

## AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION, 1850–1865

The period of 1850–1865 consists of violent struggle and crisis as the United States underwent the prodigious transition from slaveholding to ostensibly “free” nation. This volume reframes mid-century African American literature and challenges our current understandings of both African American and American literature. It presents a fluid tradition that includes history, science, politics, economics, space and movement, the visual, and the sonic. Black writing was highly conscious of transnational and international politics, textual circulation, and revolutionary imaginaries. Chapters explore how Black literature was being produced and circulated; how and why it marked its relation to other literary and expressive traditions; what geopolitical imaginaries it facilitated through representation; and what technologies, including print, enabled African Americans to pursue such a complex and ongoing aesthetic and political project.

TERESA ZACKODNIK is a Professor in the English and Film Studies Department at the University of Alberta, where she teaches critical race theory, African American literature and theory, and historical Black feminisms. Her books include *The Mulatta and the Politics of Race* (2004); *Press, Platform, Pulpit: Black Feminisms in the Era of Reform* (2011); the six-volume edition *African American Feminisms 1828–1923* in the Routledge History of Feminisms series (2007); and “*We Must be Up and Doing*”: *A Reader in Early African American Feminisms* (2010). She is a member of the UK-based international research network Black Female Intellectuals in the Historical and Contemporary Context, and is completing a book on early Black feminist use of media and its forms.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION

*Editor* Joycelyn K. Moody, The University of Texas at San Antonio

*Associate Editor* Cassander Smith, The University of Alabama

Across 17 authoritative volumes and featuring over 200 of today's foremost literary critics and social historians, *African American Literature in Transition* offers a critical and comprehensive revisionary analysis of creative expression by people of African descent. Reading transtemporally from the origins of "African American literature" by the first peoples calling themselves "African Americans," this series foregrounds change, and examines pivotal moments, years, decades, and centuries in African American literature and culture. While collectively analyzing both far-reaching and flash-forward transitions within four centuries, the multi-volume series replaces conventional historical periodization in African American scholastic and literary anthologies with a framework that contextualizes shifts, changes, and transformations in African American literature, culture, politics, and history.

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CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-42748-7 — African American Literature in Transition  
Edited by Teresa Zackodnik  
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EDITED BY  
TERESA ZACKODNIK  
*University of Alberta*



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**CAMBRIDGE**  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108427487](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108427487)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108647847

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First published 2021

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Zackodnik, Teresa C., editor.

TITLE: African American literature in transition, 1850–1865 / edited by Teresa Zackodnik, University of Alberta.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2021. |

SERIES: African American literature in transition ; volume 4 |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2020040197 (print) | LCCN 2020040198 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781108427487 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108446228 (paperback) |

ISBN 9781108647847 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: American literature—African American authors—History and criticism. | African Americans—Intellectual life—19th century. | African Americans in literature.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PS153.N5 A33647 2021 (print) | LCC PS153.N5 (ebook) |

DDC 810.9/9607309034—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020040197>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020040198>

ISBN 978-1-108-42748-7 Hardback

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*Preface*  
*African American Literature in Transition*  
Joycelyn K. Moody, General Editor

When I accepted the invitation to act as Series Editor for African American Literature in Transition, Barack Obama had several months more to serve as President of the United States. The United States was in a time of tremendous transition, we knew, but the extent of the impact of the coming election and its outcomes on the lives of African Americans, we had yet to learn. In the years since, dozens of today's foremost literary critics and social historians have traced across this authoritative multi-volume series revisionary analyses of creative expression by peoples of the African diaspora. Reading transtemporally, African American Literature in Transition foregrounds change, and examines pivotal moments and eras in African American history and historiography, literature and culture, art and ideology. The contributors explore four centuries of far-reaching as well as flash-forward transitions, to replace conventional literary periodization with a framework that contextualizes shifts, changes, and transformations affecting African American people.

Taken singly or together, the more than 200 chapters of the series provide not customary synopses of African American literature but unprecedented, detailed analyses – each expansive, in-depth, engaging. Every contributor finds their perfect pitch. Where contributors are musicians, then, to quote John Lovell, Jr.'s *Black Song: The Forge and the Flame*, “music raise[s] both performer and audience far above routine emotion; the elderly throw away their sticks and dance.”

