



CATER (H. Coll.). Sable, a chevron ermine, between three salmon hauriant argent. Mantling sable and argent. Crest—On a wreath of the colours, a gyron gyron rampant. Livery—Black coat, with white and black waistcoat.

Sons of John James Cater, Gentleman, of Little House, Wimbledon (who was son of John James Cater (d. 1889), of West Lodge, Barnet), b. 1814; m. Isabel Georgina, d. of Alexander Scott of Galloway, Jamaica;—
Herbert Elliott Cater, Gentleman, M.A. (Oxon), b. 1878; m. 1906, Ernestine Isabel, d. of Rev. C. W.

Bourne, M.A., late Rector of Staplehurst, Kent; and has issue—Ian Barrow Reid Cater, Gentleman, b. 1914; Hilary Ernestine Reid. *Res.*—7 Hillside, Wimbledon.

John McIlvaine Cater, Gentleman, A.M.I.C.F., b. 1873; m. 1911, Mabel Edith, d. of Rev. C. W. Bourne and has issue—John Charles Cater, Gentleman, b. 1911; Douglas Julian Cater, Gentleman, b. 1915; 10 Cambalt Road, Putney, S.W.

Alexander Scott Cater, Gentleman, b. 1877; m. 1906, Margaret Pears, d. of John H. Etherington-Smith, Esq. K.C., Recorder of Derby; and has issue—Mary Elizabeth, m. 1925, William Alexander Cuthbert, Esq.—Fairfield, Tadworth, Surrey.

Other variations for Cater



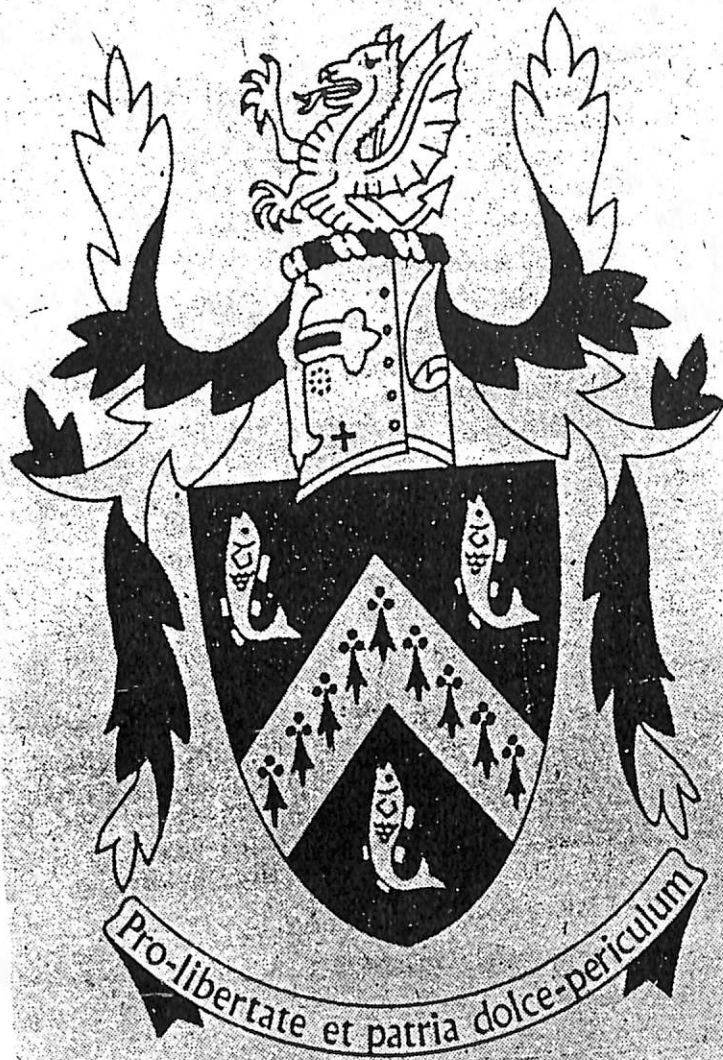
The Cater-Decatur

Coat of Arms

Used in New Hampshire

**CATER-DECATUR
FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

Cater Coat-Of-Arms



The Cater-Decatur
Coat of Arms
Used in New Hampshire

CATER-DECATUR FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Cater Coat-Of-Arms

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JOHN CATER Sr [III] AND PRECEEDING GENERATIONS

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Cater Sr [1] | born 1598/1611 | died abt 1679 |
| Richard Cater Jr [11] | born 1645/48 | died 1702/3 |
| Richard Cater [111] | born 1673 | died 1713 |
| Edward Cater | born abt 1675/79 | died 1732/33 |
| Richard Cater [IV] (<i>CARTER</i>) | <i>b 1698</i> | <i>Buried 25 May 1753</i> |
| John Cater Sr. [1] | born 1712 | died abt 1800 |
| John Cater Jr [11] | born 1736/7 | died 1801 |
| John Cater [111] | born 1775 | died 1836 |

Some records show Edward Cater also as DeCatur possibly a brother of Richard [111]
and born 1669

JOHN CATER [111]

Born March 29, 1775, Barrington, New Hampshire, and died 1863.

Married #1 Susan Holmes, on Aug 18, 1795. Rochester, New Hampshire, she was born
 Sept 15, 1777, and died Dec 29, 1819 in Barrington, NH

#2 Mary Grover, on Dec 26, 1823, she died at age 33, burried in Berwick, Maine

#3 Mary Leighton, on March 17, 1839, in Dover, Nre Hampshire, died without
 issue

CHILDREN

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| 1. Joseph Cater | b Apr 7, 1796 | d Nov 12, 1815/28 | poss married |
| 2. Joel Cater | b May 1, 1797/8 | | m Mariam Babb |
| 3. Ephraim Cater | b 1800 | | m Charlotte Otis |
| 4. John Cater IV | b 1801/2 | | m Abiah Babb |
| 5. Abigail Cater | b 1804/5 | | m Joseph Babb |
| 6. Cyrus Cater | b 1805/6 | | m Olive Woodhouse |
| 7. Joshua Cater | b 1807 | | m Mary L. Hill |
| 8. Susan Cater | b Jul 12 1809 | d Oct 8, 1825 | poss m Canean Iart of Engfield and d shortly after |
| 9. Betsy Cater | b 1811 | | m Isaac Canney |
| 10. Sarah Cater [Molly] | b 1812 | | m Isa. A. Trask |
| 11. Isaac Cater | b 1815 | | m Ruth Wentworth |
| 12. Mary Cater | b 1815 | | m Joseph Winkley |
| 13. Hiram Cater | b 1824 | | m Mary Emily Canney |
- [son of Mary Grover, wife #2]

Richard Cater Sr

Richard Cater II

Edward Cater I

John Cater Sr.

John Cater Jr.

John Cater III

Cyrus Cater

Cyrus Freeman Cater

Jennie Bickford Cater Decatur

Ruth Agatha Norris

Florence Marjorie Hull

Florence Marjorie Hull

is the 8th GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER of

Richard Cater Sr

John Cater III

Ephraim Cater

Joshua Otis Cater

Herbert John Cater

Genevieve Bell Cater

Marylynne Miller McCormick

Cyrus Cater

Cyrus Freeman Cater

Jennie Bickford Cater Decatur

Ruth Agatha Norris

Florence Marjorie Hull

Florence Marjorie Hull

is the FOURTH COUSIN of

Marylynne Miller McCormick

Ephraim Cater

Joseph Low Cater

Joshua Otis Cater

Herbert John Cater

Genevieve Bell Cater

Marylynne Miller McCormick

(M)
ELIZABETH TUTTLE HALL

Joseph Low Cater

is the GREAT-GREAT UNCLE of

Marylynne Miller McCormick

Descendants of Richard Cater Sr

| | | Descendants | spouses |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------|
| | Generation 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Generation 2 | 7 | 7 |
| | Generation 3 | 5 | 6 |
| | Generation 4 | 12 | 8 |
| | Generation 5 | 17 | 10 |
| | Generation 6 | 28 | 13 |
| | Generation 7 | 19 | 15 |
| | Generation 8 | 73 | 63 |
| | Generation 9 | 185 | 135 |
| | Generation 10 | 251 | 186 |
| Richard Cater Sr | Generation 11 | 350 | 215 |
| Richard Cater II | Generation 12 | 385 | 117 |
| Edward Cater I | Generation 13 | 202 | 6 |
| John Cater Sr. (I) | Generation 14 | 7 | 0 |
| John Cater (II) | Totals | 1542 | 783 |
| John Cater III | | | |
| Ephraim Cater | | | |
| Joshua Otis Cater | | | |
| Herbert John Cater | | | |
| Genevieve Bell Cater | | | |
| Marylynne Miller McCormick | | | |

Marylynne Miller McCormick

is the 8th GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER of

Richard Cater Sr

JOHN CATER III

Born March 29 1775 in Barrington, New Hampshire and he died 1836.

- Married #1 Susan Holmes on August 18 1795, in Rochester New Hamp she was born Sept 15 1777 and died Dec 29 1819 in Barrington, NH she had 12 children
- #2 Mary Grover Dec 26 1823 and died Dec 29 1819 at age 33, and burried in Berwick, Maine, had 1 child Hiram
- #3 Mary Leighton March 17 1839 in Dover, NH and died without issue

Children:

- I. Joseph Cater born about Apr 7 1796 and died about Nov 12 1815 to 1828 and possibly married
- II. Joel Cater born May 1 1797 or 1798 married first Miriam Babb Jul 16 1818, married second Anna Babb Feb 9 1829 and had 10 children. Miriam Babb had 2 children
- III. Ephraim Cater born Jan 9 1800 in Barrington NH and died Nov 20 1887 in Barrington and burried on the land that his father owned. Married Charlotte Otis Oct 25 1821 in Strafford New Hamp
- IV. John Cater IV born Aug 15 1801/2 Prov V.C. States 1828 he died Dec 17 1862 and married Abiah Babb Sep 5 1882
- V. Abigail Cater born March 22 1804/5 and died Jan 5 1837. She married Joseph Babb Feb 1 1827
- VI. Cyrus Cater born Nov 23/28 1805/6 and died Dec 11 1879/97 married first Alin Woods in 1828 and married Olive Woodhouse second on March 13 1829
- VII. Joshua Cater born between 1829 and 1833 also known as Joshua Decatur he was born Nov 3 1807 and find no record of his death, married Mary L. Hill May 12 1833.
- VIII. Susan Cater born July 12 1809 and died Oct 8 1825? possibly married Canean Lart of Engfield and died shortly after. If this is the same Susan and married C. Lart in 1843 then more research will have to be done on her.
- IX, Betsey Cater born July 23 1811 and died Oct 11 1840 by the New Hamp Historian and by my records she died Oct 3 1903. If she died in 1903 she was 92 years of age and her last child was born in 1854 so she was living in 1840 and believe 1903 her real death date. She married #1 Samuel Reed of Farmington in March 28 1824 and married second Isaac Canney

- X. Sarah or Molly Cater born May 16 1812/3 in Barrington, NH she died Jul 21 1891 in Fitchburg, Mass. and she married Asa A. Trask Apr 11 1832
- XI. Isaac Cater born March 28 1815 in Barrington, NH and died Oct 11 1885 in Barrington. He married Ruth Wentworth on May 23 1839
- XII. Mary Cater born Nov 9 1817 in Barrington and died Aug 12 1875 she married Joseph Winkley Apr 11 1841
- XIII Hiram Cater son of Mary Grover born Sep 3 1824 and died Nov 30 1880 married Mary Emily Canney

As one of the results of the union of Mass. Bay and New Hamp. begun in the fall of 1641 by the entrance into it of that part of New Hamp. represented by the two Pascataque towns and the Pascataque proprietors and consummated as to the entire territory of New Hamp. by the accession of the Exeter colony in 1643, one system of laws, subject to the reservation in behalf of New Hamp. embodied in the articles of union (N.H. Prov Laws Vol xxx) became operative over the towns and people of the entire experience that some men, dying, having made their wills for the disposing of their estates, that the said wills are concealed and not proved and recorded; and some others, dying interstate, no administration is sought or not granted in any legal way and yet wives, children, kindred or some friends of the deceased, or some others do enter upon the lands and possess themselves of the goods of the said deceased, and the same are many times sold or wasted before creditors to whom the deceased was indebted know of whom to demand, or how to recover their just debts; for prevention of such unjust and fraudulent dealings "The Declaration was made at a point of time so early in the period of the union that presumably it is descriptive of what was the subject of general knowledge in a considerable part, if not all, of the previous history of this jurisdiction. It may also be regarded as a partial explanation of the paucity of probate records in the first colonial period. The act which the preamble above quoted, bears date not later than 1649, only 8 years subsequent to the beginning of the union of the two colonies and only 6 years after the accession of Exeter, which completed the extension of the union over New Hamp.

There are many inherent problems in trying to trace the ancestors of the Cater-Decatur-Carter family. This family requires no simple genealogical exercise to trace, since it has baffled many noted genealogists over the years who have tried to trace it. It might be noted here that for 75 years from 1875 to 1950 the origin of this family was thought to be a Richard Carter of Boston, who was finally discovered to have died without male issue. (Letter fm Leslie A Carter to Christa Damron dtd Dec 31, 1951).

