



Newsletter

USCT Civil War Digest



HARTWICK COLLEGE

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Vol. 19 No. 2, December 2017

United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research

Frederick Douglass Bicentennial 1818-2018

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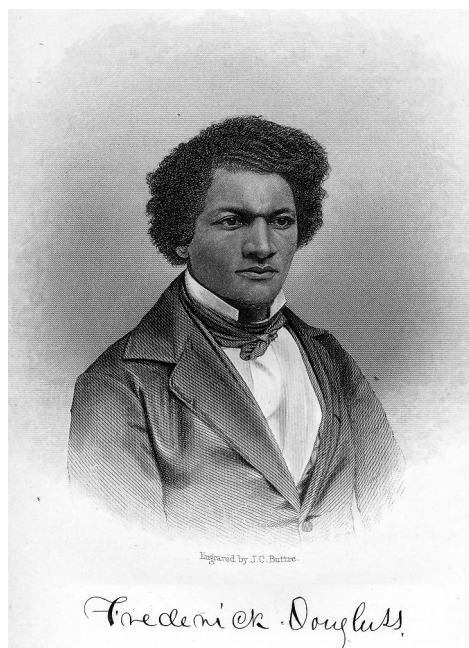
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Harry Bradshaw Matthews

USCT Civil War Digest

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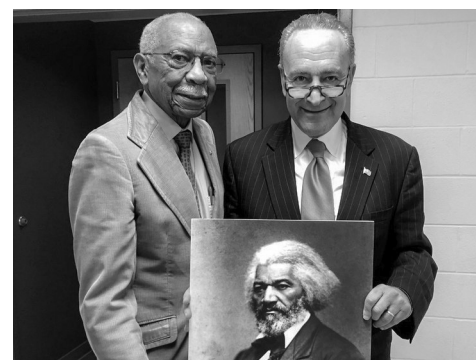
Source: Frederick Douglass, Autographs for Freedom, Julia Griffiths, 1854 Courtesy: The Matthews Collection

On July 19, 2017, a bill in the United States Senate authorized the planning for the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission. A major charge for the Commission is to advocate for celebrations throughout the country honoring the historic role model. President Donald Trump signed into law H.R. 2989, the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act, on November 2, 2017.

Senator Chuck Schumer (D, NY) announced on December 5, 2017, that Dr. David Anderson of Rochester and Nazareth College had been appointed to the Commission. Anderson and his wife, Ruth, were founding members of the United States Colored Troops Institute at Hartwick College, and he is today a Senior Fellow Emeritus of the USCTI. The commitment of

Dr. and Mrs. Anderson toward the remembrance of Frederick Douglass and other abolitionists in Rochester has been a long-term dedication that extends for decades.

Undoubtedly, many events during 2018 will focus on Douglass' legacy pertaining to his emergence from slavery in Talbot County, MD and the city of Baltimore. He was able to escape from bondage in 1838 with the aid of his free friend, Anna Murray. The two were married 11 days after reaching New York City. The couple had five children during their 44 years of marriage, which ended with Anna's death in 1882.



Source: Dr. David Anderson and Senator Chuck Schumer
Courtesy: 13wham.com

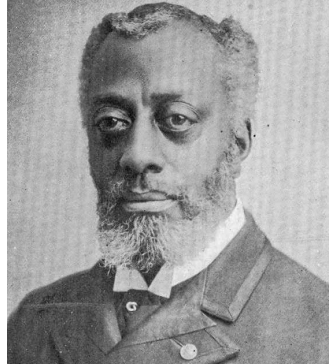
Certainly, Douglass' actions and deeds while in residence in Rochester, NY and Washington, DC will receive respectful attention. Along the way, Douglass will also be remembered for his famous "Fifth of July Speech" in 1852 during the Ladies Anti-Slavery Society in Rochester. Yet other moments of remembrance will be his advocacy for women's suffrage and for black men to rise up and fight for their own freedom as soldiers of the United States Colored Troops of the Civil War.

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Douglass Bicentennial Continued from page 1

In an essay appearing in the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* of March 14, 1863, Douglass proclaimed:

“The day dawns – the morning star is bright upon the horizon! The iron gate of our prison stands half open. One gallant rush from the North will fling it wide open, while four millions of our brothers and sisters shall march out into liberty. The chance is now given you to end in a day the bondage of centuries, and to rise in one bound from social degradation to the place of common equality with other varieties of men. Remember Denmark Vesey of Charleston, remember Nathaniel Turner of Southampton; remember Shields Green and Copland, who followed John Brown, and fell as glorious martyrs of the cause of the slave.”



