

MARTHA F PUTNAM

Born: unknown

Died: unknown

Appointment(s):

American Missionary Association (AMA)
Hilton Head, SC
By Dec. 1867

Beaufort, SC
Sep. 1868 – May 1869

Martha F. Putnam was residing in Leominster, Massachusetts when she was appointed as a teacher to the freedmen on Hilton Head Island by the American Missionary Association. The appointment had to have been before December 15, 1867 since a letter was written by her from Hilton Head Island to Mr. Smith on that date describing the evening school which she ran for the field workers.¹ She wrote another letter in February 1868 to Mr. Smith in which she declared that the Negroes “are the most wonderful readers of human nature...their faith in God makes them the most peaceful and unvengeful race on this earth.”²

Martha was one of the teachers who used a payment system for tuition and books. Stepping Stones was a favorite children’s book and students would show up with “a chicken under the arm to pay for the delightful treasure.”³ Martha remained on Hilton Head Island until September 1868 when she was transferred to Beaufort, South Carolina and continued teaching there until May 1869 when she returned home.⁴

¹ American Missionary Association: Its Missionaries, Teachers, and History.

New York: American Missionary Association, 1869, p 3.

-Putnam, Martha F. American Missionary Association Archives. New Orleans, LA:

Tulane University, Amistad Research Center. Item #H6846: [Letter Dec 15, 1867 to Mr Smith from Hilton Head, SC].

² Ibid. Item #H6989: [Letter from Hilton Head Feb 1868 to Mr Smith]

³ Opcit. Item #H6998: [Letter March 2, 1868 to Mr. Smith from Hilton Head, SC].

- Smith, Janel Janicek. From a Northern Home to a Southern School: Cultural Imperialists or Just Stubborn Yankees. Georgia Southern University, Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. Spring 2013. electronic theses and dissertations, #58, p 278. <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/58>.

⁴ American Missionary Association. *American Missionary*, Vol 1, May 1869, p 100. <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/012370656/cite>.