



**JUNETEENTH**

*Celebrate Freedom*

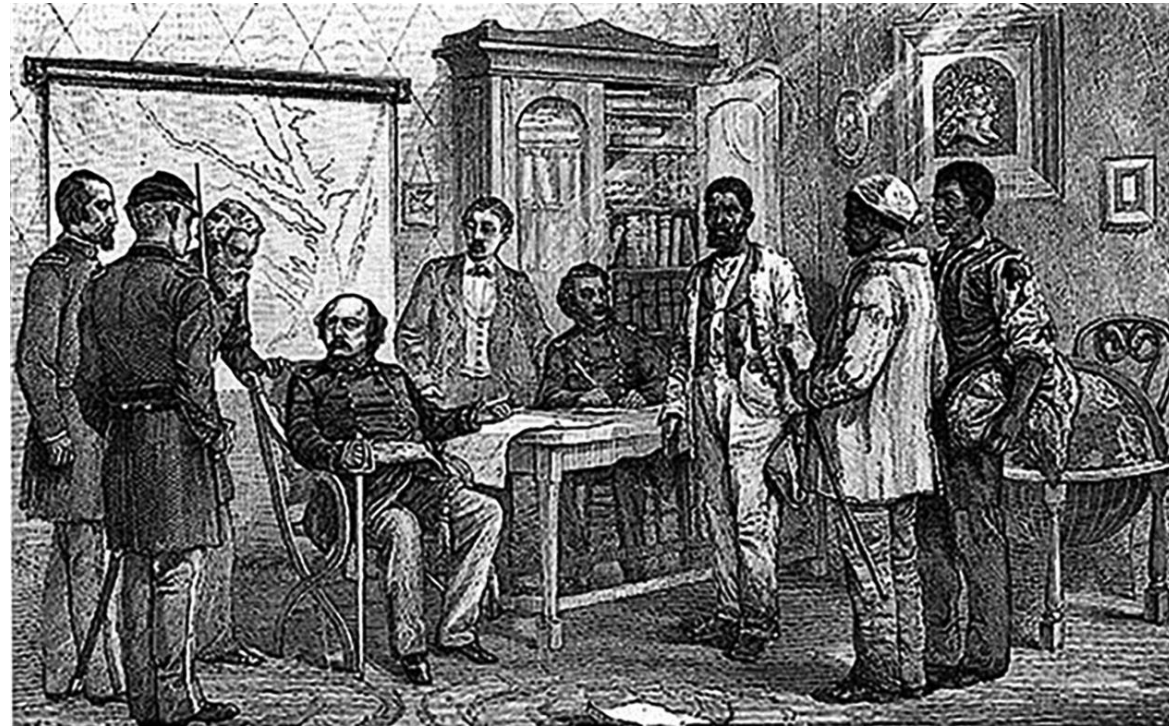
# WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

- The portmanteau word Juneteenth is from the words June and nineteen.
- Juneteenth is often called Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, or Emancipation Day.
- It signified when the last slaves in Galveston, Texas were told they were free on June 19, 1865.



