



INSIDE THE VAULT

The Thirteenth Amendment and Its Significance
with Dr. Touré Reed

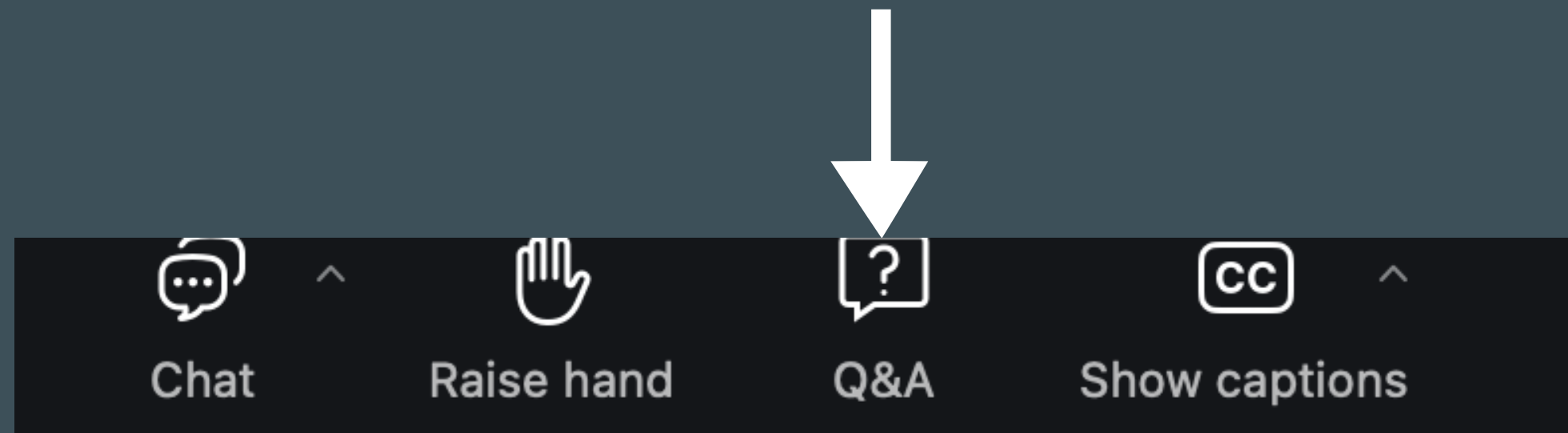
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025



