

"The Lion of Anacostia"

February 2018 marked 200 years since the birth of Frederick Douglass as recognized by the National Park Service. Born enslaved, he sought freedom and, against all odds, rose to a life of honor by becoming a statesman, journalist, activist, hero, and so much more.

In this exhibit of philatelic material, mostly covers, you will notice that some of the material has 2017 as Frederick Douglass' birth year. Other than that, this is not meant to be a strict chronology of Frederick Douglass' life. It is more a collection of narratives that relate the material to the man. Perhaps, you will learn something new or be inspired or will reevaluate how you think about race, democracy, and the meaning of freedom. Frederick Douglass understood that the struggle for equality demanded forceful, persistent, and unyielding agitation, and he made a career of agitating the American conscience. Say his name. Agitate!

Exhibit by Don Neal

Frederick Douglass' Family



ANNA MURRAY DOUGLASS

Anna Murray was born free in Denton, Maryland, around 1813. As a young woman, she moved to Baltimore, where she met and helped a young man named Frederick Bailey escape from slavery in 1838. After Frederick escaped to New York City, Anna joined him there, and they married on September 15, 1838, just eleven days after Douglass had arrived. At first they adopted "Johnson" as their married name, to divert attention. They decided to move to Massachusetts, where they adopted the last name "Douglass" and began their family. Anna supported Frederick's public career and participated in anti-slavery activities, even opening their home to fugitives on the Underground Railroad when they lived in Rochester, New York. She and Frederick remained married for 44 years until her death from a stroke in 1882. The couple had five children: Rosetta Douglass, Lewis Henry Douglass, Frederick Douglass Jr., Charles Redmond Douglass, and Annie Douglass (died at the age of ten).



Charles Redman Douglass, son



Lewis H. Douglass, son



Frederick Douglass Jr., son

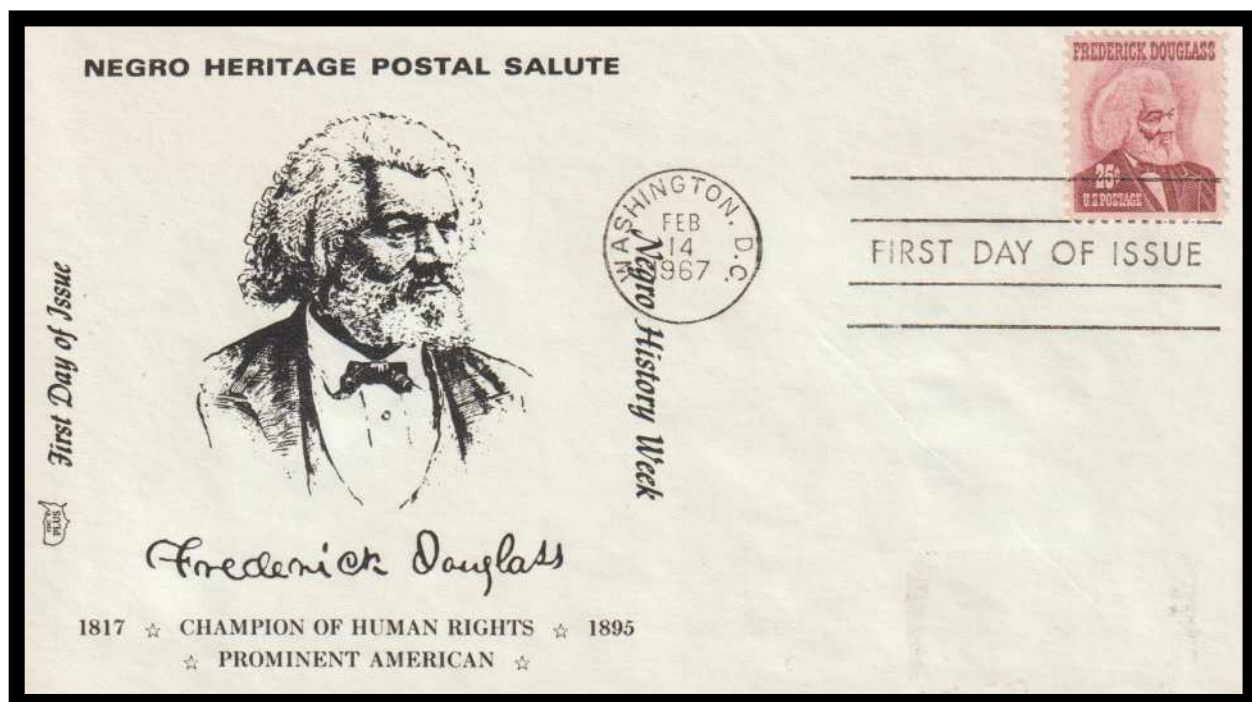


Rosetta Douglass, daughter

HELEN PITTS DOUGLASS

Helen Pitts was born into an abolitionist family in Honeoye, New York, in 1838. She worked for racial equality and women's rights, eventually finding employment as a clerk in Frederick Douglass' office in the 1880s. Helen and Frederick married in 1884, after Anna's death. The marriage stirred controversy, as Helen was White and twenty years younger than Frederick. Her family stopped speaking to her; his children considered the marriage a repudiation of their mother. Douglass responded to the criticisms by saying that his first marriage had been to someone the color of his mother, and his second to someone the color of his father. But feminist Elizabeth Cady Stanton congratulated the couple. Part of their married life was spent abroad. They traveled to Europe and Africa in 1886-1887, and they took up temporary residence in Haiti during Douglass' service there in 1889-1891. When Frederick died in 1895, Helen devoted herself to making Cedar Hill a memorial to his life and legacy. In 1900, she founded the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association to carry on her preservation work, and in 1916, the association joined with the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., to continue to preserve the home and his memory. Helen died in 1903.

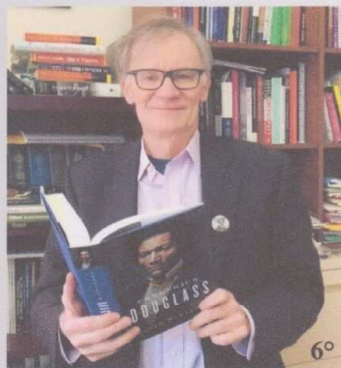
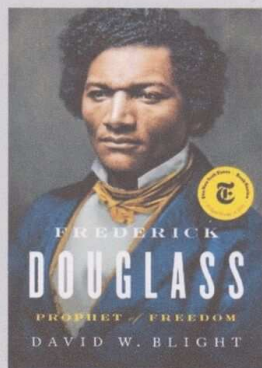




Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born into slavery to Harriet Bailey on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Talbot County, Maryland. Douglass stated: "I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it." However, based on the extant records of Douglass' former owner, Aaron Anthony, historian Dickson J. Preston determined that Frederick Douglass was born in February 1818. Although the exact date of his birth is unknown, Douglass chose to celebrate February 14 as his birthday, remembering that his mother called him her "Little Valentine." And so, the first Frederick Douglass stamp was issued on that date in 1967, what would have been his 149th birthday. The cover is a Negro Heritage Postal Salute from FDC Plus cachets. On February 7, 1926, Carter G. Woodson, initiated the first celebration of Negro History Week which is now known as Black History Month.



Frederick Douglass' birthplace was likely his maternal grandmother Betsy Bailey's cabin. After separation from his mother during infancy, young Frederick lived with Betsy Bailey, who also was a slave, and his maternal grandfather Isaac, who was free. Douglass' mother, who lived on a different plantation, died when he was a young child. He never discovered the identity of his father. At the age of six, Douglass was separated from his grandmother and sent to Wye House Plantation in Maryland. When he turned eight years old, his slaveowner hired him out as a body servant (valet) in Baltimore. At an early age, Douglass realized there was a connection between literacy and freedom. Not allowed to attend school, he taught himself to read and write. At twelve, he bought a book called *The Columbian Orator*. It was a collection of revolutionary speeches, debates, and writings on natural rights. Kolor Kover cachets (Perry J. Judelson & Jack Bessel) typically were printed on a cream, brown, or pink envelope.



David W. Blight

2019 Pulitzer Prize for History

The Pulitzer Prize was established in 1917 by Joseph Pulitzer and recognizes achievements in journalism, literature, drama, and music composition. The award is administered by Columbia University. On April 15, the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in History, with a \$15,000 cash prize, was awarded to David W. Blight for *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, "a breathtaking history that demonstrates the scope of Frederick Douglass' influence through deep research on his writings, his intellectual evolution, and his relationships." It is considered the definitive, dramatic biography of the most important African American of the nineteenth century: Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave who became the greatest orator of his day and one of the leading abolitionists and writers of the era. Blight is Class of 1954 Professor of American History and Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University. He is the author or editor of a dozen books and annotated editions of Douglass' first two autobiographies. He has worked on Douglass much of his professional life, and been awarded the Bancroft Prize, the Abraham Lincoln Prize, and the Frederick Douglass Prize, among others.

Frederick Douglass was of mixed race, which likely included Native American and African on his mother's side, as well as European. In contrast, his father was "almost certainly White," according to historian David W. Blight in his 2018 biography of Douglass, who wrote of his earliest times with his mother: "The opinion was...whispered that my master was my father; but of the correctness of this opinion I know nothing." Douglass said his mother Harriet Bailey gave him his name Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, and, after he escaped to the North in September 1838, changed his last name from Bailey to Johnson to Douglass, having already dropped his two middle names. The 6° Cachets by Don Neal cover recognizes David W. Blight's winning the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for History for his book *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*.

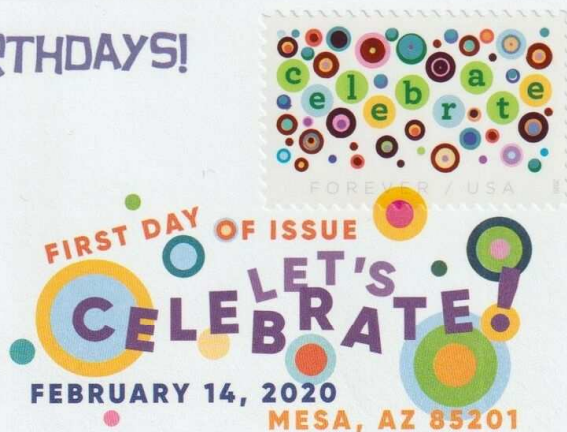
CELEBRATE FEBRUARY 14 BIRTHDAYS!

Richard Allen (February 14, 1760 – March 26, 1831) was a minister, an educator, a writer, and one of America's most active and influential Black leaders. In 1794, he founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first independent Black denomination in the United States.



Frederick Douglass (c. February 14, 1818 – February 20, 1895) was a social reformer, an abolitionist, an orator, a writer, and a statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, Douglass became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, gaining note for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings.

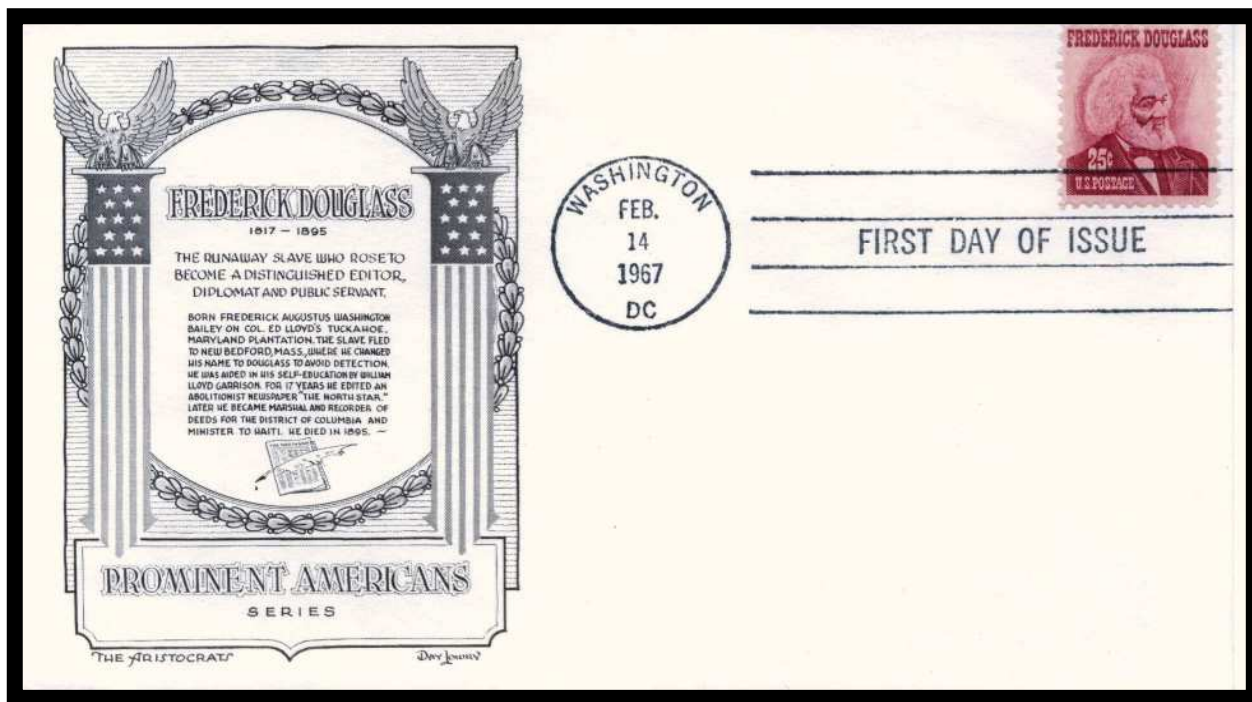
Gregory Hines (February 14, 1946 – August 9, 2003) was a choreographer, an actor, a singer, and one of the most celebrated tap dancers of all time. Hines starred in more than 40 films and also made his mark on Broadway. His accolades include a Daytime Emmy Award, a Drama Desk Award, and a Tony Award.



