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Guide to the Frederick Douglass Collection

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Collection Summary

Title: Frederick Douglass collection

Creator: Douglass, Frederick (1818-1895)

Dates: 1854-1941, bulk 1854-1895

Extent: 1.0 cubic feet (1 record carton)

Language: English

Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Abstract: This collection consists of letters, photographs, periodicals, and other print media relating to the life of famed Rochester, New York abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. The materials in the collection date from 1854 to 1941, with the bulk of the collection dated from 1854 to 1895.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

This collection is an artificial collection created by a variety of donations and different donors.

Preferred Citation:

Frederick Douglass collection, [box#:folder#]. RMSC Museum & Science Center, Rochester, NY.

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Use:

Copyright is held by the RMSC Museum & Science Center but may also be held by the authors, or their heirs or assigns. Researchers must obtain written permission of the copyright holder and the RMSC Museum & Science Center before transmission, reproduction, publication, or presentation (public display, performance, internet presentation, etc.) for images from the collection. Quotations used must be cited as above.

Conditions Governing Access:

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this collection.

Biographical/Administrative History Note

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland in 1818. After teaching himself to read as a child, Douglass escaped north at age 20 to start a new life in Massachusetts, where he married and started a family. Douglass began speaking publicly about his experiences and gained fame as an orator and abolitionist and published several books about his life and the evils of slavery.

In 1847, Douglass and his family moved to Rochester, New York, where he started the anti-slavery newspaper *The North Star*. He played a large role in advocating for black men to be allowed to fight in the American Civil War, and remained influential in pursuing equal rights for African-Americans during the Reconstruction period. In the 1870's, Douglass moved to Washington, DC, where he held several federal government positions and continued his activism on behalf of black people across the nation. He passed away in 1895 at the age of 77 and endures to this day as one of America's most well-known abolitionists.¹

¹"Frederick Douglass." *National Parks Service*. Accessed 19 November 2019.
<https://www.nps.gov/frdo/learn/historyculture/frederickdouglass.htm>.

Scope & Content

This collection consists of letters, photographs, periodicals, orations, and other print media relating to the life of Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), mainly surrounding his life in Rochester, New York.

The majority of the collection spans from 1854 to 1895. Items of note include a telegram from Douglass's son to a friend in Rochester informing her of Douglass's death, complete copies of two 19th century periodicals, and Douglass's autograph.

Arrangement

This collection consists of one box and three oversized folders.

Related Materials

Relevant materials held by the RMSC include:

Lectures on American Slavery by Frederick Douglass, 1851, call number 973.64 D.

Life and Times of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass, 1881, call number 920 DOU.

My Bondage and My Freedom by Frederick Douglass, 1855, call number 920 D.

Oration, Delivered in Corinthian Hall by Frederick Douglass, 1852, call number 973.64 D.

Letters regarding Douglass can also be found in the Ellwanger-Selden Collection and the Susan B. Anthony Collection, both held at the RMCS Museum & Science Center.

Anne Weaver Teabeau & Roland B. Scott Jr. Collection on Frederick Douglass. RMSC Museum & Science Center, Rochester, NY.

Processing Information

During processing, staples and paperclips were removed and the collection was put in order, re-folded, and rehoused.

Subject Headings

Frederick Douglass Monument (Rochester, N.Y.)

Douglass, Frederick (1818-1895)

Abolitionists

Antislavery movements

Bibliography

"Frederick Douglass." National Parks Service. Accessed 19 November 2019.

<https://www.nps.gov/frdo/learn/historyculture/frederickdouglass.htm>.

Container List

Box	Folder	Title, Dates
1	1	Autographs, c. 1894
1	2	Commencement address, 1854
1	3	Letter to Mrs. Blackall, 1892
1	4	Letter to unnamed friend, 1893
1	5	Photograph-photocopy, c. 1880
1	6	Statue rededication program, 1941
1	7	"Voices from the Past" poem, undated
814	1	<i>Douglass Monthly</i> , vol. I, no. XI, 1859 [accession # 98.00.02.1]
814	2	<i>Harper's Weekly</i> , vol. XXVII, no. 1405, November 24, 1883
814	3	Telegram, 1895 [accession # 44.22.7.1]