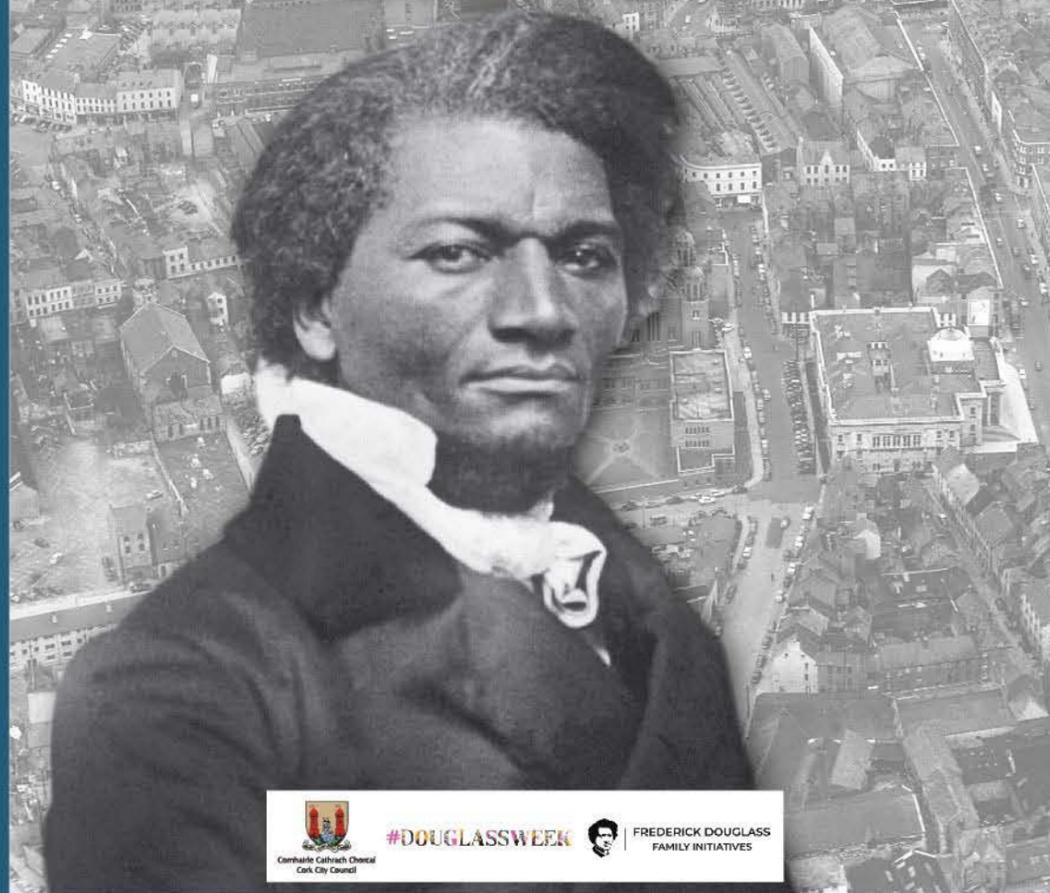


# The Cork Abolitionists Trail

## JOURNEYS FOR FREEDOM



The Cork Abolitionists Trail is a legacy project of #DouglassWeek and was developed by #DouglassWeek team members Dr. Caroline Schroeter, Dr. Laurence Fenton, Dr. Adrian Mulligan, Kristin M. Leary, Dr. Tim Groenland, Dr. Hannah-Rose Murray and Dr. Sarah McCreedy, with beautiful graphics and design by Dan O'Connell (UCC) and Melissa Kiersey (Dacent Print). Kindly supported by Cork City Council.

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### 9 Independent Chapel, 74 George's Street

(now Euro Giant, Oliver Plunkett Street)

Built in 1830 on the site of the old Assembly Rooms, the Independent Chapel served as the weekly meeting place for the Cork Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society. Women played an important role in abolitionism transatlantically, especially as fundraisers, and Cork women were no exception. Every year, for example, they would solicit hundreds of donations in the form of unique handmade crafts, which they then sent to an annual (and very lucrative) Christmas Bazaar organised by female abolitionists in Boston. Given the constraints then placed upon women in society, engaging in abolitionist activity permitted women a greater degree of involvement in political activity in the public realm. The Independent Chapel was also the location for Douglass's final speech in the city on the evening of Monday, 3 November 1845. A number of resolutions and addresses were read out in his honour, the abolitionists of Cork praising his efforts and vowing to continue to work together in 'the holy cause in which we are engaged'.

### 10 Lloyd's Hotel, 65 George's Street

(now Casey's Furniture Store, Oliver Plunkett Street)

At 8.30 am on Tuesday, 14 October 1845, an 'Anti-Slavery Breakfast' was held for Frederick Douglass at this location. It was a small, select affair, a meet-and-greet for Douglass and some of the city's leading figures, including local politicians and the newspaper editor John Francis Maguire, founder of the then recently-established *Cork Examiner*. Members of the Cork Anti-Slavery Society and the Cork Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society, both well-established groups integral in bringing Douglass to the city, were also in attendance. These societies and others in Cork City already had a long history of anti-slavery activity, participating in the successful campaign to abolish slavery in the British Empire in 1833 before turning their attention to slavery in America and welcoming Black abolitionist campaigners like Moses Roper and Charles Lenox Remond to Cork in the years before Douglass's arrival.

