

## ~ List of Prudence Crandall's White Students ~

### Fall of 1831 – April 1, 1833

These students attended the *Canterbury Female Boarding School* at some time between the fall term in 1831, and the end of March 1833, when Prudence dismissed her white students. We still don't have an exact account of how many students Prudence Crandall had when she had initially opened her academy in Canterbury in the fall of 1831. The names listed were taken from several sources that make reference to the Academy.

**Note:** Although described as a "female" school, records show that at least two boys attended the *Canterbury Female Boarding School* prior to April 1, 1833. It was not unusual to have boys enrolled in schools that had a majority of female students, and it seems Crandall's school did this as well.

#### Students who were residents of Canterbury, CT:

**Sarah Adams:** Research on-going.

**Charles Johnson Aspinwall:** Born Jan. 18, 1824 – Died Nov. 22, 1902.

~ Buried in Carey Cemetery, Canterbury.

Charles J. Aspinwall's biographical entry from "The Plainfield Souvenir" published in 1895 reads as follows:

"Charles J. Aspinwall was born in Canterbury, Conn in 1824. His father, Capt. James Aspinwall, was a captain of light infantry which rendered efficient service during the War of 1812...His mother, Harriet, was the daughter of Gen. Jedediah Johnson of Canterbury. At age ten years Charles Aspinwall "was a private pupil of Miss Prudence Crandall and afterwards as the only boy pupil in her school for young ladies numbering about fifty. He remained until the white school was broken up and Miss Crandall began teaching her famous colored school. Mr. Aspinwall also attended the academies at Plainfield, Danielsonville and Southbridge. After leaving school he entered the store of Squire Dyer at Central Village as clerk, then served in the same capacity six years in the Company store in that village. He then entered into business relations with

Marvin H. Sanger of Canterbury in the conduct of a general store in that town, under the name of Aspinwall and Sanger. A few years later he sold out his interest in the store to Mr. Sanger, and went into retirement.

**Amy Baldwin:** Born 1817 – Died March 3, 1842.

~ Buried in Baldwin Cemetery, Canterbury.

Amy Baldwin was born in 1817. Her mother was Hannah Burnham and her father was Dr. Elijah Baldwin (buried in Baldwin Cemetery in Canterbury, CT). Amy's three siblings were Hannah B. Baldwin [Bishop], Esther Baldwin, and Dr. Elijah Baldwin Jr. All of her siblings are also buried in Baldwin Cemetery. Amy never got married or had children. She died on March 3, 1842 and is buried in Baldwin Cemetery in Canterbury, CT.

Amy is the aunt of Dr. Helen Baldwin, daughter of Amy's brother, Elijah Baldwin Jr. Dr. Helen Baldwin, born in Canterbury on November 14, 1865 received her BA degree from Wellesley College in 1888. In 1892, she graduated from the New York Infirmary Medical School and did her post-graduate work at John Hopkins, graduating in 1893. During one of her internship, she contracted scarlet fever which resulted in deafness. She taught at the New York Infirmary for Women and Children's Medical College before establishing a successful private practice. Her retirement brought her back to Canterbury, where she continued as a doctor, charging no more than a dollar per house call. She died on April 17, 1946 at the age of 80. She, like the rest of her relatives mentioned, is buried in Baldwin Cemetery. *The Woman's Medical Journal* in December 1940 wrote, "In all of us who have been associated with her, she aroused increased admiration of her high courage and dauntless spirit." The local middle school is named after her.

**Dwight Barstow:**

Dwight Barstow's biographical entry in Richard M. Bayles' "History of Windham County", published 1889 reads as follows:

"Dwight Barstow was born in Canterbury Plains, August 8, 1820. He is a son of Hezekiah and Rebecca (Gager) Barstow, and grandson of Hezekiah and Olive (Bradford) Barstow. He was educated in Canterbury and is about the only living person that attended Prudence Crandall's school at the time she dismissed her white scholars and filled up her school with colored. He held the office of highway surveyor for 30 years. He was married to Amelia Lyon September 18, 1854, and their children are: Charles, George, and Frank.

