

HARRIET PHILLIPS



1819-1901

Born: Dec. 29, 1819 in PA

Died: Aug. 29, 1901 in Gladwynne, Montgomery, PA

Appointment(s):

American Missionary Association (AMA)
Seabrook Plantation – Hilton Head, SC
1865 - May 1867

Harriet Phillips was born December 29, 1819 in Pennsylvania to Johann ‘John’ Phillips (1786-1855) and Margaret Fox (1791-1852). At the age of 31, Harriet was still living with her parents in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania where her father was a teacher. She was appointed as a teacher to the freedmen in South Carolina by the American Missionary Association in 1865. She arrived in Hilton Head in November 1865 and was assigned to Seabrook Plantation.¹ She remained for almost two years, departing for home in May 1867.

Before she came to South Carolina, Harriet also volunteered as one of the first trained nurses for the Western Sanitary Commission in St. Louis, Missouri 1862-1864, travelling down the Mississippi River to treat wounded soldiers in Vicksburg and Natchez.² She later became an Instructor of Nurses at Women’s Hospital of Philadelphia, PA.³ She also worked at a mission school with the Ojibway and Sioux tribes in Wisconsin 1872-1875.⁴

In 1900, she was living with her niece, Mary P. Egbert who was also a school teacher. Harriet was a member of the Gladwynne Presbyterian Church when she died August 29, 1901 in Gladwynne, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She is buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery with her sister Margaret Egbert’s family in Bala Cynwydd, Montgomery County, PA.⁵

¹ American Missionary Association Archives. New Orleans, LA: Tulane University, Amistad Research Center. Nov 1865: “Teacher’s Monthly Report” [TMR].

² Brockett, LP & Vaughan, Mary C. Women’s Work in the Civil War: Profiles in Strength During the Civil War. New York: Diversion Pub Co, 1867.

³ Presbyterian Church Board of Foreign Missions. “Annual Reports”, 1879, 1882.

⁵ Findagrave.com Memorial ID #91231739 created 2 Jun 2012 by Graves. Tombstone photo added 19 Feb 2017 by Jilly.