

Annotated Juneteenth Timeline

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The Juneteenth holiday is a uniquely American commemoration that is rooted in the Civil War. With an emphasis on southern New Jersey, this timeline is constructed from a regional perspective of metropolitan Philadelphia.

1860

November 6 **Abraham Lincoln** elected president

December 18 The Crittenden Compromise is proposed by Kentucky Senator John J. Crittenden. This proposed legislation would have extended the Missouri Compromise line (36° 30' latitude north) to the Pacific Ocean. Both Republicans and Democrats opposed this plan. Republicans were concerned about the territories being open to slavery and unfair competition for white workers. Democrats were against any restriction on slavery in the territories.

December 20 South Carolina secedes. President **James Buchanan** fails to act.

1861

January 9 Mississippi secedes

January 10 Florida secedes

January 11 Alabama secedes

January 19 Georgia secedes

January 26 Louisiana secedes

February 1 Texas secedes

March 4 Lincoln is inaugurated

March 21 The Corwin amendment (below) is passed by Congress and submitted to the states for ratification. If ratified, this proposed 13th amendment would have explicitly enshrined the system of slavery into the U.S. Constitution.

No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.

But for the outbreak of war, ratification of the Corwin amendment by the states was quite likely. Introduced in the Senate by **William H. Seward**, it had both Democrat and Republican support, including Lincoln's. Also ensuring its passage was the fact that free African Americans lacked voting rights in most states, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. In those states and most others, the right to vote was not obtained until 1870 when Black men acquired voting rights with passage of the 15th amendment. The struggle for women's voting rights continued for another 50 years.

April 12	Civil War begins
April 17	Virginia secedes
May 6	Arkansas secedes
May 7	Tennessee secedes
May 20	North Carolina secedes
July 21	Union forces humiliated at 1st Battle of Bull Run. Confederates force enslaved persons to man artillery.
July 25	Crittenden Resolution is passed by Congress.
August 6	1st Confiscation Act passed by Congress.

Runaway slaves, who reached Union lines, created a logistical and administrative quagmire for Federal forces.

Although most Union field commanders eagerly returned fugitives to their masters in the first months of war, regardless of the slaveholder's loyalty, such arbitrary practice was largely altered after Congress passed the first Confiscation Act on August 6, 1861.

Created in response to the Union's humiliating defeat on July 21 at Bull Run I, the Confiscation Act provided for the seizure of Rebel property, including slaves, used for insurrectionary purposes.

Radical congressman **Thaddeus Stevens** correctly predicted early in the war that, "every bondsman in the South—belonging to a Rebel— shall be called upon to aid us in war against their masters, and to restore this union." For the majority of White Unionists, however, it would be mid 1863 before popular support for Black recruitment crystallized.

1862

- April 16 Slavery is abolished in Washington DC
- June 19 Slavery is ended in all United States territories, e.g. Utah, Nevada, and Colorado, et al.
- July 17 2nd Confiscation Act passed by Congress.
Militia Act passed by Congress.

Both the Militia Act and the second Confiscation Act gave the President wide latitude in the employment of African Americans for any purpose whatsoever. Each piece of legislation, however, also contained language supporting racial separation and a lower pay scale for African Americans on the military payroll.

The Second Confiscation Act targeted the liberty of disloyal slaveholders. Passed in 1862 the measure also subjected upper-class citizenry to military service in order to reduce social friction and. Further, the act ordered all military personnel, on pain of being dismissed from the service, to refuse the return of any runaways of a Rebel slaveowner. In addition, section 10 of the act empowered Lincoln to further expand the opportunity of African Americans to officially step into the war as uniformed warriors.

the President of the United States is authorized to employ as many persons of African descent as he may deem necessary and proper for the suppression of this rebellion, and for this purpose he may organize and use them in such manner as he may judge best for the public welfare.

Then, the Republican led Congress added a passage that advocated the colonization of the contrabands. Delineated in section 12 of the Second Confiscation Act the offensive text gave Lincoln the power to erect a program to rid the nation of African Americans who would successfully escape the bonds of enslavement.

And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to make provision for the transportation, colonization, and settlement, in some tropical country beyond the limits of the United States, of such persons of the African race, made free by the provisions of this act, as may be willing to emigrate, having first obtained the consent of the government of said country to their protection and settlement within the same, with all the rights and privileges of freemen.

