

Canaan Historical Society

Noyes Academy Study Group

The People of Noyes Academy

Incorporators and Trustees

Participants on the "Manual Labor School" project were given two levels on which they could serve—as incorporators or as trustees. The incorporators were Samuel Noyes, George Kimball, John H. Harris, Nathaniel Currier and George Walworth.

Samuel Noyes	Incorporator	Canaan
Nathaniel Currier	Incorporator and Trustee	Canaan
John H. Harris	Incorporator and Trustee	Canaan
George Kimball	Incorporator and Trustee	Canaan
George Walworth	Incorporator, NH State Rep.	Canaan
Dr. Timothy Tilton	Trustee	Canaan
David L. Child	Trustee, Instructor(?)	Boston
Samuel E. Sewall	Trustee	Boston
William Charles Munroe	Trustee	Portland, Maine
Nathaniel Peabody Rogers	Trustee	Plymouth, NH
George Kent	Trustee	Concord
Samuel H. Cox	Trustee	New York City

Students

At the time of the academy's closure there were about 42 students, 14 of them African American. These are the ones we know something about.

Maria C. Brackett	Student	Concord, NH
Alexander Crummell	Student	New York City
Henry Highland	Student	New York City

Garnet Johnson	Student	Phillips Academy
Thomas Paul	Student	Boston
Gilbert Pillsbury	Student	Hamilton, Mass.
Richard Rust	Student	
Thomas S. Sidney	Student	New York City
Julia Williams	Student	Boston
a young girl	Student	Boston
seven young boys	Students	Providence, RI

Instructors

The Academy offered two courses of study, one English and the other Classical. It is unclear whether Scales taught all of the courses in the male division of the school, and whether similar courses were offered in the female division.

In the English course were classes in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, Surveying, Navigation, Astronomy, Geography and Construction and use of Maps, Charts, and Mathematical Instruments. In the same course classes were offered in Natural History, General History, History and Constitution of the United States, Grammar, Logic, Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, Ecclesiastical History, Political Economy, Exercises in Composition and Elocution, Manners and Customs, Races and Religions of different nations of the world.

The Classical course of study was advertised to include Ancient Geography, Grecian, Roman, Egyptian and Jewish Antiquities, Heathen Mythology and Biography.

Marv Harris	Instructor, Noyes Academy	Canaan
Jonathan Everett Sargent	Instructor, Canaan Academy	Hopkinton, NH
William Scales	Instructor, Noyes Academy	Lyndon, Vt.

Town Officials

Caleb Blodgett	Moderator, Sheriff	Canaan
James Arvin	Selectman, Clerk	Canaan

William Martin	Selectman	Canaan
Sylvanus B. Morgan	Selectman	Canaan
Stephen Smith	Sheriff's deputy	Canaan

Lawyers

Elijah Blaisdell	opposing lawyer	Canaan
Josiah Quincy	Lawyer	Rumney
Ichabod Bartlett	Lawyer	Portsmouth

Supporters

Col. Thomas Hill		Canaan
Col. Isaac Towle		Canaan
Joseph Dustin		Canaan
Ara Wheat	Doctor	Canaan

Opponents

Joseph L. Richardson	Preacher	Canaan
Thomas Flanders	Doctor	Canaan
Jacob Trussell		Canaan
March Barber		Canaan
Elijah Colby		Canaan
Benjamin Porter		Canaan

Incorporators and Trustees

Colonel Samuel Noyes was born on 25 Aug 1754 in Atkinson, New Hampshire. He died on 9 Jun 1845 in Canaan, New Hampshire. (Æ. 90y 10m.) He served in the Revolutionary War from Plaistow.

In the early part of 1834, when he was eighty, several energetic citizens of Canaan, and prominent among them was the lawyer, George Kimball, procured subscriptions sufficient to build a house, and to buy half an acre of land, for grounds. It was located in the field next south of the Congregational Meeting House, with an ornamental fence in front. There were sixty contributors to the enterprise, and chief among them stood the venerable farmer, Samuel Noyes, for whom the contemplated school was named. The amount subscribed was \$1,000. Application was made to the legislature for a charter which was granted July 4, 1834, to Samuel Noyes, George Kimball, Nathaniel Currier, George Walworth and John H. Harris, as incorporators of Noyes Academy. The charter provided for the "education of youth."

Parents: Humphrey NOYES and Elizabeth LITTLE. Spouse: Lydia NOYES. Samuel NOYES and Lydia NOYES were married in 1775 Children were: Relief NOYES, born 8 Feb 1791.

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace, p278, 285

Nathaniel Currier was on duty as a soldier near Oswego, N. Y., one season during the war of the revolution. He became a prosperous trader with a store, Currier & Wallace, at the upper end of the Street.

He was a selectman during the period from 1822 through 1826, and again in 1847 and 1848. In 1829 and 1830 Nathaniel Currier was a New Hampshire State Rep.

When Noyes Academy was founded, Currier became an incorporator and trustee. When George Kimball decided to leave town in 1836, after the removal of the academy, Nathaniel Currier furnished \$6,000 as part of his capital to start a business in the west.

Nathaniel Currier later supported and was on the executive committee of the Canaan Union Academy.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p363](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p324](#)

John Hough Harris was born on Feb. 18, 1782, a son of George and Anna Harris. On June 4, 1804 he married Lucy May, daughter of John and Mary May. John H. Harris was appointed captain of the First Company of Infantry of the Thirty-Seventh Regiment on October 1, 1810. In 1811 he was selected to the first school committee.

He signed as an incorporator on the state charter for **Noyes Academy** which was granted July 4, 1834. He then served as a **Noyes Academy** Trustee. He and his wife probably provided board for female students at the academy.

He kept a store at one time on Canaan St. He died on Aug. 2, 1858.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p277](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p611](#)

George Kimball was born in Harvard, Mass., in 1787, son of Benjamin and Nancy (Wilder) Kimball; he was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1809; read law with Stephen Moody at Gilmanton, and was admitted to the bar and settled in practice at Union, Me., in March, 1813; from thence he went to Warren, Me., in 1814. For many years he was, a successful teacher in the public schools in Concord and, in Richmond, Va., and also in the island of Bermuda in 1815, where he married a lady who was the owner of any slaves. On his return he brought one of them, named Nancy, as a servant for his wife, and through all the vicissitudes of their lives, Nancy remained faithful and true to her mistress. In 1824, he turned his, attention to journalism, and became editor of The Concord Register. He was a gentleman of refinement and intelligence, companionable and of amiable disposition, a good storyteller and a writer of fair ability, but he was indolent.

In the fall of 1826, he had become weary of journalism; it interfered with his fixed habits of indolence. His friends advised him to return to the law, and that Canaan would be a good place to locate. There were sheriffs here, and justices and all the machinery for making a first-class reputation. Pettingill was gone and Elijah Blaisdell alone remained as an antagonist. He came here and opened an office and in a few months after received the appointment of postmaster. He was a scholar and an agreeable speaker, but his manner of life had not made him familiar with legal practice. Business flowed in upon him, but in the details of legal forms he made mistakes and was often obliged to ask leave to amend his declarations.

George Kimball and [Jacob Trussell](#) worked together to secure a deed for land and to build the North Church, dedicated in January 1829.

He was instrumental in procuring the erection of **Noyes Academy** and hosted the black male students of the academy in his household. After the removal of the academy Kimball went to Illinois in hopes of a new life as a storeowner, but that enterprise failed. He and his wife returned to Bermuda and he worked as a lawyer and teacher there.

