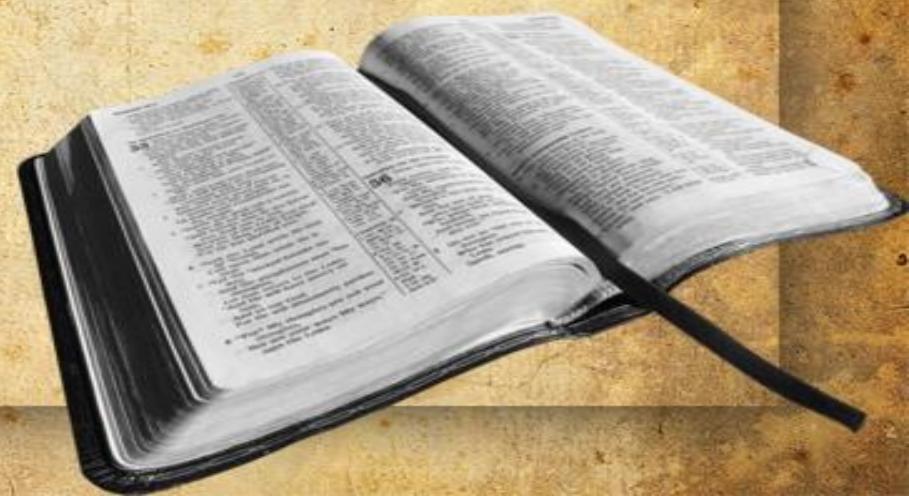


Such a Cloud of Witnesses

*“Stories of American
Christians”*

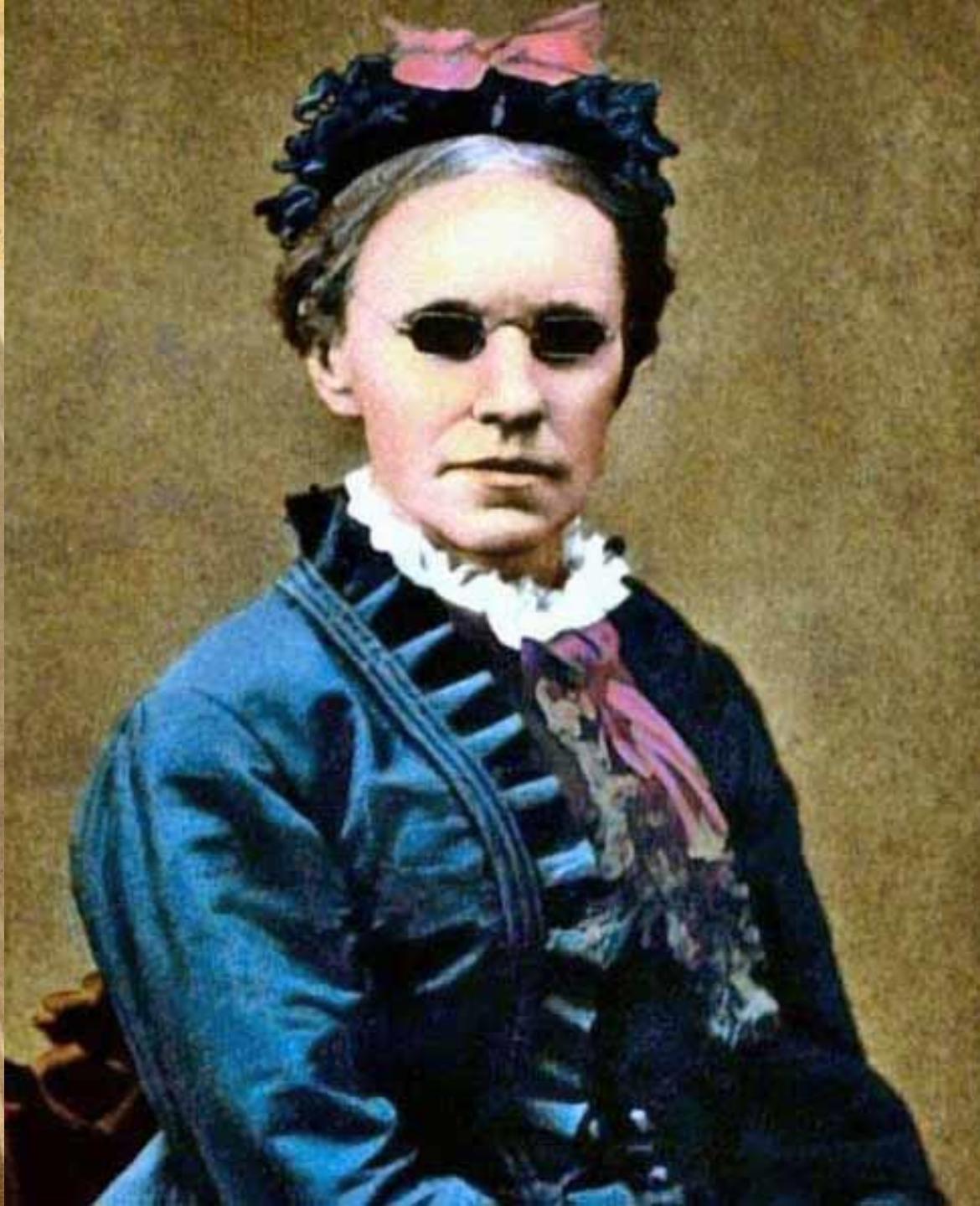
Temple Baptist Church
May 1, 2022



Ephesians 5:19-20

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;



Fanny Crosby

Fanny J. Crosby

NEW YORK

POPULATED PLACES

- New York
- Syracuse
- Binghamton
- Saranac Lake
- ★ Albany

TRANSPORTATION

- Interstate; limited access highway
- Other principal highway
- Railroad
- Ferry
- Airport

PHYSICAL FEATURES

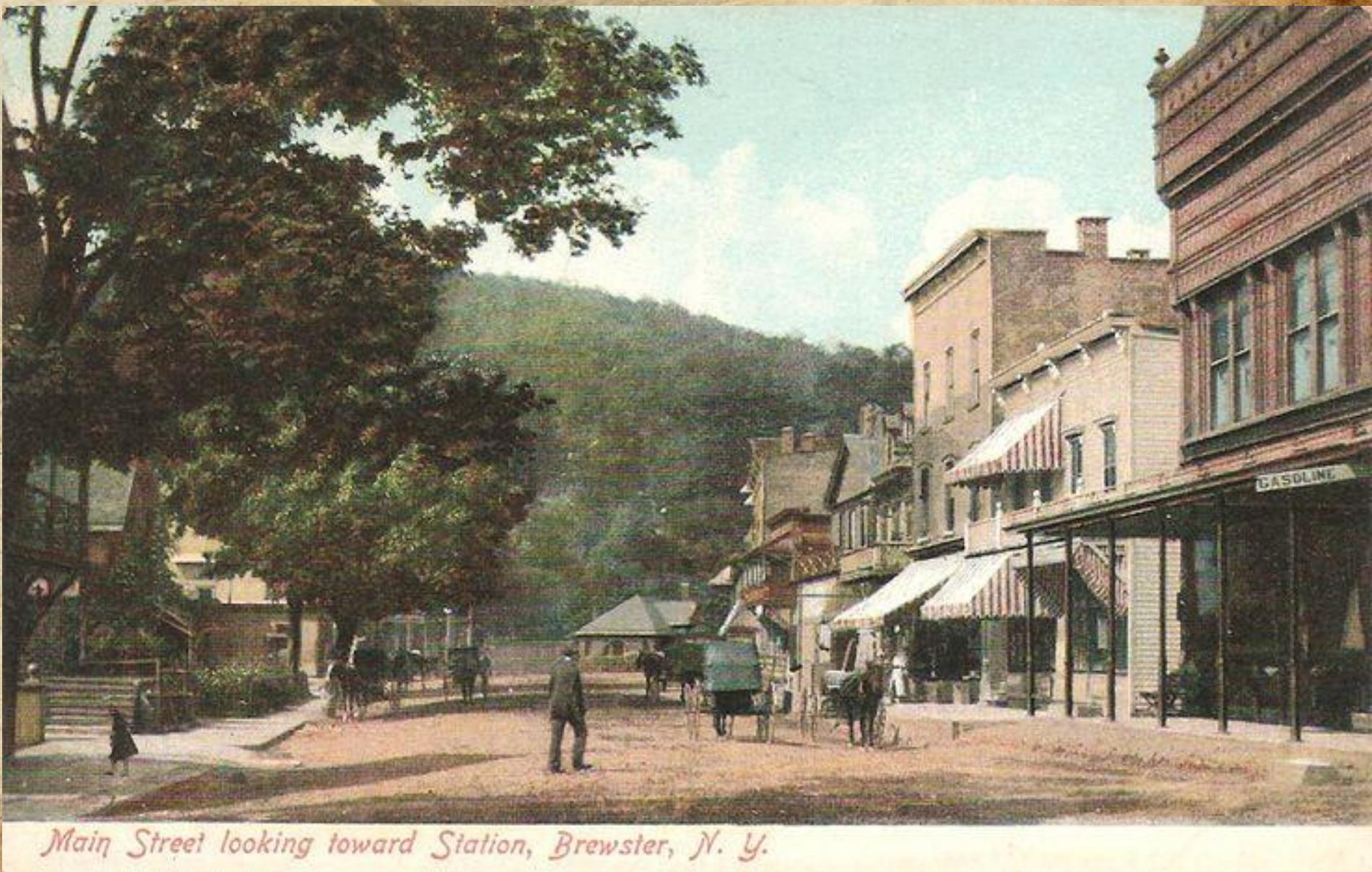
- Streams
 - Lakes
- Highest elevation in state (feet) ▲ 5344
Other elevations (feet) ▲ 4180



March 24, 1820 Putnum County, New York

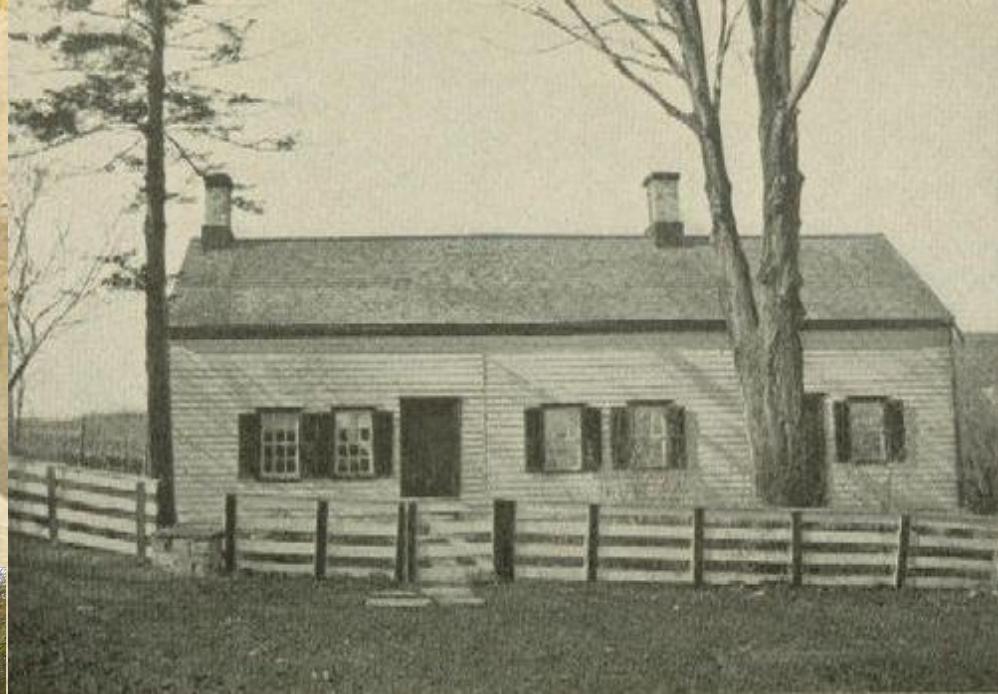
- Frances Jane Crosby was born in what today is called Brewster New York.
- She was the only child of John and Mercy Crosby. John was a widower and had a daughter from his first wife.
- At six weeks old Frances caught a cold and got an sever eye infection. The doctor's treatment of hot poultices damaged her optic nerves leaving her completely blind.
- In November, John Crosby died, so Mercy had to work to support the family.

Fanny Crosby's Home Town



Main Street looking toward Station, Brewster, N. Y.

Fanny Crosby's Birthplace



HISTORICAL LANDMARK

IN THIS HOUSE
FANNY CROSBY,
THE BLIND HYMN WRITER,
WAS BORN MARCH 24, 1820

150TH ANNIVERSARY



MARCH 1970

SOUTHEAST MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, BREWSTER, NY

05/21/2011

1823

North Salem, New York

- From the time that Frances' grandmother heard that her granddaughter was blind, she made a commitment. She would become her eyes for her. Eunice would be her teacher, companion, coach, and friend.
- The small poverty-stricken family moved to North Salem, N.Y. where Eunice had been raised and Mercy could find work.
- Here, just a few miles from the Connecticut border, she learned the value of love, faith, discipline, and persistence.



Eunice's School, Fanny's Training Ground



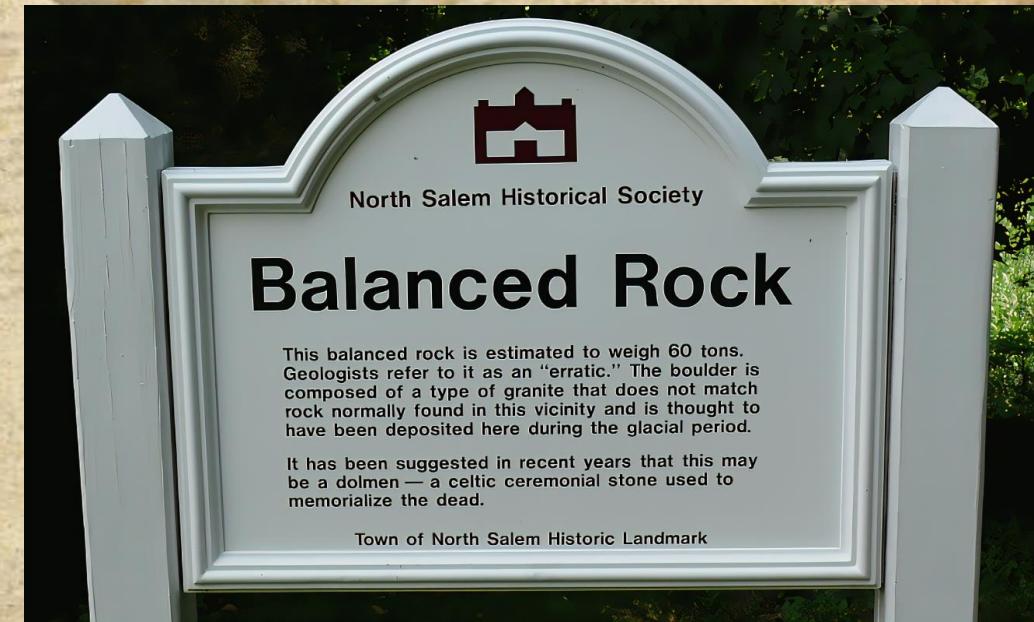
Peach Pond Meeting House

Eunice's School, Fanny's Training Ground

North Salem, 1893



Eunices School, Fanny's Training Ground



1825

New York, New York

- At age five, the community collected funds to send Fanny and her mother to New York to see a famous eye doctor. After his examination he made a statement that would be remembered by Fanny for the rest of her life, “Poor Little Blind Girl.” Her mother was broken hearted to here that there was nothing he could do.
- For Fanny, the trip to New York was not sad, but a defining moment in her life. This would be echoed in one of her first poems. Written when she was eight years old.



Thankful

Oh what a happy soul am I!

Although I *cannot see.*

I am resolved
That in this world,

Contented I will be.

How many blessings I enjoy

That other people don't.

To weep and sigh
Because I'm blind...

I cannot and I won't!

Fanny Crosby

Proverbs 3:5-10

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

1828

Ridgefield, Connecticut

- When Fanny was eight, they moved to Ridgefield. Mercy had a position as the housekeeper for a wealthy widow named Mrs. Hawley.
- Here she would learn to love music. Be taught to sing, and from age 10 would be taught to memorize five bible chapters a week.
- By age 15, she had memorized the four Gospels, the Pentateuch, Proverbs, The Song of Solomon, and many of the Psalms.

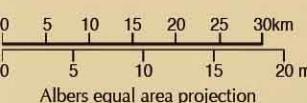
CONNECTICUT

POPULATED PLACES	
100,000 – 499,999	• Waterbury
25,000 – 99,999	• Torrington
24,999 and less	• Willimantic
State capital	★ Hartford

TRANSPORTATION	
Interstate; limited access highway	— 95 —
Other principal highway	— 84 —
Railroad	— — —
Ferry	— — —

PHYSICAL FEATURES	
Streams	—
Lakes	●
Highest elevation in state (feet)	+ 2380

The lowest elevation in Connecticut is sea level (Long Island Sound).



NEW YORK



MASSACHUSETTS

NEW YORK



Ridgefield, CT



Mercy and her Children



Mercy, Julia, & Caroline Morris and Fanny Crosby

Why did Fanny
Wear Sun Glasses?



FANNY JAS. BOND

1835

New York, New York



- When Fanny was almost 15, she was chosen from her county to attend the New York Asylum for the Blind. Known today as New York Institute and School for the Blind.
- Her school was the only one for the blind in the entire United States. It would accept only one student a year from each county in New York State. When she entered NYAB it had a student body of 35 students. When she graduated there were over 100!
- She graduated in 1843. She would continue to teach at NYAB until 1858.

New York Asylum for the Blind

1860



New York Asylum for the Blind

1922



New York Asylum for the Blind



New York Asylum for the Blind

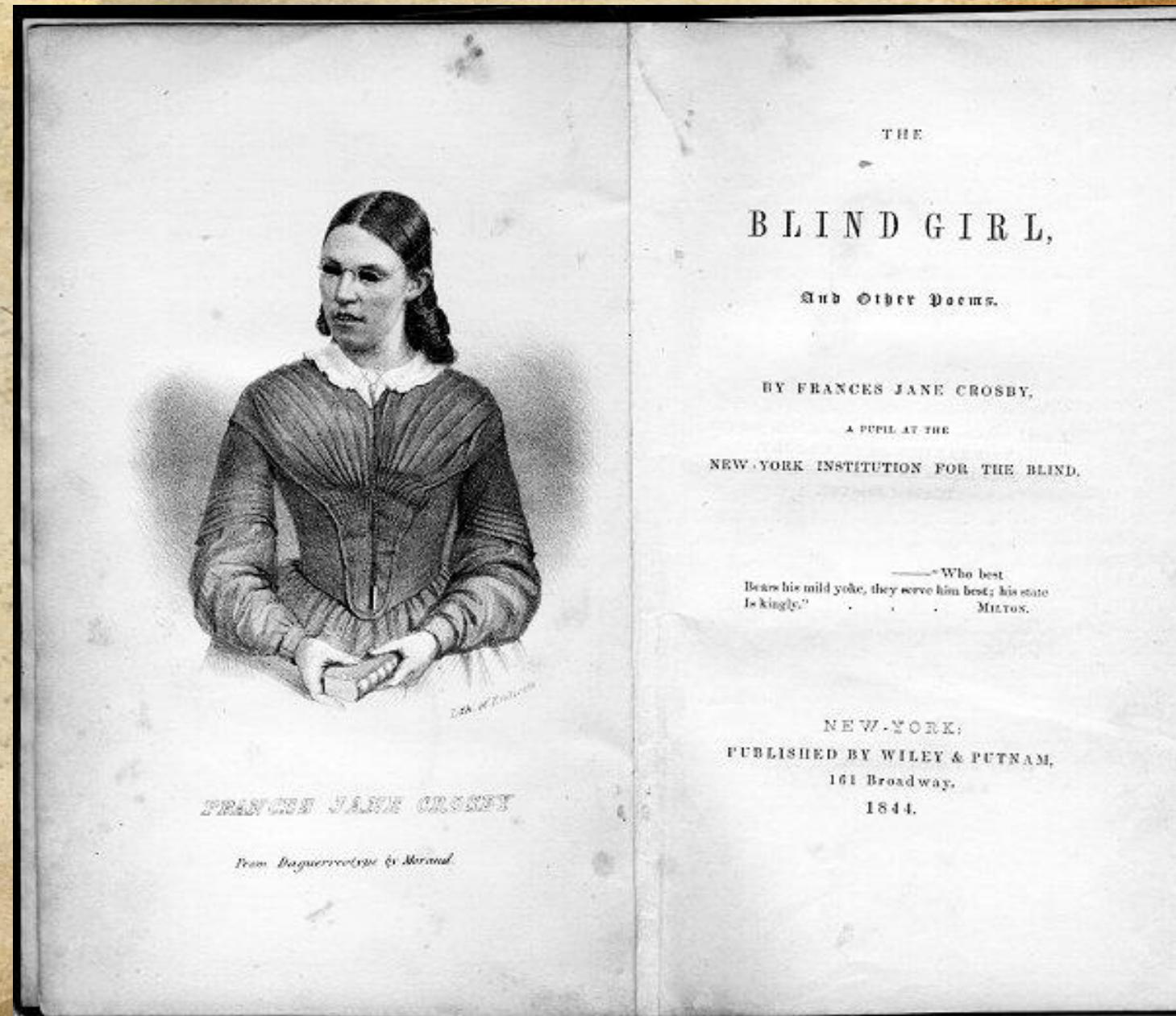
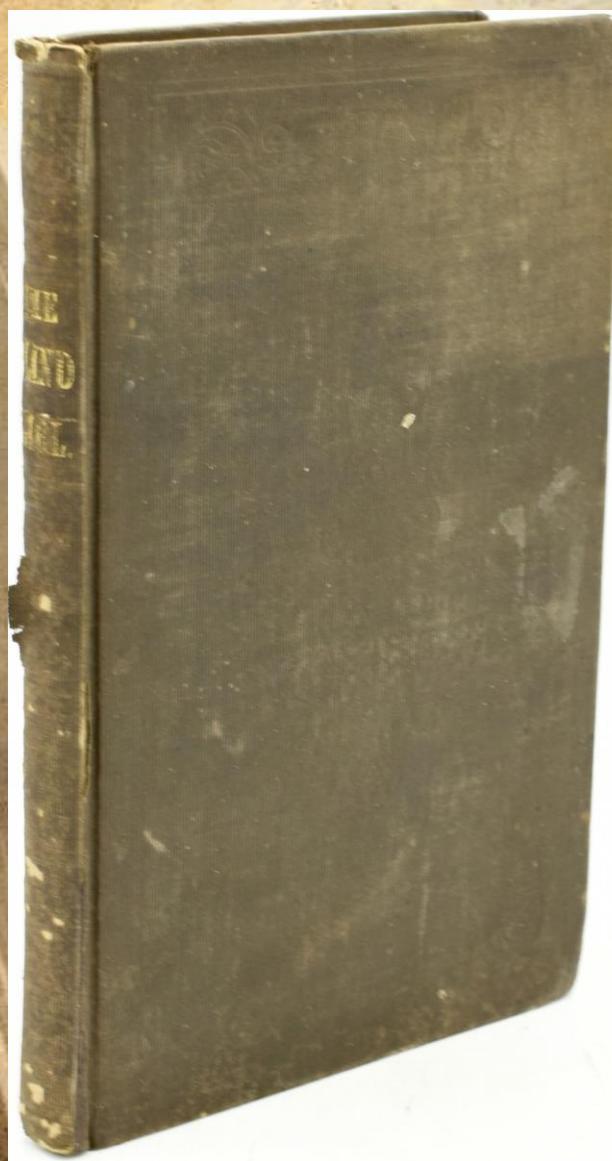


New York Asylum for the Blind

- She remained there for eight years as a student, and another two years as a graduate pupil, during this period she learned to play the piano, organ, harp, and the guitar. She also received voice training and became a very accomplished soprano singer.
- During her time at NYAB, she published her first book of poetry.
- Fanny had opportunity to share her poems with those of wealth and those in government. But these were not the most important things she learned here. Death and Life were...



The Blind Girl - 1844



She Becomes Famous

- In 1841, New York Herald published Fanny's poem eulogy on the death of President William Henry Harrison, thus beginning her literary career. Her poems were published frequently in The Saturday Evening Post, the Clinton Signal, the Fireman's Journal, and the Saturday Emporium.
- Because of her work on behalf of the blind, in 1843 Fanny was the first woman invited to ever speak to U.S. Senate. She moved all present and her poem brought tears to the eyes of many. Latter that year she would speak to a joint session of Congress.
- On January 24, 1844, she again addresses a joint session of congress. She receives high praise from the aged past president, John Quincy Adams. "The Blind Girl" is released later that year.
- In 1845, "*An Evening Hymn*" based on Psalms 4:8, was her first published hymn.
- Through the 1840s Fanny's poems are regularly published in newspapers through out America.

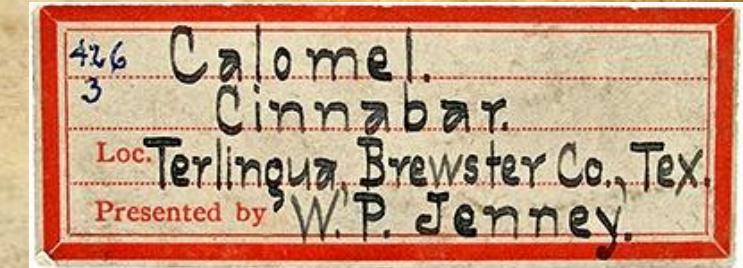
Cholera Epidemic – April to September 1849



Cholera Epidemic - 1849



Mercury



Calomel
Marg. chlor.
Dep. XI. A. K.
1917

Calomel
Marg. chlor.
Dep. XI. A. K.
1917

Calomel
Marg. chlor.
Dep. XI. A. K.
1917

Cholera Epidemic ~ 1849



Opium

Salvation November 20th, 1850



13th Avenue Methodist
Church

#335

#335

Redeemed, How I Love to
Proclaim It

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It 335

Ye were redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ. 1 Peter 1:18-19



1. Re-deemed, how I love to pro-claim it, Re-deemed by the blood of the Lamb.
2. Re-deemed and so hap-py in Je-sus, No lan-guage my rap-ture can tell.
3. I think of my blessed Re-deem-er; I think of Him all the day long.
4. I know I shall see in His beau-ty The King in whose law I de-light,



- Re-deemed thru His in - fi - nite mer - cy, His child, and for - ev - er I am.
I know that the light of His pres-ence With me doth con - tin - ual - ly dwell.
I sing for I can - not be si - lent; His love is the theme of my song.
Who lov - ing - ly guard - eth my foot - steps And giv - eth me songs in the night.



Student to Teacher

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION For 1854.

T. GOLDEN COOPER, *Superintendent.*

Teachers in the Literary Department.

WILLIAM N. CLEVELAND,
GROVER CLEVELAND,

MARY J. CROFUT,
LOUISA MOWREY,

FRANCES J. CROSBY.

Teachers in the Musical Department.

ANTHONY REIFF, (Instrumental.)
CHARLES HAZLET "
CATHARINE KENNEDY "

GEORGE F. ROOT, (Vocal.)
EZRA HALL, "
CATHARINE CONNELL

ANGELINE CUTTER.

Teachers in the Mechanical Department.

JAMES YOUNG, (Agent & Instructor.)
JAMES HEMPHILL,

SAMUEL HUTCHINGS,
ELEAZER JOHNSON,

MARY ANN KENNEDY.

Matron.

Mrs. SARAH S. AMES.

Attending Physician.

J. W. G. CLEMENTS.

Consulting Physicians.

ISAAC WOOD, M. D.

| JAMES C. BLISS, M. D.

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ABRAM DUBOIS, M. D.

Fanny's Fame Flurishes

- In 1851 she publishes her 2nd book of poetry, *Monterey and Other Poems*.
- In 1853, she completed the first of three Cantatas, *The Flower Queen*.
- From 1851 to 1857 Fanny in association with George F. Root, a music teacher at the school, wrote over 60 parlor songs. Some with patriotic themes, others more fanciful for minstrel shows. Some such as *Hazel Dell*, and *Farwell Kitty Dear*, and *There is Music in the Air* became national sensations. *Hazel Dell* sold over 200,000 copies.
- In 1858, she published her third of four books on verse, *A Wreath of Columbia's Flowers*.

Matthew 12:35-37

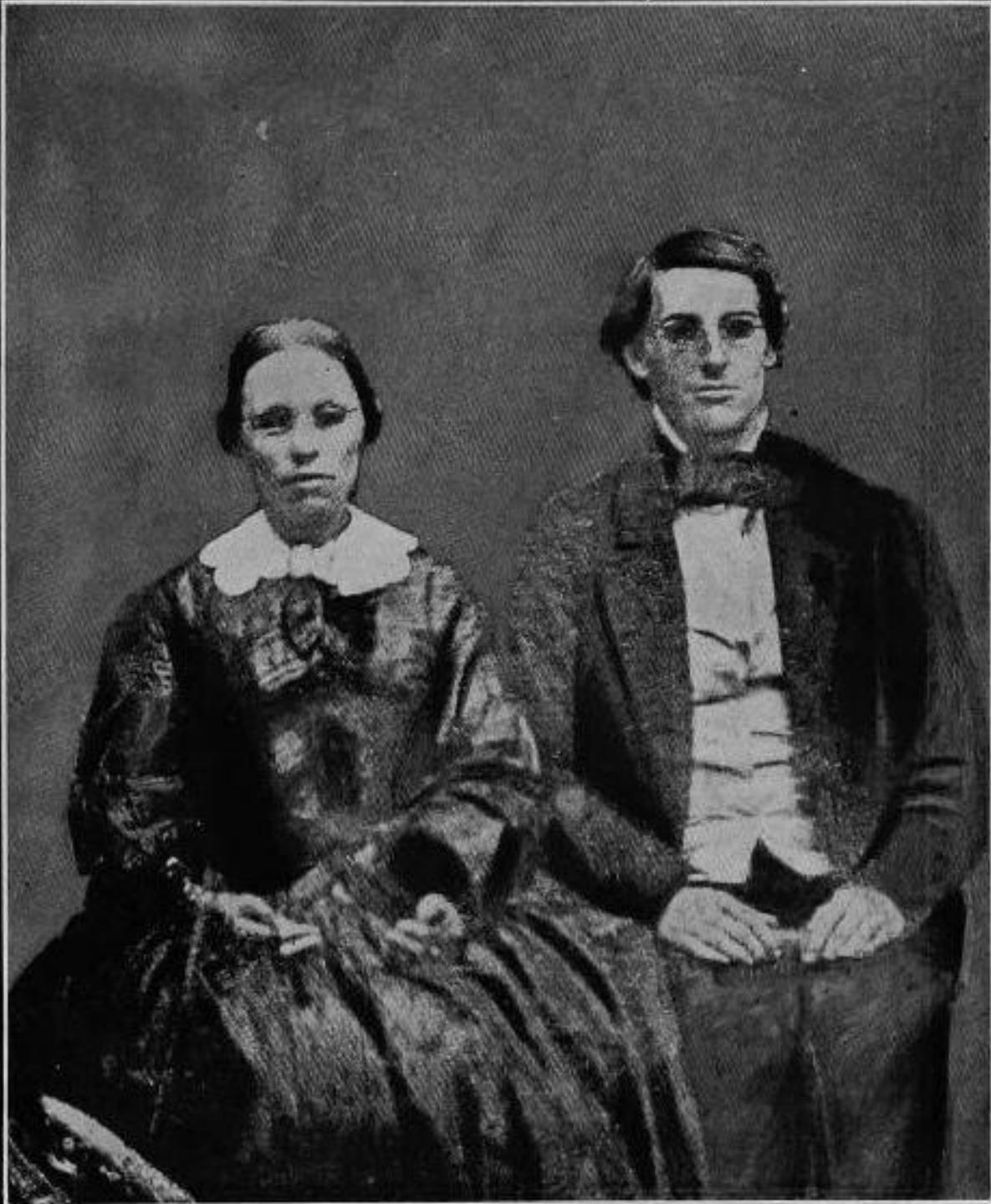
35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

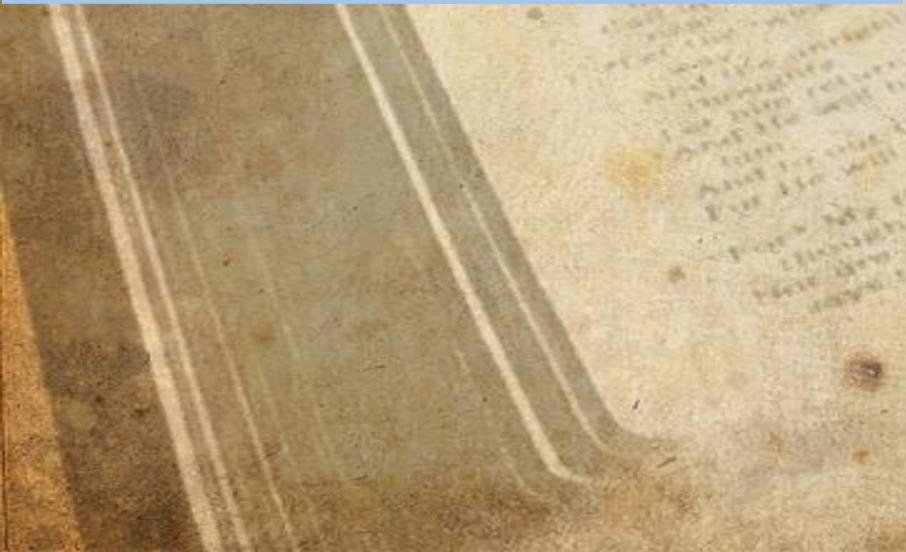
37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

March 4, 1858

- Fanny Crosby was wed to Alexander Van Alstyne. He was also blind. Just like Fanny, he was first a student at NYAB and then an Instructor at the school. Fanny always called him “Van.”
- He was quite an accomplished musician in his own right. He had published pieces more along the lines of European Classics than the light-hearted music that Fanny was known for.
- They moved from the school to Maspeth, New York. They had one daughter that was born in 1859 but passed away within a few weeks of birth. This loss struck Van horribly. Sadly, this tragedy greatly damaged their marriage relationship.

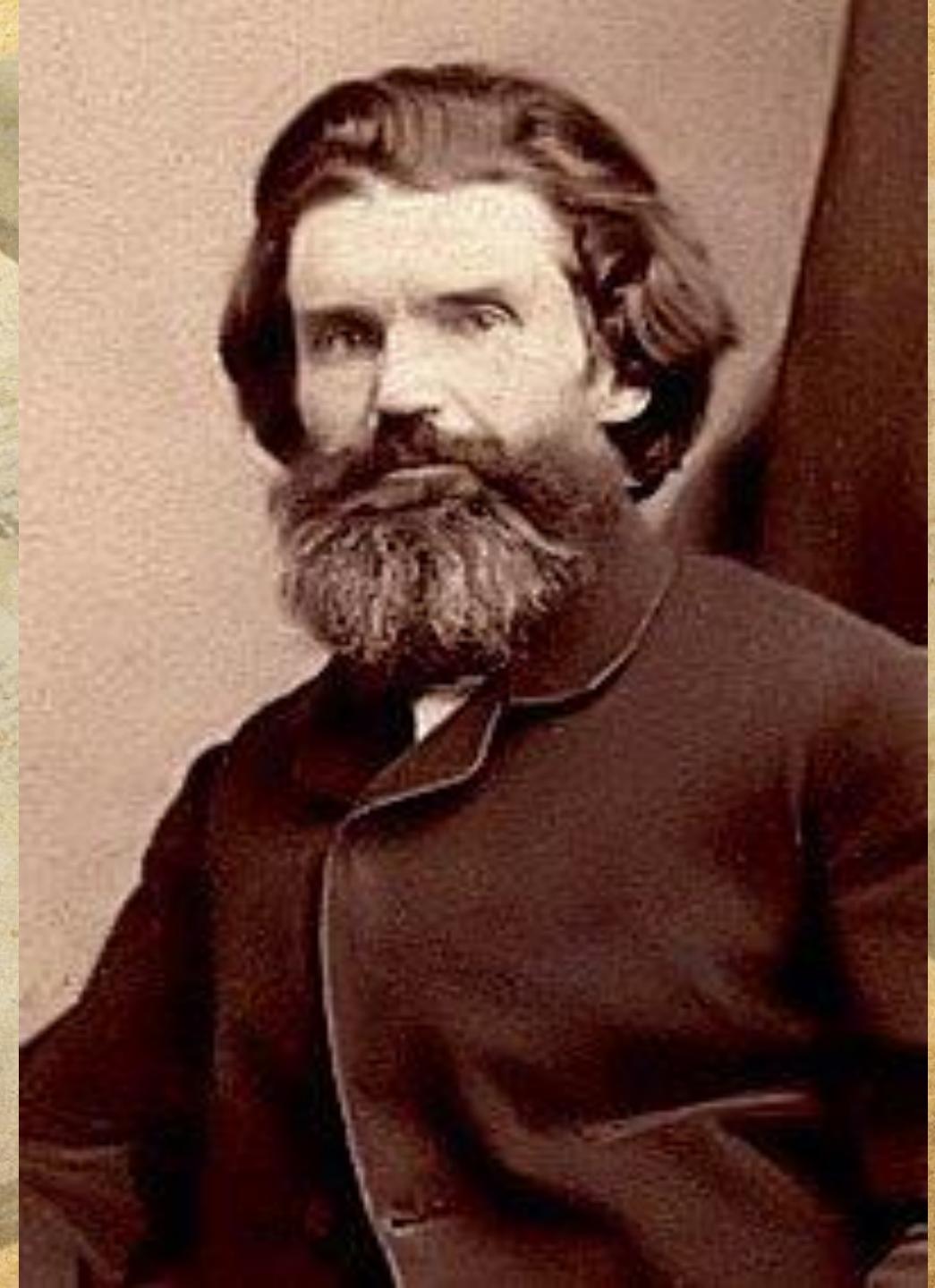


Maspeth, New York



William Bradbury

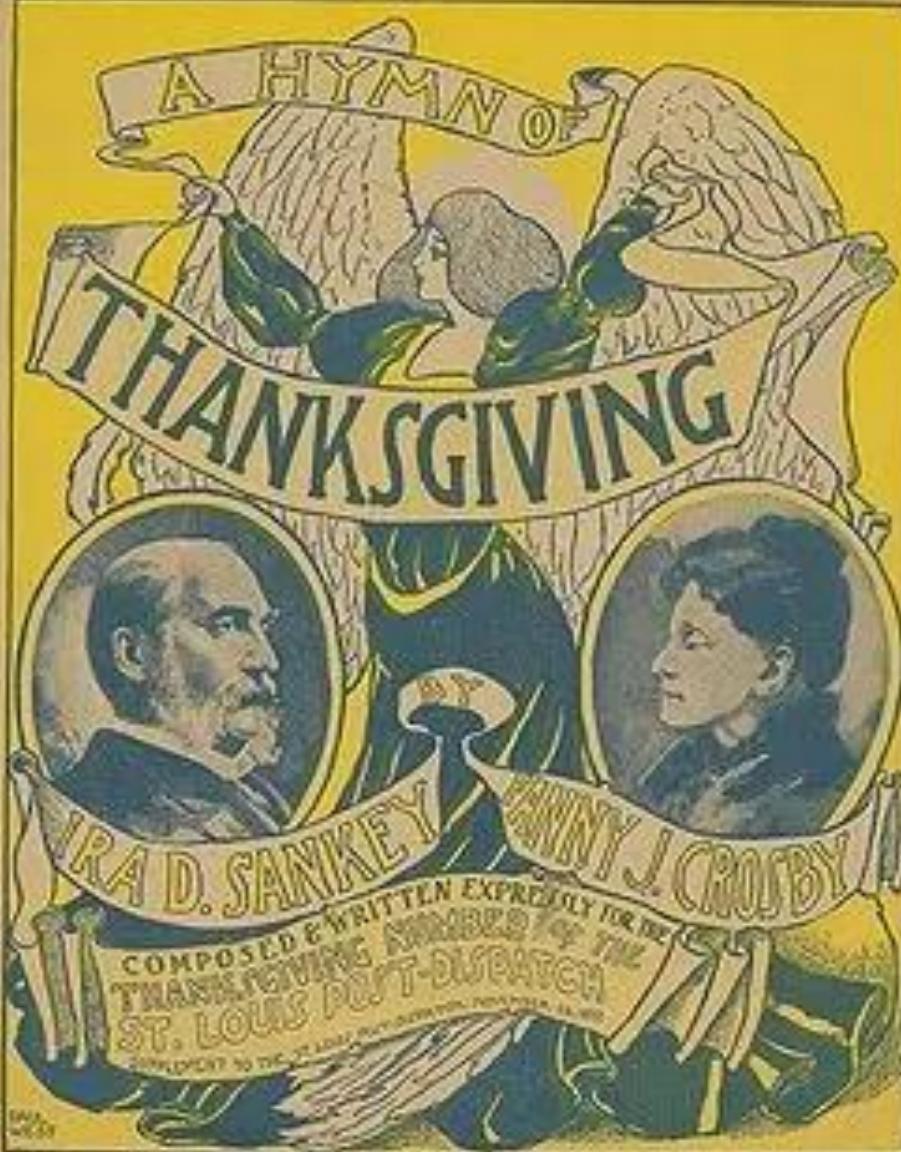
- *Jesus Loves Me!*
- *He Leadeth Me*
- *Just As I Am*
- *My Hope is Built*
- *Savior Like a Shepherd*
- He asks Fanny to write her first Sunday School Hymn in 1864. Over the next 32 years of her life, she would go on to write over thousands of more.
- William would pass away in 1868.



Ira D. Sankey

- Best known for *A Shelter in the Time of Storm*, and *Under His Wings*.
- Their friendship would last throughout the remainder of Ira's life.
- They collaborated on many commercial projects as well. They would write to meet specific requests by churches or businesses.
- Ira would pass away in 1906. Before that he lost his eye-sight due to glaucoma.





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#492

#492

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior 492

When they heard that Jesus passed by, [they] cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord. Matthew 20:30



1. Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior; Hear my hum - ble cry! While on
2. Let me at the throne of mer - cy Find a sweet re - lief; Kneel - ing
3. Trust - ing on - ly in Thy mer - it, Would I seek Thy face; Heal my
4. Thou the Spring of all my com - fort, More than life to me! Whom have



oth - ers Thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.
there in deep con - tri - tion Help my un - be - lief. Sav - ior, Sav - ior,
wound-ed, bro - ken spir - it; Save me by Thy grace.
I on earth be - side Thee? Whom in heav'n but Thee?



Hear my hum - ble cry! While on oth - ers Thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.



William Kirkpatrick

- Best known for *Away in a Manger*,
Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus, and
Will Your Anchor Hold.
- They would collaborate on
commercial and spiritual projects
Such as *Redeemed*, *How I Love to
Proclaim It*.
- William was younger than Fanny.
He would go home to glory in
1921.



Phoebe (Palmer) Knapp

- Was a Christian author that had a passion for God's people to live holy and sanctified lives.
- You could say she was Fanny's closest friends.
- Sitting down at the piano one day, Phoebe had written a tune and she played it for Fanny. She asked Fanny, "What does this tune Say to You?"
- She would pass in 1908.



#381

#381

Blessed Assurance

The effect of righteousness [shall be] quietness and assurance forever. Isaiah 32:17



1. Bless-ed as - sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-
2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light! Vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my
3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion-all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and



vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, Born of His Spir-it,
sight; An-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove Ech-oes of mer-cy,
blest; Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, Filled with His good-ness,



Refrain



washed in His blood.
whis-per-s of love. This is my sto-ry, this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day
lost in His love.

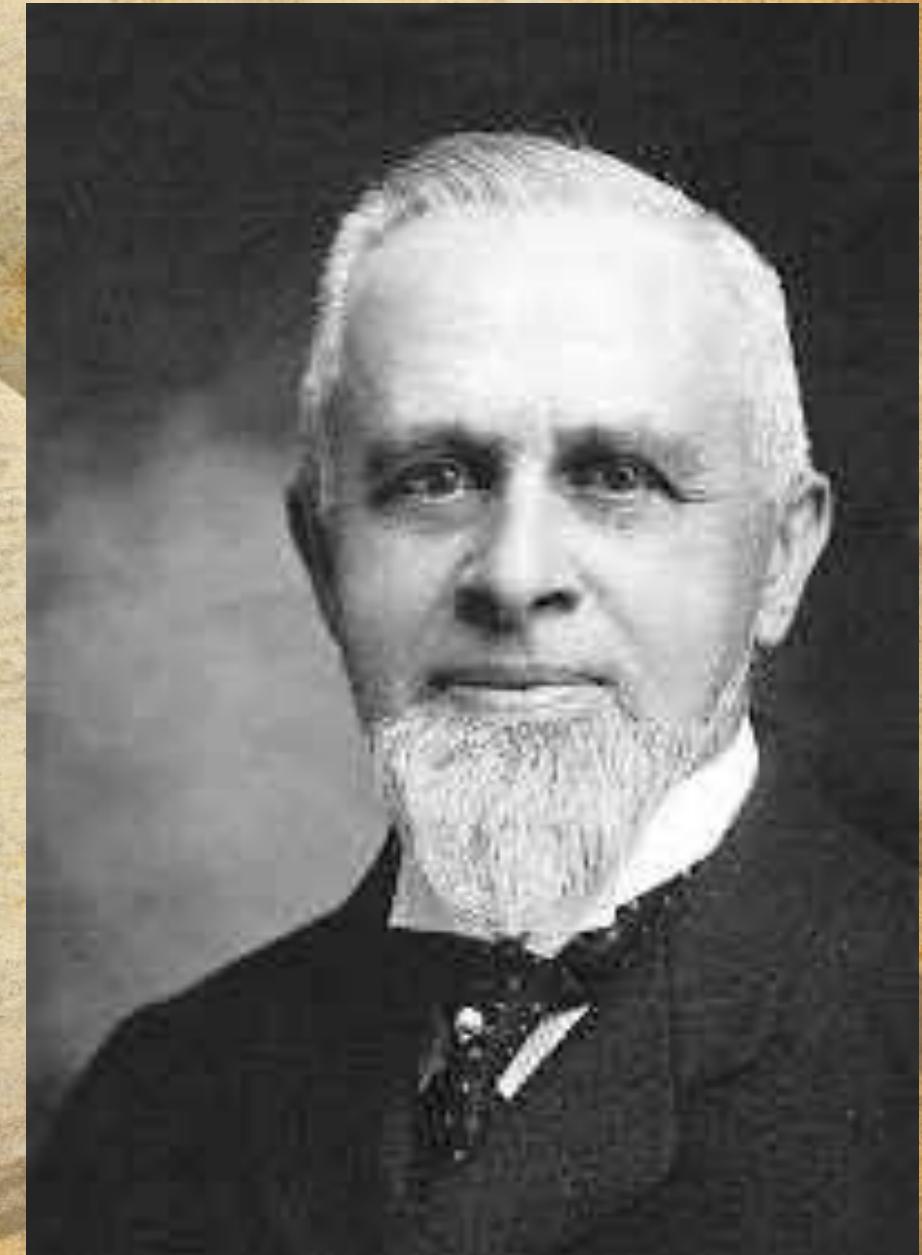


long. This is my sto-ry, this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



William H. Doane

- Doane was an Engineer and Inventor. He inherited great wealth from his father.
- Raised Presbyterian, he converted to the Baptist Faith of his mother.
- He chose a life of service and music and never looked back.
- He collaborated with Fanny on many of her most well-known hymns.
- Doane would pass away the same year as Fanny, 1915.



#343

#343

Rescue the Perishing

Rescue the Perishing

And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire. Jude 23

1. Res - cue the per - ish - ing, Care for the dy - ing, Snatch them in
2. Though they are slight - ing Him, Still He is wait - ing - Wait - ing the
3. Down in the hu - man heart, Crushed by the tempt - er, Feel - ings lie
4. Res - cue the per - ish - ing; Du - ty de-mands it; Strength for thy

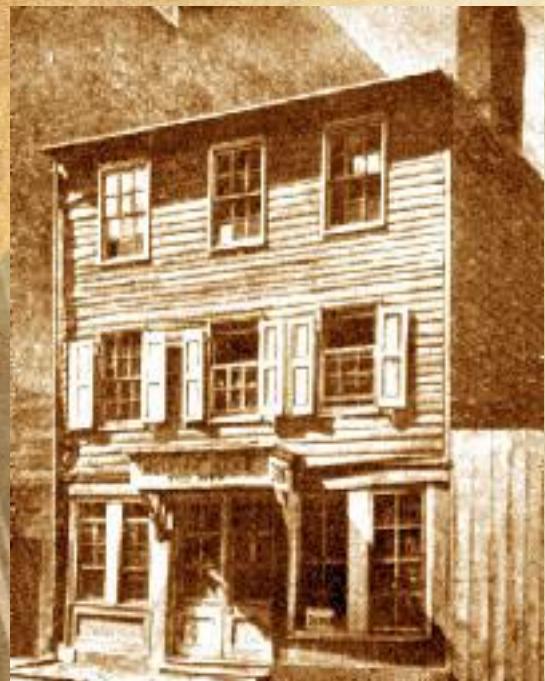
pit - y from sin and the grave; Weep o'er the err - ing one, Lift up the
pen - i - tent child to re - ceive. Plead with them ear-nest - ly; Plead with them
bur - ied that grace can re - store. Touched by a lov - ing heart, Wak - ened by
la - bor the Lord will pro - vide. Back to the nar - row way Pa - tient - ly

Refrain

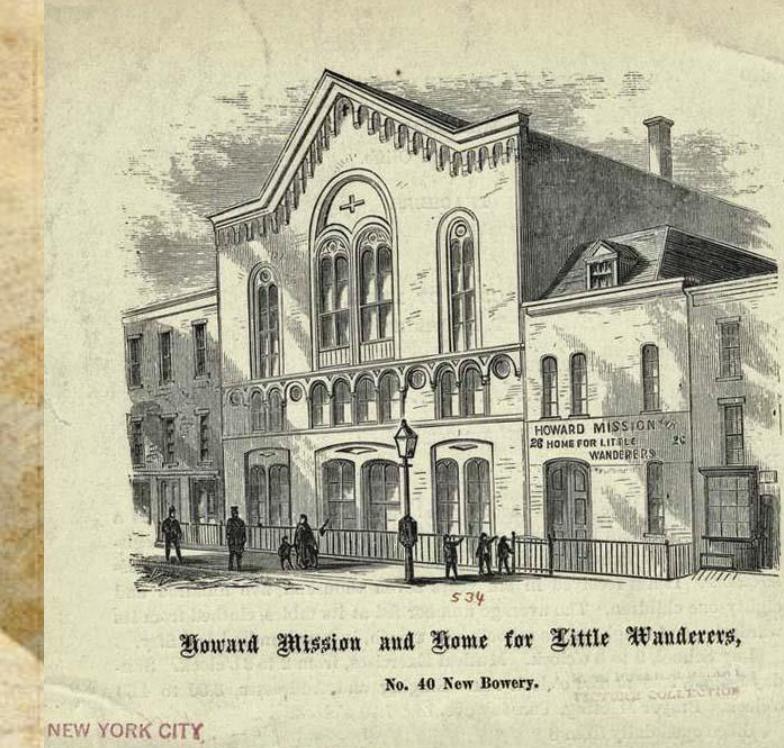
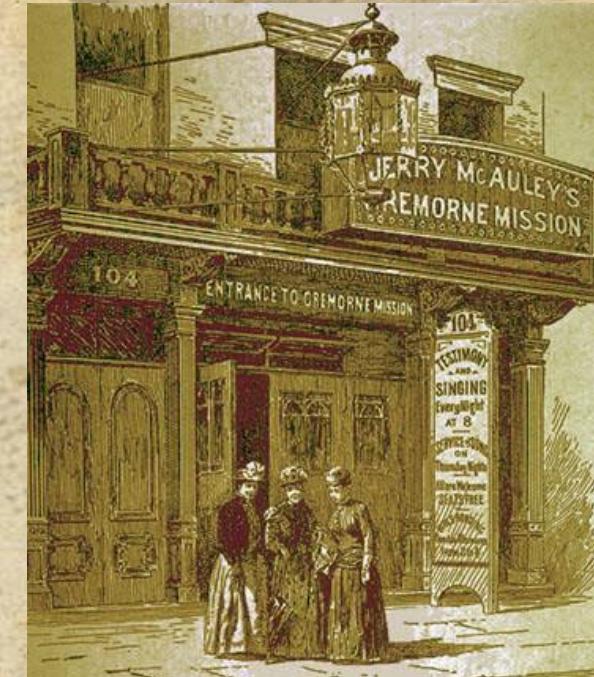
fall - en, Tell them of Je - sus the might - y to save.
gen - tly. He will for - give if they on - ly be - lieve. Res - cue the
kind - ness, Chords that are bro - ken will vi - brate once more.
win them; Tell the poor wan - d'rer a Sav - ior has died.

per - ish - ing; Care for the dy - ing. Je - sus is mer - ci - ful; Je - sus will save.

Fanny's Missions Work



Water St. Mission House



Howard Mission and Home for Little Wanderers,

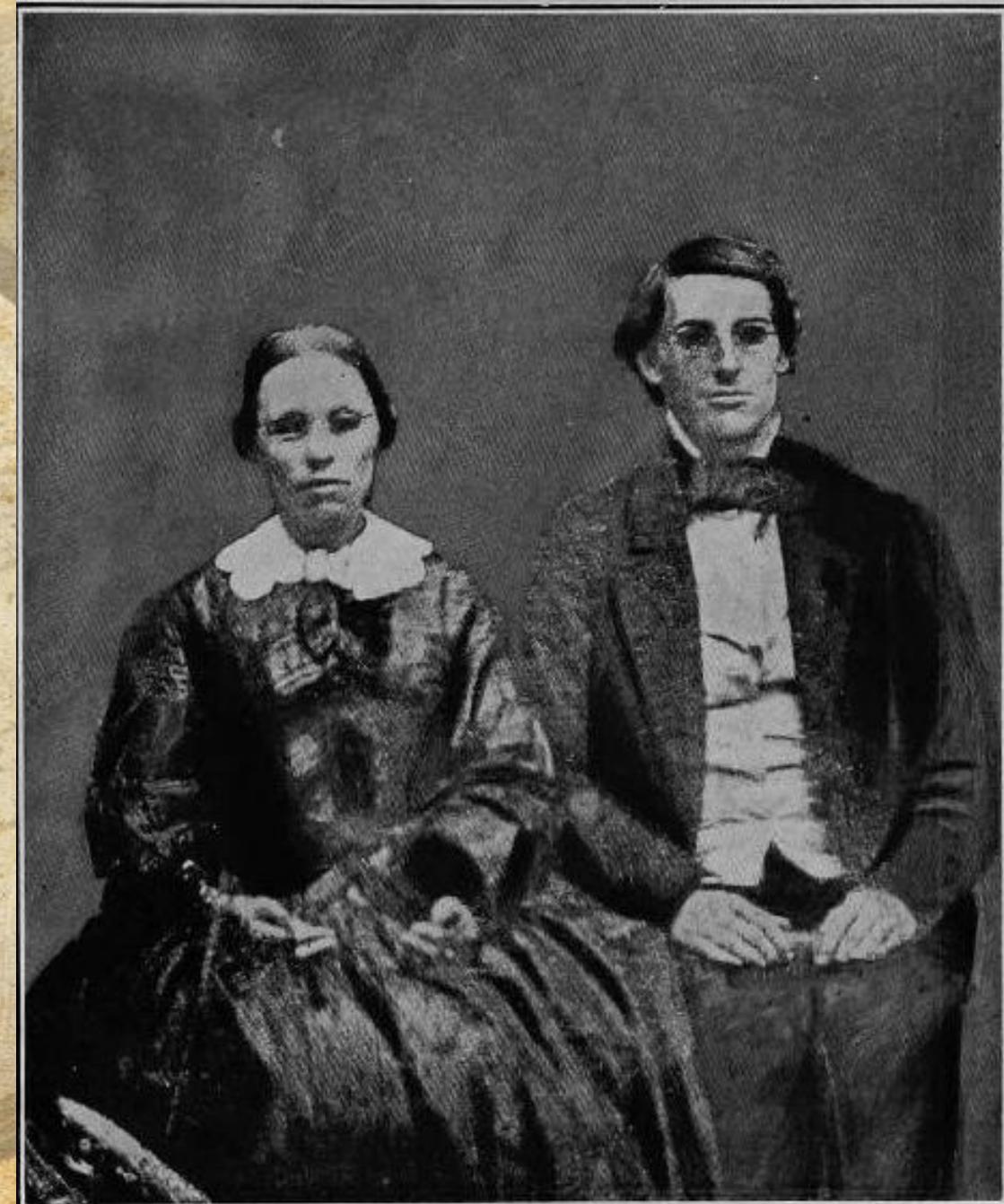
No. 40 New Bowery.

NEW YORK CITY

- Fanny did not just write the words *Rescue the Perishing*; she lived the words. From 1880 onward, she lived in near poverty and gave away much of what she had to support the many mission houses in the city of New York.
- She chose to live in the same areas of the City that those in need did. She helped the urban poor almost to the day that she died.

Alexander Van Alstyne

- Passed away in 1902.
- Due to ill health Fanny could not attend. She was beginning to experience issues with her heart.
- Her best friend Phoebe paid for the funeral.



1904

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CONNECTICUT

POPULATED PLACES
 100,000 – 499,999 • Waterbury
 25,000 – 99,999 • Torrington
 24,999 and less • Willimantic
 State capital ★ Hartford

TRANSPORTATION
 Interstate; limited access highway — 95
 Other principal highway —
 Railroad —
 Ferry —

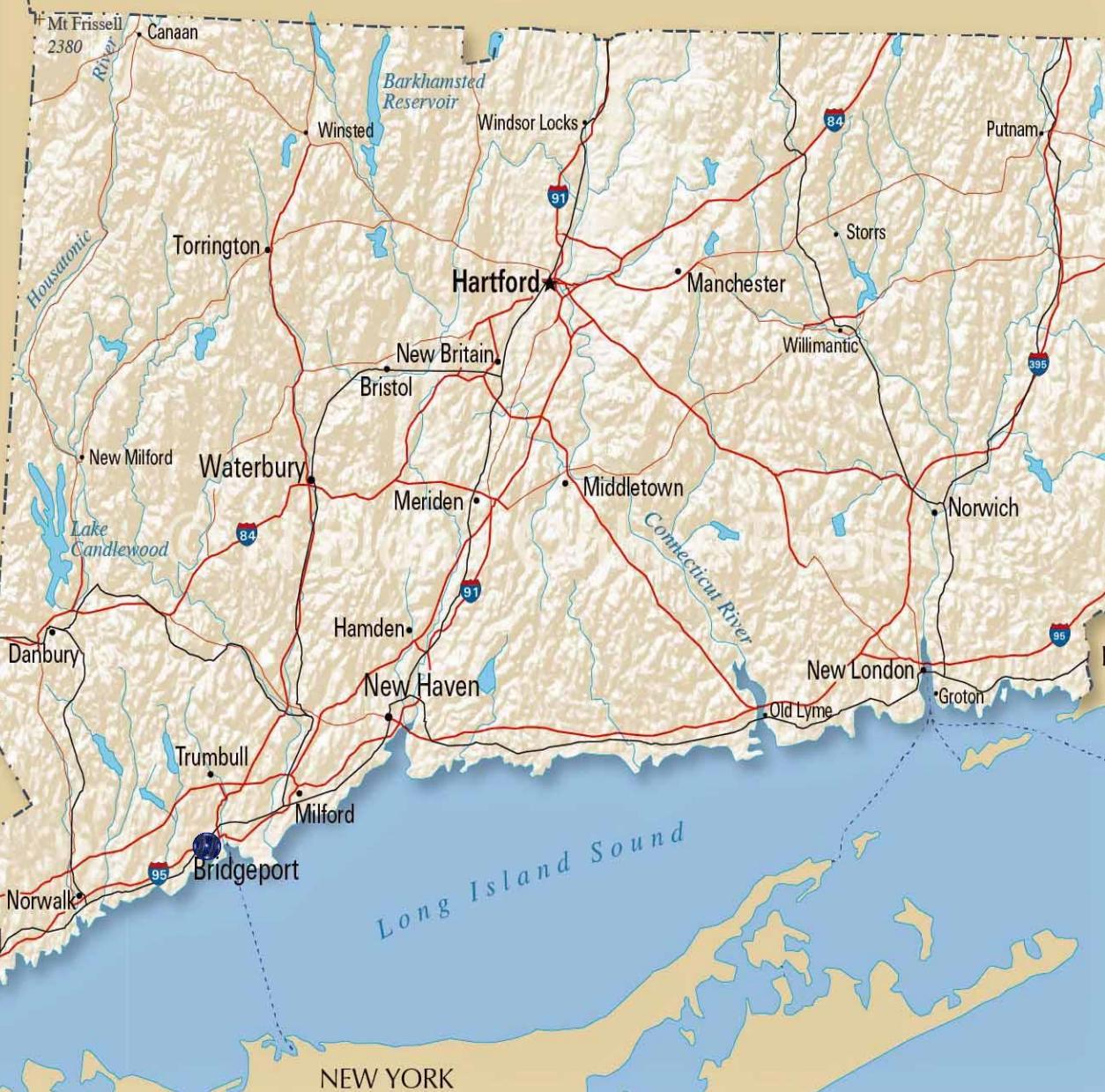
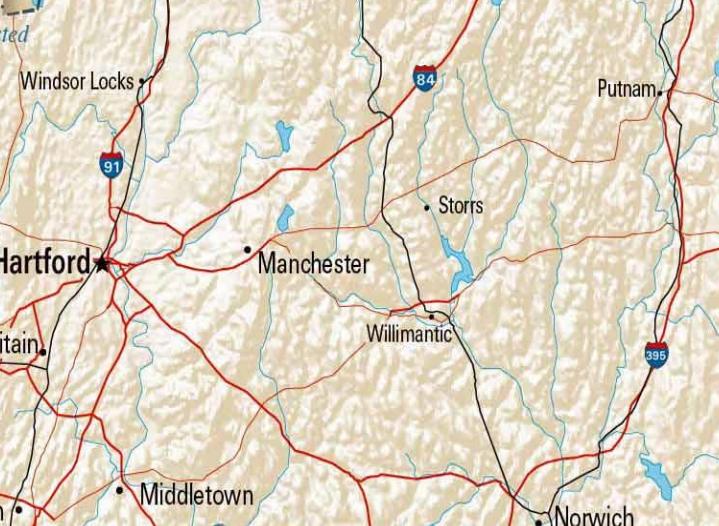
PHYSICAL FEATURES
 Streams —
 Lakes —
 Highest elevation in state (feet) +2380
 The lowest elevation in Connecticut is sea level (Long Island Sound).

0 5 10 15 20 25 30km
 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 mi
 Albers equal area projection

NEW YORK

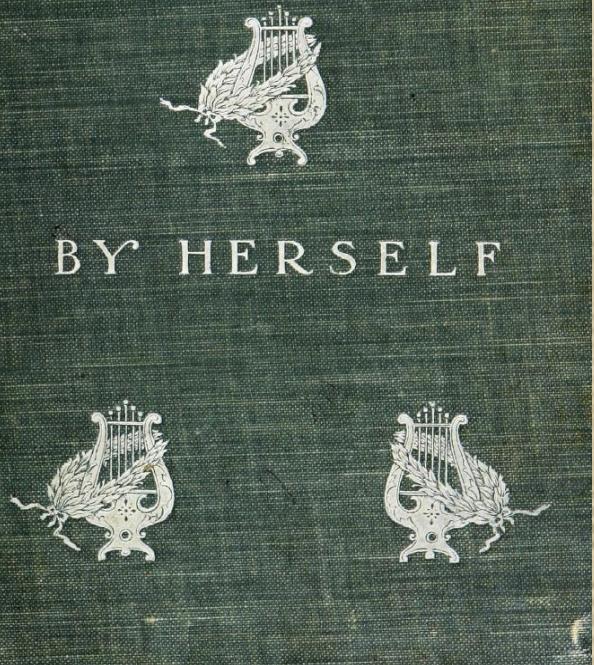


MASSACHUSETTS

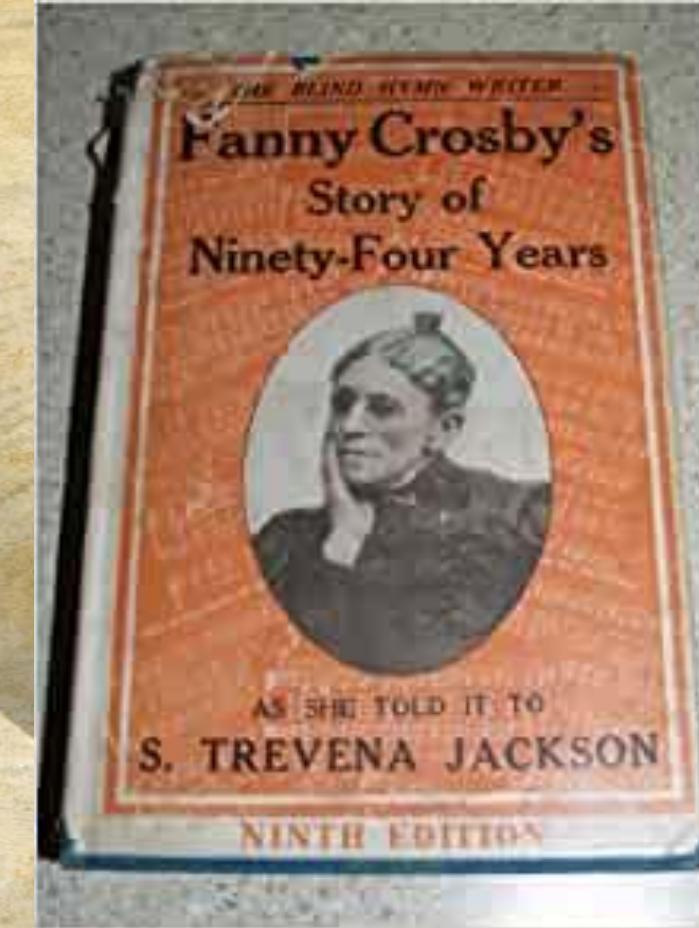
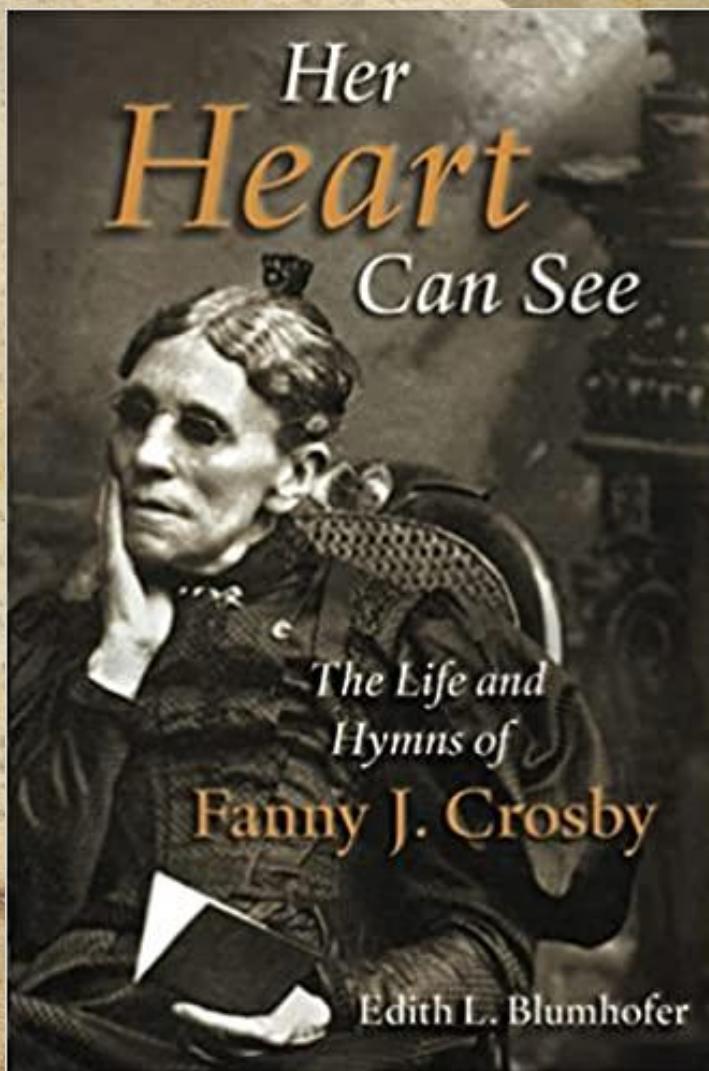


- Because of her failing health, Fanny moved from New York to live with her two widowed sisters.
- She had finished her autobiography a year earlier in 1903. The book was a best seller and the income welcomed.
- Two years before her death, she would be interviewed, and a second more personal book was authored by her friend Trevena Jackson.

FANNY CROSBY'S
LIFE-STORY
BY HERSELF



Recommended Reading





FANNY CROSBY IN HER NINETY-SECOND YEAR.

Fanny Crosby's Death February 12, 1915

Mountain Grove Cemetery



Fanny Crosby's Death February 12, 1915



In grateful
and loving memory of

FANNY J. CROSBY

Who inspired and edified
Christians all over the world
by the writing of more than
3000 hymns and poems

BORN IN SOUTHEAST, N.Y.

MARCH 24, 1820

MARRIED MARCH 5, 1855 TO

ALEXANDER VAN ALSTYNE
DIED IN BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

FEBRUARY 12, 1915

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh what a foretaste of Glory Divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of the Spirit, washed in His blood.*

ERECTED BY FRIENDS TO WHOM
HER LIFE WAS AN INSPIRATION



“If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind... for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Saviour.”

—Fanny Crosby

Near the Cross

[They] stood by the cross of Jesus. John 19:25

1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross- There a pre - cious foun - tain;
2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er-

Free to all, a heal - ing stream Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
There the Bright and Morn - ing Star Shed His beams a - round me.
Help me walk from day to day With its shad - ows o'er me.
Till I reach the gold - en strand Just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross Be my glo - ry ev - er-

Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be-yond the riv - er.

After the Summer:

George Whitefield