

Unique Black Women Cont'd.

thousand dollar donation, aided fugitives from the South, worked with the Underground Railroad, and agitated for civil rights. When Brown was captured, she fled to California during the Gold Rush.

Settling in the San Francisco area, she opened several chic boarding houses and a chain of laundries; all on money she had received from speculating in gold and silver. She used much of what she earned to work towards the total freedom of Blacks in California

and often rode into rural areas to rescue slaves.

After receiving rude treatment on a street car in San Francisco, Pleasant successfully sued the company. The result was that discrimination on public transportation ended in the state. Mary Pleasant died in 1904.

Abolitionists, civil rights activists, educators and social

reformers, Black women moved into the twentieth century with a legacy of doers, movers and shakers behind them. Artists, jurists, legislators, industrialists, athletes, scientists, financiers, pilots, diplomats; the list is ever expanding. Although descendants of queens, and they came to America in bondage, Black women continue to forge those chains into a strong platform from which they can achieve that which has been so long denied.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: Father of the Protest Movement

the abolitionist movement of the 19th century.

Born in February of 1817 in Talbot County, Maryland, Douglass was sent to Baltimore as a house servant at the age of eight. He learned to read and write under the instruction of his mistress.

At the death of her husband, Douglass was sent to the country as a field hand. In his early teens, he began to teach in a Sunday school which was forcibly shut down by hostile Southerners. Douglass himself was severely flogged for his resistance to slavery.

After making one unsuccessful attempt to escape, Douglass managed to make his way to New York disguised as a sailor. Once in the North, it was not long before he found his true calling-leader in the anti-slavery crusade.

Taken on as an agent by the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, he soon helped in the fight then taking place in Rhode Island against a new constitution aimed at disenfranchising Blacks.

As the years passed, Douglass became an increasingly familiar figure to abolitionists throughout the country.

In 1845, after having published his Narrative at great personal risk (that of re-enslavement as a fugitive), he went to England where he raised enough money, through lectures on slavery and women's rights, to buy his freedom. Upon his return to his native shores, he founded the famous newspaper, *The North Star*. Later, he was forced to flee to Canada when the governor of Virginia swore out a warrant for

his arrest on charges that he had conspired with John Brown, leader of the Harpers Ferry revolt.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Douglass--once again back in the United States--met with President Abraham Lincoln and assisted him in recruiting what were to become the celebrated 54th and 55th Massachusetts Negro regiments.

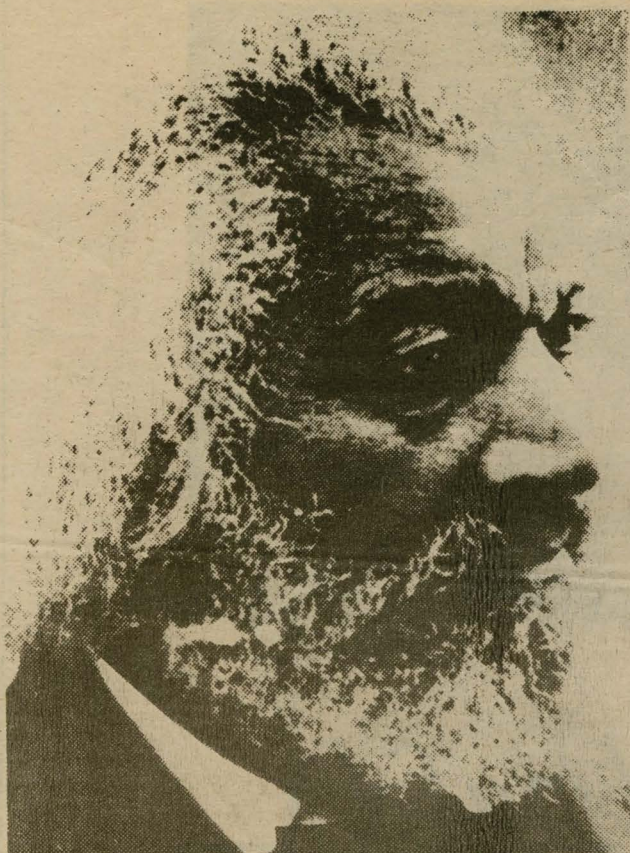
In 1871, during the Reconstruction period, he was appointed to the territorial legislature of the District of Columbia; in 1872, he served as one of the presidential electors-at-large for New York and shortly thereafter, became secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission.

In 1877, after a short term as a police commissioner of the District of Columbia, he was appointed Marshal-a post he held until he was named Recorder of Deeds in 1881.

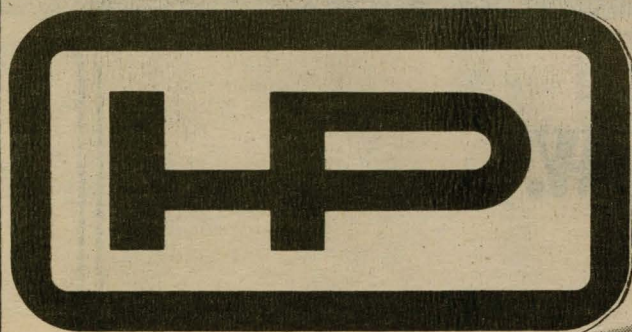
Eight years later, in return for his strong support of the presidential campaign of Benjamin Harrison, Douglass was appointed to the most important federal post he was to hold--Minister Resident and Consul General to the Republic of Haiti and, later, Charge d'Affaires for Santo Domingo.

However, when he saw his efforts being undermined by unscrupulous American businessmen interested solely in exploiting Haiti, he finally resigned his post in 1891.

Four years later, Frederick Douglass died at his home in Washington, D.C.



One of a handful of names which immediately leaps to mind at the mention of a Black American is that of Frederick Douglass, probably the foremost voice in



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