The above points out the first problem, namely the numerous records compiled by early genealogists (Savage-Genealogical Dictionary of New England, Libby- General Directory of Maine and New Hamp., Noyes- Maine and New Hampshire Dictionary, and Bennett- Find your Forefathers in America and etc) and their obvious discrepancies. It is virtually impossible to compile a composite family from the above records since they differ so widely in their opinions.

Secondly, there is a problem in going to the original records. For original records we are indebted to the late Leslie A Carter for the early Caters of New England, who spent years digging up records in the days before microfilming. But even the original records are incomplete due to fires, theft, deterioration, neglect and loss and etc. In fact, it is not improbably that in ancient times in New England, many people lived and died, mainly women,

of whom there is no record. Only the so-called "bad" ones are mentioned.

In addition, this problem is compounded by our need to get records on a family that were squatters, who lived much like gypsies, or comparable to southern hill-billy families, who lived out of human contact with the outside world. If they didn't get in trouble or hadn't eventually bought land, one would never know of them.

Lastly, is the fact that we are dealing with a family composed of several generations of Richards and Johns who lived upon the the same land for several generations. Even in an area of good records this would make research complex, and in this situation it makes confusing records even more difficult to understand.

Summary: It is this authors opinion, and remember I am only a layman, but after hours running into thousands of hours I believe that 3 brothers arrived in the United States (America) about 1635 with one brother keeping the name Decatur, one brother taking the name Cater and one brother taking the name Cate.

That Richard Cater Sr. (I) did have a wife in England and upon hearing of her death, returned to England to get his 2 children and again came to the United States and possibly this 2nd time to America he came with his son Edward

I believe that the name Decatur came into the family again some time in the 17th century reverting back to the original name as shown by Joshua Cater also known as Joshua Decatur. I have not found anything to show there was a John Decatur prior to the above date.

It has also been stated that Susan Holmes was a sister of the famous writer Wendall Oliver Holmes, in checking out the Holmes genealogy, there is no reference to a sister of Holmes ever being married to a Cater.

It has also been stated by some Caters that Stephen Decatur the famous Naval Officer was our relation. I find nothing in my research to establish this fact and I have tried. However, I have enclosed in this book a short item of Mr. Decatur and hope it will be of interest to all and maybe somebody will give me some piece of evidence to tie Mr Decatur into our line, I will then persue the Decatur Research further. The article is of human interest only.

According to the Minnesota tribe of Caters who believe that most of the Cater family to have English and French blood and the name originally was Decatur. Three brothers came here and each one decided to found a family. The eldest keeping the name of DeCatur, the next one took Carter and the youngest took Cates. Cates died early in life without family. (see interview of Ruth Scherfenberg a descendent of Levi Cater) (Information from my grandfather Herbert John Cater descendent of Joshua Otis Cater)

It has also been said that the name Cater was interchangeable with Carter. Neither is this true for the reason that others had chosen to place an entirely different interpretation on published records which so happen to be in complete agreement with the original records (Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire- 1928). For instance, the baptismal record of John Cater (1712-1776/7) of Portsmouth and later of Kittery, Maine. His record of christening in 1712 has been correctly published under the name of Cater. Yet, the Carter pedigree, for example, shows his name to be otherwise. There is not a single instance, in the records of Maine or New Hampshire where his name occurs as Carter.

John, who is known by his descendants as John Carter I, was the son of Edward and Sarah (Cotton) Cater. Edward, in 1702 with his brother Richard, and his sister, Mary was styled "of Pine Point", a locality in the Bloody Point section of Dover, now known as Newington, since 1714, when he purchased land from Samuel Moody. Edward Carter's relationship to the Cater - Carter family of Maine and New Hampshire is as follows:

MARRIAGES

- (1) "1717 Mch 21. Will Witham & Elizabeth Carter both of Newington w^r married"
- (2) "1719 Feb 12. Richard Carter & Sarah Pevey both of Newington w^r married"
- (3) "1721 Jul 27. John Carter & Hannah Bickford of Newington w^r married"

BAPTISMS

- (4) "1724 Sept 20. Elizabeth Carter owned the Covenant & was baptized & also admitted to full communion.
- (5) "1724 Sept 20. Richard Carter & Sarah his wife, also Mary Cater & Deborah, Mary & Sarah children w^r baptized."

In item #3 the record of the second marriage of John Carter to Hannah Bickford is given. It would be of interest to learn not only how John's name appears in the original Newington records, but also that of the maiden name of his wife, for with in the 1868 printed version of these records her name is given as Hannah Bare. In the North Church, Portsmouth, on March 24 1696.

this John was baptized as John, the son of R. Cater. The published records of Kittery, give the first marriage of John to Sarah Lary in 1719. The record of intention of marriage gives the name of John Cater. The marriage record gives the name of John Cates.

Records at York, Maine, Intentions of marriage book 1.

Acadia is a name first used in 1604 for a region that included what are now the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Islands. Acadia also included parts of Quebec province and of the state of Maine. Acadia is best known as the poetic name of Nova Scotia, the famous setting for Longfellow's romantic poem 'Evangeline'. Acadia was a French settlement when the French and English began their long struggle for possession of the North American continent. During Queen Ann's War (1702-1713) Port Royal, the seat of the Acadian government surrendered to the English. At the end of the war Acadia was given to England in the Treaty of Utrecht. But the Acadians became a source of trouble to England because of their sympathy for the French. They encouraged the Indians to attack English settlements. In 1755 during the French and Indian War the British took steps to compel the Acadians to live up to the terms of the treaty of 1713. Acadians who refused to take an oath of allegiance to the British King were about six thousand men, women and children and were sent away to colonies from Mass. to Georgia. After enduring much hardship a number of these exiles made their way back to Acadia and lived there in peace after the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763. Others wandered westward to Louisiana, which had been a French Colony. The descendants of these Acadians are known as Cajuns. Many of them still speak a French dialect.

Royal River flows through Yarmouth, Maine about eight miles east of the Presumpscot, and was known to the natives as Westcustego. In 1640, all of the territory extending westerly from the bank of Royal River, as far as Broad Cove, was in possession of John Phillips, the Welchman. About that date Phillips conveyed the western section adjoining the cove to George Felt, of Charles-
 town, who secured a confirmation of his title from Thomas Gorges in 1643 and continued to occupy the premises for more than forty years. Phillips was a millwright and constructed on Pungustuck Falls in Yarmouth the first sawmill in Eastern Maine. The mill was completed about 1645. A deed of land situated at York, dated June 8 1646 disclosed the names of early residents near "Casco Mill". Those mentioned were John Smith and his wife Joan, as grantors and Richard Carter (Cater), John Jackson and William and Phebe Royal as available witnesses. (York Deeds 12-316, 9-221). Soon after the sale to Felt the next lot to the east ward was acquired by Thomas Drake and transferred to Richard Martin. It contained sixty acres and was known subsequently as Martin's Plantation. The residue of the land between the plantations and Royal River was purchased by Richard Cater (Carter) about 1646 and sold to John Miné six years later. The extremity, now known as Parker's, was formerly called Maine's Point.

New Hampshire received its name with the Grant to Capt. John Mason on November 7, 1629, but previous to this time voyagers along the coast had landed on the shores of the Piscataqua; grants had been made of portions of the territory and settlements had been begun in several places on our soil.

History is fast changing its character. Its province is less and less among the battles and sieges. It is more and more among those influences and movements which are ever going on in the social and religious life of the people. What has been called "a drum and trumpet history" is giving way to a careful study and faithful transcript of those humbler incidents, which mark the progress of men's most serious thoughts and even common place living. In these explorations, the historian discovers the seeds of national growth and decay, and thus becomes the prophet of his generation. And so it is, well in these centennial days, when men are living over the great events in the nation's history reviewing the campaign and stratagems of plumed warriors, the conquest and capitulation of armies, to turn aside to celebrate a period associated with men and movements almost unknown or forgotten but which when rightly eyed, may be seen to have made a not less deep and lasting impression on national life and character.

We live in a country whose national history has just reached its centennial. Our oldest institutions are almost of yesterday, our most ancient structures are free from the moss and stains of age. Our ideas and associations and even our memories are within the boundaries of the near and present. It is, therefore, difficult for us to connect ourselves with an event which is farther removed by the birthday of the nation than that day is removed from the present.

James the First was on the throne of England, nearing the end of his vices and stupidities. Shakespear was but just resting in his tomb from his immortal labors. Galileo was getting ready his heretical solar system to lay at the feet of the newly elected Pope (1873). Bacon still lived and wrote with all his wonted profundity of thought and splendor of eloquence.

Hence, this side of the great water, a feeble colony of English men was holding its position on the Virginian Coast at a vast expenditure of money and a great sacrifice of human life. That very year they were fighting the Indians through tangled woods and swamps. That very year a feebler colony of Englishmen was passing a third year on the Massachusetts coast living on five kernals of corn to an individual. In May of that year about 1623, one hundred persons, weak with sickness and starvation, laid down at night 'not knowing' according to their own record 'where to have a bit in the morning' having neither bread nor corn; yet they bear our Wants with Cheerfulness, and Rest on Providence. In the same year a boat from an English ship came up to the river Piscataqua, it bore a little company of men. They steered straight up the broad stream until they came to a point of land made by the flowing in of another river.

It was not the first time that these waters had been stirred by a foreign keel, and perhaps, it was not the first time that this point of land had been trodden by foreign feet. About 1600 Captain Martin Pring had sailed up this channel and had

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explored its banks for sassafras, which was held in high estimation in Europe for its aromatic and medicinal qualities and about 1590 the renowned Capt. John Smith had sailed along its wooded banks and on his return, had written in admiration of "the deep waters of Piscataqua."

But the keel which now grated along the shore until it rested in some nook of the land turned not back. "The men lifting axes upon the thick trees". They threw up a rude house or two and into them they gathered the articles and instruments, which they had brought with them. They came to stay.

And so Dover was born and cradled and put to rest for at least eight years, and it could boast the possession of only three houses.

Let us recall the features of the scene which these founders grazed upon. The same sky of blue and cloud, the same unrivaled water view, of rivers with their shinning arms, and great placid bays, all pulsing with the ocean's life. The same rounded mountains and swelling hills, all this, which fills us at each new beholding with increased admiration, met their eyes also. But the scene to them was wilder, fuller, richer. The "Neck" now so bare, was clothed from summit down to the water's edge with lordly pines and oaks, whose dense foliage swayed to and fro in the wind and sighed responsive to the ocean's roar. The deer had their well worn paths to the springs and grasses of lower land. The rivers were filled with fish and with all kinds of water fowls. It was a scene which to those men accustomed to the open cultivated fields of England, must have been almost terrible in its beauty. About that time there were only a few Indians in the region. Years before it must have been a favorite place to them. But the entire eastern coast of New England, just before its settlement by white man, had been swept clean of its inhabitants by a great pestilence. The Pilgrims found in the neighborhood of Plymouth vast burial grounds, and bleaching bones scattered everywhere. The Indians whom they saw were few in number, the fragments of once powerful tribes. There was no savage whoop to smite the fears of the men and their companions. They were startled by no other sound than the might crash of some monarch tree, which, at some moment of profound stillness having reaching the measure of its days, trembled and fell, ringing its own knell through all the solitude around.

Unmolested and unobserved, the white invaders plied their occupation, curing fish and furs, and lumbering along the river banks. The few accessions made during the first eight years were from a class of men with whom the Puritans had no sympathy either upon religion or moral grounds.

In Prince's New England Chronology, I find this very significant entry, under date of August 20, 1630, speaking of some who

returned from the Plymouth Colony to England because of sickness and threatened famine, and 'of dislike of our Government, which restrained and punished their Excesses.' Others, also, afterwards hearing of men of their own disposition at Pascataway, went from us to them, whereby the numbers were lessened, yet accounted themselves as not being weakened by their removal.

In the call of 1633, the Captain returned, having with him a number of families from the west of England, some of whom were of 'good estate and of some account for religion.'

It must have been under the inspiration of their minister that a meeting house was first erected. It was placed upon the most elevated site, crowning the little settlement, and giving to it whatever grace and glory it might boast. It was a rude structure of logs and mud, but, like the temple of old, it was 'beautiful for situation.'

The place where the first church was built should forever remain sacred to us, and to our children after us. When the magnificent temple was reared the glory of its marble walls, its golden pinnacles and its precious wood could not eclipse the glory of where men first raised the alter of worship.

I love to linger in thought around the place. I think of those hard, rough men and the scarcely gentler women, at the sound of the drum leaving their huts at the rivers' banks mounting the hill, perhaps stopping at the wayside spring which still flows, entering in below the low porch, and gathering within the rude audience room. After this, the people were without religious instruction. In the trade of fish, furs, and lumber and in the cultivation of corn, the plantation became somewhat flourishing. During all these early years, the settlers here were under the necessity of carrying their corn to the windmill in Boston to be ground.

The early settlers of Strafford County and of the Isles of Shoals were attached to the Church of England. They were thorough going royalists. How bitterly they hated the Parliament against the king, and the Puritans of Mass. against the Church of England, how vast were the projects of some of their leaders, looking to the establishment of Episcopacy and monarchy in these northern regions, is seen in no little part of the annuals and correspondence of those days. In a historical sketch of the Isles of Shoals, by Jenness there is a very interesting and most significant reference to this matter. We refer the reader especially to chapters VI and X. The fact that there existed here in these two parties, representing principles and politics thus antagonistic is the true key for our solution of the strange events which now open up to us.

