

The Brockport Republic.

Neutral in Nothing that Demands Public Expression—Republican in Politics—Devoted to the Public Interests.

VOL. I. BROCKPORT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1857. NO. 19.

Business Cards.

J. HARRISON,
DEALER in Black Silk and Fur Hats, White and Drab Hats, Summer Hats, Caps, Furs, Trimmings, &c. Brockport, N. Y.

GOULD, CARY & CO.,
DEALERS in all kinds of Hardware, tin ware sheet iron, copper &c. Jobbing done at short notice. One door north of Springs Drug store, Brockport, N. Y.

J. D. SPRING,
DEALER in Drugs and Medicines, Pure

E. L. WHITNEY,
DEALER in Foreign and Domestic Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Carpets, Paper Hangings, Oil Cloths, Crockery and Glass Ware—for Cash or ready pay only. No. 50 Main st., Brockport, N. Y. Nov. 28th, 1856. 7tf

DRAFTS
ON ENGLAND IRELAND AND SCOTLAND, from £1 upward, for sale at the Brockport Exchange Bank. Oct. 17, 1856. 1tf

BEACH & HUBBARD,
DEALERS in Groceries, Provisions, Fish, Oil, Cordage Brooms, Pails, Tubs, and all articles usually kept in a store of the kind.

"County of Scruboak, State of New Hampshire."

"Ah, well, I prefer country-bred young men; they are better trained," said Cheatum, "to industry, perseverance, honest frugality, and the duties of a Christian man. I was brought up in the country myself. I've made myself; carved out, and built up my own position, sir. Yes, sir, give me good, sound, country bred young men; I've tried them, I know what they are," said Cheatum; and he spoke near enough the truth; not only stretched seven-eighths of a yard into a full yard, but made twelve cents go for ninepence, which *feat* brought down the vials of wrath of the child's mother, a burly old Scotch woman, who "tongue lashed" poor Jeremiah awfully! His next adventure was the sale of a dress pattern of sixpenny de-laine, which he *warranted* to contain all the perfections known to the best article, and in dashing his vigorous scissors through the fabric, he caught them in the folds of a dozen silk handerchiefs on the counter, and keep yourselves informed on the literature and history of the times.

Seek the acquaintance of those who are older than yourselves and have superior intelligence, that they may advise you in selecting your reading and other pursuits.

Cultivate the graces that shine brightest in the domestic circle, and make the farm-house warm with a genial hospitality that is unknown in fashionable city blocks, and make the farmers' daughters rich in qualities that are not found in the

EDUCATE YOUR DAUGHTERS.—A writer says: "When I lived among the Chocktaw Indians, I held a consultation with one of their chiefs respecting the successive stages of their progress in the arts of civilized life; and among other things he informed me, that at their first start they fell into a great mistake—they only sent their boys to school. These boys became intelligent men, but they married uneducated and uncivilized wives, and the uniform result was, that the children were all like the mother. Thus the fath-

A Century in the Life of an African-American Family: The Barriers of Brockport

The following document traces the history of the family of Anthony J. and Harriet Barrier through news items and advertisements in the *Brockport Republic*. Anthony came to Brockport in 1839, but the *Republic* began publication only in 1856. So, that is where this document begins.

However, Anthony's obituary in the *Republic* reported that he had begun barbering at once after arriving in the village in 1839 at age fifteen. The *Republic* of October 28, 1867, lists some of the contents of the *Brockport Watchman* of August 12, 1847, and the *Republic* of August 5, 1886, does the same for that of November 12, 1846. Both issues carried advertisements for Anthony J. Barrier, who "carried on shaving and hair dressing under H. N. Vedder's store". Also, we know from their tombstones that he was born in Philadelphia on November 29, 1824, and that Harriet was born in Sherburne, Chenango County, on March 12, 1835. The *Republic* tells us that they were married on April 8, 1849. According to their obituaries in the *Republic*, George A. was born in April 1850 and Ella D. in 1852. Wanda Hendricks's biography of Fannie gives her birthdate as February 12, 1855. Hendricks also documented Anthony's purchases of Brockport real estate in the years before 1860, by which time his portfolio was valued at $1,500. Otherwise, no information is available on the family before 1856.



Fannie Barrier Williams, 1894

Early advertisements for Anthony's barber shop



Would you have dark and lustrous locks, and vie
With beauty's queen, the goddess of the sky?
Or is your beauty fading to decay,
Your raven tresses passing fast away?
Or is age drawing too untimely near?
Do silvery locks upon your head appear?
Then why of youthful beauty, why despair
When there's a balm for every silvery hair?
Time's sorrows, fever's ravages it b eases—
A sure restorer to those missing tresses!
From her bright locks the immortal name is won
Of Hair Restorer—"Martha Washington!"
Then hie to the store—just across the way,
And get a bottle with the least delay.

"Martha Washington"

HAIR RESTORER

Stands above comparison with any other article for the Hair in Market.

A Perfect Hair Restorer and Hair Dresser,

Both Combined in One

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

PRICE $1.00 PER BOTTLE.

Simonds & Co., Proprietors, Fitzwilliam, N. H.

FOR SALE BY A. J. BARRIER,

At his Hair-Dressing Saloon in the American Hotel,

Main Street, Brockport, N. Y. 517

Won't Use any Other.