The central aim of African American Literature in Transition is to reorient readers' expectations of the literary critical and appreciative experience. The series emphasizes the importance of reading intertextually, transhistorically, and interdisciplinarily. In this way, we foster readers' comprehension of ways in which legal cases such as the *Dred Scott* Decision and *Plessy v. Ferguson*, for example, were forecast in David Walker's 1829 *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* and have reappeared in *Solitary: My Story of Transformation and Hope*, by Albert

Woodfox (2019). Truly distinctive, African American Literature in Transition offers rich demonstrations of how to read Black creative expression as a sequence of shifting contexts and dynamic landscapes.

I offer sincere gratitude to Ray Ryan at Cambridge University Press for selecting me to spearhead this project, and to Cassander Smith for seeing it through with me. I am grateful to Edgar Mendez and Cambridge interns Caitlin Gallagher and Rebecca Rom-Frank. I appreciate the enthusiastic support of my family, friends, and colleagues over the years: especially Lorraine Martínez, Roxanne Donovan, Kimberly Blockett, Barbara Neely, Cynthia Lockett, Rhonda Gonzales, T. Jackie Cuevas, and Howard Rambsy II. Colleen J. McElroy and my uncles Charles and Glenn inspire me in ways they cannot imagine. My son and my parents influence everything I undertake. To the African American Literature in Transition volume editors and contributors: your dedication to tracing transitions with me made all the difference.

## *Chronology, 1850–1865*

- 1850 Nancy Gardner Prince, *A Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince* (Boston)  
 January 29: Senator Henry Clay introduces what will become the Compromise of 1850  
 April 11: *Henry Box Brown's Mirror of Slavery* opens in Boston  
 June: American League of Colored Laborers founded (New York City)  
 August 21–2: Fugitive Slave Law Convention, Cazenovia, NY  
 September 18: Fugitive Slave Act passed by Congress  
 December: Harriet Tubman undertakes the first of her twenty missions South to conduct an estimated 300 people to the North  
 State Colored Conventions held in Portland, ME, and Columbus, OH  
 Sojourner Truth, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth, a Northern Slave, Emancipated from Bodily Servitude by the State of New York, in 1828* (Boston)  
 Rev. Bishop Daniel Payne, *The Pleasures and Miscellaneous Other Poems* (Baltimore)  
 William Wells Brown, *Narrative of William W. Brown, Fugitive Slave* (London)
- 1851 January 1: *Voice of the Fugitive* (1851–3) established at Sandwich, Canada West, editor Henry Bibb  
 February 26: Anti-Slavery Society of Canada formed  
 May: Henry Box Brown, *Narrative of the Life of Henry Box Brown, Written by Himself* (Manchester)  
 May 21: Refugee Home Society founded, to purchase land and assist fugitives (Detroit and Windsor)

- May 29: Sojourner Truth delivers “Ar’n’t I a Woman” at the 1851 Woman’s Rights convention (Akron)
- June 26: *Frederick Douglass’ Paper* (1851–8) established at Rochester, NY, combining Douglass’s *North Star* and *The Liberty Party Paper*
- Thomas Smallwood, *A Narrative of Thomas Smallwood, (Coloured Man)* (Toronto)
- The Colored Man’s Journal* (1851–61) established at New York City, editor Louis H. Putnam
- September 10: North American Convention of Colored Freedmen (Toronto)
- September 11: Christiana Riot (Christiana, PA)
- October 1: Jerry Rescue (Syracuse)
- December: Harriet Tubman emigrates to St. Catharine’s, Canada West
- State Colored Conventions held in Indianapolis, IN; Albany, NY; Sandy Lake, PA; and Columbus, OH
- William J. Allinson, *Memoir of Quamino Buccau, a Pious Methodist* (Philadelphia)
- William Cooper Nell, *Services of Colored Americans in the Wars of 1776 and 1812* (Boston)
- 1852 William Wells Brown, *Three Years in Europe, or Places I Have Seen and People I Have Met* (London)
- Joshua McCarter Simpson, *Original Anti-Slavery Songs, by Joshua M’C Simpson, a Colored Man* (Zanesville, OH)
- James McCune Smith’s series, *Heads of the Colored People* (1852–4) is published in *Frederick Douglass’ Paper*
- March 20: Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, with illustrations by Hammatt Billings (Boston)
- April: Martin Delany, *Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States* (Philadelphia)
- April 9: *The Alienated American* (1853–4) established at Cleveland, editor William H. Day
- June: Mary Ann Shadd (Cary), *A Plea for Emigration; or, Notes of Canada West* (Detroit)
- July 1: *The Christian Recorder* (1852–) established at Philadelphia with Madison Molliston Clark as the new Book Steward of the AME Book Concern, which published the paper
- July 5: Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?,” Rochester Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society

