

# VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

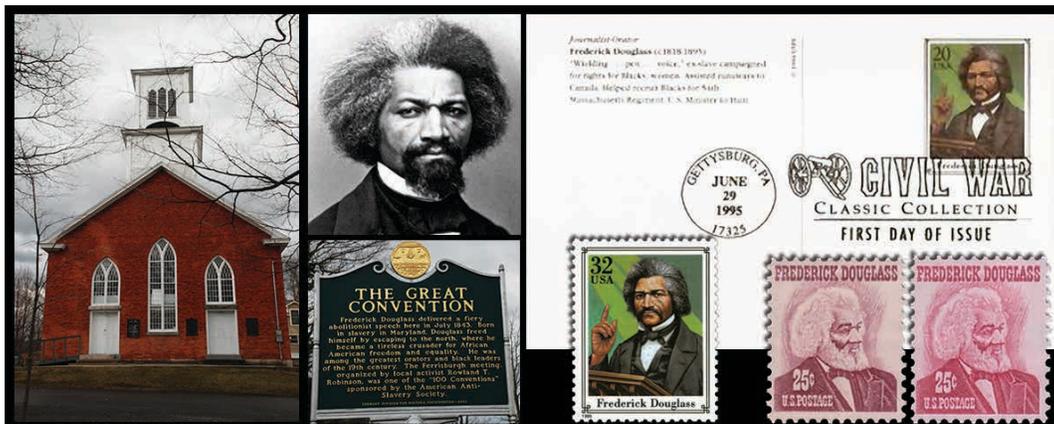
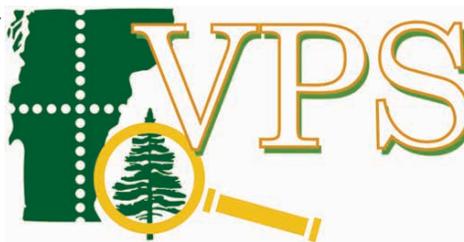
[www.vermontps.org](http://www.vermontps.org)

Meets annually

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## FREDERICK DOUGLASS' TIES TO VERMONT

Fifty years ago on February 14, 1967, the USPOD issued a twenty-five-cent definitive stamp honoring Frederick Douglass for inclusion in the Prominent American series of 1965 to 1971 (Scott 1290).

Douglass was a black man born into slavery in Maryland in the late 1810s. He escaped slavery by fleeing to the north where he became a journalist in Rochester, New York, and a well-known orator and abolitionist. He was US minister to Haiti from 1889 to 1891.

For a number of years, VPS members have been expanding a listing of stamps which have Vermont connections. Some connections can be very serendipitous. A few years ago VPS president Glenn A. Estus who is also a photographer was driving on US Route 7 in the small town of Ferrisburgh (Addison County) when he decided to check out a brick church — the Union Meetinghouse that is now the Community Church — that he had driven by many times before.

A historical marker at the front door stated that Douglass had preached from the pulpit of the church in July 1843 at one of the one hundred conventions sponsored by the American Anti-Slavery Society in the northern United States. Ferrisburgh was selected the site of one of the conventions because Rowland T. Robinson, a Quaker and abolitionist who ran a station on the underground railroad to Canada, lived a few miles north.

Scott 1290 comes in a number of varieties including 1290a, a tagged version issued in 1973 as well as dry gum and wet gum version and a very rare color variety where the color matches the color of the fifteen-cent Oliver Wendell Holmes stamp in the same series (Scott 1288).

This was not the only stamp issued to honor Douglass. When the USPS issued a Civil War sheetlet of twenty three-cent stamps in 1994, Douglass was pictured on Scott 2975h as well as the accompanying twenty-cent postal card (UX207). ■

Glenn A. Estus photos