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DEPT

May 16, 1989

Ms. Susan E. Strickler
Curator of American Art
Worcester Art Museum
55 Salisbury Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-3196

Dear Ms. Strickler:

Mrs. Melville has asked me to respond to your inquiry of April 10, 1989, regarding Thomas and Matilda Chase.

According to his gravestone in St. Anne's Cemetery in Annapolis, Thomas Chase was born on November 6, 1774, and died on February 17, 1826. (John T. Gurney III, ed. Cemetery Inscriptions of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Vol 1. Anne Arundel Genealogical Society, 1982. page 157)

Thomas and his cousin Matilda Chase were married October 17, 1816, by the Rev. Mr. Davis. (Robert Barnes, Marriages and Deaths from the Maryland Gazette 1727-1839. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1979. page 31) Rev. Davis is probably Henry Lyon Davis, rector of St. Anne's Parish, Annapolis, in 1816. (Robert Barnes, Marriages and Deaths from Baltimore Newspapers, 1796-1816. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1978. page 368)

Thomas's obituary in the Maryland Gazette on February 23, 1826, mentions his widow and three daughters, but does not name them (MdHR 1289, 23 February 1826). According to Robert Harry McIntire (Annapolis Maryland Families. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1979. page 131), the children were: Hester Ann, born September 6, 1817, and married Rev. Samuel Ridout; Matilda, born February 20, 1820, died January 22, 1885, unmarried; and Fannie

G.T., who died January 27, 1880, unmarried. The latter two girls' names and dates are probably from their tombstones, as they are listed so in the St. Anne's Cemetary listing in Gurney (cited above).

We have city directories for Baltimore City for Thomas's period, but he is not listed in any directory between 1817 and 1824 (MdHR Mf 2856-76,77,78,79). Since he and Matilda are buried in St. Anne's and apparently baptised at least one of their children there, my guess is that they were living in Annapolis or the nearby area of Anne Arundel County. There are no city directories for Annapolis for this period. Matilda's father owned quite a lot of land in the Annapolis area, or Thomas may have had land here himself. If you like, I can check the land records and see if I can determine the location of their actual residence and what, if any, occupation Thomas uses in the deeds. This is not a quick project, so I will not do it unless you need that information.

We would be most interested in receiving a copy of your catalogue when it is completed. Could you put the Archives on your mailing list?

Please let me know if you need further material on Thomas Chase.

Sincerely,

Jane W. McWilliams
Senior Research Associate

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