December 26, 1995

Dear Reverend Peeples,

I am deeply appreciative for your excellent, warm, and open assistance with my "genealogical growing pains." As I indicated early in my correspondence, I am a stark beginner in this arena -- hardly on the first rung of the novice ladder.

Although you have been generous with your help, I know you have many serious and important responsibilities with their attendant demands on your limited free time, therefore, I will try not to burden you with minute details of my simple project.

To briefly respond to your most helpful letter which I received last week:

1. You are a most generous gentleman!! I know of few things which I would prefer to do than have access to your wonderful Cater files. I will call you soon to discuss your offer in more detail.

Even as a beginner, I fully understand how unnecessary confusion can be generated by poor research being spread around. Unfortunately, once spread, it is impossible to retrieve.

2. I believe there is an error regarding the mother of Andrew Postell's daughters which was published in the <u>Biographical</u> <u>Directory Of The South Carolina House of Representatives</u>, Vol. III, 1775-1790 by N. Louise Bailey and Elizabeth Ivey Cooper, page 573. (Copy attached.) They state that Susannah McPherson and Andrew Postell were the parents of Sarah McPherson Postell and Mary Postell. I believe the parents were Andrew Postell and his <u>second</u> wife, Sarah Laird McPherson Postell (widow of Ulysses McPherson.)

If you too believe Sarah and Mary were daughters of Sarah Laird McPherson Postell and Andrew Postell, should we do anything to correct this published error? Have you (or will you) written to SCHS or others with the correction?

3. In my opinion, Rose-Marie Williams is a tremendous person, delightful to work with, and a wonderful teacher. I feel very fortunate to have made contact with her when I started my search for family connections in Abbeville county. From my first conversation with Rose-Marie, she has made it very clear that she is not a genealogist. That was fine with me. I was not looking for

a genealogist. I was much more interested in the personalities and lives of some of my more recent ancestors than their "pure genealogy." I was looking for a local historian and I believe I have found the best in Abbeville county.

My great-great grandfather was from the Abbeville District. Some of his descendants were there until 1938 when "Miss Beck" died. There were some fascinating folks between the days of Richard Bohun Cater in the early 1800's and Rebecca Dupont Cater in the early 1900's. I am sincerely interested in the Caters work, military service, civic contributions, their short-comings, trials/tribulations, and their personalities. I am interested in pictures, relics, mementos, and diaries of these people. Rose-Marie is doing a SUPER job of developing a social history which incorporates a portion of my ancestors. I am delighted with her professional approach. I am delighted with her work.

As I now have a little more time since (almost) retiring, I have begun to explore my family genealogy. I have just begun. I have not "learned the ropes" yet, but with the help of people such as you and Rose-Marie, I think it will be an exciting adventure. I intend to pursue it.

My impression is that a tremendous amount of quality research has already been done on the Cater family from Thomas, the immigrant, forward by a relatively small group of researchers and that you have done the work for some of the direct lineage back to the 13th or 14th century. I have no intentions to attempt to duplicate any of those quality works.

Rose-Marie and I will incorporate as much of the Cater genealogy (previously developed by other researchers and fully credited to them) for my branch of the family as we are comfortable with, but only from some arbitrary "intermediate" starting point == for example, a generation close to Thomas Miles Cater = or there about. We'll see.

5. Please let me know when you will next be in Charleston. I would like the opportunity to meet you, chat about the family, show you were I do my work, and share a good meal together. (853-6616)

With warm best wishes,