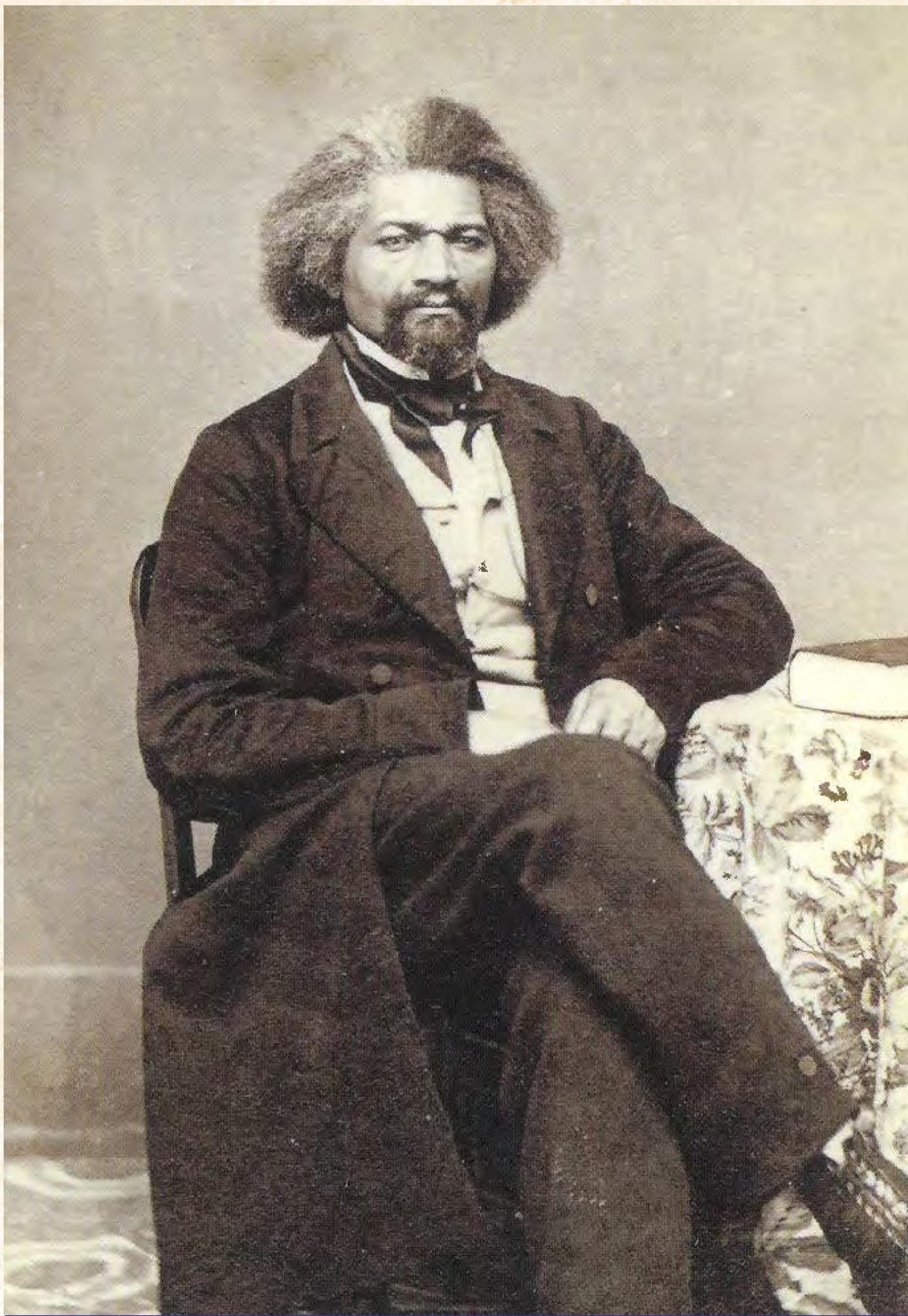
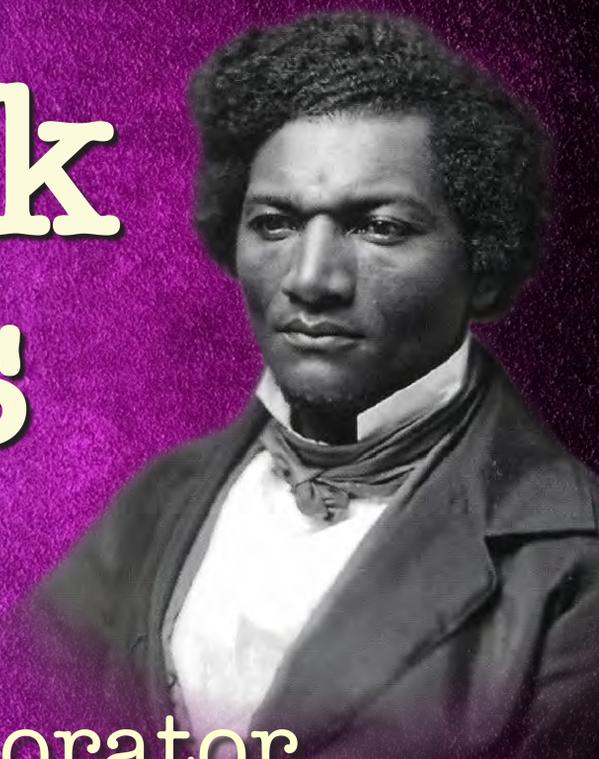


# Frederick Douglass & Ireland

abolitionist, writer, orator,  
statesman, champion of  
human rights



Frederick Douglass, 1863.  
(from *Picturing Frederick Douglass, An Illustrated Biography of the Nineteenth Century's Most Photographed American*).



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Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born into slavery in Talbot County, Maryland. He never knew his exact birth date.

**1817/1818**

Death of his mother, Harriet Bailey. Because slaveowners often separated mothers from their children, Frederick only saw her a few times and then always at night, when she bravely made the secret journey to be with him.

**1825**

Sent to Baltimore to Hugh and Sophia Auld to become the 'property' of their young son, Thomas Auld.

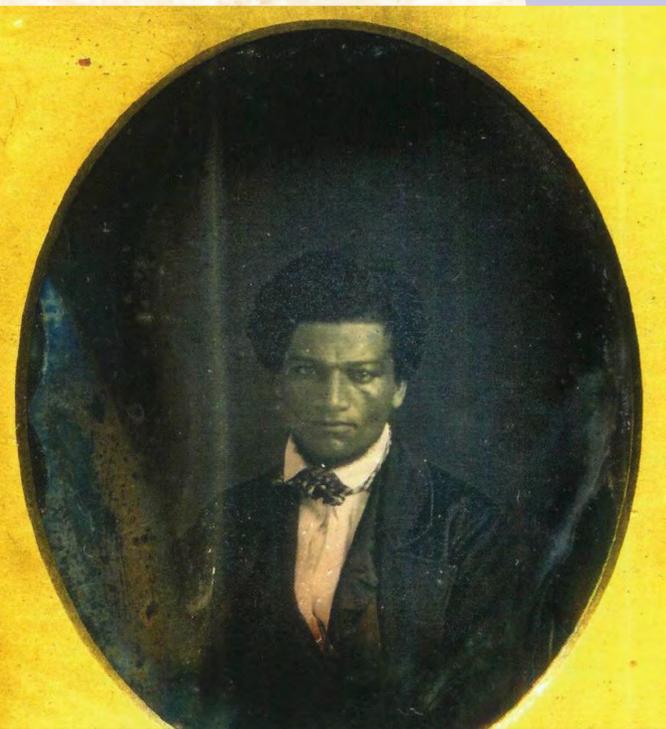
**1826**

Taught the alphabet by Sophia until her husband forbids it but Frederick continued to teach himself to read.

