

DR. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE MOORE
1791 - 1861

William S. Moore was the son of Alexander Moore and Dorcas Ervin. He was born on June 25, 1791 on his parents' plantation near Big Fishing Creek in York County, South Carolina. His beautiful mother died quite young. Her husband and the following children survived: James, William, Maurice, Alfred, Rachel, Sallie, Dorcas, and Polly. Alexander Moore later married Mrs. Kate Marion and moved to a plantation twelve miles from Yorkville. This plantation had formerly been owned by General Lacy's father. Here William Moore, his brothers, and sisters lived with their father and step-mother, to whom they became devoted.

The Moore boys attended a classical school taught by the Reverend Mr. Walker, their minister, at Bethesda Presbyterian Church. William and Maurice grew into very strong, athletic men. Each was six feet two inches tall and weighted around two hundred pounds. In contests of strength they usually excelled, and records were set in the broad jump.

William studied medicine under the supervision of the celebrated Dr. Charles Harris of North Carolina. Admitted to the practice of medicine, his skills and success as a physician soon gained him the confidence and patronage of the people. In a few years, the field of his professional labor extended from the Catawba on the east and the Broad River on the west of Yorkville. Dr. William S. Bratton records in his diary that, from 1845-1847, he practiced with Dr. William Moore.

On March 4, 1819, William married Harriet Baxter Springs, the youngest daughter of Richard Springs and Jean Baxter. She was born on her parents' plantation near Fort Mill, South Carolina on December 27, 1802. Her other brothers and sisters were: John, Cynthia, Andrew Baxter, Richard, Jane, Eli, Sophia, Margaret Polk, and Baxter.

William and Harriet established a lovely home on the north bank of the Catawba River. This area, located near the town of Fort Mill, was known as Indian Land. Here eight children were born to them. William was able to keep up his practice of medicine as well as engage in the large scale growing of cotton. The family were active members of the Unity Presbyterian Church at its original location now known as "Old Unity".

It was during this period of their lives that William and Harriet had their portraits painted. The artist's name is unknown now, but family tradition holds that he was a student of Benjamin West who had painted a famous portrait of George Washington. The artist lived on the plantation as a guest while the portraits were being completed. Perhaps later research will find a record of these paintings in some artist's files. The portraits are excellent works of art. In 1938, over one hundred years after they were painted, a granddaughter, Mrs. John S. Myers of Charlotte, North Carolina, had Mr. Vost of Boston restore them to their original excellence.