

Independence National Historical Park



Emancipation Proclamation



Emancipation Proclamation

Issued 9/22/1862; 13th Amendment ratified 12/6/1865.

Abraham Lincoln discussed the Emancipation Proclamation with his cabinet in 1862. They decided to wait until Union forces had the advantage. After victory at Antietam, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This freed all slaves in seceded states as of January 1, 1863. In 1865, as the Civil War came to an end, President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which forever abolished slavery in the United States.

"All persons held as slaves... shall then, thenceforward, and forever, be free."

-- Emancipation Proclamation

Did you know Abraham Lincoln visited Independence Hall?

Image Courtesy of Library of Congress