**1827**

Frederick got hold of a second-hand copy of *The Columbian Orator*, the book that changed his life.

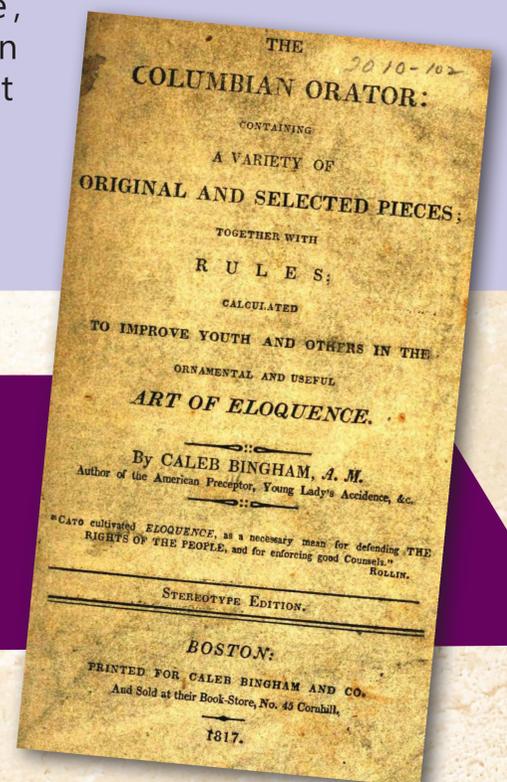
**1830**



Earliest known photograph of Frederick Douglass, c. 1841 – Sixth-plate daguerreotype (from *Picturing Frederick Douglass*)

Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery in 1838, marrying the woman who helped him escape. With his formidable oratorical and writing skills, gained through self-education, he would become one of the 19th century's most influential abolitionists and the most photographed American. After writing his first autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written By Himself*, Douglas toured Great Britain and Ireland to promote the campaign against slavery.

Douglass spent four months travelling through Ireland, speaking to packed meeting halls. He was shocked by the poverty he saw amongst large parts of the Irish population. In Dublin, he shared a stage with the 'Liberator', Daniel O'Connell. While in Cork, he took the pledge from 'The Apostle of Temperance', Fr Mathew and received a signet ring on behalf of the city from the Mayor of Cork, Richard Dowden. Douglass' time in Ireland, which he described as being 'transformative', left a significant and lasting impression upon him. In Ireland he felt a sense of freedom that he had never experienced before.



## **The Columbian Orator by Caleb Bingham, 1817**

*The Columbian Orator* contained a collection of prose, plays but perhaps most importantly, political speeches by famous orators including Daniel O'Connell. This was his constant companion and one of his only possessions when he escaped from slavery.



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1

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# Frederick Douglass & Ireland

abolitionist, writer, orator, statesman,  
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'Rented' to Edward Covey known as a 'slave breaker'. He was beaten several times but fought back and was never beaten again.

1833-34

'Rented' to William Freeland. Frederick secretly taught other slaves to read.

1835

3 September – he escaped to New York and changed his surname to Douglass. For the rest of his life, he celebrated this date in place of his unknown birth date.

1838

Frederick married Anna Murray

1838

Douglass heard William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the abolitionist newspaper, *The Liberator*, lecture.

1839

He began making anti-slavery speeches on behalf of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society.

1841

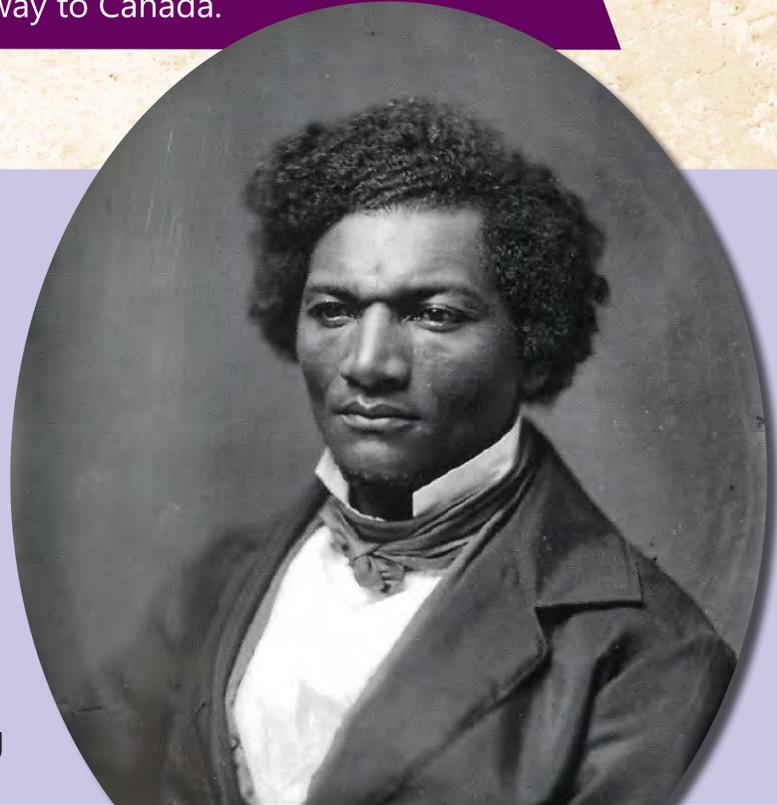


## Anna Murray Douglass c. 1860

In 1838, Frederick married Anna Murray, a free Baltimore woman, who had aided his escape from slavery, providing him with financial support and identity papers to help him travel incognito from Baltimore to New York. They started married life in Massachusetts and had five children. Anna took an active role in the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society and made their home a safe house on the Underground Railroad, providing food and board for fugitive slaves on their way to Canada.

(from *My Mother As I Recall Her*)

In 1845, shortly after the first publication of the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Written By Himself*, the American Anti-Slavery Society sent 27 year old Frederick Douglass, as a lecturing agent, to Great Britain and Ireland, to forge stronger links with their anti-slavery movements and to attract new supporters to the abolitionist cause. Also, under the Constitution of the United States, as he was still a fugitive slave, Douglass lived in the constant knowledge that he could be returned to bondage at any time. Anti-slavery societies in Britain and Ireland worked to awaken public consciousness on the evils of slavery as well as fundraising to aid fugitive slaves escaping along the Underground Railroad – a network of secret routes and safe houses - to free northern states and Canada.



Frederick Douglass, c. 1845 – a whole-plate daguerreotype, which he had taken shortly before his visit to Ireland  
(from *Picturing Frederick Douglass*)



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2



# Frederick Douglass & Ireland



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28 May – Douglass published *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*. Approx. 4,500 copies sold.

1845

He embarked on a successful tour of England, Scotland and Ireland giving anti-slavery lectures.

