

Stop 4a & 4b : The Old Town House (a), 1 Market Square, and Site of the Lyceum (b), 73

Washington Street

Once a hot bed of anti-slavery activity, Marblehead hosted one of America's most recognizable faces of the abolitionist movement, Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), on two occasions, once at the Old Town House and later at the now demolished Lyceum Hall. Years later, people remembered Douglass' visits:

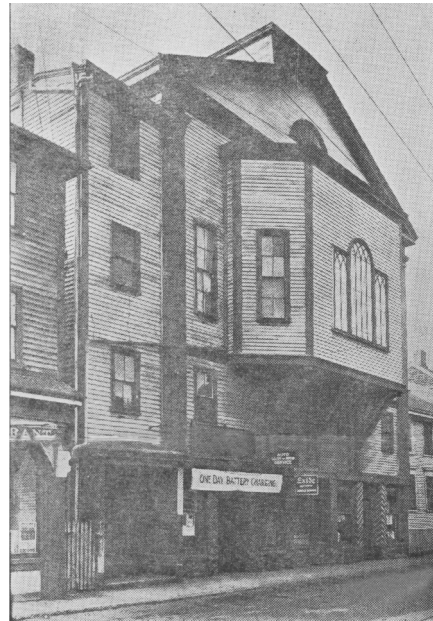
It was in the Lyceum Hall that I first heard "Fred" Douglass as he was familiarly called. Memory's picture of that night time has not dimmed. I can see his tall, erect figure on the speaker's stand, his kinky hair parted on the right, "sticking out" on the left far beyond his forehead, his arm extended in gesticulation as he plead the cause of Jonathan Walker, who was imprisoned in the south for aiding the slaves, and hear his voice ring through the hall as he

any man I ever met. I recall seeing him coming down Mugford street on his way to the Town Hall, he walked in the middle of the street, and with his massive form, grand carriage, slow and stately walk, he seemed to belong just there; it needed the breadth of a street to frame in properly the picture he unconsciously made. A great man has passed away in

Marblehead Messenger, March 1, 1895 .

Marblehead Messenger, March 8, 1895 .

On the ground floor of the Lyceum, James and Edward Fountain's (aka Fontaine) barber shop existed for much of the 19th century. James was the son of a freed (or escaped) slave. Raised in New York, he came to Marblehead in the 1830s or 1840s, eventually purchasing a house on Stacey Court. He served in the 54th and then 55th Massachusetts Regiments during the Civil War (depicted in the movie *Glory*). After the war, he and his family moved to Salem and opened a barber shop downtown. James' brother, Edward, took over the Marblehead business and ran it until his retirement in about 1903. A stalwart of the community, Edward served on a number of town committees and was a member of local fraternal organizations.



Lyceum Hall, Dan Dixey Collection.

MARBLEHEAD



M · U · S · E · U · M

A Glimpse into the History of Free and Enslaved Individuals in Marblehead A Self-Guided Walking Tour

The stories and contributions of People of Color in Marblehead are many. This tour seeks to provide just a glimpse into some of the most fascinating individuals who have lived, worked, or visited Marblehead through the centuries. Marblehead Museum is committed to researching and sharing our town's diverse history.

To learn more about these individuals and the research being done, please visit:

Learn more at www.marbleheadmuseum.org/BIPOC/

or scan this QR code

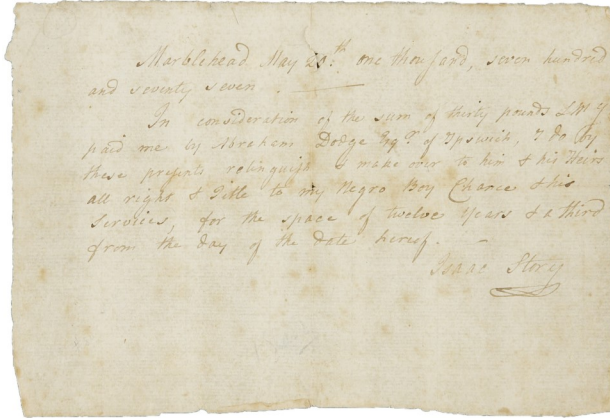


Stop 1. Jeremiah Lee Mansion and Brick Kitchen, 161 Washington Street.

Merchant Jeremiah Lee built both the Mansion and detached brick kitchen to the right in 1766-1767. Known in town lore as “Lee’s Slave Quarters,” the kitchen likely served as the center of labor for the enslaved people Lee purchased. Throughout the 1760s, Lee “owned” between 2 and 3 individuals at any given time according to tax and probate records. The Marblehead Museum purchased this building in 2021 and is diligently working to study, preserve, and eventually interpret it as the home and work space of enslaved people, some of whom remain anonymous and others we know only as Dimond, Cupid, and Jemmy.

Stop 2. Chance Bradstreet, Darling Street

Chance was born into slavery in 1762, the son of Rev. Simon Bradstreet’s enslaved woman, Phillis. When Bradstreet died in 1771, mother and son became the property of the Reverend's son-in-law, Rev. Isaac Story. In 1773, Rev. Story performed the marriage ceremony for “Fillis [Phillis] Story” to another man of color in Marblehead, likely enslaved, named Francis Glover.



The document “leasing” Chance Bradstreet to Abraham Dodge, 1777. Private Collection.

In 1777, at 14 years old, Chance was “leased” to Story’s kinsman, Abraham Dodge of Ipswich.

Based on later tax documents, historians have surmised that Chance returned to Marblehead sometime before his death in 1810, residing in a house on Darling Street.

Stop 3. The Landing, Corner of Front Street and State Street

In 1636, somewhere along the waterfront, Marbleheaders build the 120-ton ship *Desire*. Only the third ship built in the Mass Bay Colony, *Desire* became infamous for being the first ship to bring enslaved Africans into Massachusetts. Less well-known is that the ship transported captured Native People from Connecticut to the West Indies to be sold into slavery.

Since European settlement, Marblehead’s industry has revolved around the harbor. Many free and enslaved People of Color labored as stevedores, sailors, and in other maritime-related work. In Ashley Bowen’s late 18th-century journals, he recounts hiring Cato Watts and Cesar Homan to labor on his vessels. Whether these men were free or Bowen “hired them out” from their enslavers is unknown.