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- December 27: first Prince Hall Mason lodge established in Hamilton, Canada  
 San Francisco's first Black Baptist and AME denominations established  
 State Colored Conventions held in Baltimore, MD, and Cincinnati, OH  
 1853 Robert S. Duncanson leaves US for the American art colony, Rome  
*The Self-Elevator* (1853–5?), established at Boston, editor Benjamin F. Roberts  
 March 4: Frederick Douglass begins serialization of *The Heroic Slave* in *Frederick Douglass' Paper*  
 March 24: *The Provincial Freeman* (March 1853–June 1859), established at Windsor, Canada West, editor Mary Ann Shadd  
 September 6–7: Woman's Rights Convention, Broadway Tabernacle, New York City  
 Joseph Cephas Holly, *Freedom's Offering: A Collection of Poems* (Rochester)  
 William Goodell, *The American Slave Code in Theory and Practice* (New York)  
 James Monroe Whitfield, *America and Other Poems* (Buffalo)  
 William Wells Brown, *Clotel; or, The President's Daughter* (London)  
 Solomon Northup, *12 Years a Slave* (Auburn, Buffalo, and London)  
 Harriet Beecher Stowe, *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Boston)  
 Julia Griffiths, *Autographs for Freedom* (Boston and London)  
 Wilson Armistead, *Five Hundred Thousand Strokes for Freedom* (London)  
 John R. Beard, *The Life of Toussaint Louverture, the Negro Patriot of Hayti* (London)  
 Martin Delany, *The Origin and Objects of Ancient Freemasonry* (Pittsburgh)  
 Sarah Parker Remond attempts to integrate a Boston theater, sues a police officer who forcibly attempts to remove her, and wins a \$500 judgment  
 Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield appears at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and later this year performs before Queen Victoria  
 State Colored Conventions held in Chicago, IL, and Columbus, OH; National Convention of Free People of Color held in

- Rochester, NY; and Canadian Convention for the Improvement of Colored Inhabitants held in Amerstburg, Canada West
- 1854 Mahommah G. Baquaqua (and Samuel Downing Moore), *An Interesting Narrative Biography of Mahommah G. Baquaqua, a Native of Zoogoo, Interior of Africa* (Detroit)
- Thomas B. Anderson and J. P. Clark, *Interesting Account of Thomas Anderson, a Slave, Taken from His Own Lips* (Virginia)
- Frank Webb, “The Marital Capacity of Blacks,” *Banneker Institute* (Philadelphia)
- May 16: William Wells Brown, “St. Domingo: Its Revolutions and Its Patriots,” delivered at London Athenaeum and on December 20 at St. Thomas’ Church (Philadelphia)
- May 30: Kansas–Nebraska Act
- August: Martin Delany, “Political Destiny of the Colored Race on the American Continent,” National Emigration Convention of Colored People Held at Cleveland (August 24–6, 1854)
- George Vashon, “Vincent Ogé,” published in the second volume of Julia Griffiths *Autographs for Freedom* (Rochester)
- September: first True Band Society founded at Amerstburg, Canada West
- October: Nancy Prince addresses the Fifth National Woman’s Rights Convention (Philadelphia, October 18–20); Harriet Forten Purvis and Margaretta Forten are key organizers
- Frances E. W. Harper, *Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects* (Boston and Philadelphia)
- Ashmun Institute (Chester County, PA) established; becomes Lincoln University in 1866
- Josephine Brown, *Biography of an American Bondman, by His Daughter* (Boston)
- Josiah Clark Nott and George R. Gliddon, *Types of Mankind* (Philadelphia and London)
- State Colored Conventions held in Middletown, CT; Boston, MA; and Albany, NY
- National Emigration Convention held in Cleveland, OH
- John Mercer Langston passes the bar in Ohio, said to be the first African American lawyer
- 1855 Connecticut, Maine, and Mississippi pass personal liberty laws; Massachusetts and Rhode Island renew personal liberty laws first enacted in the 1840s