1845-47

31 August 1845 – Douglass arrives in Ireland

1845

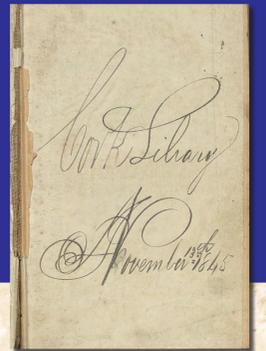
**'Safe in old Ireland, in the beautiful city of Dublin'.**



The day after his arrival in Dublin, Douglass wrote to William Lloyd Garrison in America: *'I am safe in old Ireland, in the beautiful city of Dublin'*. Within a couple of weeks, Douglass informed Garrison that in Ireland, ***'I find myself treated not as a color, but as a man – not as a thing, but as a child of the common Father of us all.'***

Douglass' series of lectures in Dublin were a great success and helped to increase knowledge and understanding of the anti-slavery cause. He stayed at the home of James Webb and his family, near Trinity College. James's brother, the Quaker anti-slavery activist and printer, Richard Davis Webb, was a friend of Garrison's and an important link between British, Irish and American anti-slavery activists. Webb was a founding member of the Hibernian Anti-Slavery Society in 1837 and published the first Irish and European editions of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*, with a print run of 2000, to be sold at Douglass' many speaking engagements in Dublin and throughout the country.

Cover, title page and end paper of first Irish and European edition of: Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Dublin: Webb and Chapman, 1845, Special Collections, UCC Library.

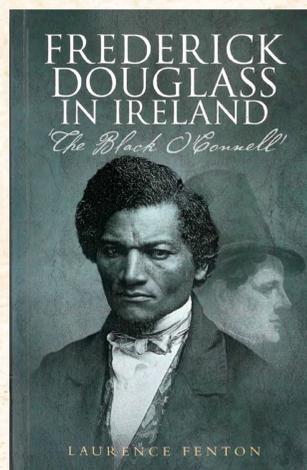


**The first Irish edition contained the following notice of recommendation for Douglass from the Hibernian Anti-Slavery Society:**

(from Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Dublin: Webb and Chapman, 1845, Special Collections, UCC Library).

So successful was the first Irish edition that a second was published in early 1846.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Hibernian Anti-Slavery Society, held the 20th of September, 1845, it was  
**Resolved**—That as FREDERICK DOUGLASS, (who is now present,) has just arrived from the United States on an Anti-Slavery mission to Great Britain and Ireland, we take this opportunity of recommending him to the good offices of all abolitionists with whom he may meet. He has long been known to us by reputation, and is now introduced to us by letters from some of the most distinguished and faithful friends of the Anti-Slavery cause in the United States.  
JAMES HAUGHTON, *Chairman*.  
RICHARD D. WEBB, *Secretary*.



(from *Frederick Douglass in Ireland: The Black O'Connell* by Laurence Fenton)

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND THE 'LIBERATOR' DANIEL O'CONNELL

Daniel O'Connell's speeches in favour of Catholic Emancipation had been a powerful source of inspiration for Douglass and amongst his first reading material in *The Columbian Orator*. He saw O'Connell for the first time in Dublin, on 29 September 1845, when he witnessed a crowd of children following him, shouting, 'There goes Dan!' as O'Connell made his way to Conciliation Hall to give a speech. Douglass was enthralled by the power of O'Connell's oratory and impressed at how he denounced slavery in his speech. He wrote home that he had never heard a speech at which he *'was more completely captivated'*. O'Connell said that he would never shake hands with slave-owners or accept their *'blood-stained money'* for his

campaign to repeal the Act of Union. At this event, the 70-year-old O'Connell invited the 27-year-old Douglass to share the stage with him and introduced him as 'The Black O'Connell'. After O'Connell's death on 15 May 1847, Douglass wrote that the cause of the American slave and the cause of Ireland had met with a great loss.



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# Frederick Douglass & Ireland

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10/11 October 1845 – Frederick Douglass arrived in Cork.

1845

After a month in Dublin, Douglass travelled onto Wexford and Waterford before arriving in Cork. The visit to Cork was organized by the Cork Anti-Slavery Society (CASS) and its auxiliary branch, the Cork Ladies Anti-Slavery Society (CLASS). He stayed with Thomas and Ann Jennings and their eight children at 9 Brown Street, where he enjoyed the lively atmosphere and stimulating discussions which helped to make his time in Cork a particular highlight of his tour of Great Britain and Ireland. Thomas owned the Jennings Soda-Water Factory at 11/12 Brown Street. Brown Street is no longer in existence but at the time of Frederick's visit, it ran through what is now the Paul Street Shopping Centre down towards the River Lee. One of the daughters of the family, 32-year-old Isabel, Secretary of the Cork Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society (CLASS) became friends with Douglass and they continued to correspond for many years after he left Ireland. She arranged his speaking engagements in Cork and was able to report to Maria Weston Chapman of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society that the Cork lectures had been such a success that:

*'There never was a person who made a greater sensation in Cork amongst all religious bodies . . . He feels like a friend whom we had long known, and I think before he goes we will quite understand one another.'*

(Boston Public Library)

Copies of the *Narrative of Frederick Douglass* were on sale in bookshops such as Purcell & Co and Bradford & Co on Patrick Street and nearly 250 copies of the *Narrative* were sold in the city during his time in Cork. Douglass gave at least thirteen lectures on abolition and temperance in secular and religious settings with people turning out in droves to hear him. In venues such as the Wesleyan Chapel, the Court House, the Temperance Institute, Lloyd's Hotel, Imperial Hotel, Globe Lane Temperance Hall and the Independent Chapel, Douglass' powerful oratorical skills drew a wide cross-section of Cork society, where he would leave his audiences in no uncertainty about the brutal inhumanity of slavery.

One speech was reprinted in an American abolitionist newspaper with the following warning:

*'Southern slaveholders read the following proceeding if you wish to know what are the feelings of the People of Ireland, in reference to your nefarious slave system.'*

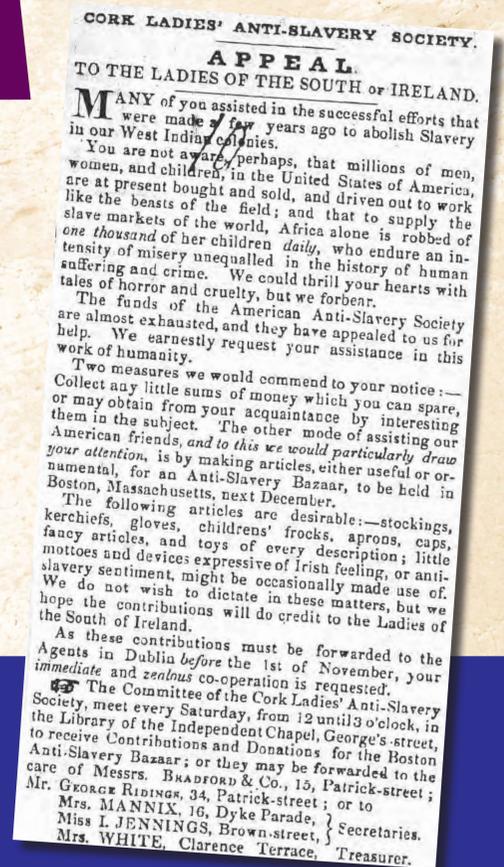
(from *The Liberator* newspaper)



Cork in the 1840s (corner of Grand Parade and South Mall)  
([www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie))

## CORK AND THE ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT

Though Cork's 18th/early 19th century economy had benefited through trade links from the existence of slavery in the West Indies, Cork also had a committed Anti-Slavery Society (CASS), which was formed on 6 January 1826, by the Quaker, Joshua Beale, at the Assembly Rooms in George's Street (now Oliver Plunkett Street). CASS drew people of different religions; as well as Quakers and other Protestant dissenters including Unitarian Presbyterians and Methodists, it also attracted members of the Established Church of Ireland and Roman Catholics. After the abolition of slavery in the West Indies in 1834, CASS turned its attention to working for the abolition of slavery in the American South. Its auxiliary branch, the Cork Ladies Anti-Slavery Society (CLASS) collected contributions for Bazaars organised by the American Anti-Slavery Society.



