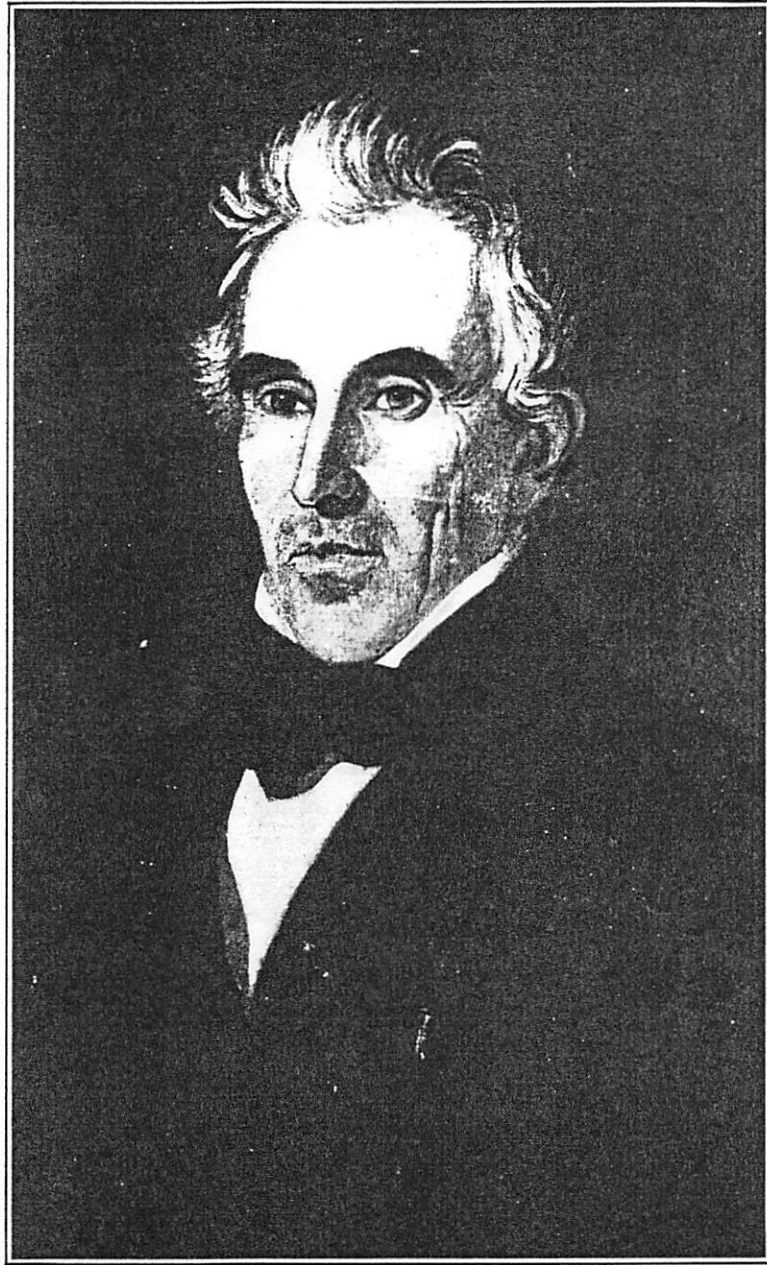


Painted by "Mr. Mittag" in 1842 for the
Philanthropic Lit. Society



SAMUEL WILLIAMSON

The portrait of President Williamson now belonging to the College was painted in 1842 by "Mr. Mittag" for the Philanthropic Literary Society - see minutes of that Society

June 8th, 1923.

Mrs. Harvey S. Cole,
Little Rock, Ark.

My dear Mrs. Cole:-

President Martin has turned your letter of the 5th inst. over to me for attention.

President Samuel Williamson was born in York County, South Carolina June 12, 1795. He married the daughter of Rev. James Adams, date unknown. He was president of Davidson from July 1st, 1841 to June, 1854, being the second president of the College. He died March 12, 1882.

The College keeps no records of the members of the families of its presidents, but in the cemetery are two graves presumably of his children.

