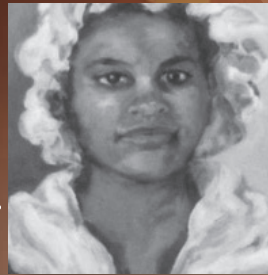


# African American LITERATURE



Lucy Terry

## PART I:

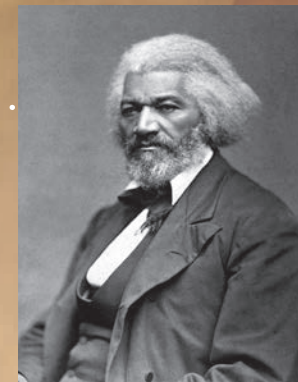
### From Colonization to the Civil War



Phillis Wheatley



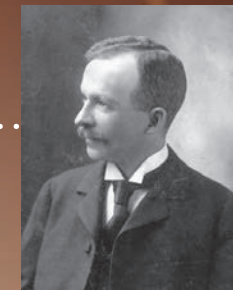
Harriet Jacobs



Frederick Douglass



Booker T. Washington



Charles Chesnut



- 1503** Spain begins transporting African slaves to the island of Hispaniola.
- 1619** A group of about twenty bondservants are taken to Virginia's Jamestown settlement, becoming the first Africans to arrive in the British North American colonies.
- 1700** A census indicates that there are over 27,000 slaves, mostly of African origin, living in the American colonies.
- 1730** Lucy Terry is born in Africa.
- 1746** Terry, now a slave in Massachusetts, witnesses the Raid on Deerfield and composes "Bars Fight."
- 1753** Phillis Wheatley is born in the Gambia/Senegal region of Africa.

- 1760** Briton Hammon becomes the first African American prose writer to have his work published, with the printing of his autobiography, *A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings, and Surprising Deliverance of Briton Hammon, a Negro Man*.
- 1767** Wheatley, now a slave in Massachusetts, publishes her first poems at the age of 14.
- 1772** Wheatley is put on trial to prove that she is the author of her poems.
- 1773** Wheatley publishes *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*.
- 1775-81** The American Revolutionary War is fought. At the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, slaves comprise twenty percent of the population of the colonies.

- 1784** Phillis Wheatley dies.
- 1787** The U.S. Constitution is drafted. It allows the slave trade to continue for twenty more years and requires that each slave be counted as three-fifths of a person for statistical purposes.
- 1807** The slave trade is abolished in Great Britain.
- 1812-15** The War of 1812 is fought.
- 1813** Harriet Jacobs is born into slavery in South Carolina.
- 1818** Frederick Douglass is born into slavery in Talbot County, Maryland.
- 1821** Lucy Terry dies.
- 1837** New Orleans native Victor Séjour publishes *Le Mulâtre (The Mulatto)*, the earliest known work of African American fiction.

- 1838** Douglass escapes from slavery.
- 1845** Douglass publishes *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*.
- 1847** Douglass founds his abolitionist newspaper, *The North Star*, in Rochester, New York.
- 1856** Booker T. Washington is born into slavery in West Virginia.
- 1857** In the *Dred Scott v. Sandford* case, the Supreme Court rules that African Americans are not citizens of the United States and have none of the rights associated with citizenship or personhood; slaves are ruled to be chattel throughout the U.S. territories—even in those states formerly considered "free."
- 1858** Charles Chesnut is born to free parents in Ohio.

- 1859** The last slave ship arrives in the United states.
- 1861-65** The American Civil War is fought.
- 1872** Frederick Douglass becomes the first African American to run for Vice President.

Timeline