An Appeal to the Ladies of the South of Ireland for contributions for the Twelfth Annual Bazaar in 1845.  
(from *Cork Constitution*, 1845)



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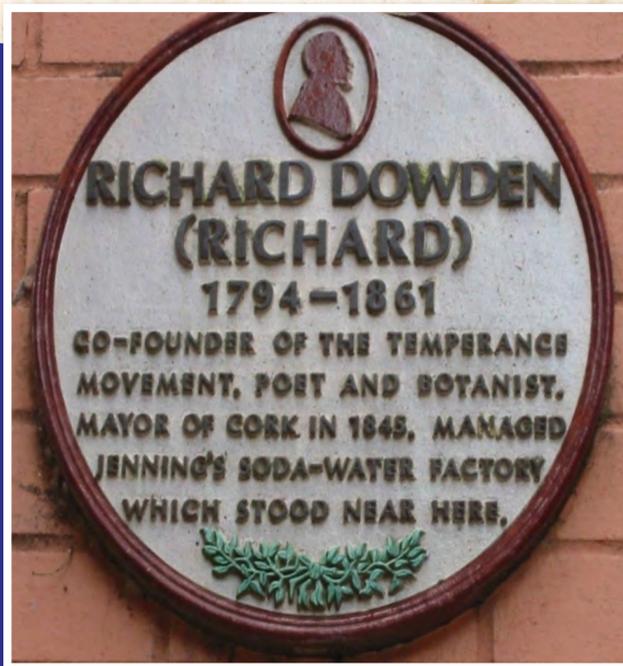


# Frederick Douglass & Ireland

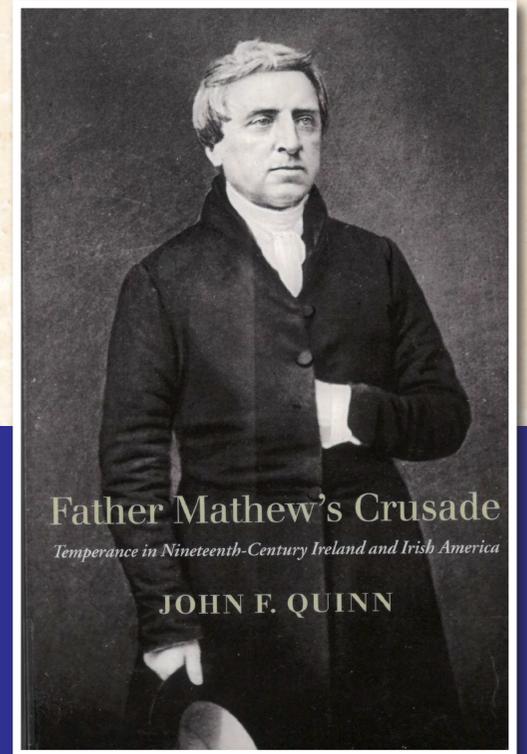
abolitionist, writer, orator, statesman,  
champion of human rights



Richard Dowden (Rd), Mayor of  
Cork 1845 (from JCHAS, 1916)



Plaque on wall of Paul Street Shopping  
Centre, where Brown Street once was.



Father Theobald Mathew, 1849  
(from *Father Mathew's Crusade* by  
John F. Quinn)



Unitarian Church, Princes Street, Cork.

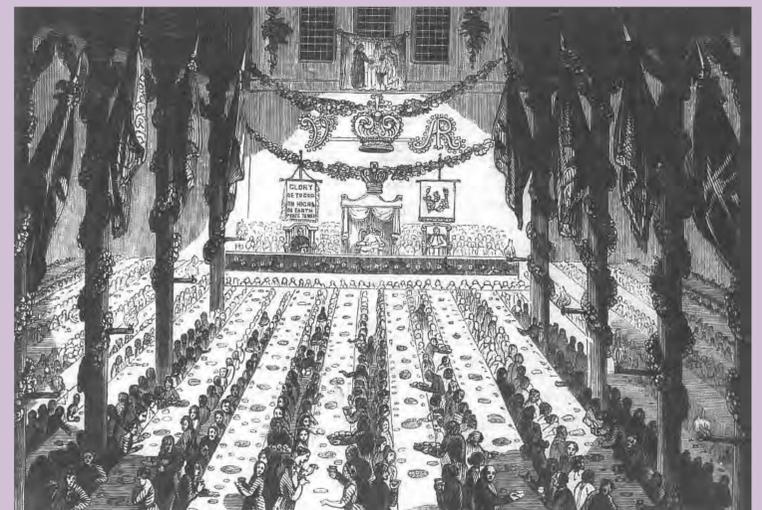
While in Cork, Douglass also became friendly with the then 51-year-old Mayor of Cork, Richard Dowden, a Unitarian, philanthropist and member of the Cork Anti-Slavery Society. Dowden later ran the Jennings Soda-Water Factory after the death of Thomas Jennings.

Douglass attended the Unitarian Church, Princes Street with Mayor Dowden. This church is listed as the oldest place of continuous worship in the city since it was opened in 1717. Dowden was closely associated with Fr Theobald Mathew, often fundraising for the 'Apostle of Temperance' and it was here that Fr Mathew signed the Temperance Agreement in 1839.