Source: Charles Douglass, *An Authentic History of the Douglass Monument*, J.W. Thompson, 1903.
Courtesy: The Matthews Collection

While it is deserving that Douglass be honored in the United States and abroad as an abolitionist, author and statesman, the true story of his heroics cannot be told without placing his actions within the historical context of his far reaching impact upon anti-slavery advocates in numerous small villages and towns in various states. Collectively, they were participants of the Freedom Journey that started before Douglass' escape from slavery and continued after his death.

The Freedom Journey was conceptualized by Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Associate Dean/Director of Intercultural Affairs at Hartwick College, and founding president of the USCT Institute. He defined the Freedom Journey as anti-slavery sentiments, abolitionist actions, the Underground Railroad, the USCT, and self help proclamations and actions. The impetus for the definition was an article in *The Colored American* newspaper of 1838.

The article was written by a reporter who visited Presbyterian sites in New York who then shared his insights regarding each locale's attitude regarding the slavery issue. For Otsego County, New York (including Oneonta and Cooperstown), the reporter wrote that “there are hearts that feel, and tongues that speak, and hands that act in behalf of the oppressed.”

Matthews used the quote as a clue that anti-slavery activities and the Underground Railroad were active in Otsego County (the current home of the USCT Institute). His research, along with that of students of the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project, began documenting the connection of Otsego County to the anti-slavery movement and the Underground Railroad along the Upper Susquehanna River.

Otsego County, New York - Anti-Slavery Intersections

1827 – July 5th Emancipation Celebration held at the Presbyterian Meeting House in Cooperstown.

1833 – Frederick Douglass born in Maryland as **Frederick** Augustus Washington Bailey.

1833 – American Anti-Slavery Society organized in the Adelphi Building in Philadelphia.

1835 – New York Anti-Slavery State Society, held in Petersboro, included Rufus S. Peters and Isaac Platt chosen as vice presidents for Otsego and Delaware Counties.

1836 – Otsego County Anti-Slavery Society organized.

1837 – Franckean (Lutheran) Synod, associated with the Hartwick Seminary and Academy, organized as an anti-slavery advocate.

1837 – Nathan Mead, aka, Rev. Alexander Hemsley, escaped from slave catchers while living in New Jersey. He fled to Otsego County, where he was united with his wife and children before journeying to St. Catharines, Canada West.

1838 – *The Colored American* identified Otsego County as an anti-slavery site and participant of the Underground Railroad.

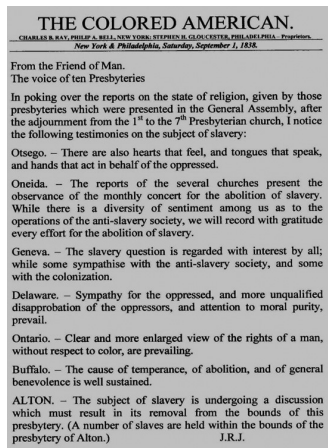
1848 – Eliakim R. Ford was a district elector from (Oneonta) Otsego County at the gathering of the Liberty Party and the Free Soil Convention in Utica.

1851 – *The North Star* reported that Edwin S. Coffin of Otsego County introduced a bill in the NYS Legislature to protect escaped slaves in New York.

1851 – *Frederick Douglass Paper* published letter from M.B. Vail, who resided in Unadilla, NY, in which he requested that he be sent a subscription.

1853 – *Frederick Douglass Paper* identified Robert S. Cook of Oneonta as a financial contributor to the Chaplin Bail Fund for anti-slavery activists.

1860 – *The Oneonta Herald* reported that a mother, half-sister and six children had escaped from slavery in Virginia and reached safety in Oneonta.



Source: *The Colored American*, September 1, 1838.
Courtesy: The Matthews Collection

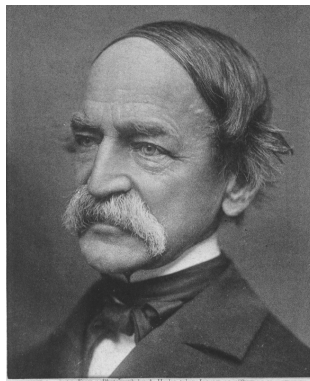


Source: Mama Lucretia and Children escape to Oneonta, NY
Courtesy: The Matthews Collection

As the anti-slavery movement stretched into the 1860s a prominent figure connected to Otsego County, Isaac Newton Arnold, appeared as a major player in the movement. He was born in Hartwick, New York, graduated

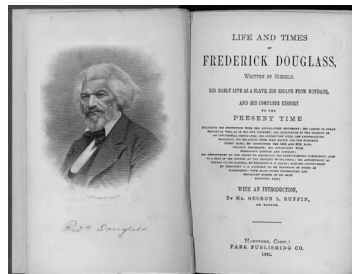
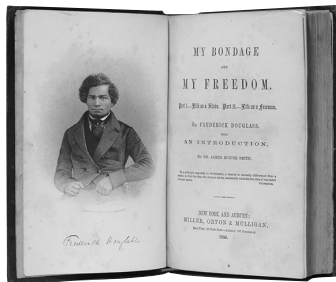
from the Hartwick Seminary and Academy, and as an attorney and politician became a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln.

