



Rev. Matthias Harris (c.1798-1871)

Carte de visite, c.1860-1864

Robert W. Addis (c.1829-1872)



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### *Subject:*

Rev. Matthias Harris, born about 1798, Queen Anne's County, Md.; ordained by Bishop Kemp, 1826; rector of St. John's Parish, Prince George's and Charles counties, 1830-1833; resigned as rector of Dorchester Parish, Dorchester County, Md., in 1844 and accepted appointment as chaplain, U. S. Army; assigned to Fort Moultrie, S.C., in 1849 and remained there until 1861 when he was banished from the state and returned to Washington, D.C.; assigned to Fort Washington, Prince George's County, Md. (1862-1864) and Fort Foote, Prince George's County (1864-1871); died July 11, 1871, age 73; buried St. Barnabas Church Cemetery, Oxon Hill, Prince George's County, Md. Rev. Harris is chiefly remembered for delivering a much publicized prayer at the raising of the United States flag over Fort Sumter, S.C., December 27, 1860.

### *Identification:*

Identification of subject based on early pencil inscription on back: "M. Harris, Chap\_n [/] U.S.A. Fort Sumter," and on comparison to depictions of Harris delivering the prayer at Fort Sumter that appeared in the *New York Illustrated News*, *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, January 26, 1861.

### *Robert W. Addis:*

Born in Pennsylvania c. 1829; active in Lancaster and Philadelphia, Pa., c. 1856-1860; in late 1860 he relocated to Washington, D.C., where he established his studio in a gallery operated by Philadelphia photographer and art dealer James Earle McClee at 308 Pennsylvania Ave.; maintained his studio at this address until 1864 when he relocated to San Francisco, Calif.; returned to D.C. in 1867 and opened his own gallery, first on F Street then at 1227 Pennsylvania Ave.; remained active in D.C. until his sudden death in November 1871; buried Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

### *Provenance:*

From a collection of early photographic images of members of the Bryan, Clagett and Dement families of Pomonkey, Charles County, Maryland, inherited by donor from his grandmother, Ella Clagett (Bryan) Hupp (1897-1982), whose family had been active members of St. John's Parish since the 1760s. Rev. Harris officiated at the marriage of various family members while rector of St. John's Parish, 1830-1833, and following his assignment to Fort Washington (1862-1864) and Fort Foote (1864-1871).

### *Donor:*

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