The inscription on one is as follows:

//John S. Williamson, born March 29, 1834, died September 15, 1850.//

"So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

The other is the tomb, broken into three pieces, which carries at the top of the marble as it was once, a full-blown rose and a bud, while on the bottom of the stone - that part now standing, is a full-blown rose, and a leaf.

The inscription is

"Affection's sacred tribute to the Memory of Mrs. Mary E. Williamson, wife of H. H. Wilson, who departed this life October 13, 1851, aged 20 years and two months.

She was exemplary in all the relations of life, a dutiful daughter, a devoted wife, a tender affectionate mother, a faithful friend and an humble and sincere christian. She died in the full assurance of a glorious resurrection beyond the grave.

There is a verse of poetry on the part of the stone now standing but it is so moss grown that I cannot read it, as it is very low to the ground.

Neither of these state that they are the children of president Williamson, but in old records there is a reference to the fact that he lost a young son here, who died after an illness of only a few hours, so I took it that the young man was his son, but I never knew to whom the young Mrs. Willison belonged, as none of the other members of the family are buried here. The two graves are side by side; the young man's is a long box monument about two feet high, covering the grave; the young woman's is a thin slab, about five feet high.

Cordially yours,

Cornelia Shaw, Librarian.

PORTRAITS BELONGING TO DAVIDSON COLLEGE No. _____

Subject: (dates) REV. SAMUEL WILLIAMSON, D.D. (1795 - 1882)

Relationship to Davidson: President of Davidson College (1841-1854)

Artist, address & dates: John F. G. Mittag (1803 - 1890)

Date of Portrait: 1842

Cost of Portrait:

Misc. Notes: Painted for the Philanthropic Society
See: Shaw, Davidson College, p. 251

(over)
See Portrait File in Director's Office for more details.

Location: E.H. Little Library (1992)

See Davidsoniana files in Archivist's Office for
note on Mr. Mittag.

PORTRAITS

C.R. SHAW DAVIDSON COLLEGE, p. 251 "In 1842 the Philanthropic Society showed appreciation of President Williamson by having his portrait painted by Mr. Mittag and for long an occasional item of expense named was for gause to cover this prized possession."

J.B. Alexander REMINISCENSES OF THE PAST 60 YEARS, pp. 473-74 has an anecdote about a Dr. Mittag on reading character from physiognomy. Evidently the same as above (tho' no mention of painting)

Catawba Springs Register & Lincoln Co., N.C.) Sept. 17, 1838
J.S.(?) G. Mittag Home "Charlotten" Destination "Home."

CAMDEN Journal: Married on 22nd December, 1829, by the Rev. Mr. Campbell, John F.G. Mittag, attorney at law, to Miss Ann McKenna, only daughter of the Hon. William McKenna, all of Lancasterville, S.C.

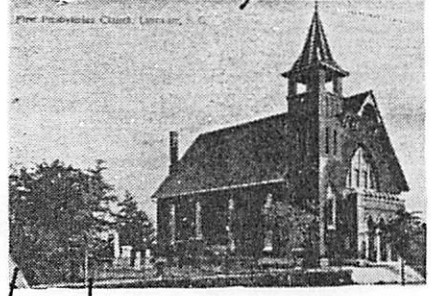
LANCASTER COUNTY
SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 1132, LANCASTER, S.C. 29720

Feb 4/89

Dear DR DAVIDSON,

my sister Louise Pettus. (History Dept Winthrop) And I are doing a lot of extensive research on

J.F.G. Mittag (1803-1890) - I understand he painted a portrait of DR Samuel Williamson which is at DAVIDSON. Could you write as to how DR Mittag signed the portrait - I have a xerox picture of the portrait but can not see name. I have a portrait of DR Mittag painted by H. Thompson - We have not been able to locate artist as to who he is/where he lived ect. The portrait of DR Mittag is really outstanding



First Restoration Project

Any information you could share as to DR Mittag's most unusual life would be greatly appreciated as we plan to write about his life.

