

Frederick Douglass Biography

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Contents

Frederick Douglass Biography.....	1
Contents.....	2
Biography.....	3

Biography

Frederick Douglass (1817"-20 February 1895), reformer and journalist, was born to a black slave in Tuckahoe, Maryland. Upon his escape from slavery in 1838, he adopted the last name of Douglass. He married a free black woman and settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Douglass so impressed the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society when he spoke before them in 1841 that they hired him, and during the next four years he toured the country, speaking out against slavery. His *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave* (Boston: American Anti-Slavery Office, 1845) is a frank and intelligent discussion of slavery by one who knew its restrictions firsthand. He soon aligned himself with the conservative abolitionists. From 1847 to 1860 he edited the *North Star* (later called *Frederick Douglass' Paper*) and continued his lecturing. In later years he published two more autobiographical works: *My Bondage and My Freedom* (New York: Miller, Orton & Mulligan, 1855) and *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (Hartford, Ct.: Park Publishing Co., 1881). He died in Washington, D.C.