

# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport*

### *in the Age of Garrison*

(December 6, 2023)



**Geordie Vining, Senior Project Manager**  
**Planning Office, City of Newburyport**

# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

**Brown Square,  
Newburyport**

**2010 bronze  
Garrison statue  
treatment and  
park renovation**





# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*



**Brown Square,  
Newburyport**

**1893 statue of W.L.  
Garrison**

**2023 interpretive sign  
re. Black abolitionists**



# Expanding the Spotlight Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison

W.L. Garrison  
(1805-1879)

7/4/1829 speech in  
Boston at age 23

Vigorous promotion  
of abolition

But in context of:  
-Gradualism  
-Colonization

Æt. 23-24.]

BENNINGTON.

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forth a gigantic cannibal, seeking whom he may devour? If we cannot safely unloose two millions of slaves now, how shall we bind upwards of TWENTY MILLIONS at the close of the present century? But there is no cause for despair. We have seen how readily, and with what ease, that horrid gorgon, Intemperance, has been checked in his ravages. Let us take courage. Moral influence, when in vigorous exercise, is irresistible. It has an immortal essence. It can no more be trod out of existence by the iron foot of time, or by the ponderous march of iniquity, than matter can be annihilated. It may disappear for a time; but it lives in some shape or other, in some place or other, and will rise with renovated strength. Let us, then, be up and doing. In the simple and stirring language of the stout-hearted Lundy, 'all the friends of the cause must go to

CHAP. V.  
—  
1828-29.

"If it be still objected, that it would be dangerous to liberate the present race of blacks;

"I answer—the emancipation of all the slaves of this generation is most assuredly out of the question. The fabric, which now towers above the Alps, must be taken away brick by brick, and foot by foot, till it is reduced so low that it may be overturned without burying the nation in its ruins. Years may elapse before the completion of the edifice; generations of blacks may go down to the grave, manacled and lacerated, without a hope for their children; the philanthropists who are now pleading in behalf of the oppressed, may not live to witness the dawn which will precede the glorious day of universal emancipation; but the work will go on—laborers in the cause will multiply—new resources will be discovered—the victory will be obtained, worth the desperate struggle of a thousand years. Or, if defeat follow, woe to the safety of this people! The nation will be shaken as if by a mighty earthquake. A cry of horror, a cry of revenge, will go up to heaven in the darkness of midnight, and re-echo from every cloud. Blood will flow like water—the blood of guilty men, and of innocent women and children. Then will be heard lamentations and weeping, such as will blot out the remembrance of the horrors of St. Domingo. The terrible judgments of an incensed God will complete the catastrophe of republican America.

"And since so much is to be done for our country; since so many prejudices are to be dispelled, obstacles vanquished, interests secured, blessings obtained; since the cause of emanci-

Æt. 23-24.]

BENNINGTON.

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appeal to their sympathies was never made in vain. They outstrip us in every benevolent race. Females are doing much for the cause at the South; let their example be imitated, and

CHAP. V.  
—  
1828-29.

"I call upon our citizens to assist in establishing auxiliary colonization societies in every State, county and town. I implore their direct and liberal patronage to the parent society.

this subject constantly before their readers; to sound the trumpet of alarm, and to plead eloquently for the rights of man. They must give the tone to public sentiment. One press may ignite twenty; a city may warm a State; a State may impart a generous heat to a whole country.

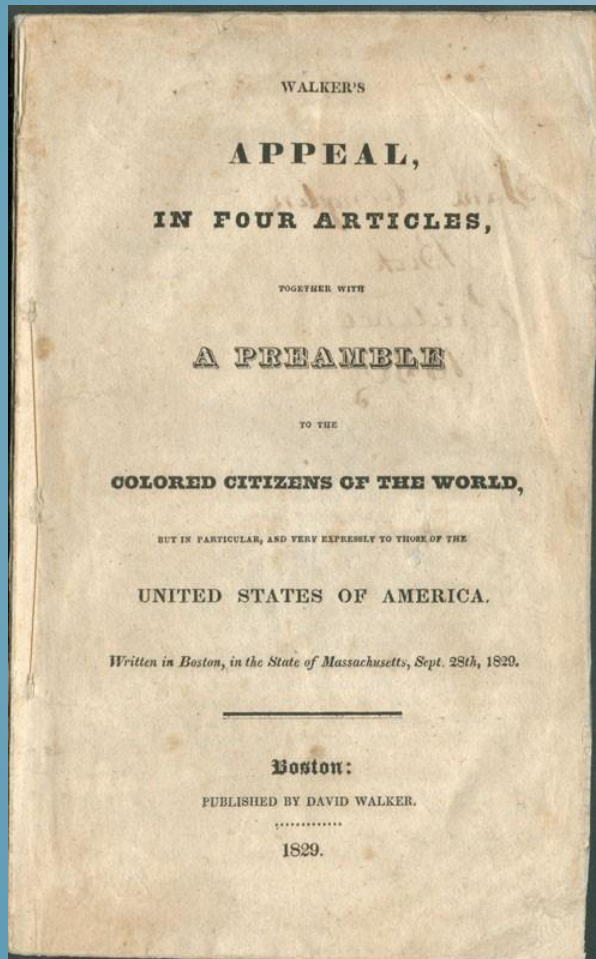
"I call upon the American people to enfranchise a spot over which they hold complete sovereignty; to cleanse that worse than Augean stable, the District of Columbia, from its foul impurities. I ask them to sustain Congress in any future efforts to colonize the colored population of the States. I conjure them to select those as Representatives who are not too ignorant to know, too blind to see, nor too timid to perform their duty.

"I will say, finally, that I despair of the republic while slavery exists therein. If I look up to God for success, no smile of mercy or forgiveness dispels the gloom of futurity; if to our own resources, they are daily diminishing; if to all history, our destruction is not only possible, but almost certain. Why should we slumber at this momentous crisis? If our hearts were dead to every throb of humanity; if it were lawful to oppress, where power is ample; still, if we had any regard for our safety and happiness, we should strive to crush the Vampire which is feeding upon our life-blood. All the selfishness of our nature cries aloud for a better security. Our own vices are too strong for us, and keep us in perpetual alarm; how, in addition to these, shall we be able to contend successfully with millions of armed and desperate men, as we must eventually do.

At the conclusion of Mr. Garrison's address Mr. Plumly, an agent of the American Colonization Society, briefly urged its claims to support, and a collection in aid of it was taken up; but, beyond what is quoted above, the orator of the day said nothing in favor of the Society, except to commend the infant colony of Liberia.

# Expanding the Spotlight

## Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison



### DAVID WALKER(1796-1830)

- Wrote “Appeal” pamphlet (09/28/1829) in Boston
  - Forceful, radical, incendiary call against “colonization” & for immediate emancipation, violent revolt if necessary; Black audience
- Smuggled south by Black mariners, crime to possess; circulated widely in North and South
- Walker and other Black abolitionists influenced young Garrison, who turned against gradualism and colonization in The Liberator in 1831
  - Garrison influenced white abolitionists re. Black abolitionists demands for immediate uncompensated end to slavery & political and social equality

# Expanding the Spotlight

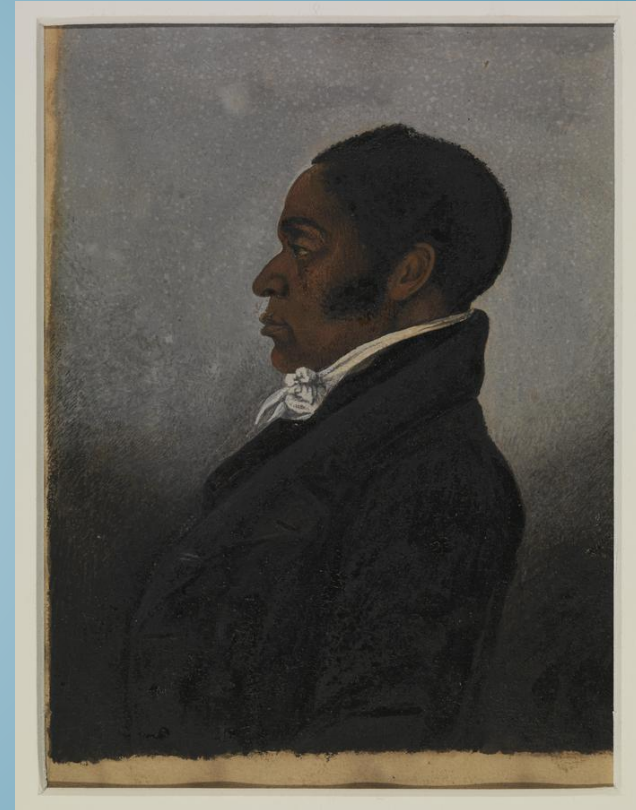
## Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison

### JAMES FORTEN (1766-1842)

**“Black Founding Father;” Abolitionist (against colonization); businessman from Philadelphia**

- Saved/supported “The Liberator:”**
- Garrison had no money to pay printer after 1<sup>st</sup> issue**
- On day bill due, \$54 check from James Forten as advance payment for 27 subscriptions**

- Remarkable entrepreneur, invented new sail tools and types of sails – one of richest men in Philadelphia**
- V.P. of American Anti-Slavery Society (first convened in his house)**





# Expanding the Spotlight Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison

## Here in Newburyport, before Garrison's birth:

Black abolitionists of 18<sup>th</sup> century established moral and Christian anti-slavery arguments

### CAESAR SARTER

8/12/1774 Essex Journal &  
Merrimack Packet –

“I need not point out the  
absurdity of your  
exertions for liberty,  
while you have slaves in  
your houses.”

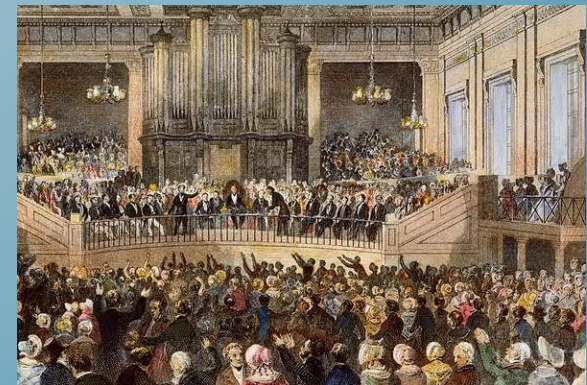


# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

***Here in Newburyport, during Garrison's life and career – many Black Abolitionists:***

- *Bear witness to effects of slavery*
  - *Participate in anti-slavery organizations*
  - *Provide direct aid to freedom seekers*
- 
- **Newburyport's ANDREW RAYMOND**
  - **NANCY GARDNER PRINCE**





# Expanding the Spotlight

## Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison

### Newburyport's Black abolitionists: brave and against mainstream

Petition of  
Edward I. Randa and  
850 others, legal voters,  
of Newburyport for the  
repeal of the Personal  
Liberty Act, and so  
much of the Fugitive  
Slave Act, as are in  
conflict with the Con-  
stitution of the United  
States.

Presented by  
Mr Coffin of Newburyport  
House of Representatives.  
July 21, 1861.