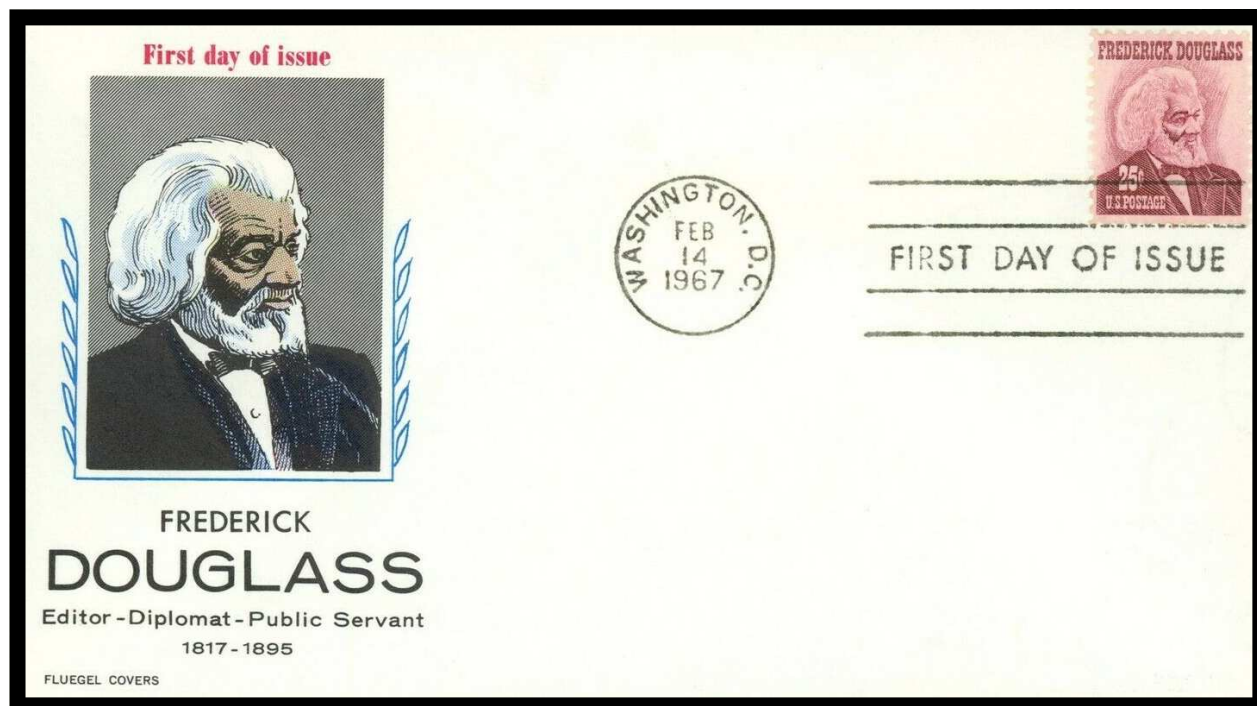
Born on February 14 makes one a Pisces, the twelfth astrological sign in the Zodiac. Pisces element is water. Pisces is ruled by the planet Neptune and carries the symbol of the fish. Pisces are highly creative and imaginative people. They are idealistic, compassionate, artistic, adaptive, sociable, and romantic.

6°

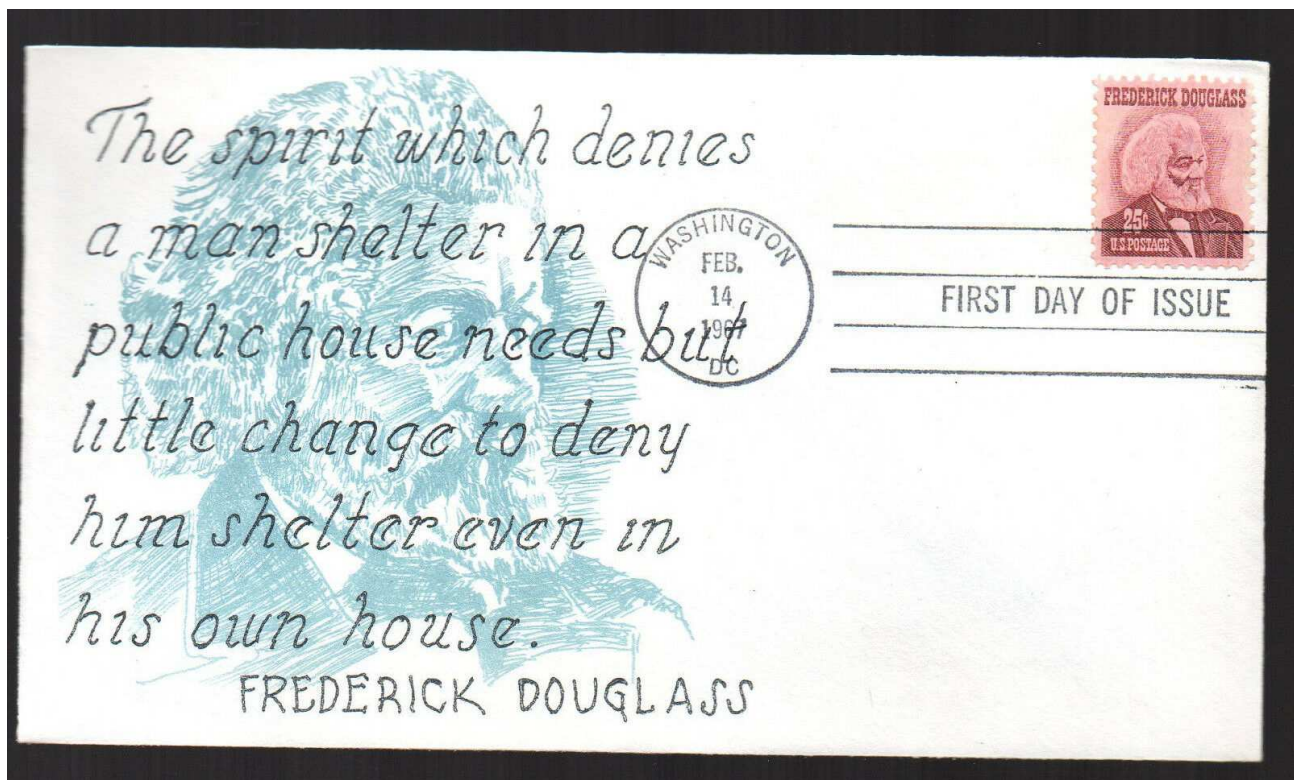
Several people have been born on February 14 (also known as Valentine's Day), and some of them have been honored on a stamp. Frederick Douglass is one of them, and actually he's been honored on two U.S. stamps. This 6° Cachets by Don Neal cover "celebrates" Douglass' birthday along with that of Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and celebrated tap dancer, Gregory Hines.



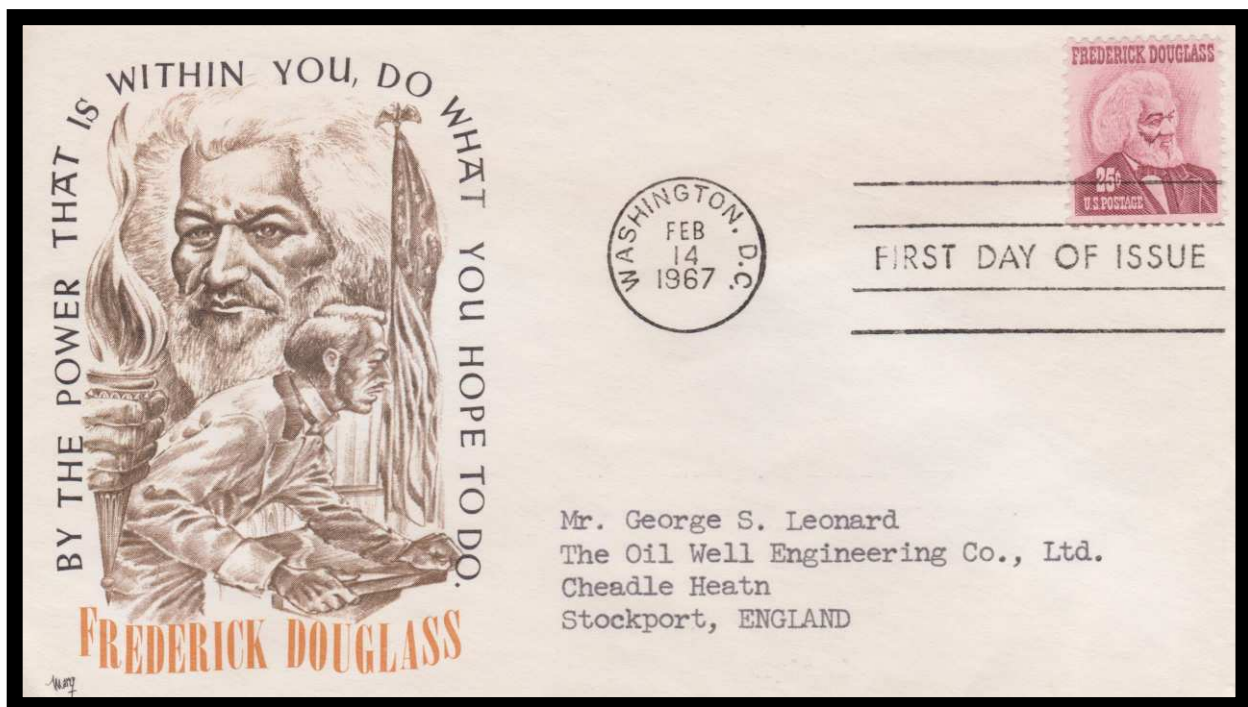
This cover is by The Aristocrats with an illustration by (Henry) Day Lowry, a 20th-century artist who was active/lived in Virginia. Frederick Douglass was a great statesman, and his speeches and writings focused on topics such as the slave trade, the Civil War, suffrage for African Americans, reconstruction in the South, and other vital issues. With the election of President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, Douglass was appointed marshal and recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. His appointment to this highly visible position marked the first time a Black man successfully received a federal appointment requiring Senate approval. Douglass' 1852 speech "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" is a must read.



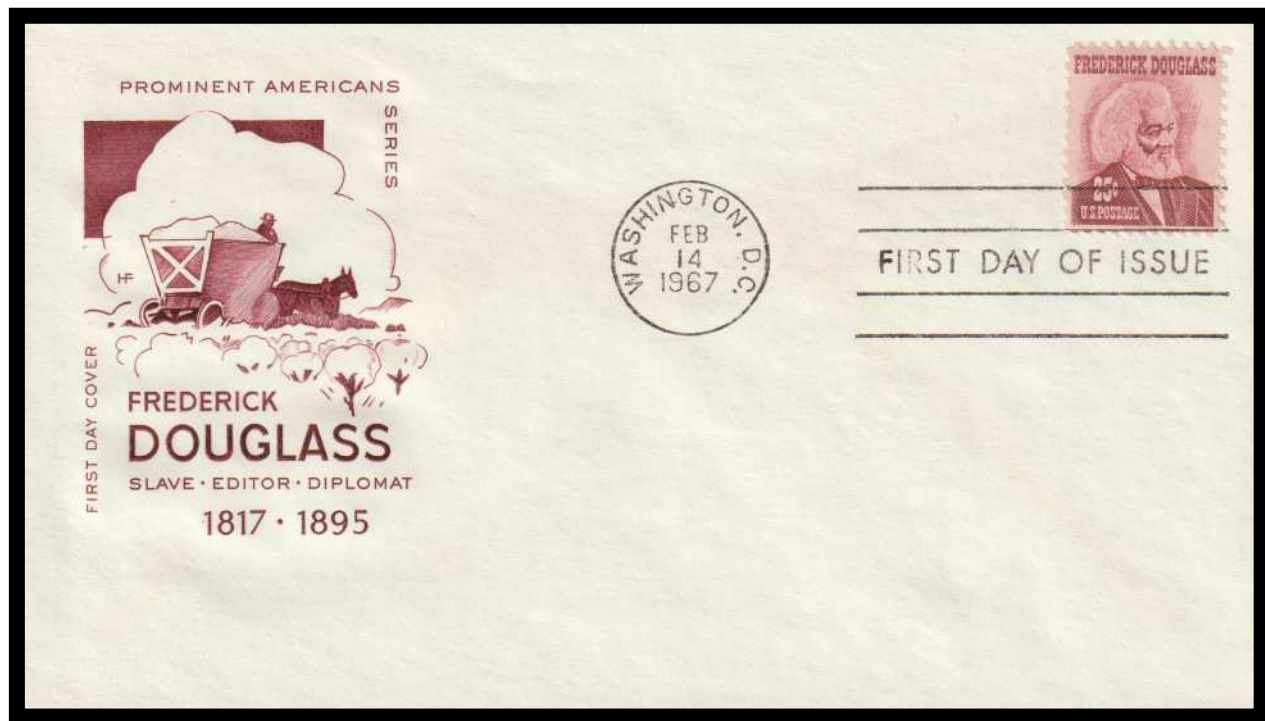
This Fluegel (for Captain Franz Herman, aka Herman F. Fluegel) first day cover commemorates Frederick Douglass for being an editor, diplomat, and public servant. Douglass started publishing his first abolitionist newspaper, the *North Star*, in Rochester, New York, on December 3, 1847. Its motto was "Right is of no Sex - Truth is of no Color - God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren." President Benjamin Harrison appointed Douglass as the United States' minister resident and consul-general to the Republic of Haiti and Chargé d'affaires for Santo Domingo in 1889. Douglass fought for the adoption of constitutional amendments that guaranteed voting rights and other civil liberties for Blacks. A powerful voice for human rights throughout much of the 19th century, Douglass remains highly respected today for his fight against racial injustice.