The Militia Act empowered the President to call upon state militias to serve nine months enlistment periods. Without specifying the term, "white males," the act gave governors the power to draft men into the military if states failed to meet federally imposed quotas.

Working class whites in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin waged major anti-draft demonstrations. Within a year such anti-draft activity would become violent and nearly always directed against the African-American community. Incidents of white civilian riots had previously occurred in Ohio, Indiana, and on other northern home fronts.

Whereas the Militia Act eliminated race as a qualifying factor it nonetheless laid the basis for a racist compensation policy which “stipulated that persons of African descent could be used for military service, for which they would be entitled to \$10 a month, \$3 of which might be in clothing.” By contrast, White servicemen were paid \$13 a month plus \$3.50 in clothing allowance. Such inequality existed for most Black soldiers until the final months of the war.

These Congressional statutes were born out of social stresses arising from the huge number of Northern deaths on the battlefield. More than 100 men died on ten different occasions in just the first half of 1862. More than 200 Union soldiers were killed on seven of these occasions. Battlefield deaths of 500 or more Yankee deaths happened four times by the end of June, including the horrific engagement at **Shiloh**, Tennessee, where 1,754 Unionists were killed on April 6 and 7.

By the fall of 1862 the North would also absorb the colossal casualties of **Bull Run II** and Antietam (See enumerated casualties on tables 1 and 2). Soldiers who fought in these encounters came from the west, mid-west, New England, and mid-Atlantic regions. The costly December engagements at Fredericksburg, Virginia and Stones River, Tennessee closed out 1862, making that calendar year very painful for thousands of ordinary white Northerners. The battlefield deaths of 1862 were exceeded only by those incurred in 1864.

The unprecedented death toll caused voters to look askance at Republican office seekers in the fall elections. “...these factors created the frustrations of the fall of 1862, which produced Republican losses at the polls.”

- July 22 Lincoln reads the draft of his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln, not wanting to be outflanked on policy by radical leaders in national government, had already penned a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. On this day he allows cabinet secretaries to view the first draft of his historic document with its attendant clause recognizing the benefits of enlisting Blacks in the army.

- September 22 Abraham Lincoln issues preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The Confederates are given the deadline of midnight December 31 to either quit the rebellion or face the impact of the proclamation.

- August Company A **1st South Carolina Colored Volunteers** organized

- September **Louisiana Native Guards** organized

- 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers organized

- October 1 Union forces occupy Galveston, Texas

Table 1. Battles in the first half of 1862 in which deaths exceed 100

Date	Battle	Wounded including	
		Killed	mortally wounded
February 15	Fort Donelson, TN	500	2,108
March 6-8	Pea Ridge, MO	203	980
March 23	Kernstown, VA	118	450
April 6-7	Shiloh, TN	1,754	8,408
May 5	Williamsburg, VA	456	1,410
May 31	Fair Oaks, VA	790	3,594
June 8	Cross Keys, VA	114	443
June 16	Secessionville, SC	107	487
June 27	Gaines Mill, VA	894	3,107
June 30	Glendale, VA	210	1,513

Table 2. Battles in second half of 1862 in which battlefield deaths exceed 100

Date	Battle	Wounded including	
		Killed	mortally wounded
July 1	Malvern Hill, VA	397	2,092
August 9	Cedar Mountain, VA	314	1,445
August 16-31	Manassas, VA (Bull Run)	1,747	8,452
August 30	Richmond, KY	206	844
September 14	Crampton's Gap, MD	113	418
September 14	South Mountain, MD	325	1,403
September 17	Antietam, MD	2,108	9,549
September 19	Iuka, MS	141	613
October 3-4	Corinth, MS	355	1,841
October 8	Chaplin Hills, KY	845	2,851
December 7	Prairie Grove, AK	175	813
December 13	Fredericksburg, VA	1,284	9,600
December 28-29	Chickasaw Bluffs, MS	208	1,005
December 31	Stones River, TN	1,730	7,802

December 31 African Americans initiate "Watch Night Service" in their churches to give thanks for the Emancipation Proclamation (& the fact that Confederates did not surrender in time to render it null and void) and to "wait till the midnight hour" when the edict took effect.

1863

January 1, Confederate forces recapture Galveston, Texas.

Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect.

