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Dear [unclear]  
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## A Short Sketch Of Mrs. Katharine Ladd

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

Mrs. David de Verill Walker, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. George Wash-  
ington 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 (20  
years).

Mr. Ladd  
by profession, he painted por-  
traits of my grandfather and my  
grandmother, these being in my  
home at the present time.

Before coming to Winnsboro,  
Mrs. Ladd taught a school at Brat-  
tonsville in York county. Mr. Os-  
mond Woodward sent his two eld-  
est daughters to Mrs. Ladd and  
they boarded in with Doctor and  
Mrs. William Bratton. My mother,  
Rebecca, was a frail child and at  
the tender age of five years, she  
was sent to York to be under the  
care of Doctor Bratton, who was  
the family physician and one of  
the most highly regarded men of  
his profession in this part of the  
state. His office was one of the  
nearest to Winnsboro for expert  
medical aid.

On a visit to his daughters one  
day, Mrs. Ladd when talking to  
Mr. Woodward expressed her wish  
to establish her school in Winns-  
borough, as it was then known.  
Being greatly pleased at the idea  
because he had five daughters and  
an adopted daughter, a niece, Es-  
ther, to educate, Mr. Woodward  
sent his wagons and carriage to  
York to bring the Ladd family to  
Fairfield and they were settled in  
the brick house of three stories  
opposite the Woodward residence,  
using this house close to the side-  
walk for dormitory and home, and  
the four or five-room wooden  
structure that stood on the corner  
of Congress and Moultrie streets  
for dining room and recitation  
rooms. One of the instructors of  
the school was Mrs. Josiah Ohear.

To augment the salary of the  
school, there were guests taken  
into the dormitory when there was  
available space for them. It was  
the place for strangers in the

town to stay. Am-  
Charlestonians, su  
James McCreight, n  
Kate Smith and Mr  
sister, Mrs. Doctor  
haps some were p  
Zion young men  
pupils or low-cou  
ing the less enerv  
the hills.

Mrs. Ladd was a  
tistic, as well as a  
leader of the town.  
ly cultured and po-  
talents. There were  
ized by her and life  
took a gayer trend.  
most important of  
tions that grew unde-  
tion and care, was  
Corps, an amateur  
socially prominent ar  
izens who displayed  
tic ability and gave  
musical expression in  
theatricals, dances an  
Victorian fame. The  
a building north of th  
and Town Clock

town in this part of the state, or  
at least one of the best known in  
upper South Carolina. Light oper-  
as were successfully and well  
done. Pinafore by Gilbert and Sul-  
livan belong to this type of enter-  
tainment. Given by a congenial  
cast, a program of this opera in  
which I took a part is in my scrap-  
book as one of the pleasurable  
memories of membership in the  
Thespian Corps. The scenery  
painted on the backdrop of the  
stage by Mrs. Ladd, was and may-  
be now, is in part still in the hall  
as were some of her poems found  
in an old newspaper unearthed in  
a trunk.

Mr. and Mrs. Ladd had six chil-  
dren.

Dr. Charles Ladd and Miss Joe  
did not marry.

Mr. Washington Ladd married a  
Miss Owens of this county and his  
children are Mr. Washington Ladd  
of Strother, with children, Mrs.  
Berta Bradley and J. C. Ladd;  
George Preston Ladd of Columbia;  
Osmond Y. Ladd of Connecticut;  
Thomas Albert Ladd; Mrs. John  
Ragsdale of Blairs; Garris Ladd  
of Winnsboro, whose children are  
Mrs. Willie Hayne McMeekin and  
others.

Miss Kate married Dr. James  
Cureton, a Welshman, that prac-  
tised dentistry in Liberty Hill and  
later, in Ridgeway, returning to  
Liberty Hill. The daughter, Miss  
Josie, married Mr. James Wilkes.  
Her children are Martin Wilkes,  
Ernest, Robert, James, Mrs. T. W.  
Pope, Mrs. Carl Hill, Miss Louise  
Wilkes and Mrs. Hennies War-  
mouth.

Miss Annie Ladd married Mr.  
John Neil (first wife).