An example of a Temperance  
soirée in Cork,  
*Illustrated London News*,  
February 1840.  
[www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie)

Fr Mathew attained national and international prominence for his Temperance Crusades of the 1830s/40s to help curb the problems arising from chronic alcoholism by encouraging people to 'take the pledge' to abstain from all intoxicating drinks. Douglass was already an admirer of Fr Mathew before meeting him in Cork when he attended a Temperance soirée with music, dancing and fireworks at the Temperance Institute, Academy Street. Fr Mathew invited him to breakfast at his home at 7 Cove Street, which Douglass described as being of 'all of a very plain order... too plain, for so great a man'. Though Douglass had been teetotal for eight years, he was moved to renew his pledge:

***'So entirely charmed by the goodness of this truly good man was I, that I besought him to administer the pledge to me . . . His whole soul appeared to be wrapped up in the temperance cause . . . His time, strength and money are all freely given to the cause; and his success is truly wonderful.'***



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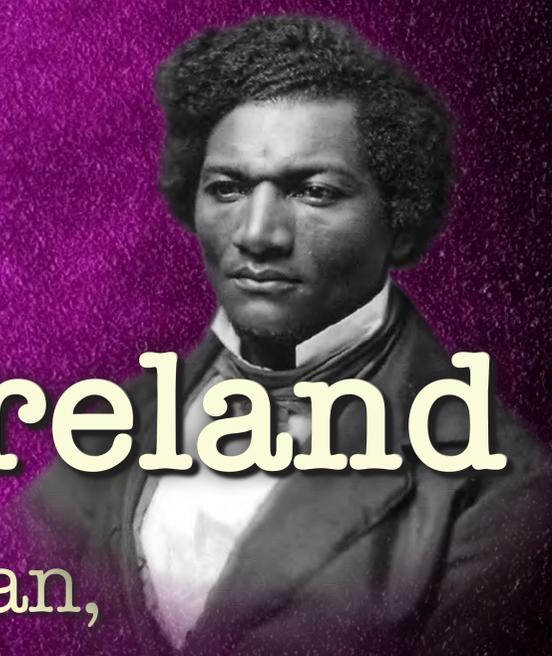
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5



# Frederick Douglass & Ireland

abolitionist, writer, orator, statesman,  
champion of human rights



**SLAVERY.—MR. FREDERICK DOUGLAS.**  
We beg to refer our readers to the advertisement of the Anti-Slavery Meeting, to be held in the Court-house tomorrow.  
Mr. DOUGLAS, to hear whom the meeting has been called, is a most eloquent and effective speaker. We heard him last evening at the Festival in Globe Lane Temperance Hall, in honour of the Very Rev. THOS. BALD MATHEW, and were delighted with his calm, forcible manner, and his frequent bursts of fervid eloquence; and as we have no doubt he is as effective on the subject of slavery as on that of temperance, we can promise our citizens a happy intellectual treat. Never, we do think, was the assertion more signally disproved than on last evening, that the taint of African blood necessarily produces inferiority, either of body or mind; and the feeling that such a man should ever have been held as the property of another, his noble frame tasked, flogged, and fettered, and his active, intelligent and expressive mind cramped and darkened, without a solitary chance of having its energies awakened, causes a loathing of the slave system which should be sufficient to enlist all our sympathies.  
We are indebted to the circumstance of Mr. DOUGLAS having published a narrative of his life, and his experience of the horrors of slavery for his present visit. The sensation caused by the publication of his book rendered his stay in America unsafe, until the excitement dies away, as he is still liable to be captured, and taken back to bondage.

Reaction from *The Cork Examiner*, 13 October 1845, on Douglass's lecture at Globe Lane Temperance Hall.

Invitation from Fr Mathew to a Temperance soirée at the Temperance Institute, Academy Street on 18 October 1845, specifying that Mr F Douglass will attend.

(Courtesy Cork City and County Archives)

TEMPERANCE INSTITUTE.  
Sir,  
18 October 1845  
You are requested to attend a meeting of the members, of the Institute ACADEMY STREET, on Tuesday Evening at 8 o'clock, to a soiree by invitation of Very Rev. Fr. Mathew President  
J Russell Hon. Sec.  
Mr. F. Douglass will attend  
D. & J. Armstrong, Printers, Cork.  
Send two tickets for friends  
You will please to wear your Collar

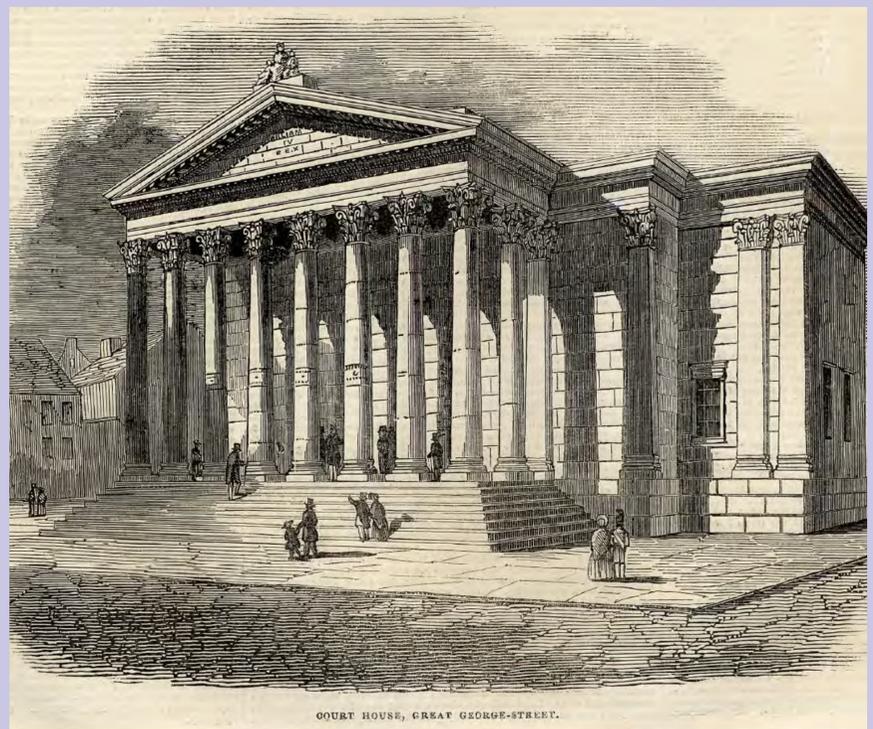
**APPEAL FOR LIBERTY.**  
3,000,000 SLAVES.  
FREDERICK DOUGLASS, a Fugitive Slave, will speak on the subject of AMERICAN SLAVERY at Two o'clock on TUESDAY Next, 14th Inst., at the CITY COURT HOUSE.  
RICHARD DOWDEN (R.) will preside.  
The Gallery will be reserved for Ladies.  
The Committees of the Ladies and Gentlemen's Anti-Slavery Societies, will Breakfast at LLOYD'S HOTEL, at Half-past Eight o'clock on TUESDAY Morning, to receive Mr. DOUGLASS. Any friends of the cause are invited to attend.

Advertisement for a lecture at Cork City Courthouse (from *The Cork Examiner*, 13 October 1845)

The Court House, Great George's Street, (now Washington Street), c.1843  
(www.corkpastandpresent.ie)

The Court House lecture was titled *'I am Here to Spread Light on American Slavery'*. The following day, *The Cork Examiner*, 15 October 1845, reported that *'The Grand Jury Gallery was thronged with ladies, who seemed to take the liveliest interest in the proceedings'*; the paper went on to praise the two-hour lecture as being *'one of the most eloquent and impressive discourses we ever heard'*.

On Friday 17th October, Douglass delivered a two-hour lecture at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, St Patrick's Street, titled *'Slavery Corrupts American Society and Religion'*, in which he was critical of different religious groups in America. In Ireland, he drew people from diverse backgrounds to hear him, cutting across social, religious, and political divides. As well as those from the more affluent sections of society, *'the suffering poor'*, as they were referred to by *The Cork Examiner*, also came to listen in great numbers. Douglass was adept at being able to tailor his speeches to the different audiences. When speaking at the Wesleyan Chapel, he refrained from mentioning Daniel O'Connell at all, but at the Court House, where many in the audience were from the Roman Catholic working class, he praised the man they called *'The Liberator'*, and said that they felt *'more sympathy with the slave than did the other sects'* (*The Cork Examiner*, 15 October 1845).



