

ELLIOTT WILLIAM III

Apr 27, 1788-Feb 03, 1863

William Elliott, son of William Elliott and Phoebe Waight, was born 27 April 1788 in Beaufort, South Carolina, and died 3 February 1863 in Charleston, South Carolina. He was educated at Beaufort College, circa 1803-1807, and at Harvard, circa 1807-1808. Ill health forced him to withdraw from the latter institution, but Harvard, citing his outstanding academic record, awarded him an honorary bachelor's degree in 1810. Five years later, he received a master of arts degree from Harvard.

Elliott owned rice and cotton plantations in Beaufort and Colleton districts in South Carolina and on the Ogeechee River in Georgia. Through marriage, he obtained at least five plantations in Colleton District: Balls (1,083 acres) in St. Bartholomew Parish; Social Hall, the Bluff, and Middle Place (totaling approximately 3,400 acres) near the Ashepoo River and Chehaw Creek; and Pon Pon, later called Oak Lawn (1,750 acres) on the Edisto River. Elliott also owned the following: Myrtle Bank plantation on Hilton Head Island; Bee Hive and Hope tracts on the Edisto River; Ellis, Shell Point, The Grove, and Bay Point plantations in Beaufort District; Farniente, a mountain house in Flat Rock, North Carolina; and houses in Beaufort and Adams Run. According to the 1860 slave schedule, Elliott possessed 103 slaves in St. Helena parish and 114 slaves in St. Paul parish.

Although he spent much time at Oak Lawn, Elliott also traveled frequently to the northern states and on occasion to Europe. His children sometimes accompanied him on trips. In search of improved health, Elliott traveled nearly every year to various mineral springs and health resorts, especially Saratoga Springs, New York, and White Sulphur Springs, Virginia. He also frequently visited Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. In 1853, Elliott took his daughters, Ann and Emily, to Europe, where they visited Paris, Basle, Interlaken. In 1855, Elliott traveled to Europe again, this time as South Carolina's commissioner to the Paris Exposition.

Elliott represented St. Helena in the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1814-1815 and in the State Senate in 1818-1821. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the United States House of Representatives in 1822. Returned to the South Carolina House, Elliott served from 1826 through 1829. Following a special election in St. Helena for the Senate, he qualified 1 December 1831 for the General Assembly. He resigned his Senate seat, however, in order to avoid voting against the majority of his constituents on the issue of nullification. A Unionist, Elliott opposed nullification and expressed his views on this subject publicly in his "Address to the People of St. Helena" (1832). In addition to his terms in the legislature, Elliott served the public as trustee for Beaufort College (circa 1814-1815) and intendant for Beaufort (circa 1819-1824).

After his retirement from active politics, Elliott turned his attention to agriculture, writing, recreation, and issues of the day. As president of the Beaufort Agricultural Society and vice president of the South Carolina Agricultural Society, circa 1839, Elliott was zealous in his efforts to improve the South's agricultural system. Through articles and addresses, Elliott urged crop diversification and industrialization; he sought the appointment of an agricultural professorship at South Carolina College and the establishment of an experimental farm. In 1855 he represented South Carolina at the Paris Exposition and spoke to the Imperial Agricultural Society of France. Throughout the years, Elliott remained firm in his opposition to secession, believing the South's economy was insufficient for independence. He defended slavery, however, as "sanctioned by religion, conducive to good morals, and useful, nay indispensable," and supported the

Confederacy during the Civil War. Using the pen name Agricola, he expressed his ideas on slavery in a series of letters which were later collected and published as *The Letters of Agricola* (1852). He frequently contributed other articles on various subjects to newspapers and magazines, including essays on somewhat lighter matters. Assuming the pseudonyms of Piscator and Venator, he wrote sketches depicting hunting, fishing, and other low country recreational activities; these popular stories were published (and reprinted) as *Carolina Sports by Land and Water* (1846, 1856).

In May 1817, Elliott married Ann Hutchinson Smith, daughter of Thomas Rhett Smith (1768-1829) and Anne Rebecca Skirving. Elliott's father-in-law, Thomas Rhett Smith, was a planter in St. Bartholomew Parish. Anne Rebecca Skirving Smith was the daughter of William Skirving (fl. 1766-1795) and his second wife, Anne Holland Hutchinson (fl. 1769). Some of the land owned by William Elliott was inherited by his wife from William Skirving, who received a Chehaw plantation as a gift from his father, James Skirving; several plantations in St. Bartholomew from his first wife Mary Sacheverell (1750?-1768), daughter of Thomas Sacheverell (1723?-764); and land in St. Bartholomew, in Georgia, and in Charleston on the death of his second wife's father, Thomas Hutchinson (1714-1790?).

William Elliott and Ann Hutchinson Smith Elliott were the parents of nine children: William (1818-1832), Thomas Rhett Smith (died 1876), Ann (1822-1916), Mary Barnwell (1824-1900), Caroline Phoebe (1827-1862), Emily (1829-1889), William (1832-1867), Ralph Emms (1834-1902), and Harriett Rutledge (1838-1869). Of the eight Elliott children who survived to adulthood, three married and had children

Source: http://www2.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/e/Elliott_and_Gonzales_Family.html

The main access to Elliot Cemetery is via this unpaved "leisure path" off a circle at the end of Deerfield Road, Hilton Head Plantation