

MARTIN DELANY-HIS LIFE CHRONOLOGY

1812-BORN IN CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA, NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH AND LAWRENCE STREETS. ONE OF FIVE CHILDREN OF PATI AND SAMUEL DELANY.

1823-THE FAMILY RESETTLES IN CHAMBERSBURG, PA. AFTER THEY WERE PERSECUTED FOR TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN TO READ AND WRITE. SAMUEL ALSO WAS IN PERSONAL DANGER FOR REFUSING TO BE WHIPPED BY HIS WHITE OVERSEER.

1831-MARTIN DELANY SET OUT ON FOOT TO PITTSBURGH TO BECOME A BARBER AND LABORER. LATER A PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT, AND LATER A PHYSICIAN HIMSELF. FROM THIS TIME ON, HE HAD PERSONALLY RESOLVED TO SOMEDAY VISIT AFRICA.

1839- HE TRAVELS CLANDESTINELY THROUGH THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY LOUISIANA AND TEXAS AS A FREED LABORER, OBSERVING THE HORRORS OF SLAVERY, WHICH LATER WERE RECOUNTED IN HIS SEMI-FICTIONAL NOVEL: "BLAKE:THE HUTS OF AMERICA."

1843-MARRIES CATHERINE A. RICHARDS, DAUGHTER OF A BLACK BUSINESSMAN AND AN IRISH IMMIGRANT. THE DELANYS BIRTHED ELEVEN CHILDREN, SEVEN OF WHOM GREW TO MATURITY.

THAT SAME YEAR, DELANY ALSO BEGAN PUBLISHING "THE MYSTERY," AN INFLUENTIAL WEEKLY FOCUSSED ON AFRO-AMERICAN ISSUES, WHICH AT ONE TIME WAS THE ONLY SUCH PUBLICATION IN ALL OF THE UNITED STATES. THE NEWSPAPER GAVE DELANY A FORUM WITH WHICH TO DEMONSTRATE HIS ELOQUENCE AND INTELLECTUAL PROWESS IN THE DEFENSE OF HIS RACE, THEREBY SPREADING HIS INFLUENCE AND STATURE IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE NATION.

1847-49-DELANY CO-EDITS "THE NORTH STAR" NEWSPAPER WITH BLACK LEADER FREDERICK DOUGLASS. HE IS ALMOST TRAPPED BY A LYNCH MOB IN MARSEILLES, OHIO AFTER ONE OF HIS PUBLIC LECTURES ON SLAVERY.

1850-51-DELANY IS ADMITTED TO HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PHYSICIANS WITH WHOM HE STUDIED IN PITTSBURGH. BUT FOUR MONTHS BEFORE RECEIVING HIS DEGREE. WHITE, MOSTLY NORTHERN STUDENTS PROTEST THE PRESENCE OF DELANY AND TWO OTHER BLACK STUDENTS WHO WERE STUDYING THERE BUT NOT UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, WHICH REQUIRED ITS SPONSORED STUDENTS TO EMIGRATE PERMANENTLY TO AFRICA FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES. THE DEMAND IS UPHOLD OVER THE OPPOSITION OF THE FACULTY. DELANY IS FORCED TO LEAVE, CAUSING ONE OF THE MOST DISILLUSIONING EXPERIENCES OF HIS LONG AND VARIED LIFE.

1852-PUBLISHES HIS MOST IMPORTANT WORK: "THE CONDITION, ELEVATION, EMIGRATION, AND DESTINY OF THE COLORED PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES," ALIENATING FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND LEADING ABOLITIONISTS, LIKE HORACE GREELEY. DELANY ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NO HOPE OF LONG-TERM