In Rochester, New York, in 1872, local hero of the anti-slavery movement, Frederick Douglass, had his South Avenue house burned down while he was out of town. Douglass immediately suspected White supremacists: "One thing I do know, and that is, while Rochester is among the most liberal of northern cities, and its people are among the most humane and highly cultivated, it nevertheless has its full share of that Ku Klux spirit which makes anything owned by a Colored man a little less respected and secure than when owned by a White citizen." Douglass arrived in Rochester at one o'clock in the night and not knowing where his family was, he applied for shelter at two of the nearest hotels and was at first refused by both, with the convenient excuse that "We are full," until it was known that his name was Frederick Douglass, when a room was readily offered. Douglass did not accept but made his way to the police headquarters where he made the statement on this cover which has a Virgil Crow cachet.



This Marg cachet features a quote. The original is "My boy, you say you see what ought to be done. Well, hoping will do no good, now or any time. There is only one way you can succeed, and that is to override the obstacles in your way. By the power that is within you, do what you hope to do." ~ Frederick Douglass to Dr. Daniel Hale Williams on a visit to Cedar Hill at Anacostia. According to Northwestern University, Frederick Douglass was a long-time friend of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams and offered him the preceding advice as Dr. Williams struggled to establish a career as a doctor in Chicago in the face of racial segregation. Dr. Williams went on to perform the first successful open-heart surgery in 1893.

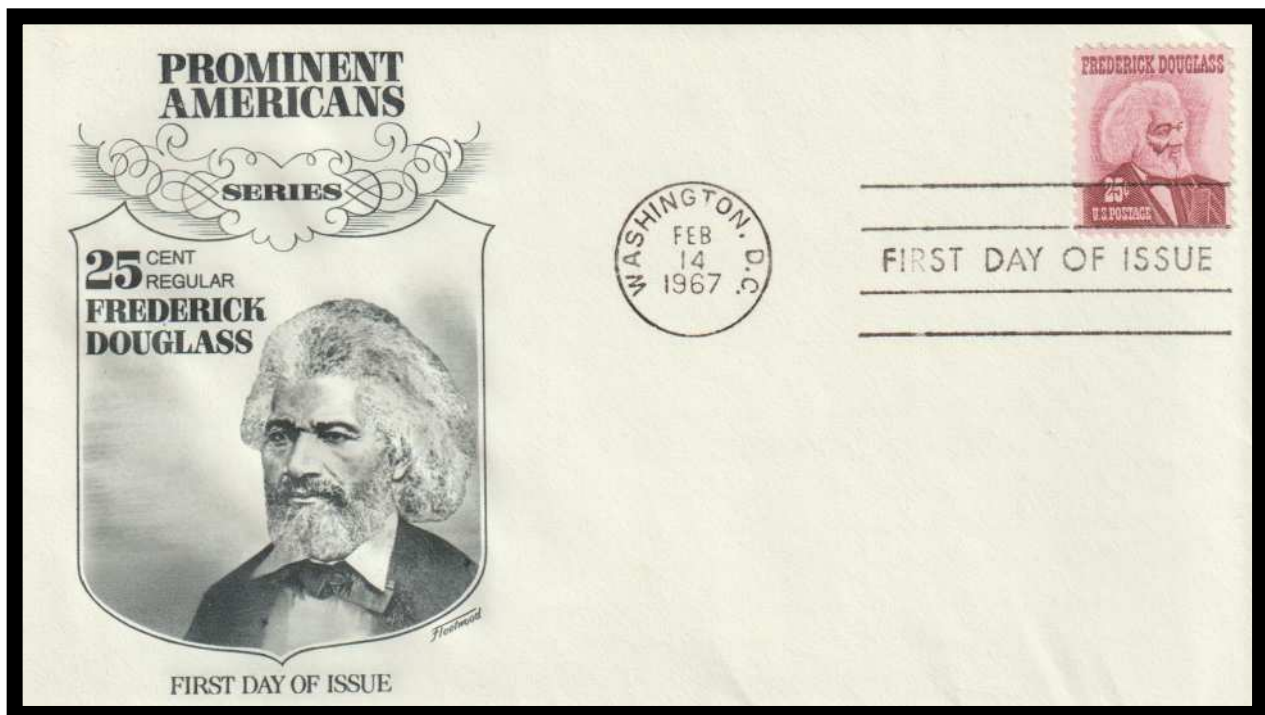


In April 1965, Postmaster General John A. Gronouski announced plans for a new series of definitive postage stamps, the Prominent Americans. The series would recognize men and women who made important contributions to the growth and development of America. Thirteen different individuals produced the diverse designs of the series which was introduced on November 10, 1965, with the issuance of the 4¢ Lincoln stamp. Frederick Douglass, the best known and most influential Black spokesman for the abolitionist movement in the 19th century, is the subject of the 25¢ stamp. Over the next nine years, a total of 25 stamp designs would be issued. The Prominent American stamps were in general use into the late 1970s while a few continued to be produced until the mid-1980s, gradually being replaced by the Great Americans Issue.

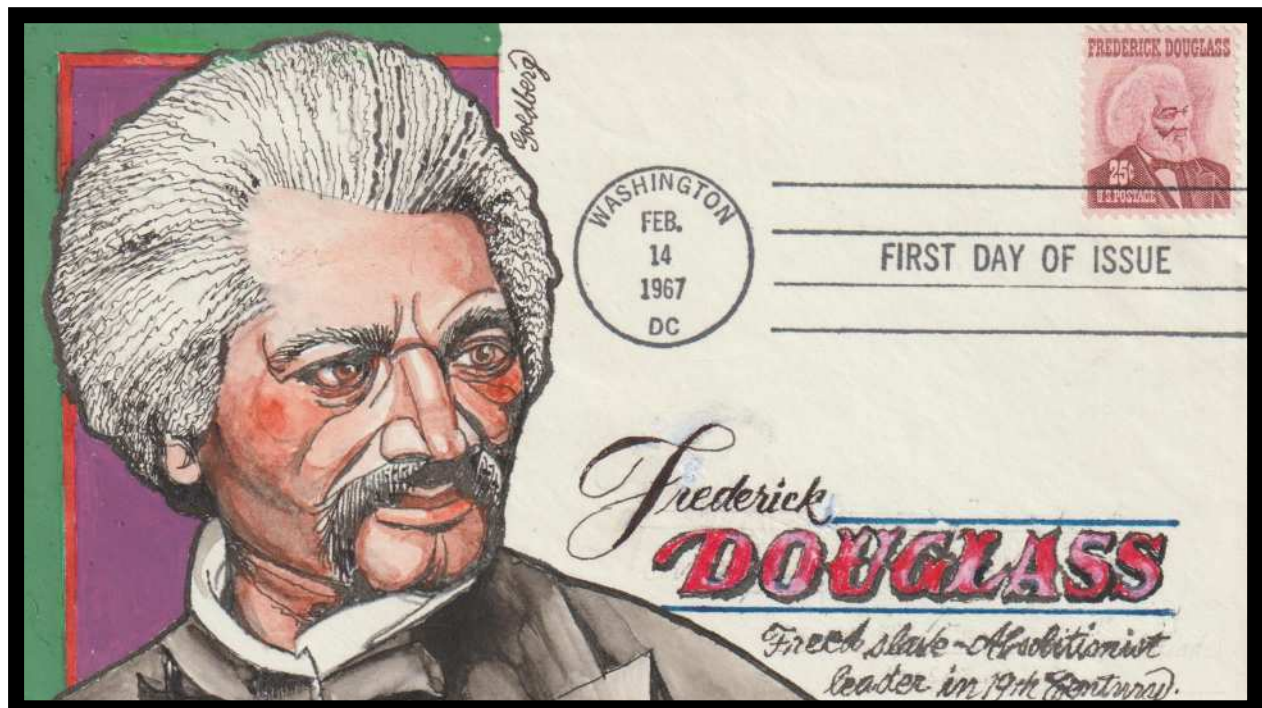
The 25¢ rose lake (shade) sheet stamp was printed from plates of four hundred and sold in panes of 100 stamps with gauge 11 x 10.5 perforations. The stamp also was printed as 'magenta' due to an inadequately cleaned ink fountain that had been used to produce the 15¢ Oliver Wendell Holmes magenta-colored stamp. The Frederick Douglass stamp was designed by Walter DuBois Richards, based on a photograph approved by Douglass' descendants. The above cover is by House of Farnam (HF).

The 25¢ stamp paid the foreign airmail letter rate to Asia, and later to North, Central, and South American. The stamp also paid the 25¢ Special Handling fee and was used extensively as multiples and with other denomination to pay existing postage rates. Note the Sydney backstamp.



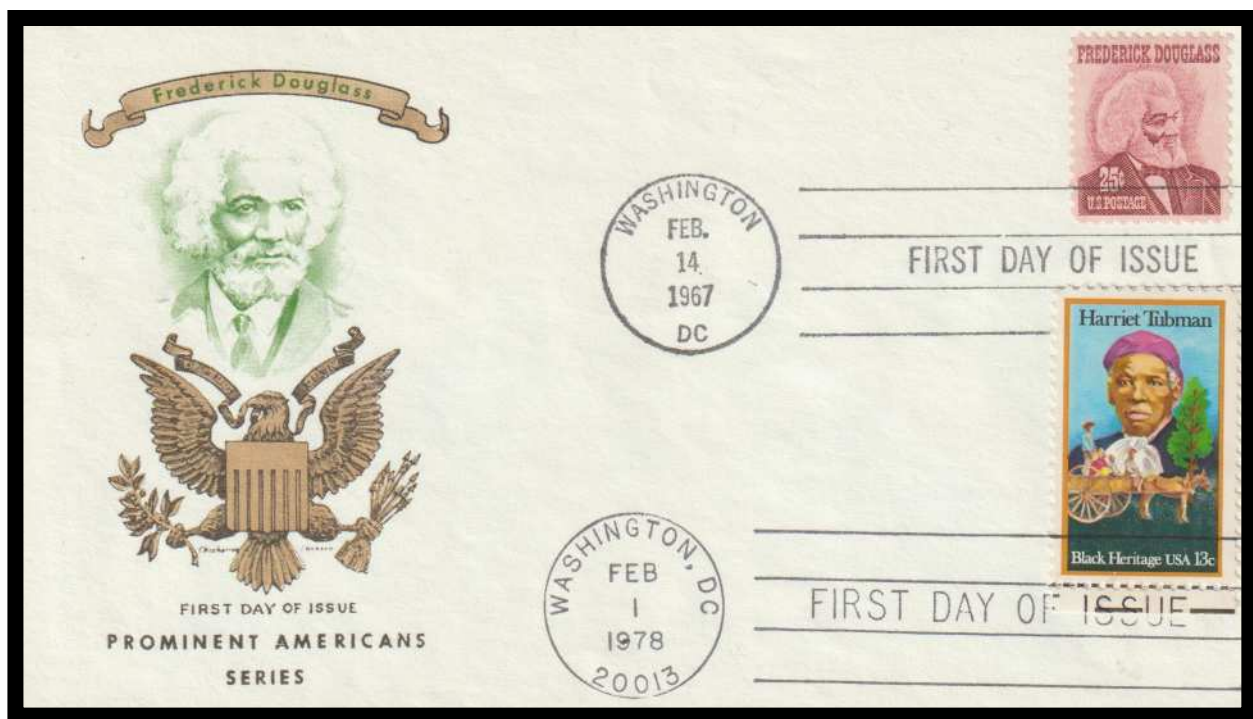


This is a Fleetwood cover. More photographs were taken of Douglass than of any other person in the 19th century; he was photographed 160 times. Douglass wrote three autobiographies, describing his experiences as a slave in his *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845), which became a bestseller and was influential in promoting the cause of abolition, as was his second book, *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855). Following the Civil War, Douglass was an active campaigner for the rights of freed slaves and wrote his last autobiography, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. First published in 1881 and revised in 1892, three years before his death, the book covers events both during and after the Civil War.

