HISTORY WEEK SPECIAL FEATURE

How Baltimore Received Notice of Douglass' Death

Frederick Douglass is usually pictured as a bearded, white-haired man. This is the way he looked at 30—the fighting face of a fiery abolitionist.

Frederick Douglass, born at Tuckahoe, near Easton, Talbot County, Md., died Feb. 20, 1895. When the news of his death reached Baltimore, a group of prominent citizens met to pay him tribute.

Reprinted from AFRO-AMERICAN — Feb. 23, 1895

WHEN the sad and sudden intelligence of the death of the Hon. Frederick Douglass reached Baltimore, the city in which were spent so many of the early days of his exceptionally romantic life (and while the leading newspapers, both North and South were paying high tribute to his great worth), a special meeting of citizens of Baltimore was held at Bethel AME Church on Friday evening.

The meeting was called by AME Bishop Wayman, a lifelong friend of Mr. Douglass.

Bishop Wayman called the meeting to order and nominated J. H. Butler, Esq., for chairman. Malachi Gibson was requested to act as secretary. Rev. William Alexander offered prayer.

On motion, the following were appointed a committee on resolutions;

Harry S. Cummings, Hiram Watty, Geo. W. Bryant, H. J. Brown, and Jno. W. Beckett.

The committee reported the following resolutions which were adopted:

WHEREAS, the nation has been enveloped in sorrow and sadness by the visitation of an all wise Providence, in the removal from our midst of that venerable, able and faithful leader, Hon. Fred Douglass, and

WHEREAS, in his death, the American people have lost one of their greatest Statesmen and orators, and the colored race, its greatest leader and defender, and

WHEREAS, we are thankful that the Almighty spared this great man to behold the results of the conscientious and faithful labors of his life, viz: the liberation and progress of his people, and

WHEREAS, we are desirous of expressing our grateful acknowledgement of the noble and useful life of this great man. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that while bowing in humble submission to the will of Him, "Who doeth all things well," we most sincerely regret the loss of one upon whom we could always depend to fight the battles of an oppressed people, and whose voice at all times commanded the attention of the American people. Be it further

RESOLVED, that as residents of the State, which gave him birth, we send a delegation to be in attendance upon his funeral, as a practical illustration of the high honor in which he was held in his native State. Be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to his widow and children, and a copy be sent to the several newspapers in the city.

EX-COUNCILMAN Harry S. Cummings, speaking upon the resolution, said: "That, when a Southern Legislature adjourns in honor of an ex-slave and a colored abolitionist, and refused to adjourn in honor of a Confederate general, it is one of the highest tributes, which, can, under the circumstances, be paid to that man and his memory.

The adjournment of the North Carolina Legislature in honor of Frederick Douglass, is an incident which shows in the very high esteem he was held by his countrymen.

DR. H. J. BROWN spoke generally of the deceased, with whom he was acquainted for years. He compared him in mental capacity to Gladstone and Bismarck.

Ex-Bailiff Taylor delivered an eloquent tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Eulogistic remarks were made also by Bishop Wayman, Malachi Gibson and Rev. W. M. Alexander.

A committee consisting of Dr. J. M. Cargill, W. T. McGuinn, J. W. Browning, W. H. J. Wheeler, W. F. Taylor, J. H. Butler and Dr. J. M. Johnson, was appointed to prepare a suitable program and to make all necessary arrangements for a memorial meeting to be held at Bethel AME Church, Tuesday evening, March 12th.

Messrs. Hiram Watty, Malachi Gibson and D. D. Dickson, were appointed a committee to select a floral tribute.

It was suggested that a monument be erected in Druid Hill Park in memory of the Hon. Frederick Douglass.

Frederick Douglass as most of us remember him—wild, bushy hair and beard, and stern visage. A powerful figure of a man.

Douglass And Judge Harlan

I saw Justice Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court at Mr. Douglass' funeral, paying his last respects to one who in life had been his friend. It was a memorable occasion.

It was a scene that represented the most striking contrast between the periods of the history of our nation.

Justice Harlan had previously been the presiding officer of a meeting at which Mr. Douglass was chief speaker.

Only thirty years before, a Justice of the same court had made his name notorious by rendering a decision that placed even Frederick Douglass outside of the pale of human association.

Roger Brooks Taney, in his elaborate opinion in the famous Dred Scott case, declared that a colored man had neither social nor civil rights nor legal capacity.

When Frederick Douglass and Justice Harlan met on the same platform on the occasion referred to, each valuing the other for his worth as a man, here was a scene that represented a change in public sentiment that was more than revolutionary.

ROBERT H. TERRELL
Judge Municipal Court
Washington, D.C.

