

The Life of Frederick Douglass

1701 Bailey, presumed great-great-grandfather of Frederick, born.

1745, December Jenny, great-grandmother of Frederick, born on Skinner Plantation.

1774, May Betsey, grandmother of Frederick, born on Skinner Plantation.

1792, February 28 Harriet, mother of Frederick, born on Skinner Plantation.

1797, Aaron Anthony moves his slaves, including Betsey and Harriet,

to Holme Hill Farm on Tuckahoe Creek, Talbot County.

1818, February Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey born at Holme Hill Farm.

1824, August Sent to live on Lloyd Plantation, Wye River, at the home of his master, Aaron Anthony.

1825, February 14 (?) Mother visits him for the last time before her death late in 1825 or early in 1826.

1825, August 27 Aunt Jenny and Uncle Noah escape to freedom; first intimation to Frederick that escape is possible.

1826, March Sent to live with Hugh Auld family in Fells Point section of Baltimore.

1826, November 14 Aaron Anthony dies.

1827, October 18 Anthony's slaves divided among his heirs; Frederick awarded to Thomas Auld, returned to Hugh Auld family in Baltimore.

1827, Sophia Auld teaches Frederick his letters; later he learns to write and do arithmetic on his own initiative.

1831, Undergoes religious conversion, joins Bethel A.M.E. Church, buys first book, The Columbian Orator.

1833, March Sent to St. Michaels to live with Thomas Auld.

1834, January 1 Begins year as field hand under Edward Covey, the

"slave breaker-" Suffers many lashings.

1834, August Fights with Covey; is not whipped thereafter.

1835, January 1 Reassigned as field hand to William Freeland.

1836, April 2 Escape plot foiled; Frederick and other plotters jailed in Easton.

1836, April Sent back to Baltimore by Thomas Auld.

1836- Learns caulking trade, is savagely beaten by white fellow

1838 apprentices, joins debating society, meets Anna Murray, free Negro

daughter of slaves.

1838, September 3 Escapes north by train and boat.

1838, September 15 Marries Anna Murray in New York City.

1838, September 17 Leaves with his wife for New Bedford,, Massachusetts,, where he will work as a caulker.

1838, September 18 Arrives at New Bedford, Massachusetts. Soon after, changes name to Frederick Douglass.

1839 First hears William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, other abolitionist leaders; is inspired by abolitionism as "new religion."

1839, March 12 Speaks at anti-colonization meeting Negro citizens of New Bedford and praises William Lloyd Garrison & The Liberator for devotion to the cause of freeing the slaves.

1841, August 12-13 Speaks three times before large, chiefly white audiences at Nantucket convention; rouses great enthusiasm; is hired as lecturer by Massachusetts Anti- Slavery Society for three-month trail period.

1841, September 28 Is forcibly ejected from Eastern Railroad train for refusal to ride in "Jim Crow" car; early progenitor of non-violent protest movement.

1841, Autumn Moves family from New Bedford to Lynn, Massachusetts.

1841, October In first speech reported in detail; at Lynn, launches twin attack on slavery in South, racial prejudice in North.

1842, January Is hired permanently as anti-slavery lecturer after 3,500 mile tour draws big crowds, high praise for his oratorical talent.

1845, May 28 **Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave**, published, revealing his identity and presenting a stark picture of his early life in Talbot County slavery.

1845, August 6 Leaves the United States for England, partly to avoid being captured and sent back to slavery and partly to spread the anti-slavery cause in the British Isles.

1845, August Sails for Great Britain aboard Cunard steamer *Cambria*; forced to travel in steerage.

1845, August 27 Pro-slavery *Cambria* passengers threaten to throw him overboard when he attempts to deliver abolitionist speech.

1845, October 25 Thomas Auld sells rights to Frederick to brother

Hugh for \$100; later, abolitionist press claims Hugh has vowed to get vengeance by selling Frederick south "cost what it may."

1846, October 6 Hugh Auld agrees to sell Frederick's manumission for 150 pounds sterling (\$711.66 in American currency) raised by British admirers.

1847, late September Announces plans to start newspaper, *The North Star*, despite bitter opposition from Garrison and Phillips with funds provided by British friends.

1847, December 3 First issue of *The North Star* is published in Rochester, New York where he makes his home for the next twenty years.