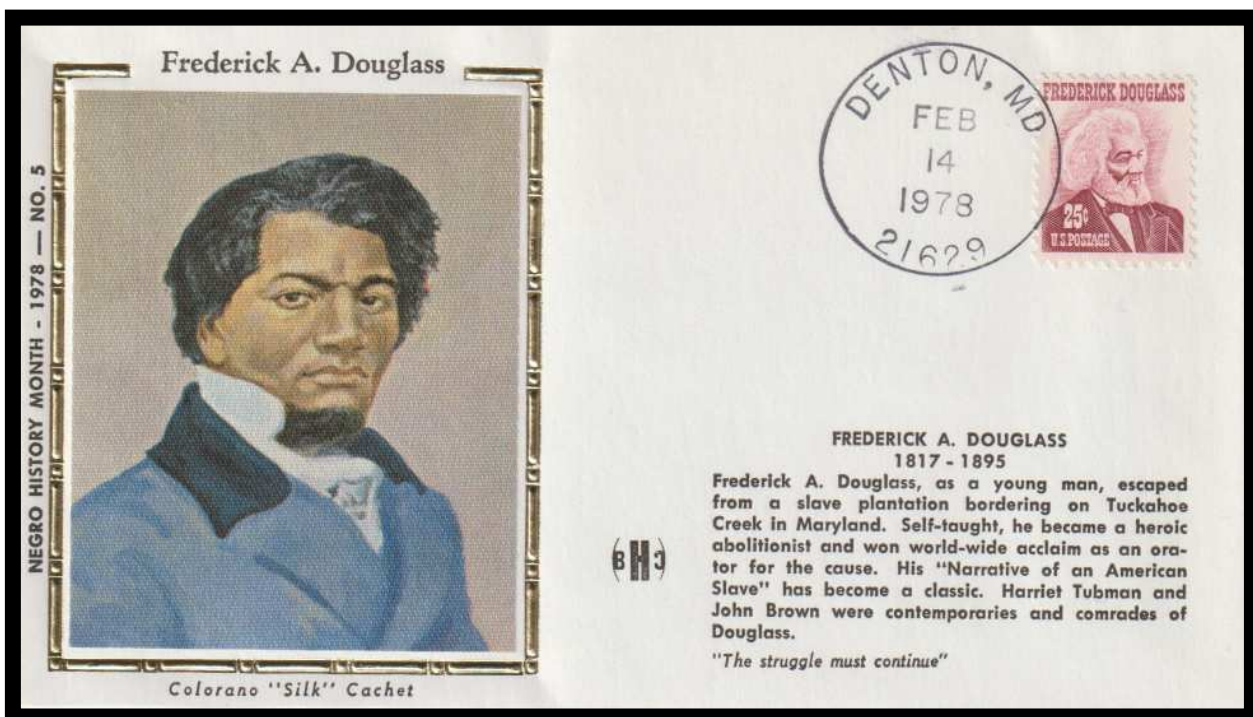


Without his permission, Frederick Douglass became the first African American nominated for Vice President of the United States in the 1872 election as the running mate of Victoria Woodhull, a leader of the women's suffrage movement, on the Equal Rights Party ticket.

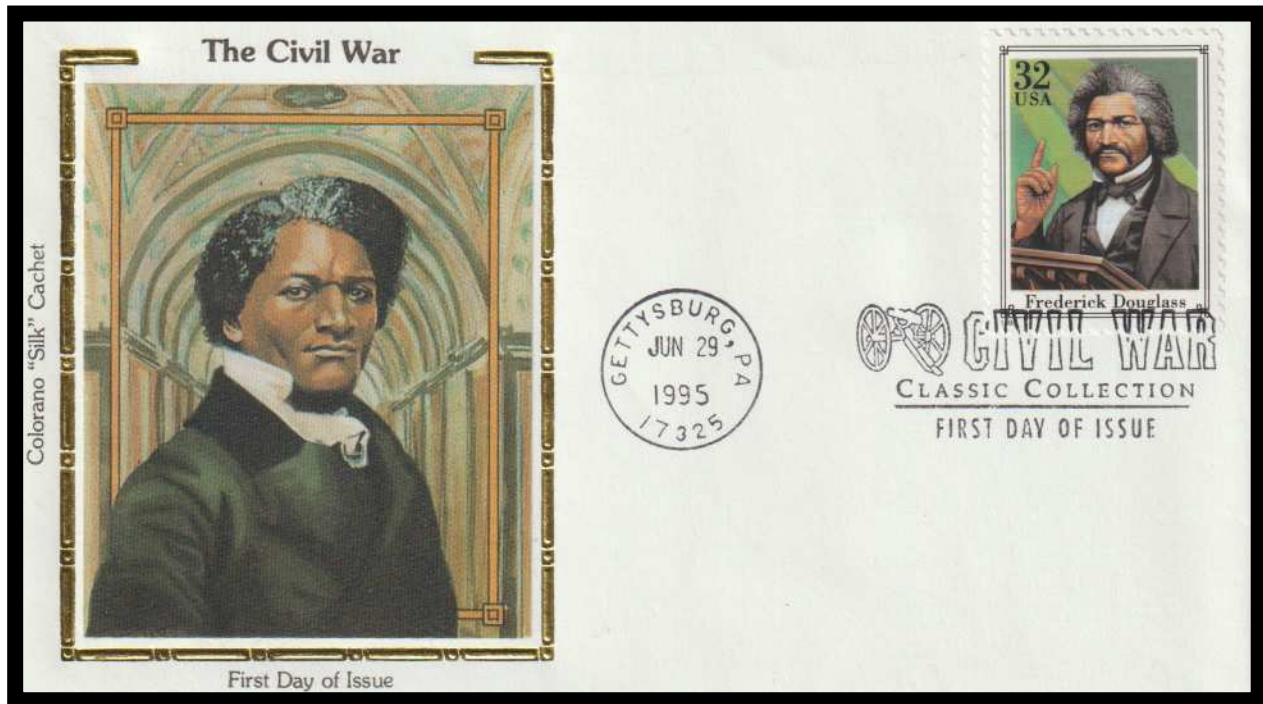
Most of Bernard Goldberg's (1917 - 2011) add-on cachets were hand drawn, hand painted, and the vast majority were one-of-a-kind. His regular line of covers were printed by thermography on a printing press in black and then hand colored in gouache colors. Goldberg began in the early 80s with his regular line and his add-ons were after that. He also did add-ons on covers that were serviced prior to when he started to produce cachets. Bernard Goldberg died in his early 90s. His covers are highly sought after.



This Chichering-Jackson cover is dual franked with a 25¢ Frederick Douglass stamp and a 13¢ Harriet Tubman stamp, each with its respective first day of issue Washington, D.C. postmark. Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman were the most eminent African-American figures of their time. The two were born four years apart and both knew what it was like to be enslaved. Both were born into slavery in Maryland, escaped to freedom, and did not turn their backs on others who were enslaved. They began their own personal crusades to free other slaves from being held in bondage. When a biography of Tubman, referred to as the "Moses of Her People," was written in 1868, Tubman asked Douglass for an endorsement. Douglass replied with a remarkable letter (in part): *"Dear Harriet...You ask for what you do not need when you call upon me for a word of commendation. I need such words from you far more than you can need them from me, especially where your superior labors and devotion to the cause of the lately enslaved of our land are known as I know them...It is to me a great pleasure and a great privilege to bear testimony for your character and your works and to say to those to whom you may come, that I regard you in every way truthful and trustworthy."* Your friend, Frederick Douglass



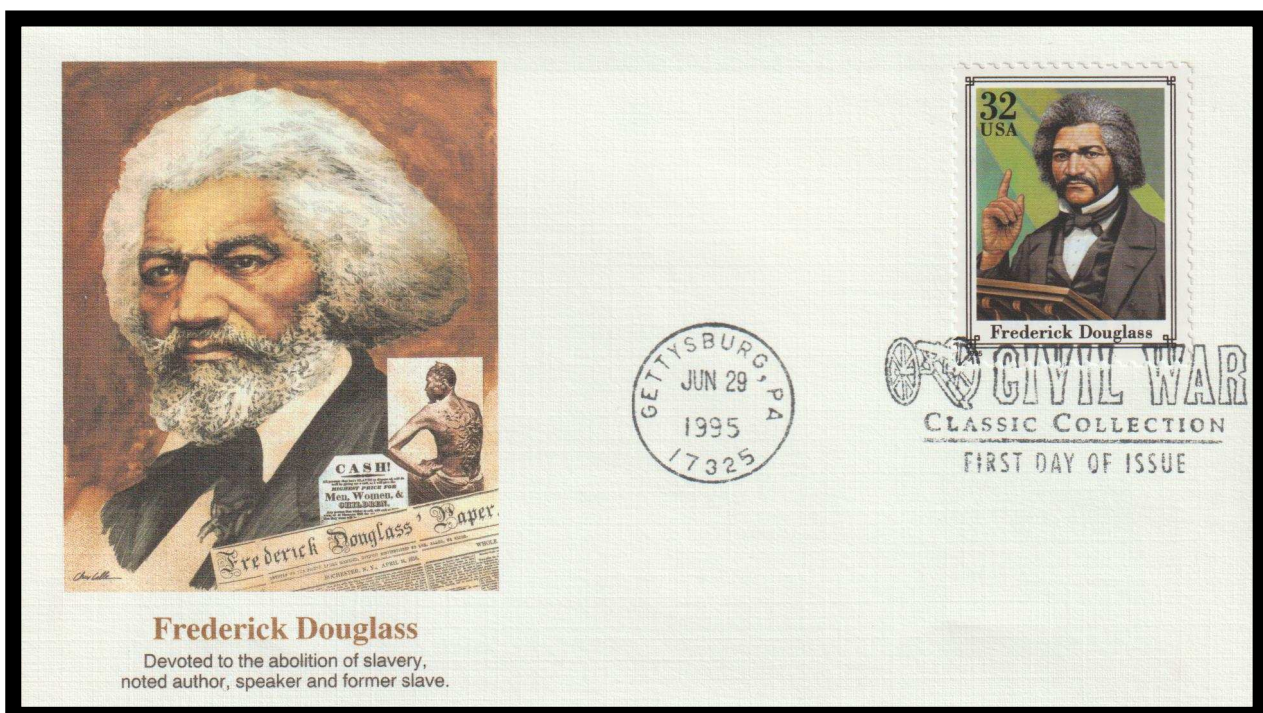
This interesting cover has a lot going on. It's created by Ebonaire as BHC and is produced by Colorano. The Denton, Maryland, cancel is significant because there is a Frederick Douglass historical marker [8100 - 10599] on MD-328 (Maryland Route 328), Denton, MD 21629 located on New Bridge Road. The marker identifies Douglass as a Negro Patriot, and the inscription reads, "Attained freedom and devoted his life and talents to the abolition of slavery and the cause of universal suffrage. Visited England in 1845 and in 1859. Won many prominent friends abroad and at home. Was U. S. Marshall for the District of Columbia and U. S. Minister to Haiti. Was born in Tuckahoe, Talbot County."