In the pre Civil War era, January 1 was recognized in Black communities as the day to commemorate the 1804 Haitian revolution. Similarly, August 1 was celebrated as Emancipation Day in many places to recognize the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1834. "Emancipation Day" was celebrated with well developed programs well into the twentieth century. (see below)

Document on file at Camden County Historical Society

January 7 **William S. Thayer**, the principle American diplomat to Egypt, notifies Assistant Secretary of State Frederick W. Seward (son of Secretary of State William H. Seward) about a matter of grave importance. Citing information that had just come to light, he communicated that:

On the morning of the 7th instant, four hundred and fifty black soldiers were, by order of the viceroy of Egypt, taken by railway from the barrage, (about 120 miles south of Alexandria) and at night shipped on board the French transport steamer Le Seine, for a destination generally understood to be Mexico, with the object of aiding the French Emperor in his military operations against that country. These negroes, with others, departed early yesterday morning. It is stated that they were dressed in zouave uniform and fully armed. Explaining the French rationale for such action Thayer noted that Napoleon III, has been anxious to supply the losses which his Mexican Army has suffered from climate and disease by the employment of blacks.

The Sudanese battalion remained in Mexico until March 12, 1867 when they sailed home via a hero's reception in Paris.

(See my editor-butchered essay, "Race, Foreign Armies, and United States Colored Troops" New York Times, "Disunion Series" February 23, 2015)

Jan.-Mar. 54th and 55th Massachusetts Colored Volunteers organized at Readville, MA Many soldiers in these units are recruited in Philadelphia and several join in New Jersey.
See excerpt below from my essay "Barcus: A Bridgeton Family of Color In the Civil War and Beyond Cumberland County Historical Society, The Patriot, Winter, 2019):

Twenty-three months after the Civil War began, Ezekiel quietly traveled to Philadelphia to enlist in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry Regiment. Eventually assigned to Company B, his initial departure on March 11, 1863, demanded the utmost discretion because the recruitment of Black soldiers was

still offensive to many White northerners committed to the notion that it was “a White man’s war.” Thus, of necessity, farewells were muted for these men and their families. Of that covert recruiting experience regimental, Captain Luis Emilio explains,

Early in February quite a number of colored men were recruited in Philadelphia... Recruiting there was attended with great annoyance. The gathering place had to be kept secret, and the men sent to Massachusetts in small parties to avoid molestation or excitement...

The men sent and brought from Philadelphia went to form the major part of Company B. Companies A and B were filled by March 15.

Ezekiel, along with Greenwich Township acquaintance Henry Gladden, survived the 54th’s famous charge against Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863 (depicted in the 1989 movie, Glory). Five months later, however, Ezekiel died of dysentery contracted from “drinking bad water.” Gladden would later recall, “the water affected all of them more or less and caused the deaths of many [and] that previous to going upon said island...Ezekiel was perfectly sound.”

From December 1863 till late summer 1868, Jane managed her household surviving on an \$8 per month federal widow’s pension plus a \$2 stipend for each of her minor children, Harrison and John. As a Black woman, however, Jane’s narrative was made more complicated by the War Department’s initial racially based pay scale for its soldiers.

Until July 1864, African American soldiers were paid \$7 per month salary, regardless of rank. By contrast, White privates received \$13. In one of the most well-known acts of resistance to that policy, the 54th Massachusetts, while enduring severe economic deprivation at home for eighteen months, refused the unequal wages. Moreover, while New Jersey denied voting rights for African Americans until passage of the 15th Amendment in 1870, the state also initially failed to extend the same \$6 per month stipend distributed to families of White volunteers.

February 13 President Abraham Lincoln transmits to the Senate of the United States...in answer to their resolution of the 13th instant, his Secretary of State’s report on the use of Black soldiers in foreign armies. An examination of Secretary Seward’s report suggests that the North’s recruitment of more than one hundred African American army regiments-starting in 1863-was hastened as much by the French and British deployment of Black soldiers to Mexico, as it was by the surprisingly resilient Confederate rebellion.

- May 22 Under General Orders 143 the War Department establishes the Bureau of Colored Troops to oversee the organization and administration of army units designated United States Colored Troops. Roughly 179,000 Black men served in the Union Army. Another 20,000 served in the Union Navy.
- June 10 Forward elements of **Robert E. Lee's** army enter Pennsylvania. Some African Americans in Greencastle are reported taken prisoner by the Confederates. Expecting capture if discovered by Rebels, the twenty-three hundred Black residents of Franklin and Adams counties along with federal government officials go into hiding or leave the area. They create a swarm of refugees.

