



**Vol. 06  
June**

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**LGBTQ Pride Edition**



# A HISTORY OF PRIDE

December 10th  
**1924**



The Society for Human Rights is founded, making it the first documented gay rights group in the US.

January 15th  
**1958**



SCOTUS rules in favor of the LGBTQ+ community for the first time. The case: ONE - the first major pro-gay publication in the US - sued the federal government after the US Postal Service refused to deliver its magazine. The court sided with the magazine.

**1961**



Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalize homosexuality.

June 28th  
**1969**

Police raid the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in NYC. Customers fight back, leading to days of riots. This launches the modern gay rights movement. A year later, the first gay pride parade in the US goes down in NYC..



# WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE STONEWALL RIOTS?



**O**n a hot summer night in 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a bar located in New York City's Greenwich Village that served as a haven for the city's gay, lesbian and transgender community.

At the time, homosexual acts remained illegal in every state except Illinois, and bars and restaurants could get shut down for having gay employees or serving gay patrons. Most gay bars and clubs in New York at the time (including the Stonewall) were operated by the Mafia, who paid corruptible police officers to look the other way and blackmailed wealthy gay patrons by threatening to "out" them.

Police raids on gay bars were common, but on that particular night, members of the city's LGBT community decided to fight back—sparking an uprising that would launch a new era of resistance

and revolution.

June 24, 1969: Police arrest Stonewall employees, confiscate alcohol.

On the Tuesday before the riots began, police conducted an evening raid on the Stonewall, arresting some of its employees and confiscating its stash of illegal liquor. As with many similar raids, the police targeted the bar for operating without a proper liquor license.

After the raid, the NYPD planned a second raid for the following Friday, which they hoped would shut down the bar for good.

June 27-28, 1969: Stonewall crowd erupts after police arrest and rough up patrons.

After midnight on an unseasonably hot Friday night, the Stonewall was packed

when eight plainclothes or undercover police officers (six men and two women) entered the bar. In addition to the bar's employees, they also singled out drag queens and other cross-dressing patrons for arrest. In New York City, "masquerading" as a member of the opposite sex was a crime.

More NYPD officers arrived on foot and in three patrol cars. Meanwhile, bar patrons who had been released joined the crowds of onlookers that were forming outside the Stonewall. A police van, commonly known as a paddy wagon, arrived, and police began loading Stonewall employees and cross-dressers inside.

Early hours of June 28, 1969: Transgender women resist arrest. Bottles are thrown at police.

Accounts vary over exactly what kicked off the riots, but according to witness reports, the crowd erupted after police roughed up a woman dressed in masculine attire (believed to be lesbian activist Stormé DeLarverie) who had complained that her handcuffs were too tight. People started taunting the officers, yelling “Pigs!” and “Copper!” and throwing pennies at them, followed by bottles; some in the crowd slashed the tires of the police vehicles.

According to David Carter, historian and author of *Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution*, the “hierarchy of resistance” in the riots began with the homeless or “street” kids, those young gay men who viewed the Stonewall as the only safe place in their lives.

#### The Stonewall Riots

View of a damaged jukebox and cigarette machine, along with a broken chair, inside the Stonewall Inn after riots over the weekend of June 27, 1969.

Two transgender women of color, Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, were said to have resisted arrest and thrown the first bottle at the cops, respectively. Although Johnson later said in a podcast interview with historian Eric Marcus that she had not arrived until the uprising was well underway.

The exact breakdown of who did what first remains unclear—in part because this was long before the smartphone era and there was minimal documentation of the night’s events.

Close to 4 a.m. June 28, 1969: Police retreat and barricade themselves inside Stonewall.

As the paddy wagon and squad cars left to drop the prisoners off at the nearby Sixth Precinct, the growing mob forced the original NYPD raiding party to retreat into the Stonewall itself and barricade themselves inside.

