent girl. Just because he was criminalized because once for trivial reasons does not mean he could do something like this.

A meager fight can certainly not be used as a justification.

"Tom Robinson shouldn't have even gone up to help Mayella all of those times" some people say. I say: this is all the more *proof* of his personality and all the more clarification that he could not have committed this crime. Him going to Mayella's aid all of those instances shows how honorable of a man he is. He was trying to do something good and do the right thing. A moral and kind person trying to do the right thing can't have that used against him.

Therefore, this case was not only unjust but never should've been brought to court. Though I most likely should not have stood up uninvited on the stand and announced that this case was tainted, for this innocent man's conviction and death, we, the people of Maycomb should be ashamed.