The Department of the Monongahela is organized to defend the western portion of Pennsylvania along with parts of Ohio and Virginia. The responsibility for eastern Pennsylvania, including the invaded regions, falls to the new Department of the Susquehanna [The].

- June 16 When Governor **Andrew Curtin** called for volunteers to defend the state capital at Harrisburg, African American militias responded. Black Philadelphians under the leadership of **Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett** who was both a lawyer and educator made a significant response to the governor's plea. In return for their service, Philadelphia Blacks demand the same organizational courtesies enjoyed by their White counterparts.

Addressing the threat of racial discrimination in the Department of the Susquehanna, Bassett communicates five concerns to **Alexander Henry**, the mayor of Philadelphia.

- 1 Will the colored men who go to Harrisburg tonight be detained longer than the mere repelling of the invaders beyond our state line?*
- 2 Are they under state authorities?*
- 3 Will they receive the \$10 before leaving the city, or when?*
- 4 Will they receive their arms and all other equipment in whole or in part before leaving the city?*
- 5 In case any one is seriously wounded will he be cared for, in case he is killed or disabled, will his family be taken care of or aided in any way?*

Bassett concludes his inquiry with an ultimatum.

Upon the positive answer to these queries will depend the raising of the men. If everything is satisfactory...we think we can assure you two companies.

Mayor Henry promptly responded to Bassett's concerns. They would...

- 1 not be detained longer...than the present emergency*
- 2 commanded by the Federal Officer in charge of the Department*
- 3 receive ten dollars...at the earliest practical moment*
- 4 arms and accouterments will be furnished.*

Finally, the mayor tries to assure Bassett that African American militias would be equally cared for in the event of casualties.

5 The mayor can give no guarantee in case of death or wound, as to extending aid to the family of those killed or disabled, but has no doubt that they will receive the same consideration as other troops.

With most of their concerns now addressed in writing the Black militiamen begin preparations for traveling to Harrisburg.

June 17 Philadelphia Black militia board train in **West Chester**: Destination Harrisburg.

Governor Curtin telegraphed Mayor Henry in a frantic effort to prevent an embarrassing encounter at Harrisburg between the militiamen and federal commanders. Curtin's telegram informed Henry that fierce opposition to the presence of independently organized African American militias existed among federal officers at Harrisburg. Thus the governor's telegram was straight and to the point: "Have the negroes stopped at once." [sic]

The governor's telegram arrived too late, however - the militiamen had already entrained and left for Harrisburg. In compliance with the governor's directive the mayor wired ahead to authorities at the town of West Chester through which the train was scheduled to travel. Henry's telegram implored: "Stop Negroe volunteers now at West Chester from leaving..." Like the governor's message, however the mayor's telegram also reached the rail station too late – the train's next stop would be at the state capital.

Upon their arrival at Harrisburg General **Darius Couch**, citing a lack of authority to accept Black recruits for anything less than three years service, refused to muster Bassett's militia. When informed by the governor of this action Henry went to extraordinary lengths to have the decision reversed. The mayor pleaded, "Is there not some mistake? I urge their acceptance by you as highly expedient in every view." Governor Curtin's response, however, indicated that he had already sent the "colored men back to Philadelphia."

Mayor Henry sought an immediate reversal of Couch's decision to reject the Black volunteers. Seeking the return of these militiamen to Harrisburg Henry sent another telegram to the Governor asking if, colored volunteers cannot be accepted for the emergency? And mindful of additional African American volunteers expecting to depart for Harrisburg the mayor added, "They are awaiting such permission." Perhaps expecting Couch's rebuff to have a negative effect on a soon-to-be-opened training camp for Black soldiers Henry's plea continued. "If accepted in that way it is believed a large proportion would permanently enlist. Please answer at once." Although Curtin's reply to Henry was prompt it offered no relief from Couch's racial policy. "General Couch has already answered 'such troops' are not included in his call." The governor also reminded the mayor about the recent appointment of **George L. Stearns** to the position of recruiting superintendent for Black troops. "A commissioner is now in Philadelphia to organize such troops..."

