

1: Frederick Douglass Speeches-Seminars on Race Relations and Gender Equity

Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey; c. February - February 20,) was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman.

WhatsApp Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery and went on to become one of the leading African American figures of his time. He is famous for being a prominent leader in the campaigns against slavery and for giving blacks the right to vote. Douglass also established the newspaper *The North Star*, wrote autobiographies and held several posts in the government which were the highest held by an African American during the 19th century. Know more about the life of Frederick Douglass through these 10 interesting facts. The day and the year of his birth are not known though he celebrated his birthday on February His mother Harriet Bailey was a field slave. Douglass was not sure who his father was but believed it might have been his white master Aaron Anthony. He was separated from his mother when he was an infant and lived with his maternal grandmother, Betty Bailey. His mother died when he was around 10 years old. Frederick nonetheless continued to learn secretly from white children and was soon reading newspapers, books etc. He gave lessons to other slaves in the plantation but when their owners discovered they busted the gathering and it never resumed. Frederick was whipped regularly and was about to break psychologically. However after he fought back and won a physical confrontation with Covey, he was never beaten again. In he fell in love with a free African American woman named Anna Murray. On September 3, , Frederick successfully escaped from slavery, reached New York and went to the house of David Ruggles, a noted African-American abolitionist. His journey to freedom took less than 24 hours. The couple had five children. Anna Murray-Douglass died in In , Frederick married Helen Pitts, who was a female rights activist. As Helen was white and around 20 years younger than Douglass, the marriage created a controversy. They remained together till the death of Douglass in It was well received by both critics and the public selling 5, copies within four months. His works were important in fueling Abolitionism, the movement to end slavery. They are now considered among the best written accounts of slave tradition and as classics of American autobiography. So he departed for Europe in August and remained in Ireland and Britain for two years. During his stay Douglass was delighted for not being racially discriminated. He gave several lectures which were well attended and was able to win many supporters. It was his supporters in England that raised funds and contacted his former master Hugh Auld to purchase his freedom. Paperwork was finalized and in December , Douglass became a free man legally. He returned to U. However while Garrison burned copies of the constitution as he considered it pro-slavery, Douglass considered it an anti-slavery document and wanted to use it in the fight against slavery. This led to one of the most notable divisions in the Abolitionism movement in America. Also when John Brown, a radical abolitionist, told Douglass of his plan to start an armed slave rebellion, Douglass disapproved of it and distanced himself from activities regarding it. His oratory and writing skills made him the most prominent African American abolitionist and an important leader in the movement. In December , Douglass established the newspaper *The North Star*, which developed into the most influential African American antislavery publication of the time. After the war, Thirteenth Amendment to the U. Constitution abolished slavery in US. He was the first black U. Marshall and was even appointed U. Minister to Haiti in In , Douglass was invited to speak at the presidential nominating convention of Republican Party and became the first African American to receive a vote for President of U. On February 20, , Douglass died of a heart attack when he returned to his house after attending a meeting of the National Council of Women in Washington. Several places have been named in his honor including the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge which was built in

2: Frederick Douglass - HISTORY

Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave who became a prominent activist, author and public speaker. He became a leader in the abolitionist movement, which sought to end the practice of slavery.

