

## BIOGRAPHICAL SUPPLEMENT

**Sarah H. Earle**

Sarah Hussey Earle (August 26, 1799-March 9, 1858) opened the Convention.

Her parents were Tristram Hussey and Sarah Folger of Nantucket, MA. Lucretia Mott was her cousin.

She married John Milton Earle June 6, 1821 in Nantucket, MA.

She was a member Worcester Anti Slavery Sewing Circle and served on the Executive Committee of Worcester County Anti Slavery Society, South Division 1841-1859. She helped coordinate Anti Slavery fairs from 1848. Her obituary notice in the *Spy* said, "Aside from her own family circle, no one has cause to mourn more deeply than the slave, for whose interests her labors were untiring."

John Milton Earle (April 13, 1794 in Leicester, MA – February 8, 1874 in Worcester) was educated in common schools and Leicester Academy. He was the editor and publisher of the *Massachusetts Spy* from 1823-1857 [called *Daily Spy* after July 22, 1845]. The offices were in the Butman Block on Main Street. The 1850 Census list him with \$12,000 real estate. He loved and enjoyed the sharp encounter of harmless wit. Although not a technical Garrisonian abolitionist, he was an early pioneer in Anti Slavery movement first as a Whig, then as a Free Soiler. He tried to make Worcester County the stronghold of conscientious and determined political opposition to slavery. It was called the "banner county" of state in conflict of opinion. He served as Representative to the General Court in 1844-6 and 1850-2. He was elected to the State Senate in 1858. He was also a city alderman, postmaster, state commissioner on Indian affairs, and founder of the Horticultural Society.

The family lived on Nobility Hill at 262 Main Street across from the Worcester Common. Anthony Chase was his brother-in-law.

## Children:

1. Elizabeth (May 4, 1824-January 13, 1858) was a member of the 1850 convention and a member Worcester Anti Slavery Sewing Circle.
2. Catharine (January 24, 1828 in Worcester- February 12, 1874) married Moses Farnum of Waterford on August 11, 1852. He was a cashier of Worcester County National Bank until all their children were born when they moved to Boston.
3. Martha B. (December 28, 1829 - ?) also was a member of the 1850 convention and the Worcester Anti Slavery Sewing Circle. She attended Worcester's Classical and English High School before 1849 and taught English from February-June 1853 when Miss M. Maria Hunt resigned. She earned \$150 a year as an assistant teacher at the Pleasant Street School. On June 3, 1857 she married Henry Earle, a distant cousin, and they moved to Germantown, PA.

4. Sarah Folger Earle (December 8, 1831 – 1921 in Daytona, FL of old age) attended the convention, but did not sign in as a member. She attended Worcester's Classical and English High School before 1849. She might have been the first 1st assistant to the principal of the new Ash Street School in 1850 and taught at Thomas Street School and at the little school which used to stand on the NE corner of Common. She graduated from Framingham Normal School in February 1855 (in class of 17 per Beverly Weiss of Framingham State College).

She was one of the first women to be in government service. During the Civil War she acted as a clerk to the Postmaster, her father. She was one of the first assistants and catalogers at the Worcester Public Library, remaining there for about 20 years.

She was still unmarried in 1888 living in Worcester and in 1900 her address was 6 Home Street. She traveled throughout Europe and America.

5. Pliny (July 21, 1834 - ?) attended school in 1850 and was unmarried in 1888 living in Leicester.
6. Francis C. (April 2, 1840- ?) also attended school and was unmarried in 1888 living in Philadelphia.

Two African Americans born in Massachusetts, Catherine Gardner (22 years old) and Cynthia Gardner (20 years old) lived with the family according to the 1850 Census.

Sources:

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