

Yours Very truly
Geo. W. Chapman

AN AUTHENTIC HISTORY
OF THE
DOUGLASS MONUMENT

BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS AND INCIDENTS
IN THE
LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

HIS DEATH AT ANACOSTA, D. C., AND FUNERAL AT WASHINGTON,
D. C., AND ROCHESTER, N. Y.,

TOGETHER WITH

PORTRAITS AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF IMPORTANT INCIDENTS OF THE
FOUR YEARS' STRUGGLE TO COMPLETE THE WORK.

BY J. W. THOMPSON.

ii

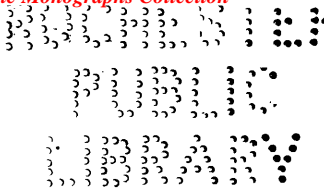
"Patriots have toiled, and in their country's cause bled nobly;
and their deeds, as they deserve, receive proud recompense".

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
ROCHESTER HERALD PRESS

1903.

Copyright, 1908,
By J. W. THOMPSON

R
~D7977



INTRODUCTION

25-Aug 31 - A m

At the request of friends, the author has consented to give an authentic history of the Douglass monument at Rochester, N. Y., unveiled June 9, 1899, together with a short biographical sketch of facts and incidents in the life of Frederick Douglass, his death and funeral at Washington, D. C., the arrival of his remains and funeral at Rochester, N. Y., and many interesting facts with which the public are not yet acquainted.

This little volume will doubtless be read by all with keen interest and will be a valuable addition to the history of Frederick Douglass and his country, it being the first monument erected by popular contribution, to the memory of an Afro-American statesman, and carried on to completion by one of his own race. Its history will be an inspiration for generations to come, inciting American manhood to love of country and unconquerable devotion to the great cause of liberty and justice to all mankind, as such was the lesson taught in the "North Star," which paper was established in Rochester during the year of 1847.

THE AUTHOR.

Rochester, N. Y.

B 383420

CONTENTS.

Chapter	Page
I. Biographical Facts and Incidents in the Life of Douglass...	7
II. Death of the Great Ex-Slave Statesman.....	14
III. Elaborate Preparations for the Funeral by Rochester's Common Council.....	21
IV. Funeral Ceremonies at Central Presbyterian Church.....	28
V. Resolutions Adopted by Various Official Bodies.....	35
VI. Origin and Progress of the Movement to Erect a Monument.	39
VII. Selection of a Site for the Monument at Rochester, N. Y...	47
VIII. Masonic Exercises at the Laying of the Corner Stone.....	53
IX. Correspondence Between Mr. Thompson and the Haytien Government.....	62
X. Musical and Literary Entertainment and Douglass Birthday Exercises.....	71
XI. Unveiling Exercises and Disappointment at Non-Arrival of Statue.....	81
XII. The Date Selected and Arrangements Completed.....	113
XIII. The Unveiling Ceremonies at Douglass Park.....	120
XIV. Descriptive and Interesting Facts and Letters.....	156
XV. How Douglass was Regarded by the Rochester Press.....	167
XVI. How Governor Roosevelt was Entertained in Rochester...	180
XVII. Comment on Douglass' Life by the American Press.....	191
XVIII. How the National Afro-American Council was Formed....	196

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Jno. W. Thompson.....	Frontispiece
Frederick Douglass.....	16
The Douglass Monument.....	32
Hon. George A. Benton.....	48
Hon. John Van Voorhis.....	56
Scene at the Corner Stone Laying.....	64
Enoch R. Spaulding.....	80
Benjamin Myers.....	96
Col. Nathan P. Pond.....	112
Scene at the Unveiling.....	120
Hon. Theodore Roosevelt.....	128
Miss Gertrude A. Thompson.....	144
Hon. William A. Sutherland.....	152
Charles R. Douglass.....	160
Mrs. R. Jerome Jeffrey.....	176
Medal Presented to J. W. Thompson.....	192

HISTORY OF THE DOUGLASS MONUMENT

CHAPTER I.

BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS AND INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF DOUGLASS.

