



# Sankofa Archives

Did You Know? Tidbits #8

## Anna Murray Douglass

(1813–1882)



Anna Murray Douglass was a freeborn African-American abolitionist. She was born in 1813 in Denton, Caroline County, Maryland to two former slaves, Bambarra and Mary Murray. She was the seventh of twelve children. At age seventeen, she left home and moved to Baltimore, where she found employment. [*Maryland State Archives*]

In Baltimore, she met the man who become her husband, the enslaved Frederick Bailey [later known as the abolitionist Frederick Douglass]. Anna helped him escape enslavement by providing money for a train ticket and a sailor's disguise. She and her husband had five children: Rosetta (b. 1839), Lewis (b. 1840), Frederick (b. 1842), Charles (b. 1844), and Annie (b. 1849-1860). To help support her family, she worked as a washer woman and later took up shoe mending. When the family moved to Rochester, New York, she opened her home to runaway slaves who were making their way to Canada. Her daughter, Rosetta, stated that her mother was one of the first agents to work with the Underground Railroad. [*Maryland State Archives*]

When the family moved to Washington, DC in 1872, Anna used the money she had earned as a shoe mender to purchase their home, *Cedar Hill*, in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, DC. Anna died in the family home on August 4, 1882. She was buried in Graceland Cemetery in Washington, DC but reinterred at Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York. [*Maryland State Archives*]

### References:

Anna Murray Douglass (b. circa 1813 – d. 1882). Retrieved from <http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5400/sc5496/051200/051245/html/051245bio.html>



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## Anna and Frederick's children



*Credit: National Park Service*

Rosetta Douglass Sprague (1839–1906) was the first child of Anna and Frederick Douglass.



*Credit: National Park Service*

Lewis Henry Douglass (1840–1908) was the second child of Anna and Frederick Douglass.



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*Credit: National Park Service*

Frederick Douglass, Jr. (1842–1892) was the third child of Anna and Frederick Douglass.



*Credit: National Park Service*

Charles Remond Douglass (1844–1920) was the fourth child of Anna and Frederick Douglass.



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<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5400/sc5496/051200/051245/html/051245bio.html>

Rosetta Douglass-Sprague (1839–1906). Retrieved from <http://blacksdahistory.org/rosetta-douglass-sprague.html>

## Photo References:

Frederick Douglass, Family, and Groups. Retrieved from <http://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?id=1EAB712D-1DD8-B71C-07F6DBBA9D198811>