### 11 Imperial Hotel, 76 South Mall

Steeped in history, the elegant Imperial Hotel was the setting for Douglass's 'American Prejudice Against Colour' speech on the afternoon of Thursday, 23 October 1845. Delivered in 'Mr McDowell's Great Room' (now the 'Duchess Suite') before a 'most respectable and attentive' audience, Douglass took aim at the insidious belief in the American South that Black people were inferior to white people and that it was therefore right to enslave them, stating 'They stand upon our necks ... and ask the question, why we don't stand up erect? They tie our feet, and ask us why we don't run?' Douglass concluded this powerful speech with the following message: 'This meeting gathered together to-day may do something towards freeing the bondsman. Every true word spoken, every

right aim levelled against slavery in this land will effect wonders in the destiny of the Black slave in America.' A plaque commemorating the occasion was unveiled in the hotel in 2012.

### 'Céad Mile Fáilte to the Stranger'

Stranger from a distant nation,  
We welcome thee with acclamation,  
And, as a brother, warmly greet thee -  
Rejoiced in Erin's Isle to meet thee.

Then Céad Mile Fáilte to the stranger,  
Free from bondage, chains and danger.

Who could have heard thy hapless story,  
Of tyrants - canting, base and gory;  
Whose heart throbbed not with deep pulsation  
For the trampled slaves emancipation.

Then Céad Mile Fáilte to the stranger,  
Free from bondage, chains and danger.

Oh! why should different hue or feature  
Prevent the sacred laws of Nature,  
And every tie of feeling sever? -  
The voice of Nature thunders 'Never!'

Then Céad Mile Fáilte to the stranger,  
Free from bondage, chains and danger.

Then borne o'er the Atlantic waters  
The cry of Erin's sons and daughters  
For freedom shall henceforth be blended  
Till Slavery's hellish reign be ended.

Then Céad Mile Fáilte to the stranger,  
Free from bondage, chains and danger.

(Written by local poet Daniel Casey and performed for Frederick Douglass at St Patrick's Temperance Hall, 28 October 1845. No longer extant, this venue was located near the top of what is now Shandon Street.)



douglassweek.org  
fdfi.org  
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Princes Street, Bowling Green Street.

Chapel's ornate windows can be viewed from the side with human blood. No longer a place of worship, the in America as long as their hands were beamed for the Methodists of Cork to denounce their brethren silent on the subject of slavery. Douglass concluded of the bondsman, that moment their pulpits became the clergyman's salary became dependent on the voice of the slaveholder, eled by him from the toil and sweat during which he described vividly how 'the moment on the evening of Friday, 17 October 1845, and speeches. These include the talk he gave at this in relation to slavery in his autobiographical writings the religion he attacked most vigorously for its failings was the religion closest to Douglass's heart. It was also Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, Methodism

Methodists and himself a member of the African Initiative is honoured to partner with the Cork forms of discrimination in Ireland. The Globe Lane providing precedent and perspective for contemporary social challenges, in particular racism and other because it speaks to the importance of history in our world in the wake of the 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Cork artist Kevin O'Brien was struck by the contrast between Floyd's reported last words, 'I can't breathe,' and those of Frederick Douglass, who described the transformative impact that Ireland had on him during his 1845-6 tour, by stating 'I breathe, and lo, the charred becomes a man; that Ireland had on him during his 1845-6 tour, by

7 The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, 101 St Patrick's Street

Deeply committed to social justice, John Wesley, the founding father of Methodism, was a staunch opponent of slavery. In America, however, many Southern Methodists not only condoned, but actively supported slavery, with Methodist ministers even allowed to own enslaved people. Brought up around Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, Methodism was the religion closest to Douglass's heart. It was also the religion he attacked most vigorously for its failings in relation to slavery in his autobiographical writings the religion he attacked most vigorously for its failings in relation to slavery in his autobiographical writings the religion he attacked most vigorously for its failings in relation to slavery in his autobiographical writings

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12 Academy Street (now Linn Falala)

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5 Bradford & Co. Bookstore, Washington Street

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4 Frederick Douglass Mural, Grand Parade

This mural was part of the social and political movement highlighting racism that spread around the world in the wake of the 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Cork artist Kevin O'Brien was struck by the contrast between Floyd's reported last words, 'I can't breathe,' and those of Frederick Douglass, who described the transformative impact that Ireland had on him during his 1845-6 tour, by stating 'I breathe, and lo, the charred becomes a man; that Ireland had on him during his 1845-6 tour, by

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3 Brown Street (now the former restaurant All's Kitchen, Rory Gallagher Place)

This red-brick building that formerly housed All's Kitchen is the last surviving remnant of Brown Street, the area of the city where Douglass stayed throughout his time in Cork. His host Thomas Jennings was a well-known soda and mineral water manufacturer, whose business premises were also located on this street. The Jennings family - Thomas, his wife Ann and their eight adult children - were immersed in abolitionist leaders in America.

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Through this self-guided trail, explore the locations where this abolitionist leader, suffragist, writer and human rights activist spoke and lived in Cork City.

This significant historical figure.

city where Douglass spoke, and our efforts to unite the global and the local in the spirit of of communities. The name Globe Lane honours our roots in Cork, the first location in the understandings and build connections to Irish history and geography across a broad range Initiative in partnership with Cork City Council and others as part of our mission to develop The Cork Abolitionists Trail is a 'Journeys for Freedom' project, developed by the Globe Lane of slavery to crowds of thousands, while forging friendships that would last a lifetime.

He spent a month in Cork City in the late autumn of 1845, delivering powerful denunciations welcome and support amongst a strong community of abolitionists throughout the island, and Ireland on a speaking and fundraising tour. Douglass visited Ireland first, finding raphy, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, he travelled to Britain to end slavery. Fearing recapture following the 1845 publication of his famous first autobiography, abolitionist movement, in which Black and white people around the world worked together Maryland to settle with his family in Massachusetts. He soon became a rising star of the Frederick Douglass was a formerly enslaved American man who, in 1838, fled bondage in



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