



Southwest Florida Archaeological Society OUR 42nd YEAR

June 2022 Special Newsletter
<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by *John Furey, M.A., RPA* **JUNETEENTH: JUNE 19, 2022**



The SWFAS newsletters usually take a summer sabbatical after the May FAS Annual Meeting and returns in September or October, however, this year we are publishing a special June Newsletter to provide you with the historical background to our new Federal Holiday, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act. This legal federal holiday was passed unanimously by the US Senate on June 15, 2021, and signed into law by President Joe Biden on June 16, 2021. Juneteenth is short for June Nineteenth, and it celebrates the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, the last of the slave states. It

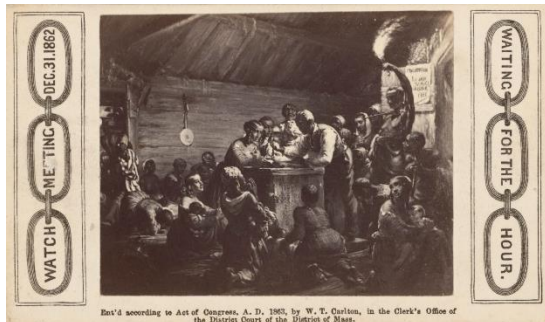
became an official Texas state holiday in 1979 and was observed in several other states. June 19, 2022, will be the second year that it is celebrated nationwide as an official federal holiday and Juneteenth is the first new federal holiday enacted since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.

Historical Background

In order to halt the importation of slaves into the country, Congress passed an act in 1794 that “prohibited the making, loading, outfitting, equipping or dispatching any ship used in the trade of slaves”. As this applied only to US ships, the slave trade became limited to foreign shipping. To stop this, in 1805 Joseph Bradley Varnum of Massachusetts proposed a law to abolish the slave trade completely. This became the basis of the 1807 law that abolished the slave trade in the United States. Even after this law was passed it was estimated that 50,000 slaves were illegally imported through Florida and Texas before they were admitted into the Union. This illegal importation of slaves continued as an estimated 13,000 per year were smuggled into the country. With the boom in the price of cotton in the 1840’s, an attempt to repeal these anti-smuggling laws in 1850 was defeated.

Succession and War

This was the background that transpired prior to the south succeeding from the Union and the election of Abraham Lincoln as President November 6, 1860. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina voted to

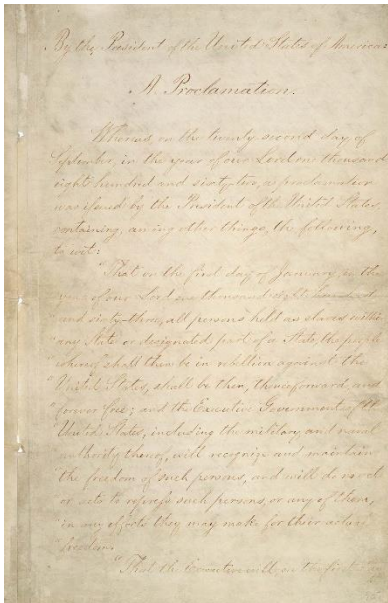


succeed on a voice vote of 169-0. By February 1, 1861, six other states had voted to succeed and on February 4, 1861, at a convention in Montgomery, Alabama, the Confederate States was declared, and Jefferson Davis was elected President. This was the situation in the country one month before Lincoln was sworn in as president. On his first day in office on March 4, 1861, Lincoln learned that Fort Sumpter in Charleston, South Carolina, was in trouble and an attempt to resupply the fort was mounted. Before the resupply could happen, on April 12, 1861, at 4:30am, just

over one month after taking office, the fort was fired on and the civil war was started. Lincoln had been President less than 5 weeks. It was no longer a choice of preserving slavery or preserving the Union.

