

HANNAH FITTS



1831-1899

Born: Mar. 1, 1831 in Candia, Rockingham Co., NH

Died: Jan. 5, 1899 in Newfields, Rockingham Co., NH

Appointments(s):

American Missionary Association (AMA)

Mitchelville

1865 – 1866

Stoney Plantation Fairfield School

Hilton Head, SC

1866 – Apr 1867

Wilmington, NC

Autumn 1867

Hannah was born in Candia, Rockingham, New Hampshire on March 1, 1831 to John Fitts (1794-1876) and Abigail Lane (1798-1882). Hannah died on January 5, 1899 in Newfields, Rockingham, New Hampshire at the home of her brother Rev. James H. Fitts who was the Pastor of the Congregational Church in Newfields for 20 years.¹ He was born in Candia on March 3, 1829 and died on November 22, ca 1900. Hannah always lived in Candia as a single woman in the 1850 and 1860 US Census and was living with her brother John's family and their mother, Abigail, aged 82 in the 1880 Census. Hannah was still teaching in the public schools of Candia at that time. Hannah was living in West Boylston, Massachusetts when she was appointed as a teacher by the American Missionary Association to teach freedmen in Mitchelville, South Carolina for the term of 1865-1866.² In April 1867, she was teaching at Stoney

¹ Findagrave.com Memorial ID #44093305 created 8 Nov 2009 by Amy Levesque.

Tombstone photo contributed 15 Apr 2010 by Alice & Franklyn Vosburg.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44093305>.

- Fitts, James H., Rev. History of Newfields, New Hampshire 1638-1911. Concord, NH: The Rumford Press, 1912.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=h4025vd.3204028309&view=1up&seq=10>.

² American Missionary Association, *Annual Report of the AMA*, Vol 50-59, p 42.

Chicora Foundation. Research Series. "Chicora The Plantation Landscape: Slaves and Freedmen at Mitchelville Plantation, HHI, SC." Columbia, South Carolina, p 33.

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Plantation in the Fairfield School.³ Hannah transferred in 1867 to Wilmington, North Carolina where she stayed until February 1888 having taught for 21 years there with devotion before returning home.⁴ In 1905, Hannah was memorialized by Wilson Palmer in his *Reminiscences of Candia*:

Miss Hannah Fitts...was one of Candia's most unselfish and most noble women. Miss Fitts devoted many years of her life in the interest of the colored race in the South. I met a lady this past summer who was a co-worker with Miss Fitts in her labor of love among the freedmen and she told me much of her patient and [persistent efforts in the upliftment of the poor colored people of the South].⁵

Hannah died from pneumonia at the home of her brother January 5, 1899 in Newfields, Rockingham Co., New Hampshire almost two years before her brother James died. Her estate was probated in Rockingham County, NH on January 10, 1899.⁶ Hannah was buried in Candia Village Cemetery in Candia, Rockingham County, NH with her parents.⁷ Her obituary was published in the Fiftieth Annual Report of the American Missionary Association in October 1896:

Miss Hannah L. Fitts, of Candia, N.H., died at the home of her brother, Rev. J.H. Fitts, Newfields, N.H. January 5th, 1899. She engaged in the work of the A.M.A. in 1866. The next year she was appointed to Wilmington, N.C. where for twenty-one years she served as teacher with rare devotion and fidelity, winning universal respect and love. With great reluctance

³ Martin, Josephine W. *Dear Sister: Letters Written on Hilton Head Island, 1867, 1977*, Beaufort, SC: Beaufort Book Co, Inc., 1977. [letters written by teacher Eliza Ann Summers], p 110.

- American Missionary Association. *American Missionary*, Vol XI, No 4 "Teacher's List 1866-67, New York: April 1867". Accessed 22 Oct 2018 online at googlebooks. <https://books.google.com/books?id=KpobAQAAMAAJ>.

⁴ Metcalf, Henry Harrison and John Norris McClintock, ed. *The Granite Monthly: A Magazine of Literature, History and State Progress*, Vol 29. Concord, NH: J.N. McClintock, 1877, p 435.

- American Missionary Association. *American Missionary*, Vol XLII, No 4, Apr 1888. <https://www.fulltext.archive.com/page/The-American-Missionary-Vol-XLII-April-1888/>.

⁵ Palmer, Wilson. *Reminiscences of Candia*. Reiverside Press, 1905, p 166. <https://books.google.com/books?id=WRdAAAAAYAAJ>.

⁶ Findagrave.com Memorial ID #44093305 created 8 Nov 2009 by Amy Levesque. Tombstone photo contributed 15 Apr 2010 by Alice & Franklyn Vosburg. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44093305>.

⁷ Ibid.

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she gave up her position when health failed, but with unfailing interest she freely devoted her remaining strength to her former pupils, securing student aid and keeping up a most inspiring and helpful correspondence with them. It is wonderful how one so frail could accomplish so much. Suddenly, unexpectedly, in the midst of great usefulness – her last work and plans being in behalf of her loved people suffering from the race troubles in Wilmington – she was called to higher service. Her monument is in the noble, Christian lives of many who delight “to rise up and call her blessed”.