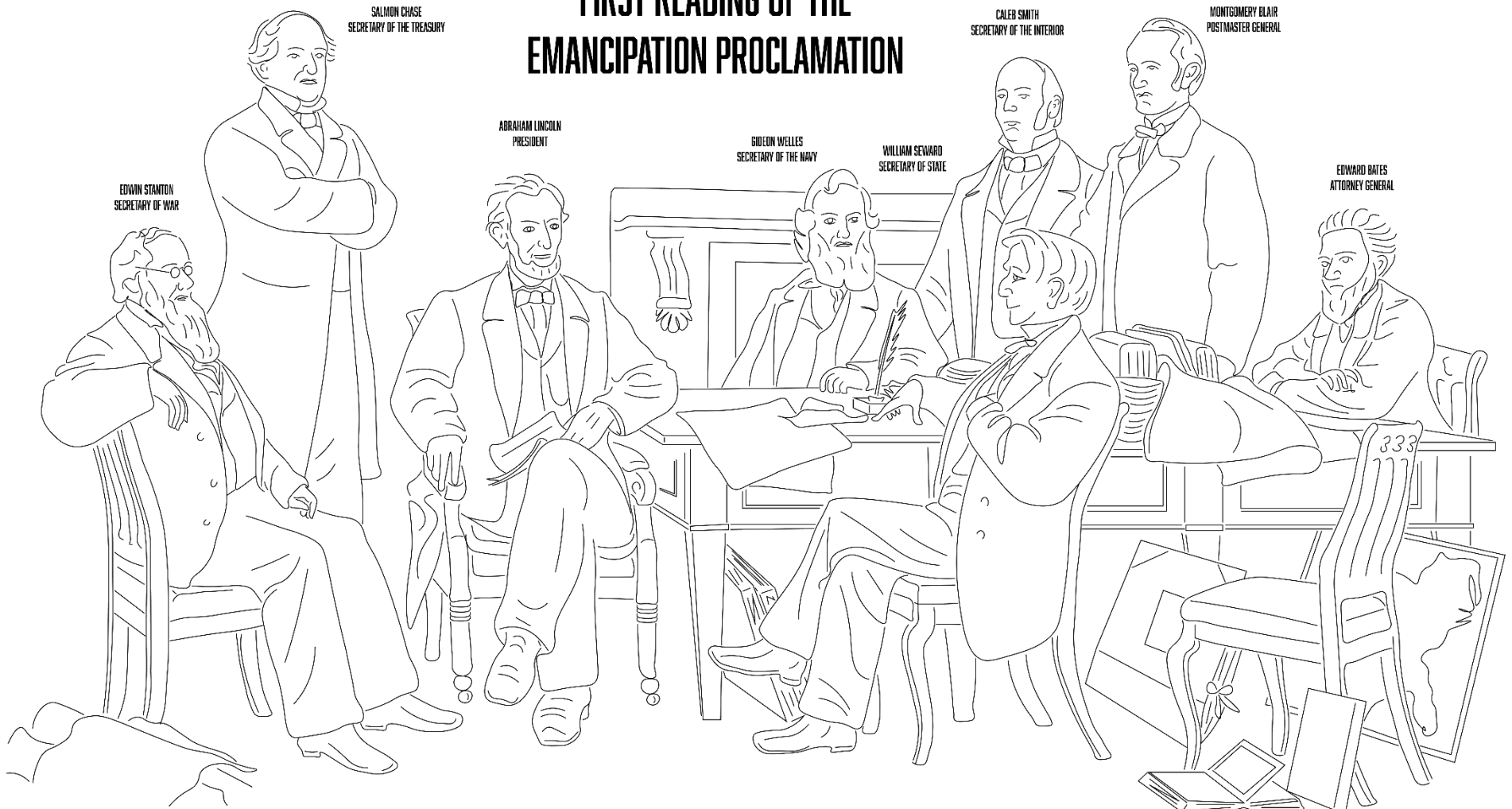


FIRST READING OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION



This **engraving** was copied by A.H. Ritchie from an oil painting by F.B. Carpenter. Engraving and printing was a quicker way to get copies of art to people than making hundreds of oil paintings! This scene is meant to commemorate Lincoln reading the first draft of the **Emancipation Proclamation** to his cabinet (his advisors and leaders in the government). During the **American Civil War**, this complex legal document helped forward progress towards ending **chattel slavery** in the United States. Instead of being property, Lincoln promised that enslaved Americans would be "forever free." #99.9