Prudence Crandall’s Supporters

Prudence Crandall announced her plan for an exclusively black academy in an advertisement in The Liberator on March 2, 1833. She realized that a board of prominent male supporters was as essential to the success of the African-American academy as it had been to her school for white students. The following men were signatories to the advertisement for Prudence Crandall’s school.

**Arthur Tappan, Esq.** (1786-1865) – New York City – A white, Presbyterian, businessman, a leader in the evangelical reform movement.

**Rev. Peter Williams** (1780-1840) – New York City – A black, Episcopalian minister at St. Philip’s African Church.

**Rev. Theodore Raymond** – New York City – A black, Baptist (?).

**Rev. Theodore Wright** (1797-1847) – New York City – A black minister of the First Colored Presbyterian Church.

**Rev. Samuel Cornish** (1795-1853) – New York City – A black, Presbyterian, editor of the Freedom’s Journal (the first independent black newspaper, 1827), The Right’s of All (1829), and of the Colored American (1837-1839).

**Rev. George Bourne** (1780-1845) – New York City – A white, Presbyterian, famous for an early anti-slavery book, The Book and Slavery Irreconcilable (1815), and for leading the anti-Catholicism campaign of the 1830’s as the editor of the grotesquely biased periodical, The Protestant.

**Rev. James Hayborn** (d. 1835) – New York City – A black, Baptist minister of the Abyssinian Baptist Church.
Mr. James Forten (1766-1842) – Philadelphia – A black, Episcopalian, businessman, attended the Absalom Jones’ St. Thomas African Episcopal Church.

Mr. Joseph Casey – Philadelphia – A black, Episcopalian (?), businessman.

Rev. Samuel J. May (1797-1871) – Brooklyn, CT – A white, Unitarian minister in the town north of Canterbury, the only Unitarian Minister working in Connecticut.

Rev. Jehiel Beman (1789-1858) – Middletown, CT – A black minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.


William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) – Boston, MA – A white editor of The Liberator, nominally Baptist but philosophically influenced by the Quakers.

Arnold Buffum – Boston, MA – A white Quaker.

George Benson (1808-1879) – Providence, RI – A white, influenced by both Baptists and Quakers, later becomes one of the leading figures in the Northampton Association, connected with Sojourner Truth’s entry into the abolitionist community.