Biographical Information

The items below contain additional biographical information on some of the lesser known figures mentioned in the text. Women appear under their maiden names with married names in brackets.

Abbot, Eliza. Moved from New Jersey to Alabama to teach at Prattville Female Academy in the 1850s.

Aiken [Rhett], Henrietta (1836–1918), Charleston, SC. Well-traveled and highly musical daughter of Harriet Lowndes and William Aiken Jr. Subject of CBA.

Allston [Pringle], Elizabeth “Bessie” Waties (1845–1921), Charleston, SC. Planter’s daughter and student at South Carolina Female Collegiate Institute at Barhamville, claimed to own a Steinway piano at one time. Author of A Woman Rice Planter (1913) and Chronicles of Chicora Wood (1922). Pseudonym: Patience Pennington.

Anderson, Eliza C. Friend of Mary E. Capp [Wilbur] of Savannah, school colleague at Greensboro Female College, GA, in 1854, per inscription in UNC Old Series L, 006 (dedicated to the Young Ladies of the Greensboro Female College).

Angéline, Madame. Dance instructor who came from France to New Orleans. Noted for complicated choreography, including waltzing in quintuple time.

Armistead [Crump], Nannie Palmore (1856–1936), Farmville, VA.

Bailey, Mrs. Music teacher in Kenansville Female Academy (NC), 1850s.


Berry [Bryan], Mary Catherine “Kate” (1839–1905), Nashville, TN.

Blessner, Gustave (1808–88). Born in France, formerly “Premier Solo Violin of the Concerts of [Philippe] Musard in Paris.” He performed in Charleston (accompanied by local pianists Zogbaum and Latham) prior to his arrival in Raleigh. At least thirty compositions by Blessner survive, including a published set of twelve preludes and voluntaries for the organ (or piano “with Aeolian attachment”), dedicated to the North Carolina Episcopal Bishop in 1846, and a set of organ works published in 1878.

Boyer, Jeanne. Piano teacher and salonnière in New Orleans from 1830s until after the Civil War; wife of Gabriel. Gottschalk was among the musicians who performed at her salons on Royal Street. After the war, she opened an École de Musique in the city.

Boykin [Jones] Anne Catherine (1817–1886), Columbus, GA. Planter’s wife. Diary of 1851 details European travel.

Bradford [Eppes], Susan Branch (1846–1942), Pine Hill Plantation, Bradfordville, FL. Author of Through Some Eventful Years (1925), The Negro of the Old South (1925), and Verses from Florida (1938).

Brou [Bazanac], Adrinette (1810, New Orleans-1865, Barcelona, Spain). Music teacher in New Orleans. She formed part of the household of Charles Lambert, a prominent musician of color in the city. Her husband, Joseph (ca. 1804, Port-au-Prince, Haiti [1850 census has Cuba]-1876), played bassoon and flute with the Société Philharmonique (an organization of Creoles of color) and also taught music.


Brown [McKay], Lucy M. Clinton (ca. 1842–1933), Bladen County, NC. Her father (James Brown) was listed as a “mechanic” with just over $7,000 (real estate and personal property) in the 1860 census; Lucy was noted as a “domestic,” as were all female members of the family. Sister, Elizabeth (two years older), may or may not have had music. Married John Lloyd McKay in 1867. In 1870 Lucy and John McKay lived with his father, a blacksmith worth $1,500.

Burton, Sallie Virginia (1837–96), Augusta, GA.

Burwell, Frances “Fanny” Armistead (1838–56). Hillsborough, NC. Studied to teach music at her parents’ school. Died onboard a steamer returning from lessons in Brooklyn, NY.

Calvé [Boudousquié], Julia Rose (1815–98), New Orleans, LA. Born in Rennes, France, prominent music teacher and performer in New Orleans. At one point, taught with Gustave Collignon. Sang at Théâtre d’Orléans.

Campbell, Virginia Tabitha Jane [Shelton] (1828–67), Murfreesboro, TN. Virginia’s uncle served as governor of Virginia, and her brother became the Whig governor of Tennessee.


