Students at Prudence Crandall's School for African-American Women 1833 – 1834

The exact number of students that attended Prudence Crandall's Female Academy is unknown, since an official school roster or record has not been located. The names listed below were compiled from various sources including newspaper articles, obituaries, and court records.

Connecticut

Sarah Harris – A resident of Canterbury, CT, Sarah, age 20, was the first black student to enter the Academy in the fall of 1832. Born in Norwich, CT on April 16, 1812, Sarah was the daughter of William Monteflora Harris and Sally M. Prentice Harris. William Harris, Sarah's father, was an agent for the *Liberator* newspaper. On November 28, 1833, Sarah married George Fayerweather, a blacksmith, in a double ceremony with her brother Charles Harris and Ann Mariah Davis, Prudence Crandall's former "household assistant." The wedding took place at the Westminster Congregational Church in Canterbury, CT. On September 9, 1834, the same evening the Academy was attacked by a mob, the Fayerweathers celebrated the birth of their first child, a daughter whom they named Prudence Crandall Fayerweather.

Sarah and George Fayerweather lived in New London, CT until 1855 when they moved to Kingston, RI. They were active abolitionists, who hosted nationally known figures including William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. The couple became conductors on the Underground Railroad, helping fugitive slaves on the route north to freedom. In 1877, Sarah made the long journey west to Kansas to visit Prudence Crandall. She died in Kingston, RI on November 16, 1878.

Mary Harris – One of Sarah's sisters, Mary was 16 when she entered Prudence Crandall's Academy. She was born in Norwich, CT on September 29, 1817. On April 19, 1845, Mary became the wife of Pelluman Williams, a teacher in Norwich, CT and the president of the 1849 Connecticut Convention of Colored Men. In the early 1860's, they moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where they engaged in "teaching colored persons, old and young, in Greensburg, Louisiana." The education tradition continued in New Orleans "where their oldest son [taught], with six teachers under him." (Letter by Prudence Crandall Philleo, May 5, 1881)

Harriet Rosetta Lanson – A resident of New Haven, CT, Harriet was 15 years old when she attended the Academy. Harriet was the ward of Reverend Simeon Jocelyn, a white abolitionist and minister at the Temple Street Congregational Church in New Haven, CT. Jocelyn had been involved in unsuccessful plans to establish an academy for black men in New Haven in 1831 and was happy to support Prudence Crandall with another student. Unable to afford the full cost of Harriet's education, Jocelyn arranged for her to work part-time at the school. A member of the Temperance Society (a society for the prohibition of alcohol) and a highly religious woman, Harriet Lanson "never uttered...one unkind word towards the people of Canterbury" and "prayed for the slaveholders – never uttering one revengeful sentiment towards them." (Lanson's obituary in the *Norwich Courier*, June 6, 1836)

An avid scholar, Harriet continued to learn and teach Jocelyn's children until her death from tuberculosis on November 8, 1835 at the young age of 18.

Eliza Glasko – Born in Griswold, CT, Eliza is thought to be the daughter of Isaac and Lucy Brayton Glasko. The village of Glasgo in Griswold is named for Isaac Glasko, who purchased land in 1806 and established a blacksmith shop in what is now the village center. He harnessed waterpower to a triphammer and produced farming and carpentry tools. His business eventually employed more than thirty workers. When the whaling industry was at its height, Glasko specialized in whaling implements for which he received patents from the US Patent Office. His harpoons, lances, spades, and mining knives were well-known in the ports of New England.

Eliza married John Peterson who was a prominent black educator in New York City and Deacon of St. Phillip's Church, a black Episcopal congregation. Eliza died in 1874.

Rhode Island

Elizabeth N. Smith – Elizabeth was born in Providence, RI and she returned there after the closing of the Academy. In Providence she became a teacher and later the principal of a school for black students. In later life she gave private piano lessons and was known as a talented pianist and a fine linguist. She died sometime after 1865.

Ann Eliza Hammond & Sarah Lloyd Hammond – Ann Eliza, age 17 when she entered the Academy, was born on August 18, 1816 and Sarah Lloyd, age 9, was born on June 15, 1824. Both were born in Providence, RI. Ann and Sarah's parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Hammond were married by the Reverend Stephan Gano in Providence on September 4, 1808. Thomas died in 1825, when daughter Ann was nine years old and Sarah was less than a year old. Elizabeth Hammond introduced Prudence Crandall to Henry and George Benson, who would become two of her most loyal supporters. Ann Eliza arrived at the Academy on April 12, 1832 and, as the first out-of-state student, she was the target of Canterbury's

"Pauper Law." The law stated that anyone who lived out-of-state and became a financial burden on the town of Canterbury could either pay a fine of $1.67 per week or submit to being "whipped on the naked body not exceeding ten stripes." The whipping never took place.

Ann Eliza may have returned to Providence when the Academy closed. She was still alive in 1871 when Sarah Harris Fayerweather wrote to Prudence Crandall that Ann was going to England.

Massachusetts

Julia Williams – Julia was born in Charleston, SC on July 1, 1811. Her family moved to Boston, MA when she was a child and she was 21 years old when she traveled to Canterbury to be a student at Prudence Crandall's Academy. After the Academy closed, Julia went to study at the Noyes Academy in New Canaan, NH, which in 1835 met the same fate as the Canterbury Female Boarding School. She was an outspoken advocate of abolition and African-American rights. She attended the Anti-slavery Convention in New York in 1837 as a delegate from Boston. Julia married Henry Highland Garnett, a fugitive slave, minister, and prominent leader of the abolitionist movement. In 1852, Julia and Henry traveled to Jamaica as missionaries, where Julia headed a Female Industrial School. After the Civil War, Julia worked with freedmen in Washington, D.C. She died on January 7, 1870 at the age of 59. Henry Garnett went on to become the US minister to Liberia in 1881.

Pennsylvania

Elizabeth Douglass Bustill – Elizabeth, a resident of Philadelphia, PA, was the daughter of David Bustill. David Bustill taught at a school in Harrisburg, PA and worked with a Justice of the Peace harboring fugitive slaves. (*Journal of Negro History*, Vol. X, No. 4, October 1925)

Unknown

Amy Fenner – Amy, whose residence and age are unknown, was one of the students called upon to testify in the Mach 1834 trial of Frederick Olney. Olney, a black handyman employed by Prudence Crandall, was charged with "feloniously, voluntarily, maliciously, and willfully setting fire to the dwelling house of Prudence Crandall" on January 28, 1834. He was found not guilty. (*The Unionist,* March 13, 1834)

In a letter dated July 26, 1871 from Prudence Crandall to Sarah Harris Fayerweather, Prudence wrote, "Does Amy Fenner yet live? She is now Mrs. Parker if I remember the name...."

Other African-American students at the Canterbury Female Boarding School whose fates are as yet unknown include:

Henrietta Bolt – New York City
M. E. Carter – New York City
Jerusha Congdon – New York City
Theodosia Degrass – New York City
Polly Freeman – New York City
Catherine Ann Weldon – New York City
Ann Elizabeth Wiles – New York City
Ann Peterson – New York City
G. C. Marshal – New York City
Elizabeth Henly – Philadelphia
J. K. Johnson – Philadelphia
Mariah Robinson – Providence

The following names have appeared in only one source and may be typographical errors for "Catherine Ann Weldon" and "Ann Elizabeth Wiles":

Eliza Weldon
Ann Elizabeth Wilder
Mary Elizabeth Wiles
Emilia Wilson
Amilia Elizabeth Wiles