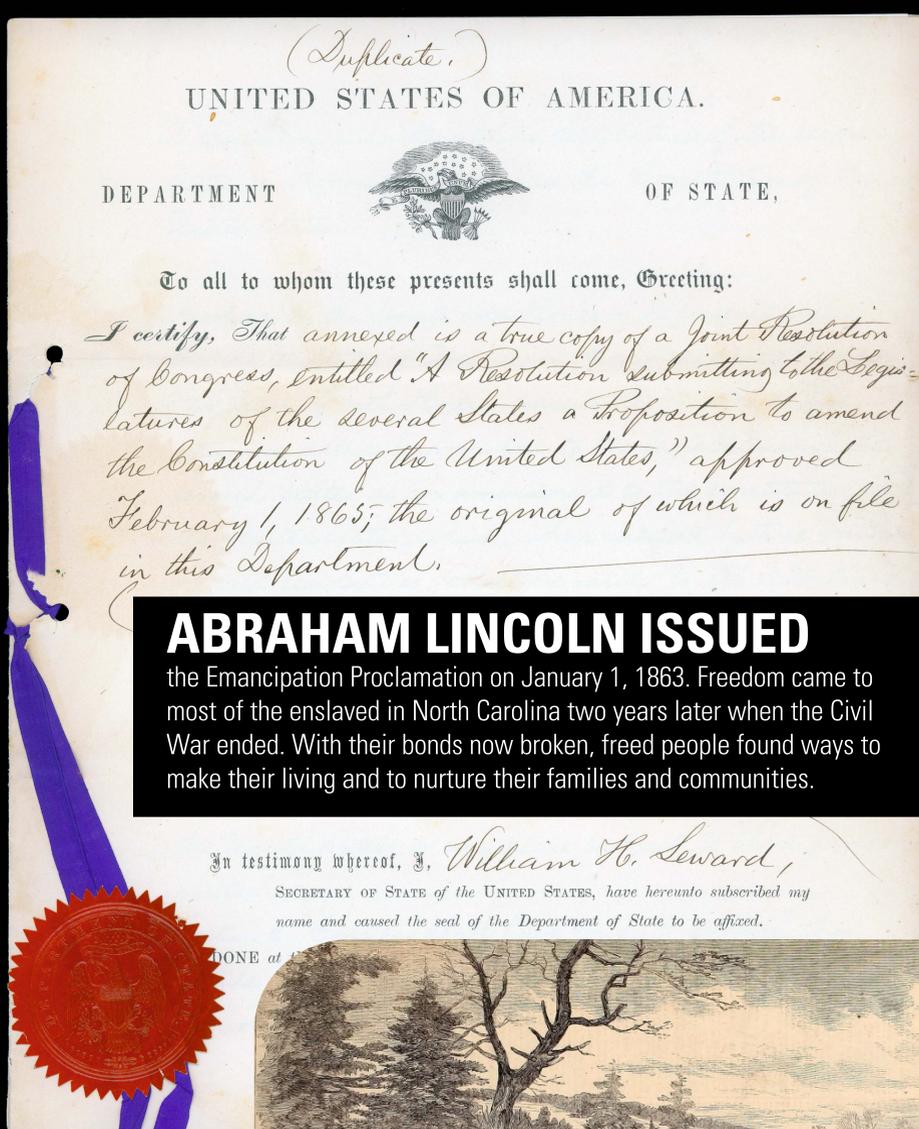


When Are We US?