COURT HOUSE, GREAT GEORGE-STREET.



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25 October - while in Cork, Douglass learnt that he had been 'sold' by Thomas Auld to his brother, Hugh, for \$100.

1845

12 Dec - Douglass officially becomes a free man. Women abolitionists in England, led by Anna Richardson of Newcastle, 'purchased' his freedom for £150. (Anna was related to Ann Jennings, who Douglass had stayed with in Cork). Douglass continued his anti-slavery lectures in England and Wales throughout the rest of 1846 and early 1847.

1846

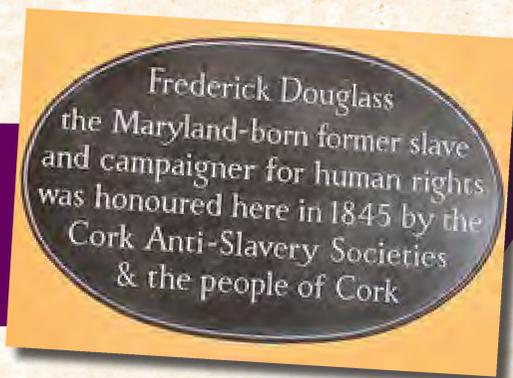


HOUSES OF RECEPTION AND ENQUIRY—COMMERCIAL BUILDING AND IMPERIAL HOTEL.

Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork c. 1843  
( [www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie) )

On Thursday 23 October, Douglass gave a talk titled 'American Prejudice Against Color' at the Imperial Hotel, South Mall.

Plaque, Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork  
Douglass' speech at the Imperial Hotel has been commemorated with a plaque which was placed in the foyer in 2012.



THE Public are respectfully informed that opportunity will be afforded of listening to an eloquent address from Mr. DOUGLASS, on American Slavery, at the IMPERIAL HOTEL, THURSDAY Next, the 23rd Inst., at the hour of Two o'Clock.

Admittance..... 2s each.

NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF  
**FREDERICK DOUGLASS,**  
An American Slave, Written by Himself,  
TO BE HAD of Messrs. PURCELL & CO., Messrs. BRADFORD & CO., and Mr. WILLIAM MARTIN, Patrick Street.

CRITICAL NOTICES OF THE AMERICAN PRESS.

"FREDERICK DOUGLASS.—We observe that this self-emancipated man has lately sent forth from the Press a sketch of his life. Every body should read it. It is an exceedingly interesting as well as ably written work."  
—Philadelphia Elevator.

"FREDERICK DOUGLASS has been for some time a prominent member of the Abolition party. He has had the courage to name the persons, time, and places, thus exposing himself to obvious danger, and setting his seal on his deep convictions as to the religious need of speaking the whole truth. Considered merely as a narrative, we have never read one more simple, true, coherent, and warm with genuine feeling."  
—New York Tribune.

"NARRATIVE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS.—This admirable little volume is just out. It will doubtless prove a valuable auxiliary to the cause of Abolition. Frederick Douglass is a strong man, and will not fail to arouse the sympathies of his readers in behalf of the oppressed. May he long live with his burning eloquence, to pour truth on the naked conscience of this wicked nation."  
—Practical Christian.

The Cork Anti-Slavery Societies beg to acquaint the Public, that the profits arising from the sale of this moderately priced Anti-Slavery work, are the means by which Mr. DOUGLASS is sustained in his noble efforts while in these countries.

The CORK LADIES' ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY beg to inform their friends and those who intend to contribute to the BOSTON BAZAAR, that if the articles are ready by the 23rd of NOVEMBER next, they will be in sufficient time.  
(3028) Oct. 21, 1845.

(from *Cork Constitution*,  
21 October 1845)

Before Douglass left Cork, a farewell soirée was held in his honour at the Independent Chapel, George's Street, (now Oliver Plunkett Street) on 3 November 1845. This chapel which was built between 1826 and 1831 on the site of the old Assembly Rooms, was the chapel of the Congregationalists, who were also known as Independents because they believed in liberty of conscience and the independence of each congregation.

Banners decorated the room, including one which read Cead Míle Fáilte. Ralph Varian, the secretary of Cork Anti-Slavery Society read an 'Address to Frederick Douglass':

'... In the happy hours of social intercourse which we have enjoyed in your society, a further opportunity has been afforded us of becoming acquainted with the details of that abominable system of savage law, and degraded public sentiment by which three millions of human beings are held in bodily and menial bondage yoked to the oar of American Freedom. Never were we so impressed with the horrors of the system, as while listening to one, who was himself born subject to the lash and fetter... yet who is so gifted, as he to whom we dedicate this Address, with high [ ], intellectual, and spiritual power, together with so much refinement of mind and manners. Allow us to say that in estimating the pleasures and advantages which your visit has conferred upon us - we value highly those derivable from your excellent Anti-Slavery work - the unpretending memoir of your escape from chattled bondage to the liberty and light of a moral and intellectual being. While perusing it, we have been charmed to the end by the power of simple truth, and warm and genuine feeling...'

Extract from an 'Address to Frederick Douglass from the Anti-Slavery Society of Cork'  
'The Cork Examiner', 7 November 1845



Part of the former Independent Chapel today on Oliver Plunkett Street  
[www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie)



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CORK  
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CORCAIGH INNÉ IS INNIU

# Frederick Douglass & Ireland

abolitionist, writer, orator, statesman,  
champion of human rights



Opening of the Temperance Institute in Cork, 1845  
[www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie)

A verse, *Céad Míle Fáilte to the Stranger*, was composed for the farewell soirée by local poet, Daniel Casey, and sung by those in attendance:

*'Stranger from a distant nation  
We welcome thee with acclamation  
And, as a brother warmly greet thee –  
Rejoiced in Erin's Isle to meet thee  
Then Cead Mille Failthe [sic] to the stranger,  
Free from bondage, chains and danger.*

*Then borne o'er the Atlantic waters  
The cry of Erin's sons and daughters  
For freedom shall henceforth be blended  
Till Slavery's hellish reign be ended.*

(Daniel Casey)

In response, Douglass was moved to sing an old abolition song and in his reply to the Address, he thanked the Cork press for reporting his words, saying:

*'I did not expect the high position that I enjoy during my stay in the City of Cork'* before going on to say that *'I want the Americans to know that in the good city of Cork, I ridiculed their nation - I attempted to excite the utter contempt of the people here upon them'*.  
(from *The Cork Examiner*, 7 November 1845)

Mayor Richard Dowden sent him a signet ring, on behalf of the city, to symbolize the relationship between Douglass and Cork. On the next leg of his Irish tour in Limerick, Douglass sent a letter of heartfelt thanks to Mayor Dowden.

