

JIM CROW V.S. BLACK CODES

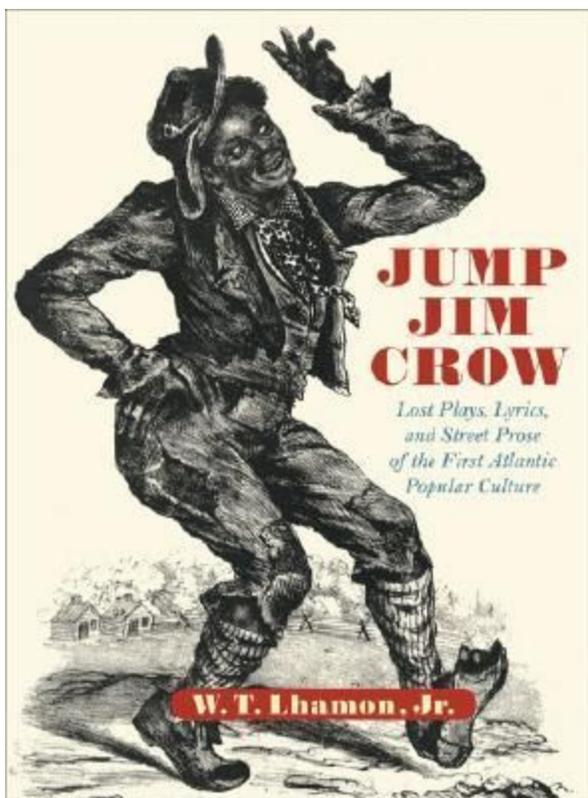
The 13th amendment was passed in 1865, which abolished slavery. In response to the passing, Southern states tried to control former slaves by passing "black codes" in 1865-1866. These laws varied from state to state, but the overall goal was to restrict the former slaves.

These restrictions on freedom outraged African Americans and northern supporters. In order to fix this, Congress required all the southern states to ratify (or accept) the 14th amendment in 1868. They further promoted change by also passing the 15th amendment allowing African Americans the right to vote in 1869. As a result, blacks and their white allies voted many African Americans into office in the South. With newly elected leaders, governments began repealing and doing away with Black Codes.

Overtime Courts interpreted the 14th amendment as "separate but equal" treatment of the races. This thinking led to the passage of segregation or Jim Crow laws, which meant unequal access to schools, jobs, homes, hospitals, courts, theaters, and shops for Southern

African Americans. **Black Codes** were now gone but Jim Crow laws took their place in 1881 when Tennessee separated blacks and whites on trains. Soon after, every former Confederate state created their own Jim Crow laws to separate whites from blacks.

In 1896, the Supreme Court case **Plessy v. Ferguson** challenged if Jim Crow laws broke the law by going against the 14 amendment. Homer Plessy was required to sit on a black rail car and sued, stating that this violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th amendment. The court ruled that states could create "separate but equal" spaces for blacks and whites. This meant Jim Crow laws were legal. Nothing would change until 68 years later in 1964 when **the Civil Rights Act** was passed.



Why are they called Jim Crow Laws????

In the 1820's a man named Thomas Dartmouth Rice was the first man to dress in "blackface" (putting makeup on a non-black performer) to play the role of a fictitious plantation slave. While wearing blackface, he danced and sang a song called "Jump Jim Crow." Both the song and wearing blackface became offensive and insensitive to many African- Americans.