

CAROLINE ELIZA JOCELYN



Born: May 27, 1830 in New Haven, CT

Died: Feb. 1, 1868 in Jacksonville, Duval, FL

Appointment(s):

American Missionary Association
(AMA)

Elliott Plantation – Hilton Head, SC
Jan. 1864 - 1867

Jacksonville, FL
1867-1868

Caroline was born May 27, 1830 in New Haven, New Haven Co., Connecticut to Rev. Simeon Smith Jocelyn (1799-1879) and Harriet Starr (1801-1877). Caroline's father served as the Secretary of the American Missionary Association during the Civil War. Caroline was living in Williamsburg, Kings Co., New York in the US 1850 Census. She married N.C. Dennett, Esq. in 1866. The AMA Congregational Home Missionary Society records indicate that a 'Carrie' E. Jocelyn was the first AMA teacher to be sent to Florida and that she arrived in St. Augustine in 1863.¹ We do know that she was appointed by the American Missionary Association in January 1864 as a teacher of the freedmen in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and arrived in February of that year.² Caroline taught for four months at the Elliott Plantation as indicated in a letter written by teacher Anna Carter on Lawton Plantation to Caroline's father, Rev. S.S. Jocelyn on March 4, 1864. "I heard of your daughter's arrival...and was desirous to call upon her but have not been able to. The Elliott place is just at the other extremity of the island. I hope to see her before long."³ Ms. Jocelyn taught for 1½ years more at the Honey Plantation on Hilton Head Island from 1864-1866 before her marriage.⁴ Miss E. Evelyth

¹ American Missionary Association. *The American Missionary*. Vol XII, No 3, March 1868.

² Smith, Janel Janiczek, From A Northern Home to a Southern School: Cultural Imperialists or Just Stubborn Yankees, p 271. Statesboro, GA: Georgia Southern University, Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies, electronic theses and dissertations 2013, accessed Sep 12, <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/58>.

-The American Missionary Association: Its Missionaries, Teachers, and History. New York: AMA, 1869, p 95. <https://archive.org/details/americanmissionia00amer>.

³ Carter, Anna A. American Missionary Association Archives. New Orleans, LA: Tulane University, Amistad Research Center. [Letter 1 Mar 1864 from Lawton Plantation, Hilton Head Island to Rev S.S. Jocelyn, AMA].

⁴ Jocelyn, Caroline J. American Missionary Association Archives. New Orleans, LA: Tulane University, Amistad Research Center. Item # H5382: [Letter 20 July 1864 from

CAROLINE ELIZA JOCELYN

was her co-teacher at Honey Plantation. She wrote a letter from Honey Plantation on July 20, 1864 to the Secretary of the AMA in New York describing their students.

I shall never forget the many bright faces of the children of our first charge; those little dark-browed boys and girls who delighted to trudge day after day, through rain and shine from Seabrook, a mile and a half or more to school during the four months of our sojourn at the Elliott Plantation. Here at the Honey Plantation the enthusiasm of the children to learn is intense.⁵

Her new husband, N.C. Dennett accepted a position as cashier for the Freedmen's Bank at 22 Bay Street in Jacksonville, Florida. Caroline followed him to Jacksonville where she taught the freedmen for one more year.⁶ She died February 1, 1868 in Jacksonville, Duval Co., Florida and was buried in the Old Jacksonville City Cemetery along with her infant daughter, Josie.⁷ Her obituary was published in the *Columbian Register* of her hometown of New Haven, Connecticut on Saturday, February 15, 1868 as well as in New York City by the American Missionary Association.⁸ The following obituary is from the *Christian Intelligencer* of the Reformed Dutch Church of Jacksonville, Florida on February 13, 1868:

This time death has come very near and taken the daughter of our beloved associate, Rev. S.S. Jocelyn. For three years, she was among our most faithful Christian teachers, first in South Carolina, then in Florida. She had won the confidence and love of the colored people.⁹

Her four-day old infant daughter Josie died before her on January 25, 1868. Caroline's

Honey Plantation, Hilton Head, SC]

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ American Missionary Association Congregational Home Missionary Society, Vols 13-62.: annual reports & minutes of annual meetings, 1869-1908. NY: AMA, p 63.

⁷ Findagrave.com Memorial ID #57077546 created 15 Aug 2010 by Cousins by the Dozen <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57077546>.

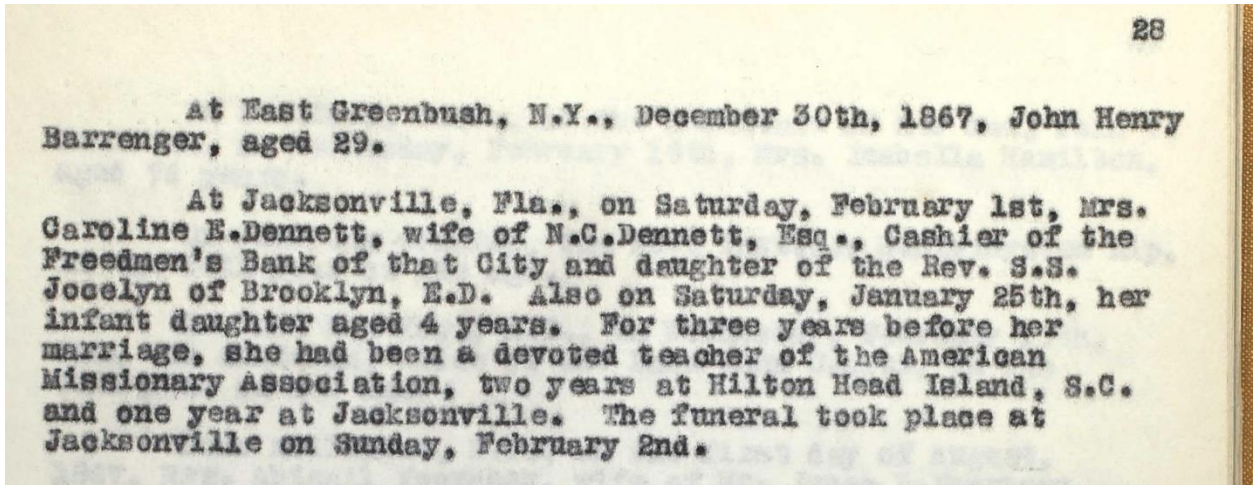
⁸ *Columbian Register* of New Haven, CT: Vol XXXIX. No 1959 - Feb 13, 1868, "Obituary", p28. Ancestry.com US Newspaper Extractions from Northeast, 1704-1930. New Haven, CT .Death -American Missionary Association, *The American Missionary* Vol XII, No 3, March 1868, "Obituary", pp 63-64.

⁹ U.S. Newspaper Extractions from Northeast, 1704-1930. New York: Death 1867-1870. *Christian Intelligencer* of Reformed Dutch Church of New York. Feb 13, 1868. "Obituary" .- American Missionary Association, *The American Missionary* Vol XII, No 3, March 1868, "Obituary", pp 63-64

CAROLINE ELIZA JOCELYN

funeral was held in Jacksonville on Sunday, February 2, 1868. Caroline was the daughter of Rev S. S. Jocelyn of Brooklyn, New York.

Obituary



The *Columbian Register* of New Haven, CT: Vol XXXIX. No 1959 - Feb 13, 1868, p28.