

# Who Was Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass

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Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, c. February 14, 1818 – February 20, 1895) was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. He was the most important leader of the movement for African-American civil rights in the 19th century.

After escaping from slavery in Maryland in 1838, Douglass became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York and gained fame for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings. Accordingly, he was described by abolitionists in his time as a living counterexample to claims by supporters of slavery that enslaved people lacked the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Northerners at the time found it hard to believe that such a great orator had once been enslaved. It was in response to this disbelief that Douglass wrote his first autobiography.

Douglass wrote three autobiographies, describing his experiences as an enslaved person in his *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845), which became a bestseller and was influential in promoting the cause of abolition, as was his second book, *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855). Following the Civil War, Douglass was an active campaigner for the rights of freed slaves and wrote his last autobiography, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. First published in 1881 and revised in 1892, three years before his death, the book covers his life up to those dates. Douglass also actively supported women's suffrage, and he held several public offices. Without his knowledge or consent, Douglass became the first African American nominated for vice president of the United States, as the running mate of Victoria Woodhull on the Equal Rights Party ticket.

Douglass believed in dialogue and in making alliances across racial and ideological divides, as well as, after breaking with William Lloyd Garrison, in the anti-slavery interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. When radical abolitionists, under the motto "No Union with Slaveholders", criticized Douglass's willingness to engage in dialogue with slave owners, he replied: "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

*of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave is an 1845 memoir and treatise on abolition written by African-American orator and former slave Frederick Douglass*

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* is an 1845 memoir and treatise on abolition written by African-American orator and former slave Frederick Douglass during his time in Lynn, Massachusetts. It is the first of Douglass's three autobiographies, the others being *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855) and *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (1881, revised 1892).

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* is generally held to be the most famous of a number of narratives written by former slaves during the same period. In factual detail, the text describes the events of his life and is considered to be one of the most influential pieces of literature to fuel the abolitionist movement of the early 19th century in the United States.

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* comprises eleven chapters that recount Douglass's life as a slave and his ambition to become a free man. It contains two introductions by well-known white abolitionists: a

preface by William Lloyd Garrison and a letter by Wendell Phillips, both arguing for the veracity of the account and the literacy of its author.

Helen Pitts Douglass

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Helen Pitts Douglass (1838–1903) was an American suffragist, known for being the second wife of Frederick Douglass. She also created the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, which became the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site.

Anna Murray Douglass

*her to the docks, where she met Frederick Douglass, who was then working as a caulker. Murray's freedom made Douglass believe in the possibility of his*

Anna Murray Douglass (March 8, 1813 – August 4, 1882) was an American abolitionist, member of the Underground Railroad, and the first wife of American social reformer and statesman Frederick Douglass, from 1838 to her death.

Frederick Douglass Jr.

*Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey Douglass Jr. (March 3, 1842 – July 26, 1892) was the second son of Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna Murray Douglass*

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey Douglass Jr. (March 3, 1842 – July 26, 1892) was the second son of Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna Murray Douglass. Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, he was an abolitionist, essayist, newspaper editor, and an official recruiter of African-American soldiers for the United States Union Army during the American Civil War.

Frederick Douglass (disambiguation)

*Frederick Douglass was an African-American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. Frederick Douglass may also refer to: Frederick*

Frederick Douglass was an African-American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman.

Frederick Douglass may also refer to:

Frederick Douglass Jr., son of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, essayist and newspaper editor

Frederick Douglass (Moore opera), a 1985 opera by Dorothy Rudd Moore

Frederick Douglass (Ulysses Kay opera) (1991)

Frederick Douglass (Weitzman), a 2013 bronze sculpture by Steven Weitzman in Washington, D.C.

Frederick Douglass (Edwards), a 2015 bronze sculpture by Andrew Edwards in College Park, Maryland

Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History, a 2017 picture book biography by Walter Dean Myers

Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom, a 2018 biography by David W. Blight

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

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The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, administered by the National Park Service, is located at 1411 W Street, SE, in Anacostia, a neighborhood east of the Anacostia River in Southeast Washington, D.C. United States. Established in 1988 as a National Historic Site, the site preserves the home and estate of Frederick Douglass, one of the most prominent African Americans of the 19th century. Douglass lived in this house, which he named Cedar Hill, from 1877–1878 until his death in 1895. Perched on a hilltop, the site offers a sweeping view of the U.S. Capitol and the Washington, D.C., skyline.

In 2017 the site was used to represent Washington, D.C., on its America the Beautiful quarter.

Frederick Douglass Academy

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Frederick Douglass Academy (Also known as FDA), is a co-educational public school for grades 6-12 located in West Harlem, New York City. The school offers an SAT prep course program and a variety of Advanced Placement (AP) college courses that students can apply for starting in 10th grade. It is also one of the first high schools in Harlem to make wearing a uniform in a public school mandatory.

Lewis Henry Douglass

*Lewis Henry Douglass (October 9, 1840 – September 19, 1908) was an American military Sergeant Major, the oldest son of Frederick Douglass and his first*

Lewis Henry Douglass (October 9, 1840 – September 19, 1908) was an American military Sergeant Major, the oldest son of Frederick Douglass and his first wife Anna Murray Douglass.

Douglass Park

*Park, for abolitionist Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna Murray Douglass. Riot Fest is held annually each summer at Douglass Park, causing controversy*

Douglass Park (formerly Douglas Park) is a part of the Chicago Park District on the West Side of Chicago, Illinois. Established in 1869 and initially named South Park, its 173 acres (0.70 km<sup>2</sup>) are in the North Lawndale community area with an official address of 1401 S. Sacramento Drive.

Opened in 1871, the park was originally named for U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas. In 2020, the park was renamed Douglass (Anna and Frederick) Park, for abolitionist Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna Murray Douglass.

Riot Fest is held annually each summer at Douglass Park, causing controversy among some neighborhood residents.

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