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Wisconsin declares the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law unconstitutional  
 Georgia and Tennessee remove restraints on the interstate trade in enslaved persons  
 Rev. E. P. Rogers, “A Poem on the Fugitive Slave Law” (Newark)  
 New York City Legal Rights Association formed to protest streetcar segregation  
 April 19: Mary Webb’s debut at the Assembly Rooms (Philadelphia); by summer Harriet Beecher Stowe has written “The Christian Slave” for Webb to perform  
 August: Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom* (New York and Auburn); 5,000 copies sold within the first two days of publication  
 October: Mary Ann Shadd (Cary) presents herself for admission to the National Colored Convention at Philadelphia  
 Samuel Ringgold Ward, *Autobiography of a Fugitive Negro: His Anti-Slavery Labors in the United States, Canada, and England* (London)  
 John R. Beard, *The Life of Toussaint L’Ouverture, the Negro Patriot of Hayti* (London); republished in 1863 (Boston)  
 John Brown, *Slave Life in Georgia, a Narrative of the Life, Sufferings, and Escape of John Brown, a Fugitive Slave, Now in England* (London)  
 William Grimes, *The Life of William Grimes, the Runaway Slave, Brought down to Present Time* (New Haven)  
 Lucy Terry Prince’s poem “Bars Fight” is published  
 William Wells Brown, *The American Fugitive in Europe: Sketches of People and Places Abroad* (Boston)  
 Massachusetts outlaws segregated schools  
*Memorial of Thirty Thousand Disfranchised Citizens of Philadelphia, to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives* (Philadelphia)  
 William C. Nell, *Colored Patriots of the American Revolution* (Boston)  
 State Colored Conventions held in Sacramento, CA; Hartford, CT; and Albany and Troy, NY; National Convention of Colored People, Philadelphia  
 Kentucky’s Berea College is established, the first interracial and coeducational institution in the South



- Elizabeth Jennings wins her suit against segregated streetcars in New York City, leading to the desegregation of that city's transit system in 1865
- John Mercer Langston elected town clerk of Brownhelm Township, OH, the first African American elected to public office
- Sally Bayne arrives in Omaha and is said to be the earliest Black settler of Nebraska Territory
- James Hughes Callahan leads 111 men in an invasion of Northern Mexico to recapture enslaved people, over 4,000 of whom had self-emancipated from Texas and established communities around San Fernando, Coahuila
- 1856 January: Margaret Garner's trial (Cincinnati)
- Rev. E. P. Rogers, "The Repeal of the Missouri Compromise Considered" (Newark)
- May 19: Charles Sumner, "The Crime against Kansas" and subsequent caning on Senate floor
- May 21: burning of free-soil Lawrence, KS
- May 24–5: John Brown's Potawatomie Massacre
- June: *New Orleans Daily Creole* (1856–185?) established at New Orleans by J. M. Weymouth and Co.
- June 17–19: The Republican Party, newly formed by groups opposing the extension of slavery, holds its first convention in Philadelphia
- George M. Stroud, *A Sketch of the Laws Relating to Slavery* (Philadelphia)
- Benjamin Drew (ed.), *A North-Side View of Slavery. The Refugee, or The Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada* (Boston)
- August 1: James Pennington, "The Reasonableness of the Abolition of Slavery at the South: A Legitimate Inference from the Success of British Emancipation" (Hartford)
- August 24–6: Martin Delany convenes the Cleveland Emigration Convention
- Rebecca Cox Jackson's writings begin (1856–71); Jackson founds a Black Shaker sect outside Philadelphia in 1859
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Dred: A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp* (Boston)
- Sarah Parker Remond hired as a lecturer for the American Anti-Slavery Society
- Wilberforce University (Ohio) opens