Slavery In his three narratives, and his numerous articles, speeches, and letters, Douglass vigorously argued against slavery. He sought to demonstrate that it was cruel, unnatural, ungodly, immoral, and unjust. Civil War drew closer, he expanded his arguments in many speeches, editorials, and in his second autobiography, *My Bondage and My Freedom*. His rebellion against slavery began, as he recounted, while he was a slave. In his narratives, this depiction of early recognition, and general recognition among blacks and some whites, of the injustice, unnaturalness, and cruelty of slavery is a major element of his argument. It marks his first argument against slavery. Some of the apologists for slavery claimed that blacks were beasts, subhuman, or at least a degenerated form of the human species. In his Fourth of July Address, he derides the very idea that he would even need to argue this point b. Against the claim that blacks were beasts, he argued that rather slavery had brutalized them. He pointed to the obviousness of the humanity of blacks, and to the hypocrisy of the apologists for slavery in America on this question: Along with this hypocrisy, American slaveholders feared and banned the education of blacks, while demanding and profiting from their learning and development in the skilled trades. Thus, Douglass argued the accusation that blacks were beasts was predicated on the guilty knowledge that they were humans. Additionally, it subverted not only the natural goodness of blacks by brutalizing them, but it also did so to white slaveholders and those otherwise innocent whites affected by this wicked institution. Second, since blacks were humans, Douglass argued they were entitled to the natural rights that natural law mandated and that the United States recognized in its Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Slavery subverted the natural rights of blacks by subjugating and brutalizing them: Douglass cited biblical passages and interpretations popular with abolitionists. As a witness and participant of the second Great Awakening, he took seriously the politicized rhetoric of Christian liberation from sin, and, as with other abolitionists, saw it intrinsically wrapped up with liberation from slavery, and indeed national liberation. Fourth, he argued that slavery was inconsistent with the idea of America, with its national narrative and highest ideals, and not just with its founding documents. Fifth, drawing on the ideas of manifest destiny, as well as the idea of natural law realized in historical progress, he argued that slavery was inconsistent with development: America was on the wrong side of history on the question of slavery. To defend slavery, some of its apologists drew on the idea of historical progress to offer the defense that slavery was a benevolent and paternal system for the mutual benefit of whites and blacks. Douglass countered by drawing on his experiences, and the experiences of other slaves, that American slavery was in no way benevolent. It brutalized blacks, subjecting them to debilitating, murderous violence; to rape; to the splitting up of families another crime against nature ; to denying them education and self-improvement; and to the exploitation of their labor and denying them access to their natural right to property. Black slaves were not happy Sambos benefiting from the largesse of kind, gentile white mastersâ€”they were brutalized against all justice and reason. Neither were they lacking in agency or self-respect, nor were they, for all intents and purposes socially and morally dead, subjected to natal alienation. Howard McGary and Bill E. Philosophy and American Slavery , is an indispensable source for philosophical analyses of these arguments, and the engagement of normative philosophy with historical and sociological theories of U. An early, key contributor to the philosophical literature on Douglass, and to American philosophical literature on Douglass was Angela Davis, who of course is a key figure in the U. Civil Rights Movement and the emergence of both the black power movement and black feminism since the s. Natural Law As was mentioned in the above section, Douglass drew on the idea of natural rights and the natural law tradition in his argument against slavery. Douglass was an Enlightenment thinker and a nineteenth century modernist Moses ; Martin ; Myers As such, he had a firm faith in the progress of man, civilization, and Western Christendom; hence, he saw American slavery as a brutal backwardness that ran counter to the progress of history. God and the forward march of history, Douglass believed, would bring the realization of truth, justice, and the brotherhood of man. His sources for

his belief were many. However, given the numerous religious references in his speeches and writings, and his drawing on the language of the King James Bible, and the rhetoric of manifest destiny, a primary source for his employment of the idea of natural law seems to be his adoption of the American Protestantism of the Second Great Awakening, with its democratic, republican, and generally independent spirit. He believed that there were forces in operation, which must inevitably work the downfall of slavery: I, therefore, leave off where I began, with hope. While drawing encouragement from the Declaration of Independence, the great principles it contains, and the genius of American Institutions, my spirit is also cheered by the obvious tendencies of the age. His vision of human rights involved action Myers Humans resist providential justice; this could be seen in the resistance of the slave-holding states of America to the abolition of slavery and the apathy of many other Americans about slavery; thus, the end of slavery requires action: Douglass longed for God to cast his thunderbolts at the United States, but he knew that to achieve the abolition of slavery in America, action was needed. His view of providence is on full display at the end of his famous Fourth of July oration of Douglass uses Psalm The far off and almost fabulous Pacific rolls in grandeur at our feet. The Celestial Empire, the mystery of ages, is being solved. No abuse, no outrage whether in taste, sport or avarice, can now hide itself from the all-pervading light. The iron shoe, and crippled foot of China must be seen, in contrast with nature. Africa must rise and put on her yet unwoven garment. He did not prognosticate, before or after the U. Civil War, that the progress he believed in would move at a glacial pace, and that for many of his black country men there would be no justice all. Nevertheless, Douglass had no time for this shortsightedness; which comes only with the luxury of the liberty he fought for, and, of course, time. Douglass was not looking behind him; he was fully engaged at every moment since his emancipation working to bring and end to slavery. Moreover, his view of natural law led to his critique of American slavery, and undergirded his arguments for active resistance to slavery and his interpretation of the U. It is also worth noting, that natural law theorists have not ceded the field; thus Douglass is an important American historical figure in the intellectual history of natural law. Constitution was a pro-slavery document, and that the free states should peacefully secede from the union. Constitution, American Republicanism, and Christian doctrine. He also began to defend violent resistance to slavery. Constitution to be an anti-slavery document. Douglass depended heavily on the U. Declaration of Independence, as well as the documented disagreements and cross-purposes, of the founders. Constitution as an evolving document that could potentially be in tune with civilizational development. Constitution is reasonable and not blind to the facts; that Americans did not live up to the ideals of their founding documents is another matter. Violence and Self-Respect As already noted above, Douglass was active in the years leading up to the U. Civil War, vigorously protesting the Dred Scott decision, agitating against laws that protected the property rights of slaveholders over their slaves in the Free States and the spread of slavery into new U. He lobbied the newly formed Republican Party the party of Abraham Lincoln to support abolitionism, and met the militant abolitionist, John Brown. Additionally, his fight is given explicit national political connotations Gooding-Williams ; Myers In the Narrative , Douglass wrote: The battle with Mr. Covey was the turning-point in my career as a slave. It rekindled the few expiring embers of freedom, and revived within me a sense of my own manhood. It recalled the departed self-confidence, and inspired me again with a determination to be free. The gratification afforded by the triumph was a full compensation for whatever else might follow, even death itself. He only can understand the deep satisfaction which I experienced, who has himself repelled by force the bloody arm of slavery. I felt as I never felt before. It was a glorious resurrection, from the tomb of slavery, to the heaven of freedom. My long-crushed spirit rose, cowardice departed, bold defiance took its place; and I now resolved that, however long I might remain as slave in form, the day had passed forever when I could be a slave in fact. I did not hesitate to let it be known of me, that the white man who expected to succeed in whipping, must also succeed in killing me. Well, my dear reader, this battle with Mr. I was a changed being after that fight. A man, without force, is without the essential dignity of humanity. Human nature is so constituted, that it cannot honor a helpless man, although it can pity him; and even this it cannot do long, if the signs of power do not arise. Douglass put considerable effort into countering arguments that blacks were subhuman, intellectually and morally inferior, and fit to be dominated as children, forever to be a race in nonage. Although he flirted with historical developmental