100 Baltimoreans At Douglass' Funeral

The train leaving Camden Station at 10:20, Monday for Washington, bore nearly a hundred of Baltimore's most prominent citizens onward to Washington, to pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of their leader.

Special arrangements were made for the reception of the Baltimore delegation, at the Metropolitan AME Church, where the funeral services were conducted.

Earth's greatest hero could not have been buried with greater honors than those attending the burial of Frederick Douglass.

As his body lay in state at the church, thousands passed in line to view for the last time the lips that have for years charmed thousands by their eloquence, and the majestic form which carried dignity with its very presence.

Children who had read of his romantic career, looked and wept over his bier.

* * *

WHITE HAIRED, old men, who like him, had felt the iron heel of the oppressor on their neck, mourned the loss of a leader, to whom was due more than to any other one man their freedom and citizenship.

The services were indeed inspiring.

They were opened with the singing of a favorite hymn of the deceased, "Nearer My God to Thee";

Prayer was offered by Rev. Alex. Curmmel, pastor of St. Luke's P.E. Church;

Scripture was read by Bishop Hood, of the AME Zion Church;

Singing, "In Thy Cleft O Rock of Ages"; tribute by the Rev. John Jenifer, pastor of the Metropolitan AME Church;

Tribute by Rev. G. E. Stephenson, pastor of the Anacostia Baptist Church;

Singing, "Jesus, My Saviour, to Bethlehem Came";

Tribute, by President John Rankin, of Howard University.

Tributes were also paid by Rev. W. B. Derrick, of New York; Bishop A. W. Wayman, Secretary Nicholl, of the Haitian Legation; Miss Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Small, president of the National Woman's Council, and prayer was offered by Rev. Anna Shaw.

* * *

THE SERVICES continued from two until five. During the time no one tired of the very excellent services.

After the services, the body was taken under military escort to the B. and O. R. R. depot, followed by the G. A. R. and the Baltimore delegation.

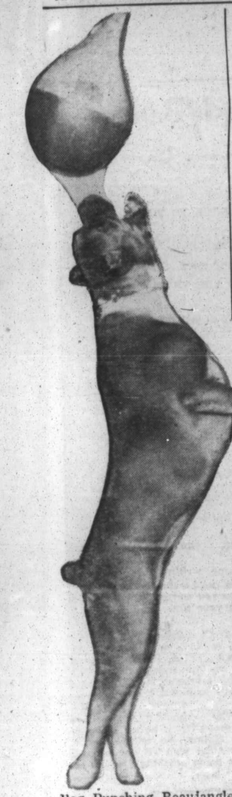
* * *

THE ARRANGEMENTS for the memorial meeting, to be held at Bethel AME Church on Tuesday, March 12, have been nearly completed. The order of exercises will be as follows:

Presiding officer, Bishop A. W. Wayman; prayer by Rev. Harvey Johnson; addresses to be delivered by Warner T. McGuinn, Esq., Dr. C. B. Purvis, of Washington; Rev. Geo. W. Bryant.

Benediction by Rev. W. P. Ryder; music by the choir of the church, assisted by W. T. Taylor, leader of the Metropolitan choir and by Jas. E. Fessendon, leader of the choir of Madison Street Presbyterian Church.

This Dog's Words Worth $500 Each



Bag Punching Beaujangles says: "I'm hungry" when she wants her dinner (which incidentally includes ground beef, a food supplement, a boiled egg twice a week, milk, cottage er oil, a teaspoon full each morning).

An Indianapolis chiropodist entered his 3-year-old predigreed boxer in a talking dog talent contest on a nationwide TV contest. The dog spoke three words in "distinct English" and won $1,500.

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Dr. and Mrs. A. P. Hall (Albert and Katherine) 260 Berkley Road, Indianapolis, Ind., took their boxer dog "Beaujangles, Baby of Casa" to New York to appear on TV and returned home $1,500 richer.

The pedigreed female dog who was three years old in Oct., 1957, spoke three words which the judges on Will Rogers Jr., show on Feb. 18 thought were "distinct English."

She said: 'Bow-wow,' an expression she had never even heard before and 'I love mommie,' and rang up $500 cash for each.

However, according to her master, Beaujangles received letters from talking dog fans from all parts of the nation. They thought everything she said was "good English" and they said so.

* * *

HER CONVERSATION on the TV program included: "I don't want to" which Dr. Hall says is of her own coinage. When the lady dog does not want to comply, she discovered on her own that "I don't want to" is the thing to say.

In addition, this smart pup

Dr. Hall and "Jangles" enjoy a cigar together.

She learned to say "Merry Christmas" her first Christmas, and "Good-Bye" earlier than most babies learn to talk.