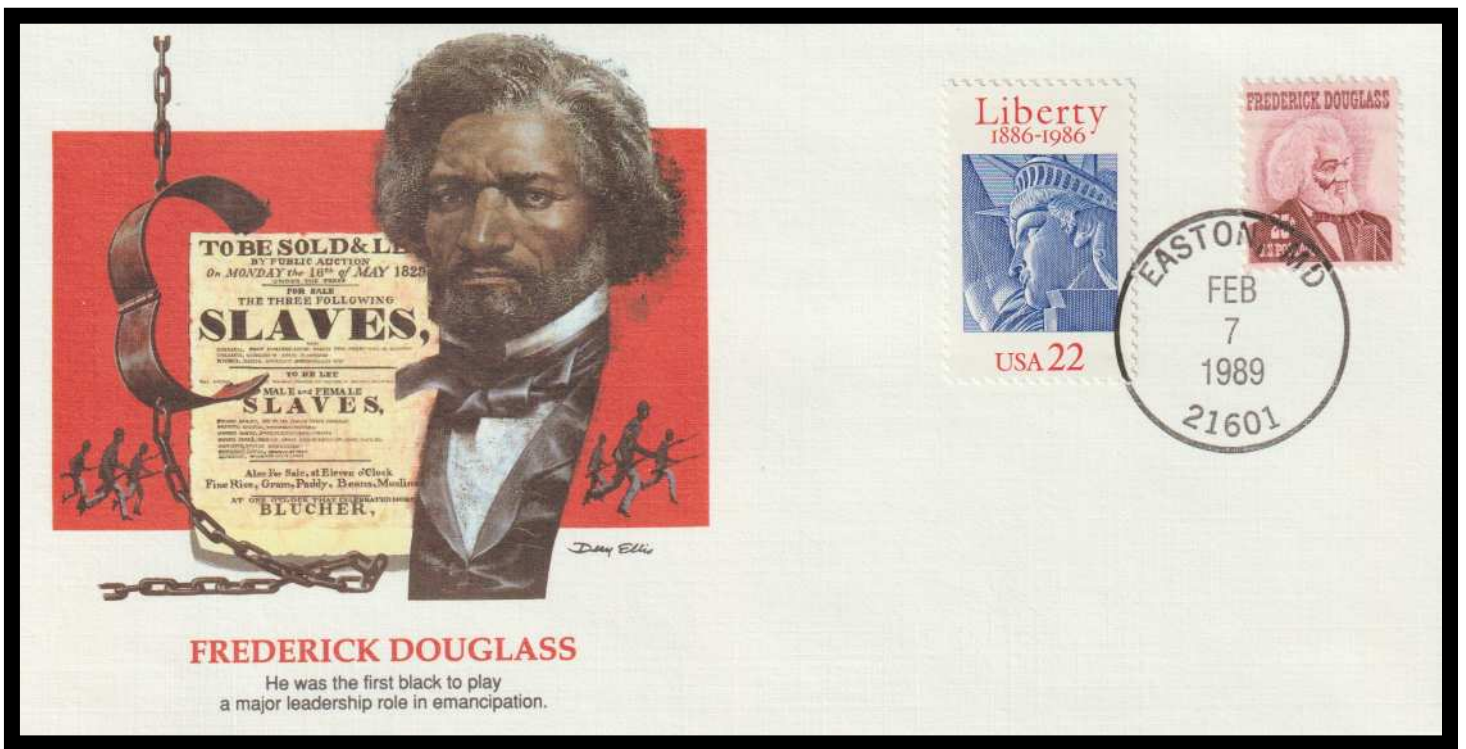


In 1861, the nation erupted into civil war over the issue of slavery. Frederick Douglass worked tirelessly to make sure that emancipation would be one of the war's outcomes. He recruited African-American men to fight in the U. S. Army, including two of his own sons, who served in the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment. When Black troops protested they were not receiving pay and treatment equal to that of White troops, Douglass met with President Abraham Lincoln to advocate on their behalf.

As the Civil War progressed and emancipation seemed imminent, Douglass intensified the fight for equal citizenship. He argued that freedom would be empty if former slaves were not guaranteed the rights and protections of American citizens. A series of postwar amendments sought to make some of these tremendous changes. The 13th Amendment (ratified in 1865) abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment (ratified in 1868) granted national birthright citizenship, and the 15th Amendment (ratified in 1870) stated nobody could be denied voting rights on the basis of race, skin color, or previous servitude.

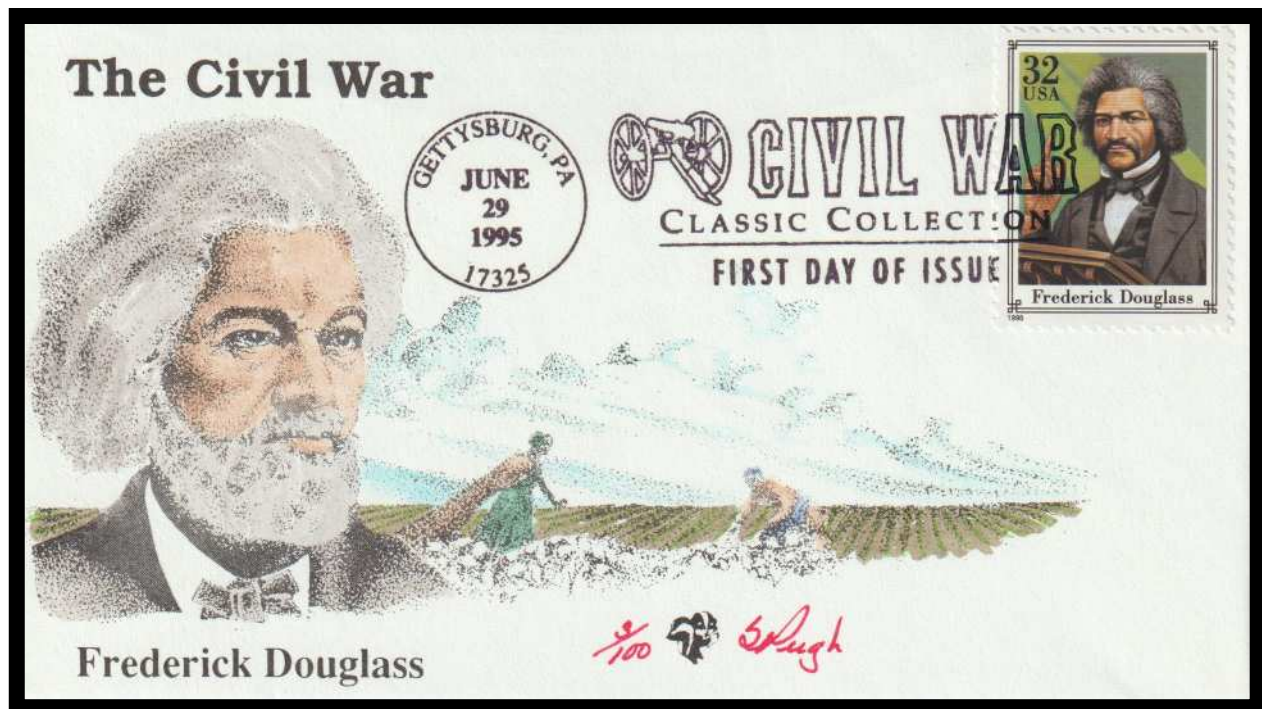
Above is a Colorano "Silk" Cachet. Below is a Fleetwood cover.





From EMANCIPATION PROCLAIMED, *Douglass' Monthly*, October 1862

"Common sense, the necessities of the war, to say nothing of the dictation of justice and humanity have at last prevailed. We shout for joy that we live to record this righteous decree. Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy, in his own peculiar, cautious, forbearing and hesitating way, slow, but we hope sure, has, while the loyal heart was near breaking with despair, proclaimed and declared: '*That on the First of January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixty-three, All Persons Held as Slaves Within Any State or Any Designated Part of a State, The People Whereof Shall Then be in Rebellion Against the United States, Shall be Thenceforward and Forever Free.*'" The Fleetwood cover, part of their The Shapers of America series, is on a monarch (#7¾) envelope.



This is a Pugh cover (the skunk logo is a play on words) produced by Shawna Pugh-Altieri for the second stamp to feature Frederick Douglass. The U. S. Postal Service issued a 20-stamp sheet of 32¢ Civil War stamps on June 29, 1995, in the year of the 130th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War. The stamps were the second installment of the Classic Collection series, that featured Americana-themed subjects. The first in the series were the 29¢ Legends of the West commemorative stamps (initially with the Bill Pickett/Ben Pickett error).

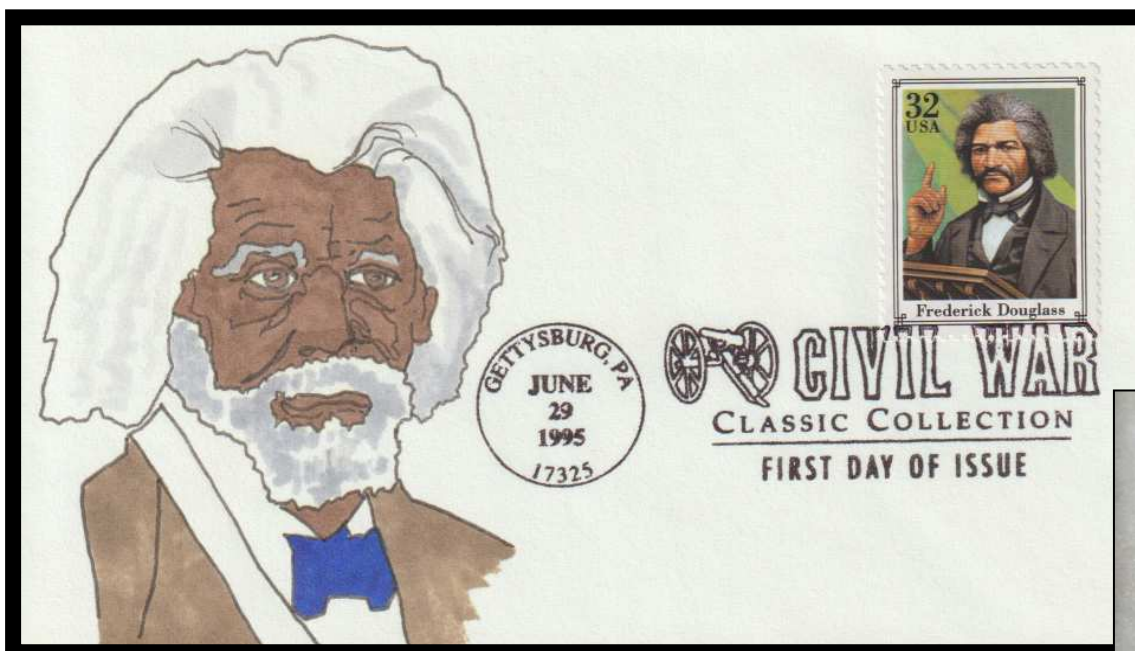


Charles Douglass



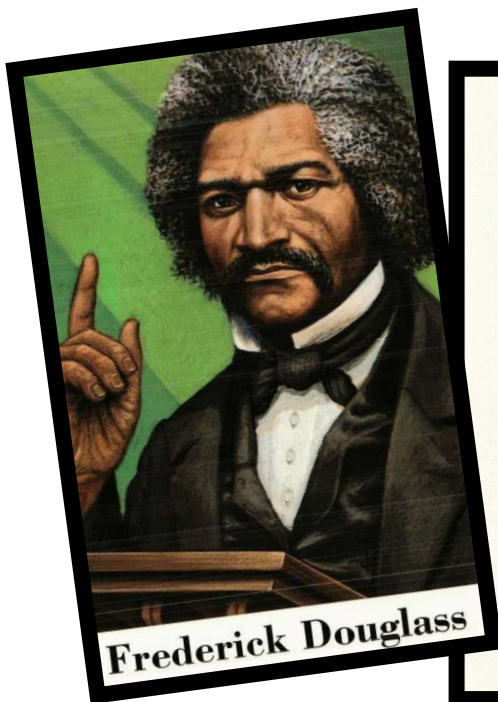
Lewis Douglass

This is a Wild Horse cachet by Warren Reed. It is dual franked with 32¢ Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass stamps and features a unique Civil War Station cancel commemorating Douglass. The cachet depicts Colonel Robert Shaw (left), Major Martin Delaney, and the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Text on the reverse side states "Glory 1863: Colonel Robert Shaw and the Black 54th Massachusetts regiment attacked Fort Wagner, South Carolina, on July 18, 1863. Sargent (sic) William Carney won the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery. At war's end, Major Martin Delaney of the 104th USCT (United States Colored Troops) had attained the highest rank of any Black at that time." A fiercely independent thinker and wide-ranging writer, Delaney co-edited with Frederick Douglass the abolitionist newspaper *North Star*. After President Lincoln finally had allowed Black soldiers to serve in the Union army, Douglass helped the recruitment efforts, publishing his famous broadside *Men of Color to Arms!* on March 21, 1863. His eldest son, Charles Douglass, joined the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, but was ill for much of his service. Lewis Douglass fought at the Battle of Fort Wagner. Another son, Frederick Douglass Jr., also served as a recruiter.



This Tom VI cover features a hand-drawn and hand-painted cachet of Frederick Douglass which is refreshing. Douglass considered photography very important in ending slavery and racism, and believed that the camera would not lie, even in the hands of a racist White person, as photographs were an excellent counter to many racist caricatures, particularly in blackface minstrelsy. Douglass was the most photographed American of the 19th century, consciously using photography to advance his political views. He never smiled, specifically so as not to play into the racist caricature of a happy slave. He tended to look directly into the camera and confront the viewer with a stern look.





Journalist-Orator

Frederick Douglass (c1818-1895)

"Wielding . . . pen . . . voice," ex-slave campaigned for rights for Blacks, women. Assisted runaways to Canada. Helped recruit Blacks for 54th Massachusetts Regiment. U.S. Minister to Haiti.