1849, September 3 Writes letter to Auld, his former master, on eleventh anniversary of his escape from slavery after learning Auld had taken Betsey into his household where she is cared for until her death in November, 1849. Auld never sees apology.

1851, June 26 Changes name of publication to **Frederick Douglass' Paper**, accepts subsidy from wealthy anti-Garrisonian political activist, Gerrit Smith. Also announces that he will no longer use the initials "F.D." to identify his editorials which were used

to answer charge that a fugitive slave could not have written them; asserts that he will now "assume fully the right and dignity of an Editor--a Mr. Editor if you please!"

1852, July 5 Delivers his famous speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" in Corinthian Hall, Rochester, New York.

1855, August Publishes second of his autobiographies **My Bondage and My Freedom**, a more balanced account of his early life than the **Narrative**.

1855, September 12 Attends Liberty Party Convention at Ithaca, New York; nominated for office of Secretary of State of New York, first time such an honor conferred on an American Negro.

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1851, September Aids three fugitive Maryland slaves, wanted for murdering their former master when he tried to recapture them in Pennsylvania in escaping to Canada. The three are among hundreds Douglass helps flee to freedom as "station master" of the Rochester terminus of the Underground Railroad.

1852, May 11-13 Engages in bitter battle with Garrisonians at annual meeting of American Anti-society; opposes Garrisonians on dissolution of the American Union, Constitution as a proslavery document, and political action; split between Douglass and Garrisonians officially proclaimed.

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1860, August 29 Attends radical Abolition national convention at Syracuse; chosen one of Two presidential electors-at-large; first time a Negro nominated for such a post.

1863, February 24 Becomes an agent for the U.S. Government to recruit Negro soldiers into the Union Army.

1863, February-July Travels throughout North recruiting black troops; sons Lewis and Charles are among first to enlist; both see action with Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment.

1863, July Visits President Lincoln, protests discrimination against black troops; visits President Lincoln in White House to plead the case of the Negro soldiers discriminated against the Union army; receives assurance from Lincoln that problem will be given every consideration; visits secretary of War Stanton and assured that he will receive a commission in Union Army to Recruit Negro soldiers in South.

1863, August 10 Receives pass from President Lincoln enabling him to go safely through the Union lines.

1863, August 16 Ceases publication of **Douglass' Monthly**, successor to **The North Star** and **Frederick Douglass' Papers**, ending fifteen-year career as editor and stating that he is going to the South to recruit Negro soldiers.

1864, August 25 Called to White House by Lincoln for advice on problems of Lincoln's re-election campaign; reverses earlier stand and endorse Lincoln.

1864, November 17 Returns to Maryland for f first visit in twenty-six years; delivers six lectures in Baltimore; is reunited with sister Eliza whom he has not seen for thirty years.

1865, March 4 Attends second Lincoln inauguration, is personally greeted by the president at Inauguration Ball.

1865, April 15 Speaks at memorial meeting in Rochester on evening following the assassination of Lincoln.

1872, May 11-12 Nominated for Vice-President of United States on ticket with Victoria C. Woodhull by the Equal Rights Party, but instead campaigns for re-election of Grant.

1872, June 2 Rochester home destroyed by fire, many important papers lost.
Suspecting arson.

1876, April 14 Main speaker at great meeting on occasion of unveiling of freedmen's memorial monument to Abraham Lincoln.

1877, March 18 Senate confirms his appointment by President Hayes as United States Marshal for the District of Columbia.

1877, June 17 Returns to St. Michaels after forty-one year absence; there meets with Thomas Auld, speaks to racially mixed audience.

1881, January Publishes third autobiography, **Life and Times of Frederick Douglass**. It is a financial failure, as is a revised edition published in 1892.

1894, January Delivers his last great address, "Lessons of the Hour," a powerful burst of his old-time fury against lynch law in the South.

1895, February 20 Attends morning sessions of National Council of Women in Washington, D.C.; dies at Cedar Hill in the evening.

1895, February 25 Family funeral services held at "Cedar Hill"; body lies in state at Metropolitan African Methodist Church in Washington.

1895, February 26 Body lies in state at Rochester City Hall; funeral services held in Rochester Central Presbyterian Church; buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester.