

Famous African Americans





Civil War Era

Emancipation Proclamation



By the President of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, On the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a Proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, announcing, among other things the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held in Slavery within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforth, and FOREVER FREE, and the EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, including the military and naval authorities thereof, WILL RECOGNIZE AND MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM of such persons, and will do so not to take in reprisal such persons, or any of them, in any effort they may make for their actual freedom."

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the first that any State, or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen therein at elections whereof a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, by virtue of the power so me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as it may become necessary for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaim for the full period of one hundred days from the day of the first above-mentioned order, and designate, as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are then in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit: ARIZONA, TEXAS, LOUISIANA (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, St. Martin, St. Michael, St. Pierre, St. Louis, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans), MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Adams, Botetourt, Elizabeth City, Bath, Prince John, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth) and which respective parts are for the present left partially or wholly unoccupied by the regular army of the United States, and which respective parts are for the present left partially or wholly unoccupied.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that ALL PERSONS HELD AS SLAVES within said designated States and parts of States ARE, and henceforth SHALL BE FREE! and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval Authorities thereof, WILL RECOGNIZE AND MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM of said persons.

And I hereby signify upon the people in rebellion by the first, to abstain from all violence, UNLESS IT BEHINDS SELF-DEFENSE, and I recommend to them that in all cases, when allowed, they LABOR FREELY FOR HUMANITARIAN WAGES.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States, in positions from, positions, stations, and other places, and to more readily of all sorts as may be required.

And upon this act, REMEMBERED BELIEVED TO BE AN ACT OF JUSTICE, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I trust the unshaken judgment of mankind, and the generous hearts of ALL AMERICANS.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eightieth.

By the President
Abraham Lincoln
 Secretary of State

Lincoln



Revised according to Act of Congress, October 3, 1864, by the President of the United States, and the Secretary of State, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, at New York.

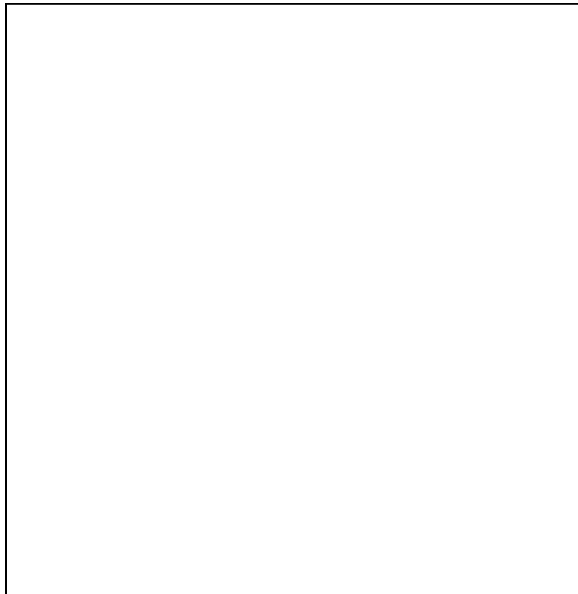
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

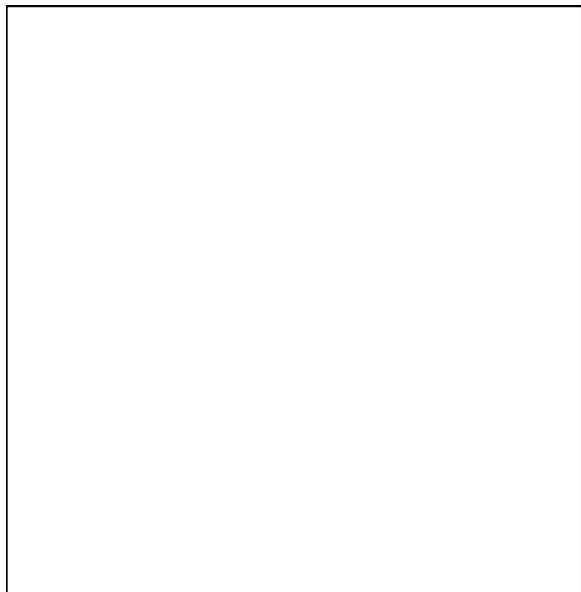


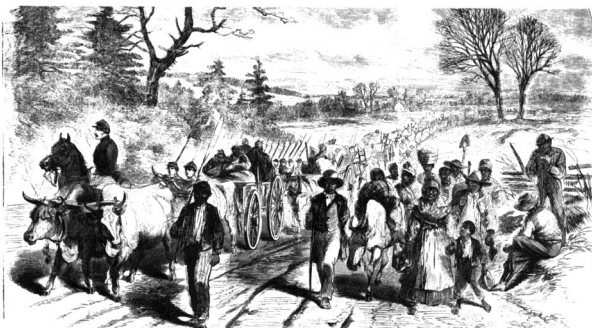
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Civil War Era

