

MARTHA LYDIA KELLOGG



Born: Dec. 9, 1823 in Avon, Hartford Co., CT

Died: Mar. 13, 1869 in Charleston, SC

Appointment(s):

American Missionary Association
Lawton Plantation - Hilton Head, SC
May 1863

National Freedmen's Association
Sewing School – Beaufort, SC
Dec. 1866

Charleston, SC
Sep. 1868

1823-1869

“sweetly fell asleep in Jesus”

Martha Ann was born December 9, 1823 in Avon, Hartford County, Connecticut - the youngest of 5 daughters and 2 sons born to Rev. Bela Kellogg and his wife Lydia Candee. She was baptized February 8, 1824 in Avon, Connecticut.¹ Her father was born August 24, 1780 in Amherst, Massachusetts and died April 30, 1831 in Avon, Connecticut. He married Lydia Candee on June 6, 1895 who was born November 1, 1778 in New Haven, Connecticut and died December 3, 1843 in Avon, Connecticut. Bela Kellogg graduated from Williams College in 1800 and was ordained in the Congregational Church of Brookfield, CT in 1813 but was dismissed in 1817.² He then was offered a position in Avon in 1819 but was finally discharged from the clergy in 1830 due to poor health.

In the 1850 US census, Martha was living with her sister Mary and family in Avon, Connecticut. In 1855, she transferred her church membership to New York City

¹ Ancestry.com Church Records, Avon, CT Vol 2, no 4, p 23.

² Hopkins, Timothy, The Kelloggs in the Old World and the New. Vol 1, June 13, 2010, p305.

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(Connecticut church records).³ There, Martha was the Principal of the Children's Aid Society Industrial School for German-American immigrant girls which was good training for becoming a teacher.⁴ She wrote a letter to the American Missionary Association early in 1862 expressing interest in becoming a teacher to the freedmen, because her sister Sarah Louise was departing for Port Royal, South Carolina to teach the freedmen. However, Martha Louise was in a carriage wreck with Arthur Sumner which gave her a lame side and neck for several days and put Mr. Sumner on crutches, so they could not even see her sister off at the docks.⁵ Many historians have confused references to Miss Kellogg as pertaining to Martha Lydia, but in fact, Laura Towne and others from Port Royal were referring to her sister, Sarah, who ended up staying with Charlotte Forten in the plantation big house on Fripp Island before their return north.⁶

Martha arrived in Hilton Head in 1863 as a teacher sponsored by the American Missionary Association, under Brig. General Rufus Saxton, Military Governor of the Department of the South.⁷ From Lawton Plantation on Hilton Head Island, Martha wrote a letter on January 3, 1863 which was published in the American Missionary, describing the character of the students of Hilton Head. She had 80 students at Lawton Plantation ages five to fifty. "[They] differ like others in mental capacity – but when their degradation is remembered, their success seems almost wonderful, and as a people, they are much more intelligent than I supposed."⁸

Martha was transferred in December 1866 to Beaufort where she taught classes in a sewing school.⁹ She was back in Hilton Head with the American Missionary Association teaching the freedmen in 1867.¹⁰ Martha Lydia finally moved to Charleston in September 1868 where she continued her work as a missionary and teacher. She died from pulmonary consumption at #35 Bull Street in Charleston after just about 6 months in the city, her death certificate signed by Coroner, Giles Pease, MD.¹¹ Miss Kellogg was buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, SC.¹²

³ Ancestry.com Church records, Avon, CT,. Vol 71, p 25.

⁴ The American Missionary Association. *American Missionary*, letter May 13, 1869, pp114-115.

⁵ Hopkins, p 49.

- Wood, Peter H. Near Andersonville. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2010.. p 25.

⁶ Ibid. pp 127-128, 305.

⁷ New England Freedmen's Aid Society. "List of Superintendents and Teachers Under Brig General Rufus Saxton, Military Governor of the Department of the South, June 1863". <https://www.drbronsontours.com>

- "National Freedmen's Association Locations of Schools, Personnel and Teachers Spring and Fall 1863". <https://www.drbronsontours.com>

⁸ Williams, Heather Andrea. Self-Taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2005, p 153.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Swint, Henry L., The Northern Teacher in the South, 1862-1870. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press, 1941, p 101, note 71.

¹¹ Ancestry.com "South Carolina Death Records" 1850-1874: Charleston 1869.

¹² Findagrave.com Memorial ID 44988235 created 1 Dec 2009 by Saratoga. Tombstone 10 Dec 2009 by Saratoga. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44988235/martha-lydia-kellogg#source>.