Prudence Crandall Museum
Annotated Bibliography

This bibliography identifies books and pamphlets in the Research Library of the Prudence Crandall Museum that have first- and second-hand accounts of Prudence Crandall's efforts to establish the first private academy for black women in New England, 1833-1834. References also include her first private academy, originally established for the young ladies of Canterbury, Connecticut, 1832-1833.

Abdy, Edward S. *A Journal of Residence and Tour in the United States of North America*. J. Murray Publisher. London: 1835. Reprint of the original.

- Vol. I – pages 194-213, 220-221; Vol. II – pages 206-216, 303-308. An English social observer, Abdy visited prudence Crandall's Academy for young black women when it was first opened in April 1833. Abdy visited Prudence again in the spring of 1834 and again in October 1834. Abdy's work is a rare first-hand account of the Academy, written by an observer not directly involved with the school. It also gives a layman's interpretation of the legal events that took place.

Bacon, Margaret hope. *Valiant Friends: the Life of Lucretia Mott*. Walker Publishing Company. New York: 1980.

- Origins of the Female Anti-Slavery Society. Prudence visits Lucretia Mott and Mott speaks of Prudence possibly moving her Academy to Philadelphia. This is one of two known sources that has Prudence giving serious consideration to moving her school out of Connecticut.

Child, Alfred Thurston, Jr. "Prudence Crandall and the Canterbury Experiment." Friends Historical Society Bulletin. Vol. 22. 1933.

- A very clear and concise account of the Academy for black women. This article has many useful references and source notes.

Finkelman, Paul. *Slavery in the Court Room – An Annotated Bibliography of American Cases.* United States Printing Office. Washington, D.C.: 1985. pgs. 139-143; Rueben Crandall, pgs. 163-171.

- A 5-page account of the legal aspects of Prudence Crandall's defense for operating a school for black women, includes a summary of the "Arguments of Council..." published by William Lloyd Garrison in 1934. "United States vs. Crandall" is a 7-page account of Reuben Crandall's, Prudence's brother, confinement and trial for possessing copies of the anti-slavery newspaper, *The Liberator.* There is a detailed analysis of the defense and prosecution arguments.

Friedman, Lawrence J. "Racism and Sexism in Ante-Bellum America: The Prudence Crandall Episode Reconsidered." Societus. Vol. 4, No. 3. (Summer 1974).

- A discussion based on the idea that the conflict over the education of blacks was further inflamed because the school principal and the students were women and that these women were disturbing the male dominated status quo of Canterbury and New England society.

History of Schools for the Colored Population. Arno Press & New York Times. New York: 1969. pgs. 328-335.

- A brief account of the Academy. It relies heavily on Rev. Samuel May's "Recollection of Our Anti-Slavery Conflict."

Jay, William. *An Inquiry in the Character and Tendency of the American Colonization and American Anti-Slavery Societies.* Leavitt & Lord. New York: 1835. pgs. 28-50.

- This section looks at Andrew T. Judson's actions and positions as an expression of the American Colonization Society's approval of the Black Law and other legal means to close the Academy, or any school that would instruct blacks. A good part of the text appears to come from Rev. Samuel May's "Recollection of Our Anti-Slavery Conflict."

Jurmain, Suzanne. *The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students.* Houghton Mifflin Publishers. Boston: 2005.

- The most recent variation on the story of Prudence Crandall. A well-written, well-researched historical fiction, very accessible, aimed at middle school levels and up.

Kimball, Reverend John C. *Connecticut's Canterbury Tale: Its Heroine Prudence Crandall and Its Moral for Today*. Plimpton Press. Hartford: 1886.

- John C. Kimball was a minister at the Unity Church in Hartford, Connecticut and a friend of Samuel Clemens. He gives a passionate account of the period when Prudence Crandall operated her Academy and identifies many of the leading antagonists and supporters.

Larned, Ellen. *The History of Windham County*. Plimpton Press. Chester, CT: 1976. Vol. II Bicentennial Edition. Pgs. 490-502, 593.

- This historical account is among the most accurate descriptions of how Prudence Crandall began her school in Canterbury in 1831 and how the school changes to an all black Academy in 1833. Within the 13 pages is a compilation of the legal decisions and the attacks upon Prudence, the students, and the school. Included in the article is a letter from Prudence to the author in 1869and a transcript of a song sun by her students in 1834. The one glaring misstatement is about a fire in September 1834; the fire actually took place in January 1834.

May, Samuel Joseph. *Recollections of Our Anti-Slavery Conflict*. Fields, Osgood, & Company. Boston: 1869. pgs. 39-72.

- Reverend Samuel May was one of Crandall's strongest supporters. He was able to secure financial assistance for her legal expenses and established a newspaper to argue her case in the press as well as in the courts. This chapter is an eye-witness report of the turmoil and viewpoints of the contending parties.

McCain, Diana Ross. *To All on Equal Terms: The life and Legacy of Prudence Crandall*. State of Connecticut. Hartford, CT: 2004

- The first Crandall publication intended for a general audience, this book uses generous amounts of period and contemporary images to tell the story of the Academy in an original way. Places Prudence Crandall into a larger social-historical context of the time period. Includes new information on the students that attended the Academy.

McCarron, Anna T. "The Trial of Prudence Crandall for the Crime of Educating Negroes in Connecticut." Connecticut Magazine. Vol. 12, no. 2 (Second Quarter 1908).

- An overview of Prudence Crandall's Academy, coming almost word for word from Rev. Samuel May's "Recollection of Our Anti-Slavery Conflict" and "Arguments of Council…" two pamphlets published after Crandall's trials. There is no informed discussion about Prudence, the school, or the legal aspects that marked the period.