## Letter from Frederick Douglass to Richard Dowden (Rd) (Courtesy of Cork City and County Archives)

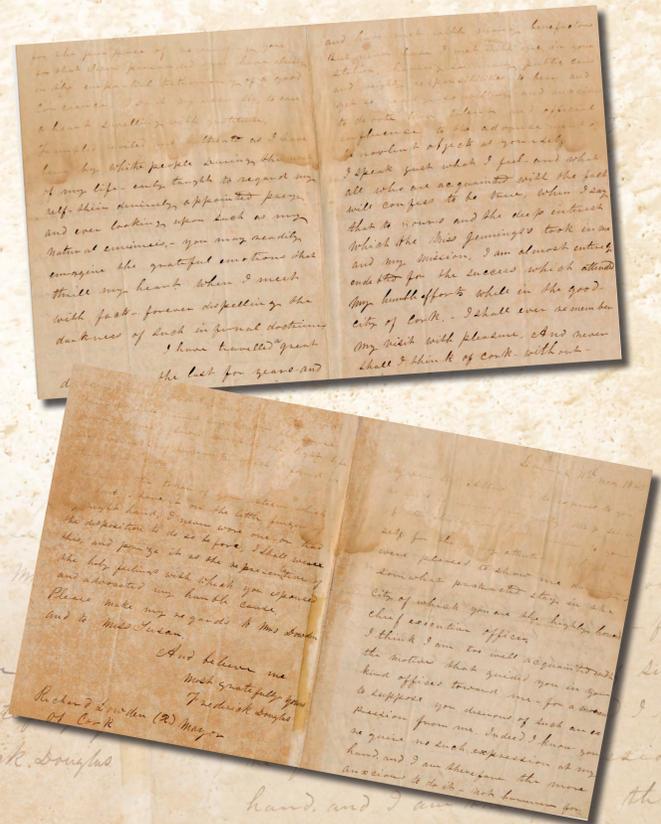
The following is a transcription of part of the letter which is now held at Cork City and County Archives.

***'I speak just what I feel – and what all who are acquainted with the facts will confess to be true, when I say that to your's and the deep interest which the Miss Jennings took in me and my mission, I am almost entirely indebted for the success which attended my humble efforts while in the good City of Cork. I shall ever remember my visit with pleasure, and never shall I think of Cork without remembering that yourself and the kind friends just named constituted the source from whence flowed much of the light, life and warmth of humanity which I found in that good City.***

***I received the token of your esteem which you sent, I have it on the little finger of my right hand, I never wore one-or had the disposition to do so before, I shall wear this, and prize it as the representative of the holy feelings with which you espoused and advocated my humble cause'***

***And believe me  
Most gratefully yours  
Frederick Douglas[s]***

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Douglass wrote of his time in Ireland as being 'transformative'. As he was about to leave Belfast, he wrote the following to William Lloyd Garrison:

***"I have been here a little more than four months . . . I can truly say, I have spent some of the happiest moments of my life since landing in this country. I seem to have undergone a transformation, I live a new life"***.  
(Letter of 1 January 1846, *The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass*).



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# Frederick Douglass & Ireland

abolitionist, writer, orator, statesman,  
champion of human rights



April – returned to United States.  
15 May – death of Daniel O’Connell.  
Late 1847 – the Douglass family moved to Rochester, New York where he became an influential newspaper editor, launching *The North Star*. Their home became part of the Underground Railroad network, helping hundreds of slaves escape to Canada.

1847

Douglass was one of the few men to attend the Equal Rights for Women Convention at Seneca Falls, New York, which formally inaugurated the women’s rights movement in America. He signed the Declaration of Sentiments in favour of Women’s Rights.

1848

Douglass was greatly disappointed in Fr Mathew, who though a supporter of the anti-slavery cause, did not speak out against slavery, when on a tour of the U.S. feeling that he would lose much support for his temperance mission.

1849

8 Feb – In *The North Star* newspaper, Douglass wrote: ‘We had fondly hoped, from an acquaintance with Fr Mathew... that he would not change his morality by changing his location... We are however grieved, humbled and mortified to know that HE too, has fallen’.

The U.S. passed the Fugitive Slave Law requiring that escaped slaves be returned.

1850

*The North Star* became *Frederick Douglass Paper* (1851-1860).

1851

Published his second autobiography, *My Bondage and My Freedom*.

1855

He launched another newspaper, *Douglass’s Monthly* (1859-63).

1859

The Civil War begins. Douglass advocates that the ending of slavery be the war’s aim.

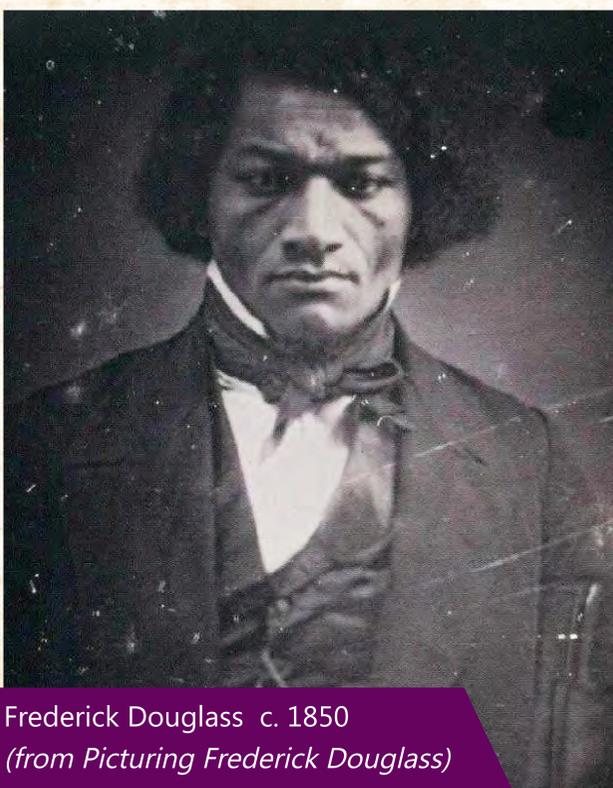
1861

1 Jan – Issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves in all parts of the United States not then under Union control.  
1863 – Douglass recruited for the African American 54th Massachusetts regiment. Two of his sons join the regiment.  
10 April 1863 – Douglass invited to the White House to meet President Lincoln.

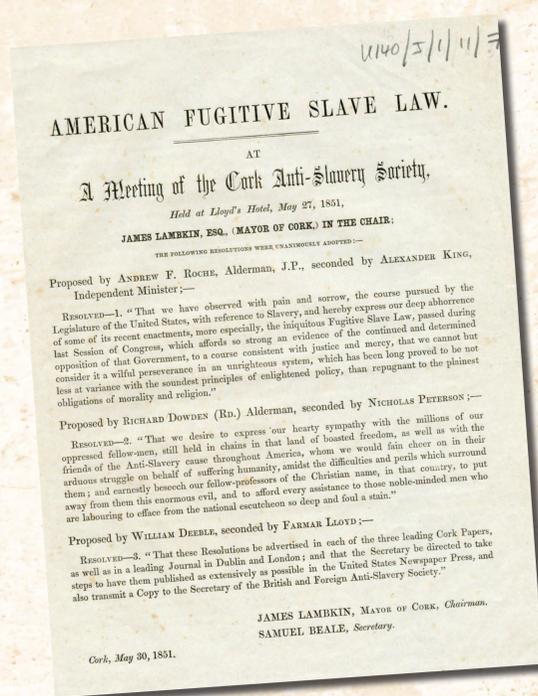
1863

Douglass attended Lincoln’s second inauguration.

