

G. Phoebe W. Palmer (1807-1874)



Phoebe W. Palmer

- i. Daughter of Henry Worrell (an immigrant from Yorkshire, England). Phoebe was born December 18, 1807 and died November 2, 1874.
- ii. Phoebe married Walter Clarke Palmer in 1827 and from that union came a daughter that shared her mother's name. This daughter would grow up to become a composer of music as well, her name, Phoebe Palmer Knapp.
- iii. Both Phoebe Palmer and Phoebe Knapp would write and compose the well-beloved song, *The Cleansing Wave*.
- iv. We must mention that Phoebe Palmer while an American Methodist would go on to join in the Holiness movement and is reported have also been "Evangelist" herself.
  1. Phoebe and her sister began women's prayer meetings each Tuesday afternoon—which, six years later, would include a male philosophy professor. Eventually, word of these successful prayer meetings inspired similar gatherings around the country, bringing Christians of many denominations together to pray. Phoebe soon found herself in the limelight—the most influential woman in the largest, fastest-growing religious group in America. At her instigation, missions began, camp meetings evangelized, and an estimated 25,000 Americans converted.
  2. She herself would often preach, "Earnest prayers, long fasting, and burning tears may seem befitting, but cannot move the heart of infinite love to a greater willingness to save. God's time is now. The question is not, What have I been? or What do I expect to be? But, Am I now

trusting in Jesus to save to the uttermost? If so, I am now saved from all sin."<sup>23</sup>

3. Her Hymns and Songs
  - a. The Cleansing Wave – #318 in PHSS
  - b. Blessed Bible! How I Love It!
  - c. Jesus Comes

### H. Samuel Francis Smith (1808-1895)



Samuel F. Smith

- i. His Life
  1. Samuel Francis Smith was born in Boston, October 21, 1808. In 1825, he entered Harvard College, where he was a classmate of Oliver Wendell Holmes. Having completed his collegiate studies with the class of 1829, he entered upon a course of theological study at Andover Theological Seminary, and was graduated in 1832.
  2. In 1834 he received a call to pastor the Baptist Church in Waterville, ME, he was ordained February 12, 1834, and for eight years he was the beloved pastor of this people. It was during this time that he was also professor of modern languages in Waterville College, now Colby University. In 1842, he received a call to become the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Newton, MA. In

---

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/moversandshakers/phoebe-palmer.html>

1854, he resigned his position as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Newton in order to devote his time as the editor of the publications of the American Baptist Missionary Union, and to other literary work.<sup>24</sup>

3. The secular world best remembers Mr. Smith as the author of *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, however, Samuel Smith contributed over 150 more works to music,<sup>25</sup> among these include; *Auspicious Morning, Hail!*; *Planted In Christ*; *The Living Vine*; and *The Morning Light is Breaking*, to name a few.

ii. His Hymns and Songs

1. The Story Behind the Song

- a. *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* was written while Mr. Smith was a student at Andover, Mr. William C. Woodbridge returned from Germany with a large number of German hymnbooks, with music, which he put into the hands of Lowell Mason. Mr. Mason brought them to Mr. Smith, saying, "You can read these books, but I cannot tell what is in them." The music of one of the hymns pleased Smith, and he dashed off the words of the song *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, without any expectation of it becoming a favourite to anyone. Much less a national hymn. He gave it to Lowell Mason, and it was first sung at a Fourth of July Sunday-school celebration in Park Street Church, in Boston, 1832.
- b. It soon became popular in children's celebrations, patriotic meetings, thanksgivings, and having come into general use in the US, it has traveled around the globe, and is everywhere known as the national hymn of the US.
- c. In May, 1887, Samuel F. Smith visited the Board of Trade in Chicago, and while sitting in the gallery he was pointed out to some of the members, and soon became the center of attention. All at once the trading on the floor ceased, and

---

<sup>24</sup> *Baptist Hymns Writers and Their Hymns*, by Henry S. Burrage, pgs. 329-334.

<sup>25</sup> [https://www.songhall.org/profile/Samuel\\_Francis\\_Smith](https://www.songhall.org/profile/Samuel_Francis_Smith)

from the floor came the familiar words *My Country, 'tis of Thee*. (*My Country, 'Tis of Thee* – #832 in PHSS)

2. Other Songs and Hymns
  - a. Auspicious Morning, Hail! – #834 in PHSS
  - b. Planted in Christ, The Living Vine – #878 in PHSS
  - c. Lord of Our Life, God Whom We Fear – #544 in PHSS
  
