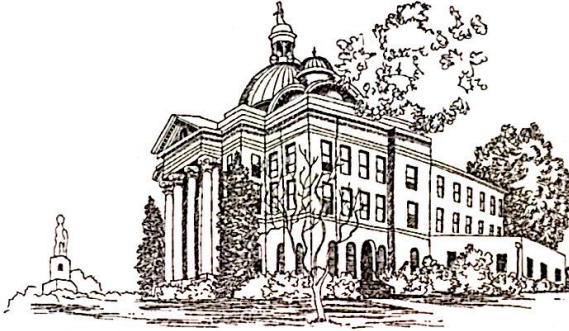


Proclamation



WHEREAS, News of the end of slavery did not reach the many areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southern States, until much after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and,

WHEREAS, In Fort Bend County, In January of 1860, Edward Palmer purchased 640 acres from David Bright, one of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred," to create the Palmer Plantation. Then in 1865, the Palmers estate gathered the slaves together under the branches of the now known as "Freedom Tree" to explain that they were free. It was in this light that slavery ended on the Palmer land in Missouri City beneath the spreading boughs of "The Freedom Tree"; and,

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans who had been slaves in the South and Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations and the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and,


WHEREAS, The faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race.


NOW, THEREFORE, The Commissioners' Court of Fort Bend County, Texas do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020 as


JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

in Fort Bend County, Texas


County Judge, KP George


Commissioner Pct. 1
Vincent Morales


Commissioner Pct. 2
Grady Prestage


Commissioner Pct. 3
Andy Meyers




Commissioner Pct. 4
Ken DeMerchant