WEBSTER'S Vegetable Hair Invigorator

is the most popular Hair Preparation in the market, as thousands who are using it are daily testifying. It is prepared by one of the best Chemists in the country. Physicians use it, and pronounce it the best Preparation for restoring the Hair and promoting its growth, in the history of Hair Preparations, "Won't use any other," is the people's

Anthony plays politics.

To Hon. Hoswell Hart : The undersigned, members of the Republican Union Party of the 28th Congressional District; desire to express to you our determination to stand by you as the regular nominee of our Party, for Member of Congress, and to support you at the coming election. You have faithfully and ably represented us in the present Congress, and have not given a single vote against the desires and sentiments of the loyal men of this District. We believe the false policy of Andrew Johnson can be best defeated by returning the true members of the 39th Congress. We know that ninety-nine one-hundredths of the loyal people here are in favor of your return. Whatever efforts may be made by traitors within our ranks and enemies without, to defeat your re-election, we pledge to you our hearty and undivided support.—*10/4/1866 [Anthony was one of some 206 men to sign this petition. Nevertheless, Hart was defeated.] [See microfilm –1/24/67]*

The Republic gives one of its regular advertisers a couple of free plugs.

THE IDOL OF THE TOILET!—It is now Universally acknowledged that no preparation for the hair has any comparison in real merit with the "Martha Washington Hair Restorer." Sold by A. J. Barrier at his barber shop. He has just received a large supply of the same.—*2/21/1867* A.J. Barrier has one of the improvements of the age for the Curling of Ladies' Hair. It is a splendid article. For sale cheap. *–6/20/1867*

Fannie graduates from the Normal School and gets one of the better marks for her graduation essay. Essay—"All the World's a Stage," by Fannie A. Barrier. Very fine. *—7/7/1870*

Ella graduates the following year and gets even more commendation.

"Wasted lives," by Miss Ella D. Barrier, was an honor to the author, and in manner of reading ranked among the best. *—7/6/1871*

Anthony and another Brockporter play important roles at a political meeting.

The Colored Citizens.

The colored electors of Monroe county held a fully attended meeting at the Zion church in Rochester on Thursday evening last.— William H. Bruce was chosen Chairman, William L. Page, Corresponding Secretary; W. H. McDonald, Recording Secretary; W. S. Morris, W.L. Page, and A.J. Barrier, Committee on resolutions. Messrs. Page and Barrier are residents of this Village.
— 10/26/1871 [The resolution adopted by the meeting promised support for the Republican party.]

George becomes his father's partner

A, J . BARRIER & SON,

BARBERS AND HAIR DRESSERS. All work done in the latest style with neatness and dispatch. Also manufacturers of the Mountain Compound.— Rooms in the American Hotel Block. *—6/20/1872*

The barbering business gets a plug.

IMPROVEMENTS. - The establishment of Messrs. A. J. Barrier & Son have recently been much improved interiorly and are now very neat and nice. *—4/24/1873*

Harriet's mother dies.

DEATHS

In Brockport, June 29, Philantha Prince, mother of Mrs. T.A. White and Mrs. A.J. Barrier, aged 78 vears. *—7/3/1873*

Anthony starts another business

We hear that Messrs. A. J. Barrier and W. L. Page intend entering into the coal trade in this village.*—7/17/1873*

Barrier & Page, who have been for a long time known to our citizens, as honorable and upright in all their dealings, and worthy of public confidence, have started a coal yard here, and secured a stock of excellent coal. We guarantee that all patrons will be dealt with honestly and courteously. *–7/24/1873*

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New Coal Yard.

MESSRS. BARRIER & PAGE Have received a stock of excellent COAL at their new yard. which they propose to furnish to the citizens of **Brockport** and vicinity at the lowest market prices. Orders may be left at A.J. Barrier's shop. Brookport, July 24, l873. *—7/31/1873*

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While still in the barbering business.

A. J. BARRIER & SON,

BARBERS AND HAIR DRESSERS. All work done in the latest style with neatness and dispatch. Also manufacturers of the Mountain Compound.— Rooms in the American Hotel Block. *—7/17/1873*

The coal business expands.

Messrs. Barrier and Page have purchased a lot just west of the gas house on the south side of the canal in the western part of this village, upon which they intend erecting a building for the storage of coal. *—8/14/1873*

The coal yard gets a building.

Messrs. Barrier & Page have commenced improving the property they recently bought for a coal yard. *—8/28/1873*

Editor Beach invokes Anthony's support in his feud with lawyer J. D. Decker.

Many others have had to meet the same contemptible warfare. Our readers can get some knowledge as to the facts stated from Hon. H. R. Helden, Hon. Davis Carpenter, Barrier & Page, Levi Cooley & Co. *—10/2/1873*

A famous man visits the Barriers.

Mr. Frederick Douglass was in this village last Friday, the guest of Mr. A. J. Barrier. — 1/22/1874

George takes over the barbering business.

Mr. George A. Barrier has succeeded A. J. Barrier & Son in the barbering business. He has our best wishes for success. *—4/16/1874* ***And the coal business expands again.*** Barrier & Page have materially enlarged their coal sheds. *—5/14/1874*

George marries in Detroit.

MARRIED.

At the M. E. Church, in Detroit, May 27, by Rev. Mr. Booth, Mr. George A. Barrier of Brockport, to Miss Delia Pelham of the former place. *—5/28/1874*

The coal business seems to be prospering.

Coal, Coal.

Now is the time to buy your coal. This is not idle talk but advice based upon the sure rise in prices to take place directly.~ Messrs. Barrier & Page have in stock some five hundred tons of a very superior article which can not fail to suit purchasers. *— 6/4/1874*

George gets an honor.