Some rioters used a parking meter as a battering ram to break through the door; others threw beer bottles, trash and other objects, or made impromptu firebombs with bottles, matches and lighter fluid.

#### The Stonewall Inn

Hand-painted text on a boarded-up window of the Stonewall Inn reading ‘We homosexuals plead with our people to please help maintain peaceful and quiet conduct on the streets of the Village - Mattachine.’ The Mattachine Society was an early American gay rights organization.

Sirens announced the arrival of more police officers, as well as squadrons of the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF), the city’s riot police. As the helmeted officers marched in formation down Christopher Street, protesters outsmarted them by running away, then circling the short blocks of the Village and coming back up behind the officers.

Finally, sometime after 4 a.m., things settled down. Amazingly, no one died or was critically injured on the first night of rioting, though a few police officers reported injuries.

June 28-29: Stonewall reopens, supporters gather. Police beat and tear gas crowd.

Despite having been torn apart by the cops, the Stonewall Inn opened before dark the next night (though it wasn’t serving alcohol). More and more supporters showed up, chanting slogans like “gay power” and “we shall overcome.”

#### Stonewall Inn

An unidentified group of young people celebrate outside the boarded-up Stonewall Inn after the riots.

Again the police were called out to restore order, including an even larger group of TPF officers, who beat and tear gassed members of the crowd. This continued until the early hours of the morning, when the crowd dispersed.

June 29-July 1, 1969: Stonewall becomes gathering point for LGBT activists.

Over the next several nights, gay activists continued to gather near the Stonewall, taking advantage of the moment to spread information and build the community that would fuel the growth

of the gay rights movement. Though police officers also returned, the mood was less confrontational, with isolated skirmishes replacing the large-scale riots of the weekend.

July 2, 1969: Gay activists protest newspaper coverage.

In response to the *Village Voice*’s coverage of the riots, which referred to “the forces of faggotry,” protesters swarmed outside the paper’s offices. Some called for burning the building down. When the police pushed back, rioting started again, but lasted only a short time, concluding by midnight.

#### The Stonewall Riots

A newspaper from 1969 hangs on the wall near the front entrance at the Stonewall Inn.

The *New York Daily News* also resorted to homophobic slurs in its detailed coverage, running the headline: “Homo Nest Raided, Queen Bees Are Stinging Mad.” Meanwhile, the *New York Times* wrote only sparingly of the whole event, printing a short article on page 22 on June 30 titled “Police Again Rout ‘Village’ Youths.”

The lasting impact of the Stonewall Riots.

With Stonewall, the spirit of ‘60s rebellion spread to LGBT people in New York and beyond, who for the first time found themselves part of a community. Though the gay rights movement didn’t begin at Stonewall, the uprising did mark a turning point, as earlier “homophile” organizations like the Mattachine Society gave way to more radical groups like the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) and the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA).

For more information visit : <https://www.history.com/news/stonewall-riots-timeline>



Celebrating  
Flag Day

# THE HISTORY OF FLAG DAY

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach

went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secre-

tary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

For more information visit: <http://www.usflag.org/history/flagday.html>

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



**T**he nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972—58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States. Father's Day 2019 occurs on Sunday, June 16.

**Mother's Day: Inspiration for Father's Day**

The "Mother's Day" we celebrate today has its origins in the peace-and-reconciliation campaigns of the post-Civil War era. During the 1860s, at the urging of activist Ann Reeves Jarvis, one divided West Virginia town celebrated "Mother's Work Days" that brought together

the mothers of Confederate and Union soldiers.

Did you know? There are more than 70 million fathers in the United States.

However, Mother's Day did not become a commercial holiday until 1908, when—inspired by Jarvis's daughter, Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her own mother by making

Mother's Day a national holiday—the John Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia sponsored a service dedicated to mothers in its auditorium.

Thanks in large part to this association with retailers, who saw great potential for profit in the holiday, Mother's Day caught on right away. In 1909, 45 states observed the day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution that made the second Sunday in May a holiday in honor of "that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America."