arguments that black civilizations had developed, he saw such arguments as too loosely related to the conditions of black Americans in his time, so he increasingly turned to his natural law arguments. He argued that by the high standard of Christian theology, blacks, as humans and creation of the divine, were all equally the children of God, no matter their present condition. One of his slogans got to the point: He used rhetoric that appealed to the piety of the nation that the Christian Bible had to be correct on this score, and that "just as the soul of the nation depended on emancipation" the authority of the biblical text depended on the affirmation of the unity of the human family: What, after all, if they are able to show very good reasons for believing the Negro to have been created precisely as we find him on the Gold Coast "along the Senegal and the Niger" I say, what of all this? I sincerely believe, that the weight of the argument is in favor of the unity of origin of the human race, or species "that the arguments on the other side are partial, superficial, utterly subversive of the happiness of man, and insulting to the wisdom of God. Yet, what if we grant they are not so? What, if we grant that the case, on our part, is not made out? Does it follow, that the Negro should be held in contempt? Does it follow, that to enslave and imbrue him is either just or wise? Human rights stand upon a common basis; and by all the reason that they are supported, maintained and defended, for one variety of the human family, they are supported, maintained and defended for all the human family; because all mankind have the same wants, arising out of a common nature. A diverse origin does not disprove a common nature, nor does it disprove a united destiny. The unity of the human race "the brotherhood of man" the reciprocal duties of all to each, and of each to all, are too plainly taught in the Bible to admit of cavil. These words were not mere words for Douglass and the abolitionists; they were not just-so stories. The Christian doctrine of the unity of the human family or human brotherhood as the sexist language that marked the idea at least since the Enlightenment, contained the world historical insight of equal human dignity, which implied "unleashed, as was seen in several revolutions in the 18th and 19th-century" the uncompromising demand for equal rights. It is important to note here that he thought that there were races to amalgamate, and he affirmed the basic idea that there were biologically distinct races, *FDP1 v.* As should be clear from his view of universal human brotherhood, he did not however think that much followed from that admission.

3: Frederick Douglass - Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)

Visit www.enganchecubano.com to learn more about the life and times of Frederick Douglass, the famed 19th-century abolitionist leader and U.S. gov't official whose writings continue to be read widely today.

See Article History Alternative Title: His oratorical and literary brilliance thrust him into the forefront of the U. Separated as an infant from his slave mother he never knew his white father , Frederick lived with his grandmother on a Maryland plantation until, at age eight, his owner sent him to Baltimore to live as a house servant with the family of Hugh Auld, whose wife defied state law by teaching the boy to read. Auld, however, declared that learning would make him unfit for slavery , and Frederick was forced to continue his education surreptitiously with the aid of schoolboys in the street. Upon the death of his master, he was returned to the plantation as a field hand at Later he was hired out in Baltimore as a ship caulker. Frederick tried to escape with three others in , but the plot was discovered before they could get away. Five years later, however, he fled to New York City and then to New Bedford , Massachusetts, where he worked as a labourer for three years, eluding slave hunters by changing his surname to Douglass. Douglass, FrederickFrederick Douglass, c. National Park Service At a Nantucket , Massachusetts, antislavery convention in , Douglass was invited to describe his feelings and experiences under slavery. These extemporaneous remarks were so poignant and eloquent that he was unexpectedly catapulted into a new career as agent for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. From then on, despite heckling and mockery, insult, and violent personal attack, Douglass never flagged in his devotion to the abolitionist cause. Library of Congress, Washington, D. To counter skeptics who doubted that such an articulate spokesman could ever have been a slave, Douglass felt impelled to write his autobiography in , revised and completed in as *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. To avoid recapture by his former owner, whose name and location he had given in the narrative, Douglass left on a two-year speaking tour of Great Britain and Ireland. Abroad, Douglass helped to win many new friends for the abolition movement and to cement the bonds of humanitarian reform between the continents. Thus, after Douglass allied himself with the faction of the movement led by James G. He did not countenance violence, however, and specifically counseled against the raid on Harpers Ferry , Virginia October National Park Service Douglass, Frederick: Abraham Lincoln , advocating that former slaves be armed for the North and that the war be made a direct confrontation against slavery. After Reconstruction, Douglass served as assistant secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission , and in the District of Columbia he was marshal 181 and recorder of deeds 181 Finally, he was appointed U.

