

The Blackbottom Group

BBG

Know Our Story

**The African Diaspora
To America**

NEWS LETTER

Africa Diaspora consist of people living outside the continent of Africa whose ancestral roots or heritage is in Africa



Those who profess to favor freedom, yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground . They want rain without thunder and lightning, They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will”

-Frederick Douglas-

The publication of this newsletter is to help educated those that have an interest in understanding the history and struggles of African decent people and the racial tactics used to oppress said individuals who are first class American Citizens

The Congress passed legislation Wednesday June 16th after the Senate unanimously passed the legislation Tuesday June 15th that would establish June 19th as Juneteenth National Independence Day, a US federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

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- ◆ **Juneteenth Federal Holiday**
- ◆ **Tulsa Black Wall Street**
- ◆ **Blackbottom Historical Marker Designation**
- ◆ **Celebrating Black Music Month**
- ◆ **13th; 14th; 15th Amendments**

From the late 15th century, Europeans joined the slave trade One could say the Portuguese led in partnership with other Europeans That includes the triangular trade, with the Portuguese initially acquiring slaves through trade and later by force as part of the Atlantic Slave Trade. They transported enslaved West, Central and Southern Africans overseas. Subsequently, European colonization of Africa developed rapidly from around 10% (1870) to over 90% (1914).

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JUNETEENTH

On June 19, 1865, Union Major-General Gordon Granger issued this military order in Galveston, Texas, freeing slaves.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 3

“THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS ARE INFORMED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROCLAMATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES, ALL SLAVES ARE FREE.”

Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. On June 19, 1865, a Union General rode into Galveston, Texas to announce that the Civil War had ended, and slaves had been freed.

The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, had established that all enslaved people in Confederate states in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” But in reality, the Emancipation Proclamation didn't instantly free any enslaved people. The proclamation only applied to places under Confederate control and not to slave-holding border states or rebel areas already under Union control.

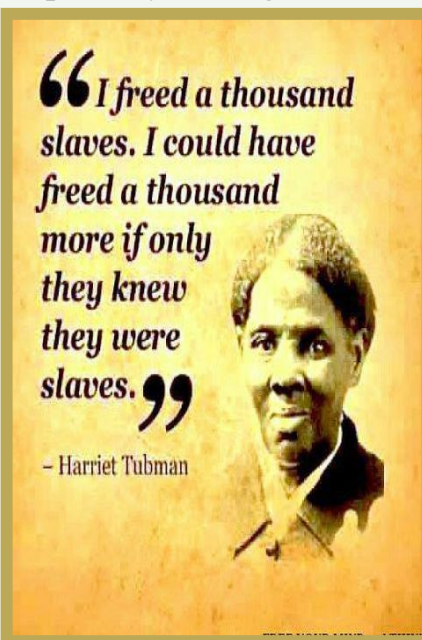
The year following 1865, freedmen in Texas organized the first of what became the annual celebration of "Jubilee Day" on June 19. In the ensuing decades, Juneteenth commemorations featured music, barbecues, prayer services and other activities, and as Black people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country the Juneteenth tradition spread.

In the United States, a freedmen's town was an African-American municipality or community built by freedmen, former slaves who were emancipated.

The United States Colored Troops (USCT) was the designation given to the approximately 175 regiments of non-white soldiers that served during the Civil War. The troops were primarily African American, but Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders were all included within the ranks, as well. These regiments were part of the precursors the now famous Buffalo Soldiers who served throughout the West following the conclusion of the war. Buffalo Soldiers participated in central episodes of the American experience. They made essential contributions to western settlement, making maps, blazing trails, and improving roads; guarding settlements, roads, and stagecoach stations; and providing the reassuring military presence that helped encourage development.



Before January 1, 1863, when the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, President Abraham Lincoln was cautious about the recruitment of African Americans into the Union Army, due to politics and prejudice throughout the North, especially among Democrats loyal to the Union



who resided in Border States that allowed slavery. Furthermore, thousands of black women, who were not allowed to formally enlist, worked for the military as cooks, spies, nurses, and scouts; the most famous of these women was Harriett Tubman

	13TH AMENDMENT	14TH AMENDMENT	15TH AMENDMENT	BLACK CODES
What it was	The Amendment that abolished slavery	The Amendment that gave equal rights to everyone	The Amendment that gave suffrage to all men	Laws that went around what congress was enforcing to maintain slavery
Effect	Meant that the South could no longer have slaves legally	The black and white races in the South had equal rights	All men in the South, black or white, could vote in elections	'Slavery' was no longer a term, but many were subject to sharecropping.

Who was Dred Scott?