Arnold introduced a Congressional bill in March 1862 prohibiting slavery in federal jurisdictions (Washington DC and the Florida Territory). Two years later, he introduced a resolution for amending the Constitution to prohibit slavery. It led to the 13th Amendment. Arnold was also the author of books and articles about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Included in his 1866 classic, *The History of Abraham Lincoln and the Overthrow of Slavery*, are kind and informative words about Frederick Douglass. He was not the only noted author who provided reflections about the African American statesman. Julia Griffith's text, *Autographs for Freedom*, included an essay and picture of the statesman.



Isaac N. Arnold

Source: Isaac Newton Arnold, *The Politics of Race and Class: Legacies and Visions*, Harry Bradshaw Matthews, USCT Institute, Hartwick College,



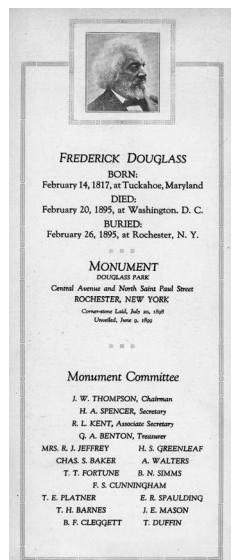
Noteworthy is that Douglass himself authored texts that left to history his own reflections. Two of his more important books were:

Douglass, Frederick. *My Bondage and My Freedom*. New York: Miller, Orton & Mulligan, 1855.

Douglass, Frederick. *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. Hartford, CT: Park Publishing Co., 1882.

Another important text about the life and memorial of statesman was *An Authentic History of the Douglass Monument: Biographical Facts and Incidents of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, by J. W. Thompson in 1903. A first edition of the book, as well as the monument dedication card of 1899, is preserved in the privately own Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

While Frederick Douglass and some of his contemporaries continue to be honored by the mainstream population, there are so many others whose names and deeds are hardly known. Yet, they provided the continuum of success that made the Freedom Journey possible. Below are some of those heroes and heroines whose deeds are preserved in the Matthews Collection.



Source: Frederick Douglass Monument Memorial Card, Rochester, NY, 1899
Courtesy: The Matthews Collection

Northup, Solomon. *Twelve Years A Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup, A Citizen of New York Kidnapped in Washington City in 1841, and Rescued in 1853*. Auburn, NY: Derby and Miller, 1853.

Beard, John R. *The Life of Toussaint L'Ouverture: The Negro Patriot of Hayti*. London: Ingram, Cooke, and Co., 1853.

Brown, William Wells. *The Black Man, His Antecedents, His Genius, and His Achievements*. Boston: James Redpath, 1863.

Brown, William Wells. *The Rising Son, or the Antecedents and Advancement of the Colored Race*. Boston: A.G. Brown, 1882.

Cooly, Timothy Mathers. *Sketches of the Life and Character of the Rev. Lemuel Haynes*, A.M. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1837.

Eddy, A.D. *The Life of Jacob Hodges, An African Negro, Who Died in Canandaugua, N.Y., Feb., 1842*. Philadelphia: American Sunday-School Union, 1842.

Eliot, William G. *The Story of Archer Alexander: From Slavery to Freedom March 30, 1863*. Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co., 1885.

Giddings, Joshua R. *The Exiles of Florida*. Columbus, OH: Follett, Foster & Co., 1858. (2)

Gregoire, H. *An Enquiry Concerning the Intellectual and Moral Faculties, and Literature of Negroes; Followed with an Account of the Life and Works of Fifteen Negroes and Mulattoes, Distinguished in Science, Literature and the Arts*. Brooklyn: Thomas Kirk, 1810.

Guthrie, James M. *Camp-Fires of the Afro-American or the Colored Man as a Patriot*. Cincinnati: W.H. Ferguson Co., 1899.

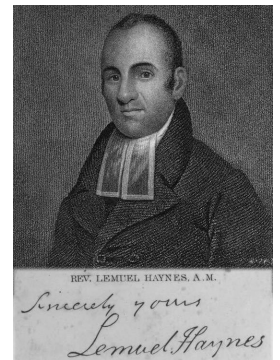
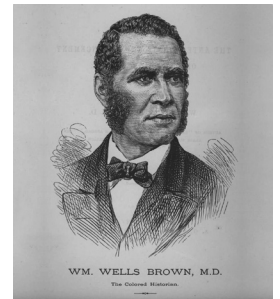
Harper, Frances E.W. *Iola Leroy or Shadows Uplifted*. Boston: James H. Early Publisher, 1892. (A novel).

Henson, Josiah. *An Autobiography of the Rev. Josiah Henson ("Uncle Tom") From 1789 to 1881*. London: Christian Age Office, 1881.

Henson, Josiah. *Father Henson's Story of His Own Life: Truth Stranger than Fiction with introduction by Mrs. H.B. Stowe*. Cleveland: John P. Jewett and Co., 1858.

Kmanyo. Philadelphia: American Sunday-School Union, 1850.

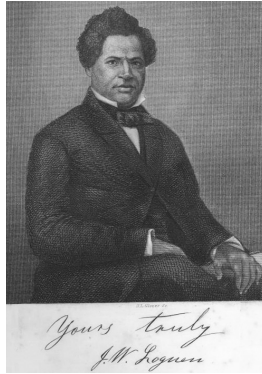
Langston, John Mercer. *From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capitol*. Hartford: American Publishing Co., 1894.



Douglass Bicentennial

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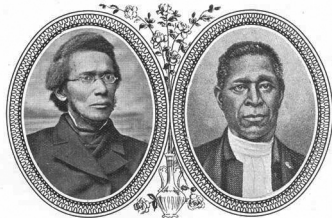
Loguen, J.W. *The Rev. J.W. Loguen, As a Slave and As a Freeman: A Narrative of Life.* Syracuse, NY: J.G.K. Truair and Co., 1859.



Ludlow Helen W. and Mrs. M.F. Armstrong. *Hampton and Its Students.* New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1875.

Payne, Daniel Alexander. *History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.* Nashville, TN: Publishing House of the A.M.E. Sunday-School Union, 1891.

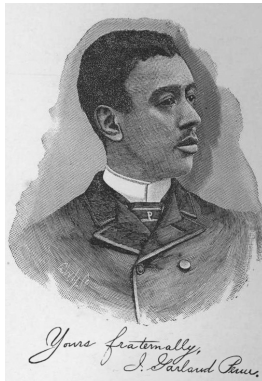
(Includes portrait and signature of Bishop Richard Allen, Rev. Daniel Coker, Rev. Morris Brown, Rt. Rev. William Paul Brown, Senior Bishop 1848-1873).



Bishop Daniel A. Payne and Bishop Willis Nazrey

Penn, I. Garland. *The Afro-American Press and Its Editors.* Springfield, MA: Willey & Co., 1891.

Penn, I. Garland. *The United Negro: His Problems and His Progress.* Atlanta, GA: D.E. Luther Publishing Co., 1902. (Containing the addresses and proceedings of the Negro Young People's Christian and Educational Congress, held August 6-11, 1902).



Prince, Nancy. *A Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince.* Boston: Nancy Prince, 1856.

"The Religious Life of the Negro Slave," "The Indian Massacres and War of 1862."

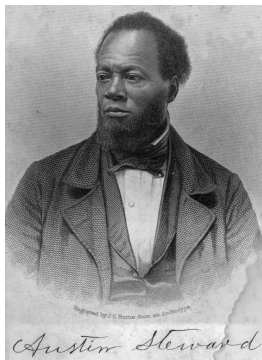
Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Vol. 27, June to November 1863.

Rollin, Frank A. *Life and Public Services of Martin R. Delany.* Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1883.

Services of Martin R. Delany. Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1883.

Simmons, William J. *Men of Mark: Eminent, Progressive and Rising.* Cleveland: G.M. Rewell & Co., 1887.

Steward, Austin. *Twenty-Two Years A Slave, and Forty Years a Freeman.* Rochester: Allings & Cory, 1861.



Still, William. *The Underground Railroad.* Philadelphia: People's Publishing Co., 1878.

Washington, Booker T. *Story of My Life and Work.* Atlanta: J.L. Nichols and Co., 1901.

Wright, A. Minott. *Three Months with the New York Herald.* New York: William Beverley Harrison, 1891.

Wyman, Lillie B. Chace. "Harriet Tubman," *New England Magazine*, March, 1896.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Dred: A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp.* Vol. 1 & 2. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co., 1856.