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- State Colored Conventions held in Sacramento, CA; Alton, IL; and Columbus, OH
- 1857 March 6: Dred Scott decision  
 Mary Seacole, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* (London)  
 Austin Steward, *Twenty-Two Years a Slave, and Forty Years a Freeman; Embracing a Correspondence of Several Years, While President of Wilberforce Colony, London, Canada West* (Rochester)  
 William J. Anderson, *Life and Narrative of William J. Anderson, Twenty-Four Years a Slave; Sold Eight Times! In Jail Sixty Times!! Whipped Three Hundred Times!!!* (Chicago)  
 Hannah Bond [Hannah Crafts] (author of *The Bondswoman's Narrative*) disguises herself as a boy and escapes from John Hill Wheeler's North Carolina plantation  
 May 13: Frances Harper, "Could We Trace the Record of Every Human Heart"  
 May 14: Frederick Douglass, "Colored Men's Rights in This Republic," American Abolition Society anniversary meeting (New York), later expanded and published as *The Dred Scott Decision*  
 August 22: *Mirror of the Times* (1857–62), San Francisco, editors Jonas Townsend and Mifflin Gibbs  
 Frank Webb, *The Garies and Their Friends* (London)  
 New Hampshire declares that no one shall be denied citizenship on the basis of African descent and, along with Vermont, repeals laws against the enlistment of Blacks in state militia  
 Richmond, VA, passes a comprehensive slave code that, among other stipulations, prohibits self-hiring by enslaved people and restricts Blacks from entering certain parts of the city  
 Ohio and Wisconsin pass personal liberty laws  
 November 16: William Neilson Hall is awarded the Victoria Cross  
 Seneca Village, a predominantly Black community, is expropriated under eminent domain for the building of what would become Central Park, New York City  
 State Colored Conventions held in San Francisco, CA; Muscatine, IA; and Columbus, OH
- 1858 Vermont passes a personal liberty law and declares that no one shall be denied citizenship on the basis of African descent

Kansas enters the Union as a free state  
 January: *Douglass' Monthly* (1858–63), Rochester, NY  
 AME Church's *Repository of Religion and Literature, and of Science and Art* (1858–63), Indianapolis, editors Elisha Weaver, John Mifflin Brown, and Willis Revels  
 April 26: first ship carrying Black Californians lands in Victoria; by the end of this summer more than 800 Black settlers settle in British Columbia at the invitation of the province's governor *Stovall v. Archy* [Lee], only known fugitive case tried in California; Lee is free on April 18  
 David F. Dorr, *A Colored Man round the World by a Quadroom*, including an account of his travels in Italy while enslaved in 1852  
 May 8: Martin Delany and John Brown convene a convention in Chatham, Canada West, to plan "Subterranean Pass Way" to Kansas  
 William Wells Brown, *The Escape; or a Leap for Freedom: A Drama in Five Acts* (Boston)  
 Josiah Henson, *Truth Stranger than Fiction: Father Henson's Story of His Own Life*, with an introduction by Harriet Beecher Stowe (Boston)  
 Isaac Williams, *Aunt Sally; or The Cross the Way to Freedom* (Cincinnati)  
 May 11: Frederick Douglass, "Citizenship and the Spirit of Caste" (New York City), protesting segregation of streetcars  
 August 30: The Niger Valley Exploring Party formed in Chatham  
 November 28: the *Wanderer* lands at Jekyll Island, GA, carrying 409 West Africans; its investors found not guilty of piracy charges in May 1860  
 December 20: John Brown's Missouri raid  
 State Colored Conventions held in New Bedford, MA; Troy, NY; and Cincinnati, OH  
 Canadian Colored Convention held in Chatham, Canada West  
 1859 January: Sarah Parker Remond arrives in Liverpool to begin a four-year antislavery lecture tour of England, Scotland, and Ireland  
 January: *The Anglo-African Magazine* (1859–65), New York City, editor Thomas Hamilton

