



# Friends of the Museum

Fairfield County Museum

## What's Going on...

Fall, 2008

### An Exhibition and Play Honoring our Lady of the Museum...

**Catharine Ladd: Nineteenth Century Voice of Fairfield.** *Catharine Ladd: Nineteenth Century Voice of Fairfield.* Our new exhibit, curated by Michaela Pilar Brown with contributions from Ladd scholar Patricia Veasey, will open to the public on October 18.

The exhibition will showcase the life of this legendary Fairfield county educator, artist, and ancestor. This exhibition includes documents, personal items, and artwork from the permanent collection, The York County Culture and Heritage Museums, and articles loaned by Ladd family donors. The exhibition will focus on Catharine's life in the context of Fairfield County history and will examine some of her written works. "New Improvement," an essay attributed to Catharine Ladd, addressed politics surrounding the 1868 elections and their impact on Fairfield County citizenry—with a forecast on their impact today. The exhibition will look at Catharine's position on the responsibilities of registered voters in context with current themes prominent in the 2008 Presidential election.

**A Grande Event:** The exhibit, which will open at 1 PM on Oct. 18, will be preceded at 12 noon by a staged reading of Catharine Ladd's original 1853 play, **The Grande Scheme**, in the backyard of the Museum. The curious theme of matchmaking between cousins by Chester, a "frothy old bachelor," will be introduced to our modern audience by director Dr. Martha Macdonald, professor of English literature at USC (Lancaster campus).

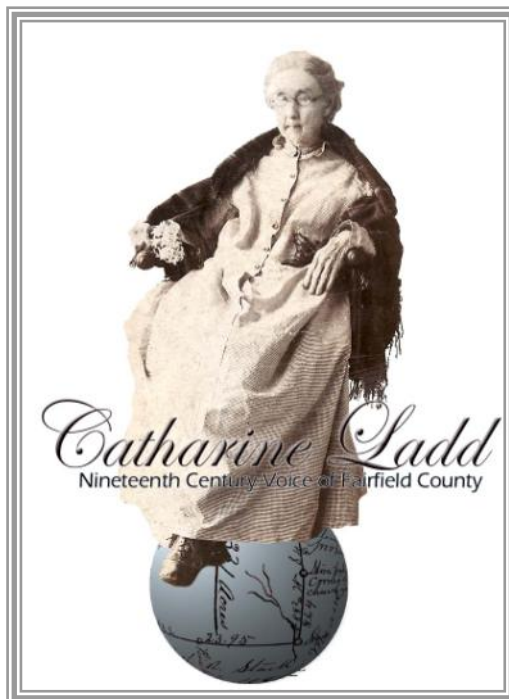
Bill Wedding will enact the part of "frothy" Old Chester, while Rolf De Swardt will be his manservant Tom. Dr. Macdonald will play the part

of Chester's servant Old Martha. Chester's nephews Henry and Charles will be portrayed by Chris Darner and John McCants, while the nieces Mary and Anna will be played by Ester De Swardt and Corinne Reed. The roles of William and Patrick, Irish servants of the nephews, will be enacted by David Brandenburg and Kay Boulware. Susan and Ellen, waiting maids of Anna and Mary, will be played by Marcie Wedding and Elfi Hacker. Old Michael, a fiddler will be enacted by Roy Gugel.

**The Grande Scheme** will be performed on Saturday at noon and again on Sunday at the same time. The play is presented in cooperation with the Pine Tree Players annual Shakefest event which will begin each afternoon at 1 PM across the street in the PTP playhouse.

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*"To educate citizens and visitors about the heritage of Fairfield County."*

*-Mission Statement*

## Who was Catharine Ladd?

A native of Virginia, Catherine Stratton and her artist husband George Williamson Livermore Ladd followed demands for his work as an itinerant portrait painter across several southern states. Wherever George found portrait work, Catharine taught in or established schools for local girls. After establishing Brattonville Female Seminary in York County, S.C. on the Bratton plantation, the reputation of the couple brought them to Winnsboro.

After several assignments in Winnsboro and nearby Feasterville, the Ladds purchased the Richard Cathcart home on Congress Street of Winnsboro and opened a boarding school for the education of young ladies called the **Winnsboro Female Institute**.

Catharine's school would become a counterpart to the nearby well-known **Mt. Zion College** for males. Girls from Fairfield and many other places came to

learn both the cultural and academic masteries necessary to develop ladies of intelligence and social standing. After South Carolina's secession from the Union in January of 1861, Mrs. Ladd focused her efforts to the formation of the Soldiers' Aid Association to support the southern cause. She "put aside her pen and took up a needle," organizing the women and girls of the town into production crews for soldiers' clothing and foodstuffs. She is known to have contributed to the design of the first Confederate flag. She is also accredited with collecting the village's pots and pans for conversion to Confederate munitions.

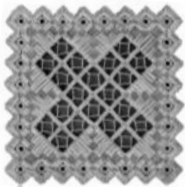
The Ladds sold the Ketchin house in 1862 where Winnsboro Female Institute was located, and moved the school to another location in town. In 1865 when Winnsboro was occupied by Union troops, her daughter later described in a newspaper article how Catharine di-

verted the soldiers from burning the school. After the War in 1866 the Winnsboro Female Institute resumed in the Bank Range building under Mrs. Ladd and Rev. Josiah Obear.

Catharine Ladd was a leader in bringing arts to the community; writing and publishing her poetry and plays in national magazines and conducting theatrical and musical productions to help the townsfolk survive difficult times. Her theatrical group, The Thespian Corps, became the second acting troupe established in the state. When the burned building housing the railway passenger depot behind the Town Clock was reopened in 1873, it became known as Thespian Hall. She was a well-known writer and published many literary works, particularly on art and education, under several different pen names--Minnie Mayflower, Arcturus, Morna, and Alida--in various southern  
(continued below)

## November workshops at the Museum...

The Fairfield County Museum will offer two month-long Saturday workshops in November for those interested in the traditional needlework forms of hand quilting and lace making. The classes will run from 10:00–12:00 and from 1:00 to 3:00 on November 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. The number of spaces are limited and will be offered first-come-first-served.



The beautiful piece in the accompanying picture is called **hardanger** lace. This

traditional art form will be taught by **Mrs. Lilly Fox**, a native of Switzerland who lives in our town. Lilly grew up in a small village in the Valais Canton, learning needle work on her mother's knee and gardening with her grandfather. In 1980, while working in Geneva, she met visiting American professor David Fox, whom she married and accompanied to Minnesota. She and David bought the Dr. McCants house on Bratton Street and moved to Winnsboro in the 1990s. David passed away in a private airplane accident a few years back.

**Mrs. Joan Conrad** will teach the hand quilting class in the afternoons. Joan

shares her volunteer time between the museum and the railroad museum. She grew up in a household where music and handiwork was encouraged. Her family gathered once a week at her grandmother's home to work on quilts and other needle work projects. She learned very early on a child's sewing machine how to make her own clothes.

The cost for a four-week classes of either craft will cost \$50 plus the cost of materials. Call Betty at 635-1030 or Pelham at 635-9811 to register.

## Also, just around the corner...

On Friday evening, December 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, come enjoy Fairfield County's garden clubs' beautiful Museum decorations with wine and cheese just before the curtain rises across the



street for the Pine Tree Players' Christmas play. On Sunday, December 14 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM (just after the Pine Tree theater matinee), come join us in our annual Christmas Open House. Refreshments and the usual musical entertainments will help us welcome the Christmas season.

Please look for further details in upcoming issues of the Herald-Independent Newspaper.

**Catharine** (continued) journals. She attributed much inspiration to her childhood friendship with Edgar Allen Poe.



In her late years, Mrs. Ladd lived and took in students at Buena Vista in present-day Blair, eventually losing her sight. She died in 1899. In 1976, the 146 year-old Winnsboro Female Institute building would be restored and reopened as the county museum.