William Page and George H. Barrier, of this village, were members of an honorary committee of the emancipation celebration at Rochester on Tuesday of this week. *— 8/6/1874*

Oops! Competition in the coal business gets nasty.

Coal Misrepresentation.

The price of coal has not advanced, and the coal kept by me is as good as any there is in the market, notwithstanding the misrepresentation by Barrier & Page. My price is for Leheigh, stove size, $7.50; Enterprise, Wilksbarre, stove size, $7.15; chestnut $6.60; egg $6.70. An examination of the coal will convince parties wishing to purchase that it is for their interest to buy of me.
JOHN RAFTERY, Yard West End Erie Street. *–9/3/1874.*

Anthony takes a stand on prohibition. *[He is one of 110 Brockporters to sign this Petition.]*

Local Prohibition.

As a matter of public interest, and to settle some questions of disagreement, we publish the list of those who pledged their money to prosecute persons selling intoxicating liquors, for the purpose of prohibiting the liquor traffic.

The coal yard adds a product.

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Something New
FOR **BROCKPORT.**
BARRIER & PAGE

Have opened in connection with their coal yard at the corner of Perry and Erie streets a **Stone Yard.** They now have all sizes of flagging of the **HUDSON RIVER BLUE STONE,** And are prepared to take orders for WALKS, CURBING FOR WELLS, Etc, Etc. Call and Inspect *–11/12/1874*

Ella and Fannie get new jobs.

NORMAL GRADUATES.—Two more graduates of the Brockport State Normal School have secured excellent positions. These are two ladies, Misses Ella D. and Fannie A., daughters of Anthony J. Barrier of this Village. The former is to be Assistant Principal of a Grammar school in Washington, D, C., and the latter a teacher in a graded school at Hannibal, Mo. *–9/9/1875*

The coal business fails.

BUSINESS CHANGE.—The coal firm of Barrier & Page has sold out its business and dissolved partnership. The yard will probably be opened by another party before long. It is a matter of regret that those accommodating gentlemen (Messrs. B. & P.) have not found sufficient inducement to continue their business. *–4/20/1876*

Anthony gets a new job.
A Business Change.—Mr. Anthony J. Barrier of this place has assumed the management of the Railroad Coal Yard, and will be pleased to serve his old friends and all new ones who may see fit to call on him. Mr. Barrier is a very courteous and obliging man, and we guarantee will please the public. *— 6/8/1876*

Anthony tries his luck in Holley.
A. J. Barrier of this village has opened a barbering establishment at Holley. *—8/24/1876*

That doesn't last long.
Mr. A. J. Barrier has disposed of his Holley shop and purchased the one here formerly occupied by Wales. His old friends will be glad to patronize him once more. He now has fine quarters. *—8/31/1876*

Anthony is cited in lawyer J.D. Decker's libel suit against Editor Beach because Beach had invoked Anthony's support.
with the firm of Barrier & Page in reference to representations of the plaintiff in regard to their business; *–10/26/1876*

The Barriers deal in real estate. At one time they owned five houses in the village.

H. T. Chamberlin has sold to Harriet A. Barrier land in this village valued at $3,000. A. J. Barrier has sold to H. T. Chamberlin land, also in this village for $1,000. *—11/30/1876*

George competes with his father.

GEORGE A. BARRIER.
BARBER AND HAIR DRESSER.
All work done in the latest style with neatness and dispatch. Also manufacturer of the Mountain Compound. — Rooms in the American Hotel Block. *—12/7/1876*

George becomes a fire policeman.
[At a Village Board meeting] Mr. Oliver said a request had been received from the Steamer Co. that twenty of their number be appointed fire police, named the following persons:....G. Barrier, *–4/12/1877*

Anthony petitions unsuccessfully for a patronage job from Frederick Douglass.

A petition has been sent from this village to Washington asking Mr. Frederick Douglass, Marshall of the city of Washington, to give Mr. Anthony J. Barrier a place. Mr. Barrier is a worthy, capable and deserving man. *—4/26/1877*

The Barriers lose the lawsuit over the coal yard property to Luther Gordon.

SUITS IN EQUITY COURT. — A suit was tried before the Equity Court at Rochester, on Tuesday of this week, in which Luther Gordon was plaintiff and Anthony Barrier and wife were defendants, The suit was regarding a mortgage for $1,700. The court' gave a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for the amount of mortgage, interest and costs. *–2/13/1879*

The coal yard property is sold after foreclosure.
The Barrier place on Erie street was sold at Sheriff Sale last Saturday, and brought $1,200.*–3/20/79-*

George Barrier prepares to move to Detroit.

Mr. George A. Barrier intends soon to remove to Detroit and engage in the barbering business. He will take with him the best wishes of many friends. We understand that he will be succeeded here by a Rochester gentleman. *—3/25/1880*

Yet in the same issue, he advertises his business.
GEORGE A. BARRIER,
BARBER AND HAIRDRESSER.
All work done In latest stvle with deafness and dispatch.
Also for sale, Key West Cigars-the best in the market.
Rooms in the American Hotel Block.*—3/25/1880*

Anthony's political stature in the local Republican Party is indicated by his inclusion in this delegation to the inauguration of Republican President James A. Garfield.

Messrs. C. W. Peake, Duane Richards, A. J. Barrier and Maj. Stafford went on the inauguration excursion to Washington. *–3/10/1881*

First reports about George from Detroit are glowing.
Mr. George A. Barrier, a well known Brockporter, has charge of a large barbering establishment in Detroit. *–8/3/1882*

Harriet has become a leader in the Baptist Church.

