

THE GILDER LEHRMAN  
INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

*Inside the Vault:  
Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection*

February 18, 2021

*The session will start shortly. Please note:*

- Your video and audio will automatically turn off.
- You can participate through the Q&A function.
- If you have technical difficulties, please email [collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org) so we can assist you.

# *Our Team*

## Panelists

- Sandy Trenholm - Collection Director
- Mandel Holland - History Educator at Woodlands Middle High School in New York
- Marcus John - Universal Swing in *Hamilton*
- Allison Kraft - Assistant Curator

# *During the Session*



- If you would like to ask a question, you can **use the Q&A feature**, which is at the bottom of your screen.
- **Viewing in full screen** is recommended to see the presenters and the presentation at the same time.

## **For Security and Privacy**

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.

# Today's Documents

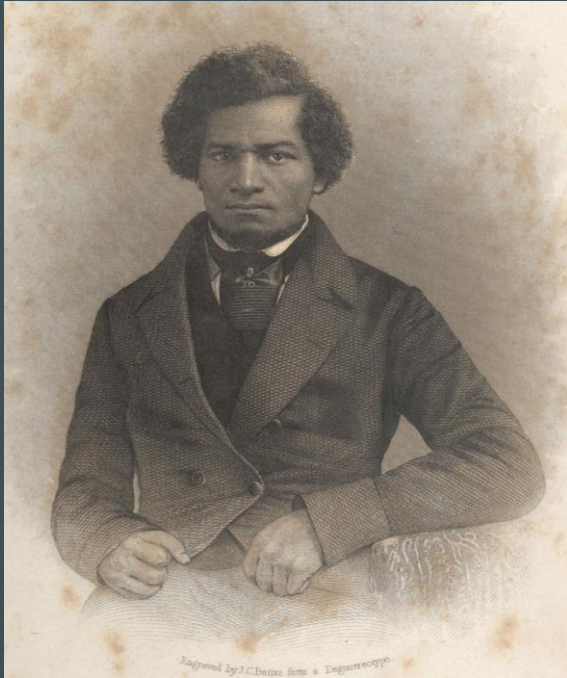
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- Autobiographical Sketch
- Quotation from Address at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Frederick Douglass to Thomas B. Pugh, November 17, 1870
- Frederick Douglass to unknown recipient, November 23, 1887

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# Frederick Douglass, 1818-1895



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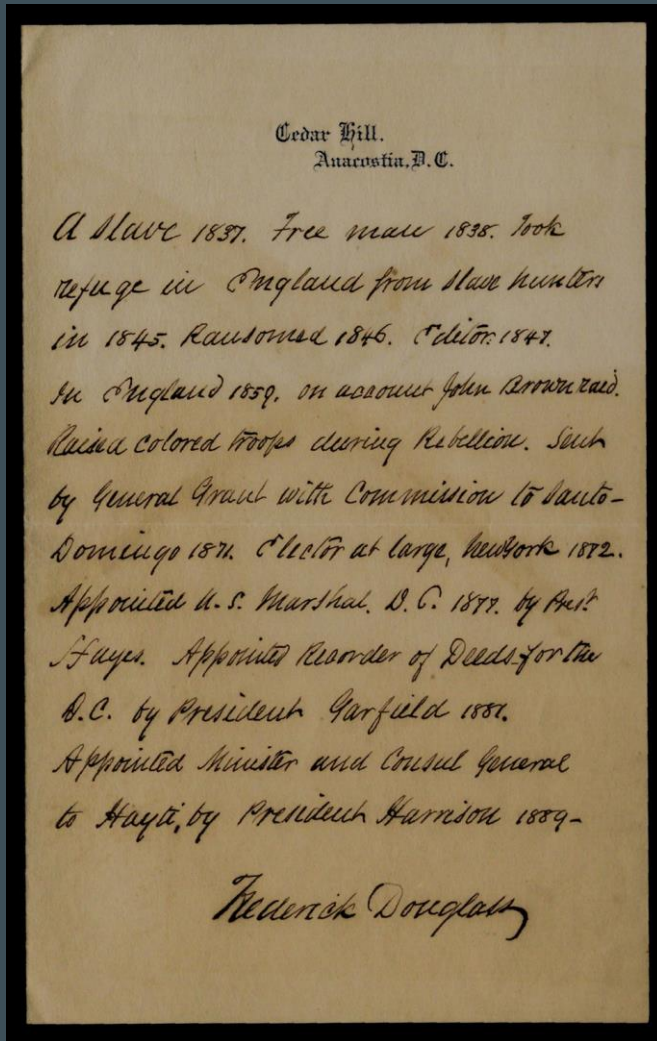
- February 1818 - Born in Talbot County, Maryland, on a plantation belonging to Aaron Anthony
- September 3, 1838 - Escaped bondage
- September 15, 1838 - Married Anna Murray
- January 24, 1884 - Married Helen Pitts
- February 20, 1895 - Died

