

Character Studies

The Cast of the Prescott Girls

Beckie Prescott

- Age: 9
- Height: 4'6"
- Build: Slender
- Hair: Dark, parted in the center, drawn back into a long braid
- Face/Expression: Bright-eyed, thoughtful, often serious
- Dress: Use attached image
- Shoes: Sturdy, scuffed, practical for dirt roads
- Accessories: None (no jewelry, no ribbons)
- Bearing: Composed, orderly, steady



Louisa Prescott

- **Age:** 6
- **Height:** 4'2"
- **Build:** Petite
- **Hair:** Light reddish-brown, parted in the center, worn in two short braids or tucked under a simple bonnet outdoors
- **Face/Expression:** Curious, lively spark in the eyes, often with a slight, knowing smile
- **Shoes:** Sturdy, practical
- **Accessories:** Simple bonnet when outdoors, no jewelry
- **Bearing:** Observant, energetic, quietly independent



Sallie Prescott

- **Age:** 5
- **Height:** 3'9"
- **Build:** Small
- **Hair:** Dark blond, parted in the center, worn in two short braids or sometimes loose under a simple cap/soft bonnet
- **Face/Expression:** Round face, cheerful, curious gaze, often smiling
- **Dress:** Plain ankle-length dress with long sleeves, high neckline, and gathered waist; sometimes with a small apron, slightly crooked or hastily tied
- **Shoes:** Sturdy, worn but serviceable
- **Accessories:** Simple cap or soft bonnet outdoors, no jewelry
- **Bearing:** Playful, energetic, innocent, eager to join in



Rebecca Johnson Prescott - Mother

- Age: 36
- Height: 5'6"
- Shoes: Based on dress
- Bearing: Upright, maternal, gentle dignity



REBECCA
JOHNSON
PRESCOTT

Uncle Thomas Johnson

- Age: Early 40s
- Height: 5'7"
- Build: Leaner than William, slightly stooped from years of reading and desk work
- Hair: Brown with early gray, combed neatly, somewhat thinner
- Face/Expression: Narrower face, thoughtful, often intent
- Dress: Modest 1830s attire — plain trousers, vest, long-sleeved shirt; dark coat for business or Sunday; less worn than William's clothes
- Shoes: Plain leather shoes, well kept
- Accessories: Writing quill or ledger when at work, no jewelry
- Bearing: Studious, orderly, deliberate in movement



Uncle William Johnson

- Age: Mid-40s
- Height: 5'8"
- Build: Solid, broad-shouldered, accustomed to farm work
- Hair: Dark, beginning to gray, worn short and parted neatly
- Face/Expression: Square jaw, weathered from outdoor labor, generally steady with a practical, no-nonsense look
- Dress: Plain, durable 1830s work clothing — dark trousers, homespun shirt, suspenders; coat for Sunday or visiting
- Shoes: Heavy leather boots, worn but sturdy
- Accessories: Wide-brimmed work hat when outdoors, no jewelry
- Bearing: Steady, dependable, with the stance of a working farmer



Hannah Pemberton - Friend (fictional)

- **Age:** 9
- **Height:** 4'7"
- **Build:** Tall for her age, slender
- **Hair:** Dark brown, parted in the center, worn in a single smooth braid or pinned under a finely made Quaker bonnet outdoors
- **Face/Expression:** Observant eyes, intelligent look, subtle knowing smile
- **Dress:** Plain but well-fitted 1830s ankle-length dress with high neckline and long sleeves, made of finer materials than rural styles
- **Shoes:** Polished boots, showing light wear from travel
- **Accessories:** Pale gray shawl with fine fringe, Quaker bonnet outdoors, satchel or small parcel when traveling
- **Bearing:** Upright, graceful, poised, city-bred confidence



Miss Ruth Emery (fictional)

