

What Does Juneteenth Mean to Me?

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***RACIAL JUSTICE &
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BASICALLY - IT IS COMPLICATED

Juneteenth was “more” freedom -- for more Black enslaved people -- but not all.

“The Five Civilized Tribes” were deeply committed to slavery. They established their own **racialized black codes**, immediately **reestablished slavery** when they arrived in **Indian territory**, rebuilt their nations with **slave labor**, **crushed slave rebellions**, and sided with the Confederacy in the Civil War. In October 1861, the Cherokee Nation entered into a treaty to join the Confederate cause because they viewed the war as one of “Northern fanaticism against the institution of *African servitude*.” But on Feb. 19, 1863 — shortly after Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation went into effect — they issued An Act Providing for the Abolition of Slavery in the Cherokee Nation, which called for “the **immediate emancipation** of all Slaves in the Cherokee Nation.” The treaty ratified on **July 27, 1866**

{That was more than 1 year after Juneteenth}.

Researching Juneteenth, I learned about a vast plantation in Georgia, named Diamond Hill. Its owner James Vann, was the wealthiest and “*reportedly cruelest of Cherokee slave owners*,” of at least 100 enslaved people.

The case of the **Cherokee Freedmen**, the story of Native Americans as enslaved people who were also slave owners remains a relatively unknown aspect of American history.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-native-american-slaveholders-complicate-trail-tears-narrative-180968339/>
&
<https://time.com/4935802/ Cherokee-slavery-court-decision/>

Sovereign Nation exception – only Black American Enslaved?

• Henry Louis Gates Jr. revealed actor, Don Cheadle's family ties to enslaved people who were not freed on Juneteenth.

• **1866** A sovereign nation within the United States, the **Chickasaw Nation** did not recognize the end of slavery until 1866.

• After 1866, the freedmen in the Chickasaw Nation, Don Cheadle's family among them, held neither U.S. nor Chickasaw citizenship until the 1890s when the Dawes Commission redistributes communally held land.

<https://www.thirteen.org/wnet/aalives/profiles/cheadle.html>

AA thirteen.org

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HOSTED BY HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.
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Don Cheadle

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Don Cheadle is an Academy Award-nominated and Golden Globe Award-winning actor. Since his big-screen debut in the 1987 film *Hamburger Hill*, Cheadle has appeared in many notable films including *Colors* (1988), *Devil in a Blue Dress* (1995), *Boogie Nights* (1997), *Traffic* (2000), *Crash* (2004), *Hotel Rwanda* (2004), and *Talk to Me* (2007).

Milestones in Don Cheadle's ancestry:

- **1865** In March, Don Cheadle's great, great grandfather enlists in the U.S. Colored Troops in Western Florida.
- **1866** A sovereign nation within the U.S., the Chickasaw Nation did not recognize the end of slavery until 1866. After 1866, the freedmen in the Chickasaw Nation, Don Cheadle's family among them, hold neither U.S. nor Chickasaw citizenship until the 1890s when the Dawes Commission redistributes communally held land.
- **1964** Don Cheadle is born on November 29, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Put Don Cheadle's life and ancestry in historical context with the Interactive Historical Timeline.



Fresh Air @nprfreshair · Jun 1

"My grandfather's grandfather was enslaved," writer Clint Smith says. "We are taught that the history of slavery is something that happened almost like when there were dinosaurs," @ClintSmithIII says. But this history wasn't long ago at all.



Slavery Wasn't 'Long Ago:' Writer Exposes The Disconnect In How We Te...
[npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

Felicia Smith's grandfather's grandparents were enslaved.

Author Clint Smith says this is discussed as if it happened during the Jurassic age when dinosaurs roamed.

**IT IS PERSONAL
&
IT IS RECENT HISTORY**

Slavery didn't end
in 1865.

It evolved.

Bryan Stevenson



Free-ish



Tshirt @ <https://physiciantee.com/product/freeish-juneteenth-george-floyd-shirt/>

No longer enslaved?