THE
GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE
of
AMERICAN HISTORY



How to Participate



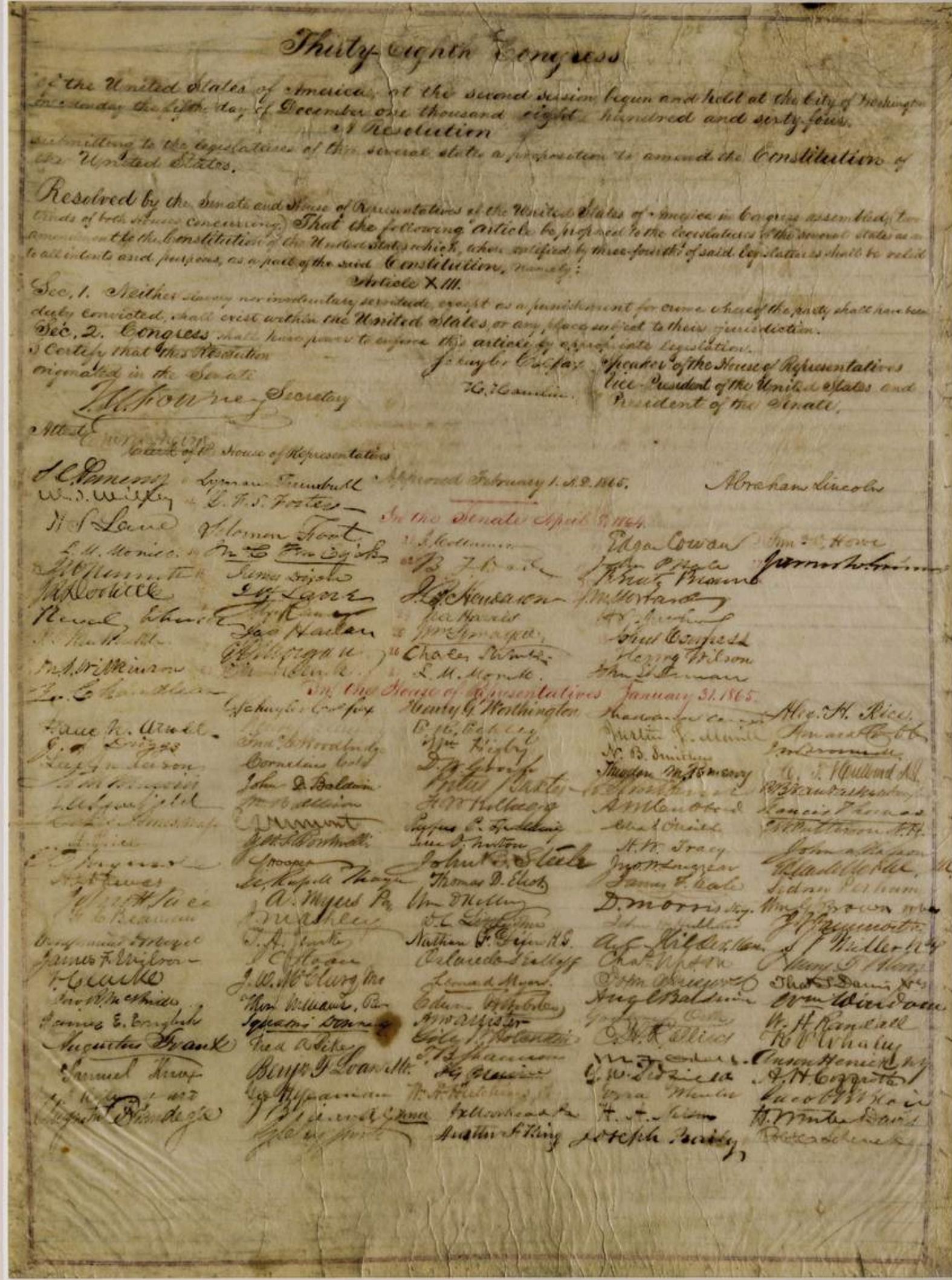
- If you would like to ask a question, you can use the Q&A feature.
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.
- The views expressed here are those of the historian.

For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.

Today's Document

The Thirteenth Amendment Resolution, Washington DC, February 1, 1865
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC00263)



