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CATER FAMILY

Copy by Fr. Peeples
Original returned to
Mr. Hubbard at his
request.

Dear Fr. Peeples,

I have before me yr letter of 5 Nov 1962 and shall attempt to reply to your inquiries.

I do not know Mr. William B. Cater or any member of his family, nor the names of any of them, other than as appear on the chart. Mr. Cater and I exchanged a few letters many years ago at the time he sent me the copy of the chart. At that time he was living in New York and his place of business was at Long Island City. He wrote me that the material was gathered and the chart prepared by VIOLET CAMERON of NY, reputed to be a competent and reliable genealogist, but that he did not know how she gathered the material or whether or not she went to South Carolina, and that he really knew very little about it. The chart clearly indicates that the SC records had been searched, but by whom or when does not appear.

For me to express an opinion about the chart as a whole is not practicable, as I know nothing about those on the chart later than the children of THOMAS MILES CATER and his two wives as is shown on the chart. I know that there was a marriage of Charles DuPont to a Cater girl, which is not on the chart and also a similar marriage of a man named Coachman which is not shown. These marriages occurred in the early generations; neither of these omissions affect the verity of the chart.

I am much inclined to think that the compiler had access to the old CATER Bible, as neither of the two marriages is shown therein. The line traced on the chart, so far as it goes, is just like the entries in the old Bible.

The entries in the old Bible, beginning with Thomas Cater and Rachel Miles, down to the children of Thomas M. (Miles) Cater and his two wives, are substantially correct according to the old Bible and the public records. Only that minor grandson, PAUL, is unaccounted for and as the name "Paul Cater" does not appear again on the public records on on Cater Family records, it seems that he died before attaining his majority and/or left no family. In no event, however, does this omission affect the chart in so far as W.B.Cater's line of descent is concerned. In this connection keep in mind the fact that the chart was made for W.B.Cater and was for his line and only his line has been traced.

Incidentally, MARY CATER married (1) Thomas Quarterman and had by him one child, a son, William, who is the nephew of that name mentioned in the Will of her father. William Quarterman mentions in his Will he father-in-law, William Cater, and brother-in-law, Thomas Cater. (Note by Fr. Peeples: he should have written "Thomas", not "William" Quarterman as subject of preceding sentence.) She married (2) one of the Baker men; I do not at the moment recall which one.

Ann Cater married one of the Childs, Joseph, I think. She survived him and in her Will makes provision for several nephews and nieces, but none was named Cater.

Elizabeth Cater married Benjamin Marion, a member of the celebrated Huguenot family made famous by Gen. Francis Marion.

The three above-named were daughters of the first William Cater on the chart and sisters of Thomas Cater as shown thereon. The omission of these items from the chart does not affect the line of W.B.Cater's descent, nor do the omissions of anything more relative to Bradwell Landis and Bradford affect it. (I have a lot of

material about all these people and their family connections.)

Among the children of Thomas Cater and Rachel Miles listed in the old Bible and noted on the chart are Silas McP.(McPherson) Cater, b. 2 Apr. 1789, Richard Bohun Cater, b. 14 Dec. 1791 and William M.(Maire) Cater, b. 19 Mar. 1795. The line of neither of these is brought down and William Maine is shown as having died in early infancy. I have not checked the records for his person and have no other information about him.

Silas McPherson Cater married Eliza Maria Porcher, dau. of Peter and Eliza Porcher, and had a large family, among them a son of the same name as his father. This son married and moved to Talladega County, Ala. and has several descendents in that State.

Richard Bohun Cater, b. 14 Dec. 1791, d. 1850, appears on the chart and in the old Bible, is not brought down, but what purports to be and is accepted as his line is fully set out in Thomas M. Owen's "History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography", Vol. III, p. 307, published 1921 by S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago. He was a Presbyterian preacher, died in Selma, Ala. and is buried in Valley Creek Cemetery.

None of the daughters of Thomas & Rachel Miles Cater (including Mary E.) are brought down. However, Thomas Miles Cater, son of Thomas & Rachel, married Sarah Postell and Catherine Johnson, thus lengthening the lines of our interest, which I shall discuss in a later communication.

As I have already said, the chart, so far as it goes, is not, and does not purport to be, a comprehensive chart of the lines of all the descendents of Thomas Cater of 1731, but is and was intended to be of only the W.B.Cater line of descent. It is well supported by the old Bible records and by the public records.