*“The principle thing I desired in making the inquiries I have of you was to get some idea of my exact age. I have always been troubled by the thought of having no birth day.”*

--Frederick Douglass to Benjamin Auld, March 24, 1894

# Autobiographical Sketch

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“A slave 1837.  
Free man 1838.  
Took refuge in England from slave hunters in  
1845.  
Ransomed 1846.  
Editor. 1847.  
In England 1859. on account John Brown raid.  
Raised colored troops during Rebellion.  
Sent by General Grant with Commission to  
Santo-Domingo 1871.  
Elector at large, New York 1872.  
Appointed U.S. Marshal. D.C. 1877. by Pres<sup>t</sup>  
Hayes.  
Appointed Recorder of Deeds for the D.C. by  
President Garfield 1881.  
Appointed Minister and Consul General to  
Hayti, by President Harrison 1889 -



# Address at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, 1871

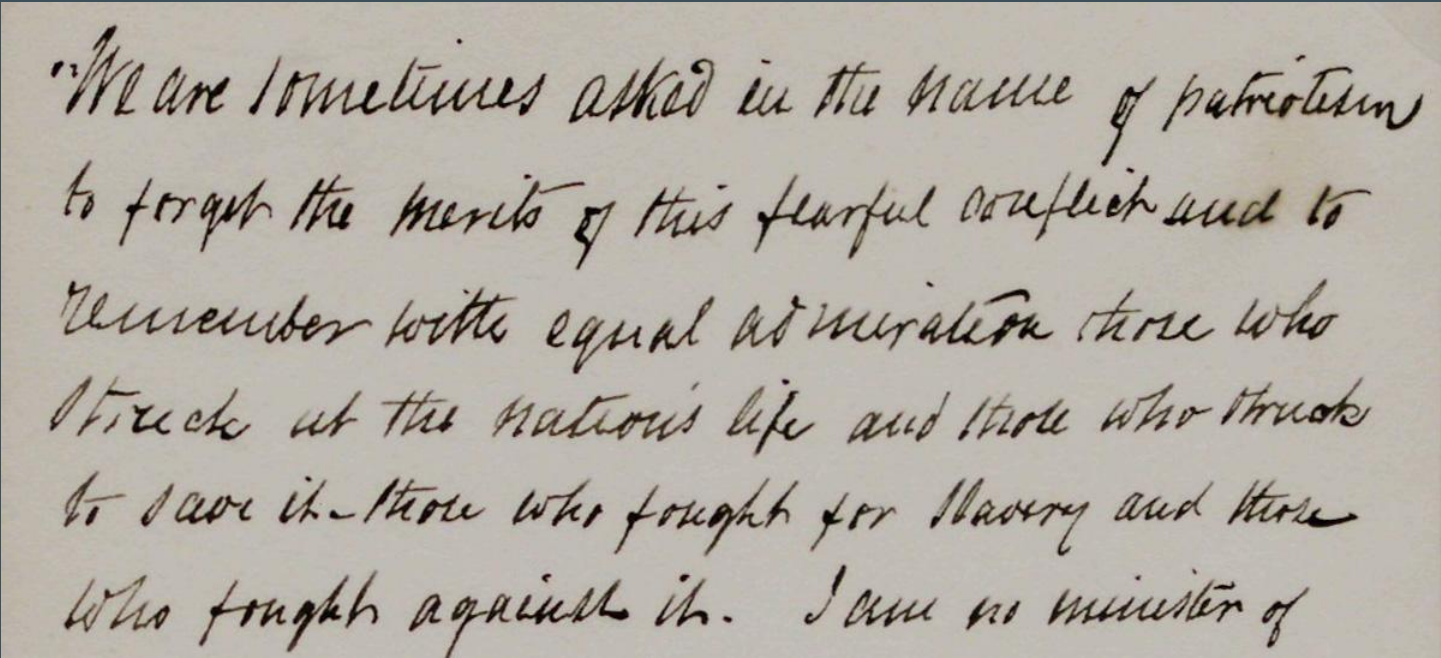
- Decoration Day was first celebrated in 1868 as a way to honor the Civil War dead.
- On May 30, 1871, Douglass delivered a speech at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.
- Section 27 contains the graves of black Civil War troops.
- Section 27 also contains graves of former enslaved men, women, & children.

"We are sometimes asked in the name of patriotism to forget the merits of this fearful conflict and to remember with equal admiration those who struck at the nation's life and those who strove to save it—those who fought for Slavery and those who fought against it. I am no minister of malice: I would strike the fallen foe. I would upbraid the ~~repentant~~ repentant but may my right hand forget her cunning and my tongue cleave to the roof my mouth if I forget and fail to remark the difference between the respective parties to that protracted, bloody and terrible conflict."

Frederick Douglass.

The above was spoken  
at the Tomb of the unknown loyal dead  
at Arlington Va

# Memorial Day, 1871

A photograph of a handwritten note on a piece of aged, cream-colored paper. The text is written in a cursive script. The note discusses the complexities of Memorial Day, specifically the challenge of remembering both those who fought for the Union and those who fought for the Confederacy during the American Civil War. The handwriting is clear and legible, with some ink bleed-through visible from the reverse side of the paper.

"We are sometimes asked in the name of patriotism to forget the merits of this fearful conflict and to remember with equal admiration those who struck at the nation's life and those who struck to save it- those who fought for Slavery and those who fought against it. I am no minister of

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"We are sometimes asked in the name of patriotism to forget the merits of this fearful conflict and to remember with equal admiration those who struck at the nation's life and those who struck to save it- those who fought for slavery and those who fought against it."



# Fighting "Jim Crow," 1870

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I am, dear Sir,  
Very truly Yours  
Frederick Douglass

J. B. Pugh Esq

Washington D.C. Nov. 17. 1870

My dear Sir,

Since accepting your kind invitation to deliver one of the lectures of the "Star Course" and in ~~the~~ progress in the Academy of Music Philadelphia, I have learned with some surprise considering our recently improved civilization, that in servile deference to a vulgar and senseless prejudice against my long abused and proscribed people, the Directors of that popular Hall persist in refusing to allow it to be used for a lecture to which my race shall be admitted on terms of equality with others. This course on the part of these Directors, who thus make themselves the devoted ministers of a rapidly decaying caste, will oblige you, if I lecture in your "Star Course" at all to go out of your "Star Course" at least so far as the Hall is concerned and thus make my lecture an exception. Hoping that you will not deem me too sensitive on the point, I beg to decline any such an arrangement as the procurement of another Hall and if it must be so, I prefer to wait the progress of enlightenment and liberality which will yet surely open the doors of the "Academy of Music" as freely to me and my

race as to other men and other races.

I believe that the "City of Brotherly Love" with its hundreds of Altars to the "Lamb of God" stands almost alone in the intensity of its wolfish hate and snobbish pride of race. It clings longer to proscriptions on its cars and other modes of travel than any other city of the North, and the "Jim Crow" law is retained there more extensively than in any other <sup>part</sup> North of Mason and Dixon's line. Nevertheless, I do not despair of speedy improvement, and can well afford to confine my labors to other towns and cities, until such time as shall bring more favorable conditions than the Christian, and enlightened Directors of the Academy of Music would impose.