- [The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire, Charles Henry Bell](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p265](#)
- [Annals of Our Village, William A. Wallace, p111](#)

George H. Walworth was born in April of 1799. His father died when he was three and he was raised by his uncle Joshua Harris. On his 21st birthday he took possession of half of his father’s land on South Road. He married Philura Jones. ([HoC p641](#)) He was elected as a Canaan Selectman in 1820 and 1821. ([HoC p678](#)) He was still young when in 1833 and 1834 he was elected to the NH state legislature. ([Hoc p673](#))

Walworth was an incorporator of Noyes Academy ([HoC p255](#)), but apparently was not an enthusiastic supporter of integration. He was later chosen in a meeting to work with others to “use all lawful means to prevent the establishment of said school and, if established, to counteract its influence.” ([HoC p260](#))

Shortly after the destruction of Noyes Academy he went west to Iowa with his family. In the winter of 1838 Walworth purchased a large claim in Iowa. When Col. Fox was surveying the county seat, he accompanied Walworth and they laid off a new town on Walworth’s property. Walworth pondered for weeks for a name, and finally called it Dartmouth, in honor of Dartmouth College. Dartmouth was never recorded as the name, though, and so was dropped. In 1846 or ’7, by vote of the people, Walworth’s town’s name was changed to Anamosa.

Elijah P. Lovejoy, an abolitionist editor, moved into the county seat and tried to publish a newspaper containing abolitionist sentiments. Mr. Walworth must have become more sympathetic to integration, or at least to free speech, because he became a supporter of Lovejoy's. When his printing press was thrown in the river, Walworth helped purchase a replacement. When he heard a mob was coming to destroy the press again, Lovejoy's defenders including Walworth assembled at the storehouse of Godfrey & Gilman, armed with muskets and rifles, with the acknowledged intent of using them in defense of property. They did use them and were charged with unlawful defense of property — unlawful, because violently and tumultuously done. Despite much sympathy for the mob, the verdict of the jury was declared to be "Not Guilty."

Mr. Walworth was elected to the Iowa Legislature in 1839, and developed a reputation as a man of fine abilities and remarkable personal attractions, and was noted for his energy and enterprise.

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace
- [Alton trials: of Winthrop S. Gilman](#), John Fowler Trow, 1838
- [Walworths of America](#), Clarence A Walworth

Dr. **Timothy Tilton** for over twenty years traveled up and down on the back of a black pacer, drank wine, went to jail, laughed at or with his creditors, and never troubled his debtors, and in all the sad and weary phases of his life preserved the good nature and wit which well became him. He came here in 1813 while Doctor Pierce lay dead with spotted fever, and remained here until his death December 28, 1836, aged 60 years. He was an active Abolitionist, and was a founding trustee of **Noyes Academy**. He took a prominent part in resisting the attacks on Noyes Academy.

As the Fourth of July approached violence began to be threatened, and it was announced that on that day an attack was to be made on the house. The day arrived and hundreds of men assembled, some as actors, others as spectators. The building was approached in a threatening manner by a body of about seventy men, many of whom were from adjacent towns, armed with clubs and other missiles and uttering fierce threats and imprecations. They drew up in front of the house. The leader of this brave band was Jacob Trussell, who announced to his followers that the object of their "virtuous wrath was before them." Several approached and attempted the door. There is in every man a sense of right and wrong which makes even the most hardened criminal hesitate to commit an unlawful act, even in the presence of his fellow conspirators. A sudden paralysis seemed to seize them. A window in the second story was suddenly thrown open and Dr. Timothy Tilton, a magistrate, appeared and after addressing a few words of warning, began to take down the names of the visitors in a loud voice. Thus he called the names of "Jacob Trussell, Daniel Pattee, Wesley P. Burpee, Daniel Pattee, Jr., Salmon P. Cobb, March Barber, Phineas Eastman," and so on. Then the band of rioters hesitated, fell back a little, and soon retreated, with undisguised speed, leaving behind them only their leader, who stood his ground valiantly for a while looking defiantly at the offensive building.

On his headstone was at his request is engraved "*The Slave's Friend*".

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p263](#)
 - [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p268](#)
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David Lee Child was a Harvard College graduate who capped an idealistic, adventurous youth by becoming a lawyer. As a state legislator and editor of the *Massachusetts Journal*, he seemed on a successful path. He was converted to abolitionism by William Lloyd Garrison. While he was an ardent worker against injustice, his work was eclipsed by his wife, Lydia Maria Child, who published many well-known abolitionist tracts.

In August of 1834 he was invited to become a trustee of Noyes Academy, and when the trustees met in September he signed the circular that was published to announce the school. A letter suggests that he traveled from Boston to take charge of the school from Nov. 1834 until William Scales became teacher in March 1835.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p266](#)
- [Virtual American Biographies, David Lee Child](#)

Samuel E. Sewall was a descendant of Judge Samuel Sewall of Colonial fame and a member of one of the most prominent families of the Commonwealth. As a young Boston lawyer he attended a lecture by William Lloyd Garrison in Boston in October 1830 at which Garrison had argued the doctrine of immediate emancipation. He was deeply impressed and became a prominent abolitionist in his own right. On the 6th of January, 1832, he was one of fifteen determined men who met in the African Baptist Church on Joy Street, Boston, and founded the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society.

In August of 1834 he was invited to become a trustee of Noyes Academy, and when the trustees met in September he signed the circular that was published to announce the school.

- [Samuel E. Sewall: A Memoir, Nina Moore Tiffany](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p321](#)

Rev. **William C. Munroe** was the only black founding trustee of **Noyes Academy**. He is listed as being a resident of Portland, Maine at the time. Munroe, a teacher at Detroit's black school in 1842, was fired when the city took control of the school. Black parents boycotted the city school, opened a new school in the basement of the Second Baptist Church, and rehired Munroe. The new school closed in 1847 due to financial problems. Rev. Munroe had founded St. Matthew's Church in Detroit in 1846. By 1852 Rev. Munroe was involved in a variety of emigration schemes.

Dr. M. R. Delany called for a secret convention in Canada planning progressive revolutionary violence against slavery and emigration. The meeting took place on May 8, 1858. Twelve whites and thirty four blacks attended. William C. Munroe served as the presiding officer and Delany as chairman.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p321](#)
- [The Black Abolitionist Papers: The United States, 1830-1846](#)

Nathaniel Rogers (June 3, 1794 – October 16, 1846) was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, studied at Dartmouth College, and practiced law in Plymouth for some years. He became a friend of George Kimball, and supported him through many difficulties. He was a founding trustee of **Noyes Academy**.

Mr. Rogers was a man of rare talents. His mind was severely disciplined by study, reading and observation. His brain was active, and scattered gems of thought through the columns of the papers of that day. Whoever was fortunate enough to secure his friendship, found in him a great soul, true as the magnet, full of noble and unselfish sentiments? As a letter writer, he was without an equal in his time. He stood watch over Kimball as if he was his own child, and his advice will be worthy of attention ages hence.

In June 1835 Rogers also served as a delegate to the 1st annual meeting of the New Hampshire Anti-Slavery Society. Then in May 1837 he was elected to the position of Manager of the American Anti-Slavery Society. In 1838 he moved to Concord, N.H., in order to edit the ***Herald of Freedom***, founded some three or four years earlier by the New Hampshire Anti-Slavery Society. In his editorial articles, he was noted for his impulsive, unaffected, and witty (sometimes sarcastic) style, and his descriptions of the natural landscape. He later became editor of the official organ of the American Anti-Slavery Society, ***The National Anti-Slavery Standard***.