The New England Puritans regarded the Quakers as constituting a most dangerous element among them, and in the spirit of the age they persecuted them with relentless cruelty. The Quakers were shipped and imprisoned, put in stocks, pilloried, and made subject to every personal indignity, but they still increased in numbers with an unexampled rapidity. Then in 1700 the Quakers were able to build a meeting house in Dover Neck in which today they hold a respectable position in the community.

As early as 1667 the Meeting House was surrounded with a fortification made of logs built upon an earthen entrenchment. It was a hundred feet square and at two diagonal corners there were projections, circular in form, which probably were surmounted with towers. The houses of the early inhabitants were built down on the lower lands which meet the two rivers. The vast advantage which such an elevated site would afford is at once apparent in view of the dreadful circumstances which necessitated this fortification of the place. Standing in the angle towers of the entrenchment a sentinel in the north west corner could sweep with his eye the houses on his side, now deserted.

It would hardly be possible for an Indian, however, stealthy his movements, to shoot his canoe along the river and fall upon the unprotected houses without calling to himself the attention of the watchful guard and evoking from him an outcry upon the congregation within.

This entrenchment was built because of a new and most threatening danger. The settlers on Sunday morning, when the bell began to ring, took down their guns, which hung on their household walls, and, putting themselves at the head of their respective families, marched towards the Meetinghouse on the hill. The sentinels were stationed on the outer walls, the hymn, the sermon was often broken in upon by the startling cry of the faithful watchmen. The guns were seized, and the men went forth to fight and sometimes to die. There is an account here and there given of one or more shot down by the Indians as they were going to or from the Meeting House.

I am not going to recount the horrors and atrocities of the four great Indian Wars which almost depopulated Strafford County. Hundreds of brave men were killed. Women and children were driven off in herds to Canada. The laborer in the field were surprised and scalped. The wife, busy about her domestic affairs and the child sweetly dreaming in its cradle, were seized. A thousand nameless horrors, whose recital would chill your blood were here performed, making those who lived to envy the cruel lot of those who had died. In 1677, a peace between the Indians and the white men were declared. Twelve years of blessed quiet ensued. Meanwhile, the inhabitants had moved more and more away from the original site.

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houses, planted corn, etc., and having thus satisfactorily shown their intention and ability to carry forward the plantation already begun, at length received from the Grand Council a conveyance or patent for territory they had taken up. This patent was executed March 12, 1630.

The territory conveyed to Hilton and his associates by this patent is bounded and described in the instrument, as follows, All that part of the river Piscataque, called or known by the name of Wecanachunt or Hilton's Point, which is situated south side of the said river, up to the fall of the river and three miles into the Maine land by all the breadth aforesaid.

Hilton's Point, now called Dover Neck, upon which Hilton and his men pitched their settlement, is, in the language of Dr. Belknap "a high neck of land between the main branch of the Piscataqua and Black River." It has often been admired by travellers as an elegant situation for a city, and by military gentlemen for a fortress.

But, on the other hand, the new-come planters soon felt sore need of meadow land and pasturage, not to be found on the sandy point itself, nor in its convenient vicinity within their own grant. Across the wide waters to the south, however, reposed unoccupied a country of virgin beauty, heavily timbered with primeval forests, and fringed all around its watered sides with emerald fields, and meadows both salt and fresh. It was very natural that the Hilton Point planters should fall into easy way of ferrying their flocks and herds across the river to graze upon these vacant fields. Before long they came to mowing grass and felling timber and planting fields; and then one after another put up dwellings and barns and entered into full adverse possession of the territory, now embraced in Newington and Greenland. Legal title to these forests and meadows, we believe they had none. In after years, it is true, these trespassers undertook to rest their title upon some ancient Indian grant. (Jenness "Notes on the First Planting of New Hamp. and on the Piscataqua Patents," and in State Papers, New Hamp. Vol. XXV.)

As long as the status quo was kept these squatters on Bloody Point were safe from the law. Unfortunately for them this state of affairs was upset when the Massachusetts Bay Company gained control of the land between 1641 and 1679. When the province of New Hampshire was formed:

Intense hostility to their design sprang up at once among the original Hilton Point planters, who were in occupation of the ground. Edward Hilton was himself a royalist and a churchman, and the planters brought over by him during the period the patent was in his hands, were naturally of the same feather. These men had now taken up and improved the lands on Bloody Point and around the easterly side of the Great Bay in considerable numbers, though without any legal title to them whatever.

The Cater-Carter family came from England early in the 17th century. Three quarters of a century of research has as yet failed to unearth the specific home of the family though Devonshire, England, has been the most frequently mentioned possible location by the two main family historians- Leslie A. Carter and Archibald Bennet. At this point I would like to present what meager information we do have. The main piece of evidence that might tie our ancestor, Richard Cater to Devonshire is a 1648 deed between him and a Mathew Giles, who is noted as Richard's "trusted and well beloved friend." (New Hampshire Province Deeds Vol 1, p48), this language might indicate a knowledge of Giles prior to immigration. Giles came from Dovenshire. Richard's son-in-law, John Bickford, was of the large Devonshire family (John and his son John have signed many documents in this country as early as 1643). (Letter from Archibald Bennett to Leslie Carter Dtd Aug. 2 1945.

There is a 1632 marriage record from Berry Pomeroy, Dovenshire, England, for a Richard Cater and a Christian Fug. (Boyd's Marriage Index). Two children were baptized there to them: Jane on Feb 10, 1632 and Edward on Sept. 27 1735. (Original source unknown, on LDS archive microfiche records). No other record of this Richard is found in England (see English Caters Section) leading one to believe that he either died or immigrated to the United States shortly thereafter.

The Edward, mentioned above, might be the Edward Cater or Carter, a fisherman of Isle of Shoals, Maine, who married as Cater to one Grace Hale in Modbury, Devonshire, England in 1657. (Boyd's Marriage Index). He drowned along with Gregory Churchwood, of Devonshire, in a boat off the shores of Maine in 1670 (see section on documents) (New Hampshire State Papers Vol 31). Modbury is less than 15 miles from Berry Pomeroy. Churchwood was from Kingswear, which is in the same vicinity. The Bickfords also came from this same neighborhood. (Letter from Lelie A. Carter to Christa Damron dtd May 1, 1953). All of the above is supposition at this time and needs further research, who has the time and money, for it is the best lead that we have for now.

Our original ancestor first settled in the region between Dover (Originally called Piscataqua) and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. (See section on New Hampshire History) This area bounds the Piscataqua River, which separates the present states of Maine and New Hampshire.

Jeness writes in great detail of the early settlers of this area of Dover and their need to move to the virgin land south of Hilton Point (see map section) across the Great Bay, into Bloody Point which later became Newington in 1714;

Edward Hilton and his associates having in 1628 and 1629 (see section on New Hamp. history) "transporte sundry servants to plant upon Hilton's Point, now Dover Neck (see map) built some

But, there were no courts or tribunals on the lands, before which these squatter rights could be called in question. These squatters upon the Piscataqua thus found their possessory titles practically unquestionable, so long as they kept aloof from Massachusetts. But on the contrary, if Massachusetts were permitted to stretch her boundaries over the river, in her train would come organized courts of law, before which land titles could be brought up for trial. This view must have been appalling to most of the planters. These squatter planters could produce in court no instruments of title to their lands; nor, had their possession been long enough continued to raise a prescriptive title.

The inhabitants of Blood Point in particular, who had formerly crossed the river from Dover, as before stated, now found themselves in danger of being stripped of their farms, upon the laying out of Dover township, so that these now isolated planters had neither title to their farms, nor the protection of any organized town government, nor any rights in the town common lands. In these straits they applied earnestly to the General Court for relief and the latter, granted their prayer, and in 1643, an Act was passed, that "all the marsh and meadow grounds lying against the great bay or Strawberry Bank side shall belong to the town of Dover, together with 400 acres of upland ground adjoining or lying nere to the said meadow."

The following year in 1644, the Mass. General Court granted to the township of Dover the entire neck of land, known as Bloody Point, bounded on the southward by a line drawn from Canney's Creek to Hogstie Cove (Jennesse). It is in the above stated circumstances that our earliest ancestor first appears, having first, like so many of his contemporaries, settled in Dover, then moving across the Great Bay to the Bloody Point Area.

The conclusion that Richard Carter of Scarborough belongs to the Cater family can be arrived at, principally from deeds, together with the help of only one baptismal record extant, and that of John Cater, the son of R. Cater in the North Church, Portsmouth May 24, 1696. Of 4 deeds to be mention here in one is dated April 26, 1722, it is between John Downing of Newington, grantee, and Richard Carter of Western Portsmouth and his sister Mary Carter of Stony Hill, Newington grantors. (see section on Documents)

The first place of evidence of a change in the name from Cater to Carter is from an original of a recorded deed dated Oct 8, 1702, Pine Point, in the township of Dover.

The grantor's names are Mary Carter, sister; Richard Carter and Edward Carter in the records, his descendants to this day are known by the names of Cater except for those who in about 1829 adopted the name DeCator. As for Mary, it was the only time that she is called Carter. She was 20 years old in 1703 when she joined a church in Boston under the name of Cater, and also married in Charlestown the following year under the same name.

Edward was the brother of Richard Catter, of Kittery, in 1698, and of Richard Carter of Pine Point in 1702, the latter having changed his name from Catter to Carter between these two dates. Edward was also the uncle of Richard Carter who married Sarah Peavey in Newington in 1718/9 and who was of Western Portsmouth (Greenland) in 1719, and "of Scarborough" in 1733. He was also the grand uncle of Richard Carter of Kittery, who married Sarah Drew in 1750. To simplify matters from this point on, Edward Cater's brother Richard Carter will be referred to as Richard III.

In 1768, John Cater I of Kittery had deeded to his son, John Jr (II) 70 acres of land at Barrington, which was originally purchased under the Barrington Charter, by his father, Edward in 1722 or thereabouts and had changed their name to Decatur. (see page 15 Section III, Definition of Cater names); other wise no known reason has been found except that according to the Minnesota tribe of Caters who believe that most of the Cater family have English and French blood and that the name originally was Decatur, and that three brothers came here and each one decided to found a family, the oldest one kept the name DeCatur, the next one took Cater as his name and the youngest took the name Cates who died early in life without family. (Stories from my grandfather Herbert John Cater and an interview of Ruth Scherfenberg, See Under Levi), the many known Cates live today.

There is also a difference of opinion of Leslie A Carter and the Minnesota tribe and the New Hampshire clan who believe he was born in 1598 in England and landed in America in 1635. If this is true and he married first in 1632 then he was 37 years old when he arrived in America.

Many instances could be cited occuring among these Barrington Caters where the father used the old family name, and his sons used DeCatur. One instance is known where the father lived and died under the name of Decatur, though he chose to call himself DeCater, in his later years. One of his sons after a visit to relatives in the East, returned to his home in Minnesota and thereafter was known as Charles Cater. The vital of Nethuen, Mass, list his birth under the name of Decatur, The Holman Genealogy gives his name as Charles Cater. Hence, it is hoped that the fact that the Cater family is a real entity and not a figment of the imagination.

Why did Martha Johnson Cater legally change her name to Decatur who was a second child of Ephraim and Charlotte Otis Cater, and to my knowledge the only one of Ephriams children or descendents to have done it.

I find nothing in Leslie Carters papers where he had this information or he left it out or he didn't believe it. There has come to light a wealth of information in genealogy and research since the days of the past.

In order that one might not be confused by published sources of information, a record of our forebears can be compiled satisfactorily only from the original records in the archives of the New Hampshire Historical Society. For the reason that there has prevailed for some 75 years among certain early historians, and even with some professional genealogists of our times, the belief that the surnames Cater with its several forms of spelling such as Cater, Kater, Keater and etc was a corruption of the name Carter. Nothing is further from the truth.

As in America, the English spelling developed many variations. The General Armory by Burke (1884) lists peerages under the following spellings: Carter (12 entries) Cater (3), Cator or Cattor (1) and Cator (1). It is easy to imagine how these variations originated as half educated clerks helped uneducated commoners spell their name. In general, these variations are immaterial since the same person frequently had his name spelled several different ways in a lifetime. I know this to be true as every where I go, people of all walks of life, cannot spell my name correctly even tho I spell it first for them, Yet occasionally a branch of a family picked up a certain spelling and stuck to it almost exclusively. I added an "ne" to the end of my first name in school and have used it ever since. Such is the name of our first ancestor in America. While Carters are found all around him, Cater was the most frequently used by our ancestor. I am sure it will raise many eyebrows in the Cater family as it did when the Carters learned Cater was the first ancestor of Carter.

As a matter of interest, the original family in American has broken up into three distinct spellings over the last 300 years. My line kept the name CATER, while a new found 9th cousin had the name of Carter shortly before 1700 and have kept it ever since. One branch moved to Barrington, New Hampshire and changed the name to Decatur or DeCatur. One story goes that when Cyrus Cater registered his son John D. Cater, the clerk misunderstood and wrote John DeCatur. However, records show that Joshua the brother of Cyrus also used the name Decatur. However, Mr Leon Brock says the story about Cyrus is the true start of the Decatur name.