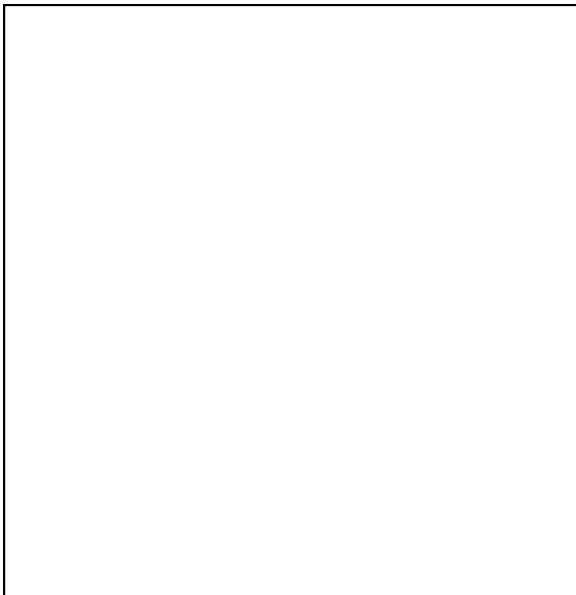






Civil War Era

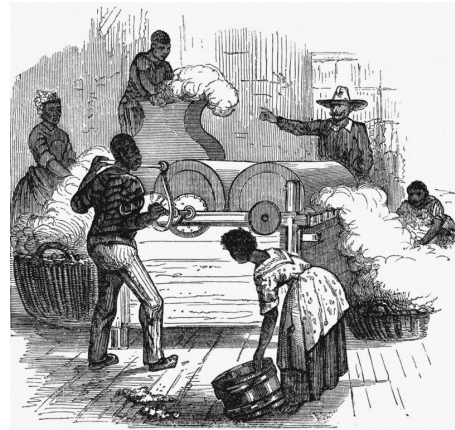
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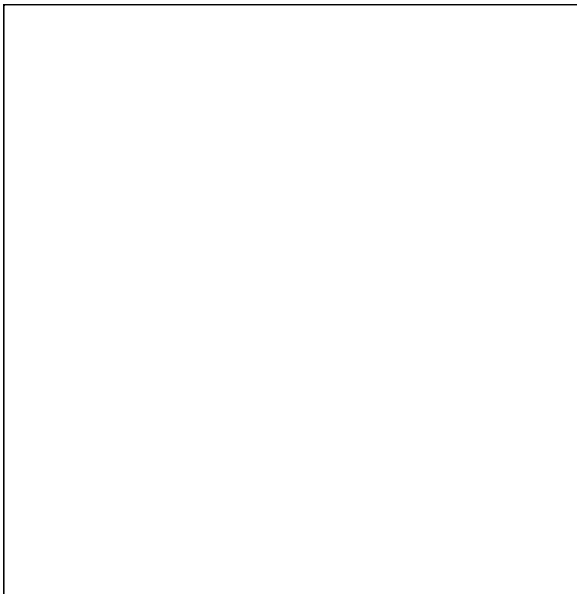
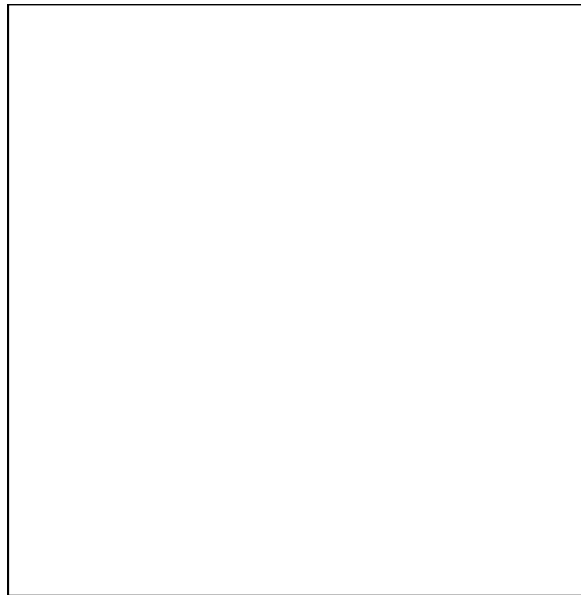
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