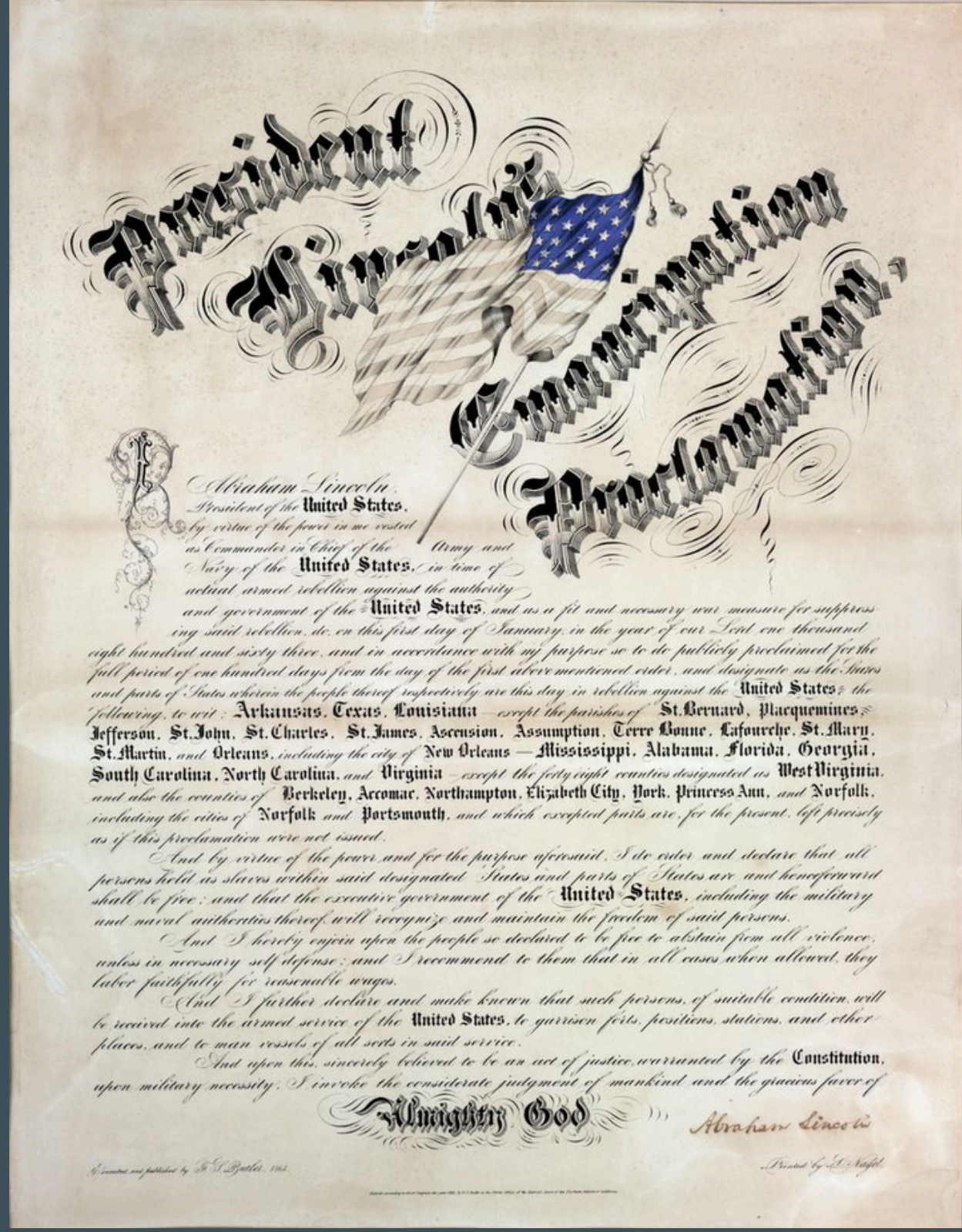
Dr. Touré Reed



Touré F. Reed is a professor of twentieth-century US and African American history at Illinois State University. He is the author of *Not Alms But Opportunity: The Urban League and the Politics of Racial Uplift, 1910-1950* (UNC Press) and *Toward Freedom: The Case Against Race Reductionism* (Verso Books). Reed is currently working on his third book-length monograph, *Menace II Equality: How the Entertainment Industry Sold Reaganism to Black Americans*.



The Emancipation Proclamation



Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863, written by Abraham Lincoln.
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC00742)

Emancipation Proclamation



“

“That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.”

Abraham Lincoln in the Emancipation Proclamation,
January 1, 1863.



Emancipation Proclamation



“

“That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States.”

Abraham Lincoln in the Emancipation Proclamation,
January 1, 1863.



Soldiers as the Emissaries of Freedom



Lucius Stebbins, *Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation*, 1864.
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC07595)

Abraham Lincoln on the Thirteenth Amendment



39

At the last session of Congress a proposed amendment abolishing slavery throughout the United States, passed the Senate, but failed for lack of the requisite two thirds vote in the House of Representatives. Although the present is the same Congress, and nearly the same members, and without questioning the wisdom or patriotism of those who stood in opposition, I venture to recommend the reconsideration and passage of the measure at the present session.

This is a portion of the last message of Mr. Lincoln in his own hand writing.

To be given to Anthony ^{no. 1000} ~~Calder~~ ^{not the printing} ~~Calder~~ ^{copy} Deffen.

I put the name of ~~Corwin~~ ^{Corwin} instead of ~~Cooper~~ ^{Cooper} because ~~Cooper~~ Thomas Corwin of Ohio was an honest man - and the other a little trickster with some ~~tricks~~ ^{tricks} & cold blooded and selfish. J. B. Le 2157(a)cc

Fragment of Lincoln's last Annual Message concerning the Thirteenth Amendment, 1864,
written by Abraham Lincoln.
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC08094)

The Road to the Thirteenth Amendment



February 10, 1864

Senate Judiciary
Committee passes the
Thirteenth Amendment
proposal

January 31, 1865

House of Representatives
passes the Thirteenth
Amendment

January 1, 1863

Abraham Lincoln signs
the Emancipation
Proclamation

April 8, 1864

Senate passes the
Thirteenth Amendment

December 6, 1865

Thirteenth Amendment is
ratified by the states

Felony Exception Clause of the Thirteenth Amendment



A Resolution

Submitting to the legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both Houses concurring) That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

Article XIII.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor

involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Approved, February 1, 1865.

