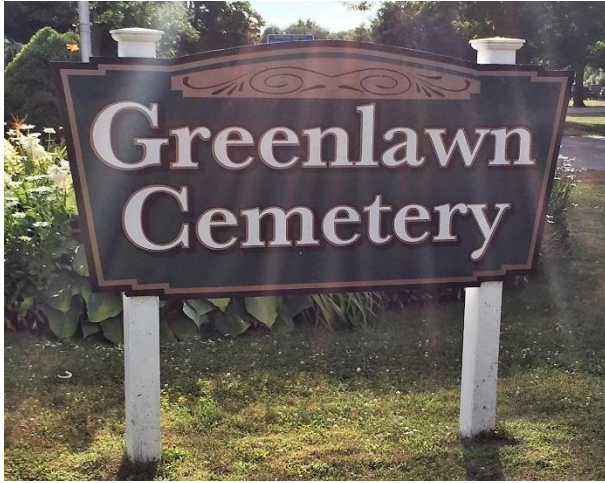


ANNA AMANDA CARTER



Born: Oct. 8, 1830 in Ravenna, Portage, OH

Died: Feb. 2, 1911 in Mill Creek, Hamilton, OH

Assignment(s):

American Missionary Association (AMA)

Lawton Plantation – Hilton Head, SC
Jan. 1863 – Abt. Jun. 1864

1830-1911

Anna was born October 8, 1830 in Ravenna, Portage County, Ohio to Philo Carter (1800-1855) and Electa Sanford (1795-1836). She attended Bridgewater Normal School in Connecticut 1851-52 and was listed as a 'non-graduate' in Mount Holyoke Seminary's catalog of students.¹ In 1865, she married Marcus Elliott Merwin as his second wife but he died shortly thereafter on August 28, 1867 in Milford, Connecticut. She was living as a widow in 1880 in Greeley, Weld Co., Colorado in a home she owned with a friend and one boarder. In 1910, Anna was living with her son Herbert's family in Garrettsville, Portage, Ohio. She died from cancer on February 2, 1911 in Mill Creek, Hamilton Co., Ohio in the Methodist Home for the Aged and is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Delta, Fulton Co., Ohio.²

Anna was living in Bridgewater, Connecticut when she was appointed in January 1863 by the American Missionary Association as a teacher to the freedmen of Hilton Head, South Carolina for a term of January - October 1863.³ She was assigned to Lawton Plantation and on January 22, 1863, wrote a letter to Rev. Whipple of the

¹ *Mount Holyoke Female Seminary: Student Name Index Project.* Mount Holyoke College. South Hadley, Massachusetts.

<https://www.morganohiolibrary.com/MountHolyokeFemaleSeminary.html>.

² Anna Amanda Carter Merwin. Findagrave.com Memorial ID: 7955167 created 6 Oct 2003 by Gabbybug and maintained by BPHOTOL. Cemetery photo added by Rita Zipfel 19 July 2018.

³ "List of Superintendents and Teachers Under Brig General Rufus Saxton, Military Governor of the Department of the South, June 1863". <https://www.drbronsontours.com>.

- American Missionary Association. *The American Missionary*, Vol 3, No 3, Apr 1863.

ANNA AMANDA CARTER

American Missionary Association about the living conditions at Lawton (AMA H5178)⁴. Her appointment was renewed for the next school year, beginning in October 1863 as is shown by a letter she wrote on December 12, 1862 from Hilton Head. In that letter to Rev. Whipple, she stated that there was an increased interest among the freedmen in the Sabbath school she had started - possibly because many of the adults were working in the fields and could not attend instruction during weekdays. "Our present plan is to teach as many children as we can gather in a morning school, and going into the cabins in the afternoon to instruct adults."⁵ [The freedmen] also were very interested in learning to read the Bible. They currently had 3 teachers so two of them led students in reading the New Testament and the third teacher taught the academic curriculum. With the number of students rapidly increasing, she felt they needed another teacher.⁶ She seemed to like her work at that point. However, Anna became unhappy with the harsh working and living conditions and the oppressive heat, but even more so dissatisfied with the cultural norms of white Southern society, so she left before the new school year even started in October 1864.⁷

⁴ Carter, A.A. American Missionary Association Archives. New Orleans, LA: Tulane University, Amistad Research Center. Item # H5178: [Letter Jan 22, 1863 from Lawton Plantation, Hilton Head, SC to Rev Mr Whipple]

⁵ -----Item # H5261: [Letter Dec 12, 1863 from Lawton Plantation, Hilton Head, SC to Rev Mr Whipple].

-----*Teacher's Monthly Report*]; Item # H5291: [Letter Mar 1, 1864 from Lawton Plantation, Hilton Head, SC to Rev S.S. Jocelyn].

-----Item # 5348: [Letter June 13, 1864 from Lawton Plantation, Hilton Head, SC to Rev M.E. Strieby].

⁶ Smith, Janel Janiczek, "From A Northern Home to a Southern School: Cultural Imperialists or Just Stubborn Yankees", pp 171, 179-181, 274. Statesboro, GA: Georgia Southern University, Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies, electronic theses and dissertations, 2013, <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/58>, accessed Sept 2, 2018.

-Martin, Josephine W., ed. "Dear Sister": Letters Written on Hilton Head Island 1867. Beaufort, SC: Beaufort Book Co, Inc. 1977. [letters by teacher, Eliza Ann Summers to her sister].

⁷ Smith, pp 271,458.

-Dougherty, Kevin and Robert Pauly, Jr. American Nation-Building: Case Studies from Reconstruction to Afghanistan. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Co, Oct 2017, p139.