

Catherine Stratton Ladd

28 October 1808 - 30 January 1899

The attached information concerning Catherine Ladd was compiled by Belle Youngue Garvin, a great grand daughter.

Much of the information in these pages came from an article published in The Dictionary of American Biography and written by Catherine Stratton Ladd. The article was intended to provide a short sketch of her life to her descendants.

Other information came as family lore passed on from Catherine Stratton Ladd to her daughter Catharine Lydia Ladd who married Dr James B. Curston and then to Catharine "Kate" Norman Curston the daughter of Catharine Lydia Ladd Curston. "Kate" Norman Curston married R. E. Youngue and one of their daughters was Belle Youngue.

The attached papers were passed on from Belle Youngue Garvin to Noel and Sarah Horton Garvin at her death.

- (1) Catharine Stratton married George Williamson Ladd
- (2) Catharine Lydia Ladd married James B. Curston
- (3) Catharine "Kate" Norman Curston married R. E. Youngue
- (4) Belle Youngue married Noel William Garvin

Genealogy information is available through Pickens County S.C. Libraries and the Winchester S.C. Historical Society.

Mrs Catherine Stratton Ladd.

Oct. 28, 1808 - January 30, 1899

(Most of these facts are from the Dictionary of American Biography) written by Mrs Ladd, was this tip sketch for her descendants.

Mrs Catherine Stratton Ladd, Mrs George Williamson Livermore Ladd, School mistress, writer of fugitive prose, verse and artist was born in Richmond, Virginia where her father, James Stratton, had married Martha Ann Collins in 1807 - a year after his arrival from Ireland, Six months after Catherine Stratton was born he fell from a vessel off the coast (of Ireland) and drowned.

Mrs Ladd was educated in the schools of Richmond and was said to have been a playmate of

Edgar Allen Poe. One of the most treasured recollections of Richmond was her meeting La Fayette at a public reception in 1824. In 1828 she married George Williamson Livermore Ladd, who was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire and who had been a seaman ten years before; but who was then in the south as a portrait painter having studied with the famous S. F. B. Morse of Boston. Accompanied by his mother she went to Charleston, S. C. where they arrived to witness the jubilee of the election of Andrew Jackson. From Charleston they went to Augusta, Georgia, where they remained until burned out by the great fire of 1829. They then returned but later moved to Macon, Ga. where for 3 years Mrs Ladd was principal of Vineville Academy. Next she ran a girls' school in York, S. C.

In 1839 she learned there was completed an excellent brick building suitable for a school dormitory, but it had not been so used. She had as scholars in York four daughters of the late Honorable Osmond Woodward of Winnsboro, S. C. She made a wish to move to Winnsboro, Mr Woodward sent his teams and wagons and brought her possessions to the building and a fine Academy for young Ladies was established, attracting clientele from distant cities as far as Charleston. The Winnsboro Female Academy was in full operation in 1840.

Mrs Ladd was a most versatile and brilliant woman so a letter says describing her; and she had great influence on the cultural and education life of Fairfield County, her school being one of the best

good schools for girls in the state. A book states she was instructor with other of languages, science, mathematics, music and one record states there were 9 instructors in the school of 100 pupils. Mrs Ladd had the second oldest drama class in the state, Dock Street being the first established, a special hall, the Theatrical Hall was erected in the town primarily for Mrs. Ladd's concerts and operettas that had printed programs and painted scenery done by her. She was since her school opening in January 1939 enlarging her own influence in the publishing of broad ideas of manufacture, a design submitted for the Confederate flag; poems, & she was a regular columnist for the Charleston News and Courier. When the war came she lost everything in her dwelling.

and the dining hall of the school, both of wood construction and on the corner of the street immediately south of the brick school building where Sherman fired these buildings. She lived for years in the home immediately west and northerly from the school, where a Mrs. Stewart had formerly run a boys seminary. She stopped her girls' academy two years, and as President of the Ladies Relief Association of Fairfield, did much for the sick and wounded Confederate soldiers. Her son, Albert Washington Ladd, was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines. Her husband died July 14, 1863. He is buried in a Church Cemetery in Winnsboro.

Mrs Ladd opened again her school and included in the new site in the Western part

of Fairfield County at Feasterville about 1870 a boarding and day school instructing in courses of music, art and dancing.

Probably because of failing eyesight she retired in 1880 and lived at the historic plantation 'Buena Vista'. This was in her 91st year of life.

Although a member of the Episcopal Church she is buried at Salem Presbyterian Church cemetery near the site of her last school.

Mrs Ladd's poems are characterized by strong religious feeling and love of nature. Her occasional letters of reminiscences and later poems, which appeared at intervals in the Winnsboro Press are signed Mrs. C. Ladd but her earlier pen names are said to have been "Minnie Mayflower", "Arturus" and "Aleda". Two poems of little

merit were signed by her
pseudonym, "Morna" appeared in
the second volume of the
Southern Literary Messenger.
Her articles on education, as
tales, essays, plays and news
letters were well received.

To-day - two well-preserved
printed programs of Gilbert
and Sullivan operettas and a
finely executed piece of crochet
in 100 size thread are treasures
held by a descendant of Mrs Ladd.
These two light operas were
given in the Thespian Hall
with back grounds painted by
Mrs Ladd.

Among the fine oil portraits
owned by Fairfield County
Judge of Probate Office of the
ownership.

Among the fine oil portraits owned by Fairfield people and executed by Mr Ladd are those of Mr and Mrs Osmond Woodard in the home of Miss Alice A. B. Walker and portraits of the ancestors of Mrs Julie and Mary Faucette owned by these two ladies.

See below copy of records in Fairfield County Judge of Probate Office of the ownership of the building used by Mrs Ladd for her Winsted school.

1829, John Mc Master to Richard Cathcart Lot #53 on Congress St.
March 29, 1852. Richard Cathcart to George W. Ladd. Lot #53 and house - Congress St. Consideration \$3,500.00.

1862 - Geo. Ladd to Philip Parcher, (Trustee for Mattie Eggleston, wife of Geo. Eggleston of Charleston Lot #53 plus land Congress St with

House: Consideration \$4000,

1874, Maria Parcher Lot on
Congress St. and corner to
Priscilla Ketchin including house.
Consideration \$3000.00

Nov. 29, 1938 to John W.
Cathcart by S. A. McMaster,
A. E. Davis, P. C. Thomas as
receivers of the Winnsboro Bank.
Deed signed by Priscilla Ketchin
and heirs

Facts about Mrs Catherine
Ladd and her school building
on Main St.

Committee of the Fairfield
Historical Society & other
American Encyclopedic of
American