

Document 1A:

A Sharecropping Contract: 1882 (Modified)

To every one applying to rent land, the following conditions must be read, and agreed to:

For every 30 acres of land (rented by sharecroppers), I agree to furnish the mule team, plow, and farming implements. The sharecroppers are to have half of the cotton, corn, peas, pumpkins, and potatoes they grow if the following conditions are complied with, but--if not--they are to have only two-fifths.

For every mule or horse furnished by me there must be 1000 good sized rails (logs) hauled, and the fence repaired if I so direct. All sharecroppers must haul rails (logs) and work on the fence whenever I may order. The wood must be split and the fence repaired before corn is planted. No cotton must be planted by sharecroppers on their home patches of land. No sharecropper is to work off the plantation when there is any work to be done on the land he has rented, or when his work is needed by me.

Every sharecropper must be responsible for all farming gear placed in his hands, and if not returned must be paid for unless it is worn out by use.

Nothing can be sold from their (sharecroppers') crops until my rent is all paid, and all amounts they owe me are paid in full.

I am to gin & pack all of the cotton and charge every sharecropper an eighteenth of his part, the cropper to furnish his part of the bagging, ties, & twine.

The sale of every sharecropper's part of the cotton to be made by me when and where I choose to sell, and after deducting all they owe me.

Source: Grimes Family Papers (#3357), 1882; Held in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Document 1B:



Source: "Cotton Picking in Georgia" Marcus L. Brown, photograph (Decatur, G.A., 1907).

Document 2:

Henry Blake, a freedman from Arkansas, describes how sharecropping limited his freedom in these words:

After freedom, we worked on shares a while...When we worked on shares, we couldn't make nothing, just overalls and something to eat. Half went to the other man and you would destroy your half, if you weren't careful. A man that didn't know how to count would always lose. He might lose anyhow. They didn't give no itemized statement. No, you just had to take their word. They never give you no details. No matter how good account you kept, you had to go by their account, and now, Brother, I'm tellin' you the truth about this. It's been that way for a long time. You had to take the white man's work on note, and everything. Anything you wanted, you could get if you were a good hand. You could get anything you wanted as long as you worked. If you didn't make no money, that's all right; they would advance you more. But you better not leave him, you better not try to leave and get caught. They'd keep you in debt. They were sharp. Christmas come, you could take up twenty dollar, in somethin' to eat and as much as you wanted in whiskey. You could buy a gallon of whiskey. Anything that kept you a slave because he was always right and you were always wrong if there was a difference. If there was an argument, he would get mad and there would be a shooting take place....But if you weren't a good hand, he'd just let you have enough to keep you alive.

Source: *Henry Blake, Little Rock, Arkansas* Federal Writers Project, United States Work Projects Administration; Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (1938)

Document 3A:

Section 5: ...Every freedman, free negro and mulatto shall, on the second Monday of January, 1866 and annually thereafter, have a lawful home or employment, and shall have written evidence thereof...

Section 6: ...All contracts for labor made with freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes for a longer

period than one month shall be in writing, and a duplicate, attested and read to said freedman, free negro or mulatto by a beat, city or county officer... and if the laborer shall quit the service of the employer before the expiration of his term of service, without good cause, he shall forfeit his wages for that year up to the time of quitting.

Section 7: ...Every civil officer shall, and every person may, arrest and carry back to his or her legal employer any freedman, free negro, or mulatto who shall have quit the service of his or her employer before the expiration of his or her term of service without good cause...

Source: Black Codes - Mississippi - 1865 - Civil Rights of Freedmen

Document 3B:

Section 1:That all rogues and vagabonds, idle and dissipated persons, beggars, jugglers, or persons practicing unlawful games or plays, runaways, common drunkards, common nightwalkers, pilferers, lewd, wanton, or lascivious persons, in speech or behavior, common railers and brawlers, persons who neglect their calling or employment, misspend what they earn, or do not provide for the support of themselves or their families, or dependents, and all other idle and disorderly persons, including all who neglect all lawful business, habitually misspend their time by frequenting houses of ill-fame, gaming-houses, or tippling shops, shall be deemed and considered vagrants, under the provisions of this act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding one hundred dollars, with all accruing costs, and be imprisoned, at the discretion of the court, not exceeding ten days.

Source: Black Codes - Mississippi - 1865 - Vagrant Law

Document 3C:

