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Final Analytical Essay

What were the different offices held by Frederick Douglass?

Frederick Douglass had many different offices during his lifetime. Some offices he ran in elections, some offices he was appointed to, and some offices he establishes himself. The titles and offices Frederick Douglass held were an activist, writer, orator, an abolitionist, and publisher. He also ran for the president and received a vote at the 1888 Republican National Conventions. He was on the ballot as a vice presidential candidate along with Victoria Woodhull of the Equal Rights Party. Douglas wrote many speeches, letters, and notes along with three autobiographies one as a fictional slave being successful in revolt in American history. He orated at the National Council of Women on February 1895 at a meeting in Washington DC receiving a standing ovation while at the podium. This was his last official public appearance prior to later dying the same day of a massive heart attack at his home.

Although he worked with William Lloyd Garrison's an abolitionist newspaper "The Liberator" whose attention he caught while writing against slavery, he later established his own newspaper entitled Frederick Douglass Paper because they parted ways over disagreement of the interpretation of the constitution. Frederick Douglass, being an eloquent writer and speaker, influenced those of black and white ethnicity in America and in Great Britain. He was very persuasive in orating his argument over slavery and the harshness of man owning another

man. His works caught the attention of President Abraham Lincoln who called him his friend in front of ushers that would not allow Frederick Douglass into his inauguration even though he had a formal invitation to stop the commotion that was going on.

Born as a slave in the state of Maryland being a descendent of Negro and White, it was speculated that the owner of the plantation was his birth father although its not recorded. He was not sure of when he was born though he was taken from his mother and given to his grandmother to raise him. In the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, he mentions not knowing his mother but remembers her coming more than four or five times in his life. She journeyed at night to see him at his grandmother's house, and she would leave before daybreak to return to her plantation to be on time in the field at sunrise. He was not allowed to see her during her illness and never seen her in the day light and those visits ceased around seven years old when she died. He never had the love of affection from his mother because children were often taken away from the mother at twelve month and given to an older woman too old to labor in the field, therefore, she had to have multiple children she raised probably of no relations.

Frederick Douglass growing up as a slave, although he had some white features did not count favorably towards him as a young teen. The title as a slave is one title, he was very displeased with so much he wrote about the horrific ways slaves were treated, he also spoke about it when he spoke at lectures and conventions and to anyone who would listen eventually including the president of the United States. He and Abraham Lincoln were both self-made men and Abraham Lincoln knew he needed Frederick Douglass to help preserve the Union and Douglass needed Lincoln to help bring an end to slavery. When he went to live with Mrs. Auld,

she began to teach him the ABC and taught him how to spell words mainly with three to four letters. When Mr. Auld found out what she was teaching him, he forbade her to teach him anymore because it was against the law and unsafe to teach a slave to read and he would be of no value. He said this resonated in his mind and I believe this is when he realized how valuable knowledge would be to him and could possibly give him freedom because he would be of no value as a slave. This opened a new train of thought or direction for him and stirred up his sentiments.

In his book he mentions the time when he saw his first impression of what slavery on plantation was about. He was about 6 years old when he witnessed his aunt being beaten by her master. He also elaborates on a time when he was whipped by the master of the plantation, he resided on by the name of Edward Covey better known as the slave "breaker". He decided to fight back and never again was he whipped by Mr. Covey.

In his study of religion Frederick Douglass realized that man and not God had made him a slave. This can also be added to his drive of wanting to be free as a man and promoting equal rights for all. Also seeing how the slave owners were using the Bible to keep the slave in order because most of them could not read he denounced the false view of Christianity that supported slave ownership. He did manage to attend a teaching of the Sabbath school lead by a young white man named Mr. Wilson to allow the slaves to learn to read the New Testament. They were later driven off by others with sticks and missiles and forbade them to meet again. He banded with other religious reformers to seek a peaceful means to end slavery.

Frederick Douglass had escaped many times, however, this one time he disguised himself as a sailor and was able to board a train that took him North along with his future wife Anna who was a free woman from up North. Douglass later traveled to Great Britain orating against slavery in the United States. There people were very supportive of him, and he was able to earn a living and therefore, was able to buy his way out of slavery.

Frederick Douglass after the death of Anna his first wife he shocked the nation and married a white woman named Helen Pitts who was active in the feminist movement. His stance was solely to help women suffering and to reach their full potential in America. Frederick at the time of his death was buried by his second wife was laid to rest in Rochester, NY along with his first wife Anna.

In conclusion, Frederick Douglass lived through the trenches of slavery withstanding all the odds against him as a slave enduring some of the harshest treatment through experience and witnessing treatment of others, he was able to become a man of stature. He took what God gave him to better himself in a rough and harsh situation of not knowing the outcome. He did whatever he needed to do to further his aspiration for freedom and although he entered this world as a slave, but he left this world as a free man. He never gave up his plight. His story "The Narrative of the Life" doesn't mention what his dreams were, but it mentions about what resonated with him when the master scolded his wife from teaching a slave to read saying that it was dangerous and there would be no value to him. It never mentioned how he dreamed of being freed from the bondage of slavery. So, I will give Mr. Frederick Douglass a new office of "Hero." He was hero to many of us of African descendent, I would not want to think about the what if he hadn't taken the risks and chances at being free. What if he never learned to read

and write how would that have affected us today, would Abraham Lincoln have abolished slavery? There are so many what if's and I know that I for one am glad that he took that step and strived to do something different and possibly opened the door to freedom out of slavery here in America.

Works Cited

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