

Resource Sheet #2

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper Timeline

Note Frances E. W. Harper will be referred to as Watkins until her marriage to Harper.

Year	age	Events in the life of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, relating to writings
1825	born	Watkins, daughter of free black parents, born in Baltimore, Maryland September 24, 1825
1828	3	Watkins orphaned, Lived with Aunt and Uncle Watkins
1829	4	Frances Wright begins publication of <i>The Free Enquirer</i>
1833	8	Lydia Maria Child, <i>Appeal in Favor of That Class of Americans Called Africans</i>
1834	9	American Female Moral Reform Society (AFMR) formed
1835	10	Lydia Maria Child, <i>A History of the Condition of Women</i>
1836	11	Catharine Ester Beecher, <i>Letters on the Difficulties of Religion</i>
1837	12	Ralph Waldo Emerson, "An Oration"
1838	13	Underground Railroad organized.
1839	14	The mill girls of Lowell, Massachusetts, begin publishing <i>The Lowell Offering</i> , a monthly magazine of poetry, fiction and essays
1846	21	Watkins, <i>Forest Leaves</i>
1847	22	Charlotte Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i> and Emily Bronte, <i>Wuthering Heights</i>
1849	24	Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) escapes to the North and begins working with the Underground Railroad. Tubman helps at least 300 slaves to escape before the Civil War; during the war, she worked as a nurse, cook, laundress, and, it is said, spy behind Confederate lines for the Union forces.
1850	25	Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> Watkins taught sewing as the first female teacher at Union Seminary in Columbus, Ohio
1851	26	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> Watkins teacher in Little York, Pennsylvania
1852	27	Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Watkins, <i>The Two Offers</i> Frederick Douglass, "The Heroic Slave"
1853	28	Paulina Davis publishes <i>Una</i> , the first women's rights magazine in the US Watkins moved to Philadelphia, Poem, "Eliza Harris" was originally published in <i>Frederick Douglass' Paper</i> , December 23, 1853
1854	29	Thoreau, <i>Walden</i> Watkins, poems 'Saved by Faith,' 'The Contrast,' and 'The Drunkard's Child' "was employed by the Maine Anti Slavery Society to carry the abolitionist message across New England to audiences that included women and men of all races and backgrounds.(Foster, 1994) Poems written "The Syrophenician Women," "The Slave Mother" "Bible Defense of Slavery," "Ethiopiai," "The Drunkard's Child," "The Slave Auction," "The Revel," "That Blessed Hope," "The Dying Christmas," "Report," "Advice to the Girls," "Saved by Faith," "Died of Starvation," "A Mother's Heroism," "The Fugitive's Wife," "The Contract," "The Prodigal's Return" and "Eva's Farewell." Volumes <i>Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects</i> , second Edition. Boston: J.B. Yerrinton & Son
1855	30	Walt Whitman, <i>Leaves of Grass</i>

