

## FRIEND ANNE PRESTON



1813

➔ [Ann Preston](#) was born as a birthright [Quaker](#) in West Grove, Pennsylvania, the oldest daughter and 2d of nine children of Friend Amos Preston, a recorded minister of the West Grove Meeting, and Margaret Smith Preston. The family, which was intimate with Public Friend [Lucretia Mott](#), was abolitionist and supported the women's rights movement. Friend Ann would attend a Friends school in West Grove and later a Friends boarding school in West Chester.





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**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

**1847**

After her formal education, [Friend Ann Preston](#) had been needed at home due to the ill health of her mother, Margaret Smith Preston. After her six younger brothers had grown up, she decided to study female physiology and teach hygiene to local classes of women and girls. She enrolled as an apprentice in the office of Dr. Nathaniel R. Moseley. After two years of apprenticeship she applied to medical colleges but was turned down because of her gender. No American medical school had ever accepted a female student. Young women who wanted to involve themselves in medicine beyond the bathing of patients and the carrying around of bedpans needed to read medicine in the offices of family friends as she had done, but could have no expectation of ever acquiring the status of MD.<sup>1</sup>



**SEXISM**  
**FEMINISM**

1. In this year, however, it would later be learned, Geneva College in New York was making a one-time exception for Elizabeth Blackwell — who would become the first certified American woman medical doctor.



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June 16, Wednesday: Real misogyny as of 1847:

*Regard the society of women as a necessary unpleasantness of social life, and avoid it as much as possible.*

– [Lev Nikolavich Tolstoy](#), journal entry



*Men hate learned women.*

– Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "The Princess"

**1849**

[Friend Ann Preston](#) created a volume of rhymed tales for children, COUSIN ANN'S STORIES. After two years of apprenticeship in the office of Dr. Nathaniel R. Moseley, she applied to medical colleges, only to be turned down because of her gender.





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**1850**

October: Classes began at a new Female (later Woman's) Medical College of Pennsylvania at 227 Arch Street in Philadelphia that had been organized by [Friend](#) William Mullen and a group of Philadelphia businessmen. This was the very 1st such institution, not only in America but in the world. The first class was of 8 women enrolled for the degree of Doctor of Medicine,<sup>2</sup> 5 of them Quakers including Friend [Ann Preston](#), and another 32 who enrolled as "listeners." This first year the faculty was all male but in the following year Hannah Longshore, who had been tutored in medicine before her enrollment, would be listed as a faculty member, a demonstrator in anatomy.



**FEMINISM**

2. By the way, these women doctors would need to receive their diplomas while under police escort for their own safety.



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1851

The 2d National Woman's Rights Convention was held in Worcester, Massachusetts; celebrities new to the list of endorsers included educator Horace Mann, New-York Tribune columnist Elizabeth Oakes Smith, and the Reverend Harry Ward Beecher, one of the nation's most popular preachers. Public Friend [Lucretia Mott](#) presided. The [Westminster Review](#) published John Stuart Mill's article, "On the Enfranchisement of Women" (Mill would later acknowledge that the piece had been the work of his companion, Harriet Hardy Taylor). Myrtilla Minder opened the 1st school to train black women as teachers, in Washington DC.

Although, for the 1st year of its existence, the faculty of the new Female Medical College of Pennsylvania at 227 Arch Street in Philadelphia had been all male, at this point Hannah Longshore, who had been tutored in medicine before her enrollment, was selected as a demonstrator in anatomy and listed as a faculty member.

FEMINISM

July 5: At an anti-slavery celebration of the [Declaration of Independence](#), at Abington, Friend [Ann Preston](#)'s "The Fugitive Slave Bill" was sung. The first line of this was "We've woven now our crime of shame — no words our guilt may speak." This would be one of the pieces included in a broadside soon printed in Boston by Prentiss & Sawyer.



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**1853**

Florence Nightingale was appointed resident lady superintendent of a hospital for invalid women in Harley Street, London.



In Philadelphia, [Friend Ann Preston](#) was appointed as professor of hygiene and physiology of the Female (later



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Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.



**FEMINISM**

(Emeline Horton, who eventually would succeed Friend Ann as dean of Female Medical College in 1872 –and would be buried beside her– was in this year completing her undergraduate education at Oberlin College.)

On the occasion of the World's Fair in New-York, suffragists held a meeting in the Broadway Tabernacle. This would go down in history as "The Mob Convention," marred by "hissing, yelling, stamping, and all manner of unseemly interruptions."

**SEXISM**

The World's Temperance Convention was held, also in New-York. Women delegates, including the Reverend Antoinette Brown and [Friend](#) Susan B. Anthony, were not allowed to speak.

Antoinette Brown (later Blackwell) was the first US woman to be ordained as a minister in a Protestant denomination, serving two First Congregational Churches in New York.



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**1858**

Florence Nightingale's NOTES ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE HEALTH, EFFICIENCY AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY was published.

The medical society in Philadelphia banned women from the public teaching clinics. In her valedictory address to the graduating class of the Female (later Woman's) Medical College of Pennsylvania, [Friend Ann Preston](#) roundly condemned this prejudice:

No lordly Turk, smoking on his ottoman, could better depict the depravation which public manners would suffer, if Turkish women should openly walk, side by side with fathers, husbands, and brothers to the solemn Mosque, than some among us have portrayed the perversion our society must undergo if woman shares with man the office of Physician.

She organized, for Female Medical College, a board of "Lady Managers," and began to plan for the establishment of a Woman's Hospital. There was an appropriate site in the north section of Philadelphia, on North College Avenue facing the open fields of Girard College, for such an institution.







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**1862**

The Roman [Catholic](#) Sisters of Mercy moved their St. Aloysius orphanage in [Providence, Rhode Island](#) from their convent on Claverick Street into a newer building on Prairie Avenue.

In New-York, [Quakers](#) founded a Friends Employment Society to train young women to work in hospitals and other jobs.

With the beginning of civil war, for financial reasons the Female (later Woman's) Medical College of Pennsylvania was forced to discontinue its instruction. [Friend Ann Preston](#) was, however, able to open the doors of her new Woman's Hospital on North College Avenue in Philadelphia, and was able to raise enough money to send her colleague Dr. Emeline Horton Cleveland off to the Maternité hospital in Paris to study obstetrics — so that upon her return the new hospital could have a resident physician.



The federal Congress passed the Morrill Act which established land-grant colleges in rural areas: through such land-grant colleges, millions of women would be able to acquire low-cost degrees. The Homestead Act promised 160 acres of free land to anyone regardless of gender, who would live on it and improve it for five years: many single women would “prove up claims” under this act, especially teachers who would be able to work the land during the summer vacation.

In 1841, three women had already receive full baccalaureate degrees from Oberlin College, but Mary Hosford, Elizabeth Smith Prall, and Caroline Mary Rudd were white. In this year's graduating class at Oberlin College, Mary Jane Patterson became the 1st African-American woman to receive a full baccalaureate degree.



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**1863**

Dr. [Edward Jarvis](#) was appointed to inspect US military hospitals.

**1866**

In Philadelphia, [Friend Ann Preston](#) became dean of the Female (later Woman's) Medical College of Pennsylvania, the first woman to be granted such a responsibility.





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**1868**

Friend [Ann Preston](#) was allowed to begin to send her students of Female (later Woman's) Medical College of Pennsylvania, despite the fact that they were females, to teaching clinics at "Old Blockley," the Philadelphia General Hospital.





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Despite the fact that she was obviously not a white woman, the Board of Education of Detroit issued a teacher's certificate to [Mary Ann Shadd Cary](#). She purchased a house in Detroit.





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1869

In Philadelphia, although Friend [Ann Preston](#) was able to get permission for her female medical students of Female (later Woman's) Medical College of Pennsylvania to begin to attend teaching clinics at Pennsylvania Hospital, when her students arrived the enraged male students threw wads of paper, balls of tinfoil, and their tobacco quids, shouted insults, squirted tobacco juice on the women's dresses, and, as they were exiting the building, pelted them with pebbles.<sup>3</sup> The male faculty of the University of Pennsylvania and of Jefferson Medical College therefore summoned representatives of the medical staffs of all the hospitals in Philadelphia, and the assembly decided to discontinue "admixture of the sexes at clinical instruction in medicine and surgery." Friend Ann issued a press release:

Wherever it is proper to introduce women as patients, there also it is but just and in accordance with the instincts of truest womanhood for women to appear as physicians and students.

3. In their defense, I must point out that a majority of these male medical students were privileged, armed young white gentlemen from the South, visiting the North attended by personal slaves (they were equivalently as racist as they were sexist). As privileged, armed young white gentlemen freed from family constraints, they simply **didn't know any better** than to drink, to duel, and to behave with uncouth hostility toward all persons whom they considered to be their social inferiors.



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By this point Dr. [Preston](#) had begun to be debilitated by articular rheumatism, to the extent that she was no longer able to make house calls to her patients.



The territory of Wyoming was, during this year, the 1st to grant unrestricted suffrage to women. Arguments over the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution, however, had led to a split in the suffrage movement: while [Susan B. Anthony](#) and Elizabeth Cady Stanton formed a National Woman Suffrage Association which allowed only female membership and advocated for woman suffrage above all other issues, Lucy Stone formed an American Woman Suffrage Association which supported the 15th Amendment and invited males to participate.

**FEMINISM**



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**1872**

In Philadelphia, [Ann Preston](#) died, and was buried near [Lucretia Mott](#) and [James Mott](#) and other [Quaker](#) abolitionists at the Fair Hill burial ground.



She was succeeded at her post as dean of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania by her friend Dr. Emeline Horton Cleveland (who, eventually, would be laid to rest beside her).

**1878**

Emeline Horton Cleveland died –leaving her funds and her instruments to endow a scholarship at Woman's Hospital on North College Avenue in Philadelphia– and was as she had requested laid to rest alongside [Ann Preston](#) at the Fair Hill burial ground.<sup>4</sup>

4. Rather than be buried next to her husband, the Reverend Giles B. Cleveland. Don't go there looking: at a later point, these burials have been relocated.



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"  
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, upon someone's request we have pulled it out of the hat of a pirate that has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (depicted above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of data modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture. This is data mining. To respond to such a request for information, we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the program has obvious deficiencies and so we need to go back into the data modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and do a recompile of the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process which you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.  
Place your requests with <Kouroo@brown.edu>.  
Arrgh.