Lindsay Pettus

Andrew Jackson Memorial Stems From Revered Teacher

By LOUISE PETTUS

When the birthplace of Andrew Jackson was marked in a special ceremony on May 24, 1929, it was the culmination of the dreams and work of many citizens.

The ideal was originally conceived by Annie Witherspoon (1850-1923), a private school-



Pettus

teacher who was greatly beloved by generations of Lancaster school-children. Before her death, Miss Annie passed along her dream to a lifelong friend, Mrs. E.E. Cloud.

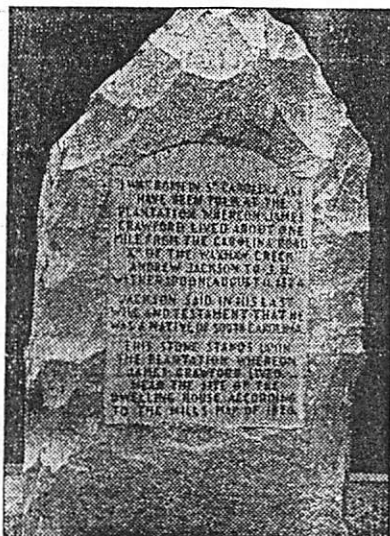
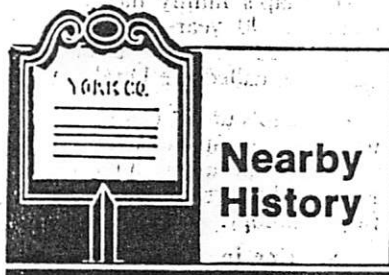
Cloud was an active member of the Catawba Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. T.Y. Williams of Lancaster was a prominent lawyer and served in both the S.C. House and Senate. He happened to own the old James Crawford plantation land where it was claimed that Jackson was born. A.S. Salley Jr., state historian and first director of the S.C. Archives, selected the spot he felt the monument should be placed. Salley based his site selection on his 26 years of research into the question. T.Y. Williams proudly donated the land and was the master of ceremonies for the unveiling.

E.B. Blakeney of Camden donated the boulder, which stands 6 feet tall and weighs 3 tons. The boulder was quarried in Lancaster County.

The unveiling ceremony was a simple one. After an invocation by Rev. Fred Grier, the audience sang "America," "Carolina" and "The Star Spangled Banner."

T.Y. Williams introduced U.S. Rep. William Stevenson, who delivered the address.

Mrs. W.D. Rice of Rock Hill, a Winthrop Training School teacher



MARTHA BISHOP

This is a marker located in the Andrew Jackson State Park in Lancaster County.

and regent of the Catawba Chapter, welcomed the visitors. Rice and the chapter deserve the credit for actually coordinating and bringing off the project.

Mrs. John London of Rock Hill brought greetings from the S.C. division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Cloud gave the history of the marker project.

Ernestine and Jessie Cloud removed the white cloth that had draped the marker to reveal the inscription: "Andrew Jackson's Birthplace, erected by the Catawba Chapter, D.A.R., of Rock Hill, South Carolina." On the reverse side of the monument was inscribed extracts from a letter writ-

ten by Andrew Jackson in 1832 to John Witherspoon of Lancaster in which Jackson said he was always told that he was born on his uncle's plantation in South Carolina.

J.G. Sassi of Rock Hill, an Italian immigrant stonemason who had been in York County for many years, made and lettered the marker. He was introduced to the crowd along with members of the marker committee from the Catawba chapter: Mrs. J.B. Johnson, Mrs. C.K. Schwarr, Mrs. W.D. Rice, Mrs. J.K. Roach and Mrs. W.C. Hutchinson. Mrs. W.C. Hutchinson was the author of the inscriptions on the marker.

On each side of the marker were placed U.S. flags on staffs. Standing guard were Sgts. Buford Worthy and Jesse Threatt of the Rock Hill unit of the National Guard.

Mrs. J.C. Symmes, great-granddaughter of Andrew Jackson, and her daughter, Mrs. M.A. Candler, were in the audience and were introduced.

