Anna Murray Douglass Timeline

1813       October n.d.
Born to Mary and Bambarra Murray in Denton, MD.

1830       Leaves home to work as a domestic and laundress in Baltimore.

1837       Meets Frederick Bailey, an enslaved man, through the East Baltimore Mental Improvement Society.

1838       September 3
Assists Frederick Bailey’s escape to freedom in New York with clothes and money. He changes his name to Johnson.

           September 15
Leaves Maryland to marry Frederick Johnson, who changes his name to Douglass. They find work in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

1839       June 24
Gives birth to Rosetta.

1840       October 9
Gives birth to Lewis Henry.

1842       March 3
Gives birth to Frederick Jr.

1844       October 21
Gives birth to Charles Remond.

1845       Makes shoes and takes in laundry to support the family when Douglass’s Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass compels his flight to Europe to avoid recapture.

1847       Moves from Lynn, Mass. to Rochester, New York when Frederick Douglass returns from an overseas tour.

           Meets Martin R. Delany, who agrees to work with Douglass’s The North Star newspaper.

           Works for the Underground Railroad when her home becomes a station.

1849       Meets John Brown

           March 22
Gives birth to Annie.

           Receives a reading tutor, hired by Douglass, but the effort is unsuccessful.
1855
Sees Julia Griffiths exit her home.

Meets Ottilie Assing for the first time.

1859 Oct.-Dec
Learns of the capture, imprisonment, and hanging of John Brown and Shields Green for the raid on Harper’s Ferry.

1860 March 9
Witnesses daughter Annie’s death in Rochester while Frederick travels abroad.

1863
Witnesses the enlistment of sons Lewis and Charles in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry in response to their father’s campaign for black men to join the Union Army.

1872 June 2
Losses her Rochester home to a fire believed to be arson.

Moves to Washington, D.C., where Frederick serves as the U.S. Marshall and later, the Recorder of Deeds for D.C.

1878
Moves into Cedar Hill, the Douglass estate in Washington, D.C.

1882 August 4
Dies of a stroke at Cedar Hill.

1906
Receives posthumous credit for tireless support of abolition in My Mother As I Remember Her, a booklet by Rosetta Douglass Sprague.