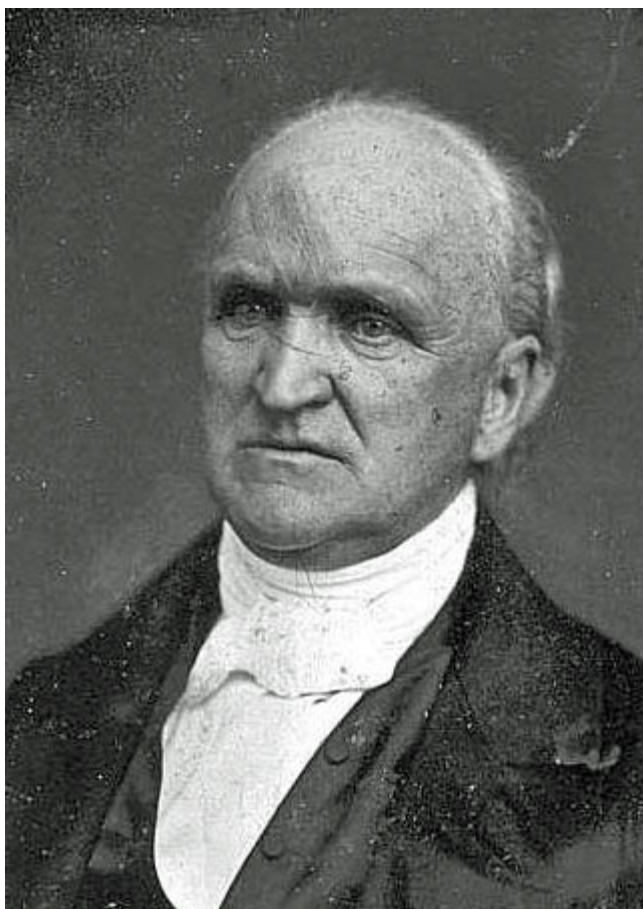
In 1840 New Hampshire Abolitionists sent Rogers as their delegate to the World's Anti-Slavery Convention, at London, England. The Convention refused to seat several American women delegates, however, and Rogers withdrew in protest. He returned to America to find himself a hero for his support of equality of the sexes, as well as for equality of color. Rogers had several offers to head major newspapers, and he spoke publicly on issues of temperance, women's rights and the abolition of slavery. But his health was poor and he died at fifty-two years of age, at Concord (NH).

- [Wikipedia, Nathaniel P. Rogers](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p321](#)
- [Portraits of Legislators on State House Third Floor](#)
- [The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire, Charles Henry Bell](#)

George Kent, a son of Hon. Wm. A. Kent, and brother of the late Ex-Governor, 1796, and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1814. He was admitted to practice law in Boston in 1817, and returning immediately to his native town he continued there his profession. He was a friend of George Kimball during Kimball's time in Concord before moving to Canaan, and he became a founding trustee of **Noyes Academy**. In June 1835 he served as a delegate to the 1st annual meeting of the New Hampshire Anti-Slavery Society, and in May 1837 he was elected Vice-President of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

He was twice elected a member of the N.H. Legislature, and was a trustee of Dartmouth College from 1837 to 1840. For about six years he was editor and part proprietor of the *N.H. Statesman and Concord Register*. Going West he was for some time in editorial charge of the *Indiana State Journal*. On his return East he was about a year editor of the *Boston Daily Sun*. Later he was appointed inspector in the Boston Custom House, and held that office some two or three years. He removed, in 1854, to Bangor, and entered into law partnership with his brother, the late Ex-Gov. Kent. Continuing in this connection for five or six years, he was, in December, 1861, appointed by President Lincoln, U.S. Consul at Valencia, Spain. Returning home after four years' absence, and coming to Washington City in 1869, he was not long after appointed to a clerkship in the U.S. Treasury Department, which situation he held till a year previous to his death. He died at New Bedford, Mass., Nov. 8, 1884.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p263](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p268](#)



- [*Genealogies of the different families bearing the name of Kent in the United States*, Lloyd Vernon Briggs, p101](#)

Samuel Hanson Cox (August 25, 1793 – October 2, 1880) was an American Presbyterian minister and a leading abolitionist. Rev. Cox, pastor of three New York Presbyterian churches, was considered, from a national perspective, the most widely known of the trustees.

Rev. Cox was born in Rahway, New Jersey, of Quaker stock. After serving in the War of 1812, he studied law before entering the ministry. He was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Mendham, New Jersey from 1817 to 1821. He then moved to New York City where he was pastor from 1821 to 1834. When he was pastor of his second church, the Laight Street Presbyterian, amongst his congregation were Arthur Tappan and the Rev. John Rankin, both in the forefront of the abolitionist movement. Through his contact with these two individuals, Cox became involved in antislavery activity.

Cox helped found the University of the City of New York, now New York University, in 1832, teaching classes in theology and contributing the college's motto. Due to his

anti-slavery sentiments, he was mobbed, and his house and Laight Street church were sacked in the Anti-abolitionist riots (1834). He then moved out of the city, and from 1834 to 1837 was professor of pastoral theology at Auburn.

Cox was a fine orator, and a speech made in Exeter Hall in 1833, in which he put the responsibility for slavery in America on the British government, made a great impression. Theodore Ledyard Cuyler described Cox as “one of the most famous celebrities in the Presbyterian Church... famous for his linguistic attainments, for his wit and occasional eccentricities, and very famous for his bursts of eloquence on great occasions.”

In August of 1834 he was invited to become a trustee of Noyes Academy, and when the trustees met in September he signed the circular that was published to announce the school.

- [Wikipedia, Samuel Hanson Cox](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p261](#)

STUDENTS:

Maria C. Brackett was a daughter of Edward Brackett of Concord, for many years a barber in that place. She was sprightly and lively in manner and voice. She had sandy hair, blue eyes and light complexion. She arrived at noon on the first day of the attack upon the house and went to board with Mrs. Harris.

In addition to his regular business, Edward Brackett was a subscriber to the Concord Literary Institution, a new school for boys and girls. It opened in the fall of 1835, right after Noyes Academy disbanded, with 257 students. He built the Low's Block on the east side of Concord Main Street.

Maria Brackett's father's business

NEW HAMPSHIRE PATRIOT AND STATE GAZETTE
Monday, October 24, 1831

EDWARD BRACKETT,
FASHIONABLE HAIR-DRESSER,
Opposite the Post-Office.

HAS just received, and offers for sale, a new and Fashionable assortment of
Ladies' Puffs, Curls, Frizetts and Hair Bands;
Gentlemen's Wigs, Top Pieces and False Whiskers ;
Oils for the growth of the Hair ;
Cologne and Lavender Water.
Stocks and Stiffeners ; Razors, Straps and Hones ;
Shaving Boxes, Brushes and Soap. A new assortment of
CHILDREN'S TOYS,

Please call and examine.
Concord, Sept. 30, 1831. tf

EDWARD BRACKETT,



FASHIONABLE HAIR DRESSER,
Opposite the Post Office, Concord, N. H.

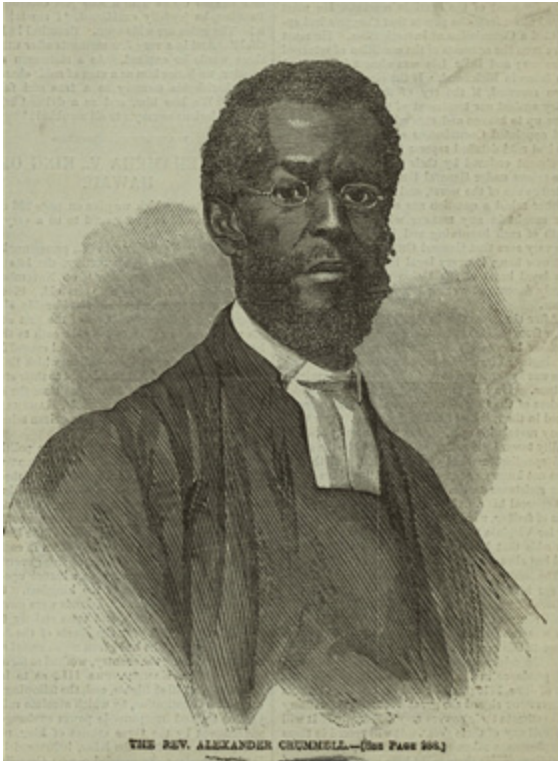
KEEPS constantly for sale, Ladies' Curls, Puffs, Frizetts, Wigs and Hair Bands; Gentlemens Wigs, Scratchers, Whiskers and Mustachios; Otto of Rose, Macassar and Antique Oil, Locoust Oil, Bear's Oil, for the growth of the hair; Tooth, Head and Flesh Powder; Lip Salve; Naples, English, Windsor, Castile and Fairy Soaps; Brushes of all kinds; Swans-down and Powder Puffs; Cologne and Lavender Water; Dressing Combs and curl Combs; Hair Pins; Emerson's superior Razor Straps; Razors of superior quality; Shaving Boxes; Gentlemens dressing Cases; Pocket Books and Wallets; Snuff Boxes; Collars, Stocks and Stiffners; Day and Martin's real Japan Blacking; Bell's Paste do. German Hones; Tweezers; an assortment of Children's Toys

Wigs, Curls and Frizetts made on the shortest notice, by order.