#### Origins of Father's Day

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge

urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2018 occurred on June 17; the following year, Father's Day 2019 falls on June 16.

In other countries—especially in Europe and Latin America—fathers are honored on St. Joseph's Day, a traditional Catholic holiday that falls on March 19.

#### Father's Day: Controversy and Commercialism

Many men, however, continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

During the 1920s and 1930s, a movement arose to scrap Mother's Day and Father's Day altogether in favor of a single holiday, Parents' Day. Every year on Mother's Day, pro-Parents' Day groups rallied in New York City's Central Park—a public reminder, said Parents' Day activist and radio performer Robert Spere, "that both parents should be loved and respected together." Paradoxically, however, the Great Depression derailed this effort to combine and de-commercialize the holidays. Struggling retailers and advertisers redoubled their efforts to make Father's Day a "second Christmas" for men, promoting goods such as neckties, hats, socks, pipes and tobacco, golf clubs and other sporting goods, and greeting cards.

When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father's Day was a way to honor

American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last. Today, economists estimate that Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on Father's Day gifts.

For more information visit: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/fathers-day>

# THE 49 BEST GIFTS FOR EVERY TYPE OF DAD

**J**ust as with moms, there's no one type of dad. There are golf dads and tech dads and dads who drink beer, among so many other kinds. So we racked our brains to come up with the best gifts for the many, many different types of dads you might be shopping for this Father's Day. Here are 49 options, for every type of dad, that you can conveniently buy on Amazon.

-Braun Classic Analog Quartz Alarm Clock

A classic alarm clock from Braun, for the dad who likes to keep things simple.

-Sleepy Ride Airplane Footrest

Writer Alyse Whitney told us about this little doodad that helps make economy feel like first class: "The straps are adjustable and hook around the tray table in front of you so that it becomes a foot hammock, rocking gently with the motions of the plane."

-Tiger Insulated Travel Mug, 16-Ounce, White

This tumbler from Japanese brand Tiger claims to keep drinks hot or cold for up to six hours. One of our writers' dad swears by it because the "lid is much easier to clean than a Zojirushi."

-Areaware Blockitecture Habitat

A nifty little desk objet for a dad who can't keep his hands still — or prefers not to make eye contact during uncomfortable conversations.

-Lewis N. Clark Luggage Comfort Eye Mask, Black



Any dad who is looking to block out light completely should consider the Lewis N. Clark mask, which writer Georgia Clark calls the very best: "The Lewis N. Clark Comfort Eye Mask promises and delivers total darkness, superior comfort, and customizable straps. The cotton interior is pillowy-soft, so much softer and more comfortable than other masks that I tried, many of which were made from polyester (or other nonnatural fabrics)."

- Matney Stealing Coin Cat Box - English Speaking

A "kitty" bank — you set the coin on that pad where the fish bones are, and the cat pokes out of the box and snatches it.

-Belmint Shiatsu Foot Massager With Switchable Heat Function

So this was one of the best-selling gifts from our Mother's Day gift guide — and for good reason. We actually just bought a few ourselves and love the thing. Because achy feet know no gender.

-Wisdom Panel Health Canine DNA Test

Has your dad been wondering if Fido is a husky? A malamute? Wisdom Panel is like 23andMe for dogs and can tell him his rescue's breed profile, and this kit also screens for specific genetic conditions.

-The Original Vacu Vin Wine Saver With 2 Vacuum Stoppers

Does dad appreciate wine without downing the whole bottle? Now he won't have to feel the pressure of degrading his precious bottle of pinot gris. Sommeliers and wine experts think the Vacu Vin does a great job of

preserving an open bottle of wine.

-Coravin Model Two Wine System

For something to preserve his ultra-fancy bottle of wine, the very effective, very pricey Coravin can't be beat.

-Waterpik WP-662 Aquarius Water Flosser

Is dad flossing properly? Yeah, we didn't think so.

