



Onondaga Historical Association  
**FREDRICK DOUGLASS**

## **Frederick Douglass was frequent visitor**

Black History Month begins today. The Post-Standard runs moments in local history throughout February.

Frederick Douglass, a former slave turned abolitionist, was a leading figure in the movement to end slavery in America. He was well-known for his eloquent speeches, including one that eventually drew a big crowd in Syracuse through word of mouth.

Douglass spent 25 years in Rochester, where he bought a house and began publishing the North Star, an abolitionist newspaper. Syracuse was a favorite destination for Douglass, who often took train trips to the city to deliver speeches on the wrongs of slavery.

During one visit in 1843, Douglass stood in Fayette Park in Syracuse and began speaking to a group of five men and women. By then, Douglass had been made famous by his autobiography. When word got out that he was giving a speech, hundreds flocked to the park. At the end of the afternoon, at least 500 people had gathered.

— Post-Standard archives

**COMING SATURDAY:  
EDWARD H. WILSON  
WAS SYRACUSE'S  
FIRST BLACK  
LETTER CARRIER**