- Age: 28
- Height: 5'4"
- Build: Slender, composed
- Hair: Light brown, parted in the center, coiled neatly into a low bun at the nape; sometimes covered by a modest linen cap, uncovered indoors
- Face/Expression: Straight, narrow nose; serious when teaching but softens in quiet moments; eyes convey intelligence and empathy
- Dress: 1830s ankle-length gown with long sleeves, fitted bodice, and high neckline; somber shades (slate, brown, olive) with a small white collar pinned in place
- Shoes: Plain, practical
- Accessories: Wire-rimmed spectacles for reading/instructing; lesson books or writing slate as props; modest linen cap when outdoors
- Bearing: Upright posture, deliberate movements, gentle authority



Miss Emery

Mrs. Abigail Weston - Teacher (fictional)

- **Age:** 57
- **Height:** 5'2"
- **Build:** Compact, modest
- **Hair:** Dark hair (graying), parted neatly and swept into a modest bun, covered by a close-fitting white cap with subtle lace trim
- **Face/Expression:** Round face, warm and kind, with soft lines and eyes that often crinkle with a gentle or knowing smile
- **Dress:** Dark ankle-length gown, long-sleeved with high neckline and fitted bodice, always buttoned; plain white apron tied at the back, fabric clean though slightly worn
- **Shoes:** Practical, scuffed at the toes from years of classroom use
- **Accessories:** White cap with lace trim, apron; occasionally books, slate, or stitching as props
- **Bearing:** Straight posture but not stiff, calm and attentive, gentle yet firm presence



Moses “Morse” - Weaver (fictional)

- Age: 63
- Height: 5'0"
- Build: Wiry, slightly stooped from years at the loom
- Hair: Shoulder-length gray hair, parted in the center, tucked behind ears; clean-shaven jaw
- Face/Expression: Weathered, kind eyes with crinkles, gentle and patient, often with quiet humor
- Dress: Plain 1830s attire — dark waistcoat and breeches, linen shirt, simple wool coat often dusted with lint; woven apron when working
- Shoes: Well-worn but cared-for boots
- Accessories: Small wire-rimmed spectacles (often low on the nose when working), loom, spools, skeins, or bundle of homespun cloth as props
- Bearing: Gentle, unhurried, humble, methodical



Mrs. Charity Price - Visitor (fictional)

- Age: 48
- Height: 5'5"
- Build: Poised, steady, with quiet strength
- Hair: Dark, neatly tucked beneath a linen cap or plain bonnet
- Face/Expression: Smooth features, deep-set clear eyes, kind and composed; calm expression showing gentleness and resolve
- Dress: Quaker simplicity — ankle-length muted-tone dress with long sleeves and high neckline, paired with a shawl or kerchief; often beneath a deep brown wool cloak to mid-calf
- Shoes: Worn but well-cared-for boots
- Accessories: Simple walking stick, small satchel with pamphlets or letters, steaming cup of tea when indoors
- Bearing: Deliberate pace, dignified, humble, radiating moral clarity and quiet courage
- Based on Sarah Mapps Douglass and Maria W. Stewart



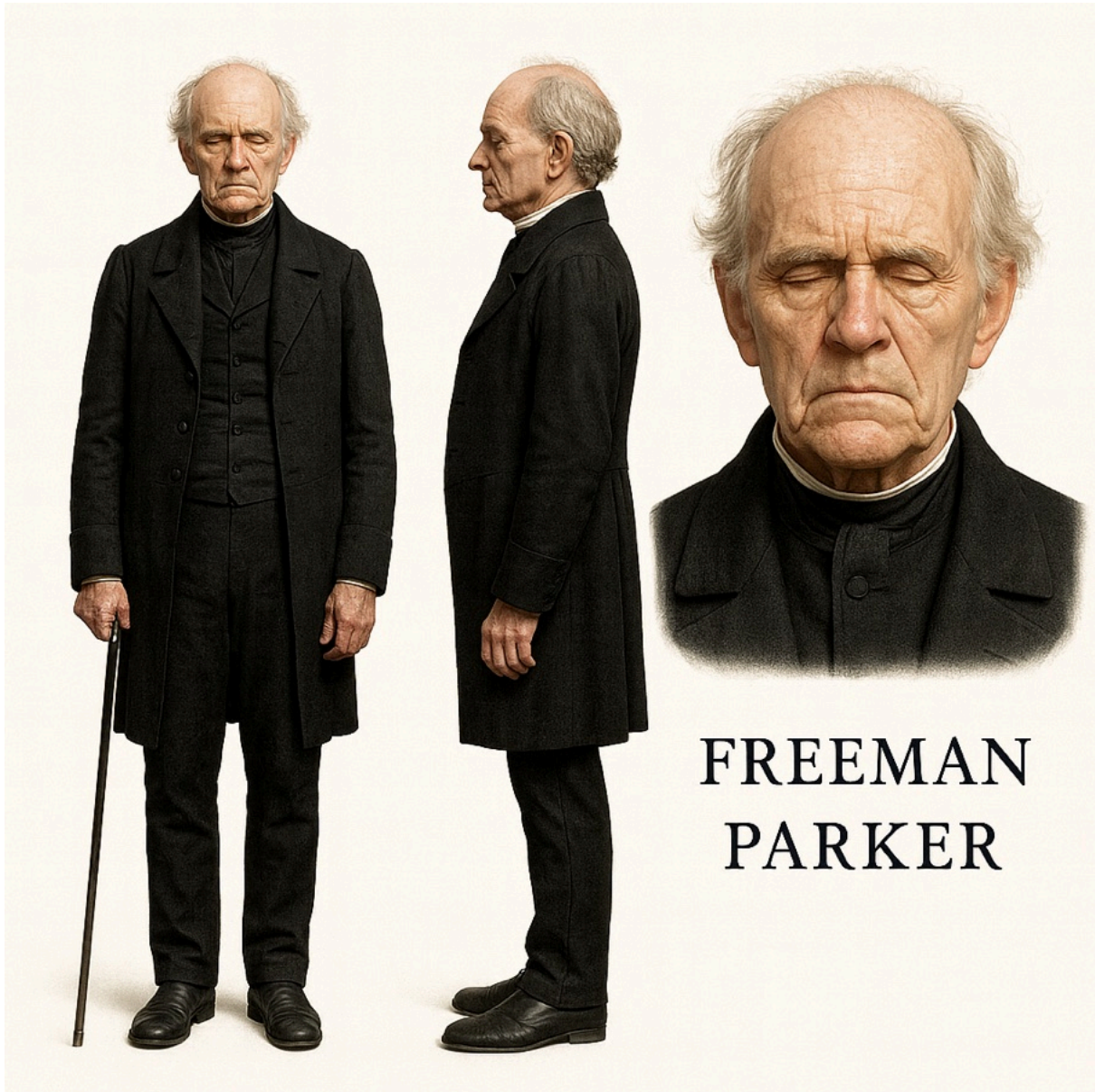
Mr. Dodge - Beekeeper (fictional)

- Age: 44
- Height: 5'8"
- Build: Solid, with a bit of a belly
- Hair: Short-cropped graying hair
- Face/Expression: Round face, full beard, ruddy cheeks, kind expressive eyes that crinkle when smiling
- Dress: Plain work clothes — well-worn vest over linen shirt (sleeves often rolled), sturdy trousers, scuffed boots; wide straw hat in warm weather
- Shoes: Sturdy, scuffed boots
- Accessories: Beekeeper's smoker, soft-bristled brush, wooden hive box; sometimes honeycomb in hand
- Bearing: Warm, approachable, patient and careful in movement, especially with animals and children



Reverend Freeman Parker (historical)

- Age: 58
- Height: 5'8"
- Blind
- Build: Thin, with a bit of a belly
- Hair: Graying hair, a bit wild
- Face/Expression: Long face, sunken cheeks, kind expressive eyes that crinkle when smiling
- Dress: All black, appropriate for a preacher in 1834
- Shoes: Black
- Bearing: Intimidating at first Scary to children
- He would be stern, moral, and Scripture-driven, but more patient and instructive than apocalyptic.



Captain Rowland Johnson

Captain Rowland Johnson is forty-nine years old and carries himself with the composed authority of a man long accustomed to responsibility. Years spent commanding vessels along the northeastern coast have shaped both his bearing and temperament. He moves with quiet purpose, never hurried, never hesitant, as though he is always aware of wind, tide, and distance—even when standing on solid ground. His posture is upright but relaxed, the stance of someone confident without needing to assert it.

His face remains youthful despite the weather and years at sea. A well-trimmed beard frames his features neatly, suggesting discipline rather than vanity. His eyes are steady and perceptive, with a dry, understated humor that surfaces at unexpected moments. There is something unmistakably reminiscent of Rex Harrison in *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*: refined, composed, faintly amused by the world, and entirely unruffled by minor chaos. He speaks thoughtfully, choosing words with care, and rarely raises his voice.

Rowland dresses as a professional sea captain rather than a romantic sailor. His clothing is well tailored and consistently neat—dark coats, clean shirts, properly fitted waistcoats, and sturdy but polished boots. Even ashore, his attire reflects habits formed aboard ship: order, readiness, and respectability. He values structure and competence, both in himself and others, and notices when tasks are done well.

Though often absent due to his voyages, Rowland is deeply connected to family. When present, he brings with him stories of ports and passages, tempered by discretion and good judgment. He is dependable, quietly generous, and instinctively protective of those under his care. Captain Rowland does not command attention when he enters a room, but it gathers around him nonetheless—steady, reassuring, and unmistakably grounded in experience.



Aunt Nancy Johnson

Aunt Nancy is a woman of quiet warmth and steady grace, the sort whose presence immediately puts a household at ease. Though accustomed to long separations from her husband during his coastal voyages, she carries no air of loneliness. Instead, she has the calm self-possession of someone who knows her own worth and place in the world, equally at home in the wide halls of the Old Court House or in a well-ordered city parlor.

She is neatly dressed without excess, favoring well-made gowns in subdued colors, fabrics chosen for quality rather than fashion. Her appearance is always tidy and composed, hair smoothly arranged, movements unhurried. There is nothing showy about her, yet people notice her all the same. Her expression is gentle, often brightened by an easy smile, and she has the attentive manner of someone who listens fully before she speaks.

Nancy is a natural hostess, widely liked and remembered with affection. She has a talent for making others feel welcome without fuss, whether caring for visiting nieces, hosting unexpected arrivals, or receiving family returning from long voyages. Her kindness is practical rather than sentimental, shown in small acts of thoughtfulness and steady companionship. In a family shaped by loss, travel, and separation, Aunt Nancy is a quiet constant—gracious, dependable, and deeply cherished by all who pass through her care.



Lydia Johnson (cousin)

Lydia is nine years old and at the thoughtful, observant age where childhood and young womanhood begin to overlap. She is slight but sturdy, with the kind of posture learned from being useful—standing straight without realizing it, hands often busy even when she is meant to be still. Her face is open and expressive, quick to register curiosity or concern, though she has learned the discipline of holding her tongue when elders are speaking.

She has a serious streak, but not a somber one. Lydia notices details others miss: how a cloth is folded, whether a button has come loose, the way light falls across a table near the window. She is careful in her work and takes pride in doing things properly, especially when trusted with responsibility. Praise matters to her, though she pretends it does not, and she remembers every compliment longer than she admits.

Lydia is quietly loyal and deeply attached to the people she serves and lives among. She listens more than she speaks, storing away stories, expressions, and bits of conversation, and she is perceptive enough to sense when someone is tired, worried, or in need of comfort. When she laughs, it comes unexpectedly and all at once, bright and unguarded. Lydia is not the loudest child in the room, but she is often the most reliable—the one who remembers, who finishes what she starts, and who grows steadily into someone others will depend on.



Instructions for creating a photorealistic character study

Start Fresh. Create a full-color photorealistic character study sheet with three and only three views: standing front, standing side profile, and a full expressive shoulder-up facial. The character should be depicted in historically accurate 1830s rural loose chemise and ankle length pantalettes. Include the character's full name and only their full name in period-appropriate serif lettering centered below the facial. Use a plain white background (RGB 255,255,255) with no additional props or scenery. Each pose should be evenly spaced and proportional. Facial features, hairstyle, clothing, and posture should be consistent across all views. The style should be clean and photorealistic, suitable for reference. Characters should have a happy, engaging expression.

Louisa Prescott Age: 6 Height: 4'2" Build: Petite Hair: Light reddish-brown, parted in the center, worn in two medium-length braids. Use the attached photograph of Louisa as an adult for reference for creating the younger version of herself. Make sure the Pantalettes are ankle length.

If the AI begins to balk, ask for a detailed version of the facial features from the photo and use these instead

Louisa: Face shape: Long, narrow oval with balanced proportions. Forehead: High, smooth, and broad. Eyebrows: Dark, straight, and fairly even in thickness. Eyes: Medium-sized, deep-set, almond-shaped, with a direct gaze. Nose: Straight, narrow bridge, with a refined tip. Mouth: Small to medium, thin lips, resting in a neutral expression. Chin/Jawline: Narrow, softly pointed chin with a delicate, refined jawline.

Applying wardrobe to a study:

Start Fresh. Apply this historically accurate 1830's wardrobe to the character study over the drawers keeping the facial features, age, and proportions exactly. Apply period shoes if necessary.. Ensure framing includes all figures from head to shoes. Style requirements: Photorealistic as if a modern color photograph had been taken in the 1830s. Background should be pure white RGB(255,255,255)

Her age is 36, height is 5'4"

Options:

a bonnet with a ribbon

Vertical portrait aspect ratio (3:4).

Create a historically accurate, but nondescript background to appear in.

A full length dress...

Start Fresh. Full Shot portrait of the character study. She wears the attached historically accurate 1830s dress. Hem requirement (strict): The dress must be truly floor-length. The hem must fall no higher than the visible ground plane. The hem should brush the ground. Shoes must remain fully hidden beneath the hem. Reject if hem appears 1/2 inch or more above the ground plane. Closures: Hidden at the back, none visible on the front. She also wears period-appropriate shoes and a bonnet with ribbon. Normal human proportions. Style: Photorealistic, as if a modern color photograph had been taken in the 1830s. Aspect ratio: Vertical 3:4. Background: Outdoor well lit, but nondescript.

Louisa Instructions

Start Fresh. Create a full-color photorealistic character study sheet with three and only three views: standing front, standing side profile, and a full expressive shoulder-up facial. The character must be depicted as a young child, clearly six years old, with the proportions, facial softness, and features appropriate to that age. She should wear historically accurate 1830s rural loose chemise and pantalettes that extend fully to just above the ankles, nearly touching the tops of her feet. Include the character's full name and only her full name in period-appropriate serif lettering centered below the facial. Use a plain white background (RGB 255,255,255) with no additional props or scenery. Each pose should be evenly spaced and proportional. Facial features, hairstyle, clothing, and posture must be consistent across all views. The style should be clean and photorealistic, suitable for reference. The character should have a happy, engaging expression. Details: Name: Louisa Prescott Age: 6 years old (make sure she looks her age, with childlike facial proportions, rounded cheeks, and smaller features) Height: 4'2" Build: Petite, childlike frame Hair: Light reddish-brown, parted in the center, worn in two medium-length braids Face shape: Long, narrow oval with balanced proportions, softened for a child's age Forehead: High, smooth, and broad Eyebrows: Dark, straight, and fairly even in thickness Eyes: Medium-sized, deep-set, almond-shaped, with a direct gaze Nose: Straight, narrow bridge, with a refined tip scaled to a child's face Mouth: Small to medium, thin lips, resting in a neutral expression Chin/Jawline: Narrow, softly pointed chin with a delicate, refined jawline appropriate for a six-year-old.

Rendering Prompt: Louisa Prescott

Start Fresh. Create a full-color photorealistic character study sheet with three and only three views: standing front, standing side profile, and a full expressive shoulder-up facial. The character must be depicted as a young child, clearly 6 years old, with the proportions, facial softness, and features appropriate to that age. She should have rounded cheeks, smaller childlike features, and a bright, engaging look.

She should wear historically accurate 1830s rural clothing: a loose white cotton chemise and ankle-length pantalettes that extend fully to just above the ankles, nearly brushing the tops of her feet. The garments should be plain and modest, in white or soft off-white tones, with minimal decoration.

Details:

- Name: Louisa Prescott
- Age: 6 years old (make sure she looks her age, with childlike proportions and features)
- Height: 4'2"
- Build: Petite, childlike frame
- Hair: Light reddish-brown, parted in the center, worn in two medium-length braids
- Face Shape: Long, narrow oval with balanced proportions softened to a child's age
- Forehead: High, smooth, and broad
- Eyebrows: Dark, straight, and fairly even in thickness
- Eyes: Medium-sized, almond-shaped, with a direct and engaging gaze
- Nose: Straight and delicate, with childlike proportions
- Mouth: Fuller lips with a gentle, neutral smile
- Expression: Happy, engaging, and curious

Use a plain white background (RGB 255,255,255) with no additional props or scenery. Each pose should be evenly spaced and proportional. Facial features, hairstyle, clothing, and posture must be consistent across all views. The style should be clean and photorealistic, suitable for reference.

Sallie Instructions

Start Fresh. Create a full-color photorealistic character study sheet with three and only three views: standing front, standing side profile, and a full expressive shoulder-up facial. The character must be depicted as a young child, clearly 5 years old, with the proportions, facial softness, and features appropriate to that age. She should have rounded cheeks, softened jawline, and smaller childlike features adapted from the attached reference photograph.

She should wear historically accurate 1830s rural clothing: a loose white cotton chemise and ankle-length pantalettes that extend fully to just above the ankles, nearly brushing the tops of her feet. The garments should be plain and modest, in white or soft off-white tones, with minimal decoration to reflect rural simplicity.

Details:

- Name: Sarah ("Sallie") Prescott
- Age: 5 years old (make sure she looks her age, with childlike proportions and features)
- Height: 3'9"
- Build: Petite, childlike frame
- Hair: Light brown/blonde, wispy (derived from the pale adult tones), parted in the center, styled simply pulled back with a ribbon as a rural child in the 1830s
- Face Shape: Long, narrow oval softened to childhood proportions with fuller cheeks
- Forehead: Smooth and broad, slightly smaller relative to the head
- Eyebrows: Straight, fairly even, lighter and softer
- Eyes: Medium-sized, almond-shaped, with youthful roundness and brightness
- Nose: Narrow bridge, shortened and softened for a child
- Mouth: Fuller lips with a neutral or slightly upturned expression
- Expression: Happy, engaging, and curious

Use a plain white background (RGB 255,255,255) with no additional props or scenery. Each pose should be evenly spaced and proportional. Facial features, hairstyle, clothing, and posture must be consistent across all views. The style should be clean and photorealistic, suitable for reference.

About This Research

The Prescott Girls Historical Research Series

Character Studies - The Cast of The Prescott Girls is part of an ongoing effort to document the people, artifacts, family connections, and historical discoveries that inspired *The Prescott Girls: A Letter from Philadelphia*.

For additional research articles, historical images, schoolgirl samplers, family records, and educational resources, visit:

www.theprescottgirls.com

Author

Aric Wilmunder

Author, researcher, and presenter

A Well-Regulated Press

Copyright © 2026 Aric Wilmunder. All rights reserved.

Text, images, and original historical interpretations contained in this publication may not be reproduced, distributed, or republished without permission, except for brief quotations used for review, educational, or scholarly purposes.