\$59 at Amazon

-Philips Norelco Beard Trimmer Series 7200, Vacuum-Trimmer

This beard trimmer with a vacuum (see how it's leaving no mess?) is consistently one of the most-bought items among Strategist readers.

-Philips Norelco Electric Shaver 5500

Our very favorite electric razor does a better job — smoother, faster, easier — than any other you can find, and for not a heck-ton of money.

-Alfred Hitchcock: The Complete Films

If dad is into classic cinema, he'll love this just-released book from Taschen covering Alfred Hitchcock's complete filmography. It will look great by the TV, next to all those DVD's he will never get rid of.

-Fellow Stagg EKG+ Bluetooth Connected Electric Pour-Over Kettle

Dads who drink a lot of coffee or tea (or eat a lot of ramen) will appreciate this electric kettle, which in our humble estimation is the absolute best.

-A three-piece set with a chef's knife, a paring knife, and a santoku knife from chef-approved Japanese brand Global.  
- Tooletries Koby Bag

The Tooletries dopp kit makes so much sense — it's made of silicone to be completely spill- and stain-resistant, plus it just looks cooler than some fusty canvas thing. Stock it with

some travel-size grooming essentials and leave it in his carry-on.

-Blue Pure 211+ Air Purifier for Home

A dare-we-say not hideous air purifier that'll let him (and you) breathe easier at night.

-OXO Good Grips Single Serve Pour Over Coffee Dripper

The little plastic coffee dripper will let him brew directly into the mug of his choice, without using a fiddly pour-over kettle.

-Parker Jotter Stainless Steel Ballpoint Pen, Medium Point, Black Ink

In case you missed it, the Strategist team recently did a deep dive into the world of pens, testing and ranking gels, felt tips, ballpoints, rollerballs, and fountain pens to determine the 100 best. The Parker Jotter came in at a very respectable number seven — plus it just looks cool.

-Working, by Robert Caro

This new release from Roberto A. Caro, part memoir and part reflection on writing and research, is definitely less intimidating than the author's massive books on Robert Moses and President Lyndon B. Johnson. We're sure dad will read that copy of *The Power Broker* some day, but this should scratch that itch in the meantime.

- "Bruce Springsteen: The Stories Behind the Songs" by Brian Hiatt

Dads love Bruce. This book, by Rolling Stone writer Brian Hiatt, provides an in-depth look into Springsteen's writing and recording process, covering his career through photographs, essays, and anecdotes.

- Rocketbook Everlast Smart Notebook

For the dad who needs to use his notebook an infinite number of

times, there's the Rocketbook Everlast, which can be used endlessly by wiping it with water (no microwave necessary). Writer Steven John is a huge fan. If you get one of these, be sure to stock up on the Pilot FriXion pens, whose ink is the only kind that will bond with the special paper.

-Drillbrush Bathroom Surfaces Tub

Writer Maxine Builder calls the Drillbrush — a brush attachment for your power drill — the best thing that ever happened to her shower: "The drill did all the hard work, scrubbing faster and harder than I ever could by hand, and the results were noticeable even after the first pass. All the built-up grime had basically disappeared, though I did a second round just to be sure. The nylon bristles were gentle enough that I couldn't find a single scratch afterward."

-Ultimate Ears BOOM 2 BrainFreeze Wireless Mobile Bluetooth Speaker (Waterproof and Shockproof)

