

# MARY E. GAGE

Born: 1837 in McConnelsville, Morgan Co., OH

Died: Aug. 15, 1912 in Jamaica, Queens, NY

Appointment(s):

National Freedmen's Relief Association

Parris Island, SC

Jun. 1863

Hilton Head, SC

After Oct. 1863

Mary was born in 1837 in McConnelsville, Morgan, Ohio, the daughter of abolitionist and freedmen teacher, Frances Dana Barker (1808-1884) and James Lamson Gage (11800-1863). Mary and her mother, Frances Dana Barker Gage, were both appointed by the National Freedmen's Relief Association of New York as teachers to Parris Island in June 1863 to teach freedmen under Brig. General Rufus Saxton, Military Governor of the Department of the South.<sup>1</sup> Mary was appointed after her mother's return home by the National Freedmen's Association as a teacher to the freedmen on Hilton Head Island where she remained until 1867.<sup>2</sup> Once she returned North, Mary was a clerk for the Equal Rights Association in 1867 until her mother had a stroke in July. She then became their Corresponding Secretary 1868-69 (perhaps so she could work from home?).<sup>3</sup> She was an entrepreneur and opened an independent stock exchange for women on Broadway in New York in 1870 for them to invest in the new railroad and mining stocks.<sup>4</sup> Mary Gage died August 15, 1912 in Jamaica, Queens, NY at the Chapin Home. She was buried in Kew Gardens, Queens, NY in Maple Grove Cemetery.<sup>5</sup>

Very little is known about Mary's time as a teacher in the Sea Islands – perhaps because her mother was the writer and filed all the reports and corresponded voluminously with officials and supporters. Perhaps further research into Mary will discover correspondence with friends during that time describing her experience.

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<sup>1</sup> "List of Superintendents and Teachers Under Brig Gen Rufus Saxton, Military Gov of the Department of the South, June 1863". <https://www.drbronsontours.com>

<sup>2</sup> National Freedmen's Association. "Locations of Schools, Personnel and Teachers Spring and Fall 1863". <https://www.drbronsontours.com>

<sup>3</sup> Gordon, Ann D. The Selected Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B Anthony, Vol II: "Against An Aristocracy of Sex 1866 to 1873", p87.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial ID #183130559 created 7 Sep 2017 by A. Horan. <https://www.findagrave.com/memoria/183130559>.