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May 28, 2004

Dear Robert and Miss Cora,

I hope all is well with you. I received your letter last week. I called Neltie and indeed we had not paid Dr. Emerson. I asked her to write a check and send it to me. I sent the check to Dr. Emerson with my apologies. I will not let this happen again.

The Nominating Committee has asked me to serve as President for the next term. I have accepted. I understand that Bess has agreed to be Registrar when Marianne steps down.

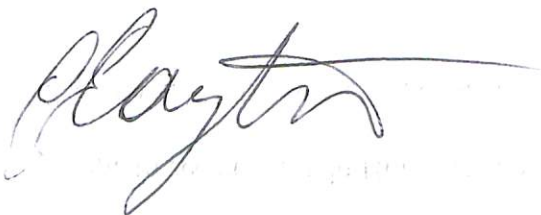
I am sending an e mail that I received from Margaret Pappas. She is looking for our ancestral roots in Jamaica. I remember that you said that you thought Thomas Cater came to SC from England. It will be interesting to see what Margaret comes up with. I will keep you informed.

I have put some inquiries on the net about the Rhodes and Bache families. I did get a response from one person who is a descendant of Besty Bache's brother. I downloaded the 1782 of Thomas Bache. This is Betsy's uncle who was married. I could not find a will of her brother Thomas who left an inheritance for his nephews. I do believe that this record is in Bridgenorth or Lichfield somewhere as reported by Ruth a number of years ago. I am not sure who Ruth was but you gave me a letter that she had written about her searches in England.

I also downloaded a will of a Francis Balgay. She was said to be kin to our family as Thomas Wright Rhodes named a child after her. I seem to remember that you were skeptical about this. There are no clues in the will.

I hope to see you at Old House in July and then for lunch in Ridgeland. I will be having dinner tonight with our Cater cousin Lee Perryman, a descendant of Silas M. Cater, at a meeting of Presidential Families. He is a member.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clayton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.