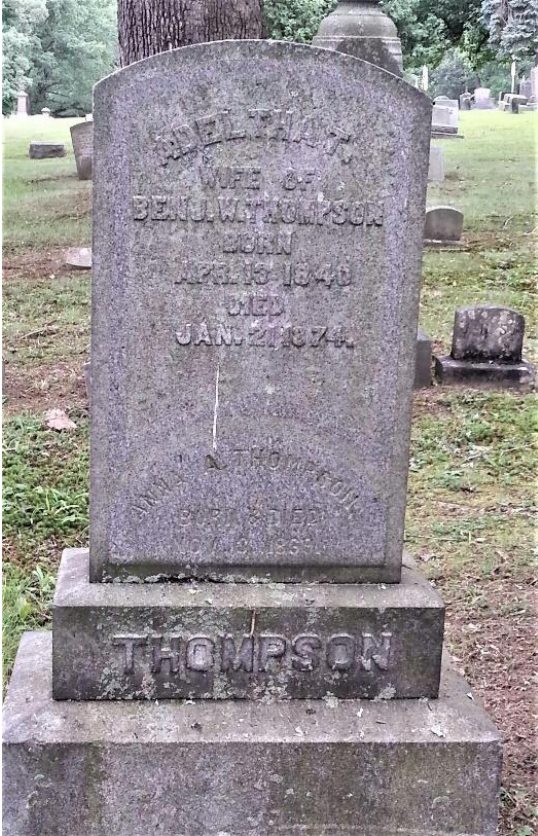


ADELTHA TWITCHELL



Born: Apr. 15, 1840 in Bethel, Oxford Co., ME

Died: Jan. 21, 1874 in Williamsport, Lycoming, PA

Appointment(s):

American Missionary Association (AMA)

Mitchelville High School

Hilton Head, SC

Nov. 1864

1840-1874

Adeltha was born, a twin of Amelia, on April 15, 1840 in Bethel, Oxford County, Maine to Alphin Twitchell (1804-1886) and Roxanna Atilda (1816-1892). More about Adeltha Twitchell's life can be discovered in the short biography a friend wrote about Adeltha after her death (Adeltha: The Story of a woman's Life and Work by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Rowland). Adeltha and her sister Amelia were appointed by the American Missionary Association in November 1864.¹ Adeltha was assigned to Mitchellville High School while her sister Amelia taught in the Intermediate School in Mitchelville.² Shortly after her arrival in Hilton Head, Adeltha already expressed apprehension about her new surroundings: "I don't think a man would even understand how we felt - two

¹American Missionary Association: Its Missionaries, Teachers, and History. New York: AMA, 1869, p 166.

<https://archive.org/details/americanmissiona00amer>.

²Lapham, William Berry. History of Bethel: Formerly Sudbury, Canada, Oxford County, Maine 1768-1890. Bethel, Maine: Press of the Maine Farmer, 1891. p 634.

ADELTHA TWITCHELL

young girls, so far from all their natural protectors and friends. A camp of our soldiers just in sight or rebels just across the water – and they have a special enmity against those who come here to teach the slaves.”³ She showed she was not willing to endure the hardships of the post when she chose the safe “protector” of a new husband after only one term in the field. In September 1865, Adeltha married Benjamin Webb Thompson (1833-1918), Lt. Col. in the Civil War whom she met while in South Carolina and she left her Mitchelville teaching position shortly afterwards.⁴ Her sister, Amelia remained and taught for 9 years in South Carolina and Georgia. Adeltha died January 21, 1874 in Williamsport, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania and was buried in Wildwood Cemetery, Sect OW-Schempp.⁵

³ Jones, Jacqueline. Soldiers of Light and Love: Northern Teachers 1866 and Georgia Blacks, 1865-1873. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1980, p 45.

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⁵ Findagrave.com Memorial ID # 43847535 created Nov 2009 by Rodger.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43847535>.