A Chronology of Events and Persons in the Freedom Journey Slave Revolts and Uprisings

1739 - Stono Rebellion in South Carolina (sometimes called Gato's Conspiracy or Cato's Rebellion) was a slave rebellion led by the Angolan named Jemmy that began on 9 September. It was the largest slave uprising in the British mainland colonies, with 42-47 whites and 44 blacks killed.

1741 - Quack (Quaco) was convicted of leading the Negro Plot or slave insurrection in New York.

1800 - Gabriel Prosser was the leader of an unsuccessful slave revolt in Richmond, Virginia. in 1800. He was influenced by the Haitian Revolution.

1811 - Charles Deslondes, a mulatto slave driver on the Andry sugar plantation in the German Coast area of Louisiana, led the largest slave revolt in American history (influenced by the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804)).

1818 - Richland County, SC. Slave owner Jacob Killingsworth, "poor, infirm and weak in body," lost his only slave, Frank, on 24 February 1815, when the black man was publicly executed for burning a barn. Killingsworth seeks compensation to support his young, large, and helpless family; *Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks: 1777-1867*, Loren Schwenger.

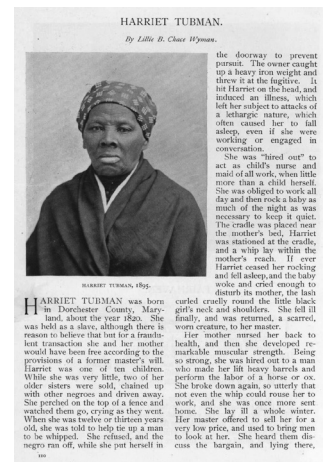
The Killingsworth family's enslavement of five Africans is exposed in a will of 1762 that included Jacob, Jesse, William, Jr., as well as the names of enslaved Africans, who at that time did not include Frank.

1817-18 - Escaped slaves (called maroons) from South Carolina escaped to Florida and were called Seminoles. They were also called Gullahs and joined with other Indian to be collectively called Seminoles. They supported Spanish Florida. They believed in maternal lines.

1831 - Nat Turner was an enslaved African American who led a rebellion of slaves and free blacks in Southampton County, VA, on August 21, 1831, which resulted in the deaths of 55 to 65 white people.

1839 - Joseph Cinque of the Mende tribe on July 2 led a revolt by the enslaved Africans aboard the *Amistad*, a slave schooner. A court case followed in Connecticut.

1841—Madison Washington led a slave revolt on board the brig Creole as it was heading from Virginia to New Orleans to sell slaves. During the revolt, Washington learned that his slave wife was also on the ship. The



HARRIET TUBMAN was born in Dorchester County, Maryland, about the year 1820. She was held as a slave, although there is reason to believe that but for a transaction she and her mother would have been free according to the provisions of a former master's will. Harriet was one of ten children. While she was very little, two of her older sisters were sold, chained up with other negroes and driven away. She perched on the top of a fence and watched them go, crying as they went. When she was twelve or thirteen years old, she was sold to help tie up a man to be whipped. She refused, and the negro ran off, while she put herself in



Harriet Beecher Stowe

ship was redirected to the black colony of Nassau, The Bahamas. Once it anchored in port, the black people along the shore rushed out in small boats and rescued the slaves.

1851 – William Parker was among a group of African American and white abolitionists who engaged in what has been described as the Christiana Riot (PA) when they fought to defend an escaped slave from Maryland.

Revolutionary War

1775 – England's representative in the Virginia Colony, Lord Dunmore, issued a proclamation that promised freedom to any slave that fought for the defense of the Virginia Colony under British rule. The offer was soon repeated to slaves in other colonies.

1781 – "In New York any slave who serves 3 years or to the ending of the war will be deemed a free man."

1782 – The provisional agreement of November 30 revealed that all slaves who were with the British at the time of the treaty were to be considered free.

With the final treaty in 1783, 3,000 men, women, and children departed with the British from NY; 4,000 left from Savannah, GA; 6,000 from Charleston, SC; and others went to the West Indies.

Historians estimated that 5,000 black men, slave and free, served with the Continental forces; only some of the slaves gained their freedom.

1783-84 – During the American Revolutionary period, the population of The Bahamas increased from 4,058 during 1783-84 to about 11,000 by 1789. The increase in population resulted from the relocation of 6,000 Loyalist and their slaves. The pre-war ratio increased with black to white inhabitants rising to two to one.

1783 – Nova Scotia became the home of approximately 3,000 people of African descent from Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland and South Carolina. They arrived as British Loyalists from between April and November.

