

[Researchers delve into rare Frederick Douglass photo mystery](#)

(The Wall Street Journal © 05/02/2016)

Researchers in upstate New York are trying to determine where and when a rare photograph of Frederick Douglass was taken.

The full-plate daguerreotype of the 19th-century abolitionist belongs to the Onondaga Historical Association in Syracuse. The Post-Standard of Syracuse reports (<http://bit.ly/1W2oxmL>) the organization has loaned the image to the University of Rochester, home to the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies.

The researchers had asked to borrow the photograph so they can analyze it for clues to where and when it was made. They believe the image was made around 1850.

[Frederick Douglass mystery: How did rare photo of famed abolitionist end up in Syracuse?](#)

(Syracuse Post Standard (Sports) © 04/29/2016)

Researchers at the University of Rochester are trying to solve the mystery surrounding an extraordinary photo of a young Frederick Douglass and how it wound up in Syracuse.

Many photographs were taken of the famous abolitionist during his 77-year lifetime, including nine known daguerreotypes. In fact, Douglass was one of the most photographed persons of his day.

However, the historical association's photo is unusual because, at 6½-by-8½ inches, it is the only known full-plate daguerreotype of Douglass, an escaped slave who became one of the nation's most prominent abolitionists.

Yet mystery surrounds the image. The Syracuse Public Library gave it to the historical association in 1954, but no one knows when or where it was made, or even when and how the photo came into the library's possession.

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[When, where was photo of Frederick Douglass taken?](#)

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[Rochester researchers delve into rare Frederick Douglass photo mystery](#)

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