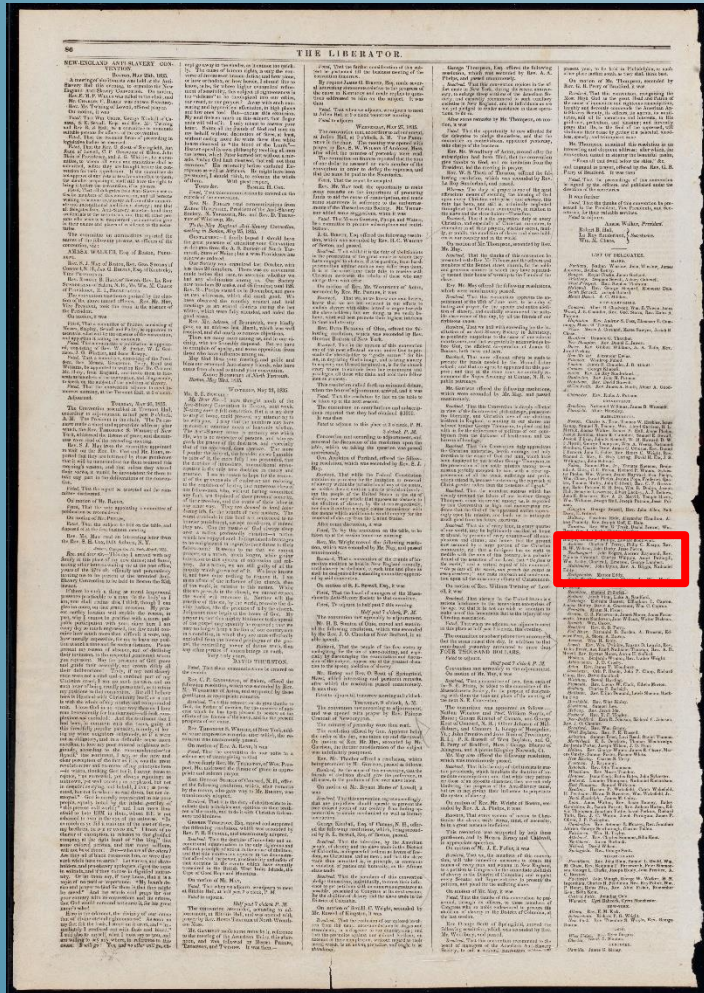
Referred to Committee  
on that subject.  
Sent up for concurrence  
William Stone Clerk

- For example – context – before Civil War in 1861, 850 white Newburyporters petitioned the Legislature to repeal the “Personal Liberty Act” –
  - Established to protect Black people in court and challenge the federal Fugitive Slave Act
- Mainstream local opinion against slavery did not equal support for equality, protection, respect – as evidenced in newspapers, petitions, etc.

# Expanding the Spotlight Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison

## ANDREW RAYMOND (1800-1857)

- Lived and worked as barber in Newburyport
- No known photographs or images
- Newburyport delegate at the New England Antislavery Conventions in 1834 & 1835






Expanding the Spotlight  
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**ANDREW RAYMOND**

*President of the Anti-Slavery Society of Newburyport and Vicinity  
(1847)*

NOTICE.  
 THE MEMBERS OF THE ANTI SLA-  
VERY SOCIETY of Newburyport and Vi-  
cinity, are hereby notified that their annual meeting  
for the choice of officers will take place, THIS EVEN-  
ING, at the vestry of the Christian Chapel, on Court  
street, at 1-2 past 7 o'clock.  
Punctual and full attendance is desired  
ANDREW RAYMOND, President.  
D. P. PIKE, Sec'y. j4 q

# ANDREW RAYMOND

- To the General Court of the  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- The undersigned Citizens  
of the City of Newburyport,  
remonstrate in the most solemn  
manner against the appropriation  
of ten thousand dollars, or any  
other sum of money, from the State  
Treasury, to cause the statue of  
Daniel Webster to be placed in  
the State House by the side of  
Washington; & further, should it  
be done, we hereby pledge ourselves  
to petition the next legislature  
to remove it from the Capitol, &  
place it either in front of the  
Court House & surround it with  
chairs, as a memorial of the  
treachery of Sims, or some  
other appropriate place.
- John C. Lee Henry R. Remington  
William Robt. Alexander Optima  
Harbal Clark  
J. M. Knyggs  
Robert Swan  
Andrew Raymond  
William Brown  
John Briggs  
J. P. Richardson  
O. W. Richardson  
Wm. Howland  
Geo. Fredwell  
David H. Clark  
Robt. Ketchum  
Giles Parker  
John W. Williams  
Maryann & Remington  
Joseph R. Johnson  
Anthony Eggegardian  
John Dickson  
J. M. Richards  
Rich. Davenport  
Sam. Parker  
Hester Thomas  
Charles Jones  
Amey H. Hutton  
Anna P. Hutton  
Elizabeth Green  
Louisa B. Green  
F. M. H. Hutton  
J. H. Hutton  
J. H. Hutton



# Expanding the Spotlight

## Black Abolitionists from Newburyport

### in the Age of Garrison

## ANDREW RAYMOND

Eye-catching advertisements for  
barber services

(1851 & 1847)

### 'The Union must be Preserved!'

**T**HE subscriber would take this opportunity to inform his friends and the public, that he has returned to the union and patronage of his former customers, IN BROADWAY, where he has taken a Store opposite his old stand, two doors north of Mr Joseph Moulton's; where he may be found at all business hours, ready to serve those who may need

**Shaving and Hair Dressing**

done at short notice

ANDREW RAYMOND

### HELP, HELP

#### THOSE WHO STRIVE TO HELP THEMSELVES

**A**NDREW RAYMOND would take this opportunity to inform all those who are desirous to economize, that he continues to carry on the business of Clothes Cleansing and Repairing, and he would also say that his mode of cleansing garments is entirely different to any in this vicinity, as it restores the faded colors and does not injure the garments either in form or durability, but gives them the appearance of new. His work will be done on favorable terms, to correspond with the reduced prices in other departments of business.

Also, new and second hand clothing bought, sold, exchanged or taken in part pay for cleansing or repairing.

He respectfully returns his sincere thanks to the public in general for past favors, and hopes that by strict attention to business to continue to merit and receive a share of public patronage to help him through the world.

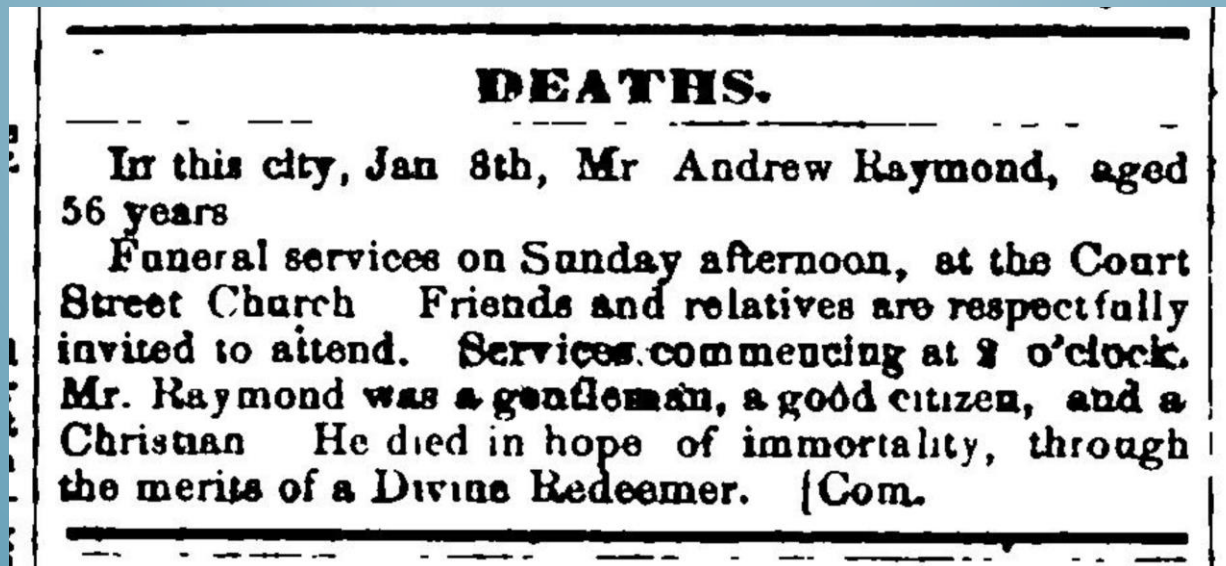
N. B. Shaving and Hair-cutting done in the neatest manner, at his store in Broadway, Newburyport.

# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

### **ANDREW RAYMOND**

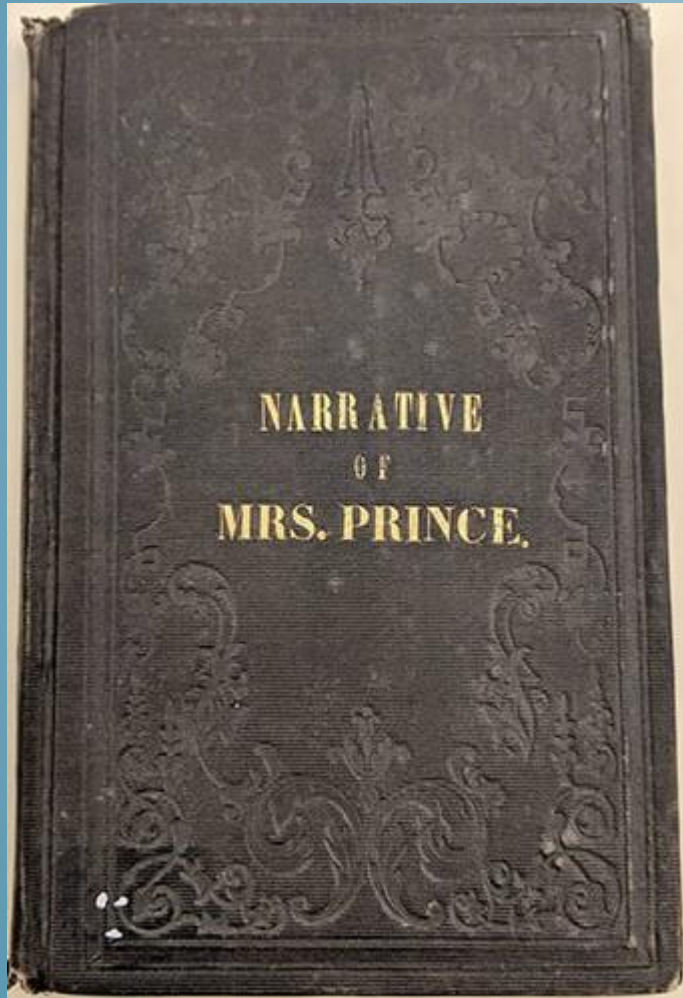
- *Andrew Raymond died 01/08/1857 at age 56 – did not live to witness abolition of slavery*
- *Daily Herald: “a gentleman, a good citizen, and a Christian”*
- *Committed abolitionist who helped lay groundwork for Black freedom – made history without making history books*





# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*



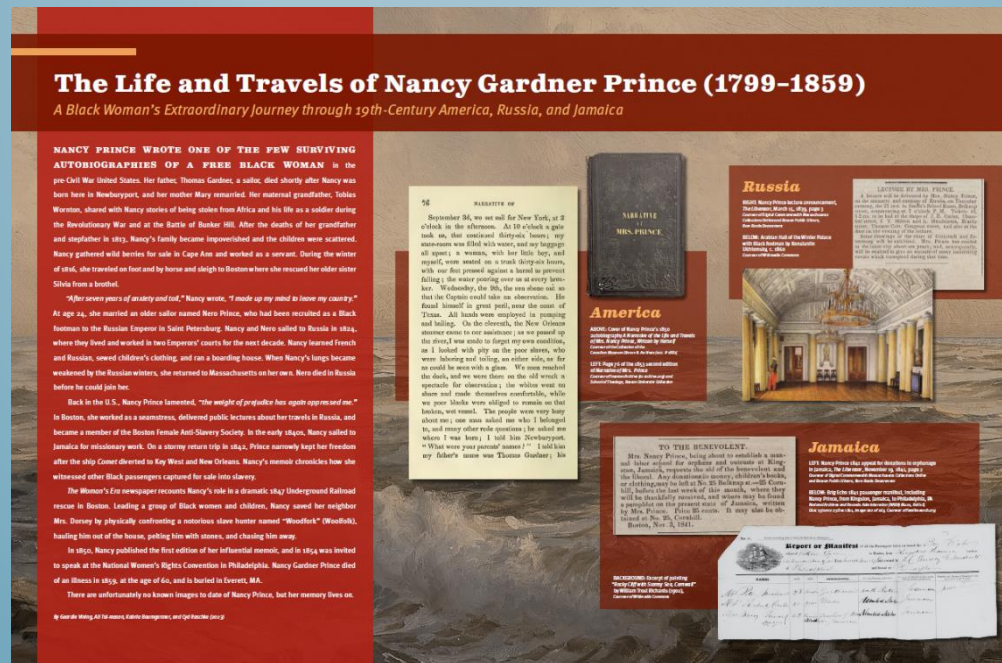
## **NANCY GARDNER PRINCE (1799-1859)**

- **Born in Newburyport 9/15/1799**
- **No known photographs or images**
- **Wrote one of few surviving autobiographies of free Black woman in pre-Civil War U.S.**
  - **Direct challenge to tradition of genre for telling white men's stories**

# Expanding the Spotlight Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison

## “The Life and Travels of NANCY GARDNER PRINCE”

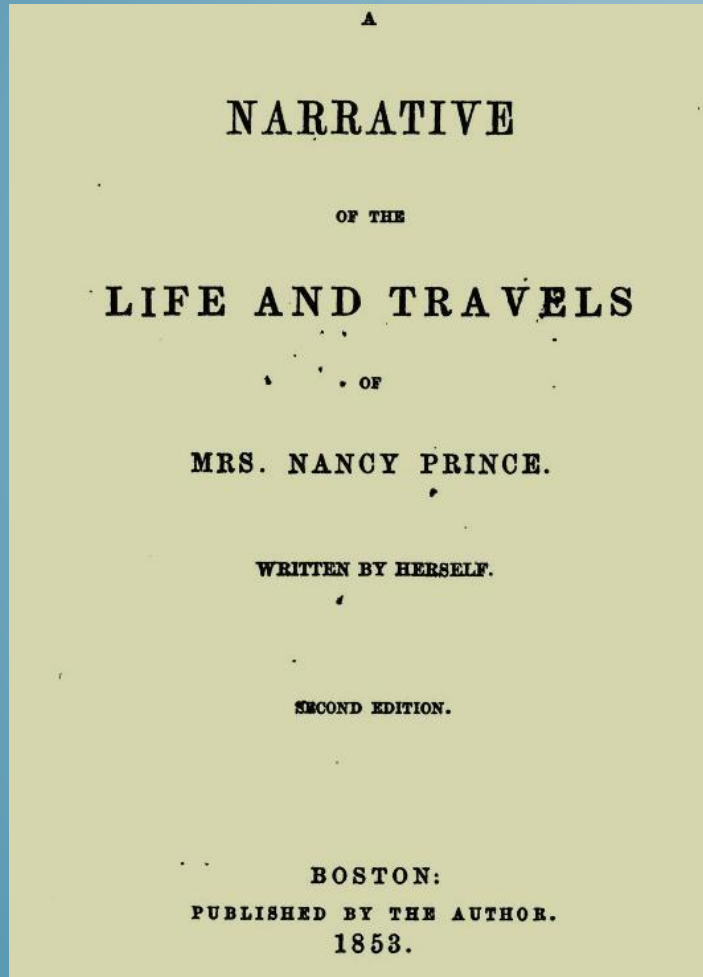
(NBHI Interpretive sign in Market Square at Firehouse)





# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*



## NANCY GARDNER PRINCE

- *So many sources of New England Black history are fragments*
  - *Often written by others/by whites*
- *Nancy Prince able to tell her own story, in her own words*
- *Three editions (1850-1853)*

# Expanding the Spotlight Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison

## NANCY GARDNER PRINCE

- Her book and lectures were remembered decades after her death
- “The Woman’s Era” newspaper “Reminiscences” articles (1894)

### THE WOMAN’S ERA.

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is mechanical dentistry, and he has made himself famous by his invention of an artificial palate. He is a member and frequent lecturer of the principal societies, and at one time went to Dublin to read a paper before a convention of dentists. This is his second marriage; his first wife and the mother of his two daughters was Miss Georgiana Smith, daughter of John J. Smith. The first Mrs. Grant died a few years ago.

### REMINISCENCES.

LUCRETIA L. LENOX—NANCY PRINCE.  
BY AN OLD BOSTONIAN.

The death in 1862, of L. L. Lenox, wife of Mr. John M. Lenox, removes another branch of one of the oldest colored families in New England. Her grandfather, Prince Ames, was a soldier in the 27th regiment of Penn., Washington’s army, and served from Bunker Hill to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, and on one occasion was personally commended by Washington himself, who was trying the faithfulness of the guard for true soldierly conduct. His widow, whom many now living will remember, drew a pension till her death, which took place at Jamaica Plain in 1864, at the advanced age of ninety-seven. Mrs. Lenox’s father, John T. Hilton, was born in Pennsylvania, but came to Boston at the age of seventeen, and until his death, in 1864, was one of the most prominent colored men in the country. In the early days of the antislavery movement he was called Mr. Garrison’s right-hand man by the colored people, and was afterwards, 1854, vice-president of the antislavery society. Her mother, who died in Cambridge, November 2, 1882, was a member of the female antislavery society; both being members of

the African Baptist Church, Belknap (now Joy) St., where she (Mrs. Lenox) was at one time a member of the choir. Mrs. Lenox obtained her education partly at the Exclusive School on Belknap St. and at the Mason Grammar School in Cambridge, and was esteemed by the committee as one of the two best readers in the Cambridge schools at that time. After her graduation she obtained a situation in a daguerreotype case-making establishment in Boston, where she was employed for several years. She was always one of the most active in every measure in which she was connected for the improvement of her people’s condition. She was among the young ladies that was always ready to co-operate with the Young Men’s Literary Society on occasions when their assistance was solicited, as it often was. (For this society not only did much to foster mental culture and improvement among the colored people of Boston and vicinity, but was also practical in many ways). She was also often seen going around carrying a number of bills given her by her father to be placed in special places, having the heading, so familiar to our people in those days, “To the Rescue! — Fugitives, about to be arrested,” sent forth by order of the vigilant committee when some brave fellows, who had succeeded in making their escape from slavery, seemed in danger of apprehension and arrest. Many, now living, will remember her presiding at the tables of the antislavery fairs, and how much her cheerful ways contributed to enliven those occasions. She was also a member of the “Fourier Club,” a society consisting of both white and colored persons, and which was very influential in the work of ameliorating the conditions of the colored people.

Mrs. Lenox, after her marriage, was for many years a resident of Waltham, Mass., where she was always characterized for her devotion to her down-trodden people, and never ceased to speak or act in their behalf when opportunity presented itself. It was through her personal influence and recommendation that the late and philanthropist, Nancy Prince, was introduced and became popular with the people of that town and the places adjacent; and the lectures she delivered from time to time in the former place may still be remembered by some of the older residents. Many an one in those days gave testimony to the light they received from that entertaining speaker by her rehearsal of her experience and labors in Russia and West India, for Mrs. Prince was among the first of the many colored workers to embark for the W. I. after emancipation, where her labors with others that went from the U. S. were of great service, and her co-operation in antislavery work and in special works of philanthropy. It may not be known to many that Mrs. Prince was the founder of the first orphan asylum for colored children in New England and was its first matron. Her book, “Life of Nancy Prince,” published in 1849, may still be found in the houses of many of the old residents of Boston, as well as other places all over Massachusetts.

Mrs. Lenox, after her marriage, was for many years a resident of Waltham, where she and her husband did much to dispel prejudice in that place, and to increase the antislavery sentiment there existing. She was also noted for her charitable disposition and her many acts in this direction will be remembered by not a few. Mrs. Lenox never forgot the lessons of Christianity, which were early inculcated in her by noble, high-minded parents.



# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

### **NANCY GARDNER PRINCE**



- ❖ *Turbulent life*
- ❖ *Father: Thomas Gardner, sailor from Nantucket moved to Newburyport – died from tuberculosis after Nancy born*
- ❖ *Mother moved family to Gloucester – remarried sailor Money Vose (six more children) – who died after capture in War of 1812 by British*
- ❖ *Family impoverished & scattered – odd jobs, berry picking, servant*
- ❖ *1815: physically rescued sister Silvia from brothel in Boston*

Expanding the Spotlight  
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## NANCY GARDNER PRINCE

❖ “I made up my mind to leave the country.”

---

**Married,**  
In this city, 15th inst. by Rev. Thomas Paul, at  
the African Church, Mr. Nero Prince, Chief Butler to  
the Emperor of all the Russias; to Miss Nancy Gard-  
ner, of Salem. Both persons of color and dressed in  
the Russian costume.

❖ **1823:** At age 24, married sailor Nero Prince (previously met as child in 1810)

- ❖ Founding member of African Grand Lodge of Masons/Prince Hall Masons
- ❖ Organized advocacy for equal treatment & education + abolition of slavery
- ❖ Elected second Grand Master in 1808

❖ Nero Prince recruited to be one of 20 Black footmen serving the Russian Emperor



# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

### **NANCY GARDNER PRINCE**



- ❖ **Sailed to Russia with Nero Prince in 1824**
  - ❖ *Visited King of Denmark's palace enroute*
- ❖ **Lived in Russia in Czar's court for next decade**
  - ❖ *Nancy learned to speak French, Greek, Russian*
  - ❖ *Made children's clothing & ran boarding house*
  - ❖ *Witnessed major events, e.g., failed Decembrist revolt*

# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

### **NANCY GARDNER PRINCE**

- ❖ *Nancy's health declined in Russia – had to return to the U.S. in 1833*
- ❖ *Husband Nero Prince died in Russia before he could return & join her*



Winter Palace – St. Petersburg, Russia



# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

### **NANCY GARDNER PRINCE**

#### LECTURE BY MRS. PRINCE.

A lecture will be delivered by Mrs. Nancy Prince, on the manners and customs of Russia, on Thursday evening, the 21 inst. in Smith's School Room, Belknap street, commencing at 7 o'clock P. M. Tickets 12, 1-2 cts. to be had at the shops of J. B. Cutler, Chamber street, J. T. Hilton and L. Hutchinson, Brattle street, Thomas Cole, Congress street, and also at the door on the evening of the lecture.

