



JUNE TEENTH

Celebrate Freedom

June 19

Juneteenth Celebration – An Invitation From The Chairman

As you know our first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, issued the Emancipation Proclamation which freed all slaves behind the Confederate lines on January 1, 1863. Lincoln also threw himself into the legislative process and was responsible for the adoption of the 13th Amendment. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States and was adopted by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified by the states on December 6, 1865.

There is but one holiday recognizing what is perhaps the greatest achievement of any President in American history. That holiday is Juneteenth or Freedom Day, which is celebrated each year on June 19th. The day has special meaning because it marks the day (June 19, 1865) that African American slaves in Texas first learned of their freedom. Texas was the most remote of Confederate States and when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued it was far behind the Confederate lines. News traveled slow in those days especially in the middle of a great civil war and particularly for slaves held in bondage behind Confederate lines. Finally, on June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger issued General Order # 3 proclaiming the freedom of all slaves in Texas.

This is a holiday, celebrated since 1866, that Republicans and all Americans should recognize and celebrate. Here in York County next Saturday, June 19th events are being held all day at the York County History Center, 250 East Market Street, York, PA from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and an evening community celebration at the Union Lutheran Church, 408 West Market Street, York, PA, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Put some time aside on Saturday and participate in one of these events.

Jeff Piccola, Chair, YCRC