June 26 Company A, 3rd USCT marches into **Camp William Penn**.

Eighty-two recruits marched into Camp William Penn on Friday, June 26, 1863, and were organized as Company A, Third Colored Infantry Regiment. Eighty-three more were inducted into the army on June 30. This second group formed Company B, Third Regiment. On Friday July 3, Camp William Penn received eighty recruits who were organized as Company C, Third Regiment. Later that afternoon at **Gettysburg** the futile Confederate assault famously known as "Pickett's charge" was launched against Union forces.

July 3 **Frederick Douglass** announces a freshened consensus among black activists:

we earnestly recommend enlistment's in the regiments now forming at Camp William Penn as the best and, at present, the only way by which colored men may fulfill the obligation of patriotism and strike a blow for the common elevation of their race.

July 13-16 **New York** City Draft Riots occur. Dozens of African Americans are lynched and their property destroyed. Draft officials' homes are also targeted by the mostly Irish working class mobs. Army regiments are sent from Gettysburg to quell the mobs.

November 1 Reverend **Jeremiah Asher**, pastor of **Shiloh Baptist Church** is named chaplain of 6th Infantry USCT (organized at Camp William Penn). Asher joins unit in Virginia.

1864

January 1 African Americans celebrate Emancipation Day

Charlotte Forten wrote of the **first anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation** on the Sea Islands.

"New Year's Day - Emancipation Day - was a glorious one for us. The morning was quite cold, the coldest we had experienced; but we were determined to go to the celebration at Camp Saxton...the camp of the First Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, - whither the General and Colonel [Thomas Wentworth] Higginson had bidden us, on this, "the greatest day in the nation's history." We enjoyed perfectly the exciting scene on board the Flora. There was an eager, wondering crowd of the freed people in their holiday-attire, with the gayest of head-handkerchiefs, the whitest of aprons, and the happiest of faces. The band was playing, the flags streaming, everybody talking merrily and feeling strangely happy. The sun shone brightly, the very waves seemed to partake of the universal gayety, and danced and sparkled more joyously than ever before. . . .

The celebration took place in the beautiful grove of live-oaks adjoining the camp. It was the largest grove we had seen. I wish it were possible to describe fitly the scene which met our eyes as we sat upon the sand, and looked down on the crowd before us. There were the black soldiers in their blue coats and scarlet pantaloons, the officers of this and other regiments in their handsome uniforms, and crowds of lookers-on, - men, women, and children, of every complexion, grouped in various attitudes under the moss-hung trees. The faces of all wore a happy, interested look. . . .

Our hearts were filled with an exceeding great gladness; for, although the Government had left much undone, we knew that Freedom was surely born in our land that day. It seemed too glorious a good to realize, - this beginning of the great work we had so longed and prayed for."

- February 14 A detachment of soldiers from the 25th Colored Infantry leave Camp William Penn for a recruiting campaign in **Sussex County Delaware**.
- February 20 The 8th Colored Infantry is decimated at the Battle of Olustee in Florida.
- April 8 Senate passes the Thirteenth Amendment.
Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
- June 15 House of Representatives rejects the Thirteenth Amendment.
- August 5 For heroism aboard the USS Hartford during the Battle of Mobile Bay **John H. Lawson**, formerly of **Camden**, is awarded the Medal of Honor. (He is buried in Mt. Peace Cemetery in **Lawnside**, New Jersey.)
- August 20 New Jersey Governor **Joel Parker** criticizes Lincoln and the Emancipation proclamation. Reelected in 1871, Parker also rails against passage of the 13th amendment.
- August 25 In **Philadelphia**, two African American women are attacked by street car operators intent on enforcing court ruling legalizing racial discrimination in public transportation.
- September 29 The Battle of Chapin's Farm occurs in Virginia. Three members of the 6th Colored Infantry; Lieutenant Nathan H. Edgerton, Sergeant Major **Thomas R. Hawkins** and First Sergeant **Alexander Kelly** are later awarded Medals of Honor for heroism. Don Troiani's portrait (below) of that moment hangs on display at the Philadelphia Union League.

