

From the Emancipation Proclamation to Juneteenth



1865 cartoon showing Lincoln and Johnson using their talents as rail-splitter and tailor to repair the Union.

Emancipation Proclamation - On September 22, 1862 President Lincoln Issued the Emancipation Proclamation (A Presidential Executive Order) to take effect on Jan 1, 1863 freeing the enslaved people in the rebellious states, as America was in the midst of a Civil War, also known as War of the States over the issue of slavery. Earlier that summer Congress passed the 2nd Confiscation Act, after three men escaped slavery and fled to Ft. Monroe, Virginia. This escape to asylum and the legislation that followed urged the formation of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and let the once enslaved people to join in the fight for their freedom. Over 250,000 black soldiers and over 25,000 black sailors brought support to the Union.

On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation took effect. In many slaveholding states the New Year usually brought about the sale of enslaved people. So, traditions like a spoonful of black-eyed peas for good luck for you not be sold or to find your way back to your family if you were sold were begun. But New Year's Eve 1862 brought on a new tradition in many places called Watch Night as many waited for the Emancipation Proclamation to take effect at Midnight. Just because the order was issued does not mean it was followed. So, more conflict and battles ensued both on the battlefield and legislation.

13th Amendment - On February 1, 1865, President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment ending slavery in the U.S. The Congress of the United States passed it on January 31, 1865, Fredrick Douglass was there as the House passed the 13th Amendment and there were reports of celebrations throughout the city

Lee's surrender and Appomattox - Marching towards Appomattox these regiments of Colonel William W. Woodward's brigade, the 29th and 31st U.S.C.T., (Illinois and New York) along with the 116th U.S.C.T., (Kentucky) assigned to them from another brigade participated in the final advance on the Confederate line. Along with members of the other XXV units that pursued General Robert E. Lee's forces south from Richmond the following spring, the men of the 8th USCT, including John Peck, were on hand to celebrate at Appomattox when Lee formally surrendered on April 9.



"We, the colored soldiers, have fairly won our rights by loyalty and bravery - shall we obtain them? If we are refused now, we shall demand them." Sgt. Maj. William McCeslin; 29th U.S.C.T.

Lincoln assassinated- President Lincoln had gotten the 13th Amendment through Congress and had plans for the 14th & 15th Amendments to grant citizenship and the right to vote to formerly enslaved black men. This really got the ire of the dissenters and on April 9, 1865 at Ford Theater President Lincoln was assassinated. Vice President Johnson assumed

Juneteenth – With America in apparent disarray from the Civil War, the Assassination of Lincoln and Texas in rebellion, Maximillian was emboldened to raid Texas for resources. Gen Grant dispatched the US Army including USCT troops to Mexico, via commercial ships, as a show of force. Where their convoy ran into a storm in the Gulf of Mexico and were forced to land at Galveston. Texas was one of the last states in rebellion, following the end of the Civil War, to allow enslavement. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation was not announced in the last few states practicing enslavement until the "black soldiers with guns told us that we are free." They were the United States Colored Troops (USCT), who came, "like a storm pushing Jonah...[was] the USCT pushed to Galveston." The USCT were there enforcing General Gordon Granger as he issued General Order #3, on the "19th of June," in Galveston, Texas, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Upon seeing those USCT soldiers and hearing the news, the people who were held in slavery began Juneteenth, A Celebration of Freedom

The "Modern Juneteenth Movement" - 1994, the era of the "Modern Juneteenth Movement" began when a group of Juneteenth leaders from across the country gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, at Christian Unity Baptist Church, Rev. Dwight Webster, Pastor, to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth. The historic meeting was convened by Rev. John Mosley, Director of the New Orleans Juneteenth Freedom Celebration.

Several national Juneteenth organizations were born from this historic gathering beginning with the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage (NAJL), followed by the National Juneteenth Celebration Association (NJCA), the National Juneteenth Christian Leadership Council (NJCLC) and the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF). Shortly prior to this gathering, Juneteenth America, Inc., (JAI) was founded by John Thompson, who organized the first National Juneteenth Convention & Expo, and the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF) founded by Ben Haith, the creator of the National Juneteenth Flag.

In 1997, through the leadership of Lula Briggs Galloway, President of the NAJL and Rev. Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D., Chairman of the NAJL, the U.S. congress officially passed historic legislation recognizing Juneteenth as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in America.

Today Juneteenth is recognized in 49 States and the District of Columbia, celebrated in Mexico by the Mascogos, and with Juneteenth Family Week in Ghana. There are Juneteenth flag raisings by the Buffalo Soldiers, parades, unity walks, Bar-be-ques, music and community gatherings with presentations and speeches on freedom and the pursuit of Liberty.

On June 17, 2022, Juneteenth National Independence Day became a Federal Holiday



From left, Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., Steve Williams, president of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, and Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., pose with the Juneteenth flag after their press conference at the Capitol on Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

Rep Danny Davis, D-Ill, Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass, Steve Williams NJOF and Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn.