"Report of the Arguments of Council in the Case of Prudence Crandall, plaintiff in Error vs. the State of Connecticut, Before the Supreme Court of Errors, at Their Session at Brooklyn, July term, 1834." By a member of the Bar. Boston, 1834.

- This report is a reprint of the Defense and Prosecution arguments in the trial of Prudence Crandall as published by the Court. It includes a discussion of who is and who is not a citizen of the United States, with an abridged speech by Chauncey Cleaveland. It does not include the verdict of the trial.

"A Statement of Facts, respecting the School for Colored Females in Canterbury, Connecticut, together With a Report of the Late Trial of Miss Prudence Crandall." Advertiser Press. Brooklyn, CT: 1833.

- Gives a legal account of the methods used to close Crandall's school. The report concludes with the jury unable to establish guilt. This report is used by many authors and scholars to identify students, supporters, and antagonists of the school.

Strane, Susan. *A Whole-Souled Woman: Prudence Crandall and The Education of Black Women*. Norton Publishers. New York: 1991.

- A well-researched biography, relying on many original documents and publications. There are a few "new' people and quotes mentioned that are not clearly referenced or footnoted. Easily readable, and the story as accurately as the Welch biography. Welch's book was used by the author as a reference.

Truman, Margaret. "Connecticut Learns a Lesson." *Women of Courage*. Morrow & Company, Inc. New York: 1976.

- Opens with a brief and dramatic description of the African American position in American society circa 1831. Focuses on Crandall's decision to change to an all-black school and her relationship with William Lloyd Garrison. The incidents and storyline are one of the better accounts given by an author at the time pf publication. Page 40 has inaccuracies as to who were her black students and the fire described on this page did not take place. The "call" for her husband, Calvin Philleo, to a church in upstate New York did not come until after the final attack on the school. The house was sold in November 1834.

Welch, Marvis Olive. *Prudence Crandall: A Biography*. Jason Publishers. Manchester, CT: 1983.

- This is the first complete account of the life of Prudence Crandall. Using primary and secondary documents, it covers her life from birth in Rhode Island, September 1803, to death in Kansas, January 1890. Many letters and transcripts of the trials can be found here. It has an appendix that describes the legal precedents that were a direct result of the Black Law and the arguments of both the prosecution and defense in her three court trials. This book has been the foundation of all subsequent research on Prudence and her efforts in Canterbury.

White, David O. "The Crandall School and the Degree of Influence by Garrison and the Abolitionists Upon It." Connecticut historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 43, no. 4. October 1978.

- Discussion of direct and indirect contact between William Lloyd Garrison, Rev. Samuel May, Arnold Buffum, the Benson family of Brooklyn, CT, and the Burleigh brothers, Charles and William. The discussion spans from March 1833 to October 1834, after the Academy is closed. The author, a former curator of the Prudence Crandall Museum, traveled to many of the places where Prudence lived and spoke with family members who were willing to share stories and memorabilia relating to Prudence Crandall.

Wright, Martha R. *Way Ahead of Her Time*. Yankee Press. 1973. pgs. 44-49.

- The details after April/January 1833 are correct. Pages 44 and 45 include common errors that were corrected after Welch's biography became available in 1983. The inaccuracies are: Sarah Harris attended district schools in Norwich, CT, not Canterbury. Neither Prudence Crandall nor her family lived in Plainfield, CT. Canterbury has never had a "Green" in the traditional sense.

Woodward, Carl. R. "A Profile in Dedication: Sarah Harris and the Fayerweather Family." New England Galaxy. Vol. 25, No. 1. (Summer 1973).

- Outlines Sarah Harris' attempts at an education at Crandall's Academy and traces her life and marriage to George Fayerweather. It also includes a latter meeting between Sarah and Prudence in Kansas. This is the only biography, to date, of one of the Academy's black students.

Yates, Elizabeth. *Prudence Crandall – A Woman of Courage*. Dutton & Company. New York: 1955.

- A historical fiction account with many quotes from Prudence's letters and period newspapers. It has inaccuracies that were later cleared up through newly revealed documents. The book was written primarily for younger readers – sixth grade reading level. It is one of the better accounts published prior to Welch's biography.

Supplemental Bibliography

Boydston, Jeanne, Kelly, Mary and Anne Margolis. *The Limits of Sisterhood*. The University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, NC: 1988.

Cott, Nancy F. *The Bonds of Womanhood, "Woman's Sphere" in New England, 1780-1835*. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT: 1977.

Curry, Leonard P. *The Free Black in urban America, 1800-1850, The Shadow of a Dream*. The University of Chicago Press. Chicago: 1981.

Davis, Marianna W. ed. *Contributions of Black Women in America*. Kenday Press, Inc. Columbia, SC: 1982.

Kaestle, Carl E. *Pillars of the Republic, Common Schools and American Society, 1780-1860*. Hill and Wang Press. New York: 1983.

Kelsey, Rayner Wickersham. *The Centennial history of the Moses Brown School, 1818-1919*. the Moses Brown School. Providence, RI: 1919.

Reese, William J. and Edward B. McClellan, ed. *The Social History of American Education*. University of Illinois Press. Illinois: 1988.

Sheehan, Wilfred J. Ed. *A history of the Connecticut Education Association. 1843-1975*. Bond Press. Hartford, CT: 1975.

Sklar, Kathryn Kish. *Catherine Beecher: A Study in American Domesticity*. W.W. Norton & Company. New York: 1973.

Stone, Frank Andrews. *A guide to Connecticut Educational History Documents and Sites*. The University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT: 1983.

Vanderpoel, Emily Noyes. *Chronicle s of a Pioneer School form 1792 to 1833*. The University Press. Cambridge: 1903.

Woodson, C. G. *The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861*. The Associated Publishers, Inc. Washington, D.C.: 1919.