Warm and cold bathing can be had by applying to this shop.

June 1, 1831. 37

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p277](#)
- [History of Concord, John C. Ordway, p 1312](#)
- [Atlantic reporter, Volume 20, p 247](#)



Alexander Crummell was sixteen, of full African descent, his father was stolen from Africa, but he was released from slavery. He was born in the city of New York; his mother and her ancestors for several generations were never subjected to servitude. But his father early in life, although he came of a royal family, was made a slave. His father was a native of Timanee, West Africa, a country adjoining Sierra Leone, and lived there until he was thirteen years old. Alexander Crummell's grandfather was Kilag of Timanee and the incidents of his early life appear to have impressed themselves very strongly upon his son's memory. He was fond of describing the travels that he took with his fathers caravans in the interior of Africa and of the royal receptions given to them by the various kings. Young Crummell in his early life was sent to the Mulberry Street School in New York City, which was provided by the Quakers, afterwards receiving further and better instruction from white tutors provided by his father.

After leaving Canaan, Crummell studied for three years at Oneida Institute, working at farming to pay his way. In 1839 he became a candidate for Holy Orders and at the same time applied for admission as a student in the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church. He was admitted to Priests Orders in Philadelphia. He pursued his studies in the University of Cambridge in England. After this he sought a home in Liberia, where he remained for many years, taking the double duty of the Rectorship of a Parish and a Professorship in the College. While a citizen of this new Republic, he was frequently called upon to officiate as orator of the day; and his addresses were marked by great breadth of vision and foresight, profound historical research and decided rhetorical power. It is said of him that if he had not been called to the work of the Christian Ministry, he might have become eminent as a statesman. After spending the bloom of his days in Liberia, he returned to the United States, to take up his work among his race at the capital of the Nation, where he was Rector of St. Luke's Church, until the time of his death. He wrote numerous essays, pamphlets, and three books: *The Future of Africa; Being Addresses, Sermons, etc., Delivered in the Republic of Liberia* (1862); *The Greatness of Christ and Other Sermons* (1882); and *Africa and America; Addresses and Discourses* (1891).

Many remember the visit which this man paid Canaan in 1895, with his friend, Mr. Downing. He had not been in Canaan since the night Oscar Wallace had driven him and Paul down the Lebanon road, out of town to escape the dangers which threatened their lives, and they were real, for he related how one man had discharged a pistol through the door of the Cross house at the Corner where they roomed and boarded with the family of George Kimball. Upon his arrival on the street he went to the hotel with Mr. Downing and was refused admission on account of his color. Hon. Caleb Blodgett received and entertained them and when his arrival became known, there was not one but what was glad to shake his hand and listen to his words from the pulpit of the Methodist Church. It was a pathetic spectacle to see this old man, tall and spare, gray, almost blind, with a dignity befitting the position which he had held among his fellow-men, delivering a sermon to the descendants of those who sixty years before had driven him out of town. The contrast between the two receptions received, the first when a boy and the second as an old man, serve to prove that the principles of truth and justice will always prevail. Although shadowed in enmity and spite for a time they will in the end rise and bury all bad feelings underneath.

- [GALE, CENGAGE Learning; Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive](#) - a historical archive that embraces the scholarly study of slavery
- [Oxford African American Studies Center](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace, p292



Henry Highland Garnet was 19, coal black, and until ten years of age was a slave. His father, by hard toil, had ransomed himself, his wife and children from American slavery. A year before he came to Canaan young Garnet became a Christian and united himself with the Presbyterian Church. He was afflicted with a knee disease which threatened his life. This had been much aggravated on his way through New England by exposure in bad weather on the outside of the stage, the place allotted “all niggers” by “public sentiment.” He reached Canaan exhausted and enfeebled by his hard journey, and with his crutch under his arm, hobbled up to the school, tidings of which had reached his ears; with all his discouragements he flew to the fountain of knowledge opened to him at “**Noyes Academy**,” where he was distinguished for his modest, exemplary conduct, and won the respect of everybody that knew him. But the human wild beasts set themselves upon his track. He escaped from Canaan like a startled deer.

Two years after these events, Garnet returned to Canaan and lectured in the Congregational Church. There was no disturbance. The vigilance committee failed to appear. He was listened to by an earnest, thoughtful audience, and received much attention from the citizens. He was the guest of Mr. George Harris and he had a reception the same evening. Among the callers was Ben. Porter, who had been active in driving him from town. He took Garnet by the hand and told him he had heard his speech, and that he had come there to express to him his sorrow and regret he had felt on account of his bad work on the other occasion. He had only lacked a little moral courage to make him go up at the close of the speech and make public confession to the whole audience.

He lived eminent for his learning, revered and beloved for his sincerity and Christian benevolence, and when he spoke his eloquence filled his audience like a current of electricity. He became a doctor of divinity, and was appointed United States Minister to Liberia, where he spent many years of his life in the discharge of duties for which he was well fitted among his people. He died and was buried in Liberia.

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace, p292, 293
- [Biographical Profile, Henry Highland Garnet](#)
- [Africans in America, Resource Bank: Henry Highland Garnet 1815 - 1882](#)
- [Garnet's "Call to Rebellion"](#)
- [Sketch of the Life and Labors of Rev. Henry Highland Garnet](#), James McCune Smith, 1865

voice of the Massachusetts abolitionists, than in the overwhelming vote in favor of the Annual Report.

Receipts into the Treasury of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Soc. from Feb. 9th to 22d March.

Collection at Acton, by Silas Hosmer, by hands of H. B. Stanton,	\$33 47
T. P. Oliver, of Lynn,	1 00
<i>Collections by Charles Simmons of Attleboro'.</i>	
Stephen Smith,	1 00
Nancy Read,	50
Mr. Bigelow of Pawtucket,	50
Samuel Kent, do.	50
Other donors,	50
Dr. P. Savery of Attleboro',	3 00
Other donors,	2 00
Leicester academy, by E. Prescott,	4 50
New Bedford female A. S. S. by M. T. Congdon,	20 00
Evangelical Society at Sherburne, by Rev. E. Dowse,	15 16
Thomas Paul of Dartmouth College,	1 00

Thomas Paul was the son of the son of the first African American admitted to the Baptist ministry in New England, an important missionary and clergyman of Boston. Wallace says Paul was of graceful manners, of amiable and courteous disposition, of respectable talent and attainment, twenty years of age and lighter in his complexion than many of those who denied him the right to study.

While attending Noyes Academy, Paul served as a delegate to the 1st annual meeting of the New Hampshire Anti-Slavery Society. After leaving Noyes Academy Paul became a member of the Dartmouth Class of 1841, and was the second black student to graduate from

Dartmouth. In a letter to a friend, William F. Wallis, one of Paul's classmates and an active abolitionist, wrote that Paul had:

"...applied for admission to Brown University but from motives of expediency, I suppose, the faculty did not see fit to admit him. A person of the same Christian denomination and good enough to sit with them at the table of God, but not good enough to enter their institution! And why? Because he was 'guilty' of possessing a dark skin! Oh hypocrisy! Hypocrisy! There was one southerner frightened from Dartmouth at his dark countenance."

He became a teacher, spending most of his life in Boston and Providence. He also was a passionate and articulate abolitionist. *The Liberator* of 19 February 1841 printed a lengthy address which Paul had delivered to the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society pointing out, among other things, that American slavery had generated a "hatred of the free colored man which makes his condition little superior to that of servitude itself."

- [BlackPast.org; Paul, Thomas](http://BlackPast.org)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p292](#)
- [The Liberator, September 17, 1841](#)
- Ms. 838554, Dartmouth College Archives
- *Dartmouth College Library Bulletin* (November 1979, Vol. XX No. 1), "Black Students at Dartmouth: The Early Years," by Helen MacLam and Patricia B. Fiskien.