- November 1 Slavery is abolished in Maryland.
- 1865**
- January 1 African Americans celebrate Emancipation Day
- January 11 Slavery is abolished in Missouri.
- January 16 General William Tecumseh Sherman issues Field Order 15. Provides 40 acre lots to 40,000 freedpeople along the Atlantic coast of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. President Andrew Johnson revoked the order in fall 1865.
- January 31 House of Representatives passes the Thirteenth Amendment.
- February 22 Slavery is abolished in Tennessee
- April 9 Confederate Army surrenders to General U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, VA.
- April 14, Abraham Lincoln assassinated.
- May 1 African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina celebrate the nation's **first Memorial Day**.
- May-July United States Colored Troops arrive in South-West Texas and positioned along Rio Grande River. See below: Woodbury, New Jersey resident **Isaac J. Hill's** account of arriving in Texas. Pub. 1867. Pg. 34-35.
- June 19** Major General **Gordon Granger**, commander of the reorganized 13th Army Corps, (White troops formerly comprising 19th Corps, Department of the Gulf) declares the institution of slavery dead in the state, setting off joyous demonstrations by freedmen and originating the annual "Juneteenth" celebration, which commemorates the freeing of Blacks in Texas. Granger's General Orders, No.3 stated:
- The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute quality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.*

Contrary to General Granger's announcement, the Emancipation Proclamation did not declare freedom for all enslaved persons. Those in the loyal slave states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and other areas under Union control were exempted from its meaning.

July 13 The second New Jersey Colored Convention is held at the **Perry Street AME Church in Trenton**. The delegates' objective echoed the central goal of the 1849 conveners - obtaining the right to vote. Convention delegates were more numerous than the 1849 meeting at the same location. Perhaps a hundred persons were in attendance in 1865. Delegate **Benjamin Shortis**, for example, made the eighty mile journey from **Galloway Township** surely spurred by the loss of his twenty-three year old son Samuel who fell at Petersburg on July 30, 1864.

Complicating the 1865 convention was a charged post-war atmosphere created by returning soldiers intent on receiving state bounties as well as broader civil rights. As reported in the Christian Recorder newspaper, "...*the city was filled with the returning soldiery, who were waiting for their pay, and consequently not in the best of humors.*"

The most substantive outcomes of the convention were its self designation as the "Equal Rights League for the state of New Jersey," drafting of an Equal Rights constitution, and planning a detailed "census of the colored population of New Jersey"

Unlike the 1849 gathering, this meeting self identified as a convention of Colored Men. Although women's names are not part of the extant convention records they were participants nonetheless. The Trenton State Gazette newspaper reported, "**The convention was composed of both sexes...**The male persons only taking part in the business of the convention."

September 12 President **Andrew Johnson** revokes General Sherman's Field Order 15.

October 16 Camp William Penn's 22nd Colored Infantry is mustered out of service in Texas.

October 20 Camp William Penn's 43rd and 127th Colored Infantries are mustered out of service in Texas.

November 4 Camp William Penn's 45th Colored Infantry is mustered out of service at Brownsville, Texas.

November 10 Camp William Penn's 41st Colored Infantry is mustered out of service at Brownsville, Texas.

December 6 Thirteenth Amendment is ratified by the states. Legislatures in **New Jersey and the slave states of Delaware and Kentucky reject the amendment.**

December 12 Camp William Penn's 8th Colored Infantry is mustered out of service in Texas.

1866

April 16 **Emancipation Day** parade held in District of Columbia to commemorate the abolition of slavery in the nation's capital in 1864.

June 19 **1st. Juneteenth is celebrated in Texas.**

November 27 On Tuesday a fundraiser supporting the Equal Rights League was held at **Bethel AME Church** in **Woodbury, New Jersey**. Resolutions passed by the participants articulated their respect and appreciation for Black servicemen and a commitment to the ongoing quest for equality in New Jersey.

Resolved, 2. That we view with peculiar pride and admiration, the part our fathers, brother and sons have borne in the late war, showing forth to the world the possession of the qualities of soldiers, as displayed in their indomitable courage and endurance in the many hard fought battles, viz.: Fort Fisher, Port Hudson, Fort Wagner, Olustee, Petersburg, Milliken's Bend, and others.

Resolved, 3. That this meeting, represents the feelings and opinions of the Colored people of Gloucester county, state of New Jersey, in which we are denied the same rights that are enjoyed by others whose skin is a different color from ours.

Resolved, 7. That we...pledge ourselves to each other, to use all honorable means our power to obtain the Elective Franchises.