I am, dear Sir,  
Very truly Yours  
Frederick Douglass

J. B. Pugh Esq

# T.B. Pugh & Star Course



Library of Congress

- 1870 - Douglass was invited by T. B. Pugh to speak in the *Star Course* series at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia.
- The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments have been passed and Douglass was hopeful for an end to the “caste” system.
- Douglass learns that the Academy of Music “does not admit Black people on terms of equality with others.”
- He cancels the lecture and sends a strong letter to Pugh.

# Racism in the North, 1870

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Since accepting your kind invitation to deliver one of the lectures of the "Star Course" now in ~~pro~~ progress in the Academy of Music Philadelphia, I have learned with some surprise considering our recently improved civilization, that in servile deference to a vulgar and senseless prejudice against my long abused and proscribed people, the Directors of that popular Hall persist in refusing to allow it to be used for a lecture to which my race shall be admitted on terms of equality with others. This course

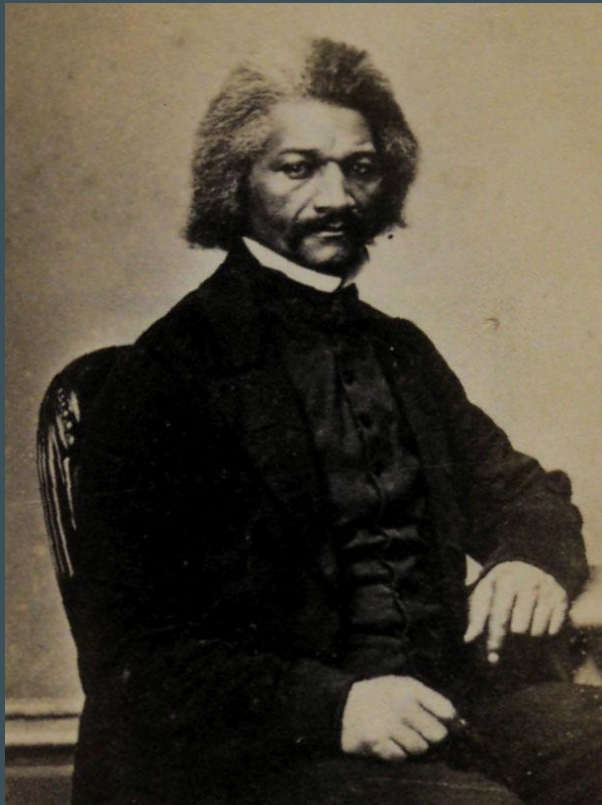
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# *Segregation in Philadelphia, 1870*

