

JANE S. "JENNIE" COOLEY



Born: Apr. 15, 1851 in Ludlow, MA

Died: Aug. 1, 1875 in Ludlow, MA

Appointment(s):

New England Freedmen's Aid Society (NEFAS)

Hilton Head, SC

Dec. 1864- Jun. 1865

New England Freedmen's Association

Colonel Shaw Orphanage

Charleston, SC

Jul. 1865- 1871(?)

1851-1875

Jane was born April 15, 1851 in Ludlow, Hampden Co., Massachusetts to William Diodate Cooley (1825-1904) and Jane S. Cooley (1825-1851), William's second wife. Young Jane's mother died just six days after her birth. On January 2, 1870, young Jane married Joseph H. Jenks (1841- 1878). Perhaps Jane's mother was the sister of either Gilbert or Antoinette Pillsbury, because young Jane was living with them in Ludlow, Massachusetts on the 1860 US Census. The Pillsburys were both teachers at that time in a boarding school and later were teachers and Superintendents to the freedmen in South Carolina. In 1864, Jane was appointed by the New England Freedmen's Aid Society as a teacher to the freedmen and arrived on Hilton Head Island in December of that year.¹ Jane was sponsored by the Bessie Lehmann's Society

¹ Freedmen's Aid Society. Boston, Mass: *Freedmen's Journal*, Vol I. No 1, Jan 1865

"Teachers' List Hilton Head", p 3.

-New England Freedman's Association. "Teachers Sent to South Carolina in 1864-65".

<http://www.bronstontours.com>.

JANE S. “JENNIE” COOLEY

chapter in Boston, Massachusetts.² In 1870, Jane and her husband were on the US Census living in Charleston, South Carolina where they both had been transferred in July 1865 by the New England Freedmen’s Association.³ Jane served as a teacher and Assistant Matron (to Mrs. A.F. Pillsbury) at the Colonel Shaw Orphan Home in Charleston.⁴ The orphanage had been established in April 1865 by Antoinette and Gilbert Pillsbury when the military transfer of freedmen families to inland locations left many orphans behind in Charleston. Jennie died August 1, 1875 in Ludlow, Massachusetts and was buried in Ludlow Island Pond Cemetery, Section C, Lot #111.⁵

² - Freedmen’s Aid Society. Boston, Mass: *Freedmen’s Record*, Vol I. “Teachers List Hilton Head”: No 2, Feb 1865; No 3, Mar 1865; No 4, Apr 1865; No 5, May 1865; No 6, June 1865. https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=1h_VAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover/pg=GBS.PA1

³ *The American Freedman*, Dec 1866.
-Freedmen’s Aid Society. *Freedmen’s Record*, Vol 1, No 7 July 1865; No 8 Aug 1865; No 9 Sep 1865; No 10 Oct 1865; No 11 Nov 1865; No 12 Dec 1865. https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=1h_VAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover/pg=GBS.PA1

⁴ Ibid.
-The American Freedman’s Union Commission. *The American Freedman*, Vol 1-2, Dec 1866. <https://books.google.com/books?id=QiDVAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA157&1pg=PA157&dq=Jane+S+Cooley#v=onepage&q=Jane%20S%20Cooley&f=false>.

⁵ Findagrave.com Memorial # 134802471 created 24 Aug 2014 by Steve Sawyer and maintained by Jim Goodreau. Photo of tombstone added by Steve Sawyer on 24 Aug 2014. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134802471/jane-s_-jenks.