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February: William J. Wilson (“Ethiop”), “The Afric-American Picture Gallery,” begins in *The Anglo-African Magazine*  
 William Still challenges Philadelphia’s segregated public transit;  
 Pennsylvania integrates streetcars in 1865  
 Harriet Tubman begins lecturing in support of the Underground Railroad  
 Jermain Wesley Loguen, *The Rev. J. W. Loguen, as a Slave and as a Freeman: A Narrative of Real Life* (Syracuse)  
 March 12: John Brown meets with Frederick Douglass and militant African Americans in Detroit to outline his Harper’s Ferry plan  
 May: Martin Delany sails for Liberia  
 July 23: The *Weekly Anglo-African* (1859–61), New York City, editor Thomas Hamilton  
 August 22: Last-known slave ship to arrive at a US port, the *Clothilde*, docks secretly in Mobile Bay, AL  
 September 5: Harriet Wilson registers the copyright for *Our Nig* (Boston)  
 September and October: Frances Harper, “The Two Offers,” *The Anglo-African Magazine*  
 October 16–17: Harper’s Ferry raid; Frederick Douglass flees to Canada  
 November 24: Charles Darwin, *The Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (London)  
 December 2: John Brown is hanged  
 Charles Ball, *Fifty Years in Chains, or, The Life of an American Slave* (New York and Indianapolis)  
 Eliza Potter, *A Hairdresser’s Experience in High Life* (Cincinnati)  
 Philip Barrett, *Gilbert Hunt, the City Blacksmith* (Richmond) details the life of Hunt as hero in the War of 1812  
 White workers in South Carolina petition for relief against competition from enslaved and free Black workers  
 New Mexico enacts a slave code; Arizona declares that all free Blacks in the territory will be considered enslaved on the first day of the new year  
 State Colored Convention held in Indianapolis, IN, and New England Regional Convention held in Boston

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- 1860 The enslaved population of the nation is now nearly four million, making the ratio of free to enslaved Americans approximately 7:1  
 Arizona passes an Expulsion Act, banishing all free Blacks from the state  
 March 6: Frederick Douglass, “The American Constitution and the Slave,” Scottish Anti-Slavery Society (Glasgow)  
 William Craft and Ellen Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom* (London)  
 William J. Wilson (“Ethiop”), “What Shall We Do with the White People” and “Year 4000: The Americans, or the Milk White Race,” *The Anglo-African Magazine*  
 William Wells Brown, *Miralda; or, The Beautiful Quadroon* begins serialization in the *Weekly Anglo-African*  
 November 7: Abraham Lincoln elected president  
*Letters on American Slavery from Victor Hugo, de Tocqueville, Emile de Girardin, Carnot, Passy, Mazzini, Humboldt, O Lafayette – &c* (Boston)
- 1861 Texas prohibits manumission  
 South Carolina secedes from the Union, followed by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. Later in the year, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina also secede  
 Maria Stewart accepts position as Matron of the Freedman’s Hospital, Washington, DC.  
 January: Lucy Bagby’s prosecution is the last under the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act  
 January: Harriet Jacobs buys the stereotyped plates of *Incidents* and self-publishes (Boston)  
 February: The Union of Confederate States is formed; Jefferson Davis is elected its president  
 March: Lincoln takes office  
 Mifflin Gibbs organizes a Black militia in Victoria, Canada  
 April 12: South Carolina troops fire on Fort Sumter; Lincoln calls for 75,000 new Union volunteers; and the Civil War begins  
 75,000 Blacks volunteering for the US army are rejected for service  
 Enslaved people seeking refuge with Northern forces are considered “contraband of war”; First Confiscation Act is

passed, declaring all property used in support of rebellion, including enslaved people, subject to capture

Harriet Tubman undertakes what is believed to be her last mission to Maryland and establishes the Fugitive Aid Society of St. Catherine's

May 18: The *Weekly Anglo-African*, sold to George Lawrence and James Redpath, is renamed *Pine and Palm*

