Juneteenth—and History of Slavery Resources

Juneteenth, which is also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is a combination of "June" and "nineteenth," in honor of the day that General Granger announced the abolition of slavery in Texas.

On June 19, 1865, (Union) Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger came to Galveston, Texas, to inform a reluctant community that President Abraham Lincoln two years earlier had freed the slaves and to press locals to comply with his directive. (Source: https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/06/19/what-juneteenth-holiday-end-slavery/713313002/)

Juneteenth marks the ‘official’ end of slavery in the United States of America. It is a time to celebrate freedom----and yet one must reflect on what has gone before.

To get a sense of what life before liberation was like, here are a few resources that contain information, primary source documents, images and historical records from the times of slavery in our country.

https://www.brown.edu/initiatives/slavery-and-justice/research-resources
The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition

For more information or other reference and collection development assistance, call the Reference & Information Desk at Adriance Memorial Library at (845) 485-3445 x 3702 or (800) 804-0092 x 3702.
The Poughkeepsie Public Library District also subscribes to the *HeritageQuest* database, which contains records from the *Freedman’s Bank* set up after emancipation specifically for former slaves, but open to others. The records include lots of information about residence, family and occupations. It’s a wonderful resource for folks doing genealogical research of their African-American heritage. Bank deposit slips contain a LOT of information-- often more details than the census records!

Happy Juneteenth!!

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