

Antoinette Brown Blackwell Scholarship 2025-2026

The Antoinette Brown Blackwell Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that this year there will be two scholarships of **\$2,000** to be awarded to two residents of the Rush-Henrietta School District. High school students, college or trade school students, and students returning to college are eligible to apply. Applicants must be planning to attend an institution of higher learning on a full or part – time basis.

This scholarship has been awarded annually since 1984 in memory of Antoinette Brown Blackwell, the first ordained woman minister in the United States. Born in a log home in Henrietta, she spent her childhood in a stone farmhouse on Pinnacle Road.

Attached you will find the details of the application procedure, including a brief biography of Antoinette Brown Blackwell. All applications must be received no later than

4 p.m. Monday, February 23, 2026

If you have any questions, please contact committee chair Anita Hawkins at ahawkins@frontier.com or by phone at 585-359-2897

**APPLICATION FOR
ANTOINETTE BROWN BLACKWELL SCHOLARSHIP**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please print:

NAME: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____
(Number and Street)

Post office box, if applicable: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____

CELL PHONE : _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL YOU CURRENTLY ATTEND:

WORK OR SCHOOL PHONE: _____

SCHOOL YOU PLAN TO ATTEND: _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PARENT/GUARDIAN (if applicable):

Please attach to this application form the following documentation:

1. A transcript of your high school or college record.
2. A detailed list of your school activities, including the month and year you participated.
3. A detailed list of your work experience, including the dates of employment.
4. A detailed list of volunteer community service or other charitable or volunteer activities, including the month and year of service.
5. List all awards or honors received, including the organization presenting the award and year the award was received.
6. Any additional information you would like the committee to know, i.e. hobbies.
7. An autobiographical statement of 250 words or more. Include any information that will aid the committee in evaluating your application, including information which demonstrates your leadership ability, personal goals, past accomplishments, and academic potential.
8. Three letters of recommendation.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Applicants must submit a total of three letters of recommendation.

1. If you are currently a student, one letter must be from a teacher from whom you have taken a class within the past year and should identify the course and state your accomplishments.
2. If you are not currently a student, one letter must be from a supervisor or teacher who has observed you in a leadership role.

The two additional letters must come from people not related to the applicant.

1. These letters must include the circumstances under which you are acquainted.
2. These letters may be from an employer, guidance counselor, minister, or other professional.

All letters of reference and recommendation must be written on letterhead stationery which includes the name, address and telephone number of the writer.

INTERVIEW PROCESS

1. After reviewing all applications, the committee chair will contact the selected individuals to schedule a personal interview with the Scholarship Committee.
2. During the interview, you may be asked about the life of Antoinette Brown Blackwell. A brief biography is included with this application.

APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, TRANSCRIPTS, AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026.

Please send your application to:

Anita Hawkins
Chair, Antoinette Brown Blackwell Scholarship Committee
P.O Box 133, Henrietta, NY 14467

OR

Submit your application to:
Counseling Center at Rush Henrietta Senior High School

This scholarship is awarded without regard to financial need, race, sex, creed, or national origin.

Antoinette Brown Blackwell **1825 - 1921**

On May 20, 1825, Antoinette Louisa Brown was born in a log cabin in Henrietta, New York. She was the seventh child in a family of ten. When she was five, her family moved to a larger stone farmhouse on Pinnacle Road which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

At the age of fifteen she graduated from the Monroe Academy, the first secondary school in the county. She was subsequently asked to serve as a school teacher of young children. Teaching, however, did not appeal to Antoinette as a career, even though it provided her with the money she needed to attend college.

In 1846 she began studying for a literary degree at Oberlin College. Her desire was to become a minister. She completed theological studies at Oberlin but the college would not give her a preaching certificate because she was a woman. Eventually hired as a pastor by the Congregational Church in South Butler, she was ordained on September 15, 1853 and became the first woman in the country to receive this honor.

During the time she was waiting to be called as a minister, "Nette" became part of the circuit lecture tour. Individuals were hired to speak on the topics of the day: abolition, temperance and woman's suffrage to name a few, and they traveled from town to town presenting their speeches. (Today this might remind us of a band on tour.) She was recognized as an intelligent and accomplished speaker.

In 1856, Antoinette married Samuel Blackwell in her family home on Pinnacle Road. Antoinette continued speaking and writing throughout her marriage and published several books. Her husband supported her endeavors by helping to care for their children. She and Samuel had seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood.

At the age of 96, she was the only one of her suffragist friends who voted in the Presidential Election on November, 2, 1920.