- 13th Amendment

Mentally liberated?

- Patriotic Curriculum vs 1619 Project

4th of July 1776?

- Before Juneteenth

Image @ <https://www.barrons.com/articles/juneteenth-how-popular-the-day-was-this-year-51592604552>

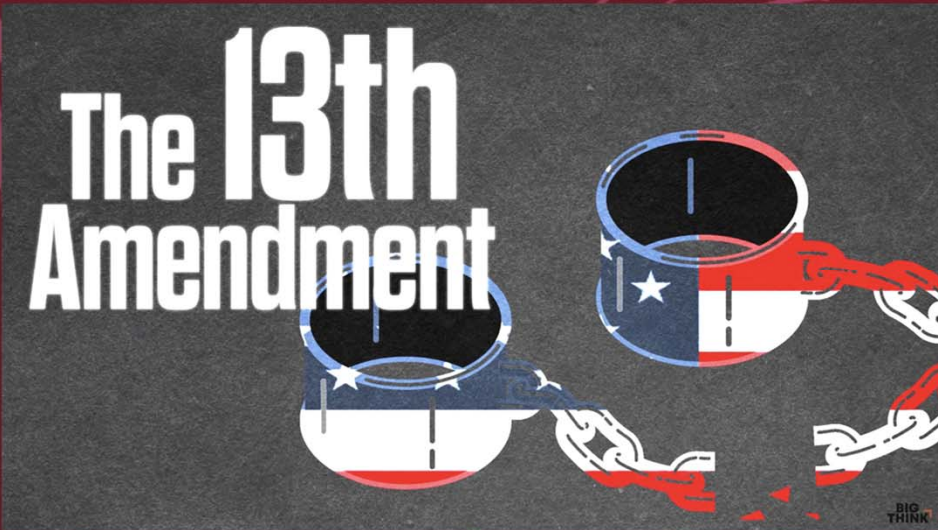


Image @ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBEvEr_UtYA



Image @ <https://www.primetimer.com/barnhart/13th>

The Thirteenth Amendment in 1865

The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime.

THE
William and Mary
Quarterly
A MAGAZINE OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY,
INSTITUTIONS, AND CULTURE

FOURTH OF JULY MYTHS

By CHARLES WARREN*

It is a singular fact that the greatest event in American history—the Declaration of Independence—has been the subject of more incorrect popular belief, more bad memory on the part of participants, and more false history than any other occurrence in our national life. This article is an attempt to clarify the facts as to the Independence Day Myth—the Signing of the Declaration Myth—the Liberty Bell Ringing Myth—and the Early National Celebration Myth.

I

THE TRUE INDEPENDENCE DAY

The first mistaken popular belief is that the Fourth of July is the anniversary of American independence. The fact is that Independence Day was properly the day on which Congress passed the resolution which actually established our independence; and that day was July 2 and not July 4, 1776.¹ For it was on July 2

*Mr. Charles Warren of Washington, D. C., is well known for his writings in American legal, political, and constitutional history and in the history of the Supreme Court of the United States.

¹ As early as 1795, newspaper writers, seeking to enhance the fame of John Adams, in connection with independence, pointed out that the real day to be celebrated should have been and should be the anniversary of July 2, 1776. See *Columbian Centinel* (Boston), July 1, 1795, June 21, 1804.

Benson J. Lossing, as early as 1850, said in his *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution* (N. Y., 1851-2), II, 280: "That day rather than the 4th should be celebrated as our national holiday. It was only the form of the

Freedom to Be Taught the Truth?