The Emancipation Proclamation

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, after 17 months of brutal civil war, but it could not be enforced until all Confederate territory was occupied by Union troops, and in the case of Texas, which was not until the Civil War was over in 1865. Why Texas? Texas was the most remote of the southern states and the slave population of Texas soared during the Civil War as slave holders and their slaves fled west to escape the Union Army. Because



Texas was so remote from the remainder of the other southern states, there were few federal troops stationed there to enforce anything. By the end of the war, it was estimated that there were about 250,000 slaves living in Texas and they were the last to be freed. On June 19, 1865, Union Army General Gordon Granger read and announced the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Galveston, Texas.

This, however, did not end slavery in the United States because the Emancipation Proclamation only applied to states that were a part of the Confederacy and slavery remained legal in two border states that had not been a part of the Confederacy, Delaware and Kentucky. The ratification of the 13th Amendment made slavery illegal in the north and in these two states; Delaware finally ratified the 13th Amendment in 1901 and Kentucky in 1976. While the signing of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution on December 6, 1865, abolished chattel slavery, it was not until 1866 that the final slaves in the United States that were held by tribes in the Oklahoma Indian Territories, mainly the

Choctaw who had sided with the Confederacy, were freed. Juneteenth celebrations were even adopted in Mexico by the Mascogos, descendants of Black Seminoles who escaped from slavery in 1852 and settled in Coahuila, Mexico. Mississippi was the last state to ratify the 13th Amendment on February 12, 2013, 58 years later.

The 13th Amendment

But did the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1865 actually end slavery? The answer is yes and no. As soon as the 13th Amendment was passed, southern states began passing the so called “Black Laws” or ‘Jim Crow’ laws prohibiting Black people from moving freely, owning land, congregating, and many other offences that all carried prison sentences. With the incarceration of so many Black people, many overcrowded southern prisons began the practice of convict leasing, a form of involuntary servitude. The conditions created by convict leasing could be worse than those during slavery. The annual death rate of leased convicts was from 16 percent to 25 percent throughout the south, and by the late 1800’s, some states were bringing in more than 70 percent of their revenue through convict leasing. In 1898 Louisiana outlawed the practice and it fell out of favor with other states, but even today, Texas and other states still have convicts picking cotton and other prisons operate as farm systems where they pay convicts an average of 14 cents an hour or nothing at all for their labor; all of these prisons are in the south.

Early Celebrations

Early southern celebrations of Juneteenth centered around Black churches but later around rodeos, food fairs, parties, cookouts, and family reunions. Spiritual hymns would be sung, and public readings of African American authors would recall their liberation from bondage. Black former slaves were ‘free’ but the southern Jim Crow laws, KKK lynching’s, voter repression, and segregation didn’t feel much like freedom. It was not until March 29, 2022, that President Biden signed into law the Emmett Till Antilynching Act of 2022 making lynching a federal hate crime. Juneteenth celebrations in many southern cities and towns were repressed and could not be held in public parks and other public

facilities. Juneteenth celebrations moved out of the south with the ‘Great Migration’ of an estimated 6 million Black people into northern and western states to escape the Jim Crow laws and to take jobs in the industrial cities. Over the years, outside of Texas, the celebration of Juneteenth waned as the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950’s and 1960’s focused African Americans on expanding their civil rights.

Enactment

In the 1980’s and 1990’s a reemergence of celebrating the holiday began to take place and in the 2000’s and 2010’s there was a push for Congress to make it an official holiday. Juneteenth had become known to the wider population of the US from Black celebrities, mass media, and from African American television series such as *Atlanta* and *Black-ish*. Major corporations, such as Apple and others added it to their calendars; educational institutions and companies listed it, and the National Football League declared it a paid holiday in 2020. Many people have successfully worked hard over the years to make national recognition of Juneteenth a 2021 reality and it is our second national holiday honoring Black Americans and recognizing their long struggle from slavery.

The bill makes Juneteenth a paid holiday for all federal workers. If June 19th falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, the day off will be either the Friday or Monday closest to the holiday. To date, Texas is the only state that celebrates Juneteenth as a paid state holiday, but in 2022 it will be a state holiday celebrated in Washington, New Jersey, Maine, and Illinois and over time, other states will follow.