Genealogy of Revolution: The African American Infrastructure

1773 – 1790 – Silver Bluff Baptist Church (GA) and six other Baptist Churches were established in the South.

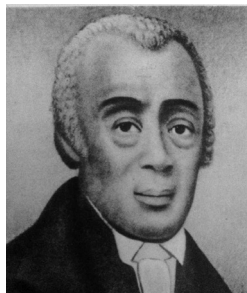
1787 – 1827 – Prince Hall Masons established.

1787 – Absalom Jones, African Free Society founder with Richard Allen; ordained by Episcopal Church in 1804.

1794-1816 – Richard Allen, AME; joined Absalom Jones as leaders of the Prince Hall Masons in Philadelphia.

1796 -1820 – James Varick, founder of the AME Zion Church.

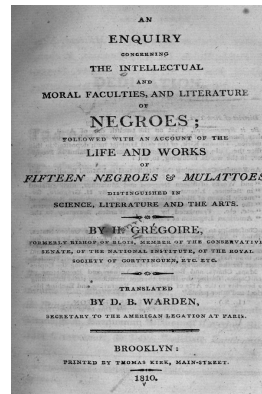
1803 – 1820 – Haitian Revolution, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jean-Jacque Dessaline, and King Henri Christophe; the American, Prince Saunders, helped established school system in Haiti.



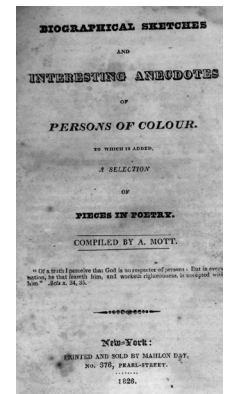
Richard Allen

Early Writings About Achievers of African Descent

These early writings exposed the hypocrisy about the enslavement of Africans under the pretense of their inferiority.



1810



1826

1724 – Thomas Fuller – the human mathematical calculator arrived to Alexandria, Virginia from Benin or Liberia.

1772 – Phillis Wheatley published a volume of poetry in Massachusetts.

1788 – James Derham, originally a slave at Philadelphia, who at the age of 21 became the most distinguished physician at New Orleans.

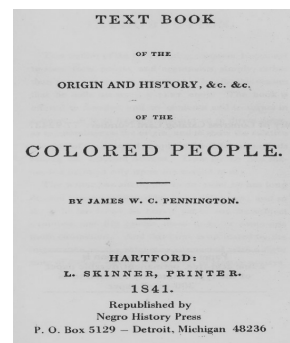
1794/95 – Benjamin Banneker who was born in Maryland, published in Philadelphia an almanac that described the motion and positions of the sun, the moon and planets. He sent a letter criticizing Thomas Jefferson's proslavery positions. He was also active as a Prince Hall Mason.

1827 – *Freedom Journal* newspaper established.

1829 – 1830 – *David Walker's Appeal* was published; Maria Stewart was his protégé.

1830 – Colored Men Conventions Began

1840 – Upper Conference of the AME Church established in Toronto by Rt. Rev. Morris Brown.



The Freedom Journey Led by the Classical 15 and Others

1804 – Rev. Lemuel Haynes was a veteran of the Revolutionary War; he was awarded an honorary masters of arts degree from Middlebury College.

1823 – Alexander Lucius Twilight graduated from Middlebury College.

Douglass Bicentennial

Continued from page 5

1826 – Ernest Jones graduated from Amherst College.

1826 – John Brown Russwurm graduated from Bowdoin College; he was the co-founder of the *Freedom Journal* in 1827.

1828 – Edward Mitchell graduated from Dartmouth College.

1829 – Rev. Theodore S. Wright graduated from the Princeton Theological Seminary.

1832 – Martin Delany enrolled at Jefferson College in Pittsburgh, PA.

1834 – James W.C. Pennington enrolled at Yale University; in 1849 he received an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University.

1836 – Isaiah G. DeGrasse graduated from Newark College (University of Delaware).

1837 – Jermain Loguen enrolled at Oneida Institute, Whitesboro, NY (for two years).

1837 – James McCune Smith graduated with a medical degree from the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

1837 – Daniel Alexander Payne graduated from the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary.

1839 – Henry Highland Garnet graduated from the Oneida Institute, Whitesboro, NY.

1843 – Mary Elizabeth Miles graduated from Massachusetts State Normal School (now Framingham State College).

1849 – Martin Freeman graduated from Middlebury College; he became a college professor at Allegheny Institute.

– Charles L. Reason named a professor at the mix- race college named New York Central College.

1851 – North American Convention of Colored Freeman held in Toronto.