In the chart it appears that Thomas Cater of the 1731 Will is the immigrant founder of the SC Cater family, which appears correct; I have found nothing to the contrary. In Salley's "S.C.Land Grants", the date of his first land grant was in 1681/2 in Berkeley County, and in another note it appears that he petitioned for a grant of land that Lyster's widow had disclaimed. Apparently only one Thomas Cater and one piece of land was involved. The land was located in Berkeley on Ashley River, St. George's Dorchester. In 1699 Thomas Cater had another grant described as being bounded by the land of his former grant. This would tend to confirm the identity of this first Thomas Cater and his original settlement in St. George's Dorchester, but I have found no estate or establishment known as Cater Hall in St. George's or anywhere other than in St. Peter's Parish in Beaufort District. This Parish embraced a large area. In 1707 Thomas Kator and William Cater had grants of 500 A. each on Combee Island, as also did William Baker, William Rowsham and several others on the same date. All these Combee Is. grants are described as being bounded by the marshes of Port Royal, etc. and it is quite possible that the land was in what in time became St. Peter's Parish of Beaufort District. When I was in Barnwell years ago I found no one who had ever heard of such a place as Combee (Combahee) Island. Nor could any searchers find such a place on any map or plat or record, but the site of Cater Hall in St. Peter's was located and we went there but the buildings had disappeared. The records at Barnwell showed that the place had been sold by order of the Court and the proceeds of the sale invested in a tract of land in Barnwell County which was well-known as the "Cater Hall Place". The whole matter was done by order of the Court, by James McPherson as Trustee for Sarah McPherson (Postell) later, wife of Thomas Miles Cater and her children by him. The old Cater Hall in St. Peter's Parish was bought at the

sale by a man named Bostick. The Bosticks came down from Va. and were in some way related to the Caters. The parents of Sarah McPherson (postell) Cater were Capt. Andrew and Sarah Postell (who appears to have been Sarah McPherson).

As to the exact location of the original Cater Hall I cannot say, but it was not a very great distance from the "Cater Hall Place" and only a short distance below the Boiling Springs place. On an old plat it appears that there was a bridge known as the Beaufort Bridge. Barnwell & Beaufort were originally contiguous and I surmise that this bridge is on or near the old boundary line. St. Peter's Parish at that time may have extended up to that line. Parts of Barnwell and Beaufort were taken to form Hampton and parts of Hampton and Barnwell were taken to form Allendale. Not knowing where these various boundary lines were or are I am unable to make even an intelligent guess as to the exact location.

It seems to have been generally considered that the Thomas and William Cater of the 1707 Combee Is. grants were the Thomas of 1731 and his son, William, named in his Will, but it seems possible that Thomas and William of 1707 may have been brothers, rather than father and son. This, I think, could be easily cleared up by an intensive study of certain S.C. records, which would at the same time disclose the exact location of Cater Hall and its builder. I am of the opinion that it is correctly set out on the chart, but have never had an opportunity to verify my opinion, and in fact have never been particularly interested in those two particular items as they are not especially pertinent to my purposes. Assuming that the Combee Is. grants were in the territory that was or that later became St. Peter's Parish, I would say that the Cater Hall tract was probably above Purysburg and only a short distance below the old boundary line between Barnwell and Beaufort Districts, and the buildings probably fronted on a road running southwardly. This, however, is purely my guess.

As to the Smith-Robert connections I know practically nothing, and have never been interested. Incidentally, I have heard of it and of a claim by Robert descendents that the Rev. Pierre Robert was the first Huguenot preacher in S.C. Nor am I familiar with the Lawton-Rhodes-Cater connection, and shall write you again concerning it. In the meantime I would thank you to know, if you know, anything about a Furse-Cater marriage or a Furse family in Barnwell.

I believe I omitted saying that Benjamin Cater who married Mary Bedow, died within a year of his marriage, apparently childless, and that I have no information as to Joseph, his brother.

I shall write again about these matters and also about Stephen Cater and the George connections. There was more than one Stephen Cater and also more than one Mary or Mary E. Cater. I am greatly interested in the Furse matter.

By Mr. Hubbard:

CATER BIBLE

A copy of the entries in the old family Bible which was in possession of C. F. Cater of Forsyth, Ga. and after his death, in possession of his widow at Quitman, Ga. until her death some years ago, is attached hereto in connection with some comments thereon by me. I had the Bible in my possession a few days in about 1920 on loan. At that time I made a close study of the Book itself and the entries therein, and made a copy of the entries.

The entries in the Book in excellent handwriting with black ink was written in name and date, thus:

"Thomas Miles Cater 1802"

There was nothing else on the fly leaf. The date of publication and issue of the Book as shown by the imprint on the Title page was:

"MDCCXCII" (1792)

I take it that the meaning of the above name and date is that a Thomas Miles Cater acquired and owned the Book in 1802, or acquired it at some time between 1792 and 1802 and still owned it in 1802. Certainly there could have been no entry made in it before 1792 and none would probably have been made before 1802, the date when the name of "Thomas Miles Cater" and the date "1802" appear on the fly leaf.

In other words, it would seem that the book began to function as a family Bible record book in 1802, of the family of Thomas Miles Cater who owned the Book at that time. It therefore would necessarily follow that no event recorded in the Book which took place before 1802, occurred contemporaneously with its recording, but was copied from some older record or family tradition or other source. Assuming this to be a fact, we must consider it in evaluating the worth of the entries in this particular matter.

