**Black Codes**

Black Codes were designed in Southern states to regulate the lives of the newly Freedmen (former slaves). These laws would define the social status of Freedmen – their place in society and what they could and couldn’t do.

Northerner’s argued that these Black Codes were a new form of slavery and should not be tolerated. The Federal Govt. moved to stop these Black Codes from going into effect and deemed them invalid.

Examples of NC’s Black Codes:

* Blacks could legally be married (but marriage of blacks and whites was illegal)
* Blacks could own property
* Black families could not move from one county to the other without permission from the sheriff
* Black men could not own firearms
* Blacks could not serve on juries
* Freedmen were required to sign annual contracts with employers – which meant they could not change jobs more than once a year
* Established a racially separated court system – penalties for Blacks were often harsher than those of Whites
* Blacks could not testify in court against Whites

**Jim Crow Laws**

Although the Black Codes were deemed invalid, they paved the way for Jim Crow Laws that would last until the mid-1900’s.

Jim Crow Laws applied to the idea of “Separate but Equal” – these laws segregated the Blacks and Whites for almost a century.

Examples of Jim Crow Laws include:

* Separate bathroom facilities, separate drinking fountains, separate schools, separate waiting areas, separate restaurants, etc…

- These laws were continued under the Plessy v. Ferguson court case that allowed “separate but equal” facilities.

- They also laid out cultural and society rules that separated Blacks and Whites similar to the former Black Codes.

Here is a sampling of Jim Crow Laws from various states.

Nurses: No person or corporation shall require any white female nurse to nurse in wards or rooms in hospitals, either public or private, in which negro men are placed. *Alabama*

Buses: All passenger stations in this state operated by any motor transportation company shall have separate waiting rooms or space and separate ticket windows for the white and colored races. *Alabama*

Railroads: The conductor of each passenger train is authorized and required to assign each passenger to the car or the division of the car, when it is divided by a partition, designated for the race to which such passenger belongs. *Alabama*

Toilet Facilities, Male: Every employer of white or negro males shall provide for such white or negro males reasonably accessible and separate toilet facilities. *Alabama*

Cohabitation: Any negro man and white woman, or any white man and negro woman, who are not married to each other, who shall habitually live in and occupy in the nighttime the same room shall each be punished by imprisonment not exceeding twelve (12) months, or by fine not exceeding five hundred ($500.00) dollars. *Florida*

Education: The schools for white children and the schools for negro children shall be conducted separately. *Florida*

Restaurants: All persons licensed to conduct a restaurant, shall serve either white people exclusively or colored people exclusively and shall not sell to the two races within the same room or serve the two races anywhere under the same license. *Georgia*

Parks: It shall be unlawful for colored people to frequent any park owned or maintained by the city for the benefit, use and enjoyment of white persons...and unlawful for any white person to frequent any park owned or maintained by the city for the use and benefit of colored persons. *Georgia*