4: Biography for Kids: Frederick Douglass

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born into slavery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in February. He had a difficult family life. He barely knew his mother, who lived on a different plantation and died when he was a young child.

Frederick Douglass Bicentennial In his journey from captive slave to internationally renowned activist, Frederick Douglass has been a source of inspiration and hope for millions. His brilliant words and brave actions continue to shape the ways that we think about race, democracy, and the meaning of freedom. Frederick Douglass as a young man. He had a difficult family life. He barely knew his mother, who lived on a different plantation and died when he was a young child. He never discovered the identity of his father. When he turned eight years old, his slaveowner hired him out to work as a body servant in Baltimore. At an early age, Frederick realized there was a connection between literacy and freedom. Not allowed to attend school, he taught himself to read and write in the streets of Baltimore. At twelve, he bought a book called *The Columbian Orator*. It was a collection of revolutionary speeches, debates, and writings on natural rights. When Frederick was fifteen, his slaveowner sent him back to the Eastern Shore to labor as a fieldhand. He educated other slaves, physically fought back against a "slave-breaker," and plotted an unsuccessful escape. Frustrated, his slaveowner returned him to Baltimore. This time, Frederick met a young free black woman named Anna Murray, who agreed to help him escape. On September 3, 1837, he disguised himself as a sailor and boarded a northbound train, using money from Anna to pay for his ticket. In less than 24 hours, Frederick arrived in New York City and declared himself free. He had successfully escaped from slavery. The home is now a National Historic Landmark. They decided that New York City was not a safe place for Frederick to remain as a fugitive, so they settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts. There, they adopted the last name "Douglass" and they started their family, which would eventually grow to include five children: Rosetta, Lewis, Frederick, Charles, and Annie. After finding employment as a laborer, Douglass began to attend abolitionist meetings and speak about his experiences in slavery. He soon gained a reputation as an orator, landing a job as an agent for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. The job took him on speaking tours across the North and Midwest. Still, some of his audiences suspected he was not truly a fugitive slave. In 1845, he published his first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, to lay those doubts to rest. The narrative gave a clear record of names and places from his enslavement. To avoid being captured and re-enslaved, Douglass traveled overseas. For almost two years, he gave speeches and sold copies of his narrative in England, Ireland, and Scotland. When abolitionists offered to purchase his freedom, Douglass accepted and returned home to the United States legally free. He relocated Anna and their children to Rochester, New York. In Rochester, Douglass took his work in new directions. He bought a printing press and ran his own newspaper, *The North Star*. In 1845, he published his second autobiography, *My Bondage and My Freedom*, which expanded on his first autobiography and challenged racial segregation in the North. Frederick Douglass standing in front of his house on Capitol Hill, ca. 1862. He later purchased and moved to the suburban estate in Anacostia that he named Cedar Hill. He recruited African-American men to fight in the U. Army, including two of his own sons, who served in the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. When black troops protested they were not receiving pay and treatment equal to that of white troops, Douglass met with President Abraham Lincoln to advocate on their behalf. As the Civil War progressed and emancipation seemed imminent, Douglass intensified the fight for equal citizenship. He argued that freedom would be empty if former slaves were not guaranteed the rights and protections of American citizens. A series of postwar amendments sought to make some of these tremendous changes. The 13th Amendment ratified in 1865 abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment ratified in 1868 granted national birthright citizenship, and the 15th Amendment ratified in 1870 stated nobody could be denied voting rights on the basis of race, skin color, or previous servitude. In 1877, the Douglasses moved to Washington, D. There were multiple reasons for their move: Douglass had been traveling frequently to the area ever since the Civil War, all three of their sons already lived in the federal district, and the old family home in Rochester had burned. A widely known public figure by the time of Reconstruction, Douglass started to hold prestigious offices, including assistant secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission, legislative

council member of the D. Frederick Douglass as a statesman. Library of Congress Post-Reconstruction and Death After the fall of Reconstruction, Frederick Douglass managed to retain high-ranking federal appointments. He served under five presidents as U. Significantly, he held these positions at a time when violence and fraud severely restricted African-American political activism. On top of his federal work, Douglass kept a vigorous speaking tour schedule. Although the nation had made great strides during Reconstruction, there was still injustice and a basic lack of freedom for many Americans. He remarried in to Helen Pitts , an activist and the daughter of former abolitionists. The marriage stirred controversy, as Helen was white and twenty years younger than him. Part of their married life was spent abroad. He returned home to Cedar Hill in the late afternoon and was preparing to give a speech at a local church when he suffered a heart attack and passed away. He had remained a central figure in the fight for equality and justice for his entire life.

