



# Here Lies Jim Crow: Civil Rights in Maryland

*C. Fraser Smith*

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Though he lived throughout much of the South?and even worked his way into parts of the North for a time?Jim Crow was conceived and buried in Maryland. From Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney's infamous decision in the *Dred Scott* case to Thurgood Marshall's eloquent and effective work on *Brown v. Board of Education*, the battle for black equality is very much the story of Free State women and men.

Here, *Baltimore Sun* columnist C. Fraser Smith recounts that tale through the stories, words, and deeds of famous, infamous, and little-known Marylanders. He traces the roots of Jim Crow laws from *Dred Scott* to *Plessy v. Ferguson* and describes the parallel and opposite early efforts of those who struggled to establish freedom and basic rights for African Americans. Following the historical trail of evidence, Smith relates latter-day examples of Maryland residents who trod those same steps, from the thrice-failed attempt to deny black people the vote in the early twentieth century to nascent demonstrations for open access to lunch counters, movie theaters, stores, golf courses, and other public and private institutions?struggles that occurred decades before the now-celebrated historical figures strode onto the national civil rights scene. Smith's lively account includes the grand themes and the state's major players in the movement?Frederick Douglass, Harriett Tubman, Thurgood Marshall, and Lillie May Jackson, among others?and also tells the story of the struggle via several of Maryland's important but relatively unknown men and women?such as Gloria Richardson, John Prentiss Poe, William L. "Little Willie" Adams, and Walter Sondheim?who prepared Jim Crow's grave and waited for the nation to deliver the body.

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