

A Union guard on the mayor's house

More odds and ends:

When Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's federal troops occupied Lancaster in late February 1865, the officers commandeered various Lancaster homes for their quarters. While most of the Union enlisted men camped in tents around the town, a few were able to find houses not occupied by their officers. When the soldiers left town these houses were usually ransacked and everything valuable either taken or destroyed.

One Lancaster house escaped the destruction. One of the Union soldiers was a man named Biafogle who had lived in Lancaster some 25 or 30 years earlier. Biafogle had been a journeyman in the shop of Andrew Mayer and held Mayer (who was also mayor of Lancaster) in high regard. For five days Biafogle guarded the home of his old master and protected both Mayer's family and his home.

Davie the diplomat. William

Louise
Pettus



NEARBY
HISTORY

Richardson Davie of Lancaster County's Waxhaws settlement was a Revolutionary War hero, governor of North Carolina and founder of the University of North Carolina. When he retired from public life in 1805 Davie came back to the countryside of his youth and built a house he called "Tivoli" overlooking the Catawba River in Chester County.

Davie was so admired that he was often called upon to adjudicate disputes. For example, the two Carolinas accepted Davie as the man to fairly settle the boundary line of the two states. He wrote dozens of wills for his neighbors and friends. Not one of the wills he wrote for others was ever contested but his own will stayed in the courts from the time of his death in 1820 until it was finally settled in 1892, 72 years later.

From millinery to music. In Winthrop's early years the elective courses a student might take to finish out a course of study were usually highly practical. A 1901 list of available electives included free-hand and industrial drawing, sewing, dressmaking, millinery, cooking, horticulture, floriculture, dairying and housekeeping.

In case a girl didn't want to teach she was offered courses in stenography, typewriting and bookkeeping in case she should be one of the women pioneers in office work.

But not all electives were career-oriented. Winthrop students could sign up for piano, violin, vocal music, voice culture, expression, physical culture and art.

In 1901 two new courses were offered: designing and photography. The college catalog added that "The advisability of undertaking poultry raising for the boarding department of the college as well as to give instruction in that important industry is under consideration. Other subjects such as bee-culture, silk raising, manual training, printing, etc. will be taken up for consideration . . ."

How "missions" began. Society has always had people who could not support themselves for one reason or another. Whether the problems were physical or mental, some organization had to be available that would look after the unfortunate. In 1858 in Lancaster District help came from the "Commission of Poor."

Old court papers reveal the nature of the people's needs: "For burial expenses of Mrs. Joseph

Estridge . . . \$6; Jacob Carnes for keeping a pauper \$15; A.J. Stewart for necessities furnished orphan children at Rich Beckhans \$6.24 . . ."

In the year 1858 there were 31 paupers in the county, each looked after by a responsible individual in his neighborhood. The county allotted anywhere from \$6 to \$50 for the care of these paupers with the majority receiving \$10 (for an entire year). The county paid burial expenses for four people. S.B. Massey was paid \$10 for "necessities for Mrs. Marlow whilst sick \$10."

Samuel Robertson looked after four individuals.

The Civil War left so many widows and physically wrecked ex-soldiers that resources were severely strained. To fill the gap, churches, for the first time, began the practice of collecting funds to aid the needy. They set up "missions" and from that label would arise the term missionary which, in later times of prosperity, would expand into foreign missions.

Louise Pettus is a retired history professor from Winthrop University. Her column appears Saturdays.