

Prudence Crandall Museum

SCOPE OF COLLECTIONS

The scope of collection for the Prudence Crandall Museum includes any artifact related to the site's history as a female boarding school owned and managed by Principal Prudence Crandall. Any item, document, or image related to the period of operation of the Canterbury Boarding School (determined as 1831-1834), are included in this scope and can be considered for the collection. Of particular interest would be artifacts that belonged to or refer to anyone who studied or worked at the Canterbury Female Boarding School 1831-1834 including students, teachers, and household assistants, during the period of operation of the school, as well as direct supporters and opposers of the school and their activities directly related to the school. The next priority will be items related to the students, teachers, and household assistants beyond the school's time frame of 1831-1834. Items related to the trials of Prudence Crandall and Reuben Crandall, as well as items related to Prudence Crandall's husband, Reverend Calvin Philleo, and her stepchildren. References to Black and Brown students taught by Crandall or those who have noted express interest in being taught by Crandall after the Canterbury School closed are also included in this scope. Any item associated with Prudence and Almira Crandall's and Sarah and Mary Harris' life work or interests will be considered for the collection.

Supporters of the school include local families in Canterbury and surrounding area, including, but not limited to, Brooklyn, Norwich, New London, and Plainfield, CT. Families of particular interest are the Harris family, the Benson family, the Burleigh family, the Olney family, and Reverend Samuel May, focusing on those family members with clear connections to the school. Trial lawyers and those on the original endorser list for the school are also included in this scope.

Opposition to the school includes Andrew and Rebecca Judson, and numerous local townspeople, in particular Rufus Adams, as the museum campus includes the house owned by Adams directly next to the school. Items related to the Brooklyn Jail or Courthouse, the Brooklyn sheriff charged with Crandall's arrest, prosecution team beyond Judson, and trial and appeal judges are also included in this scope with direct connection to Crandall's school and court cases.

Items with a direct connection or reference to the school from either supporters or opposers of the school beyond Connecticut and the United States will be considered for the collection.

Items owned by or related to Luther Paine, direct owner of the property and builder of the house before Prudence Crandall (1805-1831) purchased the location for her school will also be considered for the collection.

THEMES

- Canterbury Female Boarding School (1831-1834)
- Prudence Crandall (m. Philleo) & direct Crandall family
 - Includes time in RI, NY, MA, IL, and KS
- Sarah Harris (m. Fayerweather) & direct Harris Family
 - Includes time in RI & and Mary Harris (m. Williams) time in LA
- Rev. Calvin Philleo & direct Philleo family
 - Includes time in NY, RI, MA, and IL (and travels of adult children)

- Students, teachers, and household assistants connected to the Canterbury Female Boarding School 1831-1834 and their lives after the school closed
- Supporters of the school w/ focus on support activities
- Opposers to the school w/ focus on opposition activities
- Early 19th-century Black & Brown education, female education, and Quaker education
- Site-specific archaeology
- Progressive movements of 19th-century as they relate to Crandall:
 - Abolition / Racism
 - Woman suffrage / Woman's Rights
 - Temperance (anti-alcohol)
 - Arbitrary League (Peace movement)
- Religion in relation to Crandall's spiritual journey:
 - Quakerism until the Second Great Awakening
 - Early to mid-19th century Baptist
 - American Spiritualism 1840-1890