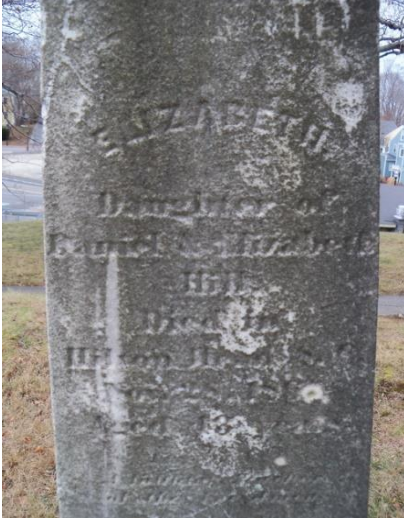


ELIZABETH HILL



1824-1867

Born: May 13, 1825 in Scituate, Plymouth Co., MA

Died: Nov. 28, 1867 Hilton Head, SC

Appointment(s):

National Freedmen's Relief Association (NFRA)
South Carolina
May 1863

Freedmen's Bureau
Lawton Plantation - Hilton Head, SC
Spring 1865

American Missionary Association:
(AMA)

Mitchelville - Hilton Head, SC
Dec. 1866 – Oct. 1867

Elizabeth Hill was born May 13, 1825 in Scituate, Plymouth County, Massachusetts to Daniel Hill (1790-1870) and Elizabeth Bonney (1797-1870) and later resided in Hingham, Massachusetts. In May 1863, she was appointed by the National Freedmen's Relief Association to be one of their missionary teachers to the freedmen in South Carolina as reported in the American Baptist Free Mission Society's Annual Report for 1863. The report stated that:

The Freedmen's Relief Association is doing good work in South Carolina and has forty-fifty teachers. They have appointed Elizabeth Howard (formerly missionary to Haiti), as their missionary to South Carolina. Miss Elizabeth Hill of Boston (a former Secretary of the Ladies' Haitian Mission Society), will accompany Howard. She will be sponsored by the Society with which she is attached.¹

She was appointed by the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865 to teach at the Lawton Plantation School on Hilton Head.² She accompanied Elizabeth Howard, a missionary

¹ American Free Baptist Mission Society, Annual Report, Vol I, May 27-28, 18673 in Mt Holly, NJ.

² Smith, Janel Janiczek, From A Northern Home to a Southern School: Cultural Imperialists

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appointed by the American Free Baptist Missionary Society of Albany, New York who had been a missionary to Haiti before her appointment to South Carolina.³ The AMA had contributed substantially to the Baptist mission in Haiti. In February 1866, Elizabeth was in Summerville, South Carolina where she wrote a letter to the AMA on February 1, 1868 reporting that the “whites are quite as ignorant as the colored population.”⁴

In December 1866, she accepted a position with the American Missionary Association at Mitchelville where she remained until April 1867.⁵ She closed her school and returned north for summer break. Miss Hill returned in October 1867 to reopen the school but died shortly after her return to Mitchelville.⁶ Many other teachers wrote about her in their journals, warning others about teaching in isolated rural areas like Hilton Head vs. established cities with amenities like Charleston or Beaufort. Elizabeth died on November 26, 1868 from typhoid and malaria.⁷ Her body was brought back to Massachusetts and buried in Hingham Cemetery, Plot E-94-12 in Hingham, Plymouth County, Massachusetts.⁸ Her obituary appeared in the *American Missionary* in February 1868 on page 33:

Died at Hilton Head, South Carolina, and November 28, 1867, Miss Elizabeth Hill, from Hingham, Massachusetts, she had been for some years a teacher of the Freedmen under the commission of this Association and had returned to her work after a short vacation abt. a month before she died. She was a good teacher, full of the missionary spirit, and her loss will be deeply felt by the people with whom she labored.⁹

or *Just Stubborn Yankees*. Statesboro, GA: Georgia Southern University, Jack N Averitt College of Graduate Studies, electronic theses and dissertations 2013. <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/58>, p 17 accessed Sep 12, 2018.

³ American Free Baptist Mission Society, *20th Annual Report*, Vol I, May 5 & 6, 1867 in Albany, NY; Utica, NY: H.H. Curtiss, pub; Devereaux Block, printer, p 9.

⁴ Hill, Elizabeth. American Missionary Association Archives, Amistad Research Center, Item #H6358, [Letter Feb 1, 1868 from Summerville, SC to AMA] accessed Sept 22, 2018.

⁵ American Missionary Association. *American Missionary*, Vol XI, No 4, 'Teacher's List 1866-67.' New York: April 1867.

-Hill, Elizabeth. Item #H6588, "Teacher's Monthly Report" [TMR], Mitchelville Primary School, Apr 1867, accessed Oct 2, 2018.]

-Ibid. Item #H6358, [Letter Jan 21, 1867 from Hilton Head to Mr Smith].

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

⁶ Smith, p 178.

- Dougherty, Kevin, Robert J Pauly, Jr, *American Nation Building: Case Studies from Reconstruction to Afghanistan*, McFarland, pub, Sept 20, 2017, p 135.

⁷ American Missionary Association. *American Missionary*, Vol I, # 2, Feb 1868, p3. "Obituary".

⁸ Findagrave.com Memorial ID #33185768 created 9 Jan 2012 by Hammer.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33185768>.

⁹ American Missionary Association. *American Missionary*, Vol I, # 2, Feb 1868, p3. "Obituary".