

Abraham Lincoln Actions as President: Interaction with Frederick Douglass

Who: Frederick Douglass

When: March 4, 1865

Where: Washington, DC



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What happened: Frederick Douglass was a well known black abolitionist and writer. Although Douglass did not like Mr. Lincoln at first, the two became quite good friends. Frederick Douglass went to President Lincoln's Second Inauguration and entered the reception line to shake the President's hand. Since he was the first black man to ever attend a Presidential Inauguration, he was stopped by police officers and escorted out. When Mr. Lincoln noticed what was going on he stopped the officers and said, *"Here comes my friend, Frederick Douglass. I saw you in the crowd today listening. There is no man's opinion that I value more than yours; what did you think of it?"* Douglass replied, *"It was a Sacred Effort."* Lincoln died two weeks later. Douglass never saw his friend alive again.

Why was this friendship unusual during the time period?

What are your opinions of what happened that day in Washington D.C.?

How did this action reflect his characteristic(s) as a leader?

Why do you think Abraham Lincoln is still a significant historical figure today?