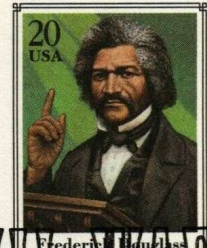
© 1994 USPS



CIVIL WAR

CLASSIC COLLECTION

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



This postcard, issued by the U.S. Postal Service, corresponds to the Civil War stamps in the Classic Collection. It identifies Frederick Douglass as a journalist-orator. Some of his speeches were published in his newspapers. "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" is the title now given to a speech by Frederick Douglass delivered on July 5, 1852, at Corinthian Hall in Rochester, New York, at a meeting organized by the Rochester Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society. The speech is perhaps the most widely known of all of Frederick Douglass' writings save his autobiographies. The speech uses biting irony and bitter rhetoric, and acute textual analysis of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, and the Christian Bible, to advance a values-based argument against the continued existence of Slavery in the United States.

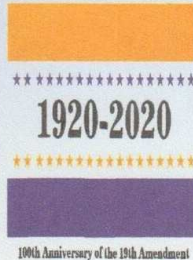


From its very first moments in print on March 20, 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (which reportedly "utilized" *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself*. Henson, an author, abolitionist, and minister escaped slavery in the United States.) was a smashing success. It sold 3,000 copies on its first day, and Frederick Douglass reported that 5,000 copies – the entire first print run – were purchased within four days. However, there is an indication that Fraternal Orders and Black Masonry were not on his favorite list. Douglas criticized them for gathering in National Fraternal Conventions rather than for civil rights and social justice reasons. "Odd-fellowship and free-masonry are swallowing up the best energies of many of our best men, contenting them with the glittering follies of artificial display, and indisposing them to seek for solid and important realities. We desire to see these noble men expending their time, talents, and strength for higher and nobler objects. We speak plainly on this point, for we feel deeply." Edsel cachets often had masonic themes.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Better known for his work as an abolitionist, Frederick Douglass (c. 1818–1895) also was a supporter of the women's suffrage movement. In 1848, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton was criticized for presenting the Declaration of Sentiments at the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention in New York, Douglass, the only African American to participate in the convention, supported her. The prodigious orator eloquently argued for the inclusion of the resolution, and it was retained. His later support of the passage of the 15th Amendment, which conferred the right to vote on Black men, came as a blow to the movement for women's rights at a key moment, however, Douglass was unwavering in his support of women's suffrage. "There can be no reason in the world for denying to woman the exercise of the elective franchise, or a hand in making and administering the laws of the land."



100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
★
19TH AMENDMENT:
WOMEN
AUGUST 22, 2020
★
SENeca FALLS, NY 13148



WOMEN VOTE
19th AMENDMENT
FOREVER USA

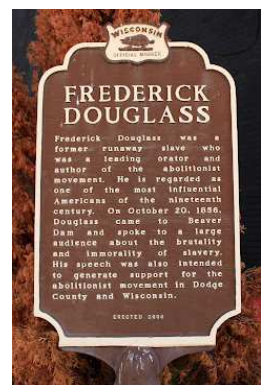
Frederick Douglass was one of the most outspoken advocates of abolition, suffrage, and women's rights in the 19th century. Abolitionists and suffragists shared activist spaces. However, although members often overlapped, shared goals, and spoke to the same crowds, talks of the 15th Amendment caused rifts in each movement after the Civil War. Douglass spoke at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 and was one of 32 men who signed the Declaration of Sentiments there. "In respect to political rights, we hold woman to be justly entitled to all we claim for man.... All the political rights which it is expedient for man to exercise, it is equally so for woman" —"The Rights of Women," *The North Star*, July 28, 1848. However, supporting universal suffrage eventually proved a daunting and dangerous task for Black men, whom Douglass argued faced prejudice and violence that made their need for the vote more urgent. During the U.S. Presidential Election of 1864, Douglass supported John C. Frémont, who was the candidate of the abolitionist Radical Democracy Party. Douglass was disappointed that President Lincoln did not publicly endorse suffrage for Black freedmen. After Lincoln had been assassinated, Douglass conferred with President Andrew Johnson on the subject of Black suffrage. The 6° Cachet by Don Neal cover connects suffragist Frederick Douglass to the Women Vote/19th Amendment stamp and the Seneca Falls cancel.

Under the Flag Act of 1777 passed by the Second Continental Congress, the first flag of the United States of America had 13 stars and 13 stripes, one for each of the original 13 colonies. The Flag Act of 1794 produced a flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes to accommodate the admission of the next two states, Vermont and Kentucky, to the Union. Between 1794 and 1818, no flag laws were enacted to accompany the admission of new states to the Union. The Flag Act of 1818 modified the flag to 13 stripes (one for each of the 13 original colonies) and one star for each state. Under this law, our current flag has 13 stripes and 50 stars.

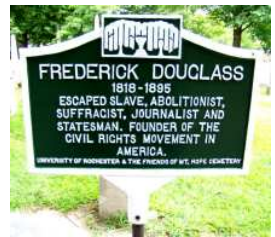
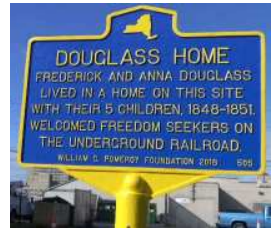
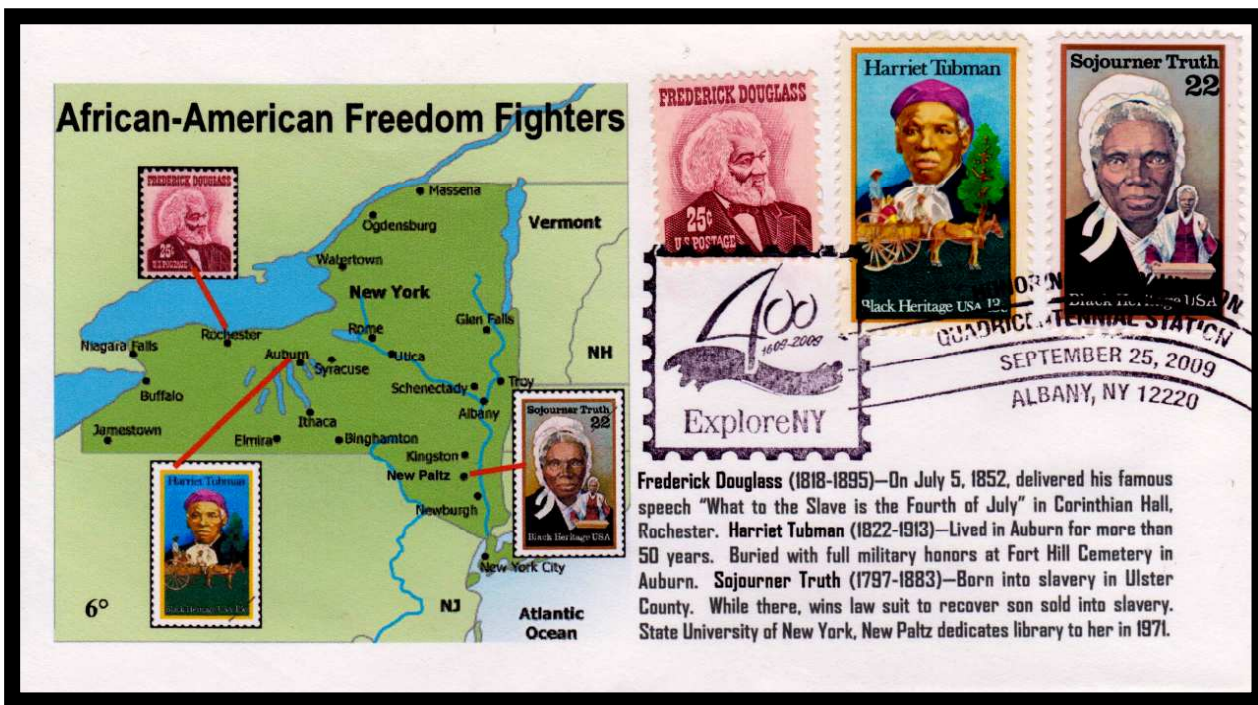


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
APPLETON, WI 54911
JUNE 9, 2018
FLAG ACT OF 1818

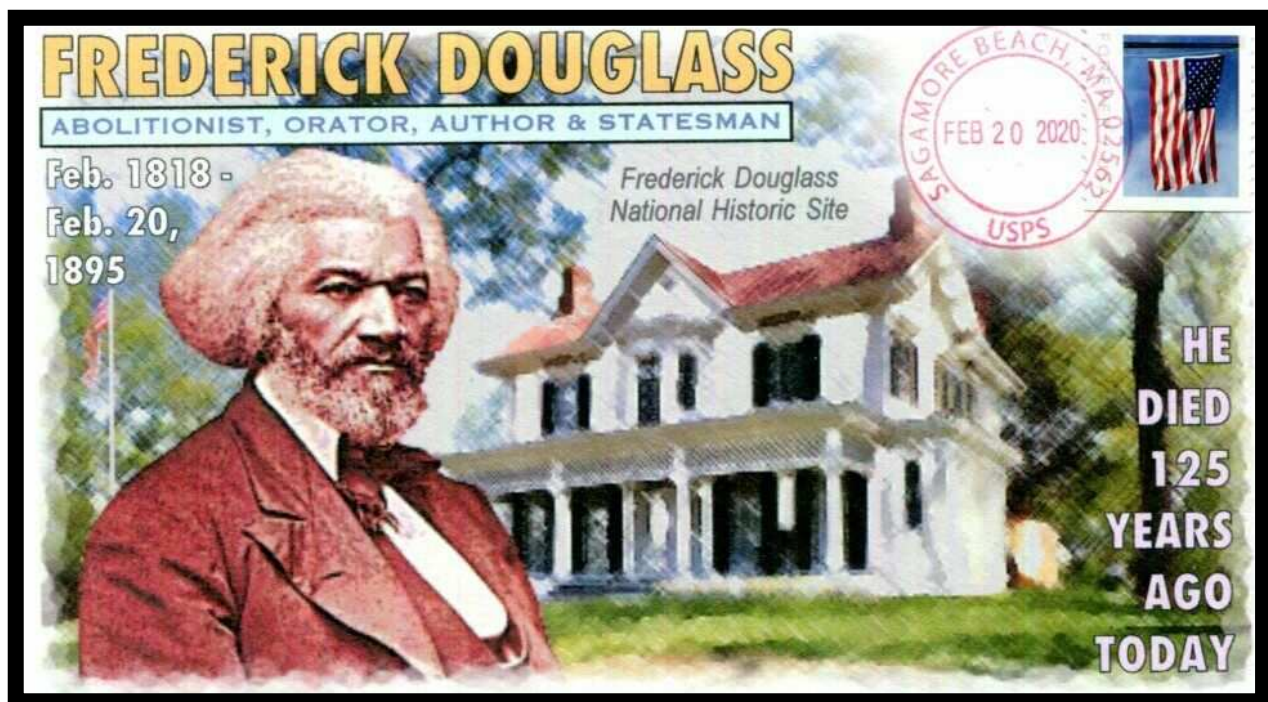
Frederick Douglass (c. 1818 – 1895) was an escaped slave who became a prominent activist, author, and public speaker. He became a leader in the abolitionist movement, which sought to end the practice of slavery, before and during the Civil War. After that conflict and the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862, Frederick Douglass continued to push for equality and human rights until his death in 1895. No one ever was a more critical reader of the Constitution, or, in the end, a more compelling advocate of its virtues. In 2000, a collaboration of the Wisconsin state government, Dodge County, and Beaver Dam placed a marker in the city as a reminder of Douglass' abolitionary work. On October 20, 1856, he spoke to a large audience in Beaver Dam about the brutality and immorality of slavery.