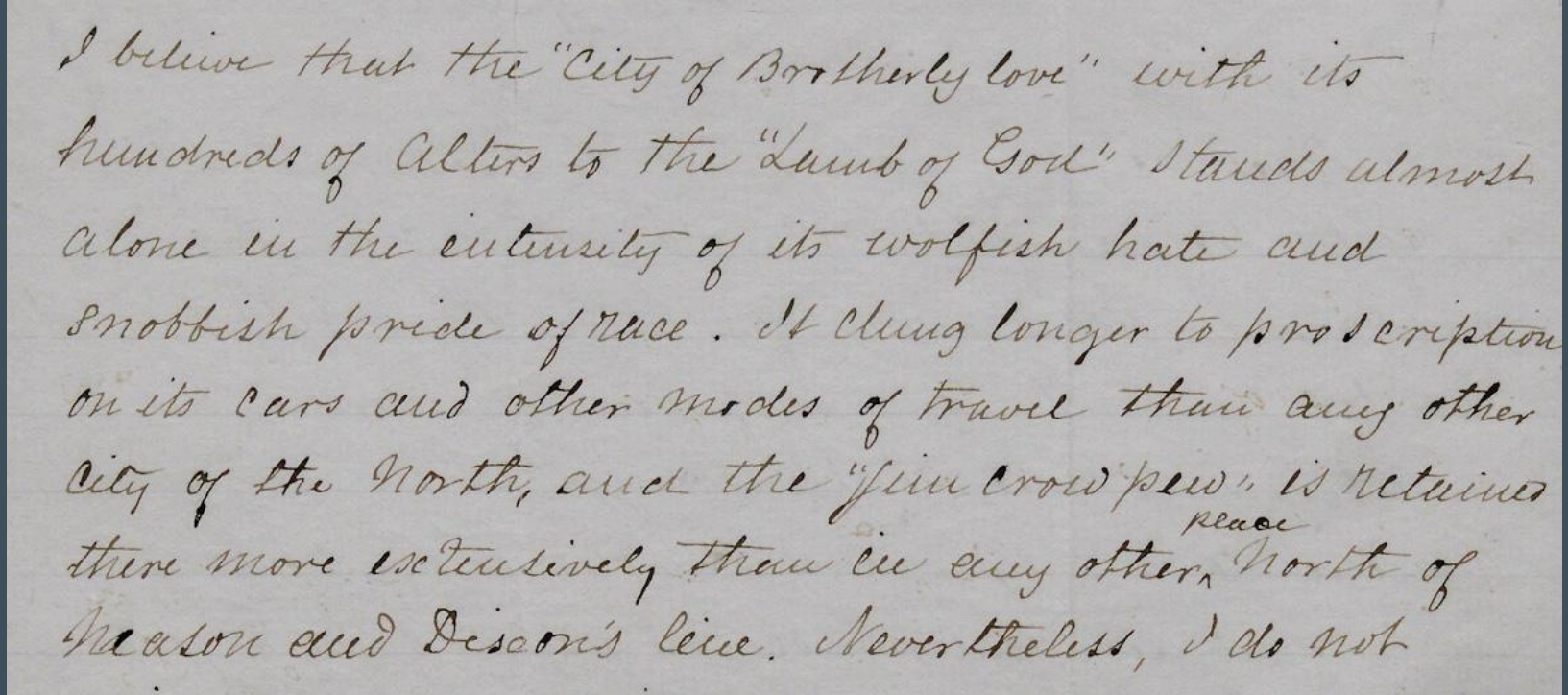
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“Hoping that you will not deem me too sensitive on the point, I beg to decline any such an arrangement as the procurement of another Hall ... I prefer to wait the progress of enlightenment and liberality, which will yet surely open the doors of the ‘Academy of Music’ as freely to me and my race as to other men and other races.”

*“Wolfish hate and snobbish pride of race”* THE GILDER LEHRMAN  
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A photograph of a handwritten manuscript snippet on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive hand and is a direct transcription of the quote shown below. The paper shows some signs of wear and discoloration.

I believe that the "City of Brotherly love" with its hundreds of Altars to the "Lamb of God" stands almost alone in the intensity of its wolfish hate and snobbish pride of race. It clung longer to proscription on its cars and other modes of travel than any other city of the North, and the "Jim Crow pew" is retained there more extensively than in any other <sup>place</sup> North of Mason and Dixon's line. Nevertheless, I do not

