

Vital Chapter In History of Negro People

ORATION BY FREDERICK DOUGLASS,
at the unveiling of the Freedmen's Mon-
ument in memory of Abraham Lincoln.
Pathway Press, 208 W. 135th St., New
York. Price: 25 cents.

By Angelo Herndon

Beautifully designed, and with a reproduction of the monument dedi-
cated to Abraham Lincoln by the
freed slaves at Lincoln Park, Wash-
ington, D. C., April 14, 1876, this
publication is an important historic
document which brings to the fore
once again a vital chapter in the
history of Negro Americans. It
should be read by all.

Its present social value can not
be overestimated, especially when
the role of the Negro people and the
Martyr President Lincoln are being
held up for ridicule, slander and dis-
tortion in such films as *Gone With
the Wind* and *Birth of a Nation*.

Considered merely from the point
of its oratorical worth, it ranks as
one of the best in the history of
American public affairs. In addi-
tion to its sterling qualities of liter-
ary accomplishment, the heroic
struggles of the Negro people for
freedom are recorded with moving
impact.

Indeed this publication should
stimulate wide-spread interest of
all Americans in the crucial prob-
lems of the Negro people. That
the Negro people were not the
docile creatures, happy with their
plight of slavery, as depicted in
Gone With the Wind and the
treatment of Negroes in American
school text books, newspapers, etc.,
is graphically emphasized by Doug-
lass in the following words:

"When, therefore, it shall be ask-
ed what we have to do with the
memory of Abraham Lincoln, or
what Abraham Lincoln had to do
with us, the answer is ready, full
and complete. . . . Under his wise
and beneficent rule we saw our-
selves gradually lifted from the
depths of slavery to the heights of
liberty and manhood. . . . Under
his rule we saw our brave sons and
brothers laying off the rags of bond-
age, and being clothed in the blue
uniforms of the soldiers of the
United States. . . . We saw two
hundred thousand of our dark and
dusky people responding to the call
of Abraham Lincoln, and with
muskets on their shoulders . . .
timing their footsteps to liberty and
union under the national flag."

This Oration also contains an ap-
pendix which gives the history of
the monument and how the freed
slaves raised the funds with which
to build it.