- I. William P. Balfern (1818-1887)
  - i. His Life
    1. William Poole Balfern was born in Hammersmith (near London), England, September 4, 1818. There is some discrepancy upon the date he entered the Baptist ministry, but it seems sometime between 1848 and 1855. His first pastorate was at Bow, near London. He remained here seven years, and then resigned on account of ill health.
    2. After two-years of rest, Balfern opened a chapel at Springvale, for the poor near his home. Some years later, and while thus engaged, he received an invitation from the church at Norlands Chapel, Notting-hill, in the same neighborhood. The church was burdened with a heavy debt, and was unable to pay for the support of a stated pastor. He accepted the invitation never the less, and entered upon the pastorate of the church, taking with him the church he had gathered. Here he labored for another two years, when, his health failed him again.
    3. For a change and rest he went to Brighton, and after a while he was called to the pastorate of the Sussex Street Baptist Church, then in a very low condition. There he labored for ten-years, when age and health compelled him to resign. He died at his home in Brighton, July 3, 1887.
    4. The London Baptist stated of William Balfern: “*He was singularly unselfish and loving in personal character, and his tone in writing was an index to the true spirituality of his mind.*”

5. Balfern used his pen to the glory of God in many prose and verse. Among them are "*Glimpses of Jesus, or Christ Exalted in the Affections of His People*"; "*Lessons from Jesus, or the Teachings of Divine Love*"; "*The Sheltering Blood, or Sinner's Refuge*", "*The Pathos of Life*"; "*The Beauty of the Great King, and other Poems for the Heart and Home*", to name a few.
  - a. Preface from "*The Beauty of the Great King*":



## PREFACE.

---

**M**OST of these poems were written when the writer was laid aside from preaching the gospel by ill health: under such circumstances, it was a solace to him to take down his harp from the willows and try to ring out a few notes of praise to HIM, who, although He may afflict His servants for a time, never forsakes them; and the result of these musings, which run through a number of years, is the volume now presented to the reader.

The author's hope is, that the Great Master, who deigns to bless all the efforts He inspires, however feeble, will own these rhymes to further the progress of His gospel, and the refreshment of His people.



ii. His Songs and Hymns

1. One Priest I Have, I Want No More – #303 in PHSS
2. Built on Him His Church Shall Stand – #788 in PHSS

J. Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)



i. Her Life

1. One of the most prolific hymnists in history, Frances Jane Crosby was born to John and Mercy Crosby, March 24, 1820, in Southeast, Putname County, NY. She was born with sight, however, she lost it after a doctor mistreated an illness in her eyes while an infant, thus causing her to go blind.
2. At the age of 8 she moved with her parents to Ridgefield, CT, the family remaining there for 4 years. At the age of 15 she entered the NY Institution for the Blind, where she received a good education. She became a teacher of the school in 1847 and continued in that position until March 1, 1858. She taught English grammar, rhetoric and American History. While at the school she met President Van Buren and President Tyler, Honorable Henry Clay, Gov. William Seward, General Winfield Scott, and many other distinguished guests. In reference to government, it was

Fanny Crosby who had the honor to be the first woman to speak in front of the Senate at Washington DC. <sup>26</sup>

3. On her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday she received a letter from President Grover Cleveland:

*My dear friend:*

*It is more than fifty years ago that our acquaintance and friendship began; and ever since that time I have watched your continuous and interested labor in uplifting humanity, and pointing out the way to an appreciation of God's goodness and mercy.*

*Though your labors have, I know, brought you abundant rewards in your consciousness of good accomplished, those who have known of your works and sympathized with your noble purposes owe it to themselves that you are apprized of their remembrance of these things. I am, therefore, exceedingly gratified to learn that your eighty-fifth birthday is to be celebrated with a demonstration of this remembrance. As one proud to call you an old friend, I desire to be early in congratulating you on your long life of usefulness, and wishing you in the years yet to be added to you, the peace and comfort born of the love of God.*

*Yours very sincerely,  
Grover Cleveland*

4. This was a great time of development, her time at the NY Institution for the Blind, during the vacations of 1852 and 1853, Fanny spent her time at North Reading, MA. While there she wrote the words to many songs for George F. Root, then the teacher of music at the Institution. Among them were, "Hazel Dell," "The Honeysuckle Glen," "Rosalie, the Prairie Flower,"

---

<sup>26</sup> [https://hymnary.org/person/Crosby\\_Fanny](https://hymnary.org/person/Crosby_Fanny)

"Music in the Air," "Proud World, Good-bye, I'm Going Home," "All Together", "Never Forget the Dear Ones," and others.

Subsequently she wrote the words for the cantatas of *The Flower Queen* and *The Pilgrim Fathers*, all of which were very popular in their day, though it was not generally known at the time that she was the author.

5. She also published four volumes of verses, the first was issued in 1844 and was entitled *The Blind Girl, and Other Poems*, a second volume, *Monterey, and Other Poems*, followed in 1849, and the third, *A Wreath of Columbia's Flowers*, in 1858. The fourth, *Bells at Evening and Other Verses*, with a biographical sketch by Rev. Robert Lowry, and a fine half-tone portrait, in 1897, the sales of which had reached a fourth edition. The book was published by The Biglow & Main Co., New York.
6. Though all of the above show the very poetical bent of her mind, they have little to do with her world-wide fame as a hymn and song writer, of which she is the most well-known.
7. Fanny Crosby began writing Sunday-school hymns for William B. Bradbury in 1864. Her first hymn, *We are going, we are going, to a home beyond the skies*, was written at the Ponton Hotel in Franklin Street, in NYC, NY on February 5<sup>th</sup> 1864.
8. Estimates of just how many hymns and songs she wrote number between 2000 to as high as 8000. Truly Fanny Crosby was one of the most prolific hymnists in history. It is stated that more than 100 million copies have been printed containing her songs and hymns. She has been called the "Queen of Gospel Song Writers", and the "Mother of modern congregational singing in America".
9. Some of Crosby's best-known songs include "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour", "Blessed Assurance", "Jesus is Tenderly Calling You Home", "Praise Him, Praise Him", "Rescue the Perishing", and "To God Be the Glory".
10. Some publishers hesitated to include so many of her songs in one publication, therefore, it was not unusual for Crosby to use a pseudonym. It is estimated that she used as many as 200 different ones during her career.



- a. Some examples include:
- i) Mrs. Van A.
  - ii) Fannie Van Alstyne
  - iii) Viola
  - iv) H. Brown Walker
  - v) Mrs. C. M. Wilson
  - vi) Frances Hope
  - vii) Myra Judson
  - viii) D. H. W.
  - ix) Ella Douglas
  - x) Bertha Mason
  - xi) Florence Booth
  - xii) Robert Shaw
  - xiii) Ida Scott Taylor
- b. Examples from PHSS
- i) God of Our Strength – #19 (*Frances Jane Van Alstyne*)
  - ii) Oh, Wonderful Word! – # 188 in PHSS (*J. L. Sterling*)
  - iii) O, What a Saviour – # 358 in PHSS (*J. L. Sterling*)
  - iv) Blessed Rock – # 462 in PHSS (*Grace J. Frances*)
  - v) Victory Through Grace – # 928 in PHSS (*Sallie Martin*)
  - vi) Meet Me There – # 974 in PHSS (*Henrietta E. Blair*)

- ii. Her Hymns and Songs
  - 1. To God Be the Glory – # 18 in PHSS
  - 2. God of Our Strength – # 19 in PHSS
  - 3. Break Forth, O Joyful Heart – # 46 in PHSS
  - 4. Praise Him, Praise Him – # 59 in PHSS
  - 5. Be Thou Exalted – # 69 in PHSS
  - 6. All Glory Be Thine – # 76 in PHSS
  - 7. Give Me Jesus – # 151 in PHSS
  - 8. Oh, Wonderful Word! – # 188 in PHSS
  - 9. Christ is Risen! – # 275 in PHSS
  - 10. Jesus is Calling – # 344 in PHSS
  - 11. O, What a Saviour – # 358 in PHSS
  - 12. Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour – # 379 in PHSS
  - 13. Unsearchable Riches – # 384 in PHSS
  - 14. He Feedeth His Flock – # 407 in PHSS
  - 15. Blessed Assurance – # 422 in PHSS
  - 16. He Saves Me Through and Through – # 442 in PHSS
  - 17. Redeemed – # 455 in PHSS
  - 18. Blessed Rock – # 462 in PHSS
  - 19. Able to Deliver – # 470 in PHSS
  - 20. Hide Me – # 476 in PHSS
  - 21. Hide Thou Me – # 485 in PHSS
  - 22. He Hideth My Soul – # 486 in PHSS
  - 23. Safe in the Arms of Jesus – # 511 in PHSS
  - 24. 'Twill Not Be Long – # 524 in PHSS
  - 25. Close to Thee – # 552 in PHSS

26. Blessed Redeemer – # 560 in PHSS
27. Draw Me Nearer – # 573 in PHSS
28. Tell Me the Story of Jesus – # 583 in PHSS
29. I Live but in Thee – # 595 in PHSS
30. Near the Cross – # 599 in PHSS
31. Never Be Afraid – # 601 in PHSS
32. Rescue the Perishing – # 617 in PHSS
33. All the Way My Saviour Leads Me – # 623 in PHSS
34. From the Cross to the Crown – # 662 in PHSS
35. For Jesus' Sake – # 686 in PHSS
36. To the Work! – # 691 in PHSS
37. 'Tis the Blessed Hour of Prayer – # 712 in PHSS
38. Bless This Hour of Prayer – # 714 in PHSS
39. Awake! For the Trumpet Is Sounding – # 732 in PHSS
40. Victory Through Grace – # 928 in PHSS
41. My Saviour First of All – # 953 in PHSS
42. Saved by Grace – # 958 in PHSS
43. Blessed Homeland – # 964 in PHSS
44. Meet Me There – # 974 in PHSS