

# SARAH PARKMAN LILLIE



**1820-1922**

Born: Jul. 19, 1839 in Bellingham, Norfolk, MA

Died: Apr. 6, 1922 in Seattle, WA

Appointment(s):

New England Freedmen's Aid Society

Mitchelville – Hilton Head, SC

Jan. 1864 - Dec. 1865 (at least)

Sarah was born July 19, 1839 in Bellingham, Norfolk, Massachusetts to Henry Lillie (1803-1863) and Caroline Hayden (1804-1885). In the 1850 Census, she was living in Milford, Worcester, Massachusetts. By 1870, she was living in San Francisco with her mother where she still resided in the 1880 US Census, working as a public-school teacher.<sup>1</sup> Sarah married Newell Daniels (1828-1904) in 1887 and they lived in Ocean, Sonoma Co., CA in 1900. However, by the time of the 1910 Census, Sarah was a widow who owned a resort hotel in Ocean, CA, with her sister's widowed husband, Mathew Barwood, living with her as a boarder.<sup>2</sup> The 1920 census shows her as a widow living in Alamo, Contra Costa Co., CA with her nephew, Allaron Barwood.

In January 1864, Sarah was listed as a teacher sponsored by the Hopedale, Massachusetts branch of the New England Freedmen's Aid Society sent to Hilton Head where she was assigned as a teacher to the freedmen in Mitchellville.<sup>3</sup> In a letter dated

December 6, 1864 from Mitchellville, Sarah stated that she had started teaching in the church Lymus Anders had built with just 30 scholars sitting on wooden boards placed

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<sup>1</sup> Ancestry.com U.S. Census 1880.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.. US Census 1900 & 1910.

<sup>3</sup> New England Freedman's Aid Society. "Teachers Sent to South Carolina in 1864-65".

<http://www.bronstontours.com>

- New England Freedmen's Aid Society. Freedmen's Record. Vol I, No 1, 'Teacher's List', Jan 1865; # 2,4,5,6,7, 8 Feb-Aug 1865; No 11 & 12 Nov-Dec 1865 Hilton Head.

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on top of blocks.<sup>4</sup> But since then, the benches and windows for the church had been completed by Anders so that the church was better suited as a classroom.<sup>5</sup> However, they were running out of room in the church with 80 students now enrolled and a daily average attendance of 40-50. They needed a separate school and her wishes would soon be fulfilled. Sarah and the other teachers had also opened an evening literacy school for the adults in Mitchelville. She also mentioned that in the last week, a furious battle had been waging just 12 miles away from Mitchelville at Boyd's Point on the mainland of Hilton Head.<sup>6</sup> Two regiments had left on Thursday to fight but by Thursday evening, the many wounded had been brought back to Mitchelville for medical care. Sarah visited them over the weekend to comfort them and write letters home for them as the majority of them were also illiterate.

In the 1870 and 1880 US Census, Sarah was a public school teacher living with her mother in San Francisco, CA. She taught at Denman Public School according to an 1878 City Directory but by 1887 the San Francisco City Directory showed her as a teacher at Hamilton Grammar School.<sup>7</sup> Sarah died April 6, 1922 in Seattle, Washington at the home of nephew Alloron Barwood, a newspaper agent.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Lillie, Sarah. American Missionary Association. New Orleans, LA: Tulane University, Amistad Research Center. Letter 6 Dec 1864 from Mitchelville to AMA.

<sup>5</sup> New England Freedmen's Aid Society. *Freedmen's Record*, Vol 3, Nos 2 & 3 Feb-March 1865, pp 7-8 & 31.

<sup>6</sup> Spruill, Marjorie Julian; Valinda W Littlefield and Joan Marie Johnson. South Carolina Women: Their Lives and Times, Vol 2 Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2010, p 86.

<sup>7</sup> Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories: San Francisco, CA 1887*.

<sup>8</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial ID #112363950 created 15 Jun 2003 by Gennaphyr. Tombstone photo added 25 Aug 2014 by PIN.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112363950>