Mr. Barstow is a member of the Congregational Church. The Family have occupied one slip in the Canterbury Church for 50 years.”

**Mary Clark:** Research on-going.

**Sarah and Frances Coit:** Born 1820 – Died 1868

~ Buried in Yantic Cemetery, Norwich, CT.

Sarah Knickerbocker Coit was born on May 10, 1820 in Canterbury, Connecticut. Her parents, Betsey Lyman Throop and Stephen Coit are both buried in Norwich City Cemetery in Norwich, CT. Sarah never got married or had children. Sarah died on September 26, 1868, and is buried in Norwich City Cemetery.

Frances Adams Coit Johnson was born on April 20, 1824. She was Sarah Coit’s younger sister. In 1839, Frances married Isaac Johnson, who already had two daughters (and one son who had died at infancy) from a previous marriage. Frances had a son named Frank Coit Johnson and possible two other children named Oliver Lewis Johnson and Fannie Chester Johnson. She, along with her family, lived in Norwich, CT. Her husband worked as a grocer. Frances died on November 18, 1897. She is buried in Yantic Cemetery in Norwich, CT.

Sarah and Frances Coit’s father, Stephen Coit, owned a store on the Canterbury green and had arranged for Prudence Crandall to purchase supplies in exchange for his daughters’ tuition. The Coit family moved to Norwich, Connecticut in 1834.

**Frances Ensworth:**

Frances Cleveland Ensworth [Work] was born on September 13, 1825 in Canterbury, Connecticut. Her parents, Mary Buswell and Nehemiah Ensworth, are buried in Canterbury’s Carey Cemetery. Frances had five siblings: Thomas Buswell Ensworth, Samuel Ensworth, Sarah Cleveland Ensworth, Mary Elizabeth Ensworth, and Abbie Bacon Ensworth Woodbridge. Her father was a farmer. Frances came from a wealthy family (the money came largely from inheritances). Frances was a descendent of Quartermaster John Smith of England who had arrived in Massachusetts in 1635 from aboard the *James*. Smith settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts and was a carpenter, maltster, and herdsman.

Frances Ensworth married Harrison G. Work of Providence, Rhode Island on April 5, 1854. The couple settled in Rhode Island where Harrison worked as a grocer, they eventually had one daughter, Sarah Ward Work [Grant]. Harrison Work died on February

14, 1900, in Providence, RI, of Bright's disease. Frances died on June 21, 1894, in Rome, New York of heart failure. Frances and her husband are buried in Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, RI.

### **Eliza Hough:**

Elizabeth Catherine Hough [Robbins] was born on June 7, 1819 in Canterbury, Connecticut. Her mother was Betsey Adams Hough and her father was Lieutenant Samuel Lockwood Hough, who served in the War of 1812. Both of her parents are buried in Carey Cemetery in Canterbury, CT. Elizabeth's only sibling was Esther Ann Hough [Dyer] (buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts). She married Reverend Alden Burrill Robbins on September 3, 1843. She then moved with him to Muscatine, Iowa. They had three children: Dana H. Robbins, Horace H. Robbins, and Anna Margarett Robbins DeForest. Eliza died on July 16, 1850, of cholera, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Muscatine, Iowa.

Eliza's husband, Reverend Robbins, was a pastor for the Congregational Church in Muscatine. After Eliza's death, he married Mary Sewell Arnold and had two more children. Rev. Robbins died on December 17, 1896 in Muscatine, Iowa, and is buried with both of his wives in Greenwood Cemetery.

Eliza's daughter, Anna Margarett, married Reverend Henry Swift DeForest on August 25, 1869. Henry later became the president of the African American school, Talladega College.

Their son (Eliza's grandson), Lee de Forest, was an inventor, earning his PhD at Yale. He is credited with inventing the Audion tube (a voice amplifying device), the De Forest Valve, and most well-known, talking movies. Additionally, he is widely recognized as the "Father of Radio" for his pioneering as an American radio station owner. He was the first to broadcast music, presidential election results, and advertising on the radio. Lee was married four times. He was married to Lucille Sheardown for less than a year (1906). His second marriage to Nora Stanton Blatch lasted from 1908 to 1911. Nora was the first woman to receive a civil engineering degree in the United States (she attended Cornell University). She was also a suffragist, working for equal rights for women (like her grandmother, Elizabeth Cady Stanton) as well as a political activist. Nora and Lee had one daughter, Harriet Stanton DeForest. Lee's third marriage was to opera singer Mary Mayo While, which lasted from 1912 to 1930. They had two daughters. His final marriage was to

silent-movie star, Marie Mosquini, which lasted from 1930 to the day he died on June 30, 1961. Both Marie and Lee are buried in San Fernando Mission Cemetery in California.

**Phoebe Hough:** Research on-going.

## **Students who were residents of Hampton, CT:**

### **Hannah Pearl:**

Hannah Pearl's exact date of birth is unknown; however, she was born in Connecticut. Her parents were Clarissa Farnham Pearl and Phillip Pearl Jr. Hannah had four siblings: Harriet Pearl Lyon, Patrick Henry Pearl, Clarissa Pearl, and Olive Pearl. Hannah never got married or had any children. She died on May 31, 1840 in Ohio at the age of 25. She is buried in Connor Cemetery in Ohio.

Hannah Pearl was the daughter of State Senator Phillip Pearl Jr. who helped Andrew Judson write and pass the infamous *Black Law* in the spring of 1833. In 1836, fellow Hampton resident Theodore Weld convinced Pearl to join the antislavery cause. In 1838, Pearl, then the vice president of the Connecticut Antislavery Society, helped to repeal the *Black Law*. He indicated that it was one of the worst pieces of legislation he had ever authored and claimed that he "could weep tears of blood" for his part in attempting to close Prudence Crandall's school. Phillip Pearl also became active in the Underground Railroad movement. He and his wife are buried in North Cemetery in Hampton, Connecticut.

## **Students who were residents of Lisbon, CT:**

### **Huldah Brewster Johnson:**

Huldah Brewster Johnson Robbins was born on December 13, 1817 in New London, CT. Her parents were Dimmis (aged 27 at marriage) and Nathan Johnson (age 60 at marriage). Her sister (born on April 25, 1811) was Hannah Parke Williams Rose. Census records show that Huldah's family worked in agriculture. As of now, it is unclear how many semesters she attended the academy; however, she married Henry Rufus Robbins on January 1, 1833 (Crandall's academy was still admitting white students at this time) at the age of 15. She had five children: Huldah Marie Robbins (died at age 1), Nathan Johnson Robbins, Rufus Dwight Robbins (died at age 1), George Gilbert Robbins (died at age 1 month), and Zebulon Roath Robbins. Huldah Brewster Robbins died on March 24, 1851. She is buried in Ames Cemetery in Lisbon, Connecticut.

Her husband, Henry Rufus Robbins, got remarried to Charlotte Louisa Crosby and had two more children. On November 10, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Connecticut 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. He mustered out on April 2, 1863 and died on December 19 of that same year. He is also buried in Ames Cemetery.

### **Susannah Adams:**

Susannah Adams Johnson was born on July 5, 1805 in Lisbon, Connecticut. Her parents were Sarah Kinsman Adams and Captain Roswell Adams. Captain Adams fought in the war of 1812 in Lieutenant Colonel Tracy's Regiment. Susannah's father was also a farmer. Both of her parents are buried in Baldwin Cemetery in Canterbury, CT. Susannah had seven siblings: Sibil Maria Adams Spalding, Thomas Kinsman Adams, William Adams, Edward Adams, Sarah Douglas Adams, Mary Kinsman Adams, and Jeremiah Kinsman Adams. Susannah married James Johnson of Griswold, CT on February 7, 1837. She possibly had two children named Lydia M. Johnson White and Robert Johnson. After her husband died in 1899, Susannah lived with her nephew, Andrew A. Adams (Jeremiah's son), and his wife Ellen B. Adams. Susannah Adams died in 1907 in New London County, Connecticut. She is buried in Jewett City Cemetery in New London County, CT.