

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT – 2009-2012

***Lesson Title – Reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation
From Karen Cook***

Grade - 11

Length of class period – 45 minutes

Inquiry – (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

How did citizens react to Abraham Lincoln’s issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation?

What does this reaction reveal about race, politics and the future of the country beyond 1863?

Objectives (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

- Students will compare and contrast primary source accounts.
- Students will draw conclusions about the immediate and long-term impact of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Materials (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?) – (please attach)

Document 1: Reminisces of the Proclamation of Emancipation

“To the Citizens of Norwich” *The Morning Bulletin*. February 10, 1863.

Document 2:

Turner, Bishop H.M. “Reminisces of the Proclamation of Emancipation. The AME Review. [Online] Available [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/aeo:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(o2356\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/aeo:@field(DOCID+@lit(o2356))).

Activities (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

This lesson would follow an introductory lesson on the Emancipation Proclamation that included Lincoln’s motives and an analysis of the document.

Begin by asking students to recall the textbook account of the reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 when it was first published and in 1863 when it went into effect. According to the text/source was this document responsible for freeing the slaves?

Next, have students read Document 1 and answer the following questions:

Who wrote the document?

What is the purpose of the document?

Who is the author of the document?

When was the document written? Why is this significant?

Where was the author when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued?

How does he describe the reaction of local citizens?

What does this reaction reveal about race, politics and the future of the country beyond 1863?

How accurate do you think this depiction is? What factors did you consider?

Discuss the responses as a class, then distribute Document 2, written on the fiftieth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Have students respond to the same set of questions. To advance the discussion, ask students, “In what ways are the accounts similar? In what ways are they different? Why?”

To conclude, use a simple graphic organizer to classify the short and long-term impact of the Emancipation Proclamation. What is the document’s significance today?

Possible Extensions:

1. Examine the historiography of the Emancipation Proclamation using textbooks from several decades.

2. Assign students perspectives to consider:

Poor Southern Farmer

Planter Elite Southern Woman

Irish laborer in New York City

Civil War Soldier from Connecticut

Jefferson Davis

Confederate Soldier

Northern Abolitionist

Have students write an imagined reaction upon learning of the Emancipation Proclamation for the first time. Share these as a class.

3. Have students assume the role of famous and local persons and write essays and reflections on “What the Emancipation Proclamation means to me.”

4. Have students return to this topic when studying 1963 to examine how the political and social climate of the time influenced reflections on the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Connecticut Grade Level Expectations- Grades 9-12

1.1 Demonstrate an understanding of significant events and themes in United States History.

1.2 Describe the importance of significant events in local and Connecticut history and their connection to United States History.

2.1 Access and gather information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.

2.2 Interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.

3.1 Use evidence to identify, analyze and evaluate historical interpretations.

Document 1-transcribed from *The Morning Bulletin* . February 10, 1863.

TO THE CITIZENS OF NORWICH:

I, James Lloyd Greene, Mayor of the City of Norwich, by and with the consent and advice of a majority of the members of the Court of Common Council, did, on the 2nd day of January, 1863, order a salute of one hundred guns to be fired in honor of the Emancipation Proclamation. On the 2d day of this month, at the session of the Court of Common Council, I presented a bill of the salute, and the court voted unanimously an appropriation therfor. On the following day, five legal voters and tax-payers of the city of Norwich-Theodore Raymond, Horace Walker, J.W. Stedman, Gilber Osgood, C.C. Brand-whose pulses never throbbd the quicker at the announcement which made the hearts of good and noble men leap to their throats with joy, and caused tears of praise and thanksgiving to spring to many honest eyes- caused an injunction to be served to the City Treasurer, forbidding him to pay the said appropriation on the ground that the Common Council had not the legal right to appropriate monies for the purpose. I have cheerfully submitted to the injunction, and have willingly paid for the salute out of my own pocket. I did sincerely wish that my native city would honor herself by giving a salute in honor of a measure which I am convinced our Father in Heaven must approve; but it was not to be. And now, upon my soul, I do exult and rejoice that I, James Lloyd Greene, am the man who ORDERED and PAID for the first emancipation salute ever fired in the State of Connecticut.

JAS. LLOYD GREENE, Mayor

Below is an accurate copy of the bill:
Norwich, Jan. 2d, 1863

Mr. J. Lloyd Greene To H. Turner & Co. Dr.