It is Leslie A Carter's opinion that there are a number of different lines of Caters, which situation is found to be no different from other surnames. There are 157 Caters and Carters marriages in Dovenshire, England with no relation or only a few related to this lineage. It is also my belief that numerically the Caters of New Hampshire predominate with the Minnesota Caters being second and Maryland being third, with South Carolina being fourth. This does not include the Caters who have been coming into this country and into Canada since the great migration of the 19th century.

From Dover we pass to Portsmouth where in 1717 we find "Ed Cater" rated to the new or North Parish Meeting House. This Edward was undoubtedly the son of Richard Cater, Jr, of Dover.

The town of Barrington was chartered by proclamation in the name of "George I, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith" dated May 10 1722 and signed by Samuel Shute, Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, giving and granting to "all such our loving subjects as are at present Inhabitants of our Town of Portsmouth within our Province of New Hampshire and have paid rate for four years last past, to be divided among them in proportion to their respective town rates, which they paid the years last past." In addition to the territory granted to the taxpayers of Portsmouth the new town included, also, the two mile streak, granted to our loving subjects the Present Proprietors of the Iron Works lately set up in Lamprey River (viz). The Hon. John Wentworth, Esq. George Jaffrey, Esq, and Archibald McPhedris, Esq, and Hon. Robert Wilson for their encouragement and accommodation to carry on and maintain the aforesaid Iron Works."

The town of Barrington was chartered May 10 1722 and the first settlements were 1732. In 1744 the inhabitants of the town petitioned for an abatement of taxes as follows:

"To His Excellency Benning Wentworth, Esq., Capt. General and Governor in Chief, In and over his Majesty's Province of New Hampshire. The Hon. his Majesty's Council and House of Representatives for said Province in General Assembly convened Dec 19 1744. The Humble Petition of William Cate, one of the sleetmen of the town of Barrington in said Prov. in behalf of the Inhabitants of said Town Shews that the number of Inhabitants in said town was at most not above fifty families most of which were but in poor circumstances just beginning their settlements on a soil not the most encouraging but since the war with France near half the said number is gone to other towns and have settled there. That the summer last past the said Inhabitants being in Garrisons could do no business to earn anything excepting the raising their corn by reason of fears they were under from the Indians considering their exposed situation and upon the whole of their Circumstances apprehend that they will do their part of Public Duty if they maintain their ground and prevent the total breaking up the said settlement which it is easy to see much be attended with bad consequences to other places--that the Selectman of said town have received two warrants from the treasurer to raise about fifteen pounds old Tenor in the whole upon the Polls and Estates of said Inhabitants for the current year as their proportion of the Province taxes which all things considered they are very unable if at all capable of paying--Wherefore your Petitioner in behalf of the said Inhabitants in this particular and that they may be exempted and discharged from paying the said taxes and we will as in duty bound Pray etc.

Wm. Cate.

This petition was considered in the House of Representatives Dec 18 1744, and dismissed.

The inhabitants of the town of Barrington petitioned Apr 7 1744 respecting the election of a representative and the petition signed among others John Cater, who was John Cater Jr, or the second John Cater. The town papers published by the State of New Hampshire give "A list of the original proprietors of the town of Barrington with the rate which each man paid and by which the quality of Acres each man had is ascertained at the rate of two Pence or, acre, and also the member of each hat as the same was drawn by each prop.or his constituent." Lot number eight was drawn by Edward Cater and it contained one hundred and twenty acres of which the rate was one pound.

So we find that the first person by the name of Cater connected with the town of Barrington in any way was Edward of Portsmouth. Wether he ever came to Barrington to live or his son John settled upon the property we are unable to say, but the early generations of the family seem to be pioneer settlers. The two Richards were in Dover in early days, Edward was in Portsmouth and John came to Barrington and founded a family that has done much in developing the resources of the town and in giving character to its inhabitants. The name is familiar in Strafford County.

In the wars of the Colonists the name is not among the missing for Edward Cater of Barrington served two weeks and had twelve shillings due him in the French and Indian War, and John Cater and John Cater Jr, were on the list of "Officers and Soldiers liable to bear arms and attend military discipline in the upper foot company of Kittery under the command of Noah Emery," In 1754 also "in the fourth foot company in Kittery in 1759, and 1762; Joseph Cater was in the Kittery company in 1758.

In the American Revolution were Andrew Cater of Stratham, and Benjamin Cater of Concord Parish, Edward Cater of Barrington who served three years in Capt. Drew's Co., and Stephen Cater who was Sargeant.

In the Dover New Hampshire Evening Star of Aug 21 1896 is a short sketch of the Cater family in which there were several mistakes. "John Cater (I) as he is called there was John Cater Jr (II) and he did not live in Kittery but in Barrington and was the John Cater Jr, son of John Cater, son of Edward who joined Capt. Noah Emery's company of foot soldiers in 1754-1759 and 62 and died 1801. The "John Cater" 2nd, of the article referred to, was the son of John Cater Jr, and was born in Barrington March 29 1775 and died there Oct 2 1863 giving the line in America as Richard I, Richard II, Edward, John I, John II, and John III.

With this sketch of the family gleamed from New Hampshire State Papers and other authorities equally reliable I leave you to realize that

"Like leaves on trees the life of man is found,
Now green in youth, now withering on the ground,
Another race the following spring supplies.
They fall successive and successive rise,
So generations in their course decay,
So flourish these, when those have passed away.

RICHARD CATER SR.

Richard Cater Sr. will be known as Richard (I) to avoid confusion with his son Richard Cater Jr (II) who have baffled genealogists from the very beginning.

The Cater family is a complex one and cannot be solved by pointing to only one deed of 1704 as Mr Bennett does. The Cater Carter family came from England early in the 17th century. Three quarters of a century of research has as yet failed to unearth the specific home of the family though Devonshire, England, has been the most frequently mentioned possible location by the two main family historians Leslie A. Carter and Archibald Bennett. The earliest record in the United States is 1639 when Francis Champernowne had land which abutted that of Richard Cater of Dover, New Hamp. Champernowne a nephew of Sir Fernando Gorges was born only a few miles from Berry Pomeroy. Gorges was very active in sending settlers to Maine and if Richard of Dover and Richard of Berry Pomeroy are identical only time will tell. But I believe they are the same, this will differ to Leslie Carters and Robert Givins belief that he arrived in U.S. sometime between 1645 and 1648. Maybe at the time, this item was not available to them.

Another piece of evidence that might tie our ancestor, Richard Cater to Devonshire is a 1648 deed between him and a Mathew Giles who is noted as Richard's "trusted and well beloved friend" (New Hamp Prov Deeds Vol 1 p 48) This language might indicate a knowledge of Giles prior to immigration. Giles came from Devonshire. Richard's son-in-law John Bickford was of a large Devonshire family also.

We believe our original ancestor first settled in the region between Dover (originally called Piscataqua and Portsmouth, and Tuftonboro, New Hampshire). This area bounds the Piscataqua River which separates the present states of Maine and New Hampshire Jenness writes in great detail of the early settlers of this area of Dover and their need to move to the virgin land south of Hilton Point across the Great Bay, into Bloody Point which later became Newington in 1714. Edward Hilton and his associates having in 1628 and 1629 "transporte sundry servants to plant upon Hiltons Point, now Dover Neck, built some houses, planted corn and etc". Having thus satisfactorily shown their intention and ability to carry forward the plantation already begun, at length received from the Grand Council a conveyance or patent for territory they had taken up. This patent was executed March 12 1630. The territory conveyed to Hilton and his associates by this patent is bounded and described in the instrument, as follows: "All that part of the river Piscataqua called or known by the name of Wes-canacohunt or Hilton's Point which is the south side of the said river, up to the fall of the river and three miles into the Maine land by all the breadth afreesaid..." Hiltons Point, now called Dover Neck upon which Hilton and his men pitched their settlement is, in the language of Dr. Belknap, "a high neck of land between the main branch of the Pascataqua and Black River ..." It has often been admired by travelers as an elegant situation for a city, and by the military gentlemen for a fortress. But, on the other hand

that our earliest ancestor first appears, having first, like so many of his contemporaries, settled in Dover, then moving across the Great Bay to the Bloody Point Area.

There is no known record of a Richard Cater emigrating from England to New Hampshire or of any arrival here in America. (Brownell-Banks Topographical Dictionary, Hatten-Lists of Emigrants to America, to name a couple). I researched for a whole week, going thru book after book and going thru microfiche and found nothing of Richard Cater (or any spelling) as a passenger on any ship arriving in America from 1600 to 1700. It leads me to believe that he may have hired on as part of a crew and worked his way over for which no crew member would be listed on a passenger list, which was a very common practice in those days, however, more early immigrants came unrecorded than recorded. Nevertheless, Richard Cater (I) must have been born in England about 1598 to 1611. The reasoning for this stems from a marriage agreement he made with Mary Ricord in 1672 (see original copy and its translation) in which he gives land to his grandson. (New Hamp. Deeds Vol 3). If it is assumed that Richard (I) was 20 when Elizabeth (the mother of the grandson) was born and that she was 20 when her son was born and he was an adult in 1672, this would make Richard (I) at least 60 years old in 1672. This is supported by the fact that this grandson, John Bickford Jr, by name, was arraigned for being drunk in public in 1673. (Libby), unfortunately we have no other conclusive records that point to the early years of Richard Cater (I) other than the document mentioned above.

Probably in England his two known children Elizabeth and Richard (II) were born about 1634 and 1640 respectively. Probably about that time he came to America as a widower (or did he leave his wife behind). Since the area of Dover was not yet settled, the original settlers were refugees from the Indian Wars of Maine. It seems likely that Richard (I) had gone to Maine first.

But we do know that Richard (I) is first mentioned in a document of 1639 and later in 1647.

Pascataquak in the Province of Maine. At a court held at Nedams (in Kittery), for the xviii of October 1647, Richard Cater presented for being drunk, fined ten shillings. (Maine Prov. and Court Records Vol 1 p 118) (Edited by Libby 1831).

Richard (I) was also a land holder on or about that same time. though no record exists that he had received it as on June 24 1648 he transferred the following land to Mathew Giles:

Known all men by these present that I Richard Cater some time dwelling in Pascataway doe by these psents setteletta & assigne over unto trusted and welbeloved friends Mathew Giles dwellinge in Oyster River and doe by these psents give grante & sette over unto my trusted belove friende Mathew Gilles my fouresaide messuage and Tenemente lyenge & being in pscataway river lyeinge upon pint pointe this I doe affirme to be my acte and deed under my hands this 24th of June 1648.

James Rawlins of Pascattaquacke planter to Richard Cater, marsh
a/lyenge in the bottom of the great bay also 33 acres of upland
of 20 lbs 14 Jul 1657 (Deeds Old Series Vol 2)

At a Publick Towne Meitting holden the 8th of the 2nd month 1667
Grand Jurymen William Beard, Richard Catter (Dover Town Records)

At a publicke Town meiting holden 7th 11 mo 1669/70 at Y^e same
time Gran Jurey men chosen Richard Catter (Dover Town Records)

It was voted at a publick townes meeting Oct 10 1665 that the
contents hereof petition to the General Court dated Oct 10, 1665
Richard Cater and John Bickford and others
(This is a trew cope taken from the oridgenerall Pme William
Pomfrete, Towne Clarke).

Raett Maed ye (torn) of ye 10 mo 1650 for the (torn) ering
Richard Keateer, John Bickford
and others

Dover Old book of Record old series)
Rate made the 8th of 10 mo 1649 and Elde(r) Nickles Hickmans
Diast and the charges within (?) for cloething and likewise wich
satisfieing Mr Coelcoerd his Exsention and other charges wich
the town is dpt. Rated John Bickford, Mathew Giles, Richard Cater
and others (Gen Dict of Maine and NH 1649)

Richard (I) is next granted land in 1652 by the town of Dover.
The following is a condensation of this grant (Leslie A Carter)

Grant 1652: grantor, the town of Dover; grantee, Richard Cater.
This grant consisted of 40 acres at Welchman's Cove and was laid
out to Richard Cater in 1656. It was examined and confirmed May 9
1659 and its boundaries again June 9 1713. At no time is this
land ever mentioned as being in possession of John Bickford, a
grandson of Richard Cater (I). This same piece of land appears
to have reexamined previously 1671. (Letter Leslie A Carter to
Damron dtd May 1 1953)

Richard (I) and his servant James Muchemore, are mentioned in
the court records of the 1650's twice because of James' misdeeds:

James, Richard Caters man presented for a cotton ller & a (...)
and for stealing meate out of William ffollets house.
The presentments of the grande Jurie at the Courts helde at
Dover the last of ye 7 month 1652 (New Hamp Deeds Vol 1)

August the 21;1655
Richard Catter having made his complaint against his servant
Jams Michimor upon oth, the sayd Jams michimor Is sentensed by
this Court to be sett by the heels in the Sto(cks) two houers
and to be whiped not exceeding twenty stripe which is to be
Respected unto the next Court at Portsmouth if any Complaint
Com then against him in the lik lind, and he is to pay this
present Courts fees 0^s-6^d. (New Hamp Deeds Vol 2)

18

Commencing about the time of Edward the Confessor, a fourth class of surnames arose, names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chaplain, Deacon, Marshall, Summer and Parker (Park Keeper). Trade and craft names although of the same general type were a slightly later development. Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a Wagon builder, and Baxter a baker, Such names as Smith, Taylor Badger, Shepherd, Mason and Miller are self explanatory.

Some surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms that have become disguised almost beyond recognition. For instance, Troublefield was originally Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, and Berry Cloth was Barraclough. Such corruptions of family names resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation or merely from the preference of the bearer tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespear's name is found in some 27 different forms and the majority of English and Anglo American surnames have, in their history appeared to four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

The United States started a greater variety of family names than any where else in the world. Surnames of every race and nation are represented while a substantial number are English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh and Western Europe origin, brought to this country by scions of families that had borne these names for generations prior to emigration, many others have come from central and southern Europe and the Slavic countries where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice. Some families had no fixed surnames until after their arrival in America and in some cases emigrants from Continental Europe or their descendants have translated or otherwise modified their names. These factors contribute to difficulties encountered by students of etymology and family history.

The name Cater, a reference is Patronymic Britanica' a dictionary of family names of the United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales by Mark Anthony Lowe N.A.F.S.A. It gives the following definition of the name Cater, Catarrh, Catror (that is in the 14th century) a cater, which means a caterer or purveyor.

The Carter name is an ancient one dating back to the early Norman period in England where the first Carter took up the name. The name means 'one who pulls or drives an animal drawn two wheeled cart' or in other words they were originally teamsters.

Witness
William Hylton
Edward Calcord
Louis Bymis

this is  my mark
Richard Cater

Recorded by me George Smyth, recorder
(New Hamp Prov Deeds Vol 1 p 48)

Why was this land given and not sold? What had Giles done to deserve this gift? It would be an interesting story if we only knew.

Richard Cater (I) appears on the Dover tax list dated Dec 8 1649 as Richard Catter, and for the following years 1650, 1657 1658 1662 1663 and 1666. His name is found on the Grand Jury records for years 1662 1664 and 1667. He was chosen constable in the town meeting for 1665. (Historical Memoranda of Ancient Dover by Quint 1900). (Historical Memoranda by Scales Vol 1).

A prouirion eRate made ye 7th month 1667 apou all ye inhabitants of this Township of Dover at a penny apou the pound

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|
| Richard Catter | lb | s | p |
| of Bloody poynt | 00 | 10 | 8½ |

Richard Catter of Blode poynt. This rate is to be payd in Feffe at 3d ½p lb; Pork at 4½, wheat at 6s p boshell, mallt at 6s barley at 6s, pease at 5s

A prouition rate made ye 7th, 10th month 1663 apou all ye inhabitants on this township of Dover at a penny apou the pound

| | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| Richard Catter | lb | s | p |
| | 00 | 10 | 3½ |

A prouetion rate maed this 2d 19th mo 1666 for Mr Raynor at a penny in the pound throwe the hold township

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|
| Richard Catter | lb | s | p |
| of Bloody poynt | 0 | 12 | 1½ |

if aney shall deny to pay ye constabells are to take it by way of distress (Dover History Early Tax Rates)

Rich Cater, No date but before the end of 1665, taken ye oath of fidelity along with John Bickford (Extracts from Dover Town Records)

Old Series, a rate made the 10;9;1657 for provetions of Dover Necke, Cocheehal, and bloody poynt Richard Catter, John Bickford and others (Gen Dict of Maine and NH).

A raet md for Mr Rayers prouition at 2d for Dover the 22;9;1659 Richard Keater, John Bickford and others. (Old Series Dover Rec)

This second reference has his name as Richard Keatter but it is surely in reference to Richard (I). (Libby List 354b)

One most interesting document dating from this period is a list of those who have "taken the oath of fidelity" or in other words it is a voting list, of Dover dated about 1654 or 1655. On this list is a Rich: Cater and a Richard Cater. (New England Hist. Reg Vol 4) (Libby list 355a). In our opinion this is the only known document that lists both Richards (the father, Richard (i) and the son Richard (II)).

Richard (i) is mentioned in the next few years served on the Grand Juries:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Richard Cater | 25 Jun 1656 | Portsmouth |
| Richard Cater | 30 Jun 1657 | Dover |

1663 At a Publicke Towne Meittings holden 28th 2 mo 1633
Grand Jurymen William Beard, Richard Catter
(Old Series No 41 Jul 1851 Dover Town Records)

1667 At a Publick Towne Meitting holden the 8th of the 2nd
month 1667 Grand Jurry John Bickford, Richard Catter
(Old Series No 56 Oct 28 1851 Dover Town Records)

1760 At a publicke Town meitting holden 7th 11mo "67-70
at ye same time Gran Jurey men chosen Richard Catter (Cutter)
(Old Series Man 13 1852)

It was voted at a publick townes meetings Oct 10 1665 that the
contents hereof (petition to the General Court dated Oct 10, 1665
Richard Cater and John Bickford and others
(This is a trew cope taken from the oridgenall)

Reatt Maed ye (torn) of ye 10mo 1650 for the (torn) ering.
Richard Keateer
John Bickford and others
(Old Seried No 317 Apr 25 1878 Dover Old Book of Records)

Rate made the 8th of 10 mo 1649 and Elde(r) Nickles Hickmans
Diast and the charges within (?) for cloething and likewise
for satisfieing Mr Coelcoerd his Exsention and other charges
wich the towne is dpt.
Rated by John Bickford, Mathew Giles, Richard Catter and others
(General Dict of Maine and NH corrects year to read 1649)
(Old Series No 32 Dover Old Books of Records)

A rate this 21th of Jul 1657
Richard Caetter, Richard Bray, John Bickford, Mathew Gilles
and others
(Old Series no 321 Dover Old Book of Records)

Deed-- James Rawlins to Richard Cater (I) dtd 1657
Original and part of its translation is inclosed.

It is a deed or conveyance from James Rawlins (or Rollins) to our ancestor Richard Cater (I) dtd July 14 1657. The land mentioned in the deed later became part of a farm in Greenland that belonged to Col. Thomas Packer, Sr. of Portsmouth. Both the Rev. Quint and Mary Thompson have mentioned the land in their respective books on ancient Dover. The Catter in her book titled, "Landmarks in Ancient Dover," she states under "Carter's Marsh" that:

This marsh is mentioned in 1658 (See Roberts Marsh). It is on the Greenland shore where Richard Cater or Carter had a grant afterwards conveyed to Thomas Packer

It should be evident by now that Mary Thompson had not only erred in using the Carter name for Cater for the various landmarks mentioned in her book (Stony Hill, the exception) but, also in respect to Richard Cater (III), as having a grant which he later conveyed to Col. Thomas Packer Sr. For the description of the land conveyed to Packer on Aug 14 1698, by Richard Catter (III) of Kittery, Maine and his wife, Margaret, is identical with the description of the land mentioned in the deed of 1657. It was a grant by the town of Dover to James Rawlins for "Valuable Consideration," as mentioned in the 1698 deed; and,

"the fencing of the said marsh"
in the 1657 deed. However, Richard Cater (I) did receive a grant at Welshman's Cove, Bloody Point (Newington) in 1652, and it was this grant of 40 acres which he gave his grandson, John Bickford in 1672.

Welsh Cove, otherwise Welshman's is on the Newington shore in the Little Bay between Furber's and Dame's Point, and still retains its ancient name. There is no evidence in the deed of 1698 to indicate that the Caters ever lived on this land.

The reason for the deed being drawn up in 1698 was, that Packer had lost the original deed made some years earlier. This is one document we shall never know who were mentioned in it, or who the signers were in order that we might have a better understanding why another quit claim or release covering the same land was drawn up in 1726 by the sister of Richard (III), Mary Cater Sheafe, and her husband Edward, and her brother Edward Catter. Richard (III)(deceased) is referred to in the 1726 deed as Richard Carter.

The deed of 1657 appears to have been recorded in the handwriting of Henry Sherburne of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He was baptized at Odiham in the county of Hants on the 28th of March 1611. He came to this country on the ship James, reaching Boston on June 5 1632. He held numerous public offices including that of town clerk between 1657 and 1660. James Rawlins or (Rollins) and Sergt. John Hall had both signed the Dover Combination of 1640. The latter was called an "old dog" by Leonard Weeks in 1660 and lived on land purchased of Hatevil Nutter in

the bottom of the Great Bay near Capt. Champernocone's farm. Nathaniel Drake was born about 1613, and was the son of Robert a serge maker at Colchester, Essex, England. Hateville Nutter an Elder of the First Church of Dover, was born in England (Bristol?) in 1603 or thereabouts. In spite of his name, he was of questionable character with sadistic inclinations towards the Quakers.

While the style of handwriting used in the deed of 1657 cannot be described as having been executed by a skilled writer with a feeling for line, for form or for composition, still it has all the characteristics of a beautiful style of handwriting that was in vogue in England and known as the 17th Century Gothic its perfection having been achieved by a certain Edward Coker about 1675.

Since we're unable with our modern typewriter to convey the feelings of antiquity and the beauty of a form of handwriting long forgotten, all peculiarities, including contractions with superior letters, have been omitted in the transcription of the deed (submitted in part the transcription done by Leslie A Carter) Furthermore, at least three typewritten drafts were made of the deed and even at that I would not say that it is free from errors. See Attached

It has been made known that the land mentioned in the deed of 1657 has been conveyed to the Packer family at three different times. A fourth time was when Richard Cater (I) in his pre-nuptial agreement of 1672, bequeathed to his future wife, Mary Ricord (Ricker) his estate "within Dover & without" the latter intended for Greenland consisting of "seven acres of marsh or meadow & thirtie acres of upland in ye Great Bay."

The printed word states that two Richard Caters had died, one in 1702 and the other in 1703. Since either date could pertain to Richard (II) or Richard (III), yet it is interesting to note that it was the latter who conveyed the land to Packer in 1698. While the date of death in 1703 will be challenged it would seem that it should have been Richard (II) who should have made the conveyance to Packer, provided that he was then living.

Since the land in the 1657 deed was a gift to Mary Ricord (Ricker), one wonders how the Caters were able to dispose of it before it fell into the hands of the Ricker family. More will be discussed on this later. Leslie Carters interpretation of this deed is most interesting.

In the deed dated Oct 8 1702, (see attached) makes no direct mention of reversion: nor is it determined at this time whether it is implied or concealed in what is called 'legal verriage', to hide a situation, which today might not be considered according to law. But if Richard Cater (husband of Margaret) having evidence of being unscrupulous in his dealings sometime before 1698, why must the exception be made of him in 1702?

Leslie Carter and Libby take opposite viewpoints on the deed of 1702 which very clearly points to the father of the grantor, Richard Carter, husband of Margaret, as being Richard Cater (I) who received a grant of 35 acres of land from the town of Dover in 1664. It should prove sufficient evidence that it was the grantor's grandfather, Richard Cater (I) then reversion becomes a concealed fact, of the 1702 deed.

Reversion is a highly complicated subject and according to Black's definition of it he says:

"A reversion is the residue of an estate left by operation of law in the grantor or his heirs, or in the heirs of a testator, commencing in possession on the determination of a particular estate granted or devise."

"In a general sense, a returning. In law, the returning of an estate to the grantor, or his heirs, after a particular estate is ended."

So now what must be done is done in two parts. Firstly to determine whether Richard Cater (I) had a son living at the time of his marriage to Mary Ricord in 1672, notwithstanding that at no time in the few tax records, or in other documents available does the name of Richard Cater Jr appear. Secondly to determine whether Mary Ricord had issue and if not, whether upon her death, the estate established for her in 1672 had reverted to her husband's heirs, if any.

It is a certainty that Richard Cater (I) had at least one heir living in 1672, a grandson by the name of John Bickford. Only through the mentioning of this grandson in the document dated Apr 16 1672, are we able to learn that he had a daughter, Elizabeth. Also, if he had other children besides the mythological Richard by his first marriage probably we will never learn. If 'Grandfather Cater' had only one child in his youth as some persons might wish us to believe, it would be a revelation, indeed, to learn how he suddenly became so prolific after his marriage to the Portsmouth spinster, Mary Ricord in 1672. In 1674 he gave evidence of having 'one leg in the grave' when he asked to be excused from 'training' because of infirmities.

In a record found in the Mass. Hist. Soc. dated Feb 1679/80 his name appears for the last time, and erroneously as Carter for the first time, according to the original. This has nothing to do with Leslie Carters oft repeated assertion that the transition of the name Cater to Carter occurred before 1702, because from that date on, the name has consistently occurred as Carter in the records.

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Mary Ricord is referred to as "Widdow Cattor" in a New Hamp. Prov. rate for Bloody Point in April 1680. Hence, it is now assumed that Richard Cater (I) died between Feb. 16 1679 and June 24, 1679, at which time "Ric Cators gift to John Bickford his grandson, put on file" This is a Dover court record that signifies that he dies only a short time before this gift was placed in the record. Since this gift was a part of an agreement or will, the recording of it on April 16 1672 was insufficient. In an unrelated deed dated 1674, this land given to grandson John Bickford is still mentioned as being owned by Richard Cater. However, it is well to remember that it is 5 years, 2 months, and 8 days between April 16 1672 and June 24 1679. The question is, does the maximum length of time given above for the marriage allow for 3 children, not to mention a 4th child?

