



**DEEP IN  
MY HEART**

**The Rise of Jim Crow in  
Central Virginia, 1865-1954**

June 26, 2005 – June 9, 2006

*Legacy*

Museum of African American History  
403 Monroe Street, Lynchburg, Virginia

# DEEP IN MY HEART

## The Rise of Jim Crow in Central Virginia, 1865-1954

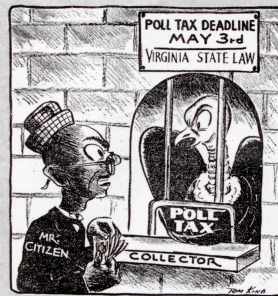
As in other places in the American South, Jim Crow shaped the private and public lives of African Americans in the city of Lynchburg and in Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell counties. Legislation enacted in the spirit of Jim Crow caused African Americans to, in the words of W.E.B. DuBois, "take a long step backward toward slavery."

The words "deep in my heart" come from the well-known song "We Shall Overcome," often considered the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement. While the lyrics we sing today date from the turn of the 20th century, the melody reaches back to slavery times. When African American lyricist Charles Tindley adapted the words from "No More Auction Block for Me" to "I'll Overcome Some Day," he touched on the belief that a *deep* and *heartfelt* faith could change any circumstance.

This exhibition explores the way Jim Crow rose and prospered in Central Virginia between 1865 and 1954, shaping thousands of African American lives.

WE SHALL OVERCOME  
WE SHALL OVERCOME  
WE SHALL OVERCOME SOME DAY  
OH, DEEP IN MY HEART  
I DO BELIEVE  
WE SHALL OVERCOME SOME DAY.

### *A Yearly Necessary Evil*



Courtesy of W.E. Clark, III

**"We would participate only to the degree necessary to survive."**

Albert J. Williams, Lynchburg native later elected mayor of Rochester, New York, about living with Jim Crow

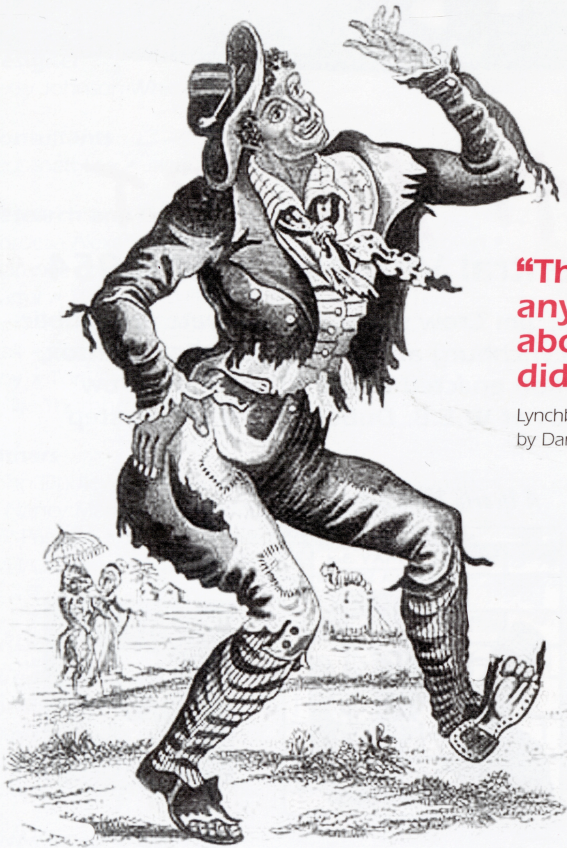


Courtesy of W.E. Clark, III



**Ku Klux Klan robes**  
Courtesy of Albemarle  
Charlottesville Historical Society

# Jim Crow



**“There was never any complaining about it.... They just did their best.”**

Lynchburg resident Louise Williams, quoted by Darrell Laurant in *A City Unto Itself*.

Before the Civil War, negative attitudes toward African Americans strengthened the institution of slavery and restricted the rights of free people of color. Many slaveholders believed they were superior to those they held in bondage and shared their belief with others.

In 1828, a white entertainer, Thomas “Daddy” Rice, fashioned a stage character he called Jim Crow after an elderly, crippled black man he had seen in Louisville, Kentucky. The enslaved man grinned and danced on Louisville streets, begging his viewing public for money. The beggar was held in bondage by a slaveholder named Mr. Crow. For Rice this old man represented a host of off-putting characteristics commonly associated with African Americans.

Rice incorporated these negative traits into his performance and drew applause from white audiences based on their agreement with his ideas and humor.

In the three decades leading up to the Civil War, the term “Jim Crow” became a shorthand way to describe the distance and the difference between races based on white superiority. Following the Civil War, “Jim Crow” came into common use as a label for the unequal treatment and separation of African Americans in daily life. Jim Crow shaped African American lives in Central Virginia from birth to death.

## In School

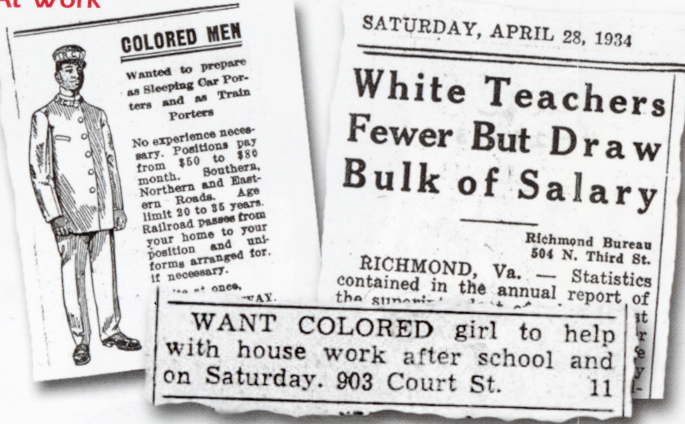


Ivy Hill School, Amherst County, c. 1920  
Courtesy of Ted Trevey



Jeannette Green Martin (1912-1993) and her students,  
Armstrong Elementary School, Lynchburg, 1954  
Courtesy of Emmie Spencer

## At Work



Classified ad, *Lynchburg News*, first half of 20th century  
 Courtesy of Gloria Franklin

**“Nowhere did the growing tensions between black laborers and white employers seem more pronounced than in domestic service, as these tensions reached deep in the family circle and involved the closest contact between blacks and whites.”**

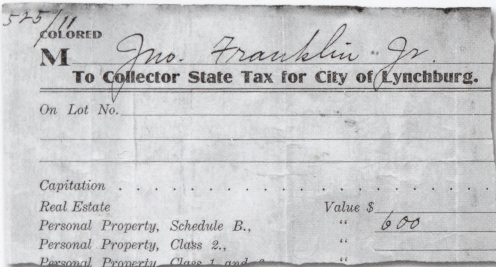
Leon Litwack, *Trouble in Mind*

## In Public Accommodations



Sign, *Nellie's Lodging*  
 Courtesy of John Albertson

## In the Public Record



Tax receipt, *Lynchburg, 1925*  
 Courtesy of Gloria Franklin



Doll family, *Campbell County, c. 1935*  
 Courtesy of Betty Sue Moehlenkamp

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## Acknowledgements

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## Museum Hours

**Wednesday – Saturday: Noon – 4PM**

**Sunday: 2 – 4PM**

Other times by appointment. Closed on major holidays. Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 for seniors and youth, children under 6 free. Wheelchair accessible.

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**“Deep in My Heart: The Fall of Jim Crow in Central Virginia, 1954-1975,” will open on June 25, 2006.**

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**vfh** Virginia Foundation  
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