“

“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

True Copy of the Thirteenth Amendment, February 1, 1865, written by William Henry Seward. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC03264)



Thirteenth Amendment



“

“Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Section 2 of the Thirteenth Amendment



Law Enforcement Assistance Act



LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1965

HEARINGS
BEFORE A
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE
EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 1792 and S. 1825

TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING STATE AND LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND OTHER PERSONNEL
AND IN IMPROVING CAPABILITIES, TECHNIQUES, AND
PRACTICES IN STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CRIME, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

JULY 22, 23, AND 30, 1965

Printed for the use of the Committee on the Judiciary

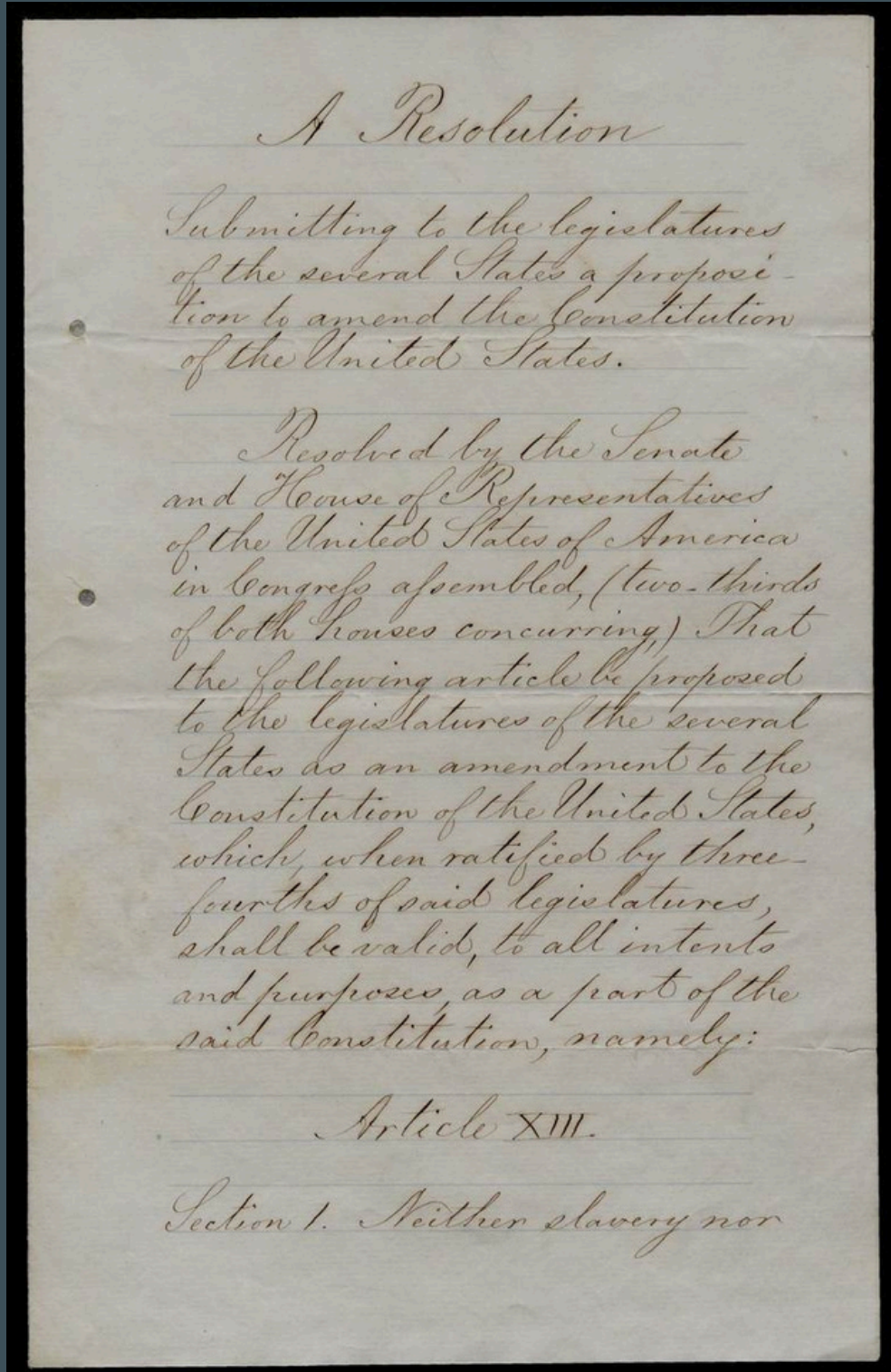


U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1965

53-865

Law Enforcement Assistance Act of 1965, July 1965
(Office of Justice Programs)

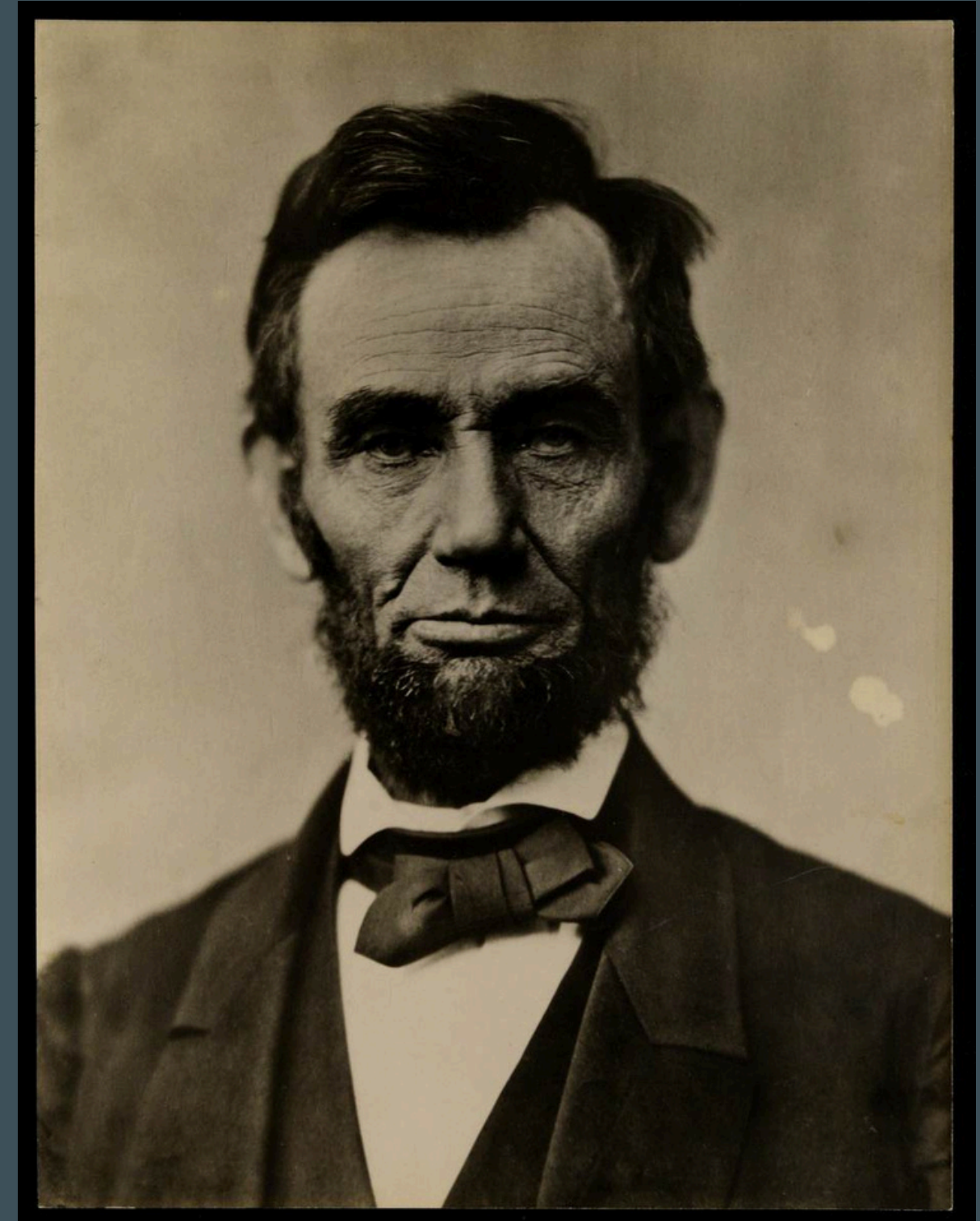
Thirteenth Amendment in Popular Culture



True Copy of the Thirteenth Amendment, February 1, 1865 .
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC03264)