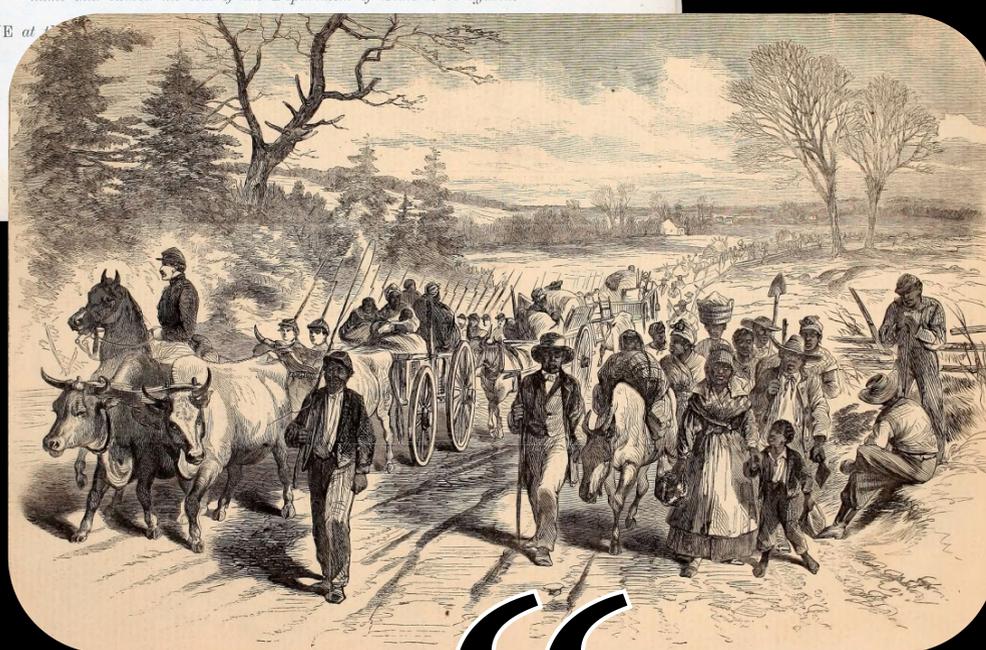
Visions of Freedom Beyond Bondage



ABRAHAM LINCOLN ISSUED

the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Freedom came to most of the enslaved in North Carolina two years later when the Civil War ended. With their bonds now broken, freed people found ways to make their living and to nurture their families and communities.

In testimony whereof, I, *William H. Seward*,
SECRETARY OF STATE of the UNITED STATES, have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed.
DONE at



“
The freer a people are, the greater their responsibilities. The more liberties of a people, the greater the exactions.
Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith, 1898
born in Duplin County,
Consul General to Liberia, 1888-1892
Early president of Fayetteville State University

“
Slaves prayed for freedom... Slavery was a bad thing and freedom, of the kind we got with nothing to live on, was bad. Two snakes full of poison... Their names was "slavery" and "freedom." The snake called slavery lay with his head pointed south and the snake called freedom lay with his head pointed north. Both bit the [Blacks], and they were both bad.
Patsy Mitchner, 1937
formerly enslaved in Raleigh



African Americans established churches and schools to strengthen their communities with institutions of mutual support. These institutions grew as evidence of new-found freedoms and hard-won opportunities.

“
Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. It took great suffering to get liberty, it requires great watchfulness to keep it... Be on your guard.
Henry P. Cheatham, 1898
African American congressman, 1889-1892

Source Notes

- North Carolina's copy of the 13th Amendment, vault collection 42, State Archives
- "The Effects of the Proclamation... at New Bern" Harpers Weekly, February 21, 1863., p. 165, Internet Archive
- Ezekiel Ezra Smith, Arthur Bunyan Caldwell, History of the American Negro and His Institutions, 258, New York Public Library
- Dr. E.E. Smith quoted in "Emancipation Day," Goldsboro Weekly Argus, January 6, 1898, UNC newspaper collection, Digital NC
- Patsy Michner interview, Federal Writers' Project: Slave Narratives, Vol. 11, North Carolina, Part 2, Library of Congress
- Snake from illustration in the Zebulon Record, January 15, 1937, 21, Little River Historical Society collection, Digital NC
- Students and school with church in the background, Randolph County, c. 1923-1924, Department of Public Instruction, School Planning Section, school photographs file, box 6, 104.310.6.8.13.1, State Archives
- Henry P. Cheatham, Harper's Weekly, March 2, 1889, Unites States House of Representatives Digital Collection
- "Speech of Hon. Henry P. Cheatham, At Raleigh, N.C., January 1, 1898," 2, UNC newspaper collection, Digital NC