

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN AMERICA

1501 ~ 1775

1501 ~ AFRICAN SLAVES IN THE NEW WORLD

***SPANISH SETTLERS BRING SLAVES FROM AFRICA TO
SANTO DOMINGO.
(NOW THE CAPITAL OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)***

1619 ~ SLAVES IN VIRGINIA

***AFRICANS BROUGHT TO JAMESTOWN ARE THE FIRST SLAVES
IMPORTED INTO BRITAIN'S NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.
LIKE INDENTURED SERVANTS, THEY WERE PROBABLY FREED
AFTER A FIXED PERIOD OF SERVICE.***

1700 ~ FIRST ANTISLAVERY PUBLICATION

***MASSACHUSETTS JURIST AND PRINTER, SAMUEL SEAWELL,
PUBLISHES THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN ANTISLAVERY TRACT.
THE SELLING OF JOSEPH.***

1705 ~ SLAVES AS PROPERTY

***DESCRIBING SLAVES AS REAL ESTATE, VIRGINIA LAWMAKERS
ALLOW OWNERS TO BEQUEATH THEIR SLAVES. THE SAME LAW
ALLOWS MASTERS TO "KILL AND DESTROY" RUNAWAYS.***

1775 ~ ABOLITIONIST SOCIETY

***ANTHONY BENEZET OF PHILADELPHIA FOUNDS THE WORLD'S
FIRST ABOLITIONIST SOCIETY. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BECOMES
ITS PRESIDENT IN 1787.***

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1776 ~ 1831

1776 ~ DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ASSERTS THAT THESE UNITED COLONIES ARE, AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES.

1793 ~ FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT

THE UNITED STATES OUTLAW ANY EFFORTS TO IMPEDE THE CAPTURE OF RUNAWAY SLAVES. THE INVENTION OF THE COTTON GIN GREATLY INCREASES THE DEMAND FOR SLAVES.

1808 ~ UNITED STATES BAN SLAVE TRADE

***IMPORTING AFRICAN SLAVES IS OUTLAWED.
BUT SMUGGLING CONTINUES.***

1820 ~ MISSOURI COMPROMISE

MISSOURI IS ADMITTED TO THE UNION AS A SLAVE STATE – MAINE AS A FREE STATE. SLAVERY IS FORBIDDEN IN ANY SUBSEQUENT TERRITORIES NORTH OF LATITUDE 36*30.

1831 ~ THE LIBERATOR

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON BEGINS PUBLISHING A WEEKLY PAPER CALLED THE LIBERATOR THAT ADVOCATES THE COMPLETE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY. HE BECOMES ONE OF THE MOST RENOWNED FIGURES OF THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT.

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1850 ~ 1862

1850 ~ COMPROMISE OF 1850

***IN EXCHANGE FOR CALIFORNIA'S ENTERING THE UNION AS A
FREE STATE. NORTHERN CONGRESSMEN ACCEPT A HARSHER
FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT DESIGNED BY HENRY CLAY, U. S. SENATOR
FROM KENTUCKY.***

1854 ~ KANSAS – NEBRASKA ACT

***SETTING ASIDE THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE OF 1820, CONGRESS
PERMITS THESE TWO NEW TERRITORIES TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO
ALLOW SLAVERY. VIOLENT CLASHES ERUPT.***

1857 ~ DRED SCOTT DECISION

***THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DECIDES, SEVEN TO TWO,
THAT BLACKS CAN NEVER BE CITIZENS AND THAT CONGRESS HAS
NO AUTHORITY TO OUTLAW SLAVERY IN ANY TERRITORY.***

1860 ~ ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELECTED

***ABRAHAM LINCOLN OF ILLINOIS BECOMES THE FIRST
REPUBLICAN TO WIN THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENCY.***

1861/65 ~ UNITED STATES CIVIL WAR

FOUR YEARS OF BRUTAL CONFLICT CLAIM 623,000 LIVES.

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1863 ~ 1865

***1862 ~ PRELIMINARY
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION***

***ON SEPTEMBER 22, LINCOLN DRAFTS THE PRELIMINARY
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION. THE FINAL IS ISSUED ON
JANUARY 1, 1863.***

1863 ~EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

***PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN DECREES THAT ALL SLAVES IN
REBEL TERRITORY ARE FREE ON JANUARY 1, 1863.
THE PROCLAMATION ONLY FREED THOSE SLAVES IN STATES
THAT WERE IN REBELLION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.
THE PROCLAMATION DID NOT FREE SLAVES IN THE STATES
THAT NEVER LEFT THE UNION.***

1865 ~ SLAVERY ABOLISHED

***THE 13TH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
OUTLAWS SLAVERY.***

1865 ~ JUNE 19th ~ JUNETEENTH

***UNION GENERAL GORDON GRANGER ARRIVED
AT GALVESTON ISLAND WITH 2,000 FEDERAL TROOPS TO OCCUPY
TEXAS ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
STANDING ON THE BALCONY OF GALVESTON'S ASHTON VILLA,
GRANGER READ ALOUD THE CONTENTS OF
"GENERAL ORDER NO. 3,"
ANNOUNCING THE EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES.***

"GENERAL ORDER # 3"

*"The people 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,
and the connection heretofore
existing between them,
become that between employer and hired labor.*

*The freed are advised to
remain at their present homes,
and work for wages.*

*They are informed that they will not be
allowed to collect at military posts;
and that they will not be supported
in idleness either there or elsewhere."*

*On June 18, 1865
Union General Gordon Granger,
Galveston, TEXAS*