

## Gettysburg / Resources

### **Resource #7. Abraham Lincoln on Race Relations**

(for Learning Activity #3)

*September 18, 1858-*

"I have never seen to my knowledge a man, woman or child who was in favor of producing a perfect equality, social and political, between negroes and white men."

*About September 1859-*

"Negro equality! Fudge!! How long, in this government of a God great enough to make and maintain the Universe, shall there continue knaves to vend and fools to gulp, so low a piece of demagoguism as this."

*March 6, 1860-*

"I want every man to have the chance – and I believe a black man entitled to it – in which he can better his condition – when he may look forward to hope to be a hired laborer this year and the next, work for himself afterward, and finally to hire men to work for him! That is the true system!"

*December 1, 1862-*

"In giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free — honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth."

*August 26, 1863-*

"And then, there will be some black men who can remember that, with silent tongue, and clenched teeth, and steady eye, and well-poised bayonet, they have helped mankind on to this great consummation; while, I fear, there will be some white ones, unable to forget that, with malignant heart, and deceitful speech, they have strove to hinder it."