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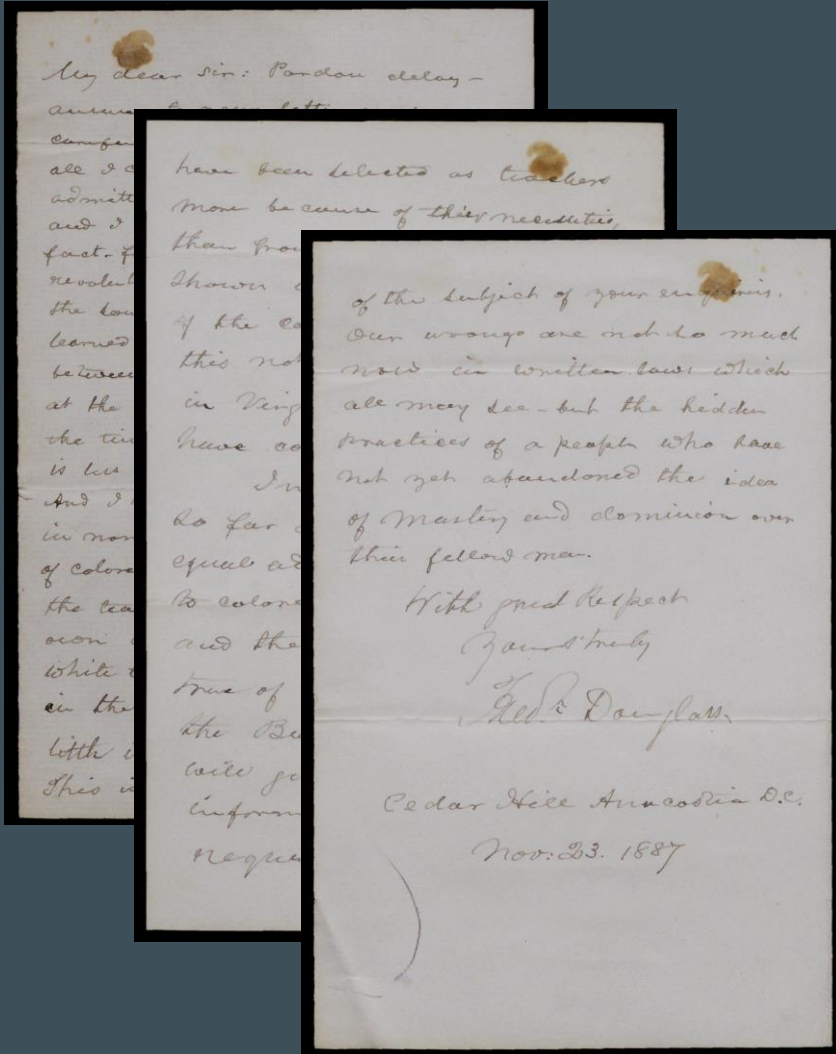


# Investigating equality, 1887

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“From all I can learn colored Lawyers are admitted to practice in Southern Courts, and I am very glad to admit the fact - for it implies a wonderful revolution in the public sentiment of the Southern States.”

- Douglass wrote this letter to an unknown recipient.
- He is clearly answering questions.
- He seems hopeful for the future.



# *Black Education in the South, 1887*

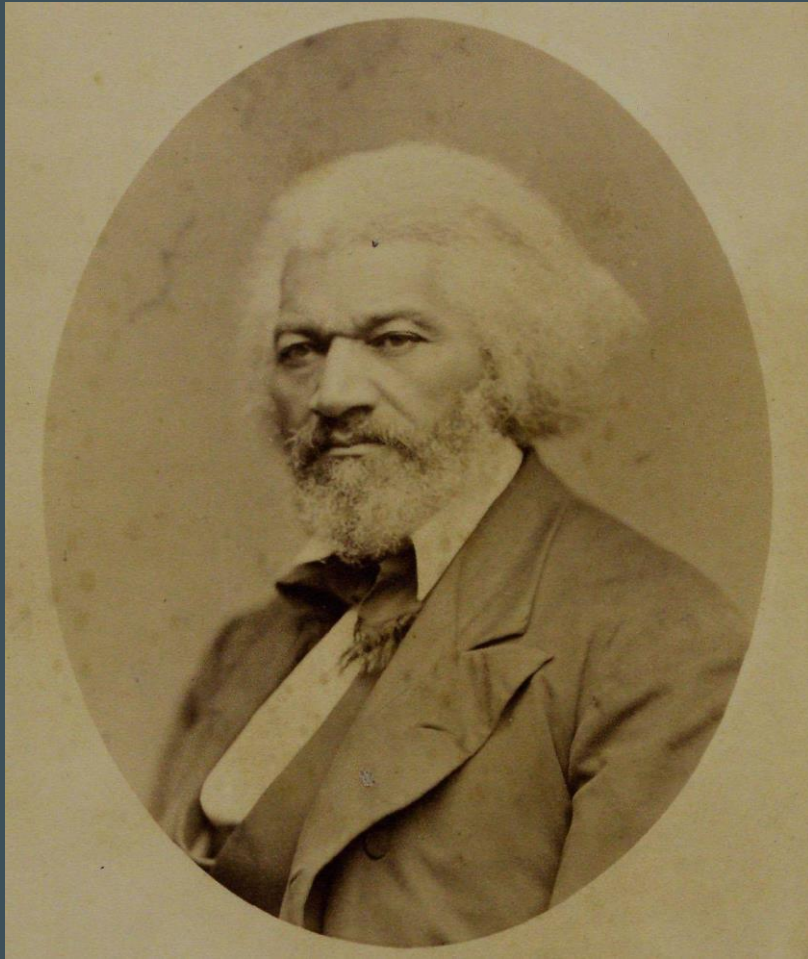
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- Black schools have less time allotted to them.
- Teachers are paid less than in White schools.
- Teachers are apathetic about their students because they are there out of necessity rather than interest in their students.
- In Kentucky - the law sees education as equal.