The monument was situated very close to the N.C. line.

When Jackson was born in 1767, the boundary line between the two states was the Camden to Salisbury Road, traces of which are still visible today.

On that May day in 1929, the audience could look over into North Carolina where there still was standing a log smokehouse, now used as a chicken house, that had been built by Jackson's uncle, James Crawford. According to Dr. S.H. Ezell, the building's owner, a Mr. Neely had many years before dismantled the log building and moved it into North Carolina. The logs were hewn from heart oak timber.

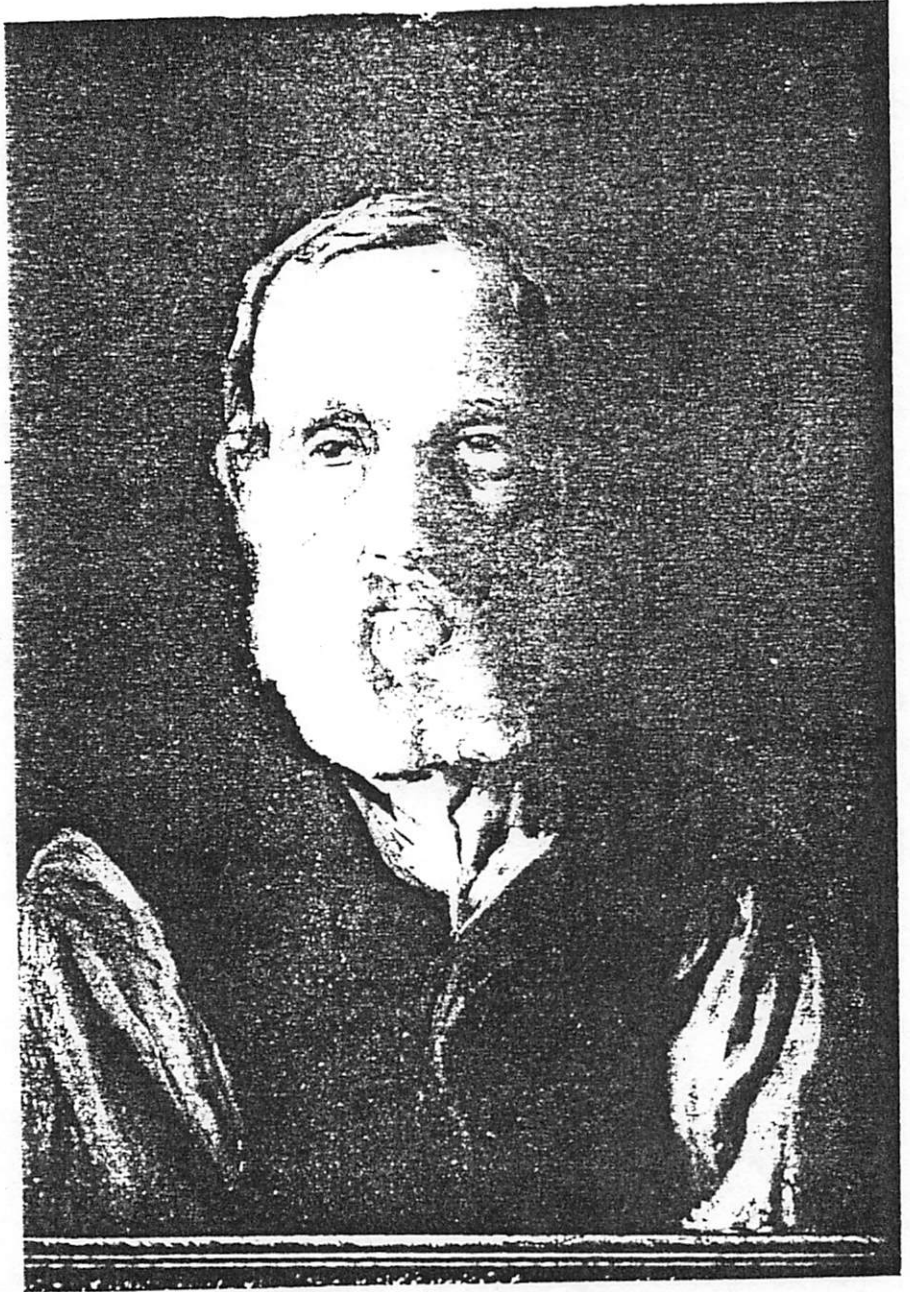
Ezell offered to donate the old house to the Jackson marker site if any interested bodies wished to move and reconstruct it. There is no evidence anyone ever took up the doctor's offer.