Have a great summer and we will see you in the Fall! JFF Editor

SWFAS 2022 NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

June - Special SWFAS Newsletter to Recognize and Explain Juneteenth

September to December - SWFAS Newsletters

In November 2022 we hope to restart our SWFAS Presentations.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2022 CALENDAR YEAR

Officers

President: John Furey
First Vice-President: Jim Oswald
Second Vice-President: Elizabeth Clement
Secretary: Susan Harrington
Treasurer: Charlie Strader
Editor: John Furey
Newsletter Composition:
Susan Harrington

Trustees

First of 3-year term:
Amanda Townsend
Emily Garcia
Second of 3-year term:
Theresa Schober (Chapter Rep.)
Mary Southall
Third of 3-year term:
Tiffany Bannworth

Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!

Check out our website at <http://swflarchaeology.org/>

SWFAS AND FAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

We encourage those interested in Florida archaeology to become members of The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS). Annual dues are due in January and membership applications to both organizations are attached. Membership in the FAS provides you with four annual volumes of *The Florida Anthropologist* and occasional newsletters on anthropological events in Florida in addition to the annual statewide meeting. More information on FAS can be found online at: www.fasweb.org. Membership in SWFAS offers you a local series of talks on archaeological and anthropological subjects that you can attend. The SWFAS monthly newsletter keeps you up to date on local events as well as other important archaeological topics. We urge you to support both with your membership. All of the SWFAS Lecture Series are open to the public at no charge.



JOIN US!

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) was founded in 1980 as a not-for profit corporation to provide a meeting place for people interested in the area's past.

Our goals are to:

- Learn more of the area's history
- Create a place for sharing of this information
- Advocate for preservation of cultural resources

Its members include professional and amateur archaeologists and interested members of the general public. Members come from all walks of life and age groups. They share a lively curiosity, a respect for the people who preceded them here, and a feeling of responsibility for the conservation of the places and objects they left behind.

The Society holds monthly meetings between October and April, attracting speakers who are in the forefront of archaeological and historical research. Occasionally members join in trips to historical and archaeological sites.

A monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website keep members abreast of our events and happenings.

The organization is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a statewide organization that publishes quarterly newsletters and a journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and holds an annual conference.

I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret Florida's heritage!

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check One:

Individual (\$20) _____ Sustaining Individual (\$50) _____ Family (\$35) _____

Student (\$5) _____ Life (\$500) _____

Donation to Support SWFAS Speakers and Programs _____

Skills, training, interests: _____

I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Archaeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents and any property owners cooperating with the society.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Please make your check out to SWFAS and mail to:

Charlie Strader
SWFAS Treasurer
27655 Kent Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

REV. 12052017

FAS Membership Categories

Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the Florida Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities, which can be found on our website fasweb.org. *Membership is for one year.* SELECT LEVEL BELOW.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student*	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45		

*Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment. **Add \$25 for foreign addresses.

Member Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ FAS Chapter: _____

Please choose how you wish to receive the quarterly journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*.

Digital Only (via a password protected web link) Note: Student members only receive digital access.

Printed Only (mailed to my home address)

Both Digital and Printed

This is a Gift Membership from: _____

In addition to this Membership, I also wish to make a donation to:

\$ _____ Dot Moore/FAS Student Grant Fund \$ _____ Florida Archaeology Month Account

\$ _____ Florida Anthropologist Monograph Fund \$ _____ Florida Anthropologist Endowment Fund

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

_____ I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Florida Anthropological Society.

Signature

Date

Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:

Florida Anthropological Society, P O Box 1561 Boynton Beach, FL 33425

You can join online or pay Membership dues renewals via PayPal on our website fasweb.org.

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. IS A TAX-EXEMPT 501C3 ORGANIZATION. TAX ID#59-1084419.