

ABBIE CASE



Born: 1834 in Keene, NH

Died: Nov. 26, 1898 in Fitchburg, MA

Appointment(s):

American Missionary Association
Savannah, GA

Dec. 1865

Lawton Plantation - Hilton Head, SC

Feb. 1866

Seabrook Plantation - Hilton Head, SC

May 1867

Seabrook Plantation main house as seen from wharf ca 1860

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2010651637/>

Abbie was born 1834 in Keene, New Hampshire to Henry Case (b1796) and Cynthia Wilder (1798-1851). By the 1850 Census, the family was living in Royalton, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Abbie was appointed as a teacher to the freedmen in Savannah, Georgia by the American Missionary Association and arrived in December 1865.¹ However, she transferred in February 1866 to teach at the Union School at Lawton Plantation on Hilton Head Island.² In her Teacher's Monthly Report dated February 5, 1866, Abbie stated that she had an average attendance of 70-80% of enrolled students who were eager to complete the exercises in class. She also held a Sabbath afternoon school at Lawton Plantation. In a letter dated April 22, 1866 to Samuel Hunt of Savannah, Abbie wrote about the freedmen's distrust of white people in Georgia, including the teachers, and singled out white prejudice as the "freed people's degradation".³ She also talked about complaints by some white teachers and

¹ Smith, Janel Janiczek, From A Northern Home to a Southern School: Cultural Imperialists or Just Stubborn Yankees, p 179, 458. 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

² Case, A. American Missionary Archives, New Orleans, LA: Tulane University, Amistad Research Center. Item # H5962-5963: [Letter Feb 5, 1866 to Mr. Hunt from Lawton Plantation, Hilton Head, SC]

³ Jones, Jacqueline. Soldiers of Light and Love: Northern Teachers and Georgia Blacks, 1865-73. University of Georgia Press. October 1, 1992, p 65, 165 n 36.

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administrators about the AMA's rival schools taught by native blacks. Abbie moved again in May 1867 to nearby Seabrook Plantation on Hilton Head Island.⁴

By August 1867, Abbie was back in Worcester County, Massachusetts, where she married Abel F. Eaton (1805-1893) on August 1st in Fitchburg, Massachusetts as his second wife.⁵ She was 33 years old, twenty-nine years younger than Abel. Abel had served for nine months at an advanced age during the Civil War in the 53rd Massachusetts Infantry Regiment as a musician, enlisting on October 17, 1862 and mustering out at Camp Stevens in Groton, Massachusetts on June 2, 1863.⁶ He was appointed in 1866 as the District Secretary in Cincinnati, Ohio of the American Missionary Association and promoted in 1870 to be the Field Secretary. In the 1898 Fitchburg City Directory, Abbie was listed as a widow. Abbie Case Eaton died November 26, 1898 in Fitchburg and was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery.⁷

⁴ *American Missionary*, Vol XI, No 4, April 1867. List of AMA teachers in South Carolina, September 1, 1866-May 20, 1867.

⁵ Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988: Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Birth, Marriage and Death*.

⁶ The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C. *Special Schedules of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union veterans and widows of Union veterans of the Civil War; Series Number M123; Record Group Title: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Record Group Number 15, Census Year 1890.*

-Charles W. Canney Camp #5, SUVCW. "Seabrook, New Hampshire Civil War Monument"
[https://www.cwcanneycamp5.org/seabrook\[civil-war-monument.html](https://www.cwcanneycamp5.org/seabrook[civil-war-monument.html).

⁷ Findagrave.com Memorial 179767441 created 28 May 2017 by LMR.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/179767441/abbie-eaton>.