

Eliza Ann and Martin Stowell of Worcester, Massachusetts

MARTIN:

Born: 20 January 1824 in Wales, Massachusetts. Martin Stowell was 26 years old at the time of the 1850 National Woman's Rights Convention held in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Died: 11 March 1862 at Paris, Kentucky, according to Stowell Genealogy. Historian Robert Cormier clarifies the date and location as 14 March 1863 following combat at Paris, Tennessee.

ELIZA:

Born: 22 January 1824 to Helon and Eliza Chadwick Ward in Boston. Eliza Stowell was 26 years old at the time of the 1850 National Woman's Rights Convention held in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Died: 10 October 1901 in Manchester, New Hampshire

Married: 26 November 1847 at Warren, Massachusetts

Children: First child was born and died 3 September 1848; Emma (1852-); Ida (1855)

In the 1850 Census, Mr. Stowell is listed as a student with \$750 in real estate. John Jackson, a 47-year-old black, is living with the Stowells. His occupation is listed as F. S. Could this mean "fugitive slave", "former slave", "freed slave" or something else?

Mr. Stowell was involved in the 1854 Anthony Burns incident in Boston and the Butman riot in Worcester. He joined John Brown's efforts in the fights in "bleeding Kansas". He was elected president of the City of Lexington, Kansas while Mrs. Stowell remained on their new farm on Apricot Street with their two daughters.

In 1847 Eliza Ward denounced the conservative leaders of the Congregational Church in Warren, Massachusetts for refusing William W. Brown, an ex-slave and itinerant lecturer, the use of their meeting house for an anti-slavery meeting. Mrs. Stowell possibly wrote a letter to the editor in the *Liberator* 20 September 1850 objecting to the fact that the Boston Female Medical Education Society was run by men. The letter was signed EAS.

The Stowells were active in the South Division Anti-Slavery Society and Eliza served on the executive committee from 1851-1856.

Sources:

1850 Massachusetts Census

Cormier, Robert. *Martin Stowell (1824-1862)*

Liberator 20 September 1850

Stowell Genealogy (401-410)

Worcester Women's History Project. *Worcester Women's History Heritage Trail: Worcester in the Struggle for Equality in the Mid-Nineteenth Century* (2001)