Louise Pettus is a history professor at Winthrop College.

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Dr J. F. G.
Mittag
1803-1890

Portrait
owned by
Sunday
Box 1075
Chicago Ill
J. J.
29720



Rev. Samuel Williamson, D.D. (1795-1882)
President of Davidson College 1841-1854

Artist: "Mr. Mittag"
Date: 1842

~~PRESENTED~~

Painted for the Philanthropic Literary Society

Authority: Shaw: Davidson College, p. 251.

D. LINDSAY PETTUS

Box 1075, Lancaster, South Carolina 29720

Oct - 12-91

DEAR DR DAVIDSON

Hope you are doing well -

I continue to work on finding material of
DR J. F. G. Mittag - even recently, I believe
I have found a ^{old} photograph of him in
Spartanburg, SC - owner is copying it for me.

In a article/letter to Miss Nancy Crockett
you said a Miss Fannie Moore had one of
five or six copies of a portrait of Robin
Davidson of Mecklenburg. letter is Aug 24/51

My question is Do you know whereabouts
of that portrait and do you know if it
was signed by DR Mittag as artist.

I think I ~~have~~ have told you before I have
a portrait of DR Mittag here in my office.
Again, Thanks for your busy time

L. Pettus

JOHN F. G. MITTAG, 1803-1890

John F. G. Mittag, born in Hagerstown, Md., died in Lancaster, S.C., was truly a Renaissance man. His talents and accomplishments included the following:

- **Portrait painter.** Frequented resorts and spas where he did portraits of the wealthy. Two known portraits of college presidents.

- **Linguist and translator.** Spoke nine languages and wrote as many more. Taught himself Chinese late in life. "As a Greek scholar he had no superior in any country."

- **Philosopher.** Dr. J. Marion Sims called him "learned in the old classics."

- **Inventor.** His "telephote" has been called a forerunner of the telephone.

- **Philanthropist.** When Lancaster County citizens were on the verge of starvation, Mittag mounted a successful drive.

- **Author.** Supposedly wrote Philosophy of the Language of Form but no copy has been located. Another title given was Natural Language of Forms.

- **Student of phrenology.** Subject of a feature article on Mittag's "Phrenological Character and Biography" in June 1857 American Phrenological Journal. Delivered lectures on "Phreno-Physiology" which was described as a new science discovered by Mittag based on the theory that all colors are reduced to two primitives--black and white.

- **Study abroad.** Spent at least two full years studying and travelling in Europe and numerous other trips are indicated.

- **Correspondent with eminent men of his day:** Known to include Dr. J. Marion Sims (Father of Gynecology), Cornelius Meigs, John W. Francis, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, etc.

- **Lawyer--**law degree awarded by SC Supreme Court but did not practice

- **Doctor--**licensed but did not practice

- **Teacher--**he taught at Franklin Academy in Lancaster, S.C.

- **Office-holder:** Lancaster County (SC) Commissioner in Equity, Auditor, and Probate Judge.

- **Soldier.** Served in Seminole War

- **Planner:** In 1856 he was co-sponsor with Commander Matthew F. Maury, U. S. Navy, of a convention in Memphis, Tenn. that was called the Great Pacific Railroad Commission, Mittag's idea for a transcontinental railroad.

P.O. Box 911
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
May 11, 1979

Dr. Chalmers Davidson
Davidson College
Davidson, North Carolina 28036

Dear Dr. Davidson:

I am writing several biographies for Mr. Powell's Dictionary of North Carolina Biography. One of the subjects that I may write on is J.F.G. Mittag, an artist, lawyer and physician who was born in Hagerstown, Maryland (1803) and died in Lancaster, South Carolina (1890). In between, he may have lived in North Carolina; he certainly did a number of paintings. At least two of his works were for Davidson College: Samuel Williamson and William Lee Davidson, II.

I would very much appreciate any help you can give me in documenting this man's contribution to North Carolina, particularly his contribution in the vicinity of Davidson College. If you know of any other works in the area or anything at all about his life, I would be most interested.

I have another interest in Mittag besides the biography. I have been active in the restoration of the portrait collections of the Di and Phi Literary Societies at the University of North Carolina. One of our portraits is also by Mittag. See N.C Portrait Index, p. 31 (Portrait of John Branch). Any information which you have that is not of use in a biographical sketch would be filed with our information on this work.

I look forward to hearing from you. Until then, I remain

Sincerely yours,

M. Keith Kapp
M. Keith Kapp

Telephone: (919)929-2426

Chapter entitled "Impressions of Life in the South 1848 " 627

one million of dollars. It was a great convenience to the miners, as the result of their labor was converted at once into coin. Dr Gibbon was a well educated man. He had come from Penna and had devoted himself to this branch of business. He was somewhat eccentric and resided a short distance in the country, having a large family of sons & daughters & whom I took real pleasure in visiting. He had read a great deal and studied and was one whom intercourse with was always pleasant and instructive. He was far above the people of the Country in education and manners. In manners he was popular and full of anecdote, generally formed one of the coterie at the Street corners. I think he understood the character of the people at that time and possessed a certain influence which was felt.

Dr.
MITTAG

Another individual I met was a Mr Whitting of South Carolina, either Chester or Cheraw. He was a artist by profession, a portrait painter, and had cultivated his mind based on an excellent classical education. I had much intercourse with him & derived a great deal of information relative. In the outset he had studied medicine, but the practice of it was distasteful to him. He brought up a large family of daughters whom he had educated himself and one in particular, the eldest, endowed with great talent and studious to enthusiasm. After she attained the age of 18-20 she sickened with the fever and died. Of this he gave me a very pathetic account. He lost his reason and suffered mentally for many months. During this time he painted his own portrait while in this state, and I shall long remember the effect it produced upon me. It was very life like but the whole expression that of a maniac. He kept it constantly in his studio & few were permitted to see it.

Dr
mittag

Charlotte offered him but a small field in art. He read and studied much. One and perhaps his most favorite author was Aristotle, and there was no bound to be set to his admiration. He had given a great deal of his time to studying the [illegible] of all those about him and among other things declared he did not believe there was a sound man in Charlotte. He attributed it to their manner of living and mental idleness. He was full of fun and very cheerful and delighted to find one who could understand him. At times I was inclined to consider him a bore and avoided his company and would oftentimes say I had had enough of him. His information on scientific subjects was imparted without conceit and his opinions never dogmatical. He besides was somewhat of a politician although he had no predilection for any party. During the Canvas of Clay, Webster, Bell, Douglass & Breckenridge, he wrote letters to each and all of them to elicit their opinions and received answers laughing heartily how they had been gulled by their desire to gain the Southern vote. He wrote uncommonly well and expressed himself truly and to the point and often sent communications to the Editors of papers which he answered, as it were, from the opposite side. I had the pleasure of meeting him in Phila and Washington and was gratified to have the opportunity. He never visited & kindly refused all the invitations I extended to him. Besides his acquired knowledge, he was full of common sense and joviality. In person he was tall, quite six

feet, his head was almost wedge shaped, bald on the top and many raven locks fallen on his shoulders. His eye was bright and keen but a vivacity and fun about it that made it twinkle. I always thought his talent and life had been thrown away by his place of residence and retirement from the haunts of men. He was latterly engaged in a law suit on the property of his wife which had been, in part, bequeathed to the Catholic church. After a long contest he succeeded in obtaining his just rights.