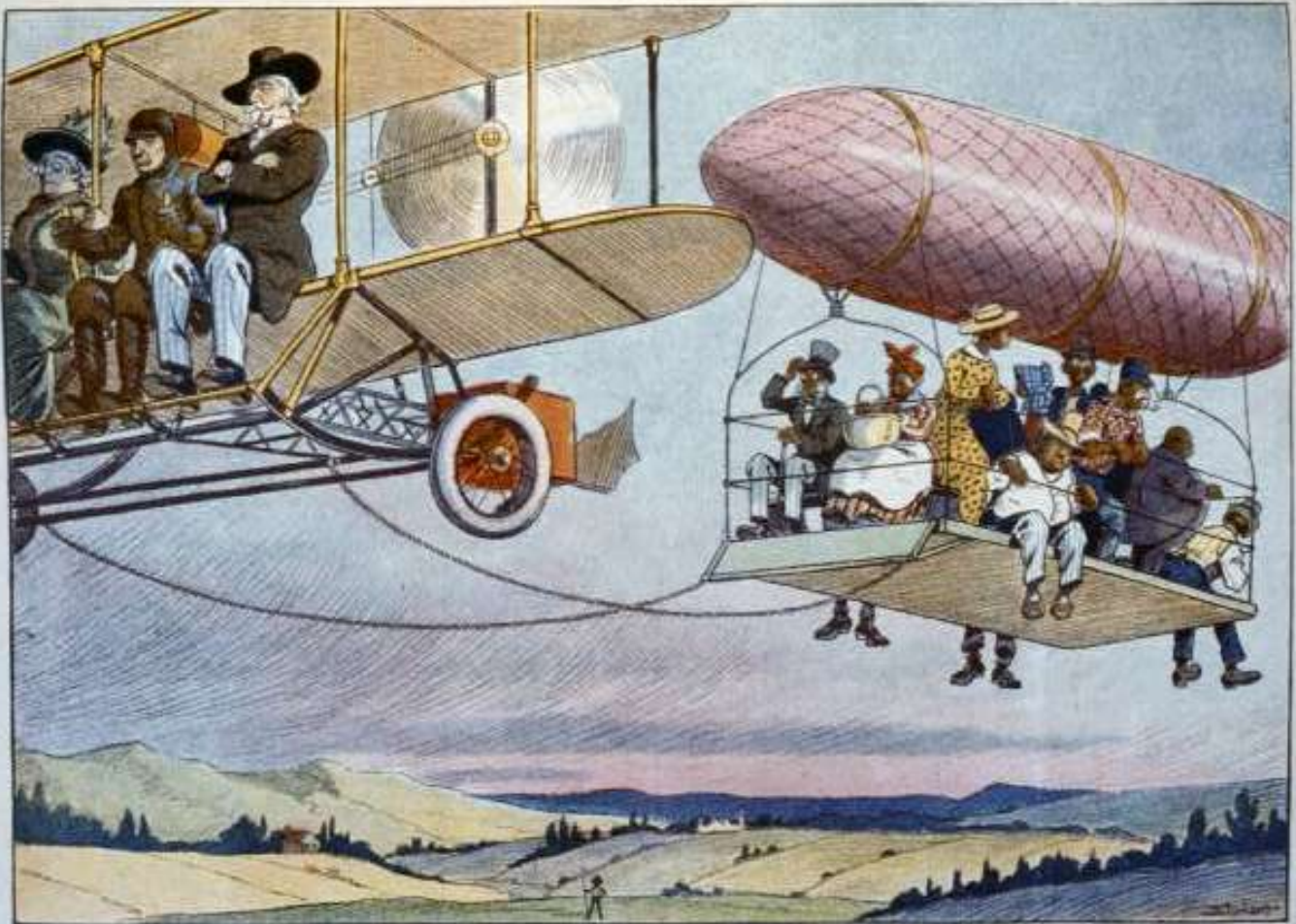
Section 1: ...That no freedman, free negro or mulatto, not in the military service of the United States government, and not licensed so to do by the board of police of his or her county, shall keep or carry fire-arms of any kind, or any ammunition, dirk or bowie knife, and on conviction thereof in the county court shall be punished by fine...

Section 2: ...Any freedman, free negro, or mulatto committing riots, routs, affrays, trespasses, malicious mischief, cruel treatment to animals, seditious speeches, insulting gestures, language, or acts, or assaults on any person, disturbance of the peace, exercising the function of a minister of the Gospel without a license from some regularly organized church, vending spirituous or intoxicating liquors, or committing any other misdemeanor, the punishment of which is not specifically provided for by law, shall, upon conviction thereof in the county court, be fined not less than ten dollars, and not more than one hundred dollars, and may be imprisoned at the discretion of the court, not exceeding thirty days.

Source: Black Codes - Mississippi - 1865 - Certain Offenses of Freedmen

Document 4A:

PUCK



FOR THE SUNNY SOUTH.
AN AIRSHIP WITH A "JIM CROW" TRAILER.

Alabama:

- No person or corporation shall require any white female nurse to nurse wards or rooms in hospitals, either public or private, in which negro men are placed.
- 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.
- It shall be unlawful to conduct a restaurant or other place for the serving of food in the city, at which white and colored people are served in the same room, unless such white and colored persons are effectually separated by a solid partition extending from the floor upward to a distance of seven feet or higher, and unless a separate entrance from the street is provided for each compartment.
- It shall be unlawful for a negro and a white person to play together or in the company with each other in any game of cards or dice, dominoes, or checkers.

Nebraska:

- Marriages are void when one party is a white person and the other is possessed of one-eighth or more negro, Japanese, or Chinese blood.

Wyoming:

- When there are 15 or more colored children within any school district, the board of directors thereof, with the approval of the county superintendent of schools, may provide for a separate school for instruction of colored children.

North Carolina:

- Books shall not be interchangeable between the white and colored schools, but shall continue to be used by the race first using them.
- The state librarian is directed to fit up and maintain a separate place for the use of the colored people who may come to the library for the purpose of reading books or periodicals.

Georgia:

- It shall be unlawful for any amateur white baseball team to play baseball on any vacant lot or baseball diamond within two blocks of a playground devoted to the Negro race, and it shall be unlawful for any amateur colored baseball team to play baseball in any vacant lot or baseball diamond within two blocks of any playground devoted to the white race.
- No colored barber shall serve as a barber to white women or girls.

Source: Examples of Jim Crow laws from around the United States written between 1890 and 1915

Document 5:



Source:
Harper's
Weekly
January
1870

Eddikashun
qualifukashun. The
Black man orter be
eddikated afore he
kin vote with US
Wites, signed Mr.
Solid South."

[Translation:
Education
Qualification. The
Black man ought
to be educated
before he can vote
with US whites,
signed Mr. Solid
South]

Uncle Sam

Caption:
The color line
still exists - in
this case.

White Southerners (5)