– Harriet Tubman visited St. Catharines, Canada where she met AME Rev. Alexander Hemsley, who in 1837 had fled to Otsego County, NY, before continuing his journey to freedom in St. Catharines.

– Rev. Jermain Loguen of Syracuse, NY, fled to St. Catharines after the Jerry Rescue.

– Mary Elizabeth Miles relocated to Windsor, Canada West with her husband Henry Bibbs. The couple published *Voice of the Fugitive*, the first black owned newspaper in Canada.

1852 – Professor Freeman awarded an honorary master's degree from Middlebury College.

1853 – Alexander Crummell graduated from Cambridge University, UK.; he became an Episcopal Priest.

– Mary Ann Shadd published *The Provincial Freeman* to encourage emigration to Canada West. She located to Chatham (near Buxton) in 1855.

1856 – The B.M.E. was formally established in Chatham having separated from the A.M.E. Church; first Conference held in Toronto, Bishop Willis Nazrey presiding, with A.M.E. Bishop Daniel A. Payne present.

Benjamin Drew, a white American abolitionist, wrote *North-Side of Slavery: The Refugee or the Narratives of Fugitive slaves in Canada*, which provided first-hand accounts of more than 100 refugees of American slavery. Harriet Tubman's story and that of Rev. Alexander Hemsley were included.

Early Black Newspapers

1827 – *Freedom Journal*, NY

1828 - *Rights of All*, NY

1837 – *Colored American*, NY

1838 – *National Reformer*, PA

1841 – *AME Church Magazine*

1842 – *The Elevator*, 1842

1842 – *The National Watchman*, Troy, NY

1843 – *The Mystery*, Pittsburgh, PA

1840s – *Northern Star and Freeman's Advocate*, Stephen Myers, Albany, NY

1851 – *Bibb's Voice of the Fugitive*, Henry & Mary Bibb, Windsor, Canada West

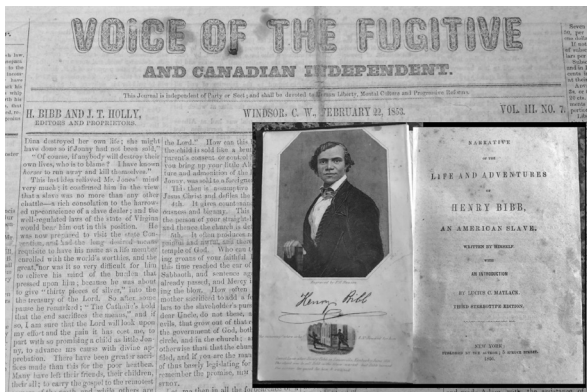
1853 – *Provincial Freeman*, Mary Ann Shadd, Toronto, Chatham, Canada

Harriet Tubman Scholars Continue Family Research Connecting to the Freedom Journey

As we honor Frederick Douglass and his contemporaries let us not forget to commend young descendants of the Freedom Journey who are documenting their family links to the past.

On October 20 and 21, 2017, Hartwick College welcomed 40 participants for the annual United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research (USCTI) Student Mini-Conference. The event honored the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Church Creek, MD, and the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, NY. Both sites were opened to the public by the National Park Service in March 2017.

For the members of the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project (HTMP) at Hartwick College – the student chapter of the USCTI – making an annual



journey to Tubman's home and gravesite has been a priority since 2007. The students commit themselves to local history and family research in honor of Tubman.

The HTMP was organized by Harry Bradshaw Matthews, associate dean and director of the Office of Intercultural Affairs and founding president of the USCTI. Over the years, the HTMP has assisted Matthews in documenting the Upper Susquehanna connection to the Underground Railroad, and placing members' ancestors within historical context of the broader Freedom Journey.

"The USCTI's focus on local history and family research continues to blossom, with 50 students engaged in personal family research and/or local anti-slavery efforts during 2016-17," Matthews said. "Eight of these students have completed the highest level of research and qualified for recognition at this year's mini-conference."

The conference began Friday evening with a dinner, at which USCTI members, its Alumni Advisory Council, and Harriet Tubman Mentors were introduced. Saturday's morning session highlighted presentations of family and historical research conducted by Harriet Tubman Mentors and USCTI alumni. Recipients of this year's American Society of Freedmen Descendants (ASFD) Gold Medal were also introduced.

The cornerstone of the mini-conference was again presentations of research by USCTI and HTMP members who have documented evidence of a military ancestor who was enlisted during any of the conflicts between the Civil War and Korean War. Further, these ancestors also have a confirmed connection to the African-American Freedom Journey of the 1870s and 1880s.