Gilbert Pillsbury was born in Hamilton, Massachusetts, in 1813, and grew up in New Hampshire. He attended **Phillips Andover Academy** and joined the abolitionist society founded by the students there. The Academy authorities condemned the society and its aims, and expelled its members. [Richard Rust](#), a fellow student, remembered Pillsbury as then attending **Noyes Academy** with him.

He later paid his way to attend **Dartmouth College** by teaching and by singing and graduated in the same class as Thomas Paul. After he was married he and his wife Ann Frances Ray taught for several years in New York City and New Jersey. In 1854 they returned to Ludlow, Massachusetts, where Pillsbury was elected to the Massachusetts state senate in 1855. With his wife he founded a young ladies' seminary, and they ran this school until the Civil War broke out.

In 1863 he and his wife went to Hilton Head, South Carolina, where he was made commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau of South Carolina. His wife Frances opened a school for colored children. Her students included Archibald and Francis Grimké. The Grimké brothers were sons of a slaveowner and a slave. Frances Pillsbury sent them north to be educated further and got them into Lincoln University. Archibald went on to Harvard Law, Francis to Princeton Theological Seminary. Later they became co-founders of the NAACP.

“When Charleston was evacuated Gilbert was ordered there by Gen. Saxton. The whole city was placed at his disposal from which to assign homes to the thousands of freedman and loyal whites who flocked thither at that time; also to furnish food, clothing, and educational facilities, so far as possible, and to guard the rights of the freed people in their new relation. He proved equal to the emergency; and peace, order, and comfort soon prevailed. At the close of the war he was chosen a member of the constitutional convention of South Carolina. In 1867 he became superintendent of an integrated orphanage in Charlestown, S.C., the Col. Shaw Orphan Home. In 1871 he was elected the first mayor of Charleston after reconstruction, which position he occupied for three years. During this time he caused many improvements to be made, and did much to repair the wastes of war.”

Pillsbury died in Boston on January 4, 1893.

- [Genealogical and family history of the state of New Hampshire](#), p556
- [History of the town of Henniker, Merrimack County, New Hampshire](#), p687
- [History of the town of Henniker, Merrimack County, New Hampshire](#), p687



Richard Rust was born in 1815 in Ipswich, Mass. He was a descendant of English settlers who had come to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. At age 9, he was orphaned and went to live on an uncle's farm. After a few years, he left the farm to take an apprenticeship in cabinetmaking. In those days, apprenticeships were generally for seven years, and any unused portion could be bought from the master craftsman if desired. Eager for an education, young Richard saved his earnings and purchased the unused portion of his contract so he could attend school.

He enrolled in **Phillips Academy**, a non-denominational school in Andover, Mass. His active interest in anti-slavery can be traced to his academy days. It was there he attended a lecture given by George Thompson, an anti-slavery leader from England. In 1834, Thompson conducted a lecture tour in the northern states, where he is credited with the formation of more than 150 anti-slavery societies. Following

Thompson's visit to Andover, Rust took part in forming an anti-slavery group on campus. The students' activities so upset the faculty that a call was issued for the group to disband. Refusing to do so, Rust and other students including [Gilbert Pillsbury](#) were expelled in 1834. Richard Rust said a student named Johnson went with him and Gilbert Pillsbury from Phillips Academy to Noyes Academy.

Rust then journeyed to Canaan, N.H., to enroll in **Noyes Academy**, a new school open to African Americans as well as white students. After the academy was closed, still determined to receive an education at an institution sympathetic to his anti-slavery views, Rust went south along the Connecticut River to Wilbraham, Mass., to enroll in Wesleyan Academy. The school, operated by the New England Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was home to a number of faculty and students opposed to slavery. Some years later, the campus became a station on the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves on their way to Canada.

Drawn by his love of education, Rust moved in 1846 to Northfield, N.H., to become principal of the New Hampshire Conference Seminary of the Methodist Episcopal Church. After Rust completed his term as principal of the seminary, he returned to the pastoral ministry serving churches in New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. But his concern for African Americans eventually won out over his preaching assignments.

He asked to be transferred to the Church's Cincinnati Conference in 1858 and soon played a major role in founding **Wilberforce University**, an institution whose purpose was to educate former slaves. Rust devoted his life to helping former slaves in the South. In establishing **Rust College**, he worked closely with the African-American minister there, the Rev. Moses Adams. And believing that schoolteachers should evangelize as well as educate, he took a leadership role in establishing as many as 14 colleges for teachers throughout the South. In 1882, it was estimated that three-quarters of a million African-American children had been or were being taught by teachers sent out by these schools.

- [Richard S. Rust, a minister with a mission](#)
- [Minutes of the Cincinnati Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal](#), 1901, p557, *Memoirs; Rev. R. S. Rust, D. D.*
- [Zion's Herald](#), Sept. 11, 1895, p557, *Rev. R. S. Rust, D. D., "Interviewed"* [PDF file]

Thomas S. Sidney was standing one Sunday by a group of boys wasting their time and dishonoring the day by foolish and wicked jesting the question was put to him why he was so silent? Promptly yet not presumptuously did the boy of thirteen reply "A fool has his tongue in continual motion, but a wise man keeps his silence" "Then you consider yourself a wise man," was the quick and angry retort. "No; I am trying to be," was his strong and decided answer.

At this early age upon his suggestion a few of us met every day after school hours and debated various questions upon the rights of man and the liberties of our People. Here while in intellectual combat, we became more aware of that strength of thought, and that winning and powerful eloquence, which, while it dealt destruction to the shallow hindrances of Errors, completely unfolded Truth, and carried the mind along to gentle acquiescence in its high commands.

The result of these deliberations was the adoption of a Constitution, which bears with its amendments and alterations the impress of his reflective mind; — and the formation of this Society which I have the honor of addressing of which he was a chief pillar. ... He was elected our First President; and for five successive terms his unanimous election to the same office manifests the hearty regard the sincere respect and the brotherly affection we all entertained for him. At the Annual and Semi-Annual meetings he always had something fresh weighty and original to present. His speeches on such occasions we may say and not in the least disparage others — were the chief points of attraction.

In the Spring of 1835, a school under the superintendence of some distinguished friends of man in New England was opened at Canaan New Hampshire for the instruction of youth aside from arbitrary distinctions. A few of us from this city with like views and feelings, gladly welcomed the offer, and anxiously set about appropriating its advantages to ourselves Sidney was then in the strength of his youth. Eager and anxious for intellectual improvement he had long been seeking such an Institution, and so soon as he saw the opportunity he eagerly seized upon it In company with our worthy and talented companion and Brother Henry H. Garnet, we bade adieu to our Parents & Friends for this Canaan—as we hoped a land of literary promise. I cannot tell the thrilling tide which coursed through our frames of emotion as we started upon this novel expedition; nor how young hope fluttered in our breasts till we reached the end of our journey.

I remember well with what especial favor our Friend was regarded there by all. His manly bearing, his correct demeanor, his finished and powerful eloquence and exact scholarship placed him in the front ranks among his mates.

We had not been members of the Academy a long time before we were kindly invited to address the friends of Human Freedom at Plymouth in the same state on the 4th of July. The invitation was accepted and we immediately commenced preparation On the 4th of July 1835, while you fellow members as you were used, were assembled at your annual Literary feast, training and preparing for manly efforts — our dear deceased Friend in a was distant state, as he accustomed was endeavoring in a new field and manner to effect something of honor & credit for his brethren. On that occasion he was brilliant and impressive in an unusual degree. He gave universal delight. While descanting upon the oppressions and wrongs of this people, his soul became fired with patriotic ardor. In severe and pointed terms did he dissect the hypocrisy of American Christianity and Republicanism. As he progressed warmly and eloquently did he vindicate the character of his Brethren.

Winning graceful and felicitous in his style and manner, he stole upon the feelings of his hearers and carried them along with him. At the close of his speech a spontaneous burst of applause expressed the delighted feelings of his listening auditory.