All the entries relative to Thomas Cater and his children as listed in the Bible are in black ink, in good condition, in good handwriting and in regular order in a column as will be shown herein, with the date of birth following the name, and in several instances the date of death immediately follows the date of birth, but in parentheses, and NOT in the same handwriting, as the name and date of birth. Presumably these dates of death have been written in by some person or persons when the information became available. I am inclined to believe that the old Bible was the family Bible of that Thomas Miles Cater, born 24 April 1786, listed as eldest son of Thomas and Rachel Miles Cater, and that the others in the list of children are his brothers and sisters, and that the entries relative to that group as set out in the old Bible were copied from a family Bible of Thomas Cater (born 1751, died 1803) and Rachel Miles (born 1755, died 1802) or, if not copied from his father's Bible, were procured from other reliable sources then available. This would not have been an unusual procedure. There can be little if any doubt that all the entries in the above group were made by one and the same person at one and the same time. However, after mature consideration, I feel that the entries in the old Bible as to this group are authentic.

So far as I have been able to determine, the first land grant made to any Cater or variant of that name in S.C. or Ga. was to Thomas Cater, 300 acres to Thomas Cater on Ashley River which had formerly been taken up by "Lyster" and disclaimed by his widow. The warrant was issued to Thomas on 1 March 1691; this land was in St. George's Dorchester, S.C. The next grant to a Cater was for 300 acres to Thomas Cater lying to the north of said Cater's lands 12 May 1699 (See Salley's Warrants for Land in S. C. 1680-1692, and 1692-1711, pp. 56 and 158)

Apparently the two grants above mentioned were made to one and the same person, which however is only probable but not necessarily correct. Note that the W.B.Cater chart begins with a Thomas Cater who was an appraiser of Blanchard's estate and this is probably correct, as there is a public record of the proceeding. However, the chart does not identify "Thomas Cater" the grantee, as being the same person as Thomas Cater, the appraiser, and in the meantime a Thomas Kator had grant of 500 acres on Combee Island on 4 Sept. 1707. At the same time "William Cater" had a grant of 500 acres on the same island, as also did Willie Cater, William Rowsham and several others of the same connection. I think there can be no doubt but that this group were the people of our interest, the spelling of the names being as the fancy of the writer

dictated. Not a great while before these grants were made, Richard Baker, the first of the name, came from Barbadoes and soon brought his large family over, and was the founder of the Baker lines of our interest.

CATER BIBLE ENTRIES:

THOMAS CATER, born 17 Dec. 1751, died 30 April 1803, aged 51 years, 4 mos. & 3 days, married 18 Feb. 1773, Rachel Miles, born 22 Dec. 1755, died 30 Jan. 1802, aged 46 years, 1 mo & 8 days, dau. of Silas Miles.

CHILDREN OF THE ABOVE:

- Rachel, born 4 Aug. 1774
- Mary E., born 25 June 1776 (died March 1823)
- Elizabeth, born 2 March 1778 (died June 1803)
- Susannah Baker, born 9 Aug. 1780
- Caroline, born 14 Oct. 1782 (died 23 March 1809)
- Ann Miles, born 3 Apr. 1784 (died 25 Oct. 1789)
- Thomas Miles, born 24 Apr. 1786 (died 30 Jan. 1819)
- Silas McPherson, born 2 Oct. 1789
- Richard Bohun, born 14 Dec. 1791 (died 1850)
- William Haine, born 19 March 1795, died 4 Sept. 1796
- McPherson, born 6 Dec. 1796, died 18 Oct. 1798

Sarah McPherson Postell, daughter of Andrew and Sarah Postell, was born 23 March 1786
 Thomas M. Cater and Sarah McPherson Postell were married 21 Jan. 1805.
 James McPherson Cater, son of above born 3 Nov. 1805, died 24 July 1806.
 Thomas Cater, son of above born 24 Oct. 1806, died from a fall from a horse, age 9 years & 15 days.
 Eliza Cater, daughter of above born 7 March 1808, died 12 Jan. 1809.
 John James Cater was born 29 May 1809
 Richard Bohun Cater was born 5 Jan. 1811
 Andrew Postell Cater was born 8 Jan. 1812
 Edwin Cater was born 1 Nov. 1813
 Sarah Postell Cater was born 8 Feb. 1815
 Sarah McPherson Cater, wife of Thomas M. Cater died on Wednesday, 8 Feb. 1815, aged 28 years, 10 mos. & 15 days.
 Catherine Johnson, daughter of Richard and Sarah Johnson, was born 23 Sept. 1794, and died 5 Oct. 1836.
 Thomas M. Cater was married 14 Sept. 1815 to the above named Catherine Johnson.
 Thomas Johnson Cater was born 26 Oct. 1816
 James McPherson Cater was born 6 Apr. 1818
 Thomas Miles Cater was born 12 Apr. 1819
 (This ends the entries in the old Bible, but in it there was an old loose sheet of ordinary writing paper on which was inscribed the following in black ink and good handwriting:
 "John James Cater was born 29 May 1809
 Richard Bohun Cater was born 8 Jan. 1811
 Andrew Postell Cater was born 8 June 1812
 Edwin Cater was born 1 Nov. 1813
 Sarah Postell Cater was born 8 Feb. 1815"

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