For the first time, most of the presentations on Saturday were made by students, eight of whom have produced research that qualifies for the USCTI's ASFD Gold Medal.

Special inclusions for honor this year included research done by two students. One documented her lineage to the famed Pullman Porters following the Civil War. Pullman Porters were African Americans (mostly former slaves) who attended to sleeper cars on railroad lines. The Porters' travels enabled them to learn of opportunities in the North, and contacts they made were used to support the Underground Railroad that assisted Freedmen with escape from the harsh South following the Civil War.

Another student traced her lineage to a Civil War ancestor who served with Company H, 13th Virginia Cavalry, Confederate States of America, during and after the Battle of Gettysburg.

"It is humbling to watch the growth of the student researchers as they expand their oral histories into documented results using a rubric to substantiate their research skills," said Matthews.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to the Harriet Tubman and Freedom Journey exhibit that was opened for public viewing from 3 - 4 p.m. in the Celebration Room, Shineman Chapel House, on the College campus. The exhibit highlighted reproduction paintings of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, and other items about early African-Americans, including notable personalities along the Susquehanna River.

"We now have a pre-Civil War book that identifies an escaped slave, Rev. Alexander Hemsley, who made his way via the Underground Railroad to Otsego County in 1837," Matthews said about the ongoing discovery of information relating the Underground Railroad with the Southern Tier of

New York State. "This book, along with an 1838 article from *The Colored American* newspaper, identified in coded words that Otsego County Presbyterians were involved with assisting runaway slaves from the South."

Hemsley would eventually move on to St. Catharines, Ontario, Matthews noted, where he joined the same African Methodist Episcopal Church that embraced Harriet Tubman. And as late as 1860, a family of escaped slaves reached safety in Oneonta.

Joining the presentations and discussions on Saturday were Randolph Johnson, a USCTI member from Oneonta, and descendant of the first African-American graduate from Syracuse University School of Law. He, along with eight Hartwick College student researchers, received ASFD Gold Medals. The students were D'Asia Brockington '19, Hampton, VA; Aliyah Bridgett '19, Leeds, NY; Elektra Hoyoun '18, Jamaica, NY; Destiny John '20, Far Rockaway, NY; Amber Lawson '19, Harlem, NY; Ashantai McCain '20, Brooklyn, NY; Kayla Martinez '18, Colonie, NY; and Symphany Rochford '18, Brooklyn, NY.

In recognition of Tubman's transnational relationships with sites in the United States and Canada, Matthews has prepared two booklets focused on history and genealogy in the United States and the Caribbean that were given as gifts to the student presenters.

Darlene Colón, vice president and senior Fellow of the USCT from Lancaster, PA, facilitated the luncheon discussion, "Should the USCTI expand its focus to include greater recognition of the broader Freedom Journey?" A resolution was passed by the participants calling for the USCTI to expand its focus to include women in the military.

Matthews also share his own family research, which recently connected a maternal DNA sample to the Fulani people of Africa's Sahel belt, which extends from Senegal to Ethiopia. In addition, he shared the story of a relative, Private Frederick Douglass Killingsworth of WWII, who received a Purple Heart for bravery as a member of the 365th Infantry of the 92nd (Buffalo Soldiers) Division. He was the father of Ronald Killingsworth of Denmark, South Carolina.

The soldiers and Pullman Porter who were honored this year with ASFD Gold Medal for outstanding family research are: Servant Sandy Spratley of Co. H, 13th VA Cavalry, Confederate States of America; Private Willie McCain of WWI; MM. William H. Edlow of the U.S. Merchant Marines, WWII; Private Mark Adams, Sr., of WWII; Private Samuel M. Boddie of WWII; Private Frederick Douglass Killingsworth of the 365th Infantry, 92nd Buffalo Division, WWII; Private Archie Hawkins of WWII; Private Herbert A. Johnson of WWII; Private Rosario Sole, Jr. of WWII; Private John A. Bridgett of the 45th Division, Korean War; and John E. Scott of WWI, and the Pullman Porters following the Civil War.

The USCTI was established in 1998 as an outcome of the academic year's "United States Colored Troops Symposium of Delaware and Otsego Counties 1997-98" that was held at the College and SUNY-Oneonta. Since then, the USCTI has emerged as a national and international resource for the study of the 200,000 black soldiers and their 7,000 white officers of the Civil War. The Institute's focus has since expanded to all military conflicts from the Revolutionary War through the Korean War. In the 19 years since he founded it, Matthews and the USCTI have received numerous regional and national recognitions.



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To become a member of the United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research at Hartwick College, please contact Harry Bradshaw Matthews, 410 Dewar Union, Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York 13820.