Alexander Crummell delivers "The English Language in Liberia"

July: The *Weekly Anglo-African* relaunches, editor Robert Hamilton

September 17: Mary S. Peake's school in Hampton, VA, opens

November 23: The *Weekly Anglo-African* begins serialization of Martin Delany's *Blake; or, The Huts of America*

*Louisa Picquet, the Octoroon; or, Inside Views of Southern Domestic Life* (New York)

Israel Campbell, *An Autobiography Bond and Free; or, Yearnings for Freedom, from My Green Brier House Being the Story of My Life in Bondage, and My Life in Freedom* (Philadelphia)

Anderson Osborne, *A Voice from Harper's Ferry* (Boston)

William Troy, *Hairbreadth Escapes from Slavery to Freedom* (Canada West)

Lavina Wormeny, "Narrative of the Escape of a Poor Negro Woman from Slavery" (Toronto)

Martin Delany, *Official Report of the Niger River Valley Exploring Party* (New York and London)

Alexander Crummell, *The Relations and Duties of Free Colored Men in America to Africa* (Hartford)

1862 Congressional resolutions offer monetary incentives to states for emancipating enslaved persons

February 22: National Freedman's Relief Association (New York City)

March 14: AME Bishop Daniel Payne meets with Abraham Lincoln

April 5: *The Pacific Appeal* (1862–80), San Francisco, editor Philip A. Bell

May 13: a group of South Carolina enslaved people, led by Robert Smalls, takes possession of the *Planter*, a Confederate ship, and delivers it to the Union Army at Fort Sumpter

May 20: Homestead Act opens 270 million acres of the West to settlers, including Black heads of house over twenty-one years old and single Black women

June 20: West Virginia is admitted to the Union as a free state. Its constitution calls for gradual emancipation

July 7: first African American troops are enlisted in Leavenworth, KS

July 17: The Second Confiscation Act gives freedom to people enslaved by treasonous parties and supporters of the Confederate rebellion; the Militia Act authorizes the president to employ all persons, including Blacks, in military or naval service

Virginia, followed by other southern states, authorizes the use of enslaved people to perform military labor; South Carolina authorizes the recruitment of Black soldiers

August: Elizabeth Keckley founds the first Black Contraband Relief Organization

August 1: James Madison Bell, *A Poem* (San Francisco)

September 17: Union victory in the Battle of Antietam

September 22: preliminary Emancipation Proclamation issued

September 27: *L'Union/The Union* (1862–4) established in New Orleans, editor Paul Trevigne

Alexander Crummell, *The Future of Africa* (New York)

November 29: Elizabeth Jennings, “Thoughts on Colonization,” and December 13, “We Will Not Go,” *Pacific Appeal*

*Lunar Visitor* literary magazine (1862–?) established at San Francisco, editor Rev. John Jamison Moore

Suits against the San Francisco Omnibus Railway begin for streetcar desegregation

Sarah Parker Remond, “The Negroes in the United States of America,” International Congress of Charities, Correction, and Philanthropy (London)

December: *The Proclamation of Emancipation; by the President of the United States, to Take Effect January 1, 1863* is produced for Union soldiers to distribute among and read to African Americans

1863 January 1: Emancipation Proclamation effective; Day of Jubilee celebrated in Beaufort, South Carolina; continues to be celebrated as Independence Day

