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"Norfolk is Ours!"

Henry Louis Stephens

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PROCLAMATION OF EMANCIPATION



THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Whereas, On the Twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Two, a Proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to-wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforth, and forever free, and the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval Authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons, and will do its utmost to assist such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the first day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Three, shall be the day on which the people thereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, and the first day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Three, shall be the day on which the people thereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, and the first day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Three, shall be the day on which the people thereof shall be in rebellion against the United States."

And whereas, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, in case of actual or apprehended rebellion against the authority and government of the United States,

and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Three, and in accordance with my purpose as to do, publicly proclaim for the full period of one hundred days from the day of the first aforesaid-mentioned order, and designate, on the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are then in rebellion against the United States, the following, to-wit:—**Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana**, (except the Parishes of St. Dennis, Tangipahoa, Iberville, St. John, St. Charles, St. Pierre, Assumption, Terre Bonne, La Fourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of Orleans,) **Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia**, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Alexandria, Southampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth,) and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this Proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that **ALL PERSONS HELD AS SLAVES** within said designated States and parts of States are, and ever were, **SHALL BE FREE**; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval Authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby require upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, against or necessary resistance; and I recommend to them that in all cases when allowed, they cause FREEDOM to be maintained with kindness.

And I further declare, and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States, in garrisons, forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to any number of all arms and services.

And upon this act, solemnly believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the favorable judgment of mankind and the generous favor of Almighty God!

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Three, and of the Independence of the United States the Sixty-Third.

By the President,

Abraham Lincoln
President of the United States

Abraham Lincoln