Dred Scott was born into slavery some time in 1795 in Virginia. He was sold to Dr. John Emerson some time between 1830 and 1833 (some historians believe 1831 when Emerson moved to St. Louis, Missouri). With Dr. Emerson, Scott traveled from Missouri to the free state of Illinois, where Emerson was stationed for about 3 years. Then they moved to Ft. Snelling in the free territory of Wisconsin before returning to St. Louis, MO. After a delayed relocation to another slave state, Louisiana, Emerson returned with Scott to St. Louis in 1842. Dr. Emerson died in 1843 at which point Scott and his family became part of Emerson's estate which he left to his wife, Irene Emerson. Her brother John Sanford handled her affairs. In April 1846 Scott filed a petition with the St. Louis Circuit Court for his freedom. The case would be in and out of the court system until reaching the US Supreme Court in 1856. The final decision on Scott's freedom from slavery would be delivered by the Supreme Court on March 6, 1857.



"...We think they [people of African ancestry] are...not included, and were not intended to be included, under the work "citizens" in the constitution, and can therefore claim none of the rights and privileges which that instrument provides for and secures to citizens of the United States ..."

*—Chief Justice
Roger B. Taney*

"On Juneteenth, we celebrate the liberation of our people from slavery. The new oppression comes not from slave owners but racist algorithms. We must continue to fight for freedom." —Police Commissioner Willie Burton



Tulsa Oklahoma

“Black Wall Street”

Founded in 1906, Greenwood was developed on Indian Territory, the vast area where Native American tribes had been forced to relocate, which encompasses much of modern-day Eastern Oklahoma. Some African Americans who had been former slaves of the tribes, and subsequently integrated into tribal communities, acquired allotted land in Greenwood through the Dawes Act, a U.S. law that gave land to individual Native Americans. And many Black sharecroppers fleeing racial oppression relocated to the region as well, in search of a better life post-Civil War.



The city’s Black district of Greenwood was attacked by a white mob, resulting in two days of bloodshed and destruction, the area had been considered one of the most affluent African American communities in the United States for the early part of the 20th century. The largest number of Black townships after the Civil War were located in Oklahoma. Between 1865 and 1920, African Americans founded dozens of Black townships and settlements in the region.

BLACKBOTTOM DETROIT

“I found out that if you want to change any damn thing, if you're going to deal in power, you have to be where the power is.”

PART 1: FROM BLACK BOTTOM TO MAYOR OF DETROIT EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: COLEMAN YOUNG

By David Fenton and Derek VanPelt

Two years ago last week, Coleman A. Young was elected the first black mayor of the city of Detroit, defeating police candidate John Nichols and ushering in what may well be a new epoch in the city's history—a period shaped by a fundamentally different outlook, as Detroit fights for its very survival in the '70's.

Coleman's election signalled a clear break with City Hall as we've known it in the past. Upon taking office, he wiped its top administrative staff largely clean, then began the long process of re-directing the bureaucracy of a city allowed to decay by his predecessors.

The fruits of these efforts are still only beginning to take shape. Given years of negligence and the enormity of the task of turning Detroit around, two years is not a very long time in the life of a city.

To find out more about Detroit's first black mayor, and to obtain his perspective on the critical issues facing the city, SUN Publisher David Fenton and Editor Derek VanPelt spent two hours last week with Coleman Young. In this, and in our next two editions, we offer the substance of that conversation.

We met Coleman at the St. Clair Inn, where he and 150 of his top administrators had just completed a weekend retreat. These periodic gatherings are designed to provide the administrators with a full view of each other's activities, so that all

city departments can work together in a coordinated manner.

We rode with Coleman from the shores of Lake St. Clair to Metro Airport, where there was time for lunch before the Mayor's flight departed. We feel we were offered a unified vision for the future of the city, coming from a man who is, as they say, “off the street”—certainly a rare background for any politician. We were struck by his clarity, energy, and just plain up-frontness.

Part 1 of our interview explores Coleman's formative experiences growing up on the East Side of Detroit and his little-known background as a civil rights leader, labor organizer, and so-called “subversive”—en route to the State Senate and, finally, the Mayor's Office.

In our next two issues, the SUN will offer Coleman's perspective on the major issues confronting the city, including the Police Department and the housing crisis.

SUN: One of the most unique things about you as a major political figure is your background—that you came up on the streets of Detroit and have a history of labor struggle. What was it like coming up from the Black Bottom and how did the events of your past illuminate the perspective you're working from now?

COLEMAN: Well, I was a kid during the Depression. Right now, I'm 57; I can remember back in '28, I was ten, I worked around St. Aubin Street delivering clothes after school and on Saturdays. This part of St. Aubin was a booming center at the time, where all types of nefarious activities took place—various types of games of chance, etc. It was during Prohibition, and there was a local bootlegger who had an ice cream store for a front. I found that

Continued on Page 4

Former Black Bottom neighborhood

Map showing Detroit, Michigan, with major roads (I-75, I-375, Woodward Avenue, Brush Street, Graftiot Avenue, Monroe, Fort Congress, East Jefferson Avenue, St. Aubin Street) and parks (Comerica Park, Ford Field, Lafayette Park). A red box highlights the Former Black Bottom neighborhood. A scale bar indicates 1/4 mile.

SOURCES: MapQuest, Detroit Historical Society

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