

ELLEN LOUISE SEYMOUR (nee BROWN)



Born: 1832 in CT

Died: unknown

Appointment(s):

American Missionary Association
(AMA)

Matron - Teacher's Home

Mitchelville – Hilton Head, SC

1866 - 1867

Industrial School

Wilmington, NC

May 1867

Ellen Louise Brown was born in 1832 in Connecticut. On October 23, 1853, she married Captain Rollin H. Seymour (1834-1894) in Norfolk, Litchfield, Connecticut. In the 1860 US Census, the couple was living in New Haven, Connecticut. She was already married when she was appointed as a teacher of the freedmen at Mitchelville, South Carolina.¹ She was also the Matron of the Teachers' Home.² Mrs. Seymour stood up to the men who were her supervisors when they did not listen to her concerns. This was clearly the case when she wrote a letter on April 22, 1867 to the Superintendent stating that it had been two weeks since she wrote to him requesting that "Mr. Jenkins be removed at once as I then see we could do much better alone than with him."³ She felt his conduct was 'inappropriate' and was upset that nothing had

¹ American Missionary Association. *American Missionary*, Vol XI, No 4, Teacher's List 1866-67. New York: April 1867.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/58>, accessed Sept 2, 2018

- Smith, Janel Janiczek, [From A Northern Home to a Southern School: Cultural Imperialists or Just Stubborn Yankees](#), p 179. Statesboro, GA: Georgia Southern University, Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies electronic theses and dissertations 2013,

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/58>, accessed Sept 2, 2018

²Martin, Josephine W., ed. ['Dear Sister': Letters Written on Hilton Head Island 1867](#). Beaufort, SC: Beaufort Book Co, Inc. 1977 [letters written by teacher Eliza Ann Summers], pp 16,50,63.

³Seymour, Ellen L. American Missionary Association Archives. New Orleans, LA:

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been done about the teacher. She agreed with fellow teacher Eliza Ann Summers and others about the new Superintendent, Mr. Judkins. Eliza Ann stated that, "We don't one of us like him at all. We don't fare quite as well as when Mr. Wright provided for us."⁴ On May 1, 1867, Ellen Seymour paid Eliza Ann and Julia a visit at Lawton Plantation to bid them farewell as she had accepted a new appointment to go to Wilmington, North Carolina to set up an industrial school.⁵ Teacher Annie Wilkins from Seabrook Plantation would be taking over from Mrs. Seymour as the Matron of the Teachers' Home.⁶

Tulane University, Amistad Research Center. Item #H6556: [Letter Apr 22, 1867 to Mr. Smith from Hilton Head, SC].

Seymour. American Missionary Association. American Missionary, Vol XII, Apr 1868, p74.
-Dougherty, Kevin and Robert Pauly Jr. American Nation-Building: Case Studies from Reconstruction to Afghanistan. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Co, Oct 2017, p 135.

⁴ Martin, p 62.

⁵ Ibid,, 79.

⁶ Martin, p 93..