Some drawings of the cities of Cronstadt and Petersburg will be exhibited. Mrs. Prince has resided in the latter city about ten years; and, consequently, will be enabled to give an account of many interesting events which transpired during that time.

*The Liberator*, March 15, 1839 (p. 2)

- ❖ **1830's: Nancy worked as a seamstress; member of Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society**
- ❖ **Gave public lectures in Boston re. life and travels – NOT common for woman in 1830s**
- ❖ **"Many gave testimony to the light they received" from her lectures**

# Expanding the Spotlight

## Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison

### NANCY GARDNER PRINCE

- ❖ *Early 1840's, Nancy sailed back and forth to Jamaica for missionary work*

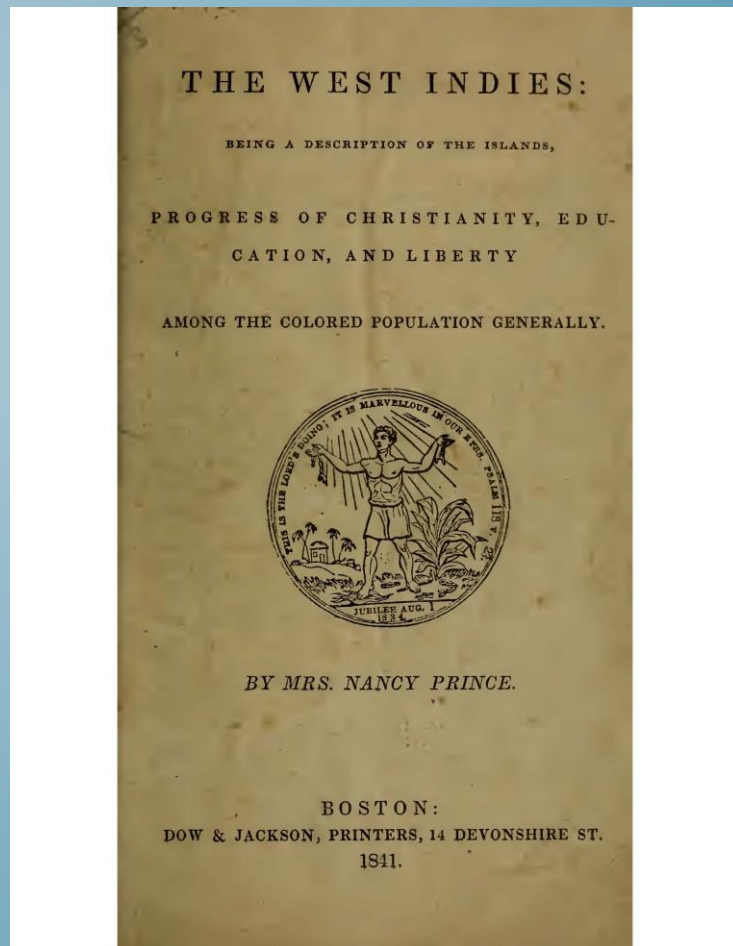
TO THE BENEVOLENT.

Mrs. Nancy Prince, being about to establish a manual labor school for orphans and outcasts at Kingston, Jamaica, requests the aid of the benevolent and the liberal. Any donations in money, children's books, or clothing, may be left at No. 25 Belknap st.—25 Cornhill, before the last week of this month, where they will be thankfully received, and where may be found a pamphlet on the present state of Jamaica, written by Mrs. Prince. Price 25 cents. It may also be obtained at No. 25, Cornhill.

Boston, Nov. 3, 1841.

*The Liberator (11/19/1841)*

- ❖ *Met self-emancipated former slaves who lead successful revolt on Creole slave ship*





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**NANCY GARDNER PRINCE**

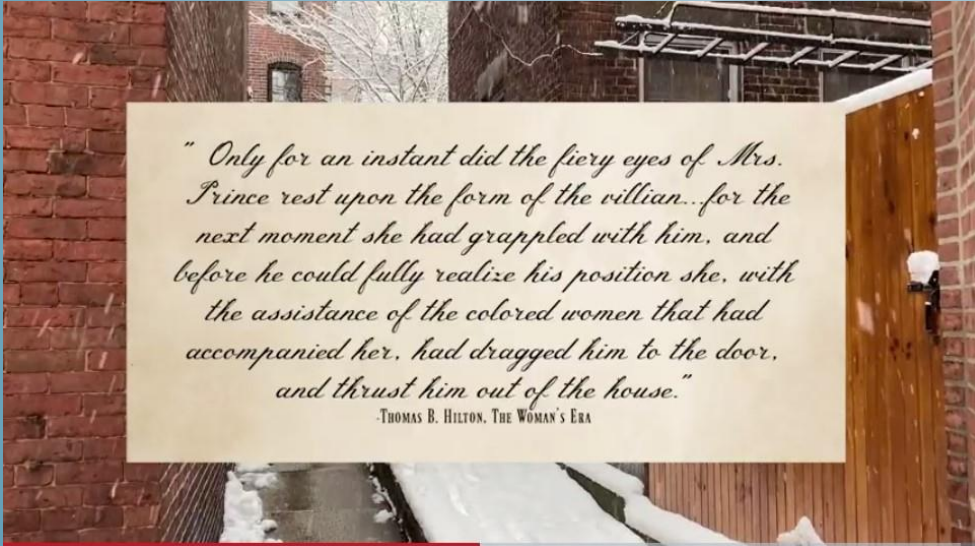
- ❖ *1842: homeward voyage from Jamaica – captain diverted her ship Comet to Key West, FL and then New Orleans, LA*
- ❖ *Narrowly escaped kidnapping and enslavement*
- ❖ *Captain later told her that white passengers placed bets on whether someone could get her off vessel to be captured*
- ❖ *Witnessed other Black passengers kidnapped*



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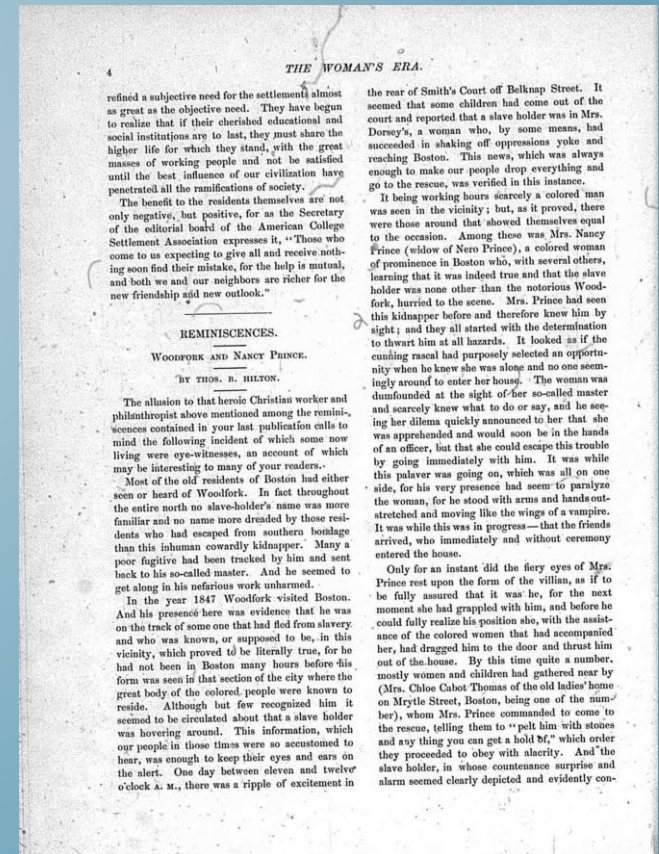
## NANCY GARDNER PRINCE

### ❖ 1847: Nancy Prince – dramatic Underground Railroad rescue in Boston



*"Only for an instant did the fiery eyes of Mrs. Prince rest upon the form of the villain...for the next moment she had grappled with him, and before he could fully realize his position she, with the assistance of the colored women that had accompanied her, had dragged him to the door, and thrust him out of the house."*

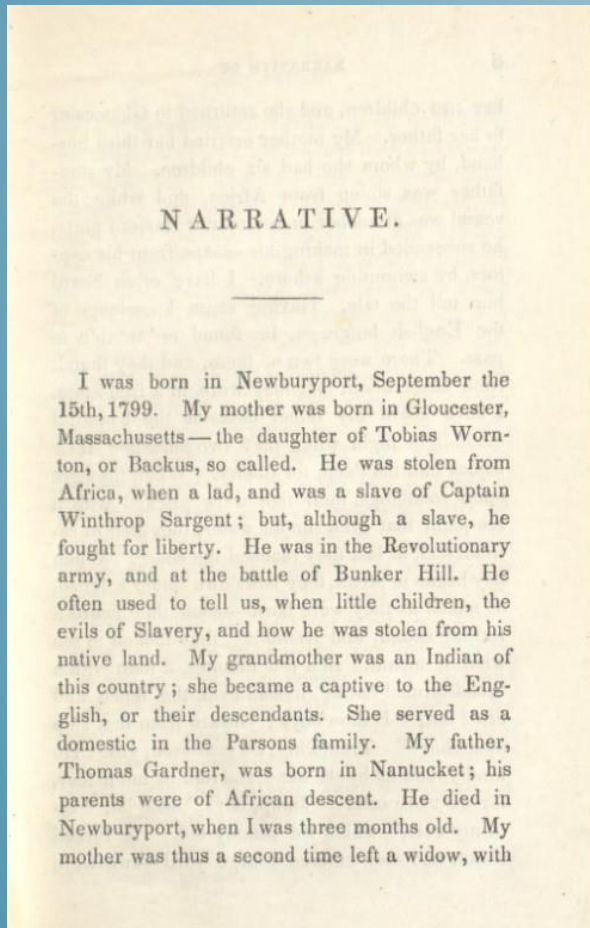
—THOMAS B. HILTON, THE WOMAN'S ERA



# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

### **NANCY GARDNER PRINCE**



❖ **1850's: Nancy Prince published three editions of her influential travelogue & autobiography: The Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince**

❖ **1894: “Her book may still be found in the houses of many of the old residents of Boston as well as other places all over Massachusetts.”**

❖ **1854: Nancy invited to speak at National Women's Rights Convention in Philadelphia**

❖ **She told audience she understood “women’s wrongs better than women’s right.”**



# Expanding the Spotlight

## *Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison*

### **NANCY GARDNER PRINCE**

- **1859: Nancy Prince died of heart failure at age 60**
  - ❖ **Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett, MA**
  - ❖ **First Baptist Church of Boston suburban burial lots**
- **New gravestone installed by Florida Atlantic University professor, scholar, and attorney Ali Tal-Mason**
- **After fading in collective memory for a century, Nancy Prince is newly remembered today**



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