# GENERAL BENJAMIN BUTLER'S CONTRABANDS OF WAR

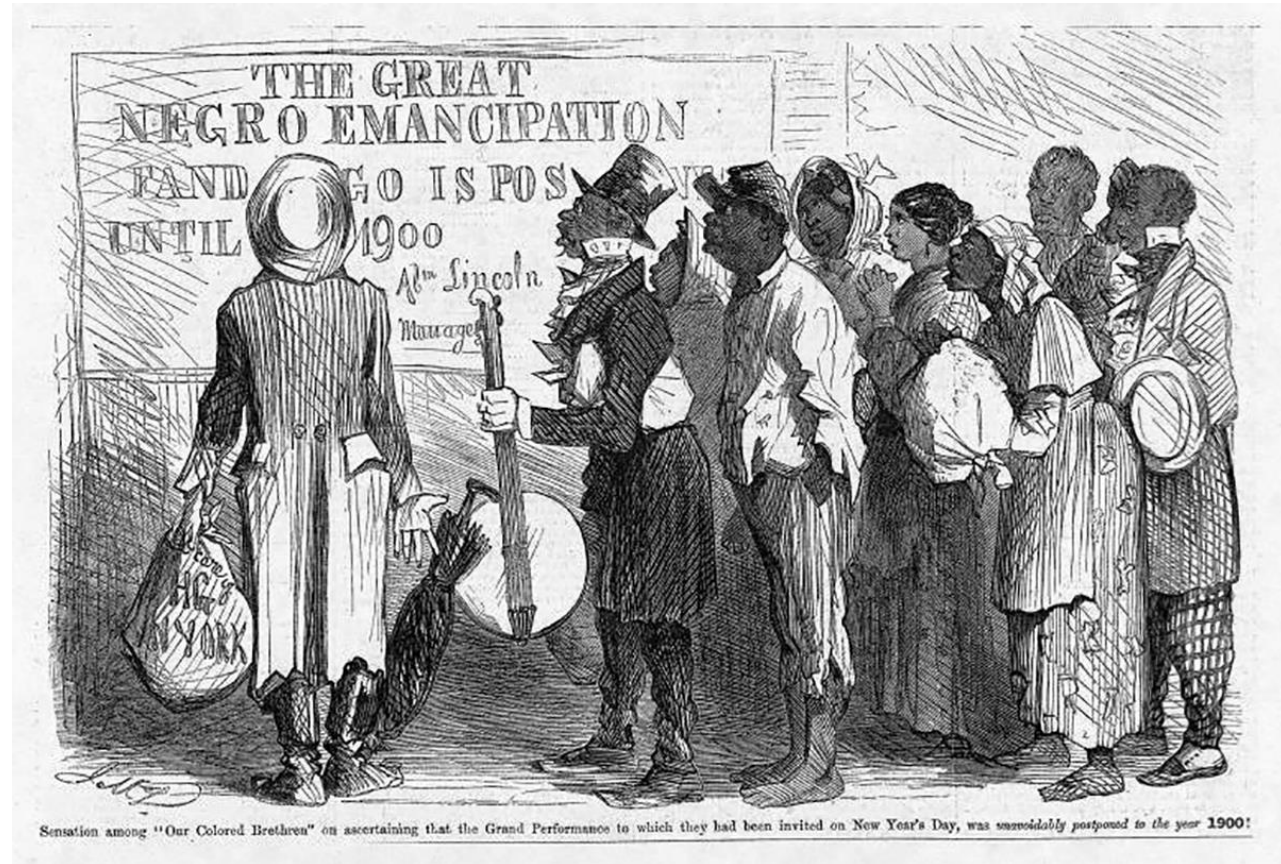
- Three slaves escaped from the Confederate Army to Fort Monroe.
- General Butler refused to comply with the Fugitive Slave Act and kept the three escaped slaves as contrabands of war.
- This classification meant that any seized slaves being used to support the Confederate rebellion could be kept by the Union Army.
- The Civil War Confiscation Acts of 1861 and 1862 made it legal to seize slaves and free them in conquered rebel territories.





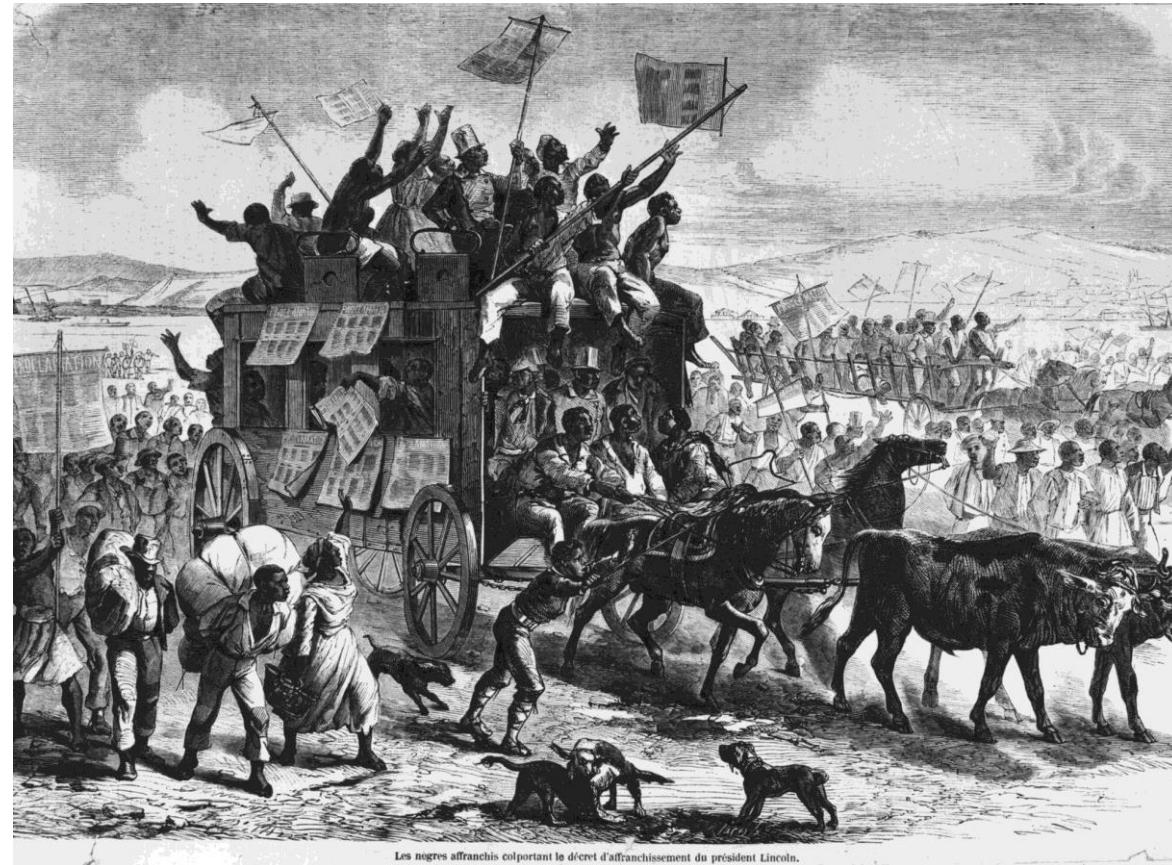
## “THE GREAT NEGRO EMANCIPATION”