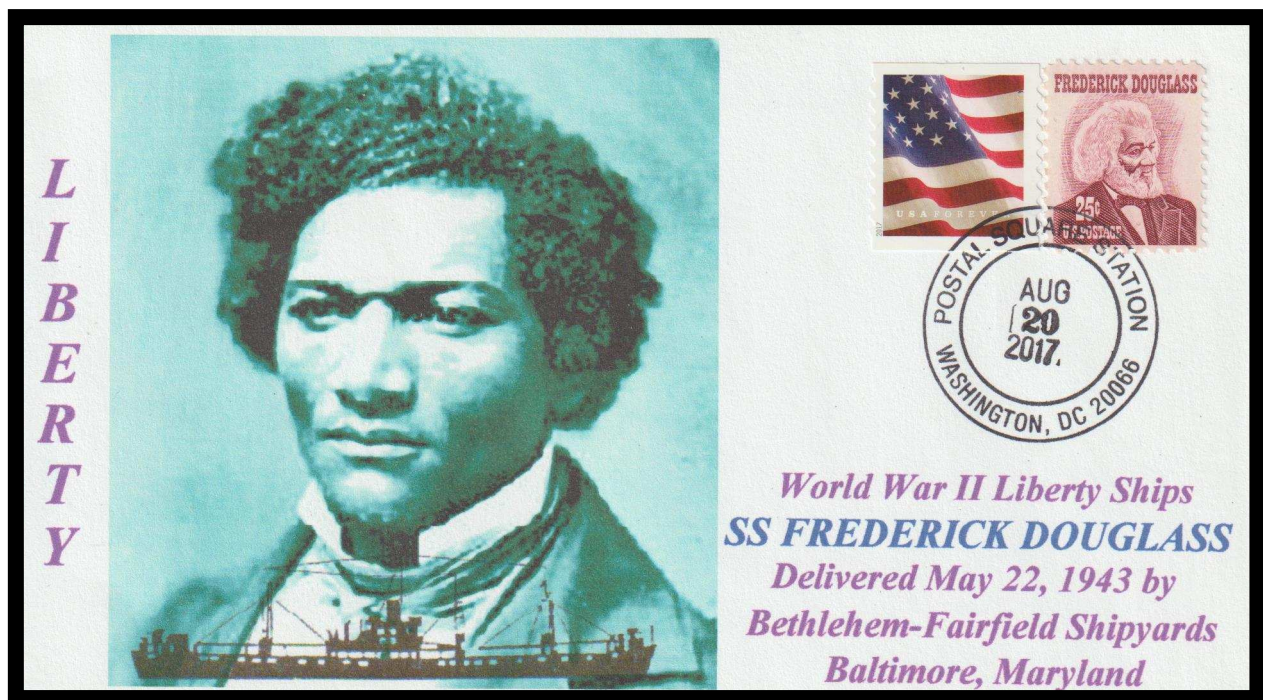
This 6° Cachet by Don Neal cover typifies Neal's conviction to connect (almost) any U.S. stamp to Black history. The Flag Act of 1818 stamp issue connects to Frederick Douglass who in some accounts was born circa 1818. Douglass sought to end the practice of slavery, before and during the Civil War. In 2000, Wisconsin historical marker 458 was placed as a reminder of Douglass' abolitionary work. The inscription reads, "Frederick Douglass was a former runaway slave who was a leading orator and author of the abolitionist movement. He is regarded as one of the most influential Americans of the nineteenth century. On October 20, 1856, Douglass came to Beaver Dam and spoke to a large audience about the brutality and immorality of slavery. His speech was also intended to generate support for the abolitionist movement in Dodge County and Wisconsin."



A historic marker sits outside of a parking lot at 297 Alexander Street in Rochester, New York, where the home purchased by Frederick Douglass once stood. The famed author and abolitionist bought the home for \$1,000 back in 1848. Several of his speeches and articles were written in the home. Douglass also sheltered runaway slaves who were running away to freedom and held meetings for the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Sewing Society. The original home on Alexander Street was torn down in 1954 and replaced with a parking lot for the Bender Brothers Funeral Home, which was located at 301 Alexander St. The house was demolished despite the fact that a year earlier, in 1953, it had been recognized as the first home of Frederick Douglass. Another marker is located in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester near the grave of Frederick Douglass. Franked with the appropriate stamps, this special 6° Cachets by Don Neal cover expertly connects three notable Black freedom fighters with ties to New York state. The Explore New York cancel coincided with the state's quadricentennial exposition in the state's capital.



On February 20, 1895, Frederick Douglass attended a meeting of the National Council of Women in Washington, D.C. During that meeting, he was brought to the platform and received a standing ovation. Shortly after he returned home to Cedar Hill and was preparing to give a speech at a local church, Douglass died of a massive heart attack. He was 77. Douglass' coffin was transported to Rochester, New York, where he had lived for 25 years, longer than anywhere else in his life. He was buried next to Anna in the Douglass family plot of Mount Hope Cemetery. Helen also was buried there in 1903. The Coverscape Cachet by David S. Lipof commemorates the 125th anniversary of the death of Frederick Douglass.

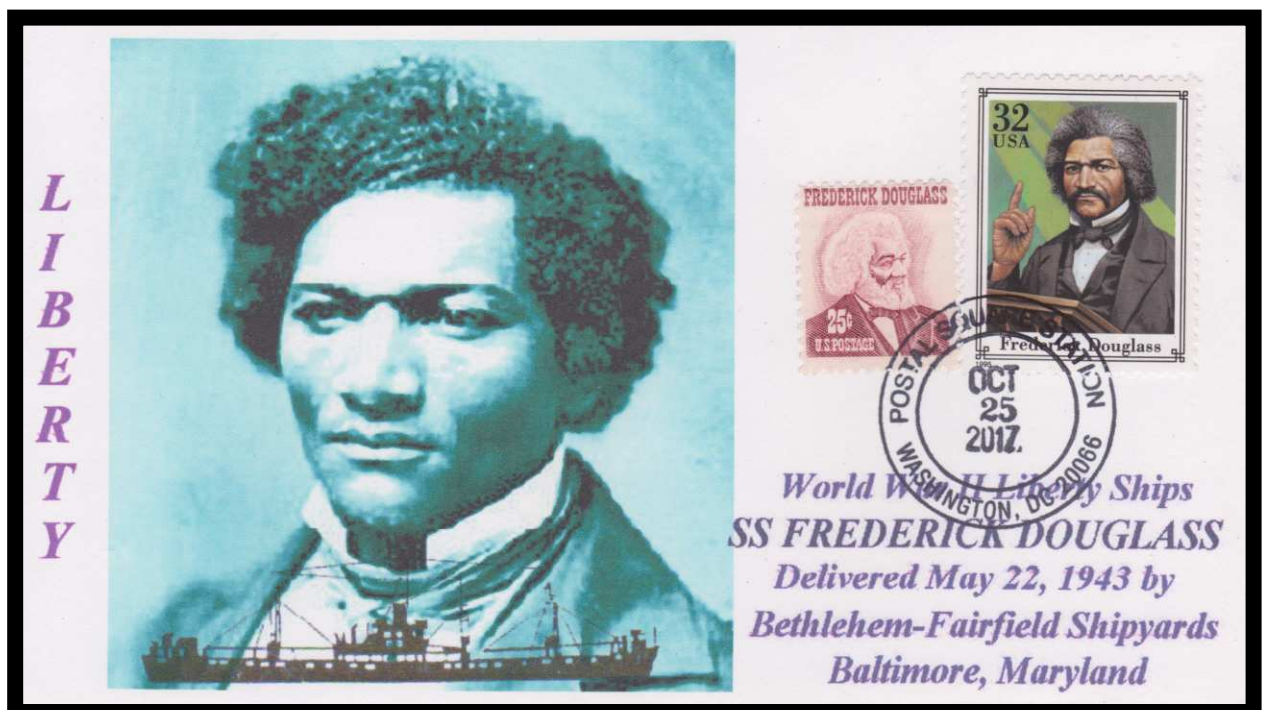


On May 22, 1943, the SS *Frederick Douglass*, named for the former Talbot County slave and ship's caulker who became a noted orator, abolitionist, and newspaper editor, slid down the ways at Bethlehem-Fairfield into the placid waters of the Patapsco River, a river in central Maryland which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. It was the first U.S. ship named in honor of a Black man. Its captain was Adrian Richardson, also a Black man.

The ship's sponsor was Ann Wiggins Brown, a Baltimore-born Black opera singer, accompanied by Baltimore Mayor Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin. The Victory Four, a Black quartet, serenaded the crowd that gathered to watch the ship launching. Looking out from the platform across a sea of faces, Brown was heartened by the many Black shipbuilders she saw who had taken a moment's respite from their work. "Democracy belongs to all of us, and we must work for it together and in harmony," she told them.

The SS *Frederick Douglass* would be sunk just four months later on September 20, 1943, attacked by German submarines, U-238 and U-645, in the North Atlantic. The British ship *Rathlin* rescued all 70 aboard (40 merchant seamen, 29 Armed Guard, and one female stowaway!).

The covers are by NavyCovers by Alvin Eckert who designs and prints custom naval and merchant ship covers. The postmark dates have no real significance, but "The Fugitive Slave Law," a speech delivered to the National Free Soil Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 11, 1852, was published in *Frederick Douglass' Paper*, August 20, 1852. And despite his age, Douglass campaigned vigorously for Benjamin Harrison during the 1888 presidential campaign. After weeks spent in Indiana and Michigan, Douglass arrived in New Haven, Connecticut, for a major address, "Parties Are to be Judged by Their Fruits," at the Hyperion Theatre on October 25, 1888.





Smith, Roger, photographer. Baltimore, Maryland. A rivet heater preparing to toss a red hot rivet to be used in the building of the Liberty ship SS *Frederick Douglass* at the Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyards. May. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2017851658/>.



Smith, Roger, photographer. Baltimore, Maryland. Two rod welders helping to build the Liberty ship SS *Frederick Douglass* at the Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyards. May. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2017851657/>.



Some of the workers who were engaged in the building of the Liberty ship SS *Frederick Douglass*. Office of War Information photographer Roger Smith documented the construction at Bethlehem-Fairhope shipyards, which employed over 6,000 African-American workers at the time. May. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2017851656/>.



Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division, The New York Public Library. "Bow-side view of Liberty ship SS *Frederick Douglass* sliding down the ways on the day of its launching, just 29 days after the keel was laid." The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1943. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47df-f9a0-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>



Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division, The New York Public Library. "Frederick Douglass III, grandson of the noted abolitionist, addressing the workers and congratulating the crew of the SS *Frederick Douglass* on the day of its launching." The abolitionist Douglass had, himself, worked as a ship caulker in Baltimore before his escape from slavery.

The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1943. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47df-f9a3-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

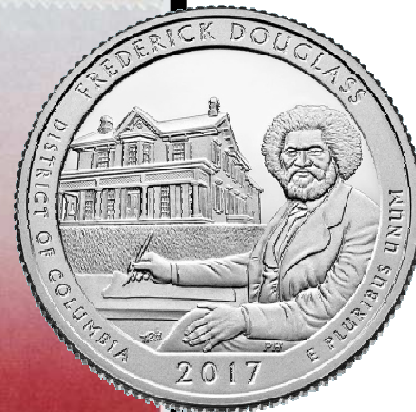
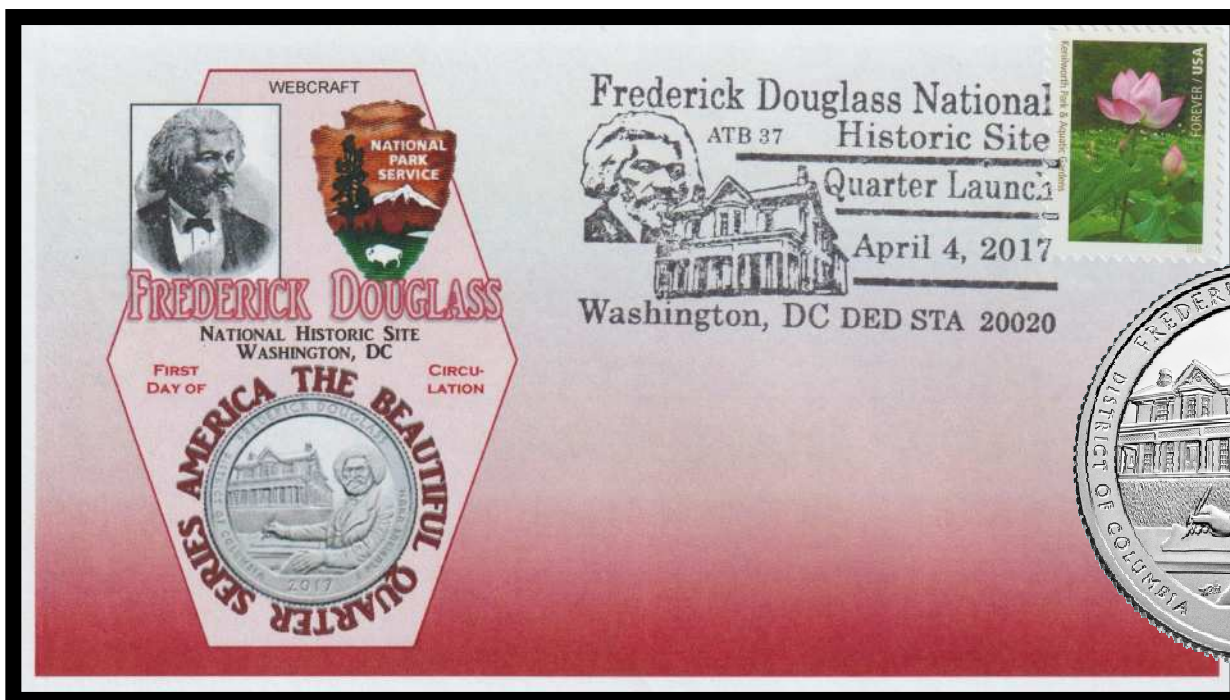
Anne Wiggins Brown (1912-2009). American Soprano. Christening of the S.S. *Frederick Douglass* in Baltimore Maryland. Photograph. Soprano legend Anne Wiggins Brown was the first person to play the leading role of "Bess" in the production of *Porgy and Bess* on Broadway. Brown was born on August 9, 1912, in Baltimore, Maryland. At 12 years old, Brown attended Frederick Douglass High School which had a superb music program. After graduating from Frederick Douglass High School, Brown auditioned for and became the first African-American vocalist admitted to the prestigious Juilliard School in New York. In 1948, Brown settled in Oslo, Norway, where she met and married Norwegian Olympic ski jumper, Thorleif Schjelderup. Brown passed away on March 13, 2009, in Oslo, Norway, at the age of 96.



Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division, The New York Public Library. "African-American captain Adrian **Richardson** (second from right) and part of the crew on the day of the launching of the liberty ship SS *Frederick Douglass*."

The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1943. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47df-f9a1-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

Interesting connection: With the publication of his memoir *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* in 1845, Douglass gained international prominence and embarked on a tour of Britain to drum up support for the abolition of slavery in the U. S. It was during this tour that he met Ellen, Anna, and Henry **Richardson**, a group of North-East Quakers who had been involved in anti-slavery activism for a number of years, and who raised the funds for the manumission of Douglass on December 5, 1846. Coincidence, fate, or divine intervention?



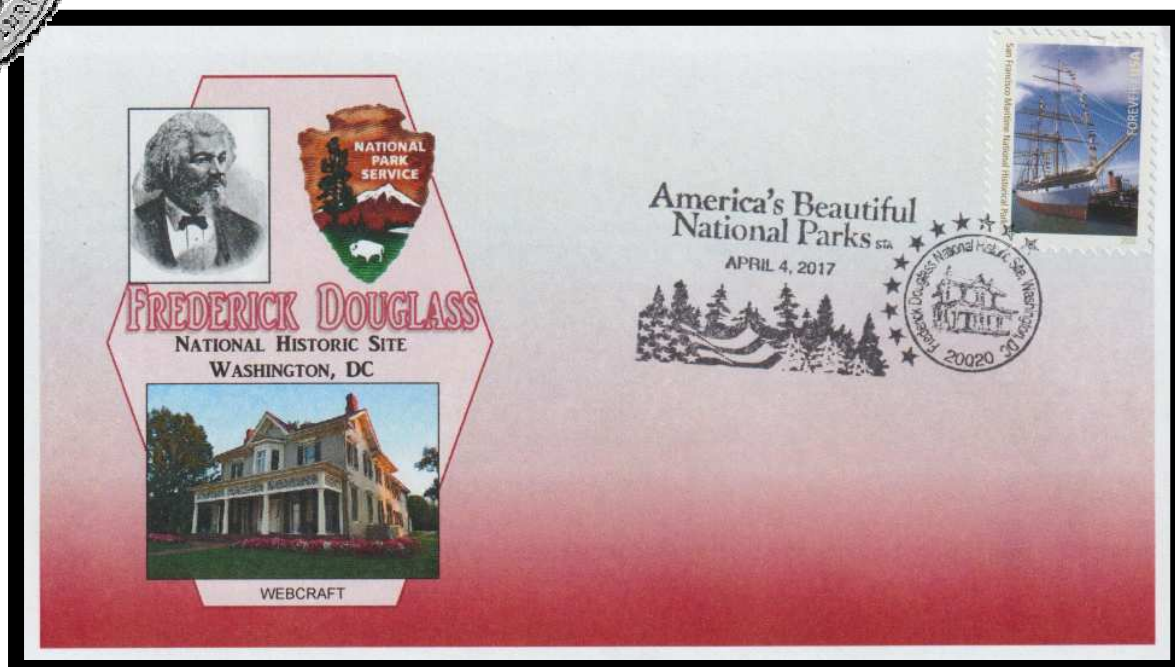
The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., is among the ranks of national monuments and historic sites as the 37th overall coin released in the America the Beautiful Quarters U. S. Mint collection. The U. S. Mint produces circulating coinage and has featured some of America's most important national parks and monuments since 2010.

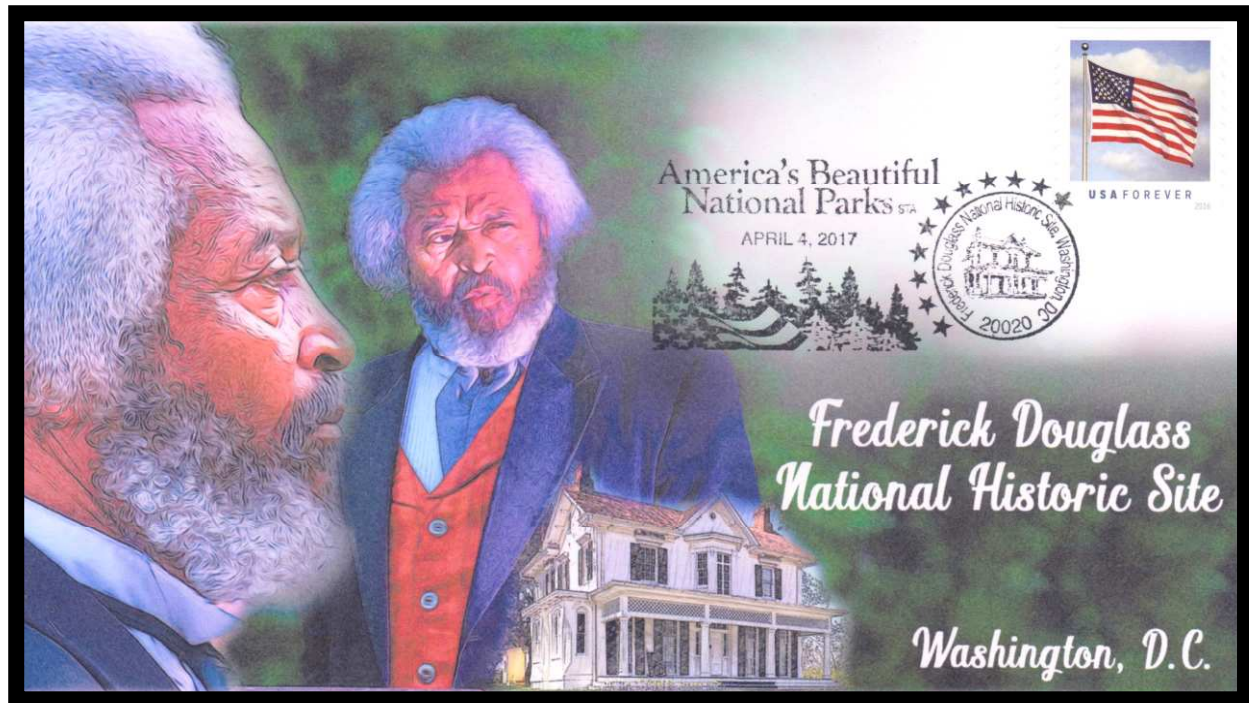
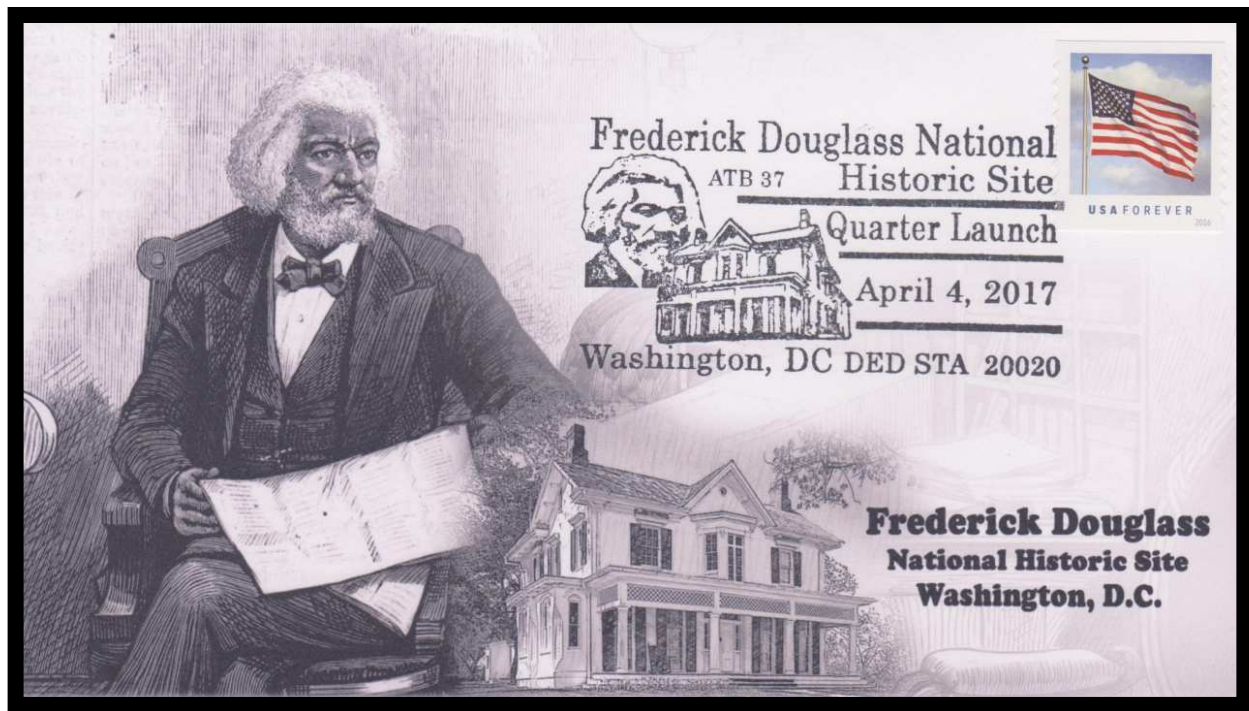
This particular coin was the second 2017 release, which included a philatelic, pictorial, postal cancel! The first featured the Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa, which was released in February. Three more coins were released in June, in August, and in November. The Frederick Douglass coin features the original 1932 quarter obverse of President George Washington on the front, and Douglass—seated and writing at a desk with his Washington, D. C., home in the background—is on the coin's reverse side.



The Tuskegee Army Airfield National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Alabama, coin joined Douglass' on February 8, 2021, closing out the 11-year program with 56 quarter-dollar coins available for collection. The coin's reverse depicts a Tuskegee Army Airman pilot suiting up to join the fight during World War II with the Moton Field control tower in the background. The pilot looks upward with pride and confidence as two P-51 Mustangs pass overhead. The inscription "THEY FOUGHT TWO WARS" is arched across the top as a reference to the dual battles the Tuskegee Army Airfield fought – fascism abroad and racial discrimination at home.

The Webcraft covers are by Steve Todd.





The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, administered by the National Park Service, is located at 1411 W Street, SE, in Anacostia, a neighborhood east of the Anacostia River in Southeast Washington, D.C. Established in 1988 as a National Historic Site, the site preserves the home and estate of Frederick Douglass, one of the most prominent African Americans of the 19th century. His appointment by President Rutherford B. Hayes as United States Marshal for the District of Columbia brought Douglass financial stability, and in 1878, with a \$6,000 loan from his Black friend and former abolitionist Robert Purvis, he purchased the 21-room Victorian home on nine acres and named it Cedar Hill. He bought an additional 15 acres around the property the following year. Perched on a hilltop, the site offers a sweeping view of the U.S. Capitol and the Washington, D.C., skyline. Douglass lived in this house until his death in 1895.

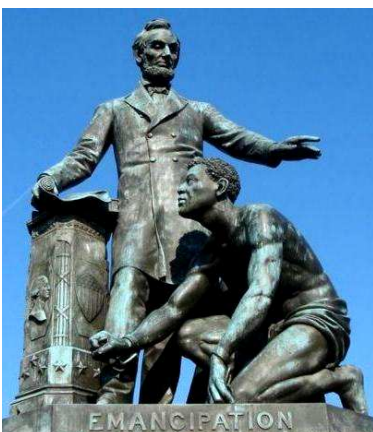
In 1938-1939, renowned artist Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000) painted *The Life of Frederick Douglass* series, 32 panels in casein tempera on hardboard. More recently, Lawrence's 1948 painting, *Dixie Café*, was used for the 1964 Civil Rights Act stamp in the U.S. 10-stamp pane To Form a More Perfect Union, issued August 30, 2005.



#24 Douglass argued against John Brown's plan to attack the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, painting by Jacob Lawrence



#30 Douglass argued against poor Negroes leaving the South, painting by Jacob Lawrence



On April 14, 1876, Douglass delivered the keynote speech at the unveiling of the Emancipation Memorial in Washington's Lincoln Park. He spoke frankly about Lincoln, noting what he perceived as both positive and negative attributes of the late President. The crowd, roused by his speech, gave Douglass a standing ovation. After delivering the speech, Douglass immediately wrote to the *National Republican* newspaper in Washington (which published five days later, April 19), criticizing the statue's design and suggesting the park could be improved by more dignified monuments of free Black people. "The Negro here, though rising, is still on his knees and mostly nude," Douglass wrote. "What I want to see before I die is a monument representing the Negro, not couchant on his knees like a four-footed animal, but erect on his feet like a man."



#31 An appointment to any important and lucrative office under the U.S. government usually brings its recipient a large measure of congratulations on the one hand..., painting by Jacob Lawrence



Mozambique, 2012, Frederick Douglass and John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Mozambique, 2012, Frederick Douglass, Abolishment Slavery

