

Notes for Baker-Hunt book -
Second Reed Interview

Topics: Portraits
John Baker
Spiritualism
Kate Scudler
Neighborhood

Second Reed Interview - 1

PORTRAITS:

Downstairs: 2 matched ovals, Margaretta Baker and William Baker, painted about 1863, when Margaretta was 18, William 22. Living Room. These two are possibly by Duncanson, the negro artist who did the murals in the Taft home on Pike Street. Not signed. Margaretta is a high spirited young girl, head thrown back a trifle, fair complexion black hair, curly, (or wavy) with a trace of pleasant laughter. William is slim, ruddy complexion, with reddish beard (7 moustache?). These two are in the living room.

Also in living room is a copy of a portrait of Mrs Elizabeth Chevalier Adams (1689-1757), oils. The original is on a wood panel in the Portsmouth N H Athenaeum. Mrs Hunt had an artist copy it.

In the second room is a large portrait of Katie, done in 1878 when she was 5, possibly by Weber, the outstanding Cincinnati portraitist at the time.

In the third room are matched ovals of Mr & Mrs Baker, done by Weber, date uncertain (or 1878 ?), probably in 1860's or early 70's. Baker appears around 50, Mrs Baker considerably older, perhaps nearer 70 though she was only 10 years older than her husband. Also in this third room downstairs are portraits of William Baker aged 5, oval in square frame, dressed in red blouse, white trousers, black belt, petting a white dog (spaniel); one of Margaretta probably also at 5 yrs., inconspicuous picture; and an interesting photo of Dr Hunt done by Mr Core, oval, showing very curly hair and curly beard, & moustache, an extremely heavy man, looks like some pictures of Taft. The two by Weber need to be dated by means of dress style.

Upstairs at the head of the stairs are two smaller ovals, possibly done by Eaton in Cincinnati. Both are unsigned, but I just discovered in Mrs B's portrait a black A within a diamond in the lower

