

0. FREEDOM DAY - Story Preface

1. FREEDOM DAY

2. EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION LIMITATIONS

3. SLAVERY IS WRONG

4. THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

5. THE SOUTH REJOINS THE UNION

6. BAD DECISIONS MAKE BAD LAW

7. WHAT WERE JIM CROW LAWS?

8. FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

9. THE INFAMOUS LAWS

10. A SHAMEFUL LEGACY



This image, from the Library of Congress, depicts the cover of sheet music for a song entitled "On Emancipation Day." It was published about four decades after President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation. Click on the image for a better view.

It was New Year's Day for most folks, but not for America's slaves. For them, January 1, 1863 was Freedom Day. At long last, American slavery would be history. Black folks would now be able to take their rightful place as American citizens. Or would they?

Abraham Lincoln, intent on saving the Union, had lost the battle to avoid war. But he abhorred the institution of slavery and vowed to abolish it. He worked hard on a Presidential Proclamation which would take effect New Year's Day.

On New Year's Eve, slaves eagerly awaited freedom's morning. Alas, for many of them, Lincoln's famous proclamation would have no legal effect.

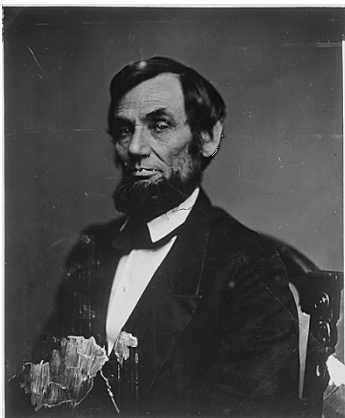
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FREEDOM-DAY-jim-Crow-Laws)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FREEDOM-DAY-jim-Crow-Laws>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/FREEDOM-DAY-jim-Crow-Laws)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/FREEDOM-DAY-jim-Crow-Laws>

Media Stream



Abraham Lincoln - America's 16th President

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Abraham-Lincoln-America-s-16th-President>



President Lincoln - Writing the Freedom Proclamation

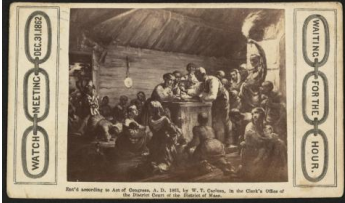
"President Lincoln Writing the Proclamation of Freedom, January 1, 1863."

Lithograph (after David G. Blythe painting) by Ehrgott and Forbriger, Cincinnati, 1864.

Image, courtesy Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/President-Lincoln-Writing-the-Freedom-Proclamation>



Eve of Freedom Day - Impact of Proclamation

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

Heard and Moseley.

Waiting for the hour [Emancipation], December 31, 1862.

Carte de visite.

Washington, 1863.

[Prints and Photographs Division.](#)

Reproduction Number: LC-USZC4-6160 (4-21a)

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Eve-of-Freedom-Day-Impact-of-Proclamation>



FREEDOM DAY

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>