

# MARY ANN FOWLER

Born: Jul. 1836 in Boston, MA

Died: Sep. 1, 1913 in Somerville, MA

Appointment(s):

New England Freedmen's Aid Society (NEFAS)

Hilton Head, SC

Mar. 1865 – Dec. 1865

Charleston, SC

1866

Freedmen's Bureau

Gordonsville, VA

1867

Columbus, GA

1867- 1888

Mary Ann Fowler was born 1835 in Boston, Suffolk Co., Massachusetts to William and Eliza Fowler. She married William Barnes Carter (1823-1905) as his second wife on July 12, 1870 in Foxborough, Newfield, Massachusetts. She was appointed in 1865 by the New England Freedmen's Aid Society as a teacher to the freedmen in South Carolina, sponsored by the Dorchester and Morton L. Mills chapters of the FAS.<sup>1</sup> She sailed from New York harbor on March 4, 1865, the date of President Lincoln's second inauguration, for Port Royal, South Carolina where she was assigned to Hilton Head and remained there until December 1865.<sup>2</sup>

She left Hilton Head about the same time as the other family of Fowlers: Luther, his wife Emily Fenton, her sister Ella Fenton and Luther's sister, Sarah Fowler, were arriving. These Fowlers however were from Mt. Kisco, NY and no relationship has been established between them yet. While in Hilton Head, Mary Ann Fowler associated

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<sup>1</sup> Freedmen's Aid Society. *The Freedmen's Record*, Vol 1, Nos 5, 6, 7, 11  
12 May-Dec 1865 Charleston and Hilton Head, SC, pp 65, 87, 118;  
Vol 1, No 9 Sep 1865 report from **Hilton Head**, p 151.  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=1h\\_VAAAAAMAAJ](https://books.google.com/books?id=1h_VAAAAAMAAJ).

<sup>2</sup> New England Freedman's Association. "Teachers Sent to South Carolina in 1864-65".  
<http://www.bronstontours.com>

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frequently with General Stewart K. Woodford, who became the U.S. ambassador to Spain during the Spanish American War.<sup>3</sup>

From sporadic correspondence, it seems that Mary Ann Fowler then transferred to Charleston for a short time. After Hilton Head/Charleston, she accepted a position as a teacher with the Freedmen's Bureau and transferred to Gordonsville, Virginia.<sup>4</sup> Before the end of the year, she was transferred again to Columbus, Georgia where she met her husband, William B. Carter, a well-known piano dealer. They were married in Foxboro on July 12, 1870. They then moved to Springfield, Massachusetts where they stayed until 1904 when they moved to Somerville, Massachusetts to live with their son Horace.

Mary's husband, William, died in 1905 in Somerville. Her health began deteriorating in 1908. Mary Ann Fowler Carter died, a widow, September 1, 1913 in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts at her home on 47 Sargent Avenue from arteriosclerosis, after being ill for three weeks. She was buried on September 4th at Springfield Cemetery in Springfield, Massachusetts.<sup>5</sup> In her obituary published by the *Springfield Union* newspaper on September 2, 1913, it was noted that:

Mrs. Carter was one of the best-known personages of this city and Somerville, from her experience at the time of the Civil War and her service at the time of the great struggle was one of the most vivid examples of sacrifice at that period. At the close of the war she was one of the teachers sent out by the freedmen's Aid Bureau to work for and assist the newly freed slaves."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Springfield Union*, Springfield, Massachusetts. Sep 2, 1913. Obituary, p 12.

<sup>4</sup> American Missionary Association. *The American Missionary*, Vol XI, No 4, Apr 1867, p 74.

<sup>5</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial ID #39797727 created 23 Jul 2009 by John P O'Conner & maintained by Dave Robinson. <https://findagrave.com/memorial/39797727>.

<sup>6</sup> *Springfield Union*, p 12.