

Frederick Douglass

- **Born:** February 1818
- **Birthplace:** Near Easton, Maryland
- **Died:** 20 February 1895 (Heart attack)
- **Best Known As:** Former slave turned anti-slavery leader

Name at birth: Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey

Frederick Douglass was a former slave who became one of the great American anti-slavery leaders of the 1800s. Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland but in 1838, at age 20, he escaped to freedom in New York. At age 23 he went to work for abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, travelling and speaking on behalf of Garrison's paper *The Liberator*. In 1845 Douglass published his memoir *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Eloquent, smart and determined, Douglass gained fame as a speaker, began his own anti-slavery publications and became a 'conductor' on the Underground Railroad. In later years he became a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln and helped persuade Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. He also was a strong supporter of women's rights. He is often described as the founder of the American civil rights movement.

After his escape from slavery, Douglass chose his new last name from a character in the Sir Walter Scott book *The Lady of the Lake*... Douglass married Anna Murray, a free black woman, shortly after his escape from slavery in 1838. They had four children: Rosetta (b. 1839), Lewis (b. 1840), Frederick Jr. (b. 1842) and Charles (b. 1844). Anna Douglass died in 1882, and two years later Douglass married Helen Pitts, a white woman who had been his secretary.

For more information visit Wikipedia at: <http://www.answers.com/topic/frederick-douglass?method=22>