For firing 100 Guns

Paid for Flannel	8 50
Oakum	12 50
Powder	47 50
Help	15 00
Cartage	1 50
Making Cartridges	3 00
Use of Gun	10 00

	\$98 00

Norwich, Feb 9th, 1863.

Rec'd payment, H. Turner & Co.

Document 2- Turner, Bishop H.M. "Reminisces of the Proclamation of Emancipation.
The AME Review.

The A. M. E. Review

REMINISCENCES OF THE PROCLAMATION OF EMANCIPATION

By Bishop H. M. Turner, D. D., D. C. L.



WE ARE now upon the verge of the fiftieth anniversary, since the Immortal Abraham Lincoln, then President of the United States, by the grace of God hurled against the institution of American slavery the thunderbolt which had been smelted in the furnace of fair play, justice and eternal equity.

Well do I remember the circumstances and incidents connected with my surroundings and experience on that occasion. I had, but a few years before the great Civil War began, left South Carolina, the state of my nativity, with a young and beautiful wife, and had gone to Baltimore to enter the Itinerant Ministry of the A. M. E. Church, which Church I knew nothing about till by chance I visited New Orleans in the fall of 1857, and was told of its existence by that great man, Rev. Dr. Willis R. Revels, the then pastor of the St. James A. M. E. Church, which providentially, had found its way into that city. He was not through explaining the condition, prospects, and the intention of this ecclesiastical body, that I had never heard of before, till I arose from my seat and offered him my hand and said, "I wish to join your Church." As he extended his right hand I said, "This is only the commencement, and you can put me through whatever crucible your church law demands, as I was free born, and think I can stand the test." I drew from my pocket my license as a Local Preacher in the M. E. Church South, which he carefully read and said, "I will receive you again before my whole congregation Sunday, day after tomorrow, which he did in due form. The St. James Quarterly Conference recommended me to the next session of the Annual Conference, which was to meet in St. Louis, Mo., in August, 1858.

When Conference met in St. Louis I was present, and was admitted on probation after standing what I regarded a rigid exami-

nation, and trying to preach a trial sermon, which the Annual Conference severely criticized for three hours the next day. I thought I would fail to be admitted till finally Bishop Payne arose and said, "Now, brethren, you know that this young man, Bro. Turner, preached a more able sermon than one-half of you can deliver, for he did not know what was going to be his text till I gave it to him as he was entering the pulpit. Yet I regard his effort highly commendable." These words or remarks of Bishop Payne turned the tide, and I was unanimously admitted on probation into the traveling work. Then Bishop Paul Quinn, who was occupying a seat in the Conference, rose from beside Bishop Payne and came to where I was sitting and said, "My young brother, you need not be discouraged, because these older men went for you as they did, everybody who is admitted into the Conference has experienced the same thing, and a number of applicants have gone out of the door and have never been seen since. They treat everybody that way, some for fun and others to give you a taste of the Itinerant life, before you enter upon it." Bishop Payne transferred me to the Baltimore Conference, and assigned me to the Tissue St. Mission, where I received from ten to twenty-five cents a week for support. I frequently had to give my wife ten cents to go to market. She would buy one cent of this, two cents of that, and three cents of something else, but she would purchase enough in one way and another to provide a respectable meal. Thus we had to exist on that amount, and what the people would voluntarily donate, till I was sent to another mission, which generally allowed me fifty cents a week. Somehow we managed to live with an occasional lecture from myself on the subject of Physiology, until Bishop Payne chanced to pass by our residence one day and came in and inspected my library and was dumfounded at our books and the various subjects which they treated. The Annual Conference was only a few weeks off, and he appointed us to Israel Church, which had several hundred members, in Washington, D. C. We had a fine congregation and every seat filled, and Israel Church was the center of attraction. Rev. A. M. Green, D. D., now of the Louisiana Conference, reported my sermons and gave me a notoriety and a popularity every Monday, which increased the size of my congregation till hundreds had to stand out doors and listen as best they could to the words which came out through the windows. I am under a debt of gratitude to Dr. Green from that day to this.