Frederick Douglass was born in Tuckahoe, Talbot county, eastern shore, Maryland, in February, 1817. His mother's name was Harriet. She was a slave owned by Colonel Edward Lloyd, a wealthy planter. Few slaves knew anything of their fathers and Douglass was one of this kind. Whisperings among the slaves, however, led to the belief that the master was also the father.

Until seven years of age Douglass was reared by his grandmother, then he was sent to the plantation home where he witnessed scenes of most atrocious cruelty and barbarity, even murder. At the age of ten he was sent to Baltimore to live with a relative of his master. There he learned to read and write. And while there the first seeds of freedom were sown. Unlike other slaves he was allowed to hire himself out and keep what money he earned during his leisure time. He entered the employ of a shipbuilder at \$3 a week.

Long had he cherished the resolve that one day he should be free. It was his dream by night and his chief thought by day. Many times he attempted to escape but obstacles hindered. Persistence won the victory and on September 3, 1838, he eluded his master and fled to Philadelphia. Thence

to New York and from there to New Bedford, Mass., where he married his first wife, Anna Murray, and lived for two or three years supporting himself by day labor on the docks and in the workshops.

While there he changed his name from Lloyd to Bailey and later to Douglass. He was aided in his efforts for self education by William Lloyd Garrison.

The starting point in Douglass' career as a national character was in the summer of 1841 when he attended an anti-slavery convention in Nantucket. There he made a fiery abolition speech which set the entire North agog. Press, clubs, societies and churches took up the slogan, and everywhere Douglass was in demand as a platform speaker.

Abolitionists offered him the agency of the Massachusetts anti-slavery society. Acting in this capacity he toured the New England states and for years his eloquent voice rang out in appeal from a thousand platforms for the emancipation of the colored man.

Thence he went to Europe in 1845 and lectured on slavery to enthusiastic audiences.

Douglass touched England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and vividly pictured the misery of the American negro. Great men of letters, wealth and political prominence enlisted in his aid. Thousands of petitions were sent to the president supplementing the plea of the orator.

Up until this time Douglass was still a human chattel. He was the recognized lawful property of Colonel Lloyd. He might be captured and again reduced to bondage. Friends in England feared the contingency and \$750 was soon subscribed to have him manumitted in due form of law. That was one year after he sailed abroad, yet he remained there another year before returning home.

Upon his return to this country in 1847, Douglass came to Rochester and began the publication of the "North Star"

which was later changed to "Frederick Douglass Paper," a weekly journal. Regarding this venture, Douglass, in an autobiography written by himself in 1855, says:

"Intimation of my purpose reached my friends in Boston, and I was prepared to find them heartily opposed to it. Some went further. * * * I can easily pardon those who have denounced me as ambitious and presumptuous in view of my persistence in this enterprise. I was but nine years from slavery. In point of mental experience I was but nine years old. That one in such circumstances should aspire to establish a printing press among an educated people might well be considered, if not ambitious, quite silly. My American friends looked at me with astonishment! 'A woodsawyer' offering himself to the public as an editor. A slave brought up in the very depths of ignorance assuming to instruct the highly civilized people of the North in the principles of liberty, justice and humanity! The thing looked absurd! Nevertheless I persevered."

History records the famous John Brown raid in 1859 at Harpers' Ferry. Douglass was implicated in it by some. Governor Wise of Virginia believed it and he made a requisition upon the governor of Michigan for the arrest of Douglass. Such exchanges of courtesies between governors was common and a search was made for Douglass, who was thought to be in Detroit. But he was spirited away in the night and off into Canada, whence he escaped to England.

After the bubble of excitement had burst he returned to this country, coming to Rochester, N. Y. He resurrected the "North Star," and soon his vigorous pen lashed the slaveholders of the south. Shortly thereafter the civil war broke out.

Then Douglass urged upon President Lincoln the employment of colored troops and the proclamation of emancipation. For two years the president hesitated, but in 1863 he

gave permission to enlist such troops. Douglass set to work and enlisted many negroes, especially filling the 54th and 55th Massachusetts regiments with them. Throughout the war he was a warm supporter of the martyr president, Abraham Lincoln.