NJOF Board member Opal Lee and President Joe Biden



Juneteenth Awareness Day

February 19 is Juneteenth Awareness Day (for Students & Teachers)

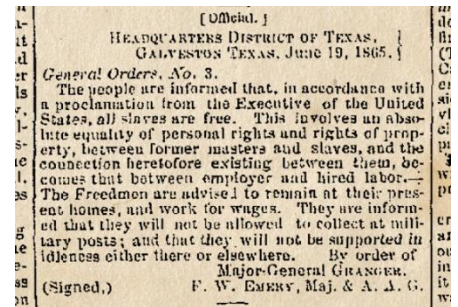
Juneteenth awareness questions:

1. When is Juneteenth?
2. What is Juneteenth historically?
3. Who was involved in Juneteenth?
4. Why is June 19 important?
5. How is Juneteenth celebrated?
6. What is the relationship between the 4th of July and June 19th?
7. What is the Modern Juneteenth Movement?
8. What does Juneteenth mean to you?

Action Item: Participate in a local Juneteenth event or plan your own Juneteenth activity.

Important Historical Dates

- June 19, 1862 Slavery outlawed in US territories by Congress, Chapter CXI.
 - June 19, 1863 Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society enforce the Emancipation order.
 - June 19, 1863 Orders to authorize the formation of the USCT.
 - June 19, 1865 U.S.C.T. 29th & 31st in Galveston, TX or General Order #3
 - June 14, 1866 Treaty with Five Civilized Tribes ended slavery in Oklahoma signed,
- The End of Slavery in the Nation***
- June 19, 1964 Civil Rights Act of 1964 survived an 83-day filibuster in the Senate.
 - June 19, 1968 Poor People's Campaign Solidarity Day March, Washington D.C.
 - June 17, 2021 Juneteenth becomes a Federal Holiday



General Order #3



U.S. Colored Troops (USCT)



Juneteenth Freedom Figures to Study

- Lemuel Haynes
- Wentworth Cheswell
- Salem Poor
- Peter Salem
- John Horse (Juan Caballo)
- Robert Smalls*
- Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory, and James Townsend*
- Private William Costley*
- Henry O. Flipper
- Wesley A. Brown
- Major Richard Robert Wright Sr.*
- Janie L. Mines
- A. Philip Randolph
- Rev. Ronald V. Myers, S.R. M.D. (Doc)*

“Once [you] let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S.; let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.”

-Fredrick Douglass

Guide:

1. June 19
2. **WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?** Juneteenth is an annual observance to celebrate the date Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. Texas was one of the last states in rebellion, following the end of the Civil War, to allow enslavement. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation was not known in the last few states practicing enslavement until the "black men with guns told us that we are free." They were the United States Colored Troops (USCT), who came, "like a storm pushing Jonah...[was] the USCT push to Galveston." They along with General Gordon Granger issued General Order #3, on the "19th of June," in Galveston, Texas, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Hence the name "JUNETEENTH." *"Moreover, two ships, the Wilmington and the William Kennedy, contracted at City Point, VA, for two Regiments of the US Colored soldiers, the 29th of Illinois and the 31st of New York also arrived on the 18th of June, by accident. Those two units were originally dispatched to land at Brownsville, TX, but a storm at sea prevented a landing so they found a safe harbor at Galveston also on June 18th. So, Lt. General Grainger and two armed units of Black soldiers enforced the first "Juneteenth Freedom Day" and it has been celebrated every year since 1865."*
3. *USCT from Illinois and New York, all trained at Ft. William Penn, Penn., Maj Gen Granger*
4. *The end of slavery in America*
5. *Prayer, Flag raisings, unity walks, honoring leaders and military, community gatherings & parades, BBQ and Jazz, Miss Juneteenth programs*
6. *The 4th of July freed the land, Juneteenth freed the people! (both the enslaved and the slave holders)*
7. *1968, Juneteenth received a strong resurgence through the Poor Peoples March to Washington, Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to Washington to show support for the poor. Many attendees initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity. The "Modern Juneteenth Movement" began in 1994, when nationwide Juneteenth leaders gathered in New Orleans, LA, at Christian Unity Baptist Church to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth with NJOF Founder, Rev. Ronald V Myers SR M.D. (Doc) beginning the successful holiday campaign in 43 states and the District of Columbia to make Juneteenth a National Day of Observance.*
8. *What does the past, present, or future of Juneteenth mean to you? This is a subjective question.*

Action item: Contact your local Juneteenth organization to volunteer. Or you can plan your own event and use the 19th of each month (March, April and May) to plan an event for your family or community.

About the NJOF

NJOF is a national foundation, including hundreds of local organizations, that have been instrumental in the passage of Juneteenth Independence Day legislation. The NJOF advances the right of Freedom through its initiatives including education, health, music, art, and technology, creating opportunities for a better life for all. By focusing on these key building blocks the NJOF movement creates long-lasting community change. The NJOF is a call to action for everyone to become a part of the change.

Our Mission

To bring all Americans together to celebrate our common bond of freedom through the recognition, observance, education, and historic preservation of Juneteenth in America.

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