The Civil War between the states was then in full blast, and the seeming odds were at that time in favor of the Confederate forces, or to use a familiar term, "the rebel army." The agitation of enlisting colored soldiers was engaging public attention. Israel Church was only a couple of hundred yards from the United States Capitol, where mighty speeches were being made in the United

States Congress in favor of enlisting colored men in the Union army. On several occasions I could be found in the galleries of the United States House of Representatives, listening attentively to such great men as Lovejoy, Henry Winter Davis, of Maryland; Kelley, of Philadelphia, and in the gallery of the Senate of the United States, while such men as Charles Sumner, of Boston; Wade, of Ohio; Wilson, of Massachusetts; Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and others of great distinction and eloquence, either spoke or preached to the vast throng of listeners.

In 1862, on the 22d day of September, Mr. Lincoln issued a proclamation that in a hundred days, unless the rebel army disbanded, and the several Southern states resumed their relation to the general government, he would declare the slaves in all the states free with a few local exceptions. The newspapers of the country were prolific and unsparing in their laudations of Mr. Lincoln. Every orator after reviewing in their richest eloquence, concluded their speeches and orations by saying, "God save Abraham Lincoln," or "God bless our President." Mass-meetings were held in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, St. Louis, San Francisco and hundreds of minor towns, and such a time I never expect to witness on earth in the future. I may witness such a time again in heaven, but not in the flesh.

In the great Union Cooper Hall in New York City, a colored man leaped and jumped with so much agility when the proclamation was read that he drew the attention of every man and woman, till Mr. Lincoln's proclamation was scarcely listened to. New songs were sung and new poems were composed, and the people shouted to such an extent that horses became frightened, and many ran away and smashed carriages into kindling wood. Whites and blacks realized no racial discriminations. On the first day of January, 1863, odd and unique conditions attended every mass-meeting, and the papers of the following day were not able to give them in anything like detail. Long before sunset Israel Church and its yard were crowded with people. The writer was vociferously cheered in every direction he went because in a sermon I tried to deliver I had said that Richmond, the headquarters of the Southern Confederacy, would never fall till black men led the army against this great slave-mart, nor did it fall and succumb to the general government till black men went in first. This was only a popular prediction, and delivered under a general excitement, but strange to say, it was fully realized.

Seeing such a multitude of people in and around my church, I hurriedly went up to the office of the first paper in which the proclamation of freedom could be printed, known as the "Evening Star," and squeezed myself through the dense crowd that was waiting for the paper. The first sheet run off with the proclamation in it was grabbed for by three of us, but some active young man got posses-

sion of it and fled. The next sheet was grabbed for by several, and was torn into tatters. The third sheet from the press was grabbed for by several, but I succeeded in procuring so much of it as contained the proclamation, and off I went for life and death. Down Pennsylvania Ave. I ran as for my life, and when the people saw me coming with the paper in my hand they raised a shouting cheer that was almost deafening. As many as could get around me lifted me to a great platform, and I started to read the proclamation. I had run the best end of a mile, I was out of breath, and could not read. Mr. Hinton, to whom I handed the paper, read it with great force and clearness. While he was reading every kind of demonstration and gesticulation was going on. Men squealed, women fainted, dogs barked, white and colored people shook hands, songs were sung, and by this time cannons began to fire at the navy-yard, and follow in the wake of the roar that had for some time been going on behind the White House. Every face had a smile, and even the dumb animals seemed to realize that some extraordinary event had taken place. Great processions of colored and white men marched to and fro and passed in front of the White House and congratulated President Lincoln on his proclamation. The President came to the window and made responsive bows, and thousands told him, if he would come out of that palace, they would hug him to death. Mr. Lincoln, however, kept at a safe distance from the multitude, who were frenzied to distraction over his proclamation.

I do not know the extent that the excitement in Russia led to, when the humane Emperor proclaimed the freedom of twenty-two million serfs, I think in 1862, but the jubilation that attended the proclamation of freedom by His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, I am sure has never been surpassed, if it has ever been equaled. Nor do I believe it will ever be duplicated again. Rumor said that in several instances the very thought of being set at liberty and having no more auction blocks, no more Negro-traders, no more forced parting of man and wife, no more separation of parents and children, no more horrors of slavery, was so elative and heart gladdening that scores of colored people literally fell dead with joy. It was indeed a time of times, and a half time, nothing like it will ever be seen again in this life. Our entrance into Heaven itself will only form a counterpart. January 1st, 1913, will be fifty years since Mr. Lincoln's proclamation stirred the world and avalanched America with joy, and the first day of next January, 1913, our race should fill every Church, every hall, and every preacher regardless of denomination should deliver a speech on the results of the proclamation.