From the Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hamp. one gets the impression that its compilers were unable to identify Mary Ricord, as to her antecedents, or her relationship to other persons of a similar name. But in no instance were the compilers able to cite a record before 1670 of persons bearing a name similar to that of Mary Ricord. Thus it would appear that she came to this country a short while before her marriage to Richard Cater (I). In the one record in which she figures so prominently she is called a spinster.

What is meant by "spinster" in the agreement of 1672? The American College Dictionary 1966 states "Spinster n.l. a woman still unmarried beyond the usual age of marrying; an old maid. 2. A woman still unmarried (in England, a legal designation)."

Maybe so, but does it necessarily apply to Mary Ricord who seems to have outlived her elderly husband by some six years.

Archibald Bennett was so sure that he prefaced his discussion of the document by stating that it "plainly indicates that he had no other heirs living at the time." (The Cater-Carter Family by Archibald F. Bennett and Leslie A. Carter, no date manuscript). As a matter of record the manuscript was written by Bennett with documents supplied by Carter, but the ideas in it were solely Bennet's. This led to a heated debate between the two men that followed them both to their graves, and all of this stems from the 1672 document.

It is presumed she was about Richard's age (Robert Givings), about 60 in 1672 or maybe a few years younger at the time because of the following (a). If she died in 1685 and was about 60 in 1672 the length of time she lives after the agreement is 12 years, a fairly short time. (b). We cannot see any children being born to her because there was no court settlement to determine which half of the estate would be hers at her husband's death. This would support her being above

child-bearing age in 1672. (c). She was Widdow Cater until her death. If she had been a young woman with dependent children, who would have remarried. How did she support her family during the period between Richard's death in 1679 and her own 1685? No Record is found of the land being leased to someone else to farm. Who ran the farm? This too supports the supposition that there were adult children of Richard (I) around (d). When Mary died in 1685, her oldest child could only have been 12 years old at the most if born to Richard (I). Who took guardianship of these children? No record exists of anyone doing this. This Mary had no children during her marriage to Richard (I) and Richard (II) was living on the homestead all of this time. This would lead us to believe then as my grandfather always said, that there were three brothers to come to America, or could it have been a father and 2 children? This would account for the family of Mary Ricord and brings up another question mark in the genealogy of the early Caters.

What doesn't the document prove or do? It fails to disprove that Richard (I) had no son named Richard living in 1672. For this we wish to quote from Mr. Carter in his answer to a question posed by Mr. Bennett. "If Richard Cater, the immigrant, had a son Richard by his first wife, why did he bequeath all this property of land to his second wife and her future offspring, except that which was given to his grandson John Bickford." According to a letter filed in this book under Levi, this might be the land that was originally Government land given to an Indian Princess which Richard (I) used and claimed for Mary's protection which she would need at that time, the land was reverted back to her, but the land that Richard (I) owned was given to his grandson John Bickford.

If the above was a straight forward question, the answer would be to protect Mary Ricord from a future will or from intervening parties. (And probably why no record of her past or family has been located). But there is more to this question, and by inference, implies that since no son Richard is mentioned in the Agreement of 1672, there was no such person living at that time. This agreement has been submitted to two professors of law: Prof. Mark DeWolfe of Harvard, and Prof Allan F. Smith of Mich. Both authorities in substance, were of the opinion that it would be very difficult on the basis of this document, the Agreement of 1672, to determine what children Richard (I) had before his marriage to Mary Ricord. They were, however, very definite, in saying that the marriage agreement does not exclude the possibility that Richard Cater (I) had a son living at the time it was made. Documents can be misleading even then. However, this deed is really not a deed and it is not a will, it is more like a marriage agreement, the document is called by several different names (1) a prenuptial agreement (2) A conventional type of agreement between a prospective husband and a prospective wife in which the former undertakes to make provisions by way of a dower for the wife to take effect upon his death.

(2) A conventional type of agreement between a prospective husband and a prospective wife in which the former undertakes to make provision by way of dower for the wife to take effect upon his death. While it is recorded in the New Hampshire Deeds, it is, however, no deed; nor is it a will, though it has some of the aspects of one, therefore I will call it simply the agreement of 1672.

One of the noted geologists of New Hampshire, Charles T Libby, in his Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire, 1922, noted this agreement but refused to comment upon it. He was the only genealogist to place Elizabeth and Richard II as children of Richard I, who had no issue by Mary Ricord, Libby should be listened to because he was a lawyer by trade and understood legal verbage. His failure to use this agreement to arrange the first two generations the way Mr. Bennett did must have resulted from his realization that this document proves little about Richard I's children.

Another important document, a deed in 1702, names Richard, Mary and Edward as brothers and sister possessing this same land from their father. (See Richard II). Suffice it to say that the land could have been Richard II's by reversion and not Richard I's at the time of the 1702 deed. Put more clearly, after Richard I died the land was given to Mary Ricord as per the 1672 agreement. Richard II must have lived on a second house on the property. Houses are mentioned in the 1702 deed. As Elizabeth, his sister, was married to John Bickford Sr, and her son had already received his inheritance in 1679, she had no claim to the Cater estate. If Edward Cater who died in 1670/1 as previously noted, was a brother to Richard II, he could not inherit anything since he had been dead for 8 years. This leaves one heir living who had not received an inheritance, Richard II. Since he was already living on the land he gained possession by reversion. Reversion means the returning of an estate to the grantor, or his heirs, after a particular estate is ended. Therefore, Richard II could just take possession of the estate when his step mother died. Widdow Cater paid taxes in Bloody point in April 1680 (New Hampshire History by John McClintock)

The records of Richard I after his marriage in 1672 and his death in 1679/80 are very meager, and was probably buried on his own land. During this period he is nowhere found buying or selling property, nor is he recorded in any jury list during this period. On August 25, 1684 the tax list shows "Widdow Catter" at Bloody Point.

In 1674 he is mentioned as being excused from military training, indicating that he was of ill health.

County Court held in portsm^o 30 June 1674
 Rich: Cator requesting the Court he might be free from Com'on
 Trayning in Dover being an informe man is granted he paying 8s
 a yeare to y^t comp: (New Hampshire Court Records p 311.)

Richard Catter is last mentioned on a tax list of 23 July 1677
 of Bloody Point. The final mention of this venerable old man
 is on June 24, 1679, when his gift of 1672 to John Bickford is
 put on file (New Hampshire deed, vol 5 p 29). For the tax list
 see Libby p 59, List 359a). The above indicates that Richard I
 must have died between the dates of 23 July 1677 and June 24, 1679,
 probably close to the second date. In any case he had to have
 died prior to April 1680, for at that time Mary Ricord is first
 mentioned as "widd. Cator" on a tax rate list for Bloody Point.

Leslie Carters interpretation of this deed is most interesting
 as it will relate to later developments;

Deed, 1657: grantor, James Rawlings: grantee, Richard Cater.
 This deed covers 34 acres in Greenland. It was sold to Thomas
 Packer, Sr, of Portsmouth, some years before 1698 by Richard
 Cater and his wife Margaret. It is believed by me, that this
 sale of land was made unbeknown to Richard's brother, Edward,
 and their sister Mary. In 1726, Edward, and their sister Mary
 Scheafe received consideration from Thomas Packer Jr, so that
 he might have a clear title to the land (Letter from Leslie Carter
 to Christa Damron dtd May 1 1953)

Now that he was a legal land holder, and who can say how much
 illegally possessed land he might have once or still had as a
 squatter, Richard I begins to show up as a tax payer in the
 township of Dover in additon to the previous lists :

| Name | Date | Source |
|-----------------|-------------|--|
| Richard Caetter | 21 Jul 1657 | New England His & Gen Reg. Jul 1850 Vol 4 p 248 |
| Richa Catter | 9 Nov 1657 | Libby p 50 list 356b |
| Richard Catter | 12 Oct 1658 | Libby p 50 |
| Richard Keater | 22 Nov 1659 | Libby b 50 |
| Richard Catter | 1662 | New Hamp. Deeds Vol 2 |
| Richard Cater | 7 Nov 1663 | Scales, Hist. of Dover |
| Richard Cater | 16 Oct 1664 | Libby |
| Richard Cater | 2 Dec 1666 | N. Eng. Hist. Vol 4 |
| Richard Cater | 1667 | N. Eng Deeds Vol 2 |
| Richard Cater | 1668 | ibid |
| Richard Cater | 1669 | ibid |
| Rich. Cater | 28 Jun 1670 | ibid |

During this same time period he must have been known as a man
 of character since he is mentioned in Grand Jury lists of
 Dover and Portsmouth several times.

During this period he was once in legal trouble as he was
 accused in court by a Simon Day, who failed to prosecute, and
 thus Richard was allowed 2 shillings for attending.

Court Att Dover held 27 Jun 1661
This Court grants unto Rich Cater 2^s for attending ye Court to
Answ^r the accon of Simon Day attached too, & s^d day not pro-
secuting ag^t him. (New Hamp Deeds Vol 2 p 57)

On October 10, 1665 Richard Cater also made his mark on a dec-
laration by the people of Dover to the Governor of Massachusetts
(Dover Town Records No 100). During this same time period, Richard
I received his last known land, by grant from the town of Dover
in 1664.

Layd out and Bounded unto Richard Catter thirty fiue Ackers of
upland formerly granted him by the towne to him and his heirs
wich sayd land is layd out and Bounded as folloeth that is to
say by the marsh on the North-west side of Mickhill Branes lott
fower scoer and fower pole and from thence pon a North and by
west line within fower pole and from thence pon a North and by
west line within fower pole of the freshett at Pine poynt scoer
pole with all his Planting land Included into the thierty fiue
ackers this land was layed out and Bounded a Cording to order
by Henry Lankster and William Furber the 10th 12^{mo} 1664.
(Dover Town Records Vol 1 p 456)

The following is Leslie Carter's interpretation of this grant:
Grant: 1664: Grantor, the town of Dover; Richard Cater. This
grant covered 35 acres at Pine Point, Newington New Hampshire,
It was examined and confirmed March 30, 1703, of which no mention
was ever made that it then belonged to John Chevalier, alias
John Knight. (Letter from LAC to Christa Damron dtd May 1, 1953).

At this point it might be wise to sum up who Richard Cater, the
immigrant, was prior to his marriage in 1672 to Mary Ricard.
He is viewed as a respectable gentleman of about 60 years of
age. He is a widower with possibly three children; Edward,
Elizabeth and Richard II. He had been in America since sometime
prior to 1647 and between that date and 1672 he acquired legal
right to 109 acres of land in aduition to what ever land he
squatted on. He was a tax payer at Dover beginning in 1657. He
also served on several juries commencing in the same year. In
all, he must have been one of the leaders of the community of
Dover. In spite of all this, it is evident that he was illit-
erate since he always made his mark and is never found writing
his name. This accounts for the many spellings of his name that
exist.

Whereas thereis a purpose and an agree^t of marriage between Richard Cator of Douer & Mary Ricord of portsm^o Spinster It is agreed upon by & between them, that he s^d Cator both freely voluntarily & of his own accord & good will, & upon mutuall agreem^t betweene s^d Richard & said Mary that if it should soe happen y^t s^d Richare should depart this life before ye s^d Mary with out issue by her that then ye s^d Mary shall as her dowry haue hold possess & enjoy the whole and euery part & pcell of his the said Richard Cator his estate, within doores & with out viz^t the house & outhousen with five & thirtie acres of land

upon p^{te} whereof ye s^d housen not standeth, together wth seven acres of marsh or meadow ground & thirtie acres of upland in ye great bay, & all such cattle & chattles as he ye s^d Richard Cator shall dye possessed or of wth all he hauing allreadie sequestred & given out of his estate (w^{ch} is not here menconed) to his grand son already a Schedule (?) whereof is hereafter sett downe, provided & it is hereby intended & agreed upon by & betweene y^m that if it shall please God y^t ye s^d Richard Cator shall haue Issue by ye s^d Mary, that then ye s^d Mary shall haue but one halfe of ye aboue menconed estate, & ye child or children had by her the other halfe thereof, To ye True pformance hereof the s^d Richard Cator doth bind himselfe his heires execut^s Adminis- trators & assignes unto ye s^d Mary Ricord her heires Adminis^s or assignes, In witness whereof he hath hereunto sett his hand & seal ye 16 day of Aprill 1672.³¹

A schedull of w^t said Cator hath giuen unto his grandchild joⁿ Bickford

signe of
Richard Cator (Seale)

Imp^s fortie acres of land at
welchmans cove
foure head of young cattle
one horse & halfe a nother
one breeding Sow
one sheeps ewe & 2 hh^d Yord
of corn

Signed Sealed & delivered in p^rsence of
Nathaniel ffryer
Samuel Sheinrick

Aprill ye 16th 1672 Richard Cator came and acknowleged aboue written to be his free acte & deeds before me

Elias Stilman Recond^r

(New Hampshire Deeds 3:54b)(Rockingham Co Hourshouse Vol 3,p54)

The important facts mentioned in the agreement are several. It is between Richard Cator of Dover and Mary Ricord of Portsmouth. Mary is a spinster. It leaves Mary all his property that consisted of: a. 7 acres of marsh; b. 35 acres on the point with the houses; and c. 30 acres of upland in the Great Bay. John Bickford, a grandson, is given some land too. If Mary has issue she gets $\frac{1}{2}$ of the estate and the children get the rest. John's gift is 40 acres of land at Welchman's Cove along with some livestock. The agreement is witnessed, entered and recorded all on April 16, 1672.