5: Frederick Douglass Quotes (Author of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass)

Douglass, Frederick Frederick Douglass, oil painting by Sarah J. Eddy, ; in the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Washington, D.C. National Park Service; At a Nantucket, Massachusetts, antislavery convention in , Douglass was invited to describe his feelings and experiences under slavery.

Resource Bank Contents Frederick Douglass stood at the podium, trembling with nervousness. Before him sat abolitionists who had travelled to the Massachusetts island of Nantucket. Only 23 years old at the time, Douglass overcame his nervousness and gave a stirring, eloquent speech about his life as a slave. Douglass would continue to give speeches for the rest of his life and would become a leading spokesperson for the abolition of slavery and for racial equality. He spent his early years with his grandparents and with an aunt, seeing his mother only four or five times before her death when he was seven. All Douglass knew of his father was that he was white. During this time he was exposed to the degradations of slavery, witnessing firsthand brutal whippings and spending much time cold and hungry. When he was eight he was sent to Baltimore to live with a ship carpenter named Hugh Auld. There he learned to read and first heard the words abolition and abolitionists. And the treatment he received was indeed brutal. Whipped daily and barely fed, Douglass was "broken in body, soul, and spirit. He planned an escape. But early in April he was jailed after his plan was discovered. Two years later, while living in Baltimore and working at a shipyard, Douglass would finally realize his dream: Travelling by train, then steamboat, then train, he arrived in New York City the following day. Several weeks later he had settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, living with his newlywed bride whom he met in Baltimore and married in New York under his new name, Frederick Douglass. Always striving to educate himself, Douglass continued his reading. He joined various organizations in New Bedford, including a black church. Douglass was inspired by the speaker, later stating, "no face and form ever impressed me with such sentiments [the hatred of slavery] as did those of William Lloyd Garrison. Of the speech, one correspondent reported, "Flinty hearts were pierced, and cold ones melted by his eloquence. Despite apprehensions that the information might endanger his freedom, Douglass published his autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written By Himself*. The year was Three years later, after a speaking tour of England, Ireland, and Scotland, Douglass published the first issue of the *North Star*, a four-page weekly, out of Rochester, New York. But the views of Garrison and Douglass ultimately diverged. Garrison represented the radical end of the abolitionist spectrum. He denounced churches, political parties, even voting. He believed in the dissolution break up of the Union. He also believed that the U. Constitution was a pro-slavery document. In Douglass announced at a meeting in Syracuse, New York, that he did not assume the Constitution was a pro-slavery document, and that it could even "be wielded in behalf of emancipation," especially where the federal government had exclusive jurisdiction. Douglass also did not advocate the dissolution of the Union, since it would isolate slaves in the South. This led to a bitter dispute between Garrison and Douglass that, despite the efforts of others such as Harriet Beecher Stowe to reconcile the two, would last into the Civil War. Frederick Douglass would continue his active involvement to better the lives of African Americans. After the War he fought for the rights of women and African Americans alike.

6: Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass stood at the podium, trembling with nervousness. Before him sat abolitionists who had travelled to the Massachusetts island of Nantucket. Only 23 years old at the time, Douglass.