## Around the Museum

### **The Birthing a Community: Fairfield County Midwives exhibition**

has been a rousing success in attracting many visitors from around the state and in garnering partnering events such as the BOLD (Birth On Labor Day) conference in Columbia during September. Exhibit curator Michaela Brown put up a sculptural video installation titled "Laps and Aprons." to accompany a traveling portion of the exhibit at Cottingham Theater and Trustus Theater on September 20th and 23rd.

Mrs. Verola Maple, Fairfield County's last living midwife traveled with us to greet young mothers, birthing professionals, and interested attendees with her sage advice on delivery and infant rearing. The photos show Miss Verola in 1980 delivering a baby and in 2008 speaking to a young mother at Cottingham Theater.

The exhibit in the Museum will continue until December 31.



### **Dousing for Ancestors...**

McCright family researcher, Bill Pooler of Pennsylvania recently joined cousins on a cemetery cleanup weekend. Bill, a government geologist uses the dousing rods in his profession. He has found the tools to be helpful in locating the underground disturbances that indicate burials. Here he locates an unmarked grave.

The Museum encourages citizens concerns about protecting our old cemeteries. Director Lyles keeps maps to help descendants locate their family sites.



## Donations and Discoveries

**Scott Coleman of Chester** recently brought this antique farm sled to the museum for future barnyard display. Scot's wife Glinda had a part in the movie **The Patriot**. She played one of the bodies that were piled on the sled in the scene of the church being burned by the Tories.



**Mt. Zion Teacherage:** This old postcard found on E-Bay by Mark Rigsby shows the house on the corner of Gooding and Bratton Streets where Mt. Zion school superintendents lived.



**What in the World?** This gadget, one of two found when preparing the McCright barn for removal, has defied identification by visiting historians, archaeologists, and old-time farmers. Suggestions have been given that it is some sort of animal trap or a mold for making bricks or concrete blocks. If you or someone can offer additional thoughts on its use, call Pelham for an appointment to look at it.

**How much is that worth?** This 1830 coin was brought in for ID by a citizen who found it buried in south Fairfield. Our resident expert Dr. Jack Meyers identified it as a capped bust half dime, minted between 1829 to 1837. The antique sale value of one in this condition would be about \$60—\$70.



## New Faces Around...

Two new volunteers working in the Museum are Robin Brannon and Susan Mclane. Robin, formerly in law enforcement, returned to Winnsboro to marry Dennis Brannon and raise a family. She is the new secretary of the Friends committee.

Susan works in the Museum every Wednesday trying to keep the director's office organized (tall order!). She commutes from the Lexington area every Wednesday with her sister Nancy Brown, who for a few years has been driving to Winnsboro to help in the genealogy research facility on Vanderhorst St. Susan retired this summer and enjoys learning about her heritage as a descendant of early settlers, the Kincaids and Lyleses.

*"To identify and document historic properties and sites within the county."*

*-Mission Statement*

# Fairfield County Museum

231 S. Congress St.  
POB 6  
Winnsboro, SC  
29180

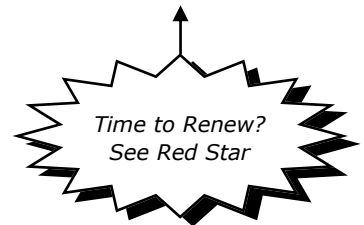
Phone: 803-635-9811

Fax: 803-815-9811

E-mail: [fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)

Web: <http://>

[fairfieldsc.test.sturgiswebsiteservices.com/  
secondary.aspx?pageID=125](http://fairfieldsc.test.sturgiswebsiteservices.com/secondary.aspx?pageID=125) .



Individual Member (1 yr)	\$10
Couple (1 yr)	\$15
Family (1 yr) <i>Immediate Family Members Only</i>	\$20
Student (1 yr)	\$8

**RENEWALS:** Please list changes only below

REMEMBER: List your email address to help save

*Changes:*

Category and Amount Included:

## Yes! I would Like to Become a Member!

Send to

FOTM

POB 6

Winnsboro, SC 29180

Name:

Address:

Telephones:

Email:

Category and Amount Included:

Additional donation: