

Annie Catherine Ladd Neil
wife of John Neil



The Will of Mary Washington

ms Catherine Fee

A copy of the will of Mary Washington was clipped from a magazine by Mrs. E. W. Cannon, historian of the Hartsville chapter, D. A. R., and read at a recent chapter meeting.

It is a very quaint and interesting document and Mrs. Cannon kindly sent it to be printed in this department, that all South Carolina Daughters might have the chance to read it.

In the name of God, Amen, I, Mary Washington, of Fredericksburg, in the county of Spotsylvania, being in good health, but calling to mind the uncertainty of this life, and willing to dispose of what remains of my worldly estate, do make and publish this, my last will, recommending my soul into the hands of my Creator, hoping for a remission of all my sins through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind; I dispose of my worldly estate as follows:

Imprimis—I give to my son, Gen. George Washington, all my land in Accokeek Run, in the county of Stafford, and also my negro boy George, to him and to his heirs forever; also my best bed, bedstead, and Virginia cloth curtains (the same that stand in my best bed-room), my quilted blue and white quilt and my best dressing glass.

Item—I give and devise to my son, Charles Washington, my negro man Tom, to him and his assigns forever.

Item—I give and devise to my daughter, Bettie Lewis, my phaeton and my bay horse.

Item—I give and devise to my daughter-in-law, Hannah Washington, my purple cloth cloak, lined with shag.

Item—I give and devise to my grandson, Corbin Washington, my negro wench old Bet, my riding chair and two black horses, to him and his assigns forever.

Item—I give and devise to my grandson, Fielding Lewis, my negro man Frederick, to him and his assigns forever; also eight silver teaspoons, half of my crockeryware and the blue and white tea china, with book case, oval table, one bedstead,

one pair sheets, one pair blankets and white cotton counterpane, two table cloths, six red leather chairs, half my pewter and one-half of my kitchen furniture.

Item—I give and devise to my grandson, Lawrence Lewis, my negro wench Lydia, to him and his assigns forever.

Item—I give and devise to my granddaughter, Bettie Carter, my negro woman, little Bet, and her future increase, to her and her assigns forever; also my largest looking glass, my walnut writing desk and drawers, a square dining table, one bed, bedstead, bolster, one pillow, one blanket and pair sheets, white Virginia cloth counterpane and purple curtains, my red and white tea china, teaspoons, and the other half of my pewter and crockeryware, and the remainder of my iron kitchen furniture.

Item—I give and devise to my grandson, George Washington, my next best glass, one bed, bedstead, bolster, one pillow, one pair sheets, one blanket and counterpane.

Item—I devise all my wearing apparel to be equally divided between my granddaughters, Bettie Carter, Fannie Ball and Millie Washington, but should my daughter, Bettie Lewis, fancy any one, two or three articles, she is to have them before a division thereof.

Lastly, I nominate and appoint my said son, Gen. George Washington, executor of this, my will, and as I owe few or no debts, I direct my executor to give no security or appraise my estate, but desire the same may be allotted to my devisees, with as little trouble and delay as may be desiring their acceptance thereof as all the token I now have to give them of my love for them.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 20th day of May, 1788.

Mary Washington.

Witness, John Ferneyhough.

Signed, sealed, and published in the presence of the said Mary Washington and at her desire.

Jno. Mercer.

Joseph Walker.

Catherine Ladd (10/28/1808 - 1/30/1899)

In 1852 Catherine Ladd and her husband George Williamson Livermore Ladd opened a school for girls in the building that is now the Fairfield County Museum. The name of the school was the Winnsboro Female Institute. The school, which had 100 students, closed during the Civil War and George Ladd died in 1864. Catherine Ladd went on to run other schools.

Catherine Ladd started the second oldest drama group in the state. She wrote and directed plays that were produced in Thespian Hall.

An advertisement in the November 13, 1856, edition of The Fairfield Herald, reads as follows:

Winnsboro Female Institute, Mrs. C. Ladd, Principal

The duties of this Institution will be resumed on the 1st of January, 1857--the different departments will be filled by competent teachers. The courses in the English department will embrace all those studies that constitute a thorough education.

Tuition in English, including board and lights, will vary from \$55 to \$65 per session of five months. Washing \$1.00 per month.

Languages, Ancient or Modern, each.....\$10

Music on Piano or Guitar.....\$20

Painting.....\$10

Use of Piano.....\$ 2.

Board and tuition in the English department, including music, painting, and any one of the English Languages will not exceed \$200, for the term of ten months. Fuel for Academy \$1 per term.

No deduction for lost time, except in case of sickness, nor will any young lady boarding with the Principal be allowed to go out for the purchase of any articles except on Saturday, when they can be accompanied by one of the teachers.

For further particulars, apply to G.W. Ladd, Winnsboro, South Carolina.

The Ladds ran the Brattonsville Female Seminary in Brattonsville, and Mrs. Ladd advertised in the Yorkville Compiler for the seminary to begin in January of 1840 with a course of study in the English Department to comprise all branches: orthography, reading and writing, also arithmetic, grammar, geography and history. She offered music on the pianoforte, guitar, drawing, oil and miniature painting, and ornamental and fancy needlework. Pat Veasey, Curator of Education at Historic Brattonsville, writes, "in the antebellum South, itinerant artists and teachers were employed according to the demand for their services by wealthy patrons. It was not uncommon for husband and wife teams to combine talents as in the case of the Ladds. Although George was

the portrait artist, Catherine was also trained in the fine arts of painting and drawing which were included in 'polite subjects' for a girl's education. Catherine's talents were to prove more versatile, as the itinerant portrait artist became less in demand than the teacher who could offer a sophisticated curriculum to the girls of ambitious parents."

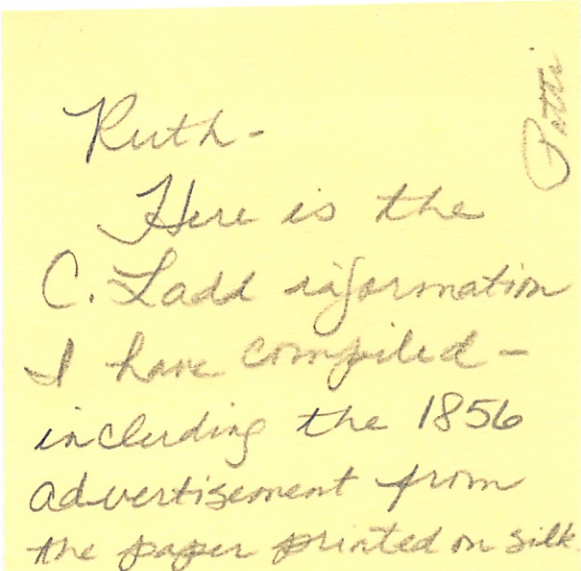
The portraits in the entrance hall of the museum of John Feaster and Mary Meador were painted by George W.L. Ladd. John Feaster gave the land and buildings for Liberty Universalist Church, the Feasterville Male and Female Academy and the Feasterville Boarding House, all at Feasterville. The Ladds came to Feasterville so that George Ladd could paint John Feaster. The story is that Catherine Ladd remarked that there should be a school for the girls in the neighborhood and Mr. Feaster replied, "If you will teach it, I will build the house.:" Mrs. Ladd ran a school there until the Ladds returned to Winnsboro to start the Winnsboro Female Institute.

Several references to Catherine Ladd in Through the Years in Old Winnsboro by Katherine Theus Obear describe her as a very lively and talented woman. Her concerts, plays and parties were always a pleasure to attend.

Catherine Ladd wrote poetry, some of which we have. We also have two small paintings which are attributed to her. They were a gift of Hennies Pope, a descendant of Mrs. Ladd. The paintings are actually prints that were painted over with gouache, and could likely have been used for teaching purposes. Perhaps they were even used in the Winnsboro Female Institute, but we don't know for sure.

There is a story, and I can't remember where I heard it, about Catherine Ladd possibly saving this house from destruction during the Civil War. The story goes that she pleaded with Sherman's troops to spare her girls and the school.

Catherine moved to Monticello after the death of her daughter Annie Neil, wife of Mr. John Neil. According to Katherine Obear, "she lost her eyesight, but continued cheerful in spite of her blindness," and lived for several years after that.



Ruth -
Here is the
C. Ladd information
I have compiled -
including the 1856
advertisement from
the paper printed on silk.

A Century of News

By Sharon Avery

100 Years Ago

The News & Herald

Winnsboro, SC

September 14, 1887

Davis Watson - Married, at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Starkville, Miss., on the evening of September 1st, by the Rev. P.L. Marks, Lieutenant Henry C. Davis, U.S.A., to Miss Marianna Watson, of Mobile, Ala.

Mr. Davis and bride arrived in Winnsboro on Tuesday's north-bound train, and after spending a day with the brother of the groom, Mr. Jas. Q. Davis, left on the north-bound train of Wednesday to visit the mother of the bride, who is at present residing in Canada. Mr. Davis having been born and reared in old Fairfield, has many warm friends in the county who will wish him unbounded happiness in his new departure. We join with others in expressing best wishes for his future peace and happiness.

A Living Example.

Messrs. Editors: Out of a volume styled "Living Female Writer of the South," which recently fell into my hands, the following extracts are taken from the sketch of the life of our esteemed friend, Mrs. Ladd.

"Mrs. Catherine Ladd"

"The name that heads this article will call a thrill of pleasure to many hearts, for this lady is one of the most noted and successful of the teachers of the State of South Carolina, and hundreds of her old pupils, many of them now teaching, scattered throughout the land, remember her kindness and entire un-

selfishness. She is the most generous of women; her time, her talents, her worldly goods are at the command of all her friends," says one of her ex-pupils. . .

"After the commencement of the war Mrs. Ladd gave up everything to devote herself to the cause of the South. She lived for the soldiers! Was elected President of the Soldiers' Aid Association, which office she retained until the close of the war, and by her untiring exertions kept the Society well supplied with clothing. Her pen was unused during the war, the needle and her personal supervision being constantly in demand. In Winnsboro no church is built, no charity solicited, no amusement for young people, no concert, tableaux or fair - nothing goes on without her cheerful and every ready aid."

How gratifying to read these truthful words concerning this venerable lady! Now, she has to a great extent given up literary and educational work, and devotes herself to the problem of making a living by farming on the wornout lands of Fairfield. But even here she shows our people how to smooth the asperities of farm life by illustrating the charms of the country. Her grapes, pears, plums, peaches and other fruits claim much of her attention and give happiness to her family and friends. To the profitable and pleasant cultivation of fruits and vegetables she adds the delight of flowers and ornamental trees, and has probably given more care and labor to beautifying her home during the period of her life in the country than any farmer in Fairfield. Here, again, her example

tends to increase the love for a home on the farm by making it more attractive and beautiful in its surroundings. In Mrs. Ladd's advocacy of the encouragement of home manufactories. . .

G.H. McMaster

45 Years Ago

The News & Herald, Winnsboro, SC

September 17, 1942

Mrs. Shelton Returns from Trip to Florida

Mrs. J.R. Shelton of Shelton returned home Sunday after a month's visit to relatives in Florida. She first visited her son, Hiram S. Allen, at Daytona Beach, where she attended the launching on August 15th of the Navy Vessel SC 697, a sub-chaser, built by the Daytona Beach Boat Works, Inc., with which company her son holds a very responsible position. This was the sixth such vessel to be constructed in the boat yard, and 10 minutes before it slid down the ways, the keel of the seventh was laid nearby. The yard has launched six of these little ships, and has contracts to build seven more. They are being launched ahead of schedule.

"Tacky Shower"

For Mrs. DesPortes

A bridge party shower which started festivities honoring bride-elect Miss Mary DesPortes, was that given by half dozen of her close friends at the house of Miss Joan Fayssoux on Saturday afternoon.

The living room was artistically decorated with color notes of

A Short Sketch Of Mrs. Katharine Ladd

Subject of Story Was Wife Of
George Washington Ladd And
A Well-Known Woman Of Fair-
field.

Stanton

Mrs. David de Verill Walker, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. George Washing-
ton Ladd were natives of Virginia.
Mrs. Ladd was the former Kath-
arine Stanton. Her mother, Mrs.
Stanton came with the Ladds to
Winnsboro and spent the remaind-
er of her life with them. The
Ladds, by actual knowledge, arriv-
ed after the year 1842, which date
is that of the building of the large
town house of Osmond Woodward
on the site of the stone church
across the street from the Ketchin
brick building on Congress street.
This date may be 1842-43, but by
all evidence it could hardly be af-
ter 1848. (My mother, Mrs. Rob-
ert Buchanan, went to school to
Mrs. Ladd and my mother was
married at the age of twenty-one
years).

town to stay. Among them were
Charlestonians, such as Mrs.
James McCreight, mother of Mrs.
Kate Smith and Mrs. McCreight's
sister, Mrs. Doctor Newton. Per-
haps some were parents of Mt.
Zion young men or of the Ladd
pupils or low-country folk enjoy-
ing the less enervating climate of
the hills.

Mrs. Ladd was a social and ar-
tistic, as well as an educational
leader of the town. She was high-
ly cultured and possessed many
talents. There were clubs organ-
ized by her and life in the town
took a gayer trend. Among the
most important of the organiza-
tions that grew under her inspira-
tion and care, was the Thespian
Corps, an amateur group of the
socially prominent and gifted cit-
izens who displayed their drama-
tic ability and gave artistic and
musical expression in the form of
theatricals, dances and tableaux of
Victorian fame. The Thespian hall,
a building north of the Town Hall
and Town Clock, was the meeting
place of the socially inclined and

Dr. George Ladd married
Mr. Ladd having died about the
time of the War between the
States, Mrs. Ladd continued to
teach school until some years la-
ter, when she gave musicals and
moved in the social life around
her. Always patriotic, a devout
Southerner at heart, she took part
in all public events. She went to
Peay's Ferry, where she lived two
years before going to Beuna Vis-
ta plantation in the Buckhead
section of the county. Here, her
home was open to all social activ-
ities of the community, giving
musical entertainment and instruc-
tion to pupils after the loss of her
eyesight. A near neighbor to
Beuna Vista was Mrs. John Feas-
ter, who was Miss Sallie Lyles.
On a visit to Mrs. Feaster, my
cousin, I walked to the post office
of Buckhead holding to Mrs.
Ladd's arm to guide her steps.

At a peaceful hour she passed
away and is buried with two sons
and Miss Joe in the churchyard
at Salem church.

day, Oct. 24, 1940

Constitutional oath. The Chairman of the Board of Managers can administer the oath to the other Managers and to the Clerk; a Notary Public must administer the oath to Chairman. The Managers elect their Chairman and Clerk.

Polls at each voting place must be opened at 8 o'clock a. m. and closed at 4 o'clock p. m., except in the Cities of Columbia and Charleston where the closing hours shall be at 6 o'clock p. m.

The Managers have the power to fill a vacancy; and if none of the Managers attend, the citizens can appoint, from among the qualified voters, the Managers, who, after being sworn, can conduct the election.

At the close of the election the Managers and Clerks must proceed publicly to open the ballot box and count the ballots therein, and continue without adjournment until the same is completed, and make a statement of the results for each office, and sign the same. Within

taining the ballots and written statements of the results of the election.

Managers of Election.—The following Managers of Election have been appointed to hold the election at the various precincts in the said County:

Centerville: Ernest Branham, J. M. Nelson, Samuel Branham.

Feasterville: E. T. Boulware, W. Y. Coleman, Miss Mary S. Faucette.

Mitford: Bratton Gladden, W. S. Keistler, J. E. Higgins.

Horeb: Mrs. Annie Lee Cauthen, W. C. Peay, G. A. Robinson.

Monticello: W. P. McMeekin, T. W. Shedd, W. R. Robinson.

Ridgeway: R. N. Bolick, T. J. Castine, Joe Coleman.

Winnsboro: C. W. Bolick, Heyward Harden, D. W. McCants.

Woodward: W. B. Douglas, M. T. Patrick, S. J. Harvey.

Longtown: R. L. Kelly, J. L. Dixon, G. E. Moore, Sr.

Greenbrier: Mrs. Tom Ruff, Mrs. Annie S. Castles, Mrs. Pope Brooks, Sr.

Howard S. Yarborough, W. T. McConnell.

Winnsboro Mills: Bennie Keisler, Mrs. C. S. Shirley, Almer Summers.

New Hope: T. J. Douglas, Sr., J. C. Lewis, J. S. McKeown.

Blairs: W. H. Long, D. P. Coleman, S. S. Bolick

Shelton: J. R. Shelton, Mrs. W. B. Wright, J. L. Jenkins.

Gladden's Grove: B. S. Bankhead, Mrs. R. B. McDonald, W. B. Dixon.

Hickory Ridge: W. J. Lemmon, J. W. Brooks, Miss Willie Timms.

White Oak: J. H. Patrick, Mrs. M. W. Patrick, H. C. Wylie.

Simpson: L. W. Taylor, R. J. Vaughn, Mrs. D. R. Dove.

The Managers at each precinct named above are requested to delegate one of their number to secure the box and blanks for the election Saturday, November 2, 1940 at the office of the Supervisor of Fairfield county.

W. Y. BUCHANAN,
T. W. LEWIS,

H. N. OBEAR, Chairman.

MRS. CATHERINE LADD

"The name that heads this article will call a thrill of pleasure to many hearts—for this lady is "one of the most noted and successful of the teachers of the State of South Carolina," and hundreds of her old pupils, many of them now "teaching," scattered throughout the land, remember her kindness and entire unselfishness. "She is the most generous of women; her time, her talents, her worldly goods are at the command of all her friends," says one of her ex-pupils.

Mrs. Ladd is a native of Virginia—was born in October, 1810—married when eighteen years old to Mr. Ladd, a portrait and miniature painter. Her maiden name was Catherine Stratton.

For several years after her marriage Mrs. Ladd wrote poetry, which was published in the various periodicals of the day. For years she was a regular correspondent of several newspapers, and published a series of articles on drawing, painting, and education, which attracted considerable attention.

In 1842, Mrs. Ladd permanently settled in the town of Winnsboro, South Carolina, where she established one of the largest institutions of learning in the State, which sustained its well-deserved reputation until closed in 1861.

Mrs. Ladd has contributed tales, sketches, essays, and poems to various journals under different noms de plume—as "Minnie Mayflower," "Arcturus," "Alida," and "Morna."

During the existence of the "Floral Wreath," published in Charleston by Mr. Edwin Heriott, Mrs. Ladd was a regular contributor. Mr. Heriott, in a notice of the literary talent of the South, speaking of Mrs. Ladd's poetical works, said: "They were sweet, smooth, and flowing, particularly so; but, like Scotch music, their gayest notes were sad."

In 1851, she with ardor took up the subject of education, home manufactures, and encouragement of white labor, believing that the ultimate prosperity of South Carolina would depend on it. She reasoned from a conviction that South Carolina could not compete with the more Southern and Southwestern States in raising cotton, and an extensive system of slave labor would realize no profit.

Mrs. Ladd's plays, written at the solicitation of friends, and performed by them, were very popular. The "Grand Scheme" and "Honeymoon" were celebrated far

and wide. The incidents and introduction of characters showed that she had more than ordinary talent for that species of composition. Mrs. Ladd has a wonderful knack of managing young people.

After the commencement of the war, Mrs. Ladd gave up everything to devote herself to the cause of the South. She lived for the soldiers! Was elected President of the "Soldiers' Aid Association," which office she retained until the close of the war, and by her untiring exertions kept the society well supplied with clothing. Her pen was unused during the war, the needle

and her personal supervision being constantly in demand. In Winnsboro, no church is built, no charity solicited, no ball, concert, tableaux, or fair—nothing goes on without her cheerful and ever-ready aid.

Mrs. Ladd is said to be "home-ly," and dresses to suit herself, never caring about the "latest fashions," ignores "hoops," and always wears her hair short. Her manner is abrupt and decided; but one instinctively feels it to be "kind."

The "Confederate flag" is said to have originated with Mrs. Ladd, the first one, we allude to. The fire of February 21, 1865, destroyed the literary labor of 30 years. With the assistance of a Federal officer, Mrs. Ladd saved the jewels of the Masonic Lodge in the next house to hers; but the flame and smoke prevented her finding the "charter." By this time the fire had got so much ahead on her own premises, and the confusion was so great, that she lost everything.

It is said that outside of the walls of her school, Mrs. Ladd was the gay, social companion of every young lady under her charge. Following her to school-room, you instantly felt the change; though not perhaps a word was spoken, every young lady felt it. She has a powerful will and habit of centering every thought and feeling instantly on the occupation of the moment. The confusion of voices or passing objects never seemed to disturb her when writing.

A friend of Mrs. Ladd says: "Her quick motions show the rapidity of thought. Even now, at the age of fifty-eight, were you walking behind her, you might mistake her, from the light buoyancy of step, for a young girl."

Copied from "Living Female Writers of the South" by Mrs. M. T. Tardy.







Ladd - B. Plymouth U. H.
 Aug 14, 1864 - 1803
The News & Herald, Winnsboro, S. C., Thu

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Dr. George Ladd married
 Mr. Ladd having died about the
 time of the War between the
 States, Mrs. Ladd continued to
 teach school until some years lat-
 er, when she gave musicals and
 moved in the social life around
 her. Always patriotic, a devout
 Southerner at heart, she took part
 in all public events. She went to
 Peay's Ferry, where she lived two
 years before going to Beuna Vis-
 ta plantation in the Buckhead
 section of the county. Here, her
 home was open to all social activ-
 ities of the community, giving
 musical entertainment and instruc-
 tion to pupils after the loss of her
 eyesight. A near neighbor to
 Beuna Vista was Mrs. John Feas-
 ter, who was Miss Sallie Lyles.
 On a visit to Mrs. Feaster, my
 cousin, I walked to the post office
 of Buckhead holding to Mrs.
 Ladd's arm to guide her steps.
 At a peaceful hour she passed
 away and is buried with two sons
 and Miss Joe in the churchyard
 at Salem church.

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5. Do not step carel
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