

MARY JANE ARMSTRONG



Born: 1843

Died: Jun. 1868

Buried: Brooklyn, Kings Co., NY

Appointment(s):

American Missionary Association (AMA)

Beaufort, SC

Aug. 1863

Lawton Plantation – Hilton Head, SC

(with Anna Carter)

Mar. 1865

Savannah, GA

Apr. 1868

1843-1868

Mary Jane Armstrong is woman standing on right.

Source: Library of Congress Online
Samuel A Cooley, US Army Photographer
Group of 10 AMA teachers in Beaufort 1864.

Mary Jane Armstrong was appointed by the American Missionary Association as a teacher of freedmen in South Carolina. She arrived in Beaufort in August 1863 where she taught in the freedmen's school during the day and conducted evening classes for adults in the local billiard hall¹. However, in March of 1865, she transferred to Lawton Plantation on Hilton Head Island, joining Anna Carter as an 'itinerant' teacher, visiting remote cabins and families to teach literacy skills². She transferred in April 1868 to

¹ Smith, Janel, From A Northern Home to a Southern School: Cultural Imperialists or Just Stubborn Yankees. Georgia Southern University Jack N Averitt College of Graduate Studies, p 181. Electronic Theses and Dissertations Spring 2013, 58.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/58>.

² Snodgrass, Mary Ellen. Civil War Era and Reconstruction, An Encyclopedia of Social, Political Cultural and Economic History. New York: Routledge Pub, March 2015, p 490.
accessed 27 Oct 2018 online at <https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1317457919>.

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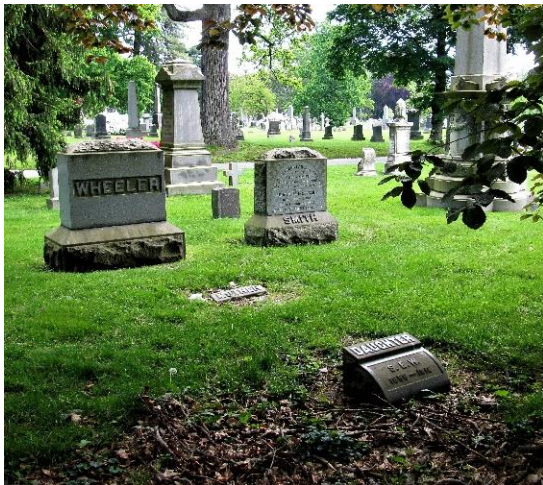
Savannah, Georgia, but remained only briefly. It is highly likely that this same Mary Jane then decided to offer her services after the war in New Orleans. Mary Jane went to New Orleans after the end of the Civil War to teach, but the city school system fired 20 experienced white Northern teachers for their outspoken Unionist views about the War, including Mary Jane.³ However, she refused to retire from teaching and went to teach in one of the local schools organized by the Freedmen's Bureau, but only lasted in that position briefly before returning home.

Mary Jane died on June 6, 1868 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Sect 170, Lot 13498 with 11 other Armstrong family members in Brooklyn, Kings Co, NY⁴.



Source: U.S. Library of Congress
Prints and Photographs Division
(903,989). LOC Call #PR13CN2013:096[P&P].
<https://www.loc.gov/resources/stereo.1s03859/>

Group of 10 freedmen teachers;
Miss Miner, Harris, Armstrong, Cahoun, Coburn,
Bullard, Mitchell, Jenners, King and Foote (in
order from left to right) sent by American
Missionary Association; photo taken on lawn of
Mission House in Beaufort, SC abt 1864.
Samuel A Cooley, U.S. Army Photographer.



Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY
Source: Findagrave.com Memorial ID
134696479
Created 22 Aug 2014 by Lost Generation;
Photo added 24 May 2019 by Bob Collins

³ Snodgrass, p 490

⁴ Findagrave.com Memorial ID #134696479 created 22 Aug 2014 by Lost Generation and maintained by FAG. Cemetery photo added by Bob Collins 24 May 2019.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134696479>