# *“Hidden practices”*




“Our wrongs are not so much now in written laws which all may see - but the hidden practices of a people who have not yet abandoned the idea of Mastery and dominion over their fellow man.”

Q&A

# Transcribe! *Informational session*

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

SCRIPTO · ROBERT L. STONE'S WORLD WAR II LETTERS

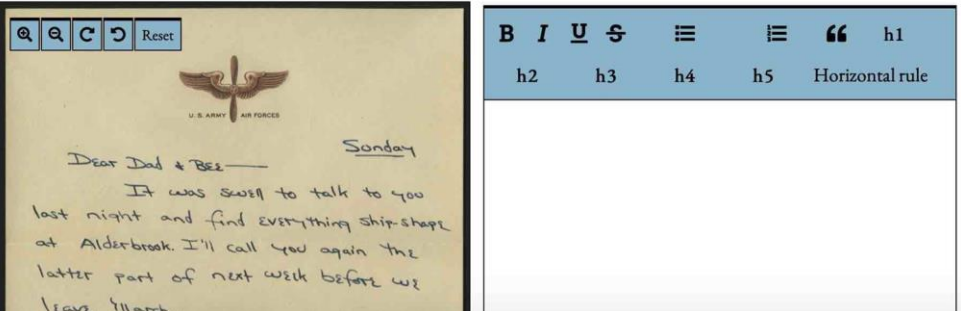
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GLC09620.101: Robert L. Stone, to Jacob Stone and Beatrice Stone,  
11 June 1944.: Page #1

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- Learn more about our online transcription volunteer opportunities for students 13 and over
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- Regularly updated projects, and workshop sessions for building transcription skills
- Info session on **Friday, March 5 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time.**
- Session will be recorded
- Contact [transcribe@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:transcribe@gilderlehrman.org) with questions



# *Upcoming Programs*

- *Book Breaks*, February 21 at 2 pm ET (11 am PT)
  - Kabria Baumgartner discusses her book *In Pursuit of Knowledge: Black Women and Educational Activism in Antebellum America*.
- 22nd Annual Frederick Douglass Book Prize
  - Tuesday, February 23 at 7 pm ET (4 pm PT)
  - We invite teachers, students, and history lovers to join us for this event, which will feature remarks and a Q&A with prizewinner Sophie White as well as David Blight, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and director of the Gilder Lehrman Center at Yale University.

# *Upcoming Programs*

- *Inside the Vault*, Thursday, March 4 at 7 pm ET (4 pm PT)
  - We will be discussing Lucy Knox: Loyalist's Daughter, Patriot's Wife, and Witness to the American Revolution.
- Nominate a teacher for History Teacher of the Year!
  - K-12 teachers in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and US Territories are eligible. These winners are then entered into a pool for the National History Teacher of the Year award.
- Visit [gilderlehrman.org](http://gilderlehrman.org) for free resources for students, teachers, families, and history enthusiasts of all ages.