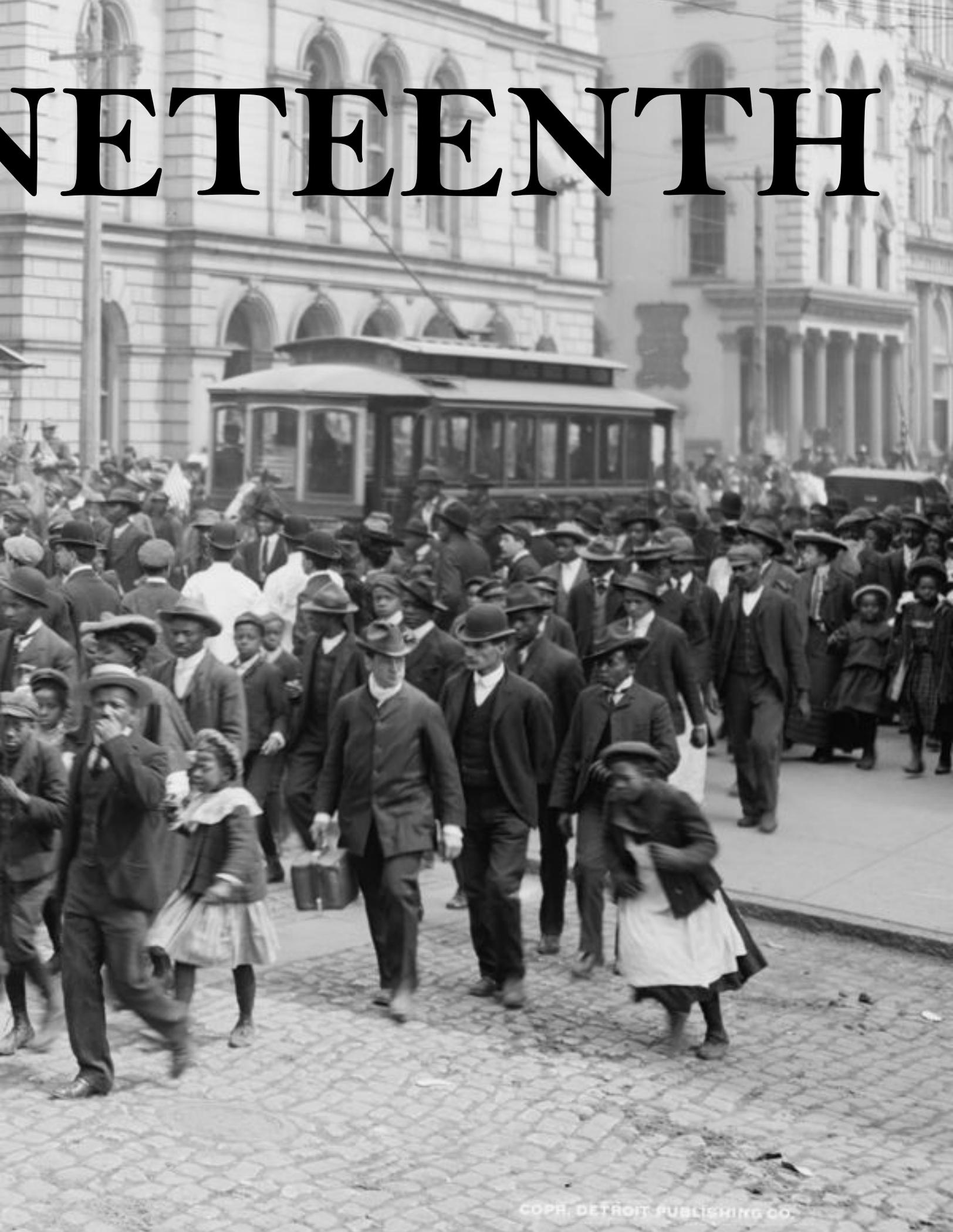
Try Barbara Corcoran's favorite speaker (she knows her stuff), which she prefers even over her fancy sound system. It's one of the best-reviewed speakers you can find, period. Ultimate Ears came out with a newer version, but we actually prefer this one.

For more information visit: <https://nymag-com.cdn.ampproject.org>

# HAPPY JUNE



# NINETEENTH



# THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

**J**uneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another, is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another, is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or neither of these version could be true. Certainly, for some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. For whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

## General Order Number 3

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

"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 equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' - attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove the some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descen-

dants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

## Juneteenth Festivities and Food

A range of activities were provided to entertain the masses, many of which continue in tradition today. Rodeos, fishing, barbecuing and baseball are just a few of the typical Juneteenth activities you may witness today. Juneteenth almost always focused on education and self improvement. Thus, often guest speakers are brought in and the elders are called upon to recount the events of the past. Prayer services were also a major part of these celebrations.

Certain foods became popular and subsequently synonymous with Juneteenth celebrations such as strawberry soda-pop. More traditional and just as popular was the barbecuing, through which Juneteenth participants could share in the spirit and aromas that their ancestors - the newly emancipated African Americans, would have experienced during their ceremonies. Hence, the barbecue pit is often established as the center of attention at Juneteenth celebrations.

Food was abundant because everyone prepared a special dish. Meats such as lamb, pork and beef which not available everyday were brought on this special occasion. A true Juneteenth celebrations left visitors well satisfied and with enough conversation to last until the

next.

Dress was also an important element in early Juneteenth customs and is often still taken seriously, particularly by the direct descendants who can make the connection to this tradition's roots. During slavery there were laws on the books in many areas that prohibited or limited the dressing of the enslaved. During the initial days of the emancipation celebrations, there are accounts of former slaves tossing their ragged garments into the creeks and rivers to adorn clothing taken from the plantations belonging to their former 'masters'.

### Juneteenth and Society

In the early years, little interest existed outside the African American community in participation in the celebrations. In some cases, there was outwardly exhibited resistance by barring the use of public property for the festivities. Most of the festivities found themselves out in rural areas around rivers and creeks that could provide for additional activities such as fishing, horseback riding and barbecues. Often the church grounds was the site for such activities. Eventually, as African Americans became land owners, land was donated and dedicated for these festivities. One of the earliest documented land purchases in the name of Juneteenth was organized by Rev. Jack Yates. This fund-raising effort yielded \$1000 and the purchase of Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas. In Mexia, the local Juneteenth organization purchased Booker T. Washington Park, which had become the Juneteenth celebration site in 1898. There are accounts of Juneteenth activities being interrupted and halted by white landowners demanding that their laborers return to work. However, it seems most allowed their workers the day off and some even made donations of food and money. For decades these annual celebrations flourished, growing continuously with each passing year. In Booker T. Washington Park, as many as 20,000 African Americans once flowed through during the course of a week, making the celebration one of the state's largest.

### Juneteenth Celebrations Decline

Economic and cultural forces provided for a decline in Juneteenth activities and participants beginning in the early 1900's. Classroom and textbook education in lieu of traditional home and family-taught practices stifled the interest of the youth due to less emphasis and detail on the activities of former slaves. Classroom text books proclaimed Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 as the date signaling the ending of slavery - and little or nothing on the impact of General Granger's arrival on June 19th.

The Depression forced many people off the farms and into the cities to find work. In these urban environments, employers were less eager to grant leaves to celebrate this date. Thus, unless June 19th fell on a weekend or holiday, there were very few participants available. July 4th was the already established Independence holiday and a rise in patriotism steered more toward this celebration.

### Resurgence

The Civil Rights movement of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's, whom wore Juneteenth freedom buttons. Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through Poor Peoples March to Washington D.C.. Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to Washington to show support for the poor. Many of these attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity. In fact, two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations founded after this March are now held in Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

### Texas Blazes the Trail

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African

American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Edwards has since actively sought to spread the observance of Juneteenth all across America.

### Juneteenth In Modern Times

Today, Juneteenth is enjoying a phenomenal growth rate within communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place along side older organizations - all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.

The future of Juneteenth looks bright as the number of cities and states creating Juneteenth committees continues to increase. Respect and appreciation for all of our differences grow out of exposure and working together. Getting involved and supporting Juneteenth celebrations creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us. This indeed, brightens our future - and that is the Spirit of Juneteenth.

For more information visit: <http://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm>