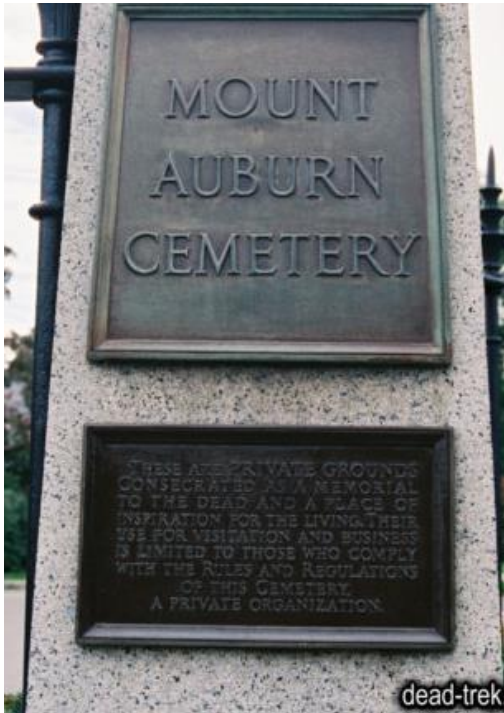


HARRIET BUTTRICK



Born: Oct. 27, 1829 Concord, Middlesex, MA

Died: Jul. 29, 1902 Concord, Middlesex, MA

Parents: Stedman Buttrick (1796-1874)
Mary Heywood Hunt (1802-1838)

Appointment(s):
New England Freedmen's Aid Society
(NEFAS)

Hilton Head - Fall 1863
Charleston – Jan. 1864 (latest)
Edisto Island – Apr. 1864
Hilton Head – Apr. - Nov. 1865
Gordonsville, VA - 1868

1829-1903

Harriet Buttrick was born October 27, 1829 in Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts to Stedman Buttrick (1796-1874) and Mary Heywood Hunt (1802-1838). The Buttrick family farm and homestead where Harriet was born was situated on what is now the site of the Minute Man National Historic Park in Concord. Harriet attended the State Normal School at Framingham in 1848.¹ Harriet was appointed by the New England Freedmen's Aid Society in autumn 1863 as a teacher to the freedmen on Hilton Head Island.² Her sponsor was the Concord, Massachusetts FAS. Harriet was transferred to Charleston at the latest by January 1864. She was reassigned to Edisto Island in April 1864 where the need for teachers was the greatest as thousands of former slaves from surrounding areas poured into Edisto Island as other locations were already overwhelmed.³ It is uncertain just how long Harriet spent on Edisto Island but it does appear that Harriet was transferred again by the latest in April 1865 back to Hilton

¹ U.S. School Catalogs, 1765-1935. State Normal School at Framingham, January 1848, p116. <https://www.ancestry.com>. 2010.

² "Sketch of History of Concord, Massachusetts". The Concord Library, Concord, Massachusetts. https://concordlibrary.org/special-collections/antislavery/08_essay.

³ "New England Teacher List April 1865" <https://www.drbronsontours.com>.

HARRIET BUTTRICK

Head because she was on the Hilton Head list of teachers of the National Freedmen's Association for April through November 1865⁴. In spring 1865, Harriett and her colleague teachers on Hilton Head Island wrote a letter to their supporting Roxbury chapter of the NEFAS requesting permission to conduct a class for twenty white students. They received a letter from Ednah Cheney granting permission to do so, while keeping the Society informed as to the progress of the controversial initiative.⁵ [See letters regarding this topic at end of essay.]

In December 1865, Harriet was listed as being in Charleston, SC – but perhaps she was only temporarily in that city.⁶ By 1868, Harriet was on the New England Freedmen's list of teachers in Gordonsville, Virginia.⁷ As of February 29, she was living in the Teachers' Home of the NEFAS as described by fellow teacher Philena Carkin in her diary. "On February 29th [1868] we visited Libby Prison, attended the Convention and called at the Teachers' Home by invitation. In this home were some with whom we had become acquainted, viz Miss Abby Francis of Cambridge, a niece of Lydia Maria Child and the Misses Bell and Miss Harriet Buttrick of Concord."⁸

In 1870, Harriet was living in DeKalb, Kershaw County, South Carolina living with four other school teachers and in 1880 with her sister Ann E. Buttrick in Concord, Massachusetts. Harriet died of heart disease on July 29, 1903 and her obituary appeared in both the *Boston Herald* on August 1, 1903 as well as the *Boston Transcript* newspaper on July 30, 1903.⁹

30 July, 1903 *Boston Herald Transcript* page 14

⁴ New England Freedmen's Aid Society. *Freedmen's Record*, Vol I, Vol I, Nos 4-11, 11 Apr- Nov 1865 Hilton Head.

⁵ American Antiquarian Society. *Northern Visions of Race, Region and Reform*. "Northern Approaches to Education in the South at War's End". Letters between teachers, Hosmer, Buttrick & Parker and Ednah Cheney] <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/Freedmen/intros/reconfreedednu.html>.

⁶ NEFAS. *Freedmen's Record*, Vol IV No 12, Dec 1865 Charleston, SC

⁷ NEFAS. *Freedmen's Record*, Vol IV, No 3, March 1868.

⁸ Lee, Laurant Lorraine. "Crucible in the Classroom: The Freedpeople and their Teachers", Charlottesville, Virginia, 1861-1876", University of Virginia, Dept of History, PhD dissertation, May 2002, p 232. <https://libra2.lib.virginia.edu/downloads/dz010of498?filename=x004651624.pdf>.

Note: Philena Carkin and others were attending the State Constitutional Convention held in Richmond from

December 3, 1867-April 16, 1868 and went on day trips to see the sites and visit friends. Miss Carkin kept

a daily journal of her stay in Richmond. Many Northern teachers shared living quarters in Richmond at the

Teachers' Home and Harriet Buttrick was one of said teachers in February 1868 when Ms Carkin and others visited her there.

⁹ "Harriet Buttrick Obituary". *Boston Transcript*, 30 July, 1903, p 14. Ancestry.com: *US Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704-1930*".

HARRIET BUTTRICK

The funeral of Miss Harriette Buttrick of Concord yesterday took place at the old homestead overlooking the historic North Bridge, where her great-grandfather Maj. John Buttrick, led the minutemen in the famous Concord fight. This homestead has been her home during the 73 years of her life except for two or three years spent teaching the negroes in the South during reconstruction times.

Miss Buttrick was universally beloved by the townspeople, many of whom had received their only instruction from her when she was a teacher in the town schools for many years. The services were simple and unpretentious as became the life of her to whom they paid homage. The Rev. Loren B. Macdonald of the First Parish Church conducted the services. Miss Buttrick leaves two sisters, Miss Adelaide, her senior by two years, who has lived with her, and Mrs. John Hosmer of Detroit. The body was taken to Mt. Auburn for cremation.

Harriet's death certificate states that she was buried on July 31, 1903 in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts where her brother Stedman and their parents were buried.¹⁰ However, records on Findagrave.com do not show a Harriet in that cemetery but instead show her gravesite as being located in nearby Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts as stated in the above obituary.¹¹

¹⁰ New England Historic Genealogical Society. Boston, Massachusetts. *Massachusetts Vital Records, 1840-1911. Extractions from the Northeast, 1704-1930". 1704-1930".*

¹¹ FAG Memorial ID #182196300 created 8 Aug 2017 by Colleen McCarthy Sanborn. Cemetery entrance sign photo added 5 Oct 2017 by dead-trek.com.