1857	32	Watkins, Volumes <i>Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects</i> , other editions. Boston: J.B. Yerrinton & Son
1858	33	Lincoln is nominated to oppose Stephen Douglas for the Senate; Lincoln-Douglas debates.
1859	34	Darwin, <i>The Origin of Species</i> and Harriet Wilson
		<i>Our Nig</i> , first novel by an African-American woman, published
		Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, "The Two Offers" in <i>Anglo-African and</i> poem "Gone To God" and letter, November 14 to Mary Brown wife of John Brown (Sterling, 1997)
1860	35	Abraham Lincoln elected US president
		Watkins married Fenton Harper from Cincinnati, Ohio. She will be referred to as Harper on the timeline after this date.
1861	36	Civil War begins
		Harriet Davies, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>
		Harper, wrote the poem "To the Union Savers of Cleveland"
1862	37	Harper settled in Columbus, Ohio where daughter Mary was born
1864	39	Harper's husband died; she wrote the poem, "Bury Me in a Free Land" originally published in the <i>Liberator</i> .
1865	40	Harper, <i>Moses: A Story of the Nile</i> , Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventure in Wonderland</i>
		President Lincoln assassinated
		Andrew Johnson becomes US president
		Civil War ends
		Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, goes to the states for ratification
1866	41	The Civil Rights Act of 1866
1867	42	Harper Southern Lecture tours (to 1871)
1869	44	Suffrage Association founded
		Harper, <i>Minnie's Sacrifice</i> and poem "Moses," <i>Moses: A Story of the Nile</i> , Second Edition. Philadelphia: Merrihew & Son.
1870	45	1870 Congress enacts the "Ku Klux Klan Act of 1870" or "Enforcement Act" to stop southern white resistance to the power African Americans have gained during Reconstruction.
1871	46	Harper, <i>Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects</i> was the model for <i>Poems</i> and included "Lines to Hon. Thaddeus Stevens," "An Appeal to the American People," "Truth," "Death of the Old Sea King," "Let the Light Enter," "Youth in Heaven," "Death of Zombi," "Lines to Charles Sumner," "'Sir, We Would See Jesus,'" "The Bride of Death," "Thank God for Little Children," "The Dying Fugitive," "The Freedom Bell," "Mary at the Feet of Christ," "The Mother's Blessing," "Vashti," "The Change," "The Dying Mother" "Words for the Hour," "President Lincoln's Proclamation of Freedom," "To a Babe Smiling in Her Sleep," "to Miles O'Reiley," "the Little Builders," "The Dying Child to her Blind Father" and "Harper, "The Deliverance" and <i>Sketches on a Southern Life</i> , "Our English Friends," "I Thirst," : The Dying Queen, "Aunt Chloe," also in "Aunt Chloe:" "The Deliverance," Aunt Chloe's Politics," "Learning to Read," "Church Building" and "The Reunion"
1874	49	Harper, poems "The Tennessee Hero," "Free Labor," "Lines," "The Dismissal of Tyng," "The Slave Mother, a Tale of the Ohio," "Rizpah, the Daughter of Ai," and "Ruth and Naomi" Volumes <i>Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects</i> , 20 th Edition.
1875	50	Civil Rights Act states that no citizen can be denied equal use of public facilities.

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1876	51	Harper, another edition <i>Poems</i>
1880	55	Harper, another edition <i>Poems</i>
1881	56	Clara Barton founds the National Society for the Red Cross
1883	58	Harper, "Eliza Harris"
1885	60	Washington Monument in Washington D.C. dedicated after 36 years of construction.
1886	61	28 October, Statue of Liberty dedicated in New York Harbor.
1887	62	1887/88 Harper, poems "The Jewish Grandfather's Story," "Out in the Cold," "Save the Boys," "Nothing and Something," "Wanderer's Return," "Fishers of Men" and "Signing the Pledge" <i>Sketches on a Southern Life</i> , another edition
1889	64	Harper, "For the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of The Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Persons, <i>Sketches on a Southern Life</i> , another edition
1890	65	Emily Dickinson, <i>Poems</i>
1891	66	Harper, poem "In Commemoration of the Centennial of the A. M. E. Church"
1892	67	Harper, <i>Iola Leroy; or Shadow Uplifted</i> and poem "To Bishop Payne"
1894	69	Harper, <i>The Martyr of Alabama</i> , and poems "The Martyr," "The Night of Death," "Mother's Treasure," "The Refiner's Gold," "A story of the Rebellion," "Burial of Sarah," "Going East," "The Hermit's Sacrifice" and "Songs for the People," "An Appeal to My Country Women," "Then and Now," "Maceo," "Only a Word"
1895	70	Harper wrote a "series of poetry collections: <i>The Sparrow's Fall and Other Poems</i> , <i>Poems</i> and poems "The Mother's Kiss," "A Grain of Sand," "The Crocuses," "The Present Age," "Dedication Poem," "A Double Standard," "Our Hero," "The Dying Bondman," "A Dandelions," "The Building," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Pure in Heart Shall See God," "He Had Not Where to Lay His Head," "Go Work in My Vineyard," "Renewal of Strength" and "Jamie's Puzzle" <i>Atlanta Offering: Poems</i>
1896	71	National Association of Colored Women formed and <i>Light Beyond Darkness</i> <i>Atlanta Offering: Poems</i> , another edition, <i>Poems</i> , another edition
1898	73	Harper, <i>Poems</i> , another edition
1899	74	Harper, poem "The Vision of the Czar of Russia"
1901	76	Harper, <i>Idylls of the Bible</i> and poems "The Ragged Stocking," "The Fatal Pledge," "Christ's Entry into Jerusalem," "The Resurrection of Jesus," "Simon's Countrymen," "Deliverance" and "Simon's Feast."
1902	77	The Free Colored People Of North Carolina 1902
1903	78	DuBois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i>
1909	84	W. E. B. DuBois (1868-1963) helps to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
1911	86	Death at age 86, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper