

MELISSA CHAMBERLIN



Born: 5 Jan. 1832 in NH

Died: 1911 in Boston, MA

Appointment(s):
Freedman's Aid Society

Hilton Head, SC
1865

Ashley Street School, Principal
Charleston, SC
Apr. 1865

1832-1911

Melissa was born January 5, 1832 in New Hampshire to Eleazer Davis Chamberlin (1793-1832) and Hannah Hayes (1797-1872). She was appointed early 1865 by the Freedmen's Aid Society as a teacher to the freedmen in South Carolina and was sponsored by the Lovejoy chapter of the FAS.¹ She arrived on Hilton Head Island in 1865 and taught for a very short time there before being reassigned to Charleston at the end of April 1865 where she was the Principal of Ashley Street School aka the 'Old Rebel Post Office'.² By the 1870 Census, Melissa was back in Dover, NH living with her parents. The 1900 and 1910 US Census show her living with two different families in Boston, Massachusetts. Melissa died in Boston from paralysis of the uterus and is buried with her parents in Pine Hill Cemetery in Dover, New Hampshire.³

¹ Butchart, Ronald E. Schooling the Freed People: Teaching, Learning and the Struggle for Black Freedom, 1861-1876. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 2010.

² The National Freedmen's Association. *The Freedmen's Record*, Vol I, No 5 May 1865; No 6 Jun 1865, p103; No 7 July 1865, p 111 [Principal Ashley School in Charleston]; No 8 Aug 1865 [Hilton Head], p 118 [Supt James Redpath's Report]; No 11 Nov 1865, p185; No 12 Dec 1865 [Charleston, SC].

- American Missionary Association. *The American Missionary*, Vol XIX, No 3, March 1866, p 94.

³ Findagrave.com Memorial ID #138278778 created 4 Nov 2014 by Lois Tucker.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138278778>.