

Prudence Crandall Museum, a National Historic Landmark
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Sarah Harris Fayerweather cabinet card photo, PC1991.08

It has recently come to museum staff's attention that the image of Sarah Harris Fayerweather, approximately age 65, has been misattributed in many on-line sources as a photograph of abolitionist, early civil rights activist, lecturer, and writer: Maria Miller Stewart. This is incorrect.

The museum can confirm through provenance that the above-mentioned image is that of Sarah Harris Fayerweather, a Canterbury resident who was the first Black student to attend Prudence Crandall's Canterbury Female Boarding School when she was 20 years old.

Provenance: The photo itself was given to Prudence Crandall (m. Philleo) by Sarah Harris (m. Fayerweather). The photo was donated to the Prudence Crandall Museum in 1991 by June Gates, a Crandall descendant through Prudence Crandall's older brother, Hezekiah Crandall's lineage.

- The writing on the back of the original cabinet card which states that the photo is of Sarah Harris Fayerweather was written by Rena Keith Clisby.
- Rena Clisby was Hezekiah Crandall's granddaughter.
- Clisby not only made the journey out from Illinois to Kansas with Hezekiah Crandall and Prudence Crandall, but she was living with Prudence Crandall when Sarah Harris Fayerweather visited Crandall in Kansas. Fayerweather stayed for several weeks.
- Rena Clisby refers to this visit in her unpublished manuscript, "Canterbury Pilgrims," of which the museum has a copy. In the manuscript Clisby describes Fayerweather as "a fine-looking woman with regular features and with white hair with deep waves about her head."
- Clisby met and spent significant time with Fayerweather, and Clisby both recognized and named this specific photo as Sarah Harris Fayerweather.
- Rena Keith Clisby gave the photo to her grandniece, June Plank Gates.
- June Gates donated the photo to the Prudence Crandall Museum in 1991.

Lineage: Prudence Crandall did not have children; there are no direct descendants. Hezekiah Crandall had ten children. Their siblings, Reuben Crandall and Hannah Almira Crandall (m. Rand) died without issue. Descendants connected to Prudence Crandall would be through her brother Hezekiah's line, a very brief overview to demonstrate the provenance of the above photo is as follows:

- Hezekiah Crandall
 - Clarissa Crandall (m. Keith)
 - Rena Keith (m. Clisby) [owns photo after P. Crandall; later gives to grandniece]
 - Mary Keith (m. Houghton)
 - Rena Houghton (m. Plank)
 - June Plank (m. Gates) → donates photo to museum in 1991.