

2512 Keswick Rd.  
Florence, SC 29501  
June 26, 2005

Dear Pelham,

I enjoyed my visit to the museum last Friday. As promised, included are some photographs of the picture painted by Mary Catherine Ladd. The actual color in the picture is more like that of picture number 1 (lightly numbered on the back), but pictures 3 and 4 show more detail. The supposed sword slash patch (vertical) is clearly visible above the two deer on the left. Of course, the fact that there is another smaller patch just right of center about four inches from the top might give lie to that tale. You can see this patch if you look just right of where the light comes through the tree in the center. There's a lighter spot there. Five and six were done with a zoom and a flash (unfortunately), but they give some detail of the shape of the canvas. An elderly gentleman in Columbia that my mother had located cleaned the picture about 30 years ago. I would be interested in knowing if you know of any good restorers who could look at it again.

The picture is in a three inch frame and has been for as long as I can remember (early 1950s) and the canvas is 27  $\frac{3}{4}$  X 21  $\frac{1}{2}$ . There is something printed on the canvas by the manufacturer, I presume. It's faded and hard to read and is partially hidden by the wooden frame the canvas is mounted on. It's written in an oval shape. I'll write on the back what I could make out. Don't hold me to it. The number is the only thing I'm sure of.

I am including a copy of a note written by my grandmother, Mary Catherine Ladd Ragsdale, that was in an envelope taped to the back of the picture. I can vouch for her handwriting.

I had noticed years ago at the dedication of the marker for the museum that it read Catharine with an "a" instead of an "e." I would be interested in knowing if this is correct. I have my grandmother's family Bible (1896). In the front is handwritten "Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Ladd, Ladd-Owings Family Record." In the Bible, the Catherine is spelled with an "e."

Finally, what might be of interest is another smaller (10 X 14) landscape that was done by either a Yongue or Owings female relative. I really can't remember which but I think it was Yongue. I didn't think to ask my husband to photograph that one. Are you aware of anyone of the same era or later who painted? The frame doesn't appear to be as old, but the wear on the canvas does to me. But, of course, I'm just a casual observer.

I hope this gives you what you need. We do have the pictures on CD. I couldn't seem to open them, however, and my husband is out of town. I will try to get them sent at a later date.

Sincerely,



Catherine W. Frank  
BebeWFrank@aol.com