My time will not allow, nor does necessity require that I should enter into an account of the outrages that forced us to abandon all idea of remaining at Canaan and continuing our studies there. With sad and sorrowful feelings we left our friends there, and started for home. It was the latter part of August.

The weather was delightful—and the prospect engaging and attractive:—but he saw it not. The beautiful scenery and the pleasant landscapes along the valley of the Connecticut through which we passed and the rich fields and abundant harvests in the hither part of Western New York arrested not his attention. The merry song of the tuneful warblers, the gentle breathings of summer breezes among the leaves, and the sweet music of rippling, rills, fell unheeded upon his ears.—Yet he was a great lover of nature, and delighted in her numerous and varied beauties. But now his soul was stung with the sense of deep injury; and as we rode many a long mile;—in deep and silent meditation he sat, reflecting, not upon his own wrongs, but those of his people—the infliction of which upon himself in this instance symbolized to his mind those innumerable and monstrous oppressions which have well nigh shriveled our humanity.

Thomas Sidney returned to New York where he was active in working for political enfranchisement. In 1839 Sidney was appointed to teach at *New York Select Academy*, assisted by Alexander Crummel. Sidney died in the spring of 1840.

- [Alexander Crummell, Eulogium on the Life and Character of Thomas Sipkins Sidney](#)
- [Colored American, Oct 19, 1839](#)

Julia Williams 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, Williams 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 and again in 1839 as a delegate from Boston. Williams 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.

- [Students at Prudence Crandall's School for African-American Women](#)

The students included one young girl from Boston, a light mulatto, about 16 years old, of quiet ladylike demeanor.

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace, p277

Another letter of January 22, 1835, says: “Thirteen colored persons are now attending school. Kimball has just returned from Providence with six. He intends building a large boarding house.” ([p267](#))

“There were seven young colored boys from Rhode Island” ([p277](#))

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace

INSTRUCTORS:

Mary Harris opened the female department of the school near the beginning of October in 1834. She was teaching about twenty students by the late fall. There may have been no female African American students until the following spring.



The Mary Harris who taught the female division was almost certainly the spinster daughter of [John H. Harris](#), an incorporator and trustee of Noyes Academy. His daughter was born on June 12, 1806 and died in Canaan in 1840.

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace, p265, 266, 611

Jonathan Everett Sargent was the youngest of ten children born to a poor farmer and his wife, and from an early age the children had to be on their own. Sargent worked on the family farm until seventeen years of age (1833). Then he became interested in education, and he arranged with his father that for the next four years, until he was twenty-one, he would earn his own money for room, board, and clothing while he went to school. Sargent "fitted" (prepared for college) at Hopkinton and Kimball Union Academies, and (1836) entered Dartmouth College. He graduated in the Class of 1840.

Mr. Sargent first came to Canaan as a teacher in **Noyes Academy** in 1838. He was the last teacher in the old building and the first in the new Canaan Union Academy. He was then an undergraduate at Dartmouth College of the class of 1840. At the opening term of this school there were 123 pupils. The following is in Mr. Sargent's own language:

I first went to Canaan in September, 1838, and taught that fall in the old academy building, Mr. Hobart, a classmate of mine, teaching in a hall at the north end of the Street the same term. I also taught in the old Academy the next winter. Three months after my return to Hanover, the latter part of February, 1839, the old academy building burned. A Mr. James Richardson, another classmate of mine; taught school during the spring term of 1839 in Martin's Hall, over the store of E. & J. Martin, at the south end of the Street, and during that spring and summer the new academy building was erected and was in readiness the first of September. I was employed to teach the first term at \$40 per month for three months. I returned to Hanover that winter and remained till Commencement, 1840.

Following graduation from Dartmouth College, Sargent read law at the Canaan law office of Hon. William P. Weeks (1840/1). Then he "went south" to the Washington, D.C. area, to teach school (1841 - summer 1842). While teaching Sargent read law with Hon. David Hall, and he was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar (April 1842).

Sargent did not practice law at Washington, however. He returned instead to Canaan, where he became a law partner with his former mentor, Hon. William P. Weeks. He was admitted to the Sullivan County Bar (July 1843), and married Mary Jones, of Enfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Sargent moved into a new house at Canaan on Thanksgiving Day, 1843. For the next four years (1843/7) Sargent and Weeks continued as law partners. Then (June 1847) the Sargents moved to Wentworth, where Sargent practiced law for the next twenty-two years (1847 - 1869). He was appointed Solicitor for Grafton County, and served for ten years (1844/54).

The citizens of Wentworth elected Sargent to the State House of Representatives three times (1851, 1852, 1853), and in 1854 Sargent was elected to the State Senate, where he was made President of the Senate. In 1855 the Know-Nothing Party, campaigning against continued immigration (primarily of Irish Catholics), swept the New Hampshire political scene. Governor Ralph Metcalf shared many of the Know-Nothing views, but he recognized Sargent's abilities; when Sargent lost his post as Solicitor for Grafton County in the political upheaval, Governor Metcalf appointed Sargent an Associate Justice in the Court of Common Pleas. Sargent held this position for four years (July 1855 - July 1859).

In 1859 the Court of Common Pleas was abolished by the Legislature. A new State Supreme Judicial Court was created, and Sargent was appointed an Associate Justice of this new entity. Sargent served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court 1859 - 1873. In 1873 he was named Chief Justice; but in 1874 the Democrats carried the State House and the Legislature, and Governor Weston and his Democratic supporters redid the Republican patronage system to reward their followers. County sheriffs and other longtime political fixtures were summarily dismissed, and replaced with Democrats. As part of the house cleaning, the Supreme Judicial Court was abolished (August 1874).

Former Chief Justice Sargent and his family moved to Concord. Sargent went into law practice with Hon. William M. Chase. He became President of the Loan & Trust Savings Bank, Grand Master of the Masons, and wrote historical addresses and articles. Sargent was an officer of the New Hampshire Historical Society; he was a member of the New Hampshire Constitutional Convention (1876), and chaired the (1878) Commission to revise the Laws of New Hampshire. He died January 6, 1890.

- [Portraits of Legislators on State House Third Floor](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p332](#)

William Scales was born on 28 Sep 1805 in Lebanon, NH. His parents were William Scales and Rebecca Smith. William graduated from Middlebury College in 1832 and went on to attend Andover Theological Seminary.

After a meeting of the Noyes Academy trustees on the 11th of September, 1834, a committee was dispatched to Andover Theological Seminary, for a “sound and accomplished teacher.” Doctors Skinner and Woods, recommended Mr. William Scales, of the senior class, who accepted the position, and appointed the first of March as the date of opening the school. In June 1835, while teaching at Noyes Academy, Scales served as a delegate to the 1st annual meeting of the *New Hampshire Anti-Slavery Society*.

After the academy was closed in August 1835, Scales returned to Andover Theological Seminary and was graduated in 1837. He was ordained pastor of the Lyndon Congregational Church in 1837 and was married to Caroline Carter Chamberlain in 1841. He was settled as pastor of several Vermont churches, and dismissed from each within a few years. In 1841 Rev. Alexander Twilight resigned from positions as pastor of Brownington Congregational Church and principal of the Orleans County Grammar School in Brownington, Vermont, and Rev. Scales was hired to replace him. Without Twilight’s leadership the school limped along until the fall of 1851, when Scales was dismissed and Twighlight was rehired. Rev. Scales was acting pastor at Lyndon for nine years proceeding his death. He died on 17 Jan 1864 in Lyndon, Vermont.

- [Carpenter Pitkin Family Records](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p265](#)
- [Biography of Alexander Lucius Twilight](#), Old Stone House Museum, Brownington, Vt.

TOWN OFFICIALS

Caleb Blodgett was born in Hudson in 1793, and moved from Dorchester to Canaan in 1833. He was sheriff of Grafton County for many years, a clear-headed man whose advice was worth attention. He was a selectman from 1838 to 1841. During that time the town voted to repair the Noyes Academy building, appropriating the money from the Surplus Revenue Fund, and the spirit that “hailed” it from its, first foundation was evoked to make good the pledges it made itself. A teacher was hired and a few pupils attended for a few weeks, six or eight, and the money or the disposition failing, the school was discontinued. During this time Blodgett was also appointed to a committee chosen to “search out and bring the perpetrators to justice.”