In fact, because Beaujangles is an exceedingly intelligent dog, Dr. Hall says she can repeat most everything he says to her.

* * *

EXPLAINING HOW the priceless canine lady learned to talk, Dr. Hall says: "Just like other dogs learn what 'get out of here' and 'go away' and 'sit down' means, she knows everything else you say and because we talk to her, she talks back to us.

"Just like a cat knows 'scat' and understands what you mean, our dog understands what we say and she answers or repeats."

* * *

DR. HALL also said that the famous dog understands and obeys hence when she is told, "You can't go", no chains are necessary to hold her back. She just doesn't go.

He states: "We don't have to lock her up, shut doors or chain her. When we say 'You can't go this time,' she understands and doesn't insist.

"When we say 'don't do that,' she doesn't," he added.

Along with the famous talking dog of Indiana, live her two daughters. "Captain Lookout's Glamor Girl" and "Lookout's Cassandra" both of whom are 8 months old.

They share the Hall home with "Bozo" who is "just a cat," without pedigree, without family background.

While Bozo sleeps in the basement, the three boxers have a mattress in the kitchen.

* * *

DR. HALL says: "During the day they are all around the house with us and they live with us as part of the family."

"When Bozo comes indoors from outside where it is raining or snowing, the dogs dry him off. They play together, eat together and curl up for naps together. They're all friends, and we're one big family."

Dr. Hall is a well-known chiropodist who has practiced in the Hoosier town for 24 years. He and Mrs. Hall have no children.

* * *

THE MOTHER dog who spends her time gabbing, sassing, and talking herself into prizes and money, was purchased from a Florida woman who was injured in an accident, could no longer care for her.

Dr. Hall bought her in Dec., 1956.

Following in their mother's footsteps, Glamor Girl and Cassandra have won first and second prizes in six shows.

When the AFRO talked with Dr. Hall he had just brought the two puppies from the American Kennel Show where Glamor Girl won first prize for the 6th time in her class.

Cassandra usually wins second in her class, however, this time Dr. Hall entered her in the "bred by the exhibitor class" and she walked off with first prize.

"But," said Dr. Hall, "in obedience neither one of them did so well. They were having decidedly too much fun, were too full of pep to be on good behavior today."

* * *

BOTH DOGS were entered in the 6 to 9 months old puppy division of the monthly show of the local dog club.

When they returned, ribbon be-decked at 9 p.m. from the prize winning event, Dr. Hall states that they were greeted by Bozo who was subjected to no "high-hatting" although the tom cat is "just cat."

"Bozo weighs about 15 pounds, is cross-bred, acts like a dog, and he was glad the puppies came home safe and sound," the owner said.

Not only does mother Beaujangles speak the King's English but she has some workouts on the punching-bag in the basement placed there for her own pleasure.

Dr. Hall says: "She's not a trick dog, no tricks for her.

"She just acts on her own initiative. What other dogs might call "tricks," our dog performs from intelligence."

TALKING DOG Beaujangles, age 3, and daughter, Glamour Girl, left, Cassandra, right, both 8 months, with four of their 20-odd trophies.

FEBRUARY 14, 1958

Proud American Day

The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History is sponsoring "Proud American Day" on Friday, February 14, 1958.

This celebration on February 14th will become a regular feature of Negro History Week from now on.

The birth date of Frederick Douglass was chosen for "Proud American Day," because the life of Douglass is typical of what the celebration commemorates.

In the more backward days of our country, there came out of the "American Melting Pot" this man Fredrick Douglass, who rose from the depths of slavery to high positions in government. He was indeed a "Proud American."

The Association has set dual goals for "Proud American Day."

First, it hopes to stimulate pride in the great American heritage; and secondly, through the examples of others who overcame even far greater difficulties, it seeks to inspire individuals, as responsible citizens doing the best they can in whatever they do, to make personal contributions to the greatness of America.

* * *

FOR IMPROVEMENT in racial relations in America, something like a program called "Information Free America" is needed.

Such a program concerns the publishing of large quantities of factual materials which need to be learned by the people of our country.

Knowledge is needed to replace ignorance and prejudice. In such a program, knowledge of history of colored people, is a crying need.

It is unfortunate that doses of history cannot be taken as simply as drinking glasses of water.

Most people who want knowledge about history want it given to them in a single package during Negro History Week.

It is too bad that this cannot be done. It is easy to pick up slogans and superstitious beliefs, but it is difficult to read books or take courses in history of colored people.

The most that can be done during Negro History Week is to relate aspects of history of colored people to present problems and conditions, or to point out programs for study and sources of information in various areas.

Work is involved, and freedom must be worked for. It is worth the effort. "A people without a history is lost—it does not know where it is going."