- This cartoon was published in *Harper's Weekly* on December 20, 1862.
- The cartoon criticizes President Lincoln for his plan for gradual emancipation.
- President Lincoln announced his executive order for the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, to take effect on January 1, 1863.



# EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION CELEBRATION

- Emancipation Proclamation is issued by United States President Abraham Lincoln for the abolition of slavery, 1863.
- In this illustration, the crowd is celebrating freedom holding copies of the Emancipation Proclamation.



Les noirs affranchis colportant le décret d'affranchissement du président Lincoln.



## ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

- Photographer Timothy O'Sullivan took a series of photos that captured the hugely significant act in progress, slaves emancipating themselves on the road to freedom.
- Even after the Union defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run, slaves sought refuge with the retreating Union Army.



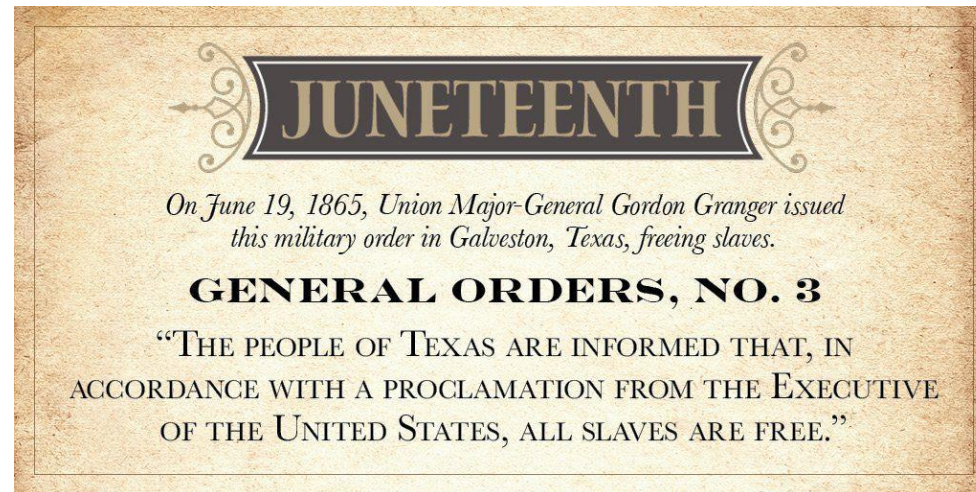
## BATTLE OF PALMITO RANCH IN TEXAS

- The Civil War's last battle was the Battle of Palmito Ranch in Texas on May 13, 1865.
- The battle was a decisive Confederate win.
- On June 2, 1865, Confederate General Kirby Smith surrendered in Galveston to the Army of the United States of America.



## GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 3

- Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas to take command of the troops, restore some semblance of order, and announce that all enslaved people were free.
- Galveston was the largest city in Texas and a port city. It was the perfect location to disseminate the information that all slaves were free.
- June 19, 1865, became the official date for the end of slavery.





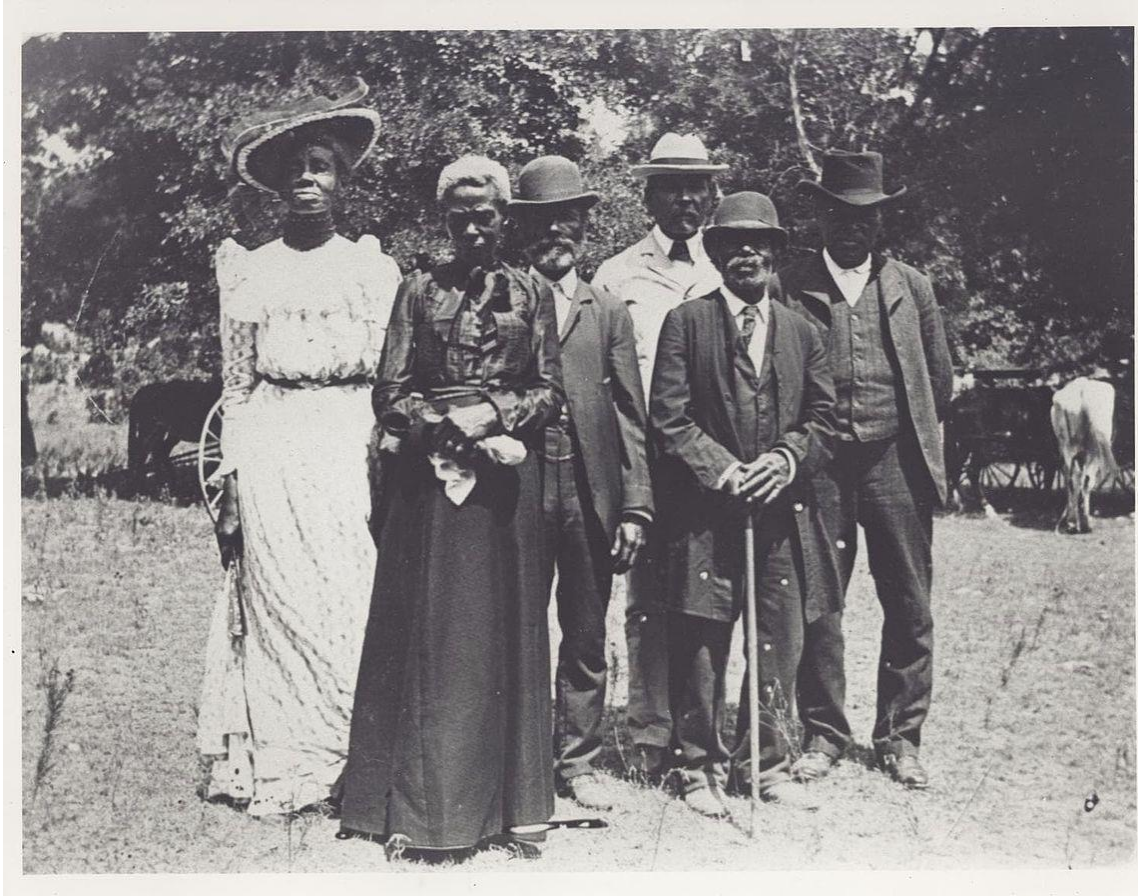
# EMANCIPATION OF THE NEGROES-THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

- This sensitive illustration by Thomas Nast of what emancipation meant for the slaves was published in *Harper's Weekly* on January 24, 1863.
- Nast became one of the most celebrated artists of *Harper's Weekly*.
- He was considered a Radical Republican who believed in a nation of equality, but the rights of blacks were his priority.



## OFFICIAL JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE, AUSTIN, TX

- From 1866 on, freed slaves started celebrations in Galveston, Texas.
- They gathered to pray, eat, dance, and hear stories on that historic day.
- This Juneteenth committee poses for a photo on June 19, 1900, at East Woods Park in Austin, Texas.
- The freed people of Texas still celebrate Freedom Day with local versions of activities to commemorate June 19, 1865.





## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION WITH MUSICIANS, 1900

- Celebrants dressed in their finest clothes, marched in parades, and provided music for participants.
- Early celebration photos of elderly former slaves, dignitaries, children, and young men and women exemplify the commitment to the promise of the future.





# EMANCIPATION DAY PARADE APRIL 3, 1905 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

- This parade in Richmond, Virginia has a large crowd of well-dressed adults and children marching down the street.
- Some people are peering out the windows in the building and others in the street are carrying musical instruments.
- The crowd might be on their way to official events where food and music may be presented.



## SLAVE REUNION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., 1916

- Pictured are Lewis Martin, 100; Martha Elizabeth Banks, 104; Amy Ware, 103; and Reverend Simon P. Drew, born free.



## “ABSOLUTE EQUALITY”

- In Galveston, Texas, The Legacy Project and artist Reginald Adams created a 5,000-square-foot mural to celebrate the issued General Order #3.
- The mural is located at the former site of the Union Army Headquarters.
- The massive mural is organized in colorful portals that depict the history of Galveston.
- It is hoped that the mural will gain more recognition for the Juneteenth celebration in Galveston.





## JUNETEENTH TODAY

- There has been a revival in celebrating Juneteenth across the nation.
- Today, Juneteenth community festivals feature music, food, and parades.
- On June 7, 1979, Texas Legislature passed a law to make Juneteenth an official holiday.



## **THE JUNETEENTH LEGACY** **JUNE 19, 1865**

*“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves...”*





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