The Canaan Union Academy was organized on the first of September, 1839, Hon. Caleb Blodgett was made vice-president of the corporation. Blodgett represented Canaan in the Legislature of 1841 and 1842. He died on October 5, 1872.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p288](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p299](#)

James Arvin was a selectman at the time that **Noyes Academy** was hauled from its foundation. He said later, “Of all the Isms that ever were introduced into Canaan, Abolitionism has done the most mischief. It has arrayed brother against brother in the same church, neighbor against neighbor, and engendered more strife and contention than anything else combined. I am gratified to know that we have put it down so that it will be perfectly harmless for one year.”

James Arvin was elected as a Canaan Selectman in 1835 and 1836. In 1837 and 1838 he was elected to be Canaan's representative in the New Hampshire House. When Canaan Union Academy was organized for white students only in September 1839, James Arvin was on the executive committee of the corporation.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p289](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p299](#)

William Martin came to Canaan in 1819 from Pembroke with his father and his son Henry, a boy of ten. They bought the great intervale farm, which had been cleared by Joseph Flint. William Martin was a farmer and blacksmith. He was a good man, greatly respected for the sincerity of his convictions, a lifelong Democrat, faithfully supporting all the decrees of his party. A Methodist without stain, undeviating until his preachers began to pray for the abolition of slavery. He looked upon this as a crime against his southern brethren and it greatly grieved him. But he was a sincere and worthy man; friendly and generous according to his means.

He was a selectman of the town in 1826, 1827, 1831 and 1835, the time that **Noyes Academy** was hauled from its foundation. He joined the committee that was formed “to use all lawful means to prevent the establishment of said school and if established to counteract its influence.” He and the other selectmen selected the spot to which the academy building would be dragged. He honestly believed he was acting for the good of the human race in opposing the introduction of negroes here. The cattle used to draw the academy building from its foundation were turned loose in his pasture for the night.

Morgan was an original subscriber toward the building of Canaan Union Academy, organized for white students only in September 1839. He died on July 20, 1866.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p260](#)
 - [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p275](#)
 - [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p535](#)
-

Sylvanus B. Morgan was born on March 24, 1793. He was a selectman at the time that **Noyes Academy** was hauled from its foundation. He joined the committee that was formed “to use all lawful means to prevent the establishment of said school and if established to counteract its influence.” He honestly believed he was acting for the good of the human race in opposing the introduction of negroes here.

Morgan was an original subscriber toward the building of Canaan Union Academy, organized for white students only in September 1839. He was on the executive committee of the new academy’s corporation.

Morgan died on Oct. 26, 1873

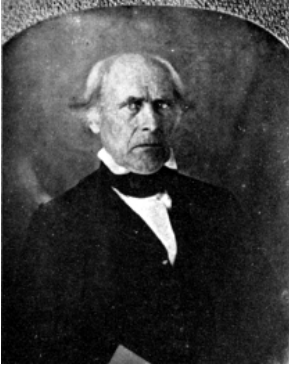
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p280](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p303](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p624](#)

Stephen Smith was born on Dec. 20, 1796.

On the day that Noyes Academy was removed: “Stephen Smith was at work for Sheriff Blodgett that day. Mr. Blodgett stayed at home. He would not by his presence, show sympathy with the brave band. who were working for applause from the South, but was interested in the progress of the work. He sent Mr. Smith up to bring him reports. Mr. Smith said that he stood looking at the wreckers, thinking what a pity to see that beautiful edifice destroyed! The master came around that way and seeing a man idle he spoke out promptly: "Smith, here take that axe and help clear away that fence." Mr. Smith seized the axe and when the fence was cleared away, wondered why he had allowed that man to influence him to do that bad work.”

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p274](#)

Lawyers



Elijah Blaisdell was a son of Daniel Blaisdell, one of eleven children of this distinguished early settler of Canaan. He was born on October 28, 1782. On November 14, 1802 he married Mary Fogg, ([HoC p514](#)) and settled down in her home town of Pittsfield as a shoemaker. At the age of twenty-seven, with a wife and three children dependent upon him, he concluded that shoemaking was not his strong point! He might get rich, but he never would become famous; so laying aside his last and apron, he entered an office in Montpelier, Vt., and for three years applied himself to the study of law, and was admitted to the bar. For a few years he loitered about in search of a location. He tried Grafton and Danbury, but the people were not sufficiently litigious. About 1812 he located on Canaan Street. ([HoC p319](#)) He became a member of the Mt. Moriah Lodge of Masons, which was organized in 1814.

In 1821 Elijah Blaisdell was chosen clerk of the town's proprietors, and continued in the office until 1845. In 1845, Elijah Blaisdell and Joseph Dustin, son and son-in-law of Daniel Blaisdell, called a meeting of the proprietors and appointed themselves a committee to dispose of all the remaining land and to account to the proprietors for their equal share in the proceeds. When the proprietors dissolved their organization, he, with Joseph Dustin, purchased all the ungranted lands in the town and became one of the largest landholders in the town.

Daniel Blaisdell did not think highly of his son's political ambitions. There had been a sly caucus at Cobb's tavern in which Wesley Burpee, Daniel Pattee, William Campbell, with a few others figured, and Elijah Blaisdell had been nominated for representative. It was intended for a surprise and only such as were friendly to Elijah were present. Old Bill Wood and Levi Wilson had been there after their daily rum; going home about sunset, the judge hailed them for "the news up to the street." "O, nothin' much," replies Uncle Bill, "only we had a caucus, and sot up 'Lijah for representative." "What!" thundered the old judge, "'Lige Blaisdell for rep! impossible! But who's done it? He 'aint fit for it, more'n my old hoss, and I tell you he shan't have it." And he didn't get it. The judge mounted his old horse and rode up to Wallace's store, where a crowd had begun to gather. He dismounted, and after saluting them, inquired if anything of importance had transpired. They confirmed his first intelligence with more particulars. Then he smoothed his brow and replied: "Men, this will never do; because I was fit to hold office, it don't follow that all the Blaisdells are fit for it, and I ought to be pretty well acquainted with them all. And then the way this nomination was made is unfair. A man that plays tricks even in politics, is unworthy of your votes. We must get together, Saturday night at this store and talk it all over, and depend upon it we'll have a good man nominated." ([HoC p512-3](#))

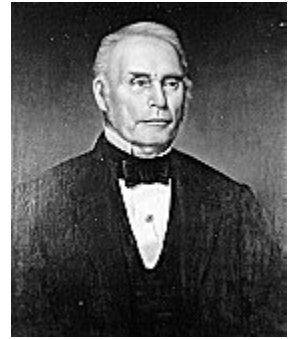
Blaisdell was elected six times as a Canaan Selectman between 1822 and 1832 and served four terms as town moderator. In 1826 Blaisdell was elected to the New Hampshire House, replacing his father. Despite these elections it seems that he was not well-liked in town. When George Kimball moved into Canaan to practice law, his friend N. P. Rogers wrote "You have no bitter enemies except poor Elijah (Blaisdell), and his enmity is as good as a milch cow to you in Canaan." ([HoC p228](#)) He and his family moved to Lebanon in 1833, but when Noyes Academy was proposed he returned to Canaan, and harangued the assembled people upon the importance of "driving the niggers out of our beautiful town," even if it became necessary to destroy the academy building to accomplish that purpose. ([HoC p319](#))

With all his long years and his opportunities for usefulness, he left no memorial of services by which a succeeding generation will recall his name as a benefactor. ([HoC p320](#)) He died on October 10, 1850.

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace
- [The Granite Monthly](#), [Daniel Blaisdell](#), M. A. Wallace

Josiah Quincy was born at Lenox, Massachusetts

The leaders of the committee to remove the academy consulted Josiah Quincy of Rumney, but his views conformed so greatly to their own, that they suspected there might be more sympathy than law in his opinion.



