

0. DOUGLASS AT HOME - Story Preface

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Bedroom of Frederick Douglass at his Cedar Hill home. Note his straw hat on the chair in front of the window. Image of photo by Carol M. Highsmith. Online, courtesy Library of Congress. PD

When the Douglass family left Rochester, New York they moved to Washington, D.C. where they owned a home near Capitol Hill.

Seven years later (in 1877), breaking the "whites only" neighborhood rule in the Anacostia area of D.C., Frederick purchased Cedar Hill, a nine-acre estate with a view of the city below. Thanks to the National Park Service, and the Library of Congress, we can virtually visit Cedar Hill and examine some of the Douglass family's possessions.

- Frederick spent a great deal of time in his study. He had a roll-top desk with a painting of Joseph Cinque, an Amistad captive, on his study wall.
- The room includes a picture of Douglass, and some of his writing pens (plus his Bible, presented to him by members of the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington) have been preserved. The National Park Service provides a "closer look" into his study, although a virtual tour is not yet available.
- His vest still hangs on a Cedar Hill chair.
- After President Lincoln's assassination, Mary Todd Lincoln gave Douglass her husband's walking cane. The gift honored Douglass' recruitment efforts during the Civil War.

In 1882, while living at Cedar Hill, Anna Murray Douglass was struck with paralysis and suffered four weeks before she died. At her passing, the family received kind messages from many who had grown to love the rock of the Douglass family:

You know I never met your good wife but once and then her welcome was so warm and sincere and unaffected, her manner altogether so motherly, and her good-bye so full of genuine kindness and hospitality, as to impress me tenderly and fill my eyes with tears as I now recall it.

In addition to her husband, Anna left four surviving children:

- Rosetta Douglass Sprague (1839-1906)
- Lewis Henry Douglass (1840-1908)
- Frederick Douglass, Jr. (1842-1892)

- Charles Redman Douglass (1844-1920)

Annie Douglass, another daughter, had earlier died at the age of ten.

Frederick, now a widower, did not stay unmarried for long.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DOUGLASS-AT-HOME-Frederick-Douglass-From-Slave-to-Leader>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/DOUGLASS-AT-HOME-Frederick-Douglass-From-Slave-to-Leader>

Media Stream



Frederick Douglass at Home in D.C.

National Park Service (NPS) image, 1876FRDO 11001, online courtesy NPS.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frederick-Douglass-at-Home-in-D.C.>



Douglass Home in Washington, D.C.

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Douglass-Home-in-Washington-D.C.>



Cedar Hill Estate - Home of Frederick Douglass

Image of Cedar Hill, Library of Congress Reproduction Number: HABS DC,WASH,166--12 (CT).

Online, courtesy Library of Congress. PD.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cedar-Hill-Estate-Home-of-Frederick-Douglass>



Grounds of the Cedar Hill Property

Image of Cedar Hill, in the Anacostia area of Washington, online courtesy U.S. National Park Service.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Grounds-of-the-Cedar-Hill-Property>



View of the Study at Cedar Hill - Frederick Douglass

Image of Frederick Douglass working at his Cedar Hill desk, online courtesy U.S. National Park Service.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-the-Study-at-Cedar-Hill-Frederick-Douglass>



Photo of Douglass' Roll-Top Desk at Cedar Hill

Image of Frederick Douglass at his desk, in his Cedar Hill office, online courtesy National Park Service (NPS).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Photo-of-Douglass-Roll-Top-Desk-at-Cedar-Hill>



Picture of Frederick Douglass at His Desk

Image of Frederick Douglass, from *Anna Murray Douglass, My Mother As I Recall Her* (by Rosetta Douglass Sprague) at [page 18](#). Maintained by the Library of Congress. Image (and book) online, courtesy Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Picture-of-Frederick-Douglass-at-His-Desk>

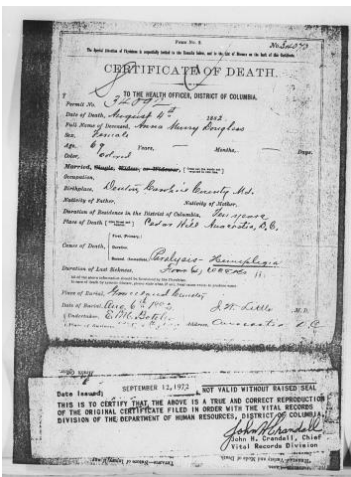


Lincoln's Walking Cane - Gift to Frederick Douglass

Image of President Lincoln's walking stick, given to Frederick Douglass, online courtesy U.S. National Park Service (NPS).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lincoln-s-Walking-Cane-Gift-to-Frederick-Douglass>

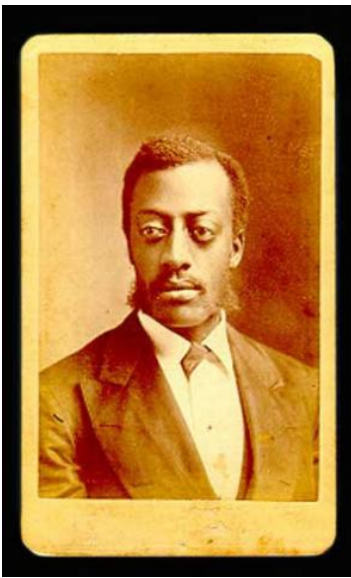


Anna Murray Douglass - Death Certificate

Death Certificate of Anna Murray Douglass, first wife of Frederick Douglass, online courtesy Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Anna-Murray-Douglass-Death-Certificate>



Charles Redman Douglass

Image of Charles Douglass, online courtesy Library of Congress.

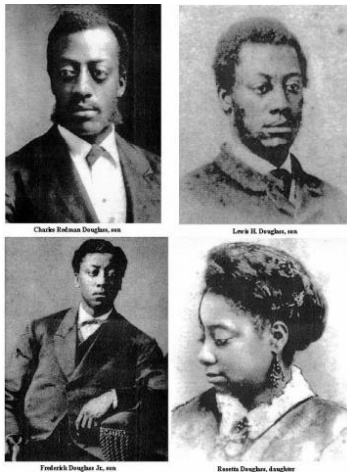
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Charles-Redman-Douglass>



Frederick Douglass' Bible

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Park Service (NPS).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frederick-Douglass-Bible>

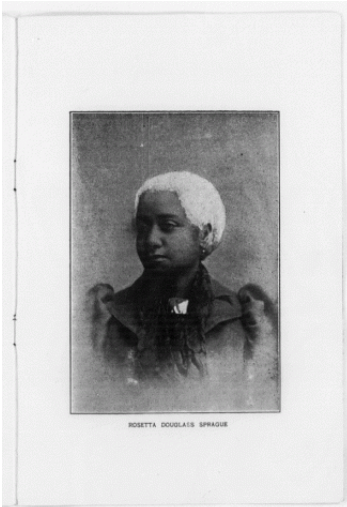


Frederick Douglass, Jr. and His Surviving Siblings

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Park Service (NPS).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frederick-Douglass-Jr.-and-His-Surviving-Siblings>



Rosetta Douglass Sprague

Image of Rosetta Douglass Sprague, online courtesy Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rosetta-Douglass-Sprague0>