Carrière [Potier], Emilia Josephine Carrière (1842, Beaumont-du-Perigord, Dordogne, Aquitaine, France-1893, New Orleans, buried Saint Louis #2), New Orleans, LA. Daughter of very wealthy merchant, Antoine Carrière and Emma Marie de Cruzel (daughter of a Marquis). Married Louis B. Pothier (1827–70) in 1863. Lived at 819 Bourbon St., 1870s. She is not daughter b. 1861 of Leopold Carrière, Professor of Music (French) and Victoire/Victoria Jeromine Billings (Cuba) in New Orleans 1870 census.

https://www.hnoc.org/vcs/result-handlers/name2lots.php?party=19201
https://www.hnoc.org/vcs/property_info.php?lot=18795

Clark, Adelaide “Ada” or “Addie” Francis (1830–60), Nashville, TN. Born to lawyer James Payne Clark and Susan Hunt McCorry, educated at the “Female College.” Married William A. Gleaves in 1851.
Collignon, François Michel Gustave (1818, Rennes, France–1879, New Orleans), New Orleans, LA. Conductor, performer, and teacher. Collignon dedicated his “La Pervenche Valse” (op. 16) to Amantine Soulé (a copy survives in Emily Cox’s binder’s volume). An announcement in the Daily Picayune, 12 September 1866 (p. 5) claims that for fifteen years Collignon had been in charge of the music department at the Young Ladies’ Institute (a day and boarding school on Carondolet St. run by Miss S. S. Hull). He taught alongside Mme. Boudousquie.

Copp [Wilbur], Mary Eunice (1833–1910), Savannah, GA. Her father was a moderately successful Yankee merchant.

Coulon [Callioux], Louise Félicie, (ca. 1818–74), New Orleans, LA. Born enslaved, free Creole of color in 1847, when she married Andre (one of first Black officers in Union Army to be killed in combat at Port Hudson). She operated the Catholic Institution for Indigent Orphans (Institute Catholique) in 1847, a school for Black children in New Orleans. Her mother, Feliciana Coulon, was enslaved to Valentin Encalada.

Cox, Minnie Estel (1865–1949), Virginia. Daughter of a railroad watchman and a student at the Episcopal Female Institute in Winchester from at least 1878 to 1880. She married a mechanic (Lawrence Sagle) who also worked on the railroads.


Cunningham [Postell], Sarah (b. ca. 1820), Savannah, GA.

Curtis [Williams], Emma W. (1820–81). Born in Vermont. Music instructor from Troy Female Seminary who moved to Louisburg, NC, to teach. She married a local planter.


Delhonde [Augustin], Marie Delphine (1850–1920), New Orleans, LA. Dedicatee of Barès’s “Delphine Valse Brillante.”

Delille, Henriette (1813–62), New Orleans, LA. Founded Sisters of the Holy Family, a Roman Catholic order for free women of color.

Desrayaux, Madame K. W. Ran at least two schools in New Orleans. Hired Julia Calvé Boudousquie and Eugène Prévost.


Dickinson. This family descends from Colonel Hardy Murfree, the namesake of both Murfreesboro, NC, and the city by the same name in Rutherford County, TN. The Murfree family built Grantlands Plantation in Rutherford County in the early 1800s, and it passed to Fanny Priscilla Dickinson Murfree in 1848. Upon her death in 1902, it passed to her two daughters, the aforementioned Fanny Noailles Dickinson Murfree and her sister Mary Noailles Murfree (1850–1922). Mary was a writer who published under the name Charles Edbert Craddock. Neither of the women in this generation married. Mary suffered partial paralysis as a child, and Fanny looked after her. Fanny Noailles Murfree Dickinson had another daughter, Martha Elizabeth Dickinson Galloway (1823–50), who owned Volumes 86 and 87 at one point, albeit briefly.

Dickson, Amanda America (1849–93), Sparta, GA. Daughter of white planter David Dickson and Julia Frances Lewis Dickson, a Black enslaved woman. She became the richest Black woman in Georgia.
Dillon [Kowalewski Poetz], Maria(h) Henrietta (ca. 1811, Dublin–1897, Mobile). Organist, pianist, music professor, directress. Worked in Dublin, Pensacola, and Mobile.

Doby [Brown], English Sallie (1852–1921), South Carolina. Student at South Carolina Female Collegiate Institute at Barhamville.

Drayton [Ford], Rose Butler (1806–1886), Charleston, SC.

Duhart, Mercedes. Taught music at the Catholic Institution, New Orleans, 1852. Mercedes’s husband, Adolphe, worked at the same establishment as another prominent musician of color, Samuel Snaër.