- [Legislators with Portraits on the State House Third Floor](#)
- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p641](#)
- [The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire, Charles Henry Bell](#)

Ichabod Bartlett was born in Salisbury, NH on July 24, 1786. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1808, he studied law in the office of Moses Eastman (DC Class of 1794) and later in the office of Parker Noyes (DC Class of 1796), both alumni practicing in Salisbury. In 1811, he was admitted to the Bar of the Court of Common Pleas and began his own law practice in Durham, NH. In 1813, he was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Judicial Court at Dover, NH. Bartlett took up permanent residence in Portsmouth, NH from 1816 until his death, where he attained a high rank in his profession. He became the Clerk of the State Senate in 1817 and a trustee of the short-lived Dartmouth University (founded by the governor and legislature in 1816) in 1818. In 1819, he became a member of the New Hampshire State House of Representatives as a solicitor from Portsmouth, a position to which he was reelected for two successive terms. He served as Speaker of the House in 1821. He also served three terms in Congress as an Anti-Democrat from 1823 to 1829, during which time he served on the Committee for Naval Affairs. He gained national recognition from his speech against Daniel Webster's Greek Resolution in 1824. In 1827, he was chosen President of the New Hampshire Historical Society. Bartlett was nominated, though never elected, for Governor of New Hampshire by the Whigs in 1831 and 1832. He returned to the State House of Representatives from 1830 until 1832.

The committee to plan removal of **Noyes Academy** gave Ichabod Bartlett five dollars to tell them if they had any legal rights to destroy the "nigger school." He did tell them that every man standing by and consenting thereto made himself liable to the penalties of the law—provided public opinion should ever allow a jury to find them guilty. This contingency was so remote that it placed no restraint upon the mob.

In 1850, Bartlett was a member of the convention for revising the New Hampshire state constitution. A few of his more important cases include the Trustees of Dartmouth College v. Woodward (the landmark Dartmouth College Case), the Exeter bank robbery case, and the political libel suit of Upham v. Hill and Barton. IB was also a member of the state militia. He was never married. Ichabod Bartlett died in Portsmouth, NH on October 9, 1853 at 67 years of age.

- [History of Canaan, N. H., William A. Wallace, p323](#)
- [Guide to the Papers of Ichabod Bartlett, 1806 - 1844](#)
- [The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire, Charles Henry Bell](#)
- [Biographical Dictionary of the United States Congress](#)

Supporters

Colonel **Isaac Towle** was born in Epsom, NH, October 17, 1794. He became a colonel in the militia. In 1818 he married Rebecca, daughter of Jonathan and Alice Locke, of Epsom, who was borne in 1798.

At some point the Towles moved to Canaan. He was apparently a man of few words—at the opening of Noyes Academy, Wallace's History quotes him as giving “a grunt of satisfaction. You know, he is a very positive man. His ‘I will’ and ‘I won’t’ settles all controversy with him.”

Directly after the removal of the Academy, drunken remnants of the mob were roaming the town and threatening the students and abolitionists. Seeing the danger at Mrs. Harris’ house, where the female black students were boarding, Col. Thomas Hill “called upon Col. Isaac Towle, a man of good presence, and equally resolute. These two went to a woodpile and hewed out two clubs sufficiently large as to need but one blow upon an assailant. They posted themselves about the house and remained until morning. Probably the darkness made cowards of these prowlers. Several times they came near but they neglected to make any attack. It was an anxious night in more than one house.” (p278) One month after the last “hauling” on the 10th of October, 1835, Col. Isaac Towle presented the following paper [to his Congregational Church leadership], which was also read to Mr. Trussell, thus:

Brother Trussell, you have grieved not only me but other members of our church in the course you have taken in regard to the removal of Noyes Academy.

Charge 1st. In introducing resolutions to that effect at a meeting of the people, contrary to the known wishes of many of your Brethren in the Church.

2nd. By still persisting in moving the building as a leader of the party, when one of your brethren, a Magistrate, commanded you and others to desist.

3rd. By being instrumental in distributing ardent spirits to the people when highly excited and at a time when many of the citizens and Brethren of the Church, considered themselves in danger, in consequence of threats against their persons and property.

Colonel Towle had fourteen children; he calculated to have them come along every March; was a very positive man, a strong abolitionist and saw no good except in the Congregational Church.” (p285) He died in Sutton, NH, on January 14, 1884, when he was eighty nine.

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace, p278, 285

Opponents

Rev. Joseph L. Richardson was a harsh and brutal teacher in the town schools before Noyes Academy was founded, and was outspoken in his early opposition to the establishment of an integrated school. He was elected to the legislature and appealed for legislation to remove the school.

On the 4th of July in 1835 a mob gathered, led by [Jacob Trussell](#), determined to eject [George Kimball](#), [William Scales](#) and the blacks from this town. They proceeded to the Meeting House, where Joseph L. Richardson harangued them from the deacon's seat. "He told them of his love for the whole human race, of his indefatigable exertions in the Legislature, to cause the petitions of his constituents to be 'read a third time and passed.' But, alas! they were lost! He spoke of rights and equity, of public nuisance and mobs, he deprecated any coercive measures on the part of any people." His talk calmed the enthusiasm of the mob, and though they proceeded to George Kimball's house, they retreated when Dr. [Timothy Tilton](#) started recording their names.

Richardson acted as moderator of the "legal" town meeting which, on July 31st, supported appointment of a committee to prepare a plan for removing the building. He did not join the committee to plan the removal.

Later Richardson became treasurer of the Canaan Union Academy, built to replace Noyes Academy but limiting its students to whites. William Wallace reports that Richardson, "a man of education, elected to all the offices in town, when upon a bed of sickness, and the vision of his past life returned to him, regretted that part of his life, and wished it had never occurred." He died on March 16, 1842

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace, p[250](#), [271](#), [299](#), [284](#)

Benjamin W. Porter was a son of Daniel Porter. On July 4th, 1835, stirred by the speech of Jacob Trussell, a procession headed by Ben Porter marched to Noyes Academy. An attempt was made to enter, when several gentlemen who were inside, hoisted a window and proceeded to take the names of the leaders. The crowd dispersed as speedily as possible, muttering curses and menaces, and adjourned for one week. ([p269](#))

The real attack on Noyes Academy began again on August 10th 1835, and the first blow was struck by Benjamin Porter, who seized an axe and attacked the fence. He was an active lieutenant of his master and was everywhere present encouraging the lookers-on to labor. The thirty days they had given themselves for thoughtfulness, had not let in a single ray of softening light to their hardened understandings. There is no evidence that personal insults were offered on this occasion. They proceeded promptly as if the business they were about were a pleasure, and with loud cries to the work, all the forenoon, five hours, with all their cattle, they labored to haul the building across the road, and locate it in the corner of the Baptist Parsonage field. ([p280](#))

A month later, on the 10th of September, he and the other men of Canaan, together with their friends from Enfield, assembled with their cattle on the Common and proceeded to “locate” the Academy. The spot had been previously selected by the selectmen.

Soon after that Porter was married to Hannah Gates, on Oct. 15, 1835.

Two years later, [Henry Highland Garnet](#) returned to Canaan and lectured in the Congregational Church. There was no disturbance. The vigilance committee failed to appear. He was listened to by an earnest, thoughtful audience, and received much attention from the citizens. He was the guest of Mr. George Harris and he had a reception the same evening. Among the callers was Ben. Porter, who had been active in driving him from town. He took Garnet by the hand and told him he had heard his speech, and that he had come there to express to him his sorrow and regret he had felt on account of his bad work on the other occasion. He had only lacked a little moral courage to make him go up at the close of the speech and make public confession to the whole audience. Porter retired to private life, taking no more interest in politics. ([p292](#))

Later he, with his wife and family, emigrated to Michigan. He was drowned by the wrecking of a steamer on Lake Erie, dying on May 19, 1839. ([p639](#))

- [History of Canaan, N. H.](#), William A. Wallace