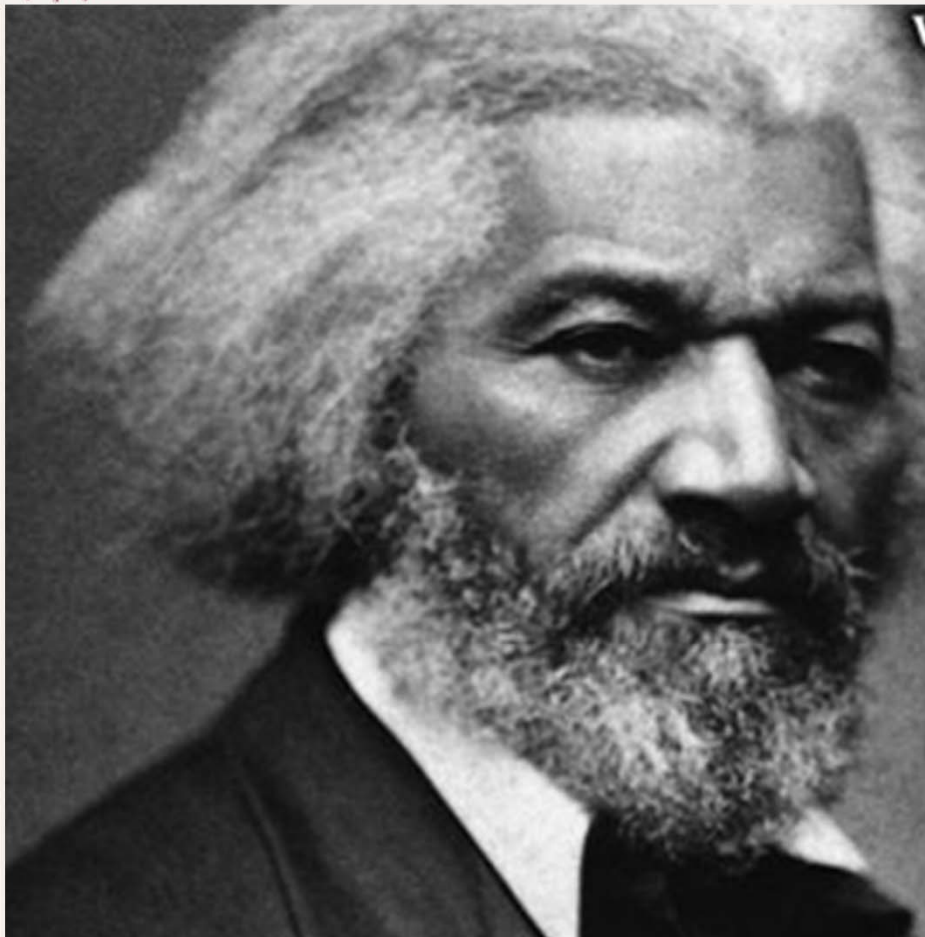
"Historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed."

<https://doi.org/10.2307/1921451>



Frederick Douglass in 1852 – Before Juneteenth asked “What, to the American Slave is Your Fourth of July?”

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/nations-story-what-slave-fourth-july>



**What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July?
I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all
other days in the year, the gross injustice and
cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him,
your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty,
an unholy license; your national greatness,
swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are
empty and heartless; your denunciations of
tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts
of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your
prayers and hymns, your sermons and
thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and
solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud,
deception, impiety, and hypocrisy— a thin veil to
cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of
savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of
practices, more shocking and bloody, than are the
people of these United States, at this very hour.
~Frederick Douglass, 1852**

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Senate unanimously passes a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday

By Ted Barrett, Ali Zaslav and Alex Rogers, CNN

Updated 7:02 PM ET, Tue June 15, 2021



<https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/15/politics/juneteenth-federal-holiday-senate-vote/index.html>

Senate unanimously passes a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Stanford or Nah?

Juneteenth's meaning for me remains COMPLICATED - "Feel Me?"

On the Background section of my LibGuide, I link to Equal Justice Initiative's daily calendar that states:

"Juneteenth does not denote a struggle completed or a finished line reached. Black Americans faced many threats to their liberty and their lives in the years after the Civil War and face continued injustice still."

<https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/jun/19>

<https://guides.library.stanford.edu/c.php?g=1154266>

<https://exhibits.stanford.edu/saytheirnames/about/biography>

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MY LIFE MATTERS