13th
Directed by Ava DuVernay,
2016

Lincoln
Directed by Steven
Spielberg, 2012

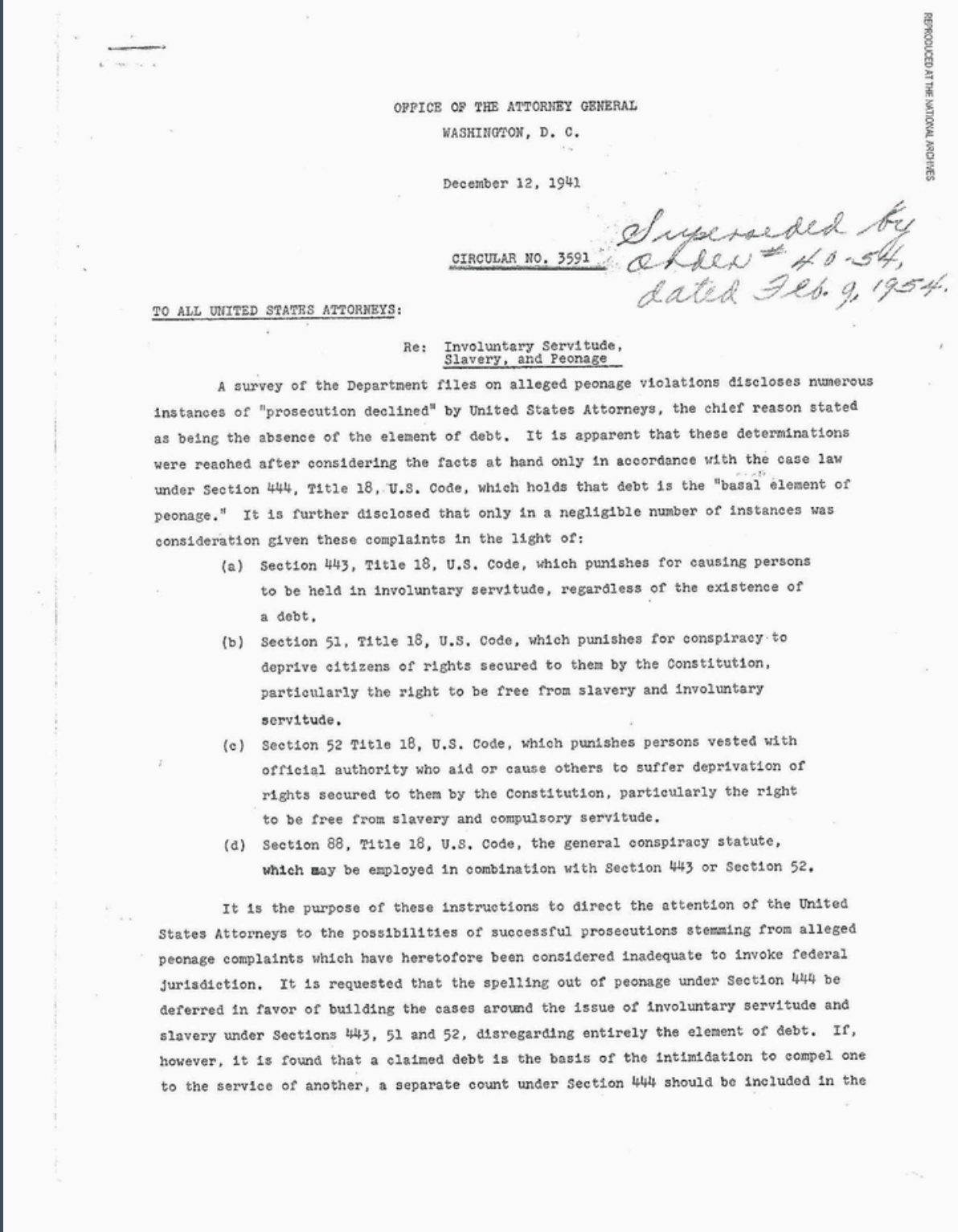


1863 Portrait of Abraham Lincoln by Alexander Gardner,
reprinted ca. 1910. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC00245)