After the white-winged dove of peace had spread her wings over the land, Douglass discontinued his paper. He applied himself to the preparation and delivery of lectures before Lyceums. But he again picked up the pen in 1870, when he became editor of the "New National Era," in Washington, which was continued by his sons, Lewis and Frederick, Jr.

Now, Douglass' star shone in another firmament. He entered the field of politics. He was appointed assistant secretary to the commission to Santo Domingo. A year later he was appointed, by President Grant, one of the territorial council of the District of Columbia. In 1872 he was elected the presidential elector at large from New York state. He was chosen to carry the electoral vote to Washington, something never before done in the history of the United States.

Four years later he was appointed United States marshal for the District of Columbia by President Hayes, which office he retained until 1881, after which he became recorder of deeds in the district. In 1886 he was removed by President Cleveland.

Yearning to again visit the friends he had made in England, Douglass set sail. He remained a year abroad and was royally received by the hoi polloi and nobility alike.

As a litterateur Douglass was unique and original and had the gift of a forceful, sententious pen. His published works are entitled: "Narrative of My Experience in Slavery," (Boston, 1844), "My Bondage and My Freedom" (Rochester, 1855), "Life and Times of Frederick Douglass" (Hartford, 1885).

During the nine years following Douglass was much on the public platform. He became a strong advocate of equal suffrage for women. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were great friends of Douglass.

TITLE DEED OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

The reader will be gratified to see the title deeds of transfer and emancipation, by which this man is proved to have been once a chattel, and subsequently to have obtained possession of himself. We reprint from an English publication, entitled "Monthly Illustrations of American Slavery":

"Know all men by these Presents, That I, Thomas Auld, of Talbot county, and State of Maryland, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars current money to me in hand paid by Hugh Auld, of the city of Baltimore, in the said State, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof, I, the said Thomas Auld, do hereby acknowledge, have granted, bargained, and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain, and sell unto the said Hugh Auld, his executors, administrators, and assigns, one negro man, by the name of Frederick Baily, or Douglass, as he calls himself,—he is now about 28 years of age,—to have and to hold the said negro man for life. And I, the said Thomas Auld, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, all and singular, the said Frederick Baily, alias Douglass, unto the said Hugh Auld, his executors, administrators and assigns, against me, the said Thomas Auld, my executors and administrators, and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents. In witness whereof, I set my hand and seal, this thirteenth day of November, eighteen hundred and forty-six.

"THOMAS AULD.

"Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

"Wrighton Jones,

"John C. Leas."

The authenticity of this Bill of Sale is attested by N. Harrington, "a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, and for the county of Talbot;" dated same day as above.

"To all whom it may concern: Be it known, that I, Hugh Auld, of the city of Baltimore, in Baltimore county, in the State of Maryland, for divers good causes and considerations, me thereunto moving, have released from Slavery, liberated, manumitted, and set free, and by these presents do hereby release from Slavery, liberate, manumit, and set free, my negro man, named Frederick Baily, otherwise called Frederick Douglass, being of the age of 28 years, or thereabouts, and able to work and gain a sufficient livelihood and maintenance; and him the said negro man, named Frederick Baily, otherwise called Frederick Douglass, I do declare to be henceforth free, manumitted, and discharged from all manner of servitude to me, my executors or administrators forever.

"In witness whereof, I the said Hugh Auld, have hereunto set my hand and seal, the fifth of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

"HUGH AULD.

"Sealed and delivered in presence of:

"T. Hanson Belt,

"James N. S. T. Wright."

The attestation of this Deed of Manumission is signed by T. Hanson Belt, a "Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for the city of Baltimore," dated "on the day and year aforesaid."

Note—Some time previous to the date of his legal freedom, it appears that Frederick Douglass had been transferred, as a little token of fraternal affection, from one brother to the other. But before Hugh Auld could lawfully execute a deed for F. D.'s manumission, it became necessary

DOUGLASS MONUMENT.