Abolitionist, civil rights activist, and writer Born: February in Talbot County, Maryland Died: February 20, in Washington, D. Former slave who became an advisor to the presidents Biography: Where did Frederick Douglass grow up? Frederick Douglass was born on a plantation in Talbot County, Maryland. His mother was a slave and when Frederick was born, he became a slave, too. His birth name was Frederick Bailey. He did not know who his father was or the exact date of his birth. He later picked February 14 to celebrate as his birthday and estimated that he was born in Life as a Slave Life as a slave was very difficult, especially for a child. At the young age of seven Frederick was sent to live at the Wye House plantation. He seldom saw his mother who died when he was ten years old. A few years later, he was sent to serve the Auld family in Baltimore. It was against the law at that time to teach slaves to read and when Mr. Auld found out, he forbid his wife to continue teaching Douglass. However, Frederick was an intelligent young man and wanted to learn to read. Over time, he secretly taught himself to read and write by observing others and watching the white children in their studies. Once Douglass had learned to read, he read newspapers and other articles about slavery. He began to form views on human rights and how people should be treated. He also taught other slaves how to read, but this eventually got him into trouble. He was moved to another farm where he was beaten by the slave owner in an effort to break his spirit. Escape to Freedom In , Douglass carefully planned his escape. He disguised himself as a sailor and carried papers that showed he was a free black seaman. On September 3, he boarded a train to the north. After 24 hours of travel, Douglass arrived in New York a free man. It was at this point that he married his first wife, Anna Murray, and took the last name Douglass. Douglas and Anna settled down in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Abolitionist In Massachusetts, Douglass met with people who were against slavery. These people were called abolitionists because they wanted to "abolish" slavery. Frederick began to speak at meetings about his experiences as a slave. He was an excellent speaker and moved people with his story. He became famous, but this also put him in danger of being captured by his former slave owners. To avoid being captured, Douglass traveled to Ireland and Britain where he continued to speak to people about slavery. Author Douglass wrote down his story of slavery in an autobiography called Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. The book became a bestseller. When the South announced that they would execute or enslave any captured black soldiers, Douglass insisted that President Lincoln respond. Eventually, Lincoln warned the Confederacy that for every Union prisoner killed, he would execute a rebel soldier. Douglass also visited with the U. Congress and President Lincoln insisting on equal pay and treatment of black soldiers fighting in the war. Death and Legacy Douglass died on February 20, from either a heart attack or a stroke. Interesting Facts about Frederick Douglass Douglass was married to his first wife Anna for 44 years before she died. They had five children. John Brown tried to get Douglass to participate in the raid on Harpers Ferry , but Douglass thought it was a bad idea. He worked with President Andrew Johnson on the subject of black suffrage the right to vote. He once said that "No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio element. To learn more about Civil Rights:

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quotes from Frederick Douglass: 'Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.', 'It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.', and 'I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence.'

Douglass described her as a kind and tender-hearted woman, who treated him "as she supposed one human being ought to treat another". He later often said, "knowledge is the pathway from slavery to freedom. In later years, Douglass credited *The Columbian Orator*, an anthology that he discovered at about age twelve, with clarifying and defining his views on freedom and human rights. The book, first published in 1794, is a classroom reader, containing essays, speeches and dialogues, to assist students in learning reading and grammar. When Douglass was hired out to William Freeland, he taught other slaves on the plantation to read the New Testament at a weekly Sunday school. As word spread, the interest among slaves in learning to read was so great that in any week, more than 40 slaves would attend lessons. For about six months, their study went relatively unnoticed. While Freeland remained complacent about their activities, other plantation owners became incensed about their slaves being educated. One Sunday they burst in on the gathering, armed with clubs and stones, to disperse the congregation permanently. Thomas Auld sent Douglass to work for Edward Covey, a poor farmer who had a reputation as a "slave-breaker". He whipped Douglass regularly, and nearly broke him psychologically. The sixteen-year-old Douglass finally rebelled against the beatings, however, and fought back. After Douglass won a physical confrontation, Covey never tried to beat him again. In 1838, he tried to escape from his new master Covey, but failed again. In 1839, Douglass met and fell in love with Anna Murray, a free black woman in Baltimore about five years older than he. Her free status strengthened his belief in the possibility of gaining his own freedom. Murray encouraged him and supported his efforts by aid and money. On September 3, 1839, Douglass successfully escaped by boarding a train from the newly merged Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. This depot was replaced by the historic President Street Station, constructed in 1891; it was noted as a site of other slave escapes along one of many routes of the famous "Underground Railroad" and during the Civil War. Young Douglass reached Havre de Grace, Maryland, in Harford County, in the northeast corner of the state, along the southwest shore of the Susquehanna River, which flowed into the Chesapeake Bay. Although this placed him some 20 miles from the free state of Pennsylvania, it was easier to travel through Delaware, another slave state. From there, because the rail line was not yet completed, he went by steamboat along the Delaware River further northeast to the "Quaker City" of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an anti-slavery stronghold. His entire journey to freedom took less than 24 hours. I have often been asked, how I felt when first I found myself on free soil. And my readers may share the same curiosity. There is scarcely anything in my experience about which I could not give a more satisfactory answer. A new world had opened upon me. It was a time of joyous excitement which words can but tamely describe. In a letter written to a friend soon after reaching New York, I said: She brought with her the necessary basics for them to set up a home. They were married on September 15, 1842, by a black Presbyterian minister, just eleven days after Douglass had reached New York. The couple settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1845, later moving to Lynn, Massachusetts in 1847. In New Bedford the latter was such a common name that he wanted one that was more distinctive, and asked Nathan Johnson to choose a suitable surname. He held various positions, including steward, Sunday School superintendent, and sexton. Inspired by Garrison, Douglass later said, "no face and form ever impressed me with such sentiments [of the hatred of slavery] as did those of William Lloyd Garrison. At another meeting, Douglass was unexpectedly invited to speak. After telling his story, Douglass was encouraged to become an anti-slavery lecturer. Then 23 years old, Douglass conquered his nervousness and gave an eloquent speech about his rough life as a slave. Buffum were thrown off an Eastern Railroad train because Douglass refused to sit in the segregated railroad coach. During this tour, slavery supporters frequently accosted Douglass. At a lecture in Pendleton, Indiana, an angry mob chased and beat Douglass before a local Quaker family, the Hardys, rescued him. His hand was broken in the attack; it healed improperly and bothered him for the rest of his life. At the time, some skeptics questioned whether a

black man could have produced such an eloquent piece of literature. The book received generally positive reviews and became an immediate bestseller. Within three years, it had been reprinted nine times, with 11,000 copies circulating in the United States. It was also translated into French and Dutch and published in Europe. Douglass published three versions of his autobiography during his lifetime and revised the third of these, each time expanding on the previous one. The Narrative was his biggest seller, and probably allowed him to raise the funds to gain his legal freedom the following year, as discussed below. They encouraged Douglass to tour Ireland, as many former slaves had done. Douglass set sail on the Cambria for Liverpool on August 16, 1845. He traveled in Ireland as the Irish Potato Famine was beginning. The feeling of freedom from American racial discrimination amazed Douglass: Eleven days and a half gone and I have crossed three thousand miles of the perilous deep. Instead of a democratic government, I am under a monarchical government. Instead of the bright, blue sky of America, I am covered with the soft, grey fog of the Emerald Isle [Ireland]. I breathe, and lo! I gaze around in vain for one who will question my equal humanity, claim me as his slave, or offer me an insult. I employ a cab—I am seated beside white people—I reach the hotel—I enter the same door—I am shown into the same parlour—I dine at the same table—and no one is offended I find myself regarded and treated at every turn with the kindness and deference paid to white people. His draw was such that some facilities were "crowded to suffocation". Douglass remarked that in England he was treated not "as a color, but as a man. It commemorates his speech there on October 9, 1845. Douglass also came to consider Garrison too radical. Garrison had burned copies of the Constitution to express his opinion. Douglass angered Garrison by saying that the Constitution could and should be used as an instrument in the fight against slavery. He suggested that the world would be a better place if women were involved in the political sphere. In this denial of the right to participate in government, not merely the degradation of woman and the perpetuation of a great injustice happens, but the maiming and repudiation of one-half of the moral and intellectual power of the government of the world. The article was two-fold: On the first count, Douglass acknowledged the "decorum" of the participants in the face of disagreement. The latter half discussed the primary document that emerged from the conference, a Declaration of Sentiments, and his own discussion of the "infant" feminist cause. Strikingly, he expressed the belief that "[a] discussion of the rights of animals would be regarded with far more complacency His opinion as the prominent editor of the paper likely carried weight, and he stated the position of the North Star explicitly: Douglass supported the amendment, which would grant suffrage to black men. Stanton argued that American women and black men should band together to fight for universal suffrage, and opposed any bill that split the issues. Douglass argued that white women, already empowered by their social connections to fathers, husbands, and brothers, at least vicariously had the vote. African-American women, he believed, would have the same degree of empowerment as white women once African-American men had the vote. Wagoner, and George Boyer Vashon. This led Douglass to become an early advocate for school desegregation. Douglass called for court action to open all schools to all children. He said that full inclusion within the educational system was a more pressing need for African Americans than political issues such as suffrage. Douglass believed that attacking federal property would enrage the American public. After the raid, Douglass fled for a time to Canada, fearing guilt by association as well as arrest as a co-conspirator. Douglass sailed back from England the following month, traveling through Canada to avoid detection. Photography Douglass considered photography very important in ending slavery and racism, and believed that the camera would not lie, even in the hands of a racist white, as photographs were an excellent counter to the many racist caricatures, particularly in blackface minstrelsy. He was the most photographed American of the 19th Century, self-consciously using photography to advance his political views. He tended to look directly into the camera to confront the viewer, with a stern look. In time, he became interested in literacy; he began reading and copying bible verses, and he eventually converted to Christianity. I was not more than thirteen years old, when in my loneliness and destitution I longed for some one to whom I could go, as to a father and protector. The preaching of a white Methodist minister, named Hanson, was the means of causing me to feel that in God I had such a friend. He thought that all men, great and small, bond and free, were sinners in the sight of God: I cannot say that I had a very distinct notion of what was required of me, but one thing I did know well: I was wretched and had no means of making myself otherwise. I consulted a good old colored man

named Charles Lawson, and in tones of holy affection he told me to pray, and to "cast all my care upon God. I loved all mankind, slaveholders not excepted, though I abhorred slavery more than ever. I saw the world in a new light, and my great concern was to have everybody converted. My desire to learn increased, and especially, did I want a thorough acquaintance with the contents of the Bible. Charles Lawson, and, early in his activism, he often included biblical allusions and religious metaphors in his speeches. Although a believer, he strongly criticized religious hypocrisy [74] and accused slaveholders of wickedness, lack of morality, and failure to follow the Golden Rule. He considered that a law passed to support slavery was "one of the grossest infringements of Christian Liberty" and said that pro-slavery clergymen within the American Church "stripped the love of God of its beauty, and leave the throne of religion a huge, horrible, repulsive form", and "an abomination in the sight of God".