Convict Leasing



Convict Leasing in Florida, ca. 1910
(State Library and Archives of Florida)

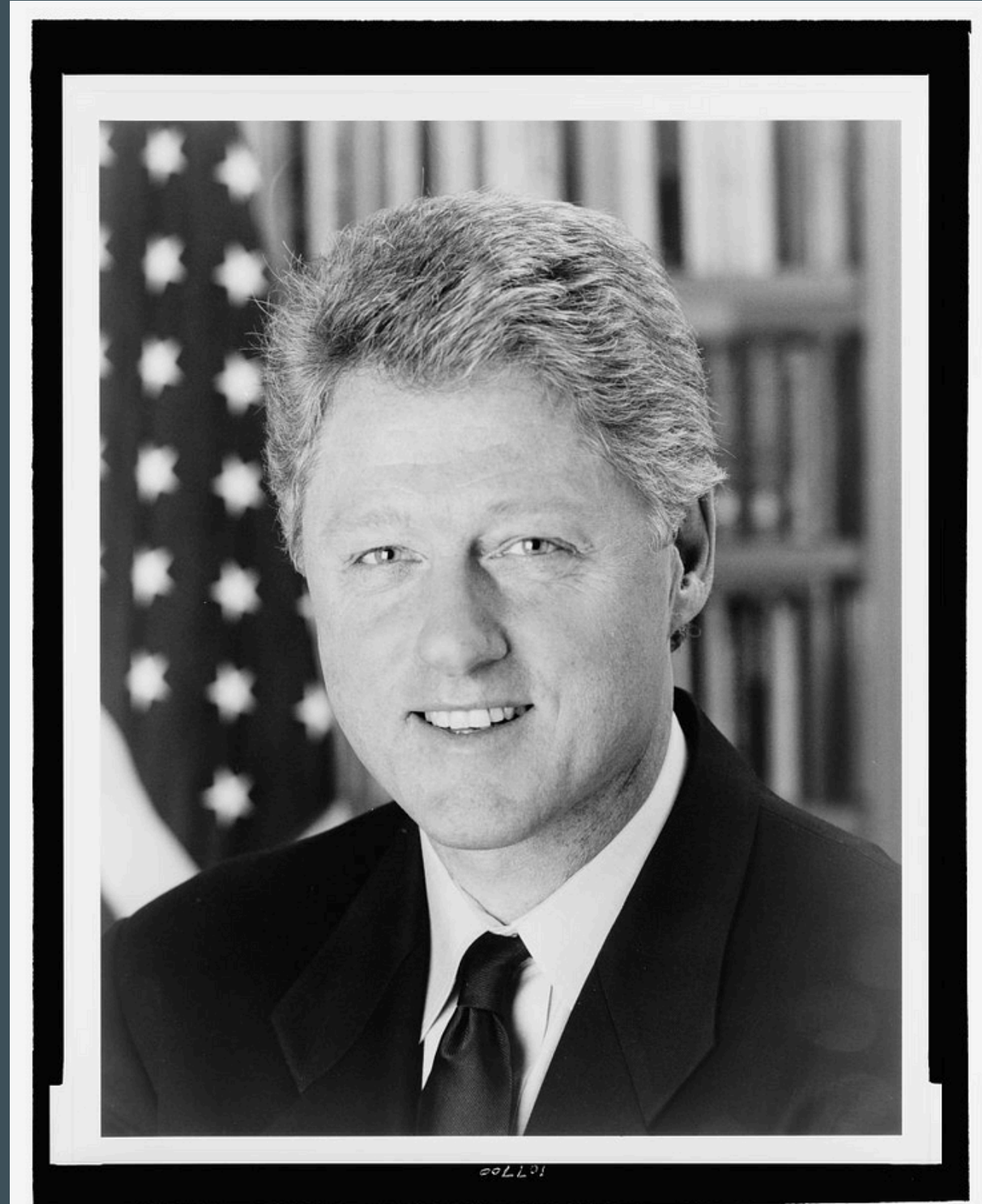


Circular No. 3591, Office of Attorney General Francis Biddle, December 12, 1941.
(NARA via Wikimedia Commons)

Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton



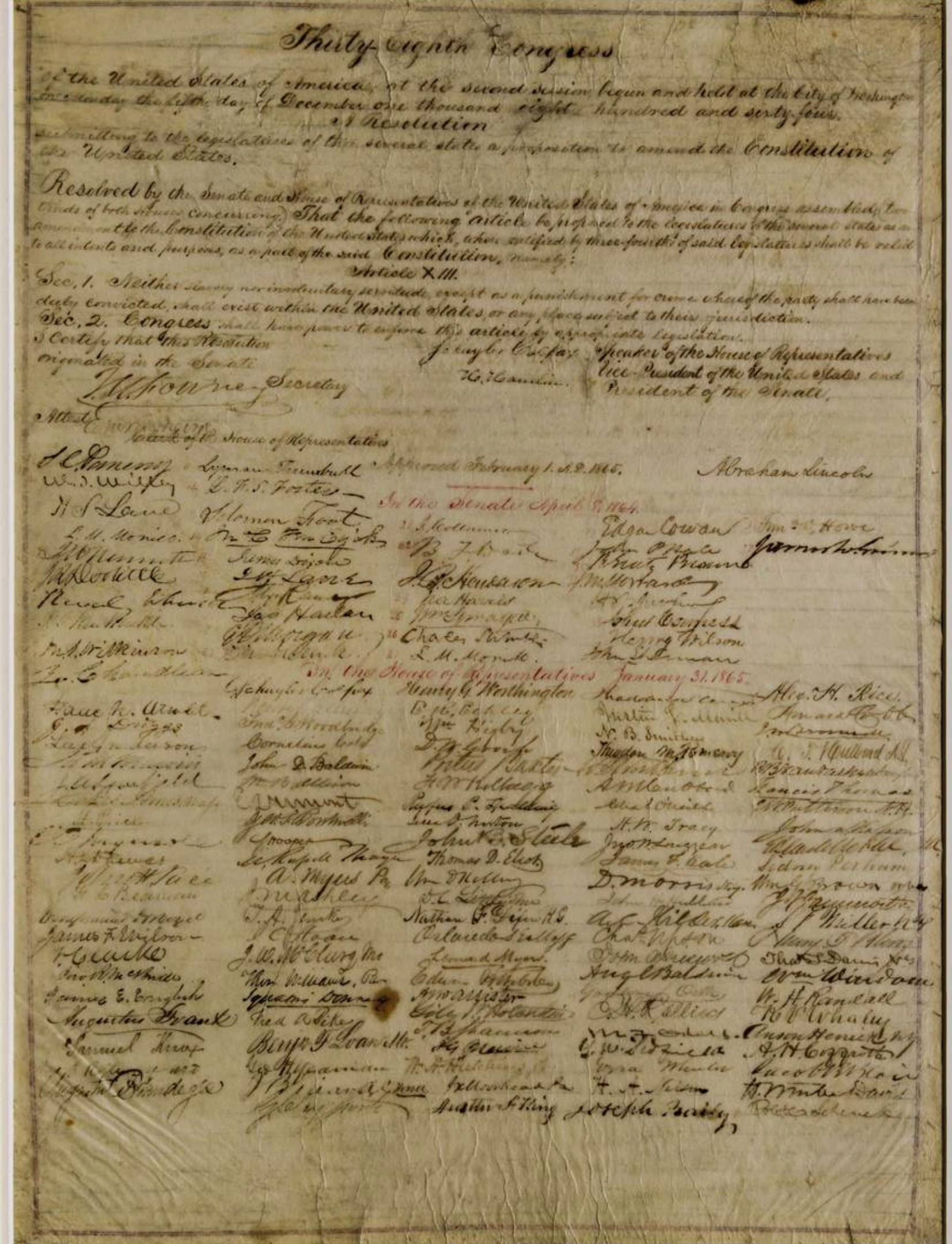
Ronald Reagan Presidential Portrait, 1981.
(Library of Congress)



Bill Clinton Presidential Portrait, 1992.
(Library of Congress)

Questions

The Thirteenth Amendment Resolution, Washington DC, February 1, 1865
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC00263)



Upcoming Programs

INSIDE THE VAULT: February 6 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)

- We will discuss John Adams's letter to Benjamin Rush about George Washington with Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky, Executive Director, George Washington Presidential Library

BOOK BREAKS: January 5 at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

- Dr. Robert Colby will discuss his book *An Unholy Traffic: Slave Trading in the Civil War South*