

A Move to Georgia after the Civil War

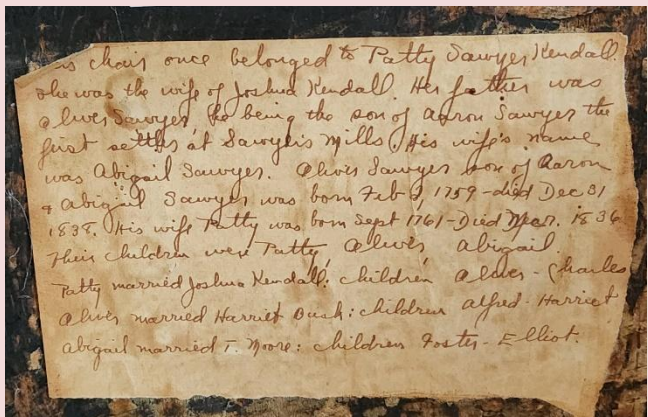
by Nancy Ann Filgate, Nadine Ekstrom, Victoria Triolo,
Patricia Kelleher Bartram, & Nathan Rollins

Angie Elizabeth Kendall, the third of five daughters born to Robert Newell Kendall and Henrietta Parker Lapham, was born 24 May 1872 at Ayer, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.¹ Her father, Robert, was a carpenter who had been born in Sawyer Mills, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts and her mother Henrietta, was born in Lowell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.^{2,3} Although born in Ayer, Angie was a direct descendent of both Aaron Sawyer and Caleb Kendall of Boylston. Her ancestor Aaron Sawyer had operated the first saw and grist mill in the Sawyer's Mill area of Boylston. And her paternal ancestor Caleb Kendall, a sergeant in the Continental Army, was the Keeper of the Keys for the Second Meeting House of Boylston.⁴ The Meeting House served not only as place for worship, but was the focal point for town residents and governmental issues in most New England towns of the 18th century.

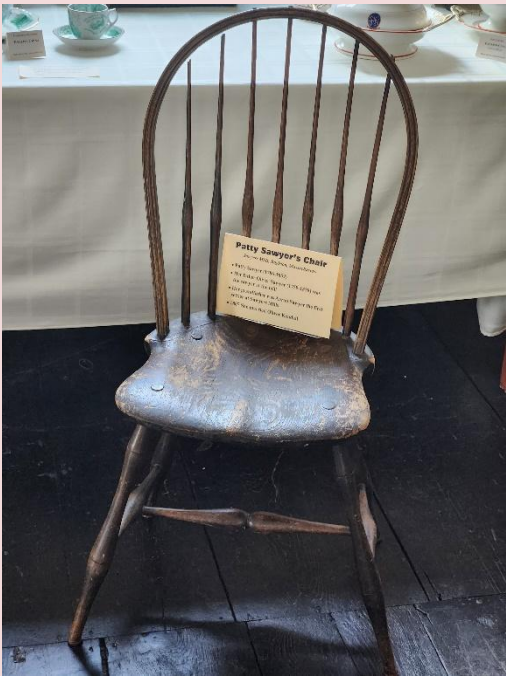


ANGIE ELIZABETH KENDALL
(1872-1953)

At the time of Angie's birth, her parents and siblings had relocated to Ayer, but often visited the family that remained in Boylston.⁵ Her sisters: Amy, born 1868, Althea, born 1870, Eva, born 1874 and Etta, born 1876 were all born in the same area although the records reflect Groton, Groton Junction, and Ayer, since the area was incorporated as Ayer on 14 February 1871.^{6,7,8}



FADED HANDWRITTEN NOTE ON BOTTOM OF THE SAWYER-KENDALL CHAIR
Boylston Historical Society Museum



CHAIR OF PATTY SAWYER KENDALL
GREAT GRANDMOTHER OF ANGIE KENDALL
Boylston Historical Society Museum Display

Military Service of Father

Her father, Robert N. Kendall, had served from Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts during the Civil War, as a private of Company A, 15th Regiment Massachusetts Infantry. He had been discharged for disability on 29 October 1862 after having been accidentally shot through the right hand near Yorktown on the 23 April 1862. Yorktown was part of a planned large-scale Union operation, fought from 5 April 1862 to 4 May 1862.⁹ The Union had planned a massive bombardment, but the Confederate army slipped away the night before the attack.

The Shoo-Fly Train to Worcester

Upon his return home, Robert N. Kendall married Fanny Jane Fay a dressmaker on 12 June 1865; however, she died 13 June 1866 from consumption just one short year after their marriage and was

¹ Birth Records, Ayer, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1872, digital image, ancestry.com

² Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1836

³ Reminiscences, Angie Elizabeth Kendall, 1941

⁴ Boylston Historical Series, Filgate, Chapter VII, 2012

⁵ Reminiscences, Angie Elizabeth Kendall, 1941

⁶ Birth Records, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1868 and 1870, digital images, ancestry.com

⁷ Birth Records, Ayer, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1872, 1874, and 1878, digital images, ancestry.com

⁸ Ayer, Massachusetts, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayer,_Massachusetts

⁹ Civil War Muster Roll, Robert N. Kendall, digital image, fold3.com

interred in Mount Vernon Cemetery in West Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.^{10,11,12} On 7 July 1867 Robert Kendall, married his second wife, Henrietta P. Lapham at Groton Junction, Massachusetts. Henrietta, more commonly known as “Etta,” was the daughter of William B. Lapham and Elizabeth Creasy Brown.¹³ About 1870, Angie’s father, Robert worked for the Ames Plow Shop which moved to Worcester, so he took the train known as the Shoo-Fly early in the morning and returned late at night. He eventually changed jobs to work at an Organ Manufacturing Shop in Worcester and worked there until a group of men started a cabinet shop in Ayer.¹⁴

Tragedy continued to befall this family when in 1876 Angie’s mother took ill with typhoid fever. Then again, she was taken ill just six weeks after the birth of Angie’s sister, Etta and recovery was not in her future. Eventually it was necessary on 3rd April 1880 for Angie’s father, Robert N. Kendall, and E.C. Willard, the chairman of the Selectmen of Ayer, to petition the probate court on behalf of her mother, Etta P. Kendall, who at the young age of only 33 years was deemed to be an insane person incapable of taking care of herself, to have Eugene A. Turner appointed guardian. Eugene was appointed guardian of Etta P. Kendall and Charles Brown of Ayer was appointed guardian for the minor children: Amy W, Althea F., Angie, Eva D and Etta L.¹⁵

Family Pulls Together

From the time Angie was four years old until she was sixteen years old, she would spend every summer with her grandmother Elizabeth Creasy Brown Lapham Flagg and grandfather Abel Flagg in Littleton, Massachusetts, an experience that she fondly remembered in her memoirs. Grandmother’s flower gardens and Grampa’s vegetable garden and the sleigh rides to attend church services were a wonderful part of her childhood.¹⁶

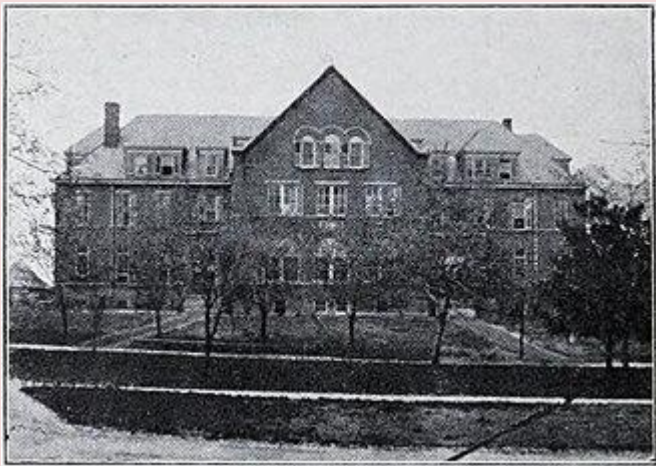
In 1880, Angie was not with her parents and siblings at their home in Ayer, but was attending school in Littleton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts where she was residing with Abel S. Flagg, a farmer, and his wife Elizabeth Brown Lapham Flagg, who was Angie’s maternal grandmother who had remarried in 1876.¹⁷ It was no doubt that the overburdened family of Robert Kendall kept his older children home to help with the young ones, as he was dealing with his wife’s illness.

While her mother was in the hospital, she and her siblings were scattered with various relatives. Amy and the baby Etta were sent to the Grandmother Flagg’s home; Althea and Eva went to their Uncle Nathan Lapham in South Chelmsford and Angie remained home with her father. While her father was at work, Mrs. Whitcomb, a cousin of her mother would care for Angie. So, he could bring his family back together, Angie’s father hired Annie Cash, a relative of Able Flagg’s, to care for Angie’s mother, Angie, and her siblings. Angie’s mother, at the age of 37 years, succumbed to tuberculosis on 25 August 1884 and was interred in Heart Pond Cemetery in South Chelmsford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.^{18,19} Her father, Robert N. Kendall died less than a decade later on 20 December 1892 at the age of 56 years at Ayer, Massachusetts and was interred in Chelmsford as well.²⁰

Angie and her sisters Amy and Eva continued to reside in Ayer, where Angie was employed as a confidential clerk.²¹ By 1905 Angie had been employed by the Chandler Company as a stenographer and bookkeeper. The company manufactured industrial hand-operated electrical sewing machines used in the garment trade. Angie completed a course at the Beacon Toilet Studio of Ayer and purchased a business in Clinton, Worcester County, Massachusetts where she was a chiropodist and manicurist.²²

Relocation to Georgia – “Culture Shock”

On 11 September 1906 Angie left Worcester and relocated to Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia where she was employed as a bookkeeper for the Spelman Seminary. The Seminary is America’s



**MORGAN HALL, SPELMAN SEMINARY
1901**
Photograph courtesy Wikipedia Commons

oldest private historically black liberal arts college for women and is today part of the Atlanta University Center academic consortium. The Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary was established in 1881 by Harriet E. Giles and Sophia B. Packard who had met in New Salem Academy in New Salem, Massachusetts. Giles and Packard travelled to Atlanta to found a school for black freedwomen where they received the support of Frank Quartes, the pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church. The school had started with students who were mostly illiterate, but the vision was to be a liberal arts institution. In 1884, John D.

¹⁰ Marriage Records, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts
¹¹ Death Records, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1865, digital image, ancestry.com
¹² Gravestone, Fannie Jane Kendall, Mount Vernon Cemetery, West Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts
¹³ Marriage Records, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1867, digital image, ancestry.com
¹⁴ Reminiscences, Angie Elizabeth Kendall, 1941
¹⁵ Probate Court Records No. 6128, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, digital image, ancestry.com
¹⁶ Reminiscences, Angie Elizabeth Kendall, 1941
¹⁷ United States Federal Census, Littleton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1880, digital image, ancestry.com
¹⁸ Death Records, Ayer, Middlesex County Massachusetts, 1884, digital image, ancestry.com
¹⁹ Gravestone, Henrietta Kendall, Heart Pond Cemetery, Ayer, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, findagrave.com
²⁰ Death Records, Ayer, Middlesex County, Massachusetts
²¹ United States Federal Census Records, Ayer, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1900, digital image, ancestry.com
²² The Fitchburg Sentinel, Fitchburg, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 24 April 1905

Rockefeller was so impressed with the school that he settled their debt on the property and the name was changed to Spelman Seminary in honor of his wife, Laura Spelman and her parents, who were longtime activists in the abolitionist movement.

When Angie arrived there, she describes it as having: ten brick buildings connected by walks and covered with English Ivy and surrounded by shrubs. The college was surrounded by two poor white districts, one poor black district and an Orphans’ Home for colored children just outside the Seminary grounds.²³

Spelman’s basic philosophy was to educate with the Bible first and foremost. Angie was very surprised at how different the Southern culture was from the North; finding the “poor whites” who had lost everything after the Civil War and the “poor coloreds” living around the Spelman College. When she arrived, there were riots with “colored” men attacking white women and other upheavals resulting in the teachers of Spelman, being placed under soldiers and police guard for their protection. At one point, the college even received a bomb threat. Angie notes in her diary that her first impressions of Atlanta were not overly favorable. She feared that it was not safe to be on the streets, especially after dark and said it was not wholly due to the riots, but it was very different in the South than the North. She tried to analyze the dreadful situation in Atlanta following the Civil War:

“The whites lost practically all they owned and the negroes were set free with not a thing, but what they had on their backs.”

She felt if the “Southern whites would take hold and educate and Christianize the colored people, the problem will be solved and not until then.” Angie states of the students:

“There is no sense of morality or immorality if they can but say that their father or grandfather was a white man, it makes no difference to them whether they know who he was or not.”²⁴

This lack of family values was a hard concept for Angie to understand, since she fondly remembered how hard her father had worked to keep her family together.

In the 1911 Spelman Messenger and in 1914 in the Annual Circular and Catalogue for the Spelman Seminary, Angie E. Kendall of Clinton, Massachusetts, was listed as the Treasurer of this University. By 1920, Angie’s niece, Pauline Wright, was a teacher there as well.

After 20 years with Spelman Seminary, Angie moved to Chesapeake, Elizabeth City, Virginia to clerk at the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. This university was a private historically black research university founded in 1868 by leaders of the American Missionary Association. In 1937, she was listed as the secretary to the director of the Institute. In her later years, Angie E. Kendall returned to Brookline, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, where at the age of 81 years, she died on 15 October 1953.²⁵ Angie Kendall was interred in the family plot in Heart Pond with her parents in South Chelmsford.²⁶



ANGIE E. KENDALL GRAVESTONE
Heart Pond Cemetery
Photography courtesy of Patrick A. Timlin

Stop by the Boylston Historical Society to visit the new Sawyers Mills Museum Display on Tuesdays or Saturdays from 9am-12pm.

²³ Diary of Angie Elizabeth Kendall, 1906-1907
²⁴ Diary of Angie Elizabeth Kendall, 1906-1907
²⁵ Death Notice of Angie Kendall, Kendall Family Newspaper clipping, October 1953
²⁶ Gravestone, Angie Kendall, Heart Pond Cemetery, South Chelmsford Middlesex County, Massachusetts
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