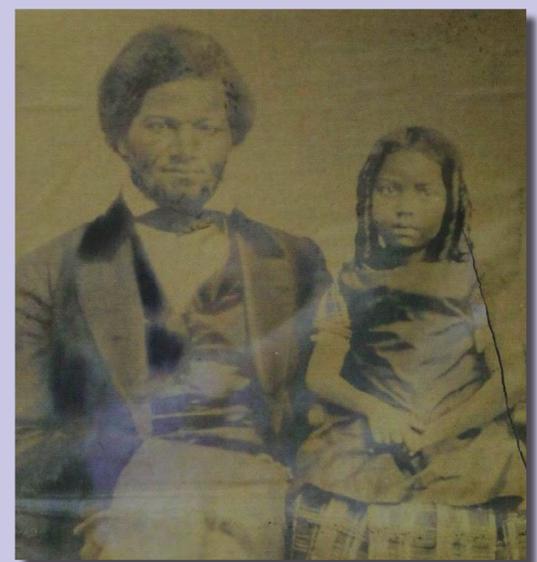
1864



Frederick Douglass c. 1850  
(from *Picturing Frederick Douglass*)



The Fugitive Slave Law was discussed at a meeting of the Cork Anti-Slavery Society in May 1851 where Richard Dowden proposed one of the resolutions. (Courtesy of Cork City and County Archives)



Douglass with his youngest daughter Annie, whom he called ‘the light and life of my house’, c.1854. Born in 1849, Annie lived a very short life, dying in 1860.

(John B. Cade Library, Southern University and A & M College – from *Picturing Frederick Douglass*)



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Civil War ends; Thirteenth Amendment to U.S. Constitution outlawing slavery was ratified in December.  
14 April – Abraham Lincoln assassinated; Mrs Lincoln gave Douglass her husband's favourite walking cane.

1865

Douglass led a delegation of African Americans to visit President Johnson to ascertain his views on matters relating to the recently freed slaves.  
1866 – Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony establish The American Equal Rights Association to secure equal rights for all American citizens, especially the right to vote, regardless of race, colour or gender.

1866

Appointed by President Hayes as United States Marshal for the District of Columbia

1877

Appointed by President Garfield as Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia.  
Publishes *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, his third autobiography.

1881

Death of his wife, Anna Murray Douglass.

1882

Douglass married Helen Pitts who was active in the struggle for women's rights. The couple travelled extensively promoting women's suffrage while continuing to campaign for equality for all races.

1884

Douglass published an 18-page article on Ireland entitled, 'Thoughts and Recollections of a Tour of Ireland', in which he wrote the following:

***'I have favored "Home Rule" for Ireland for two reasons: First, because Ireland wants "Home Rule," and Secondly, because it will free England from the charge of continued oppression of Ireland... I am for fair play for the Irishman, the negro, the Chinaman, and for all men of whatever country or clime, and for allowing them to work out their own destiny without outside interference.'***

1886

**Summer - Douglass returns to Dublin.**

December - On return to Washington D.C. he spoke in favour of Irish Home Rule.

1887



Douglass with second wife Helen Pitts Douglass (right) and her sister Eva, c. 1884  
(from *Picturing Frederick Douglass*)



Douglass and friends, Killiney, Co. Dublin, 1887  
Photo by Alice Shackleton, relative of the Webb family  
(from *Picturing Frederick Douglass*)

At 70 years old Douglass returned to Dublin to 'once more look into the faces and hear the voices of the few remaining friends who gave me sympathy and support during my visits 41 years ago'. He visited the family of Richard Webb, the abolitionist and publisher, who had died in 1872.



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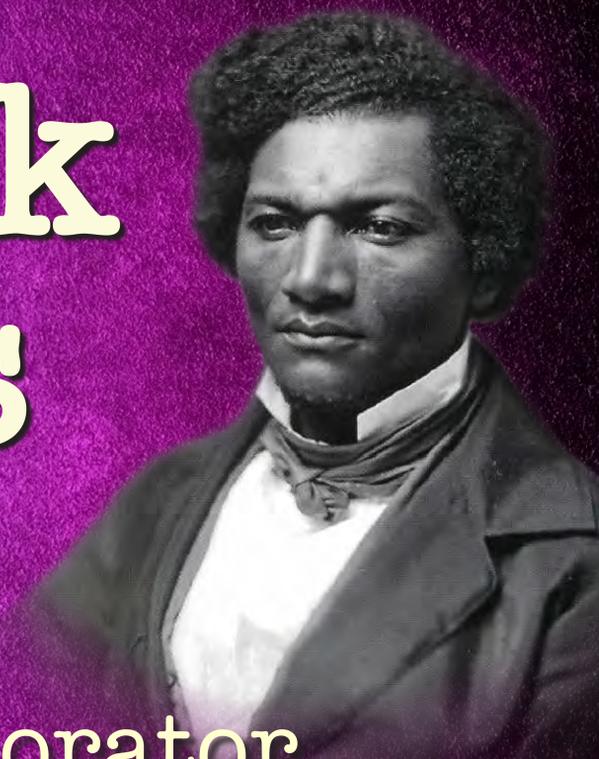
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10



# Frederick Douglass & Ireland

abolitionist, writer, orator, statesman, champion of human rights



Appointed by President Harrison as Minister-Resident and Consul-General to the Republic of Haiti, and Chargé d'Affaires for Santo Domingo.

1891

He gave his last major speech, *The Lessons of the Hour*, condemning lynching.

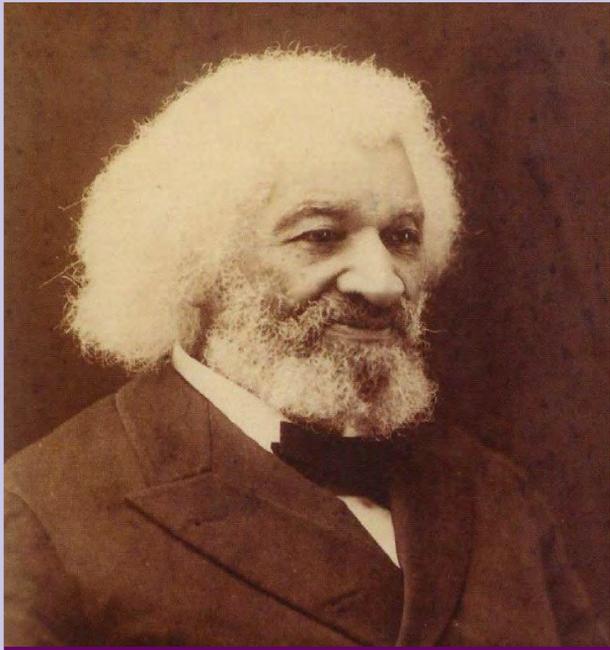
1894

20 February – Douglass died of a heart attack near Washington D.C. on February 20, shortly after attending a meeting of the Women's National Council. Following her husband's death, Helen helped to make their Cedar Hill home in Washington D.C. into a historic site and visitor centre where his legacy continues to be celebrated.

1895

Death of Helen Pitts Douglass. She was buried alongside Frederick and Anna in Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York.

1903



The only known photograph that depicts Douglass smiling. It was taken in October 1894, a few months before his death. (from *Picturing Frederick Douglass*)

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