The genealogical confusion surrounding this document centers on the attempt by some genealogists (especially late Archibald F. Bennett) to prove that because no other heirs are mentioned

there could be no Richard II living in 1672. If that is true then the only living child of Richard I in 1672 would be Elizabeth Bickford. No Edward could have been born in England and certainly Richard II was not yet born.

In 1648 a Richard Carter (Cater) signed the Exeter petition taken from the Massachusetts Record pp 170-171 in which reads "To the Right Worshipful, the Governor, The Deputie Governor and the Magistrates with the assistance and deputyes of this honored courte at present in Boston.

The humble petition of the inhabitants of Exeter who do humbly request that this honored Court would be pleased to appoint the bounds of our Towne to be layed out to us, both towards Hampton & also downe the River on that side which Capt. Wiggons his farm is on, for he doth Clame all the land from the towne downwards, on the one side, & Hampton on the other side doth clame to be neere us, that we shall not be able to subsist to be a Towne except this honored Court to be pleased to releve us. And we suppose that Capt. Wiggons the farme and a good way below it, may well be laid within our Township if this honored Court so please.

Also, we do humbly crace that the Court would be pleased to grant that we may still peaceably enjoy thouse small quantitie of meddows, which are at Lamperell River that Dover men now seem to lay clame to, notwithstanding they know we long since purchased them & allso quietly possesst them with their consent.

Likewise we do humbly request that this honored Court would be pleased to establish three men among us to put on Ishew to small differences amonst us, & one to be a Clarke of the writes, that so we might not be so troblesom to the Courts for every small matter. The three men which we desire the ending of Gontroversies are Anthony Staniean, Samuel Greenffeld & James Wall & we do desire that John Legat may be the Clarke of the writes. Thus leaving our petition to your judicious consideration & yourselves to the Lord, we rest and remaine ever ready to do you our best service.

It was found in the History of Strafford County, New Hamp. page 610, that Cater among other men represent families among the early settlers who have done much in developing its resources of the town and in giving character to its inhabitants of Barrington also noted were the men Sampson Babb, Ephraim Foss, between the years of 1777 and 1812.

In order to guess at Richard Cater (I) probable age at the time he had created a dower or will in behalf of his future wife we must go back to 1648 when he deeded his house to Mathew Giles which was situated at Pint Point, on the Piscataqua River; and to the year before when he was fined at Kittery Point, Maine for being drunk, Thusly it would appear that he was an inhabitant of the region of the Piscataqua for over twenty five years or some 32 years before his death.

There is nothing whatever in the records in which we might place Richard Cater (I) with a contemporary. Since the parents of his son-in-law John Bickford are not known, no help can be had from that quarter, except for his grandson, John Bickford, presented for being drunk June 24 1673. However, if we accept the assumption that Richard Cater's daughter, Elizabeth, was born about 1648, the absurdity of it becomes apparent when we consider the fact that it was her son who was fined for being drunk in 1673. Between the latter date and 1648 there is roughly a period of 25 years.

We certainly must allow Elizabeth Cater sufficient time to grow up into young womanhood, before she married. Hence, if she was born about 1648, as contended, then her son John would have been 7 years of age or less in 1673. It is hardly conceivable that her son would have been fined for being drunk or that his grandfather Cater would have given him a tract of land, granted by the town of Docer in 1652, which grant was certified as true May 9, 1695. It is more than likely that Elizabeth was born before 1635 and that her father was in his late fifties.

As you know, there was an Edward Cater (Carter), fisherman who sometimes dwelled upon the Isle of Shoales, and who was drowned in 1670/1. He is still somewhat of a mystery to genealogists. There is also a John Cater of Kerby, in the county of Leicester, England, who had a son and a grandson, both named Richard. About half of the counties in England have Richard Caters born about 1600 to 1620.

According to Black's dictionary of Law, 'dower' has been defined as follows:

"Dower by custon, is a kind of dower in England, regulated by custom where the quantity allowed the wife differed from the proportion of common law: as that the wife should have half the husband's lands; or, in some places the whole, and in some only a quarter.

"Inchoate Dower" (imperfect) a wife's interest in the lands of her husband during his lifetime which may become a right of dower upon his death"

"Dower if the life estate to which every married woman is entitled on death of her husband, inestate, or in case she dissents from his will, one third in volume of all lands of which husband was beneficially, seized in law or fact. (The term, both technically and in popular acceptance has reference to real estate exclusively).

Going back to Richard Cater (I) when he was a land owner or land holder during the time he was mentioned on Grand Jury lists of Dover and Portsmouth several times, he was once in legal trouble as he was accused in court by Simon Day, who failed to prosecute, and thus Richard was allowed 2 shillings for attending.

Court Att Dover held 27 Jun 1661.
This Court grants unto Rich Cater 2^s for attending ye Court to Answ^r the accon of Simon Day attached too, & s^d day not prosecuting ag^t him (New Hamp. Deeds Vol 2)

On October 10 1665 also made his mark on a declaration by the people of Dover to the Governor of Mass. (Dover town records No 100) During this same time period, Richard (I) received his last known land, by grant from the town of Dover in 1664.

Layd out and Bounded unto Richard Catter thrity fiue Ackers of upland formerly granted him by the towne to him and his heirs wich sayd land is layd out and Bounded as folloeth that is to say by the marsh on the North west side of Mickhill Branes lott fower scoer and fower pole and from thence pon a north and by west line within fower pole of the freshett at Pine poynt scoer pole with all his Planting land Included into the thierty fiue ackers that land was layed out and Bounded a Cording to order by Henry Lanskster and William Furber the 10th 12^m 1664.

In 1674 he is mentioned as being excused from military training indicating that he was of ill health.

County Court held in portsm^o 30 June 1674
Rich: Cator requesting the Court he might be free from Com'on Trayning in Dover being an informe man is granted he paying 8s a yeare to y^t comp: (New Hamp Court Records p 311)

In 1682 an interesting court document is found pertaining to Mary Cater and Ephraim Trickey and a dispute they had over her fence around her corn field. Tough it is of little value genealogy wise it is reproduced here in full for no other reason than its human interest value.

TO THE CONSTABLE OF DOVER

You are hereby requested, on his Majesty's name, to summon Ephraim Trickey to appear before the court to-morrow; being the 5th instant, to answer to the complaint of Mary Cater for pulling down her fence, about her cornfield, you are also hereby required to summon Thomas Bickford to appear at the same time before the court, to ansere for his swearing many oaths at the same time, and you are hereby required to summon Henry Langstare. Sen., to appear, to give his evidence to what he knows about the fence above being thrown down. Hereof fail not, and so make a return under your hand.

Dated in Portsmouth Sep 4th 1682.

By me: Richard Martyn, of the Council.

I have summoned the persons mentioned, Ephraim Trickey Thomas Bickford and Henry Langstare, sen, according to the law to give evidence in the case intended.

Sept 4th Will Henderson, Constable
(New Hamp. Prov. Papers Vol 8)

On a basis for making an appraisal of the records to determine whether a relationship of father and son existed, between the two Richard Caters, beginning with a Portsmouth church record dated April 20 1693, notwithstanding, that the next previous date of a person so mentioned in the records is June 24 1697. This lapse of 14 years should cause us no great concern, when we consider the fact that John Scales in his "History of Dover" describes 11 books of Dover town records, beginning with 1647 some of which are just fragments, others have pages missing and all showing much handling in the past.

However, it is not known to us whether the 3 volumes of photo-stats of Dover town records in the Office of the Secretary, Concord, NH contains all 11 books mentioned by Scales. If they do, there is little hope of finding further information pertaining to the Caters between 1679 and 1693. To clarify lists 1683 to 1686 given above, they consolidate 4 lists for different purposes and are general for the whole of New Hamp. Tax list dated 1684 was sent to London, where it and others are preserved. NH Hist Soc have copies, according to Gen. Dict of Maine and NH.

Returning to Mary Ricord, if she had died say Dec 31 1685. then her first child would have been 12 years old, and if there were others, they certainly would be considered as minors, under the laws of NH. Others claim that Richard, husband of Margaret is really her first child. Are we suppose to believe that he, who spent most of his youth in Kittery, that he raised his brother, Edward and sister Mary? There is no evidence in the Court records of N.H. that Mary Ricord left a will or that there was any Administration made upon her estate, in behalf of her children, if any.

Now that it has been established that Richard Cater (I) had died in 1679 and his second wife Mary, sometime around 1685. We shall present Leslie Carters comments to Rev Quint together with what is believed by some to be the proof that Richard Cater husband of Margaret was the son of Mary Ricord. Documents relating to this proof are attached herewith

Source: New England Hist. Gen. Reg Vol 5:453 (1851)
Subj: Genealogical items relating to the Early Settlers of Dover, N.H. by Rev. Quint.

"Cater, Richard ¹ : taxed 1650; frants 1652-1655; was taxed at Bloody Point: admitted Freeman about 1655. He died probably about 1690. He had a son-Richard² who had land given him 1693-4 in addition to his father's plantation." He died 15 June 1703. The name is not an uncommon one in Strafford County."

Comment: The Rev. Quint can be considered trustworthy for in all his writings relating to the early Caters of Dover (Bloody Point) he has been faithful to the original record, except perhaps in one instance, a date 1639 should read 1649, according to the "Gen Dict. of Me, and N.H." Also, it was Quint and not Savage who was the first to mention the death of a Richard Cater June 15 1703, which record of death has not been found.

A quarter of a century later (1875) Quint again, through the Mass. Hist. Soc. Boston, made known the Diary of Journal of Rev. John Pike who was born May 13 1653. An entry in the Journal dated Dec. 23, 1702, gives the first time, the death of another Richard Cater.

There is no connection between the two death records, to indicate that they apply to the same person: nor, is there any reason to believe that the Rev. Quint was unable to decipher the date in the Journal, or, that he had not seen some sort of a record, possibly a family record giving the death of a Richard Cater in 1703. If there was such a record, it is not impossible for it to have been mis-read or written for 1713. In either case, if Libby was wrong in his belief that Mary Ricord had no children then the date of 1703 is fictitious. But, the Rev. Quint is too reliable, for anyone to believe that such is the case, and the mere fact that no one since has been able to locate the original source for the death record, does not necessarily prove it to be untrue.

Source: Gen. Dict. of the first settlers of New England
Vol 1:348 (1860) by James Savage.

"Cater, Richard, Dover, 1650 had Richard and d. a. 1690,
Richard, Dover, S. of the preced. d. 15 June 1703.

Comment: It should be apparent that James Savage did no original research work on the early Caters and that his information was obtained from the Register. Hence, he cannot be looked upon as an authority, insofar as the Caters of Dover are concerned.

Source: Landmarks in Ancient Dover (1892) by Mary P. Thompson
Subject: Pine Point, Newington, N.H.

"This point is on the Newington shore of the Long Beach at the lower side of Pickering's cove, otherwise Whidden's. It is mentioned June 24 1648, when Richard Carter, "sometimes dwelling in Piscataway," sold house and land on Pine point to his trusty and well beloved friend, Mathew Giles, dwelling in Oyster River. Richard Carter had, however, a grant of 35 acres at Pine Point, laid out the 10th 12mo 1664, one bound of which came within four poles of the freshet. His children owned the land till Oct 8, 1702, when his son Richard and wife Margaret with Edward Cater, and Mary their sister conveyed to John Knight alias, Chevalier, 50 acres (55, sic) of land "at a place formerly called Pine Point, near or adjacent to a place commonly called Bloody Point, granted by Dover to Richard Cater, deceased,

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bound on the N.W. side of a lot formerly Michael Brawns, now in possession of John Downing and adjoining the land of Benj^m in Bickford." Also 20 acres, beginning at the highway from Bloody Point to Portsmouth, bounded on the north by Geo. Braun's south of John Downing's with a quarter part of the saw-mill on same; reserving, however, 18 feet where their father and mother lay buried in one corner of the orchard."

Benjamin Bickford and wife Sarah conveyed to John Knight, alias Chevalier, of Portsmouth, Dec. 7, 1702 16 acres of meadow formerly belonging to Benjamins father (John Bickford, of Oyster River) lying betwixt a place formerly called Pine Point and a place commonly called Bloody Point, bounded on land said Knight bought of Richard Carter on the south, Henry Langstaffe's on the north the river on the east, and the highway at the west, together with one fourth of the saw-mill between said land and that of John Knight, formerly Carter's. From this it is evident that Pine Point is the little promontory below Bloody Point, known by different names, according to the owner, such as Pickerings Point"

Comment: The above mentioned author, Mary Thompson has caused great mischief with her promiscuouse of the name of Carter for Cater, as well as her remarks on heirship based upon the deed dated 1702. She was one of the leaders who nutured the idea that Catter and Carter were corrupt forms of the name Cater. Even with the work of Libby before them, there are today, persons who believe she is the author who has correctly worked out the first two generations; that is; Richard, Edward and Mary were the children of Richard Cater (I) by his second wife, Mary Ricord.