Dumagene, Madame. Taught children of color in New Orleans, 1853. A Dumagene enlisted in the 3rd Regiment (Garde Française), European Brigade Militia in 1865. Other musically connected names in this Militia include Benoir, Carriere, Lambert, and Prevost.

Eggleston [Roach], Mahala Perkins Harding (1825–1905), Vicksburg, MS. Grew up on Learmont Plantation. Her mother was captured and imprisoned as a Confederate spy.


Frey, Coralie (nee Daunoy) (1807–95), New Orleans, LA. Descendent of General Charles Favre D’Aunoy. Husband Frederick born in Bremen (m. 1827), died in New Orleans in 1851.


Gardner [Smith Thomason], Nora Lee (1845/1849–1924), Weakley Co., TN.

Gayle [Gorgas], Amelia Haynsworth (1826–1913), Greensboro, AL. University of Alabama Library is named for her.

George, Signor G. “Professor of Instrumental & Vocal Music & Teacher of the Piano-Forte & Guitar,” also composer and performer. Norfolk and Portsmouth, VA. Later taught and performed in Richmond.

Gist, Louisa (1830–1900), Rose Hill Plantation, SC.

Gnospelius, Gustavious A. Swedish organist, Christ Church, Savannah and music teacher. Arrived in US in 1856. After the war (in which he served) he returned to Savannah where he was heartily welcomed, per a notice in the SMJ 1, no. 2 (1871): 25. Married Mary J. Duer in Muscogee, GA in 1868.
Green [Cook], Anna Maria (1844–1936), Milledgeville, GA. Daughter of Thomas Fitzgerald Green, superintendent of Georgia Lunatic Asylum, and Adeline Eliza Anne Crowder. Diary of activities in Milledgeville during and shortly after the war.


Guiraud, Ernest (1838/1841?–83), New Orleans, LA. Pianist, composer, and teacher. Parents both studied at the Conservatoire in Paris and later worked in the Théâtre d’Orléans. In Paris, studied piano with Marmontel, composition with Halévy, and harmony with Barbereau. Also studied in Italy. Taught Marguerite Elie [Samuel].

Hammarskold, Miss H. E. Graduate of Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. Immigrated to US in 1861, taught in Charlotte.

Harwood [Skinner Leary], Eliza Fisk (1827–88), Williamsburg, VA, and Edenton, NC. Hayes [Acklen Franklin Cheatham], Adelicia (1817–87), Gallatin, TN. Married Isaac Franklin in 1839, and upon his death in 1846 she inherited Fairview Plantation (2,000 acres in Sumner County), as well as cotton plantations measure 8,700 acres in Louisiana, over 50,000 acres in Texas, more than 750 slaves, and other assets, with an estimated worth of over one million dollars. Remarried in 1849, to Joseph Acklen of Huntsville, with whom she built Belmont Mansion in Nashville (in 1853), now part of Belmont University. In 1859 the Acklens added the “Grand Salon” to Belmont, a room used for musical performances and other social events.

Hill [Smith], Rebecca Norfleet (1830–1915), Halifax (NC).

Hlasko, M. Baltimore. Dance instructor from Poland; worked in Vienna. Listed as proprietor of a gymnasium in Philadelphia, 1861.

Holt, Carrie (possibly b. ca. 1832, Carolina Bramley Eliza Henrietta Holt). Canadian music teacher who taught in the South, then Cuba, Peru, and San Francisco. She went south when her father died. An Edward Edwin Holt of Montreal died in 1856 and was buried at the Anglican Church where Carrie Holt studied music with the organist.


Hunt, Cherokee Mariah Lilly (1833–95), Sparta, GA. Daughter of Nathan Sayre (1795–1853), a white planter and judge, and Susan Hunt (ca. 1810–92), a free Black woman. Studied music at Sparta Female Model School. Lived at Pomegranate Hall, a large Greek revival home in Sparta.

Hunt [Merritt], Mary E., Jonesville, (eastern) NC. Married David Merritt in 1859.

Hunt, Susie (b. 1830), Sparta, GA. Daughter of Nathan Sayre (1795–1853), a white planter and judge, and Susan Hunt (ca. 1810–92), a free Black woman. Studied music at Sparta Female Model School. Lived at Pomegranate Hall, a large Greek revival home in Sparta.

Huske [Hines], Helen (1836–66), Fayetteville, NC. Mother was Anne Tillinghast.

Jenkins, Alice (1846–71), Rutherford County, TN. Planter’s daughter, married M. M. (H. H.? ) Kerr in 1866.

Johnson, Catherine (Katherine, Kate) (1842–1909), Natchez, MS. Free Black woman. Studied music, later taught.
Keckley, Elizabeth Hobbs (1818–1907), southern VA, Hillsborough, NC, Washington, DC. Daughter of a white planter and an enslaved (later free) woman of color. Author of *Behind the Scenes*. Seamstress for Mary Lincoln and others.
Lamon, Bessie (1852–86), West Baton Rouge Parish, LA. Daughter of a music teacher.
LaTaste, Julian. Born in Richmond, VA. Taught music there at least by 1820, in addition to places in North and South Carolina in later years. Advertised at one time that he was producing a music journal.
Lavillebeuvre, Suzanne Eugenie (1834–1912), New Orleans, LA. Music teacher at the St. Louis Institution on Dauphin and Hospital Streets. Composed “Reverie” in 1849. “Well known as standing at the head of the artists of Louisiana.”
Le Vert, Octavia Celestia Valentine Walton (1810–77). Born on Belle Vue plantation near Augusta, GA, moved with family to Pensacola in 1821. (Her father served as Florida’s first territorial secretary under Governor William Duval.) In 1832 she toured the United States and met Washington Irving, with whom she remained friends until his death in 1859. She recorded two trips to Europe in an extensive travel diary and series of letters that were published as a two-volume set in 1857 as *Souvenirs of Travel*. Lost her social standing during the war by entertaining Yankee officers at her home in Mobile.
Lewis [Clay], Mary Fenwick (1825–98), Huntsville, AL. Married John Withers Clay of prominent political family.
Lindsay [Trimble], Eliza Melvina (1819–93), Nashville, TN.
Lowndes [Aiken], Harriet (1812–1892), Charleston, SC. Daughter of planter, Thomas Lowndes. Wife of SC governor William Aiken Jr. Subject of *CBA*.
Lowndes, Mary Huger (1836–1915), Charleston, SC. Her father, Charles Tidyman Lowndes, was Harriet Lowndes’s brother. Married Edward Cottonet in 1848. Good friend of Emily Sinkler Wharton. Her sisters were Emma Huger Lowndes and Sabina Huger Lowndes.
Mallett, Carolyn “Carrie” Eliza (1842–1929), Fayetteville and Chapel Hill, NC. Physician’s daughter.
Mangum, Martha “Pattie” Person (1828–1902), Orange Co., NC.
Mangum, Sallie Alston (1824–96), Walnut Hall, Durham Co., NC. Student at Burwell School, Hillsborough, NC.
Martin, Thomas J. Black. Music teacher in New Orleans, LA. Published music between 1854 and 1860.
Mather, Mary (1847–1944), Acadia Parish, LA. Family moved to Texas during or after the Civil War.
McCord [Smythe], Louisa Rebecca (1845–1928), Columbia, SC. Daughter of author Louisa Cheves McCord. Subject of CBA.

McCrary [Miller], Lavinia (b. ca. 1820), LA and MS. Played piano. Aunt and godmother of Anna Johnson, whom she cared for in New Orleans.

McGavock, Mary Louise (1857–77), Nashville, TN. Louisa married Louis (sometimes “Lewis”) McWhirter in January 1877, but died in June. One report suggests that she was murdered, an unusual circumstance for women of her class. Not to be confused with Louisa Caroline McGavock (1798–1878), mother of Felix Grundy McGavock. Felix also had two sisters with “Louisa” in their names.

McGehee [Phifer], Isabella “Belle” Hunt (1849–1942), Milton, NC, and Danville, VA. Planter’s daughter who married music teacher Robert Phifer after the war.

McMorris [Grier], Nannie (1842–1908), Newberry, SC. Student at South Carolina Female Collegiate Institute at Barhamville.

Meerbach, Frederick (1814, Germany-ca. 1893, Baltimore, MD). Piano teacher. After moving from Salisbury, NC, to Charlottesville, he advertised music lessons on 1 April 1841. Attached to this advertisement are endorsements from professors at UVA, as well as William C. and Alexander Rives, Mann Page, John P. Hill, and Thomas W. Meriwether (Jeffersonian Republican, 17 June 1841). In addition to the private lessons accorded the girls mentioned here, Meerbach taught at a school near Keswick in Albemarle County during the 1843–44 session. Moved north in the late 1850s; wife divorced him for “criminality” in 1861, Boston (Boston Evening Transcript, 8 July 1861, p. 4).

Mercier [Soulé], Henriette Amantine (1811–59), New Orleans, LA. Salonnière, acquaintance of Henri Herz.

Moor [Inglis], Martha Sophia (1802–1843), Charleston, SC. Married successful barber Thomas Inglis, a member of the Brown Fellowship Society, in 1820.

Moore, Mary Frances (1841–96), possibly Acadia Plantation, LA.

Morehead, Mary Louisa (1830–62), Guilford Co., NC. Daughter of Governor John Morehead.

Morphy, Louise-Therese-Felicite-Thelcide (le Carpentier), known as “Thelcide Le Carpentier” or Mrs. [Thomas] Morphy (1808–85), New Orleans, LA. Daughter of Joseph Essau Le Carpentier and Modeste Blache; familiarly known in New Orleans as Telcide. Composed and performed as a singer, pianist, and harpist.


Niebieska, Aniela, aka “Mad’lle Angelique Gerard” (1827–89). European violinist who settled in SC. Niecieska married twice. Her first husband was J. P. Temple, a violinist/composer. When they performed together in Augusta (18 December 1850) they were recently married (Daily Chronicle & Sentinel [Augusta], 17 Dec. 1850, p. 3). She later married Thomas Coke Pinkind (1819–1858), who died and was buried in the Charleston yellow fever epidemic of 1858. He worked as the superintendent of the Colored School in Charleston. Her mother was Antoinette Giraud (sometimes “Gerard”). She later moved with their children to Pendleton, SC.
Oates, Alice Merritt (1849–87), Nashville, TN. Led at touring troupe (burlesque, later called opera) shortly after the Civil War.


Palmer [Loening, Grünewald], Lucie Inez (1842–1931), New Orleans, LA, and San Antonio, TX. Daughter of a physician and planter, although the census lists him only as a physician. Attended school at the Sacred Heart Convent and apparently spoke French better than English. Granddaughter, Olga Samaroff (a talented concert pianist in her own right who married Leopold Stokowski), claimed that Lucie performed a Beethoven concerto with orchestra at the French Opera House in New Orleans when she was fifteen (approximately 1857).


Patti, Carlo (1842, Madrid, Spain-1873, St. Louis, MO), Columbia, TN. Arrived in Columbia when his sister (Adelina) sang at Hammer Hall. Managed the “Opera House” (Hammer Hall) there and later fought in the Confederate Army. By this time Patti’s wife (Mary Euphemia “Effie” Gorman, whom he wed in 1859 when she was fourteen, her second marriage), a soubrette, had divorced him.

Person, Mary Temperance “Tempie” (1839–1921), Louisburg, NC. Daughter of Thomas A. Person, a successful planter in Franklin County, NC.

Petit [Barbot], Herminie (1842, Brussels, Belgium-1919, Charleston, SC). Belgian prodigy, she came to the attention of Thalberg and Marie Pleyel. Moved to Charleston, SC, and remained there in the early 1850s. Organist at the Catholic Cathedral and St. Mary’s Hasell St. Directed large-scale musical presentations in the latter half of the century.

Pfister, Armand (ca. 1800, Barbados, Bahamas-1855, Montgomery, AL). Pfister was one of the most famous musicians in Tuscaloosa and Montgomery during the nineteenth century. He composed “The Alabama State March” in Tuscaloosa in 1839, dedicating it to Governor Arthur P. Bagby. Born in the Bahamas, Pfister came to Alabama via Philadelphia and first served as instructor of music and French at Sims Female Academy—one of the original parts of the Tuscaloosa Female Academy. Also composed “Henry Clay’s Alabama March” in 1847 and dedicated it to Miss Sarah Frances Thornton (b. 1835) of Eutaw, AL.

Pillichody, Josephine Hutet (1834–1905), Albany, NY, and Mobile, AL. Had a career as something of a prodigy and accompanied Adeline Patti in a recital in New York at age twelve. In 1856 she married Charles Pillichody of Switzerland (modestly successful cotton merchant) and moved to Mobile the following year. In later years she served as organist at Jackson Street Presbyterian Church, seven years at St. Francis Street Methodist Church, and twelve years at the cathedral. The 1880 Census lists her as a music teacher. Her fame was such that she is the only composer mentioned by name in The
Potts [Hunt], Annie Louise (1841–1899), New Orleans, LA. Dedicatee of Barè's "La Coquette."

Potter [Stedman], Olivia (b. 1813), Fayetteville, NC. Mother of Mary Stedman. Taught music at Floral College in 1861. Another daughter also taught after the war.

Pratt, William. Music teacher in Alexandria, VA.

Prince, Martha Basiline Hillhouse (1855–1924), Bath, Richmond County, GA. Her mother was Sarah Maria M. Jackson Prince (1824–97), the wife of a prosperous planter and newspaper editor. Basiline was closely connected to the Lucy Cobb Institute.

Pugh, Penelope "Nellie" Ann (1829–1914), Windsor, NC. Married Lewis T. Bond in 1846; he also of Windsor. He was original owner of Liberty Hall, in Indian Woods, before moving to TN in 1867. Miss P. A. Pugh (Penelope Ann "Nellie") b. abt 1830–1914. Liberty Hall still stands.

Randolph, Mary Harrison (1819–1904), Chesapeake Bay in Mathews, VA.

Reponey, McDonald (b. ca. 1826), New Orleans, LA. Music teacher of color listed in 1850 US Census.

Rice, Sara Agnes [Pryor] (1830–1912), Charlottesville, VA. Piano student of Meerbach.

Riley [Barnwell], Frances "Fannie" Morgandollar (1834–72), Coosawhatchie, SC.

Rivarde, P. A. Music teacher of color listed in 1850 US Census. Published "Mandolina / Stars of the Summer Night" (1867) and "When Love Is Kind" (1869).

Romey, Octavie (1824, Paris, France-1880, Paris), New Orleans, LA. Composer, organist, and director in New Orleans. Taught piano at Mme. Desrayaux's school and conducted the women's choir Immaculate Conception Church and St. Louis Cathedral; directed monster concerts at Odd Fellows Hall (1866) and Grunewald Hall (1874). Published solo piano pieces, vocal works, and composed a mass that was performed at the Jesuit Church in New Orleans.

Ruhl, Bertha Scheidler (1838/9/40, Frankfurt-an-Mein, Germany-1899, Goodson, VA), New Orleans, LA, and Richmond, VA. Opera singer in Berlin who immigrated to New Orleans and then to Richmond in 1865. The 1880 US census has both Bertha and her daughter Nella (age nineteen) teaching music in Goodson, VA. Her husband Peter was a factory worker. She may have worked at William and Mary College in music.

Sanborn, Will Herbert (b. 1853). Graduated from Bowdoin College in 1877 (The Alpha Delta Phi, 273). Taught at St. Mary's, Raleigh, before traveling to Leipzig for music study.


Sanders, Sarah Ann (b. 1839), Charleston, SC, and Philadelphia, PA.

Sanders [Chew], Sarah Martha (1815–50), Charleston, SC. Enslaved Black woman owned by Richard Cogdell. She took music lessons with James Garcia while in Cogdell's household. Bore ten children by him.
Sands, Stephanie Lucy “Fannie” Durand (1827–1878), Mobile, AL. Widow (post-war) of James Sands, lived at the NW corner of Joachim and Government Streets (1866 and 1870 directory). The 1870 US census has her in the household of Louis Durand, age 42, Music Teacher. Performed with Maria Kowalewski.
Sheftall [Russell], Letherea Henrietta (1844–1923), Savannah, GA. Daughter of Jewish merchant. Married 1895.
Siegling [Schuman-LeClerq], Marie (Mary) Regina Siegling (1824, Charleston, SC-1920, Nice, France), Charleston, SC. Her father was Johann “John” Zacharias Siegling, who claimed to have studied harp with Nicolas Bochsa. He immigrated from Prussia to Charleston and later opened music stores in Charleston and Havana. Marie’s mother, Mary Schnierle, was an accomplished musician who studied at the Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Marie records in her Memoirs of a Dowager (1908) that her grandfather sent a Broadwood piano from London to Charleston for her mother’s debut. Mary Schnierle Siegling also studied the harp after her marriage, which is unusual because several authors write that women ceased playing music once they were married.
Sims [Cordes], Ann Beaufort (1839–1920), Columbia, SC. Student at South Carolina Female Collegiate Institute at Barhamville during the Civil War. Owned at least six binder’s volumes. Taught music after the war. Daughter of Eliza Rebecca McMillan and Col. James Thompson Sims.
Sloman, Ann Whitaker (1827–1915), Boston, MA, and Charleston, SC. Harpist, pianist, vocalist, composer, and music teacher. Taught with her sister, Elizabeth. Her compositions appeared in the Columbian Lady’s and Gentleman’s Magazine in the 1840s.
Sloman, Elizabeth Constantia (1826-after 1915), Boston, MA, and Charleston, SC. Harpist, pianist, vocalist, and music teacher in Boston, then Charleston, SC. Taught with her sister, Ann.
Smith [Hosea], Fanny Polk (1840–1923), Columbia, TN, and Cincinnati, OH. Professional singer and teacher. Daughter of Sarah Smith. She became a professional musician performing in Cincinnati and taught at the Athenaeum in Columbia. Published A Sonnet History of Music with Analytical Notes (1918).
Smith, Lizzie C. (1842–1915), Mecklenburg Co., NC
Smith [Alston], Marianne Porcher (1823–1900), Charleston, SC. Member of prominent Charleston family.
Smith [Williams], Marie “Selika” (ca. 1849–1937), Natchez, MS. Coloratura soprano, sang for Pres. Hayes at the White House. The National Republican, Nov. 14, 1878, announced a concert for the following evening at the First Congregational Church featuring “the wonderful COLORED PRIMA DONNA, from Sig. Blanchi’s Musical Conservatory” in San Francisco and formerly of Sig. Farini’s Opera College in Chicago.
Smith, Sarah Ann Davis (1811–72), Lynchburg, VA, and Columbia, TN. Influential music teacher in two schools.
Speight [Riddick], Cornelia Ann (1838–83), a student at Chowan Baptist Female Institute in 1853–54. She was the daughter of a Baptist minister (Henry Speight) worth $1000 in 1850. Speight married a farmer, David Elbert Riddick, in 1866 and remained in Gates County until her death.

Stedman, Mary (b. 1840) Fayetteville, NC. Daughter of Olivia, music teacher.


Strawinski, Bellini “Bella” (c. 1832), Columbia, SC. Daughter of Felix, music teacher.


Sully, Elizabeth Richardson (1775–1851), Richmond, VA. Early solo performer in Richmond, organist at the Monumental Church, accompanist for many performances in the city.


Tate, Minnie (1857–99), Nashville, TN. Contralto born to free black parents. Educated by her mother, Minnie. She was the youngest of the Fisk singers to make the trip to England. Her 1873 passport application gives her age as sixteen.

Thompson, Julia. (ca. 1818-ca. 1875). Family from Fairfax, VA; grew up in Williamsburg. Served as organist at Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg.

Thuer, John. Music teacher for Davis family, 1830s. In 1850 the Planter’s Banner described John Thuer as “Professor of Vocal and Instrumental Music, and lecturer on Elementary Principles and Science of the same” at the Thibodaux Female Institute (west of New Orleans). Also a composer.

Tillinghast, Emily Robinson (1847–1921), Fayetteville, NC.

Torriani, Angelo (1829–93), New York, NY, Columbus, GA, and Columbia, SC (among others). Extensive experience with opera in the United States. Born in Milan, he toured the United States in 1848 with Adelina Patti’s parents, working primarily as a conductor. Some reported that he taught the famous opera star himself. Among his accomplishments, Torriani conducted the US premiere of Verdi’s Aida in November 1873, and his obituary in the Chicago Tribune describes him as the “father of Italian opera in this country.” In a brief biography of Mme. [Aimee] Torriani, the author notes that her father, Angelo, was “for many years the chef d’orchestre with Maritzek, the old-time impresario.” Book Notes: A Monthly Literary Magazine and Review of New Books, 6 (1901): 555. An announcement in the Southeast Missourian (4 Dec. 1928) tells that Torriani was a director of the Metropolitan Opera Company “in the days of Patti and the DeReszkes” (p. 1, column 1). Partnered for a time with the conductor and impresario Max Maretzek, and he spent his final years in New York.

Tucker [Coleman], Cynthia Beverly (1831–1908), Williamsburg, VA.

Tureaud [Bringier], Melpoméné Stella Elizabeth (1834–1911), Houmas Plantation, Hermitage Plantation, Ascension Parish, LA. Wife of a sugar planter.

Ulmer, Margaret, Grove Hill, AL. Music student at Tuskegee Female Academy (1858).

Van Vleck, Louisa Cornelia (1826–1902), Salem, NC. Moravian musician, composer, and instructor at Greensborough Female College.


Verdier, Marian Halton (1796–1877), London-born; served as organist at St. Helena's Episcopal Church (Beaufort, SC) until she left in 1830.

Walker, Mary Louisa [White] (1843–1911), Wilmington, NC, moved frequently. Daughter of Reverend Hugh Andrew Crawford Walker and Sarah Elizabeth Matilda Wightman. Attended Spartanburg Female College in SC, and Mrs. Fevis' Science School in Shelbyville, KY. Played music at her father's church, Georgetown Methodist Church, after the war. Married in 1879, Marion, SC.

Whitaker, Harriet (1812–73), Raleigh and Wilmington, NC. Thaddeus S. Whitaker and Lucius composed “Carolina's Sons” and published it in Wilmington in 1861; the words were by “H.W.” who could have been Harriet, his mother. Thaddeus was born in 1844 and is listed as a bookseller, aged 17, in 1860. In 1857 he worked as a music seller in Wilmington, as noted on the front of “The Southern Musical Bouquet [sic] of Favorite Songs and Ballads, No. 7;” and in 1865, per the front page of “Dying Camille.” T. S. Whitaker, Professor of Music at the Goldsboro Female College (along with Miss Olivia Wright, Assistant) in 1857, was probably a relative. *The Southerner* (Tarboro, Edgecombe County), 3 Jan 1857. (Harriet’s son would have been thirteen in 1857.) Her younger brother, Lucius Whitaker, dedicated “The Randolph Gallopade” to Helen Huske, and it survives in manuscript, not print; in her binder’s volume there is another work by L. H. Whitaker, the “Virginia Waltz” dedicated to Miss Lucy M. Hawkins of Louisburg, NC. Helen Huske’s music is in UNC Old Series LV. Helen Huske was one of the choice young ladies listed by Mary Stedman. The 1850 US Census lists Lucius in Raleigh, a “Professor of Music,” and son of Wesley Whitaker of Rhode Island; 1860 has him in Goldsboro as “Teacher of Music”; by 1880 he is in Marion, AL.


Williams [Polk], Lucy Eugenia (1826–1906). Warrenton, NC, Washington, DC, and Columbia, TN.

Wingfield [Marshall], Margaret Susan “Sue” (1841–1905), Portsmouth, VA, moved to Elizabeth City upon her marriage.

Withers, Mary J. (1817–61), Huntsville, AL. Ward of Francis Levert (Octavia Walton Le Vert's brother-in-law) and niece of Ann Eliza Withers; married 1834. Levert’s sister was Susanna Claiborne Withers Clay, wife of Clement Comer Clay, governor of Alabama 1837–41, and mother of Senator (US and Confederate) Clement Claiborne Clay. The latter married Virginia Tunstall [Clay-Clopton], a prominent socialite in the Alabamian circle in pre-war Washington, DC. LeVert Family Papers, Susanna Claiborne Withers Clay, Box 1, SHC.
Wren, Ella (b. 1839), Richmond, VA. Popular performer on the Richmond stage during the Civil War. Married Charles W. Blair in 1862.

Notes

2. Her mother, Rozette Tfoutant (1770–1843), has “Brut” (a term used to designate someone from Africa) as her birthplace, but she was born in New Orleans. (Louisiana, State-wide Death Index, 1819–1964) Adrinette’s father was Francisco Brou (ca. 1765–1821), of Catalonia, Spain. Adrinette may have been in Barcelona visiting his family when she died. Rozette Toutant’s white father, Jacques “Santiago” Toutant Beauregard (1722–79) came to the US from Poitou, France, sometime before 1755.
7. “Death of Angelo Torriani,” Chicago Tribune, 28 August 1893. His son Ferdinando Torriani was one of Jeanette McDonald’s voice teachers.