13

that he should show how he had obtained him. Hence the "Bill of Sale," already quoted.

As the phrase, "for divers good causes and considerations, me thereunto moving," may appear to some a little mysterious, the following is annexed by way of explanation:

"Baltimore, December 12, 1846. Received from _____, of _____, by the hands of _____, the sum of seven hundred and eleven dollars and ninety-six cents, in full of the consideration of a certain Deed of Manumission of a negro man known by the name of Frederick Baily, otherwise Douglass, formerly my slave for life, bearing date on the fifth of December, eighteen hundred and forty-six.

CHAPTER II.

DEATH OF THE GREAT EX-SLAVE STATESMAN.

Frederick Douglass, the great ex-slave statesman, died suddenly February 20, 1895, at his home on Anacostia Heights, D. C., aged 78 years.

Mr. Douglass had been about the city of Washington a greater part of the day, and was in the best of spirits. In the morning Mr. Douglass was driven to Washington, accompanied by his wife, Helen Douglass.

She left him at the congressional library, and he continued to Mezerott Hall, where he attended the sessions of the Women's Council, returning to Cedar Hill, his residence, between 5 and 6 o'clock.

After dinner he had a chat in the hallway with his wife about the doings of the council. He grew very enthusiastic in his exclamations regarding one of the events of the day when he fell upon his knees with his hands clasped.

Mrs. Douglass, thinking this was part of his description, was not alarmed, but as she looked he sank lower and lower, and finally lay stretched upon the floor, breathing his last.

Realizing that he was ill, she raised his head, and then understood that he was dying. She was alone in the house, and rushed to the front door with cries for help.

Some men who were near by quickly responded and attempted to restore the dying man. One of them called Dr. J. Stewart Harrison, and, while he was injecting a restorative into the patient's arm, Mr. Douglass passed away, seemingly without pain.

Mr. Douglass had lived for some time at Cedar Hill with his wife and one servant.

He has two sons and a daughter, the children of his first

DOUGLASS MONUMENT.

15

wife, living in Washington. They are Louis H. and Charles R. Douglass and Mrs. R. Douglass Sprague.

Mr. Douglass was to have delivered a lecture that night at Hillsdale African Church, near his home, and was waiting for a carriage when talking to his wife. The carriage arrived just as he died.

Mrs. Douglass said her husband had apparently been in the best of health lately, and had showed unusual vigor for one of his years.

The news of the death of Mr. Douglass reached the National Council of Women during the evening session.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall, the president of the council, announced it to the audience as follows:

“A report as unwelcome as sad and solemn has come to us of the sudden and most unexpected death of Frederick Douglass.

“The news cannot be received with silence by the council. That historic figure which individually and intellectually was the symbol of the wonderful transition through which this generation has lived, has been with us in our council during both of our sessions to-day.

“When he arrived an escort was directed to conduct him to the platform. We felt that the platform was honored by his presence. I am sure there was no divided sentiment on this subject although we have here women whose families are related to all political parties of our country, and connected by ancestry with both sides of the great question.

“It is surely to be regarded as a historic coincidence that this man, who embodied a century of struggle between freedom and oppression, spent his last hours a witness of the united efforts of those who have come from so many different places and along such various avenues to formulate some plan for a new expression of freedom in the relation of woman to the world, to society, and to the State.”

Mr. Douglass was a regularly enrolled member of the National Woman's Suffrage Association and has always attended its conventions.

It was probably with a view to consistency in this respect that he appeared at Metzert Hall.

Although it was a secret business session of the council, Mr. Douglass was allowed to remain, and when the meeting had been called to order by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, the president of the council, she appointed Miss Susan B. Anthony and Rev. Anna H. Shaw a committee to escort him to the platform.

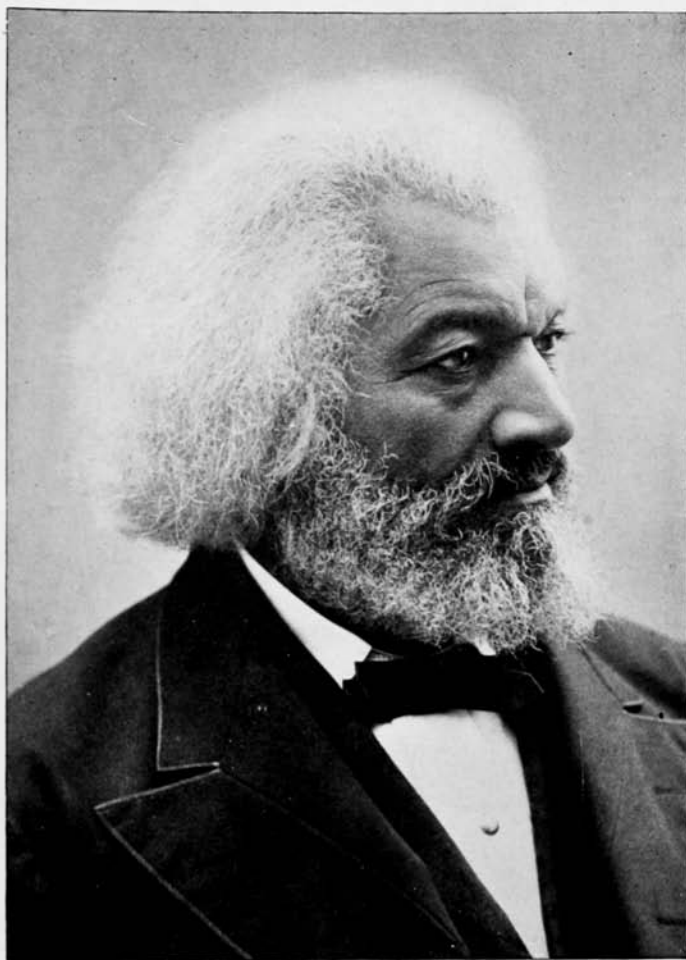
Mrs. Sewall presented Mr. Douglass to the council, and contenting himself with a bow in response to the applause that greeted the announcement, he took a seat beside Miss Anthony, his life-long friend. When Miss Anthony heard of Mr. Douglass' death at the evening session of the council, she was very much affected.

Miss Anthony and Mr. Douglass formed an intimate friendship when both resided in Rochester, N. Y., and that friendship has continued for many decades.

One incident in connection with their relations was recalled by Miss Anthony. During the early days of the anti-slavery agitation, Miss Anthony and her venerable associate, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, appeared at an anti-slavery meeting where Frederick Douglass was taking a prominent part.

Women were not welcome as public speakers in those days, and Mr. Douglass had agreed to read an address prepared by Mrs. Stanton. His rendition of her written remarks did not suit that lady, and, stepping forward, she took the paper from his hands with the remark:

"Here, Frederick, let me read it." And she did so, thus marking the initiative in the appearance of women as actors in public gatherings.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

DOUGLASS MONUMENT.

17

LAST RITES IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

The remains of Frederick Douglass were conveyed early in the morning of February 25th to the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, there to lie in state until the funeral services in the afternoon. Before the removal from Cedar Hill, Anacostia, Mr. Douglass' late residence, brief services for the immediate relatives were conducted by the Rev. Hugh R. Stevenson, of the Anacostia Baptist Church. The service consisted simply of a prayer and the reading of the Scriptures.

The body was then conveyed to the church which was beautifully decorated with flowers.

As the time for the services approached the crowd in the street increased to such proportions that passage was almost impossible, and early the church was well filled with those admitted by special card, general admission being denied until after the beginning of the services. Delegations of representative colored men and women were present from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Annapolis, the Baltimore delegation, more than 100 strong, being headed by Bishop Wayland. The body of the great freedman resting in a plain but massive oak casket, was placed in front of the altar guarded by an officer in uniform from the General Russell A. Alger Camp, 25, G. A. R.

A simple bunch of lilies decorated the casket but about the altar and the pulpit was banked a wonderful profusion of flowers in appropriate designs. Among the floral tributes besides the beautiful set pieces sent by the Haytien Government, was a cross by Capt. B. F. Auld, of Baltimore, a son of Mr. Douglass' former master. Flowers were also sent by the scholars of many of the schools for colored children in the district.

The services were somewhat delayed, and it was after 2 o'clock when the funeral procession filed into the church.

Among the guests of special honor were: Justice Harlin, of the Supreme Court, Senators Sherman and Hoar and a number of members of the House of Representatives. There was also a large delegation from the Woman's Council. The faculty of Howard University attended in a body.

The funeral services which began at 3 o'clock, were conducted by Rev. J. G. Jenifer, D. D., pastor. Bishops Turner and Wayman took part, and John W. Hutchinson, the last of the famous Hutchinson family of abolition singers and a life-long friend of the deceased, sang a solo. The sermon was preached by Dr. Jenifer, and brief eulogistic remarks were made by Rev. Dr. Rankin, President of Howard University; Rev. Hugh T. Stevenson, of Anacostia Baptist Church, and Rev. Dr. J. F. Grimke.

The honorary pall bearers were ex-Senator B. K. Bruce, W. H. A. Wormley, Hon. John R. Lynch, John F. Cook, E. C. Messer, P. B. S. Pinchbeck, Dr. C. B. Purvis, Leonard C. Bailey, John H. Brooks, J. H. Meriweather, Dr. John R. Francis, F. J. Barbadoes, Capt. D. L. Pitcher, B. E. Messer and Congressman George W. Murray.

Speaking as the long time pastor of Mr. Douglass, Dr. Jenifer said: "Mr. Douglass was a Christian. He broke with the American Church and with the Christian dogma when he said that it sanctioned and sustained the enslavement and bondage of a brother. He held Christ to be above creed and above the church. In this terrific soul conflict he blundered into bewilderment, but his deliverance came and he has often spoken to me of the joy of his soul in God."

During the services, a letter from Elizabeth Cady Stanton was read which, after reviewing her first meeting with Douglass, closed as follows: "As an orator, writer and editor, Douglass holds an honored place among the gifted men of his day. As a man of business and a public officer he has been pre-eminently successful; honest and upright in all his

dealings, he bears an enviable reputation. As a husband, father, neighbor and friend—in all social relations—he has been faithful and steadfast to the end. He was the only man I ever knew who understood the degradation of the disfranchisement of women. Through all the long years of our struggle he has been a familiar figure on our platform with always an inspiring word to say. In the very first convention he helped me to carry the resolution I had penned, demanding woman suffrage. Frederick Douglass is not dead. His grand character will long be an object lesson in our National history. His lofty sentiments of liberty, justice and equality, echoed on every platform over our broad land, must influence and inspire many coming generations.”

Remarks followed by Miss Susan B. Anthony. Mrs. May Wright Sewall, president of the Woman's Council, also spoke.

M. J. Nicholas, who came to represent Mr. Haentjens, Haytien Minister to this country, spoke in French. Then followed an address by ex-United States Minister Durham, who formerly represented the United States in Hayti. Remarks were also offered by Rev. Dr. W. D. Derrick, of New York.

A touching incident of the service was the tribute paid to Mr. Douglass by John Hutchinson, of Boston, who himself an extremely aged man with snowy beard and long white locks reaching down over his shoulders, is said to be the last of the well known Hutchinson family with whom Douglass was associated in slavery days. The old man had come all the way from Boston to be present at the funeral and sing an old abolition song with which, by Douglass' side, he had inspired many an audience in New England and abroad against the evil of slavery. He made a few reminiscent remarks and then sang the song, at the conclusion of which there were few dry eyes in the audience.

The benediction was pronounced by Bishop Williams. Instead of diminishing, the crowd which gathered around the

church and in the street, had increased during the service so that it was almost impossible for the funeral procession to make its way to the carriages outside. The services were extremely long and it was after 5 o'clock when they were concluded. The body was escorted to the depot by letter carriers of the district as well as by a large number of personal friends of the deceased. The remains were put aboard the 7.10 train for Rochester.