Baptist Matters.

The following are the officers of the Ladies Aid Society: President – Mrs. Anthony J. Barrier. *–10/5/1882*

Anthony opens a new barber shop.

Talking about barber poles, those just erected by James Jackson and A. J. Barrier are very fine—but Mr. Barrier's "takes the cake;" *–4/26/1883*

Anthony's shop has a different location from where George was.

Sprucing Up.

A. J. Barrier has been kalsomining and otherwise improving the appearance of his shop under the First National Bank, so that it is now one of the neatest in town. He has an excellent patronage, and it is steadily increasing. *–5/17/1883*

More good news from Detroit.

Mr. George Barrier, son of A. J. Barrier of this village, is business manager of one of the largest barbering establishments in Detroit. *–5/17/1883*

Still more, George and his wife already have two children.

Mrs. Geo. A. Barrier, her two children and her sister, of Detroit, were here the forepart of the week visiting Mr. A. J. Barrier. *–10/18/1883*

African-Americans were not excluded from trial juries in Monroe County in the 1880s.

Seventy-five extra jurors were drawn last Monday for the Kelly murder trial, which is to commence Feb. 4th. Among them are the following: Sweden—John Shay, A. J. Barrier. *–1/24/1884*

Fannie becomes a student in Boston, where she encounters discrimination.

Mr. A. J. Barrier, of this place, received the other day from his daughter Fannie, who is studying music and drawing at the Boston Conservatory of Music, beautiful large crayon sketches of himself and wife. *—5/15/1884*

Fannie's art work goes on public display in Brockport.

The beautiful crayon sketches prepared by Miss Fannie Barrier of this village, and exhibited at Messrs. Smith & Pearse's store, have commanded a great deal of admiration. *—8/28/1884*

Fannie and Ella are school teachers in "colored" schools in Washington, though the Republic does not identify them as such.

The Misses Fannie and Ellen Barrier have returned to school duties at Washington, where they will labor the coming winter. *—9/18/1884*

Samuel Laing Williams, Fannie's future husband, appears on the scene, perhaps asking Anthony's permission to marry his daughter, but, still she and Ella return to work.

Mr. S. Laing Williams a Chicago lawyer, has lately been in town, the guest of Mr. A. J. Barrier. *–9/18/1886*

Misses Fannie and Ella Barrier leave here to-day for Washington, to resume their school duties. *—9/18/1886*

The wedding makes a big splash in the Brockport Republic.

Williams-Barrier.

A very pleasant event occurred yesterday afternoon at the residence of our well known citizen Mr. Anthony J. Barrier. It was the marriage of his youngest daughter, Miss Frances, to Mr. S. I.aing Williams, of Chicago. In honor of the event the several rooms of the house were tastefully decorated with plants and flowers, while there had assembled to participate in the pleasures of the occasion some twenty or thirty of the most intimate friends of the family. At 1 o'clock the bride and groom took their places in the parlor beneath a beautiful floral horseshoe. Both were attractively attired, the bride wearing a dress of white satin, trimmed with lace and decorated with natural flowers. On the one hand of the couple.as bridesmaid, was Miss Ellen, the bride's sister; while upon the other, as groomsman, was Mr. C. Gwinn, of New York, brother-in-law of the groom. The matrimonial knot was tied by Rev. J. H. Mason in his usual pleasing yet impressive manner. There followed the congratulations, an inspection of the gifts, and the partaking of a repast. The presents lacked nothing in beauty or value, while the repast was of the choicest. We are indebted to the happy couple for a sample thereof. The bride is a young lady of fine talents, and has made herself quite famous by her achievements with the pencil and brush and in music. For some time past she has been a teacher in one of the schools at Washington, where her services were most highly valued. The groom is a most able lawyer, and is meeting with marked success in practice. He is a graduate of Columbia University, Washington, and while in that institution always stood amongst the highest of his class. Mr, and Mrs. Williams left here on the G:17 train last evening for a trip to Washington, where several receptions are to be tendered them by intimate and influential friends. They take with them the best wishes of many. *–4/21/1887*

At this time in small towns like Brockport, the Women's Christian Temperance Union was an elite organization. Other members of the delegation were in the Village's upper crust society. Mrs. T. A. White was Harriet's sister.

A County convention of the W.C.T.U. will be held at Rochester on the 29th and 30th insts, at which this section will be represented as follows: Mrs. L. N , Wilcox, Mrs. D. Reed, Mrs. A. J. Barrier, Mrs. Foster Udell. Mrs. H. M. Carpenter, Mrs. E. A. Cook, Mrs. J. A. Vanliouten, Mrs. Kohlee, Mrs. T. A. White, Mrs. E. A . Maynard, Mrs. Chas. Davis and Mrs. J. A. Wendover. *—9/22/1887*

The Barriers were pillars of the Baptist Church. Besides his Sunday School duties, Anthony served as Treasurer and Deacon.

Mr. Anthony J. Barrier has for a long time had a class in the Baptist Sunday school of this place, and the other evening its members, to the number of ten or twelve, called at his residence and presented him with a beautiful Bible. His response was not quite as glib as the presentation speech, but he is said to have done very nicely considering the embarrassing circumstances. It was a very happy event. *—1/5/1888*

Harriet is elected to another important post in the Baptist Church. At the annual meeting of the Woman's Baptist Foreign Mission Society, which was held in the Baptist church on Tuesday, the following officers were elected : President, Mrs. M. A. Walden; Vice Pres., Mrs. E. P. Lipscombe; Secretary, Miss L. C. Martin; Treas., Mrs. Florence Kniffen; Solicitors, Mrs. M. H. Cooley, Mrs. A. J. Barrier, Mrs. J. E. Betteridge, Mrs. H. H. Depuy. *—2/6/1890*

Anthony's role as a Baptist dignitary extends beyond Brockport.

Yesterday Mr. Anthony J. Barrier served as one of the bearers at the funeral of Rev. U. D. Jeffries, a noted Rochester clergyman. *—2/13/1890*

Anthony is fatally stricken at work in the presence of his daughter and son-in-law, apparently a stroke.

On Tuesday Mr. Anthony J. Barrier was taken very ill. He chanced to fall to the floor of his barber shop just as his son-in-law Mr. Williams, of Chicago, and wife entered the door. They assisted him home. Mr. B. has not been well for quite awhile, but has felt able to look after business. Dr. Chamberlin, who attended him, pronounces it paralysis of the left side. Mr. Barrier had very little rest last night, and as we go to press is steadily failing. *–8/21/1890*

He died eight days later.

Mortuary

Mr. Anthony J. Barrier, who died at his home in this village yesterday afternoon, was born in Philadelphia Nov. 29, 1824. He came to Brockport in 1839, and opened a barber shop. He followed this calling thro' the remainder of life, with the exception of a year or two that he gave his attention to the coal business. April 8, 1849, be was married to Harriet Prince, of Sherburne, N.Y., who survives him. He also leaves a son —George, of Detroit; and two daughters~ Mrs. Fannie Williams, of Chicago; and Ellen, of Washington, D.C. Mr. Barrier was a faithful member of the Baptist church from 1842 until his death, was many years its treasurer, for the last six one of its deacons. He was an honest, conscientious and straightforward man, well meriting the widespread respect which he commanded. His funeral will be held Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and the remains placed in the village cemetery.

George A. Barrier, son of A. J. Barrier, came down this week from Chicago on account of the illness of his father. He is a native of Brockport. *—8/28/1890*

Fannie gets attention in the Chicago and New York City press.

The New York Press of Nov. 15th publishes a dispatch from Chicago in which a handsome reference is made to a former Brockport lady - in fact Brockport is her native place, the youngest daughter of Mrs. Anthony J. Harriet of Erie street. Mrs. Williams is a graduate, of the Brockport Normal school, in the class, we are informed, of '80 or '81. The dispatch reads as follows: "Shall cultured women of color be received on the same social plane by fairer faced women?" is the problem before the Women's Club. Its perplexities revolve around Mrs. Fanny Barrier Williams, one of the most progressive of her race In this city. Mrs. Williams won the good graces of a number of society leaders by her intelligent and enthusiastic work as member of various important committees of the Columbian Exposition. Mrs. Williams attracted attention by her well written papers before the Parliament of Religions and the Congress of Representative Women. Such members of the Woman's Club as Mrs. Charles Henrotin and Mrs. Celia J. Woolley, pastor of a Unitarian Church at Geneva, I11., became her friends and suggested the Women's Club as an excellent field for the promulgation of her race prejudice principles. A fortnight ago Mrs. Williams' name was presented for membership, backed by some of the leading members of the club. This act was the occasion of a blustery breeze. The more conservative members raised dissenting voices. A coterie, including some of the most progressive women, openly declared that the time had arrived to be oblivious to a color line. Mrs. Henrotin. for instance, when approached on the question, said: "There is no doubt that Mrs. Williams will become a member of the Women's Club."*—11/22/1894*

The Chicago Post published a long tribute to Fannie
Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams

In a recent issue of the Chicago Post appears a fairly good picture of the above named lady accompanied by a two column reference to her relation to the Chicago Women's Club, one of the leading literary organizations of the city. We have in a previous article referred to the fact that owing to her bright intellect and her wonderful success both as a writer and lecturer some of her friends urged upon her to become a member of the organization above referred to, and pursuant to these requests allowed her name to be presented. These friends, says the Post, had known Mrs. Williams for years they had met and associated with her during the time she had acted as secretary and vice president of the Woman's Alliance - a central body composed of all the woman's clubs they had heard and applauded her papers before the congress of representative women and the parliament of religions; they have worked with her while she was secretary of the art department of the Woman's Auxiliary of the World's Columbian Exposition, and a dozen other ways they had come to esteem and admire her brilliant and "sterling merit." The presentation of the name, because of the prejudice existing against her race, caused great dissension which still exists, but the vote was against her. Regarding the effect upon Mrs. Williams, the Post says," The woman who would presumably, be most affected by it, takes it all philosophically, "she really never having in any sense been a candidate for membership, and had given the matter no thought until it was urged upon her. The following bit of Mrs. Williams' history will be read here with interest: "Mrs. Williams was born in Brockport, N.Y., where her father, A.J. Barrier and his family were highly esteemed residents for more than fifty years. Mrs. Williams is a petite in stature, with face of clear, light brown tint and of much sweetness of expression and delicacy of feature. Her hair is a beautiful, wavy brown, of which any woman might be proud. In the quiet Village of Brockport she grew up, never realizing that there was any difference between her and her white school mates and associates, with whom she mingled on terms of perfect equality. It was reserved for her to learn later that there was a difference. She had the best school advantages the town afforded, and her precocity earned her a reputation, as she read in the original Caesar and Cicero before she was twelve years old. At an unusually early age she was graduated from the college department of the New York State Normal school and then went to Washington, D.C., where she became a teacher in the public schools. This work she followed with marked success for ten years, when she resigned her position to become the wife of Mr. L. Williams, himself a graduate of Ann Arbor, Mich., University and the Columbia Law School, of New York City. Six years ago they removed to this city. Mrs. Williams early developed a talent for drawing and painting, and while teaching in Washington she took advantage of every opportunity to develop the gift. Since her marriage she has painted but little, but the walls of her home contain many creditable works from her brush. A marine particularly shows no slight degree of talent. She studied in the studios of several Washington artists, and undertook a course at the New England Conservatory, in Boston. Her cleverest work has been that of portraits. At the New Orleans exposition she exhibited several canvases which called forth most favorable criticism from other artists. In conversation she is vivacious and magnetic, and displays a familiarity with the best literature in the English language." Mrs. Williams is now chairman of the Committee on State schools for Dependent Children. She has been an important factor in the Provident Hospital and Training School for Nurses the only colored institution of its kind in the country. As a lecturer she is in great demand, her favorite theme being "The Intellectual Progress of Colored Women Since Emancipation." No Brockporter has gone abroad who has reflected greater credit than she upon this, her native place. *—12/6/1894*

Frederick Douglass befriends the Barriers.

Frederick Douglass when he lived in Rochester lectured on an occasion before the Brockport Union Agricultural Society. When here he stopped with the family of Mr. A. J. Barrier. He was also a friend of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. White, who attended his funeral services at Rochester on Tuesday. *–2/28/1895*

The Chicago Woman's Club Repents.

A friend of Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams a former Brockport lady, presented her for membership in the Woman's Club of Chicago, a very prominent literary organization. On account of race prejudice the application was rejected. A few days ago this resolution was introduced, "That it is the sentiment of the Chicago Woman's Club that no one can be excluded from membership on race and color lines." This resolution prevailed by a vote of 180 to 81. Mrs. Williams will enjoy the very pleasant honor in history of having been the lady over which this important question was settled. *—2/28/1895*

Harriet and her sister are W.C.T.U. leaders.

At the annual election of the officers of the W. C. T. U. of this place, held last Friday, the following were chosen: Pres., Mrs. M. A. Walden; first vice pres., Mrs. Edgar Benedict; second, Mrs. Milton Cooley; third, Mrs. Harriet Barrier; fourth, Mrs. T. A. White; cor. sec'y, Mrs. D. Roblee; rec. sec'y, Mrs. J. Wendover; treas., Mrs. L. B. Courtney. *—9/19/1895*

Harriet moves away from Brockport

Surprise Parties.

Last week Thursday evening between thirty-five and forty ladies and gentlemen, connected with the First Baptist church of this place assembled at the residence of Mr. N.B. Baker, King street, to meet Mrs. A.J. Barrier, the teacher of their Bible class in the Sabbath school. Mrs. B. has given up her home here for the present and goes to Chicago to visit her daughter Fannie. It was on account of this change of residence that these people assembled and took her by storm. Each guest expressed upon a card a farewell message to Mrs. B„ and these cards were bound in covers tastily painted by Miss Elizabeth Martin. After a fine supper the cards, which Mrs. B. is to take with her, were read aloud. The occasion was a very interesting and pleasant one. Mrs. B. expects to leave on Saturday, and stop at Detroit, en route, to see her son Greorge. *—10/31/1895*

Fannie joins the club.

The following from a recent issue of the Chicago Tribune relates to a former Brockport lady who has many friends here: The Chicago Woman's Club is to be congratulated that, after fourteen months of more or less bitter contest, it has let the bars down and admitted Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams, a colored woman, to its membership. Though the membership committee was not a unit, her claims to admission were warmly urged by Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson and Mrs. Catherine W. McCulloch, and the majority of the committee presented Mrs. Williams' name with the result already stated. Mrs. Williams is today a club member, entitled to all its privileges in case she is disposed to claim and enjoy them. That she is qualified to take a leading position in any department of the club to which she may be assigned, goes without saying, as she is known to be a woman of intellectual ability equal to that of any of the white members and superior to many of them. *—1/30/1896*

Harriet returns to Brockport.

Mrs. A.J. Barrier returned here from Chicago last week, and received a hearty welcome from many friends. She will occupy her residence on Erie street this winter. *—11/26/1896*

Fannie as celebrity speaker

W.C.T.U.

The W.C.T.U. have the pleasure of announcing that they have secured Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams to deliver a lecture Friday evening, July 15th, at the Baptist church. Mrs. Williams was born and reared in this village, and Brockport is justly proud of this honor. She first came into publio notice during the World's Columbian Exposition, where at the Council of Representative Women of the World, in connection with the Exposition, she was selected as an interesting representative of the colored race. Her address on "The Intellectual Progress of Colored Women" before that body created a profound impression. In the great "Parliament of Roligions," Mrs Williams was again selected to say something of historic interest on the subject: "What can Religion Further Do to Advance the 'Cause of the American Negro. "This address (of which extracts are to be found in all complete publications of the great Parliament of Religions) was esteemed one of the remarkable utterances of that notable occasion. Since the close of the Columbian Exposition Mrs. Williams has received invitations from all parts of the country to deliver addresses. She has been an especial favorite of the great woman's organizations, drawing audiences that have taxed the churches beyond their capacity, and has been asked many times to repeat her addresses in the same places. The subject of her lecture here will be announced in next week's issue of the REPUBLIC . Surely every one will wish to hear Mrs. Williams. The tickets will be only 10 cents each, so as to give all an opportunity. *—7/7/1898*

Fannie on a lecture tour

Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams, the well known lecturer and correspondent of the Chicago Times- Herald, will deliver a lecture in the Baptist church, Friday evening, July 15 at7:45 o'clock, on "What Can She Do?" Tickets only 10 cents. As a lecturer, Mrs. Williams is in great demand — *Chicago Evening Post.* Sunday afternoon Mrs. Williams spoke for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union to a crowded house in the Baptist church.— *Kalamazoo Daily Telegraph* Mrs Williams is a woman of more than usual intelligence, has a very pleasing address and is an agreeable public speaker.—*New York Sun*. *–7/14/1898*

What Fannie told the W.C.T.U.

W. C. T. U.

There was a good attendance at the lecture given at the First Baptist church Friday evening by Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams, The audience very warmly applauding her when introduced by Mrs. John Read, president of the W.C.T.U., and giving the speaker the closest attention from the beginning to the close, as she delivered a very practical address on "Woman's Mission," or "What Can She Do?" She handled the subject most ably, showing what the different woman's organizations are doing for humanity, and showing, that a love for humanity—love that is divine that will overlook rags and degradation and even immorality—must be the predominant force in woman's work. Mrs. Williams speaks from years of practical experience in this work as a member of a woman's club in Chicago, who have accomplished very much in many lines of reform. *—7/21/1898*

Harriet's sister visits Fannie

Mrs. Troy A. White attended the Peace Jubilee last week in Chicago, and expects to remain some time as the guest of her niece, Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams. *—10/27/1898*

Harriet is ill

Mrs, Barrier has been confined to the house for several weeks with Illness. —3/9/1899

Harriet's Bible class honors her

Surprised.

Last Tuesday afternoon found Mrs Barrier a very much surprised person. About twenty five ladies who have been, or who are now, connected with her Bible class. found their way through the storm to her home, and as they filed one after the other into Mrs. Barrier's presence the surprise and emotion shown in her countenance was a study. The visitors had brought a plentiful supply of good things to tempt an epicure and at half past six the company sat down to supper. Just before grace was said, Mrs. Clausen in her usual charming and graceful way presented to Mrs. Barrier a year's subscription to three magazines and papers in the name of the company, and before the recipient had a chance to reply grace was pronounced and supper immediately served. That the repast was enjoyed no one could question. Later on a literary program was enjoyed consisting of dialect songs and recitations, and a very interesting paper by Mrs. W. B. Prentiss* concerning the Federation of colored women's clubs which met in Chicago last summer and which Mrs. Prentiss attended. Many graceful things were said in the paper of Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams who is president of the Chicago woman's club and who is prominent in the country for her work for the colored people. The afternoon and evening were most delightfully spent, and will long be remembered by those who were able to attend. —*12/7/1899*
**[Mrs. Prentiss was white, attending a "colored" meeting.]*

Harriet's sister dies

OBITUARY.

Pamila R. White. Last week many were made sad again by the death of Mrs. Pamila R. White; She was born in Sherburne, Chenango County, N. Y. April 34th, 1836. About 45 years ago she came to Brockport. In 1868 she was married to Troy A. White who survives her. For some years she was a member of the First Baptist church and then of the Free Methodist church. Some 15 years ago she joined the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In her relations to the church and in temperance and charitable work her influence was felt. The funeral services were held at the Free Methodist church Sunday afternoon, the Rev. A. H. Bennett, chairman of the Free Methodist district conference conducted the service and preached from Philippians 1:21 an appropriate and impressive sermon. Rev. George V. Reichel spoke of Mrs. White's many sterling Christian qualities. Rev. Brethren Phillips and Clausen also took part in the service. A large congregation was present to show their sympathy for those who mourned the loss to the community of so good and useful a woman. Among the bereaved are Mrs. Harriet Barrier, an only sister. Miss Ella Barrier, of Washington and Mrs. Fannie B. Williams, of Chicago, nieces; George Barrier, of Detroit, Mich., a nephew and a host of friends. Truly this woman will be missed because of her good works and her great influence upon those who met her. –*3/22/1900*

Another leadership role for Harriet

The officers of the *[Women's Foreign Missionary]* society *[of the First Baptist Church]* are: Pres,, Mrs. Waldron, Vice Pres., Mrs. A.J. Barrier; Sec., Miss Elizabeth Martin; Treas., Mrs. M. K Kniffen. —*4/10/1890*

George's children are honored

The friends of Mr. George Barrier will be pleased to learn of the high positions to which his daughter and youngest son, have attained. Miss Harriett Barrier is president of the Detroit Study Club which has recently been admitted to the city federation of Woman's clubs. This Study club is the only colored women's club in the city. By virtue of her office as president of a club, Miss Barrier is one of the directors of the local federation. Master Robert Barrier, a lad of fourteen a week or two since received a silver medal, the prize offered for the best essay on "Cigarette Smoking" in the Central High school Tbe essay appears in another column. –*5/1/1902 [See the text in the Appendix to this document.]*

Still another leadership role for Harriet

At the last meeting of the W.C.T.U. Mrs. Barrier was chosen to represent the Union at the State convention, to be held in Norwich in October. Mrs. M. Cooley was chosen alternate. –*7/19/1906*

DEATH OF G. A. BARRIER
PROMINENT COLORED MAN
DIES IN DETROIT.

Formerly a Resident of this Village

Monday the sad intelligence of the death of George A. Barrier, of Detroit. Mich., formerly a resident of this village, was received here. His mother Mrs. A. J. Barrier, left for that city the same morning. Mr. and Mrs. Barrier had heen visiting at the residence of a brother-in- law, and while on the way home he dropped dead in the street. Mr. Barrier was born in Brockport 56 years ago last April. In 1874 he married Miss Delia Pelham a resident of Detroit. For the past 26 years he has been one of the leading Republicans of that city. In 1891 he was appointed sidewalk inspector In the board of public works. A few years later he was promoted to the position of permit clerk. Besides his widow, he leaves three children, a mother and two sisters. His funeral took place yesterday afternoon. —1/31/1907

Ella pursues further education

Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams leaves tonight for Chicago accompanied by her sister, Miss Barrier, who will enter the "School of Education" of Chicago University until Sept 1st. *—7/11/1907*

George's son drowns

Mrs. Barrier and Miss Barrier were called to Detroit on Wednesday by the sad news of the death from drowning of Mrs. Barrier's grandson, Robert A., son of the late George A. Barrier. Deceased was a member of the senior class of the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Michigan and was a young man of great ability and promise. He was to have graduated February next. He met his sad fate while camping with the Students Engineering camp *—7/29/1909*

CLASS REUNION
Tuesday afternoon, December 31sr was a memorable date in the history of Harriet Barrier's Bible Class. Organized over twenty year it had never had a more enjoyable social gathering when on this afternoon between forty and fifty members of the class and friends gathered at the home of Mrs. J. D. Burns to greet Mrs. Barrier also her daughter Ella The afternoon was spent in social converse and with a fine program in charge of Mrs. Burns consisting of several pleasing selections rendered by Mrs. Peyster in her charming manner; vocal selections by Mrs. Dubler and choral singing by the members. An elegant repast was served at five o'clock. After which all members gathered in Mrs. Burns' spacious living room where Mrs. Ford as toastmistress the following toasts were responded to: "Mrs. Barrier's Bible Class: Its Past" by Miss Elizabeth Martin; "Its Present", Mrs. M.A Shafer; "Its Future", Mrs. Louise C. Williams; "Mrs. Barrier as a Teacher", Mrs. James Brennan. At the close of her response, Mrs. Shafer said, The "present" is at this very hour, when in the name of those present, Mrs. Shafer presented Mrs. Barrier with two pictures, a fine one of the Baptist church and the other the "Music Master". At the close of the afternoon everyone felt and said that the occasion had been one of great enjoyment.

Harriet dies.

BARRIER

Mrs. Harriet A. Barrier died Friday afternoon, April 16th at her home on Erie street. She was born in Sherburne, N. Y. March 12, 1836. Her life story is of much interest, as she and her husband were great friends of Frederick Douglass and were closely in touch with him in many of.his public works. Mrs. Barrier had been a resident of Brockport about 65 years and a member of the First Baptist Church about 55 years of that Time and was interested in its Sunday School and charitable institutions. She is survived by two daughters, Miss Ella D. Barrier of Washington, D. C. and Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams of Chicago. The funeral was held from the Baptist Church, Monday afternoon, Rev. L. E. Ford officiating. Many friends and relatives attended from out of town. Among these were Mrs. M. A. Cady and Miss Minnie Thompson of Rochester. Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair of Albany. The relatives were E.S. Bums of Livonia, W. Burns of Bergen and S. Laing Williams of Chicago. *—4/22/1915*

Ella continues to spend summers in Brockport, though she lives in Washington.

Miss E. D. Barrier and her friend Miss F.O. Talbert of Washington, D.C. left on Wednesday for that city where they will resume their duties as teachers in the schools. *—9/13/1917*

Negro Leader Dies At Local Residence
WILLIAMS

The demise of Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams of Erie Street occurred Saturday at her home after a long illness. About 89 years of age, Mrs. Williams was born in Brockport and after residing in other parts of the country, returned here in 1926. Her father, Anthony J. Barrier, formerly conducted a barber shop in this village. She was educated at the New England Conservatory of Music and the School of Fine Arts in Washington, D. C. in which city she also taught school. Following her marriage to a lawyer, S. Laing Williams, the first negro admitted to the Chicago Bar Association, Mrs. Wlliams resided for many years in Chicago, where she was she was active in many organizations. She was a member of the City Library Board and also A life member of the City Club of Chicago. She traveled and lectured extensively, and was active in social service work. She is survived by one sister, Miss Ella Barrier of this village; and one niece, Miss Harriett Barrier of Detroit, Mich. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 2 p. m. with burial in Brockport Cemetery. *—3/9/1944*

Ella dies, the last of Brockport's Barriers.

Oldest Native Passes
Miss Ella D. Barrier, Brockport's oldest native who was born in Brockport 93 years ago passed away at her late home on Friday. Burial took place in the High Street cemetery Monday following funeral services at the Fowler funeral home. The deceased was a graduate of the Brockport Normal in the class of 1876 and taught and was principal of colored schools in Washington for 50 years. She also served as president of the Y. W. C. A. *—2/15/1945*

And so ends the saga of the Barriers of Brockport





Published by the Brockport Community Museum
Researched and edited by William G. Andrews.
Layout by Richard W. Black
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