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- January: Massachusetts begins raising an all-Black regiment with Martin Delany, Frederick Douglass, Henry Highland Garnet, Robert Purvis, William Wells Brown, and John Mercer Langston as recruiters
- April: Harriet Beecher Stowe, “Sojourner Truth, the Libyan Sibyl,” *Atlantic Monthly*
- May 22: General Order 143 establishes the Bureau of Colored Troops
- Maryland abolishes slavery
- June: Harriet Tubman leads the Combahee River raid
- June 19: under Union occupation General Order No. 3 read in Galveston, TX, emancipating all enslaved people; continues to be celebrated as Juneteenth
- July 13–17: New York City draft riots kill hundreds of African Americans
- July 18: all-Black 54th Massachusetts Volunteers charge Fort Wagner; South Carolina Sergeant William H. Carney receives Congressional Medal of Honor
- Mary Ann Shadd Cary and Osborne Anderson become Union army recruiters
- Susie King Taylor, nurse with the Union Army, begins writing her journal, published as *In Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: Civil War Nurse*
- Memoirs of Old Elizabeth, a Colored Woman* (Philadelphia)
- William Wells Brown, *The Black Man, His Antecedents, His Genius, and His Achievements* (New York and Boston)
- State Colored Conventions held in Leavenworth, KS, and Poughkeepsie, NY
- 1864 Rebecca Lee (Crumple) graduates from the New England Female Medical College
- May: part I of Charlotte Forten’s “Life in the Sea Islands,” *Atlantic Monthly*; part II follows in June
- James Madison Bell, *A Poem Entitled the Day and the War*, composed and recited at Platt’s Hall (San Francisco)
- June: *La Tribune de la New Orleans/The New Orleans Tribune* (1864–9) is established at New Orleans, editor Charles Louis Roudanez
- June 15: Congress authorizes equal pay, arms, and health care for Black Union troops
- June 28: Congress repeals the 1793 and 1850 Fugitive Slave Acts



- Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri abolish slavery  
 Segregation outlawed on San Francisco, New York City, and Cincinnati public transportation  
 October 4–7: National Convention of Colored Men (Syracuse) adopts a Declaration of Wrongs and Rights and creates National Equal Rights League headquartered in Philadelphia  
 October 29: Sojourner Truth’s interview with President Lincoln facilitated by Elizabeth Keckley  
 Jacob D. Green, *Narrative of the Life . . . a Runaway Slave from Kentucky* (Huddersfield, England)  
 Sarah Parker Remond, *The Negroes and Anglo-Africans as Freedmen and Soldiers* (London)  
 Samuel Gridley Howe, *The Refugees from Slavery in Canada West: Report to the Freedman’s Inquiry Commission* (Boston)  
 Rev. Hollis Read, *The Negro Problem Solved; or, Africa as She Was, as She Is, and as She Shall Be* (New York)
- 1865  
 January: *The Christian Recorder* begins serializing Julia C. Collins’s *The Curse of Caste; or, The Slave Bride*  
 February 8: Martin Delany meets with President Lincoln, is commissioned as a major in the 52nd US Colored Troops Regiment, and is the first Black field officer in the US Army  
 February 12: Rev. Henry Highland Garnet, “Let the Monster Perish” sermon at US Capitol  
 February 24: At the recommendation of Robert E. Lee, the Confederate Congress signs and passes the “Negro Soldier Bill,” allowing the enlistment of enslaved persons  
 March 3: Freedmen’s Bureau established (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands)  
 April 9: General Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union forces and the Civil War ends  
 April 11: Lincoln endorses suffrage for “very intelligent” African American men  
 April 14: President Lincoln assassinated  
 Tennessee abolishes slavery; Mississippi enacts a Black Code  
 April 15: *The Black Republican Weekly* (1865–?) established at New Orleans  
 April 29: *The Colored Tennessean* (1865–6) established at Nashville, editor William Bennett Scott

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- May 10: American Equal Rights Association founded by Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucy Stone  
 George Moses Horton, *Naked Genius* (Raleigh)  
 June 30: San Francisco *Elevator* (1865–98) established at San Francisco, editor Philip A. Bell  
 August: sculptor Edmonia Lewis leaves the US for Europe, settling in Rome  
 September: Pluto Jumbo issues no. 5 of his handwritten *Black Republican and Office-Holder's Journal* (New York)  
 October 7: *South Carolina Leader* (1865–7) established at Charleston, editors Timothy Hurley and Allen Coffin  
 December: *Nationalist* (1865–6), Mobile's first Black-owned and managed newspaper (white-edited), established  
 December: Ku Klux Klan founded, Pulaski, TN  
 December: The *Weekly Anglo-African* folds  
 December 16: Thirteenth Amendment ratified  
 December 16: *Colored American* (1865–6) established at Augusta, GA, editor John T. Shuften  
 December 22: Sarah Parker Remond "Negro Character," *The Liberator*