Rev. Quint, and Libby and Leslie Carter, the great minds of New England Genealogy.

Once we are able to comprehend the existance of a Richard Cater Jr. the father of Richard Carter, grantor and husband of Margaret the nearer we will come to an understanding of heirship as mentioned in the deed dated 1702. We must take into consideration when the town of Dover granted Richard Cater 35 acres in 1664, that the grant included his heirs as well, in which case, and in a legal sense, grandfather and father would be synonymous. Who would dispute the claim of a grandson under the above mentioned conditions? In this connection it is well to remember that between these two dates June 24, 1679 and Oct 8, 1702 Richard Cater (I) had been dead for over 22 years. So, it would be very interesting indeed, to know what prompted the Carters, and the Caters of Pine Point, Newington, to sell the old family home in 1702. Was it because there was no further need for it, after the death of a Richard Cater in 1702. It does not seem conceivable that the Rev Pike would take the trouble to note in his Journal the death of a young man, supposedly, in his late

twenties, but, that he would with a contemporary of his own age, and associates him in death with old Sister Downs, both having died on the same day.

To couple a genealogy with explanations is certain to lead to many difficulties, and more so, to one genealogical society whose members look to it for guidance in such matters. It presents as well, many difficulties to a compiler of a genealogy on the Cater, Cater-Carter, and Cater-Decatur families in America of which such a genealogy would be one of great magnitude, and one which I am attempting to do in my small way.

Other sources are as follows:

Source: Pioneers of Maine and New Hamp.
1623-1660 (1908) by Charles Henry Pope

"Carter, Cartere, Cater, Catter.
Richard, senior, planter, Dover, proprietor; sold house and land 24 June 1648. His servant James Michemore was in court in 1651 and 1655, joined in petition of inhabitants to Gen. Court Sept. 7, 1643, and to Oct. 1665. Richard Sr. made marriage covenant with Mary Ricord of Portsmouth, spinster 6 April 1672."

Pope and Thompson are together of no value to us as authorities on the Cater family. This leaves Quint and Libby and Leslie Carter as the main authorities.

Source: General Dict. of Maine and New Hamo (1922)
by Libby, Davis and Noyes.

Subj: Cater Family

"2 Richard, early at Bloody Point, Newington, Memb. of Portsm. Ch. Gr J. 1656, 1657, 1659, 1660, 1663 1679. Wife nowhere ment. and may have d. early as servants are named, James in 1651, James Muchemore 1655, Tho. Hayes ('my dame Mary') 1682. He made a mar. contract 16 Apr 1672 with Mary Ricord of Portsm. who outlin, him, 1685. ch. Richard. Elizabeth m. John Bickford (13).
3 Richard (2) in 1694 was gr. a 20a. addition to his fathers plantation. At times liv. in Kit. and indist. from his son. One was const. of Dover 1700. One, app. the latter, joined Portsm. Ch 20 Apr 1693. He d. 23 Dec 1702 of smallpox and his son 15 Jun 1703?. His ch may have incl. John (Carter) if he d. s.p. His ch. Edw. Catter and Edw Sheaf in 1726 released land sold in 1698 by R.C. of Kit. with wife Margaret. Surv. ch: Richard, Edward, Mary, m Edward Sheafe.
4. Richard (3) liv at Stony Hill, Newington, where his wid. Elizabeth stil liv 1722. ch: John bp Portsm. 24 May 1696. Perh. of Kit, 20 Oct 1719 pub to Sarah Lary. Did m. in Newington 27 July 1721 Hannah Bickford. ch; Richard m 12 Feb 1718-9 Sarah Pevey. They joined the ch 20 Sept. 1724 and had 3 ch bap Mary un m 1722, Joined ch with Richard. Also, perh Elizabeth m 12 Mar 1716-7 Wm Wittum.
(Line- 3 Richard (2) means that he is the son of 2 Richard).

As of this moment we have according to Bennett :

Child of Richard Cater and his 1st wife.....

- 1. Elizabeth, b abt 1648 md John Bickford

Children of Richard Cater and Mary Ricord.....

- 2. Richard Jr, d abt 1673 Pine Point, Newington, Rockingham Co, New Hamp. d 23 Dec 1702, md 1st, Margaret.....: md 2nd, 1702 Elizabeth.....:

- 3. Edward, d abt 1675, Pine Point, Newington, Rockingham Co, N,H admin granted 24 May 1732; md before 1708 Sarah Cotton

- 4. Mary, b abt 1677 Pine Point, Newington, Rockingham Co, N,H, d 1 Nov 1740 "ae 70" md 29 Aug 1704 Edward Sheafe.

In regard to Mary Cater the wife of Edward Sheafe, there is her given age at baptism age 20, in the Brattle Square church records as against her given age at death age 70, Nov 1, 1740.

The birth or baptismal record of Edward Sheafe Apr 10 1682 has the appearance of being reliable. So, if we use the given age of Mary Cater at death, it would place her probable age at birth several years before the marriage of Richard Cater and Mary Ricord. If we use the Brattle Square church record, it would place her birth some 4 years after the death of Richard Cater (I) in 1679. So, whichever record is used, she could not be the daughter of Richard and Mary (Ricord) Cater. Edward Sheafe was 21 years of age at the time of his marriage to Mary Cater in 1704.

Deed, 1648: grantor Richard Cater, grantee, Mathew Giles, This deed in part reads "I Richarde Cater sometime dwelling in pascat_ away doe by these P'sents sette lette & assigne over unto my trustie and welbeloved friende Mathew Giles dwellinge in Oyster River.....my fouresaide messuage and Tenemente lyenage & beinge in P'scataway river lyenge upon pine pointe...."

- "Trusted" according to the American College Dict. it says
- 1. reliance on the integrity, justice, of a person or on some quality or attribute of a thing, confidence.
 - 3. Confidence in the ability or intention of a person to pay at some future time for goods, etc, (credit)
 - 9. Law: a fiduciary relationship in which one person (the trustee) holds the title to property for the benefit of another.

This deed is a legitimate quit-claim deed or valid transfer, but not a deed of sale, since the latter required a recitation of present consideration.

Whereas the first generation of the Cater family is fairly well documented, the second generation leaves much to be desired. The records on Richard Cater II are meager to say the least, but it is for certain that, as Charles T. Libby believed, he did live and bear children including our next ancestor Edward Cater.

As of now, the origins of Richard II are unknown through it seems likely that he was born in England about 1640 or earlier. If this is true it would appear that he did come as Richard's (I) son and not his brother. His birth can be approximated by the fact that a Richard Cater and a Rich. Cater appear on an undated Dover voter list ("taken the oath of Fidelity") that has been assumed to date from 1654 or 1655. (Libby p 49 List 355a). Assuming that Richard II must have been at least 20, his birth might be placed as early as 1635 or so.

Since his next known reference is twenty years after the previous one, and his last known record is 17 years after the second record, much of Richard II's life has to be supposed. As was noted in the chapter on Richard I, Richard II must have lived on his father's property all his life because he is not mentioned in the marriage agreement of 1672 between his father and Mary Ricord. He is not mentioned in any deeds or documents concerning the Cater estate at Bloody Point after his father died in 1679, and after his step-mother's death in 1685. The only logical reason for the land not changing hands at these times is that he was living on them and he took possession of them through reversion as the heir of Richard I. During all the time his father and step-mother lived, he would not be a tax payer because the land belonged to his father first and later to his step-mother.

Richard II must have been unaffiliated with the Congregational Church as there are no church records (birth, marriage or death) pertaining to his life. Being unreligious also would have implications in other areas as well. Though his father was well established and was on local juries many times, Richard II never seems to have obtained this honor. This vein of thought can be supported by the fact that his daughter, Mary, was admitted to membership in the Congregational Church as an adult age of 20, not having been baptized as a child. (Brattle Square Church, Charlestown, Mass. 1703). This seems to lend weight to the theory that Richard II was the typical citizen of early New England.

Because of his non-church affiliation, marriage of Richard II remains a mystery. It is not to be found in church records because he would have had to go to the civil authorities and no record of this has been found. Possibly he either went back to England (which is highly unlikely) or went to some other colony to look for a wife. I wonder if this could be the Indian Princess as Richard's wife and not of Richard I. It was in those days embarrassing for a white man to marry an Indian maiden and many families would not admit her to the family or register the marriage. In any case, we are in the dark about his marriage.

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except to know that the mother of his children, who was presumed to be his wife, was according to a deed drawn by Richard III, buried with him (Richard II) on the old Cater Estate;

Always excepting and Reserving to the said Richard Cater-Carter Grantor, and his heires, Eighteen foot Square of Land lying in a Corner of the Orchard, where Richard Cater-Carter Grantor's father and Mother were buried. (Rockingham Co, Deeds Vol 6 p 342-346).

As far as the births of Richard II's children are concerned, it is hard to set specific dates for any of them since no birth records for them exist.

The tracing of Richard II is also hampered as a result of the record books of Dover between 1647 and 1693 being in fragments badly worn and with missing pages. (Scales, History of Dover) If there were references to Richard II and his family during this period there is no hope they will ever come to light if destroyed previously.

Richard II shows up in his second document in a court case in 1685, when his cattle got loose and ate a neighbor's cabbage. It is significant that he is listed as "Junior Cater" and not just Richard in this document.

The Deposition of Benjamin Rowllins age 23 or there about. Testified & saith that being at ye house of Mathews Nelson in the long _____, and heard Elizabeth Palmer Nelson's tenant say that Caters cattle and Bickfords had spoiled all her cabbages and a great part of the town. This was spoken some time this summer by ye above said Elizabeth Palmer 3 of October 1685

Elizabeth Palmer
Robert Mason

-- Copied from ye original (New Hampshire Court Records vol 8 p 421).

Desposition of James Tobey age seventeen years or thereabouts Nov 3, 1685. Relates to the above with the name of Gaffon Bickford and Junior Cater (New Hamp. Records Vol 9 p 23).

It is reasonable to see that the cattle are called Richard's since his step-mother had passed away shortly before and how he had possession of the farm.

Beginning in 1693 the name Richard Cater again begins to become more prominent. For the first time since 1679 a Richard Cater has church records, and, for the first time since 1664 there is a Richard Cater receiving or selling land. It is the opinion that Richard in these documents is not Richard II but Richard III instead. This third Richard who married a Margaret and had their first child baptized, 1696, (New Hamp. Gen. Rec. Vol 3) was not the aged father but the younger son. It seems most likely that the elder Richard II was probably a widower and possibly infirm by 1695, and by or about that time, the family farm

was turned over to the children to live on and oversee. Of the children, John had died in 1691 or 1692. Mary married Edward Sheafe and had removed to his farm by 1704, so while she was yet a minor, she was probably the nurse and housemaid for her father and Edward who had removed to Kittery and later to Portsmouth. This leaves Richard (III) on the land to manage and run it. How the land was administered will be delt with in another section

The death of Richard Jr (II) occurred in the last quarter of 1702 and was noted by Rev. John Pike in his Journal, who was a man at that time of about 50 years and must have known Richard Jr (II) as a young man.

Dec 23, 1702, Old sister Downs died with illness, age and suffering. Richard Cater died same day of small Pox (see document) (New Hamp Geneo Record Vol 14)

The date of Dec 23 is not to be considered the date of the death but instead the date of the entry. News traveled slowly in those days. Since on Oct 9, 1702, the children disposed of the family farm, it can be assumed that Richard (II) must already have been dead by that date. Remember it mentions the father of Richard the Grantor as being burried on the land. Thus the obscure life of Richard (II) passes from us leaving more questions left unanswered than not. One must 'sleep' with these people to understand what is happening. I not only have slept and dreamed of the Caters, I have stayed up all night.

Richard Cater Jr (II) lived in Portsmouth, Casco Bay, Kittery, and York. At one time he was keeper of the York Jail.

(Inferior Court of Common Pleas, Dec 1692 p 116)
At his May^{tis} court of Quarterly Sessions held this first Tuesday being 3d 7 mo 1700 (Portsmouth Court Sessions) Constables called, vizt; Constables of Dover, Thomas Young, Jmo Williams, Ric Carter, Benj Verne.

Richard Cater (II) and John Cater both had a son named John. It is not improbable for Richard Jr. (II) to have lived upon the same land with his father, for does not the deed of 1702 use the plural form of the word "house". Yet he did die of Small Pox about Oct 8 1702 and not Dec 23 1702.

Richard (II) was a shop carpenter and was about 30 years old in 1678. Born about 1635.

Family of Sarah Cotton, wife of Edward Cater

COTTON a common place name in Mid Eng. also Yorkshire and Suffolk.

1. Benjamin, Portsmouth, house carp. a minor in 1678 m. one Elizabeth, who m 2d John Golden of Kittery. His est. was adm. by his 4 sons-in-law in 1724. Constable 1696, gr. j. 1695 1697. Ch: Sarah, m 1st 20 Dec 1716 Capt. Thomas Waldron, 2d Samuel Pickering Mