



## Celebrating Frederick Douglass

*"I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong." - Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in or around 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland. At an early age, he taught himself to read and write and taught other enslaved people to read using the Bible.

After several failed attempts at escape, Douglass finally succeeded and fled to the safe house of abolitionist David Ruggles in New York. He married Anna Murray, a free Black woman from Baltimore, in September 1838. They moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts and raised five children together.

In New Bedford, Douglass began attending meetings of the abolitionist movement. During these meetings, he was introduced to abolitionist and journalist William Lloyd Garrison. It was Garrison who encouraged Douglass to become a speaker and leader in the abolitionist movement.

In 1847, Douglass began publishing his own abolitionist newsletter, the North Star. He also became involved in the movement for women's rights. He was the only African American to attend the Seneca Falls Convention, a gathering of women's rights activists in New York, in 1848. That same year, Frederick Douglass wrote to his former slave master, Thomas Auld. The open letter, which was also published in Douglass's newspaper "The North Star," talked about his life since his escape and inquired about the welfare of his sisters and grandmother.

Douglass remained an active speaker, writer and activist until his death in 1895. He died after suffering a heart attack on his way home from a meeting of the National Council of Women, a women's rights group still in its infancy at the time, in Washington, D.C.

His life's work still serves as an inspiration to those who seek equality and a more just society.

### Sources

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[Letter to Thomas Auld \(September 3, 1848\) | The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition](#)