8: Frederick Douglass (Author of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass)

Abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke about Independence Day in Rochester, pointing out that when the least of us lack liberty, the celebration rings hollow.

Prophet of Freedom By David W. October 2, By Bob Blaisdell How does one write the life story of a person who demonstrated his greatness through writing his own life story? Blight, who indeed knows so very much that one of his occasional turns to the reader is to pose a series of non-rhetorical questions: How many sharp-tongued rebukes did she give her husband, or were they simply long sighs, as he told her a day or so after arriving at home that he would be in Worcester or Providence or some other town for the next several days? Or did he tell her his itineraries at all? If someone knew, Blight would know. This grand and timely biography, Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom, is ever authoritatively informative, but it travels at a safe and steady 25 m. Where Blight is best is investigating those topics where the usually intrepid Douglass hesitated to tread: But as he sits majestically at the head of the table, it is as if he slips out of the room right when we so wish to know more “anything” about his more private thoughts, motivations, and memories about the many conflicts in his personal life. His patient and loving wife Anna, herself freeborn of slave parents and who helped Douglass escape North on the underground railroad in , was illiterate. Exactly how he justified or explained this to himself, or to Anna, he never tells us. One woman provided him a home and a family; the other helped him forge his professional life and calling. But like other famous performers and political activists, he seems to have been on the road, away from the comforts and demands of home, several months a year for the last five decades of his energetic life. His bold and distinctive American voice has an incisiveness of a sort that we can all envy and be proud of: That he is the rightful owner of his own body? Douglass spent the three decades after the Civil War advocating for equal rights, not only for black men but for all women: Blight quotes Douglass regularly and aptly, but ought to have quoted him even more and at greater length. Get the Monitor Stories you care about delivered to your inbox. By signing up, you agree to our Privacy Policy and European users agree to the data transfer policy.

9: NPR Choice page

Helen Pitts was born into an abolitionist family in Honeoye, New York, in She worked for racial equality and women's rights, eventually finding employment as a clerk in Frederick Douglass's office in the s.

Visit Website After he was separated from his mother as an infant, Douglass lived for a time with his maternal grandmother. However, at the age of six, he was moved away from her to live and work on the Wye House plantation in Maryland. From there, he taught himself to read and write. By the time he was hired out to work under William Freeland, he was teaching other slaves to read, using the Bible. As word spread of his efforts to educate fellow slaves, Thomas Auld took him back and transferred him to Edward Covey, a farmer who was known for his brutal treatment of the slaves in his charge. Roughly 16 at this time, Douglass was regularly whipped by Covey. From there he traveled through Delaware, another slave state, before arriving in New York and the safe house of abolitionist David Ruggles. Once settled in New York, he sent for Anna Murray, a free black woman from Baltimore he met while in captivity with the Aulds. She joined him, and the two were married in September. They would have five children together. During these meetings, he was exposed to the writings of abolitionist and journalist William Lloyd Garrison. The two men eventually met when both were asked to speak at an abolitionist meeting, during which Douglass shared his story of slavery and escape. It was Garrison who encouraged Douglass to become a speaker and leader in the abolitionist movement. Douglass was physically assaulted several times during the tour by those opposed to the abolitionist movement. The injuries never fully healed, and he never regained full use of his hand. In it, he wrote: At the time, the former country was just entering the early stages of the Irish Potato Famine, or the Great Hunger. While overseas, he was impressed by the relative freedom he had as a man of color, compared to what he had experienced in the United States. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy – a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. Although he supported President Abraham Lincoln in the early years of the Civil War, Douglass would fall into disagreement with the politician after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862, which effectively ended the practice of slavery. Constitution which, respectively, outlawed slavery, granted free slaves citizenship and equal protection under the law, and protected all citizens from racial discrimination in voting, Douglass was asked to speak at the dedication of the Emancipation Memorial in Washington, D. In the post-war Reconstruction era, Douglass served in many official positions in government, including as an ambassador to the Dominican Republic, thereby becoming the first black man to hold high office. In the presidential election, he supported the candidacy of former Union general Ulysses S. Grant, who promised to take a hard line against white supremacist-led insurgencies in the post-war South. Grant notably also oversaw passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which was designed to suppress the growing Ku Klux Klan movement. Ultimately, though, Benjamin Harrison received the party nomination. Douglass remained an active speaker, writer, and activist until his death in 1895. Frederick Douglass Quotes, brainyquote.

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