Frederick Douglass

1818  Feb., b., Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, Talbot County, MD plantation; mother, Harriet Bailey, slave; father, white man, uncertain; Douglass speculated it was Aaron Anthony, the supervisor of the Lloyd plantation where he was born.

1825  sent to Wye Plantation to work for Aaron Anthony, who has become its overseer.

1826  Anthony dies; sent to Baltimore, to work for the Auld family as house servant; Sophia Auld begins to teach him the alphabet; Hugh Auld forbids further instruction, but Douglass begins to learn from white children in the neighborhood.

1833  hired out to Edward Covey, a “Negro breaker,” to be made into a field hand; Douglass rebels, defends himself against Covey’s brutality.

1838  escapes to New York City, with the help of Anna Murray, who he marries; renames himself Frederick Douglass, but takes the name “Johnson” to mask his identity.

1839  begins reading abolitionist literature and begins association with prominent abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison.

1841  12 Apr., Douglass makes first abolitionist address in Nantucket; hired as an agent for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society; begins lecturing; a very eloquent, powerful speaker, leaders of the MASS begin worrying he won’t seem downtrodden enough for audiences, not slave-like enough; told by John Collins, general agent for the MASS, to “Give us the facts, we will take care of the philosophy.”

1843  participates in six month tour throughout the East and Midwest, lecturing on abolition; while in Pendleton, IN, he is violently attacked by a racist mob.

1845  Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave; Garrison writes preface; results in a best-seller details in narrative put Douglass in jeopardy; he leaves for England; while
there, British supporters raise enough money for him to purchase his freedom; he also travels to Ireland and meets the prominent nationalist, Daniel O'Connell (a fighter for Irish independence from England)

1847 returns to America; breaks with Garrison (an advocate of New England secession)
founds the *North Star* (later, *Frederick Douglass' Paper*), Rochester NY

1848 attends the Seneca Falls Convention, advocates for women's rights;

1852 delivers his speech, “What to the Slave is the 4th of July” at the Ladies of Rochester Anti-Slavery Sewing Society meeting, Rochester, NY

1856 *My Bondage and My Freedom*

1859 August: John Brown, the radical Kansas abolitionist, visits Douglass’s home;
Douglass attempts to persuade against his plan to attack Harper’s Ferry
16 October: Brown leads raid on Harper’s Ferry
Douglass flees to Canada, fearing he would be suspected as a co-conspirator

1862 partly as a result of Douglass’ lobbying, Lincoln begins mobilizing black troops

1877 Serves as Marshal for Washington, DC

1881 *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*
appointed Recorder of Deeds, Washington, DC

1888 at Republican National Convention, receives a vote for President

1889 serves as Consul-General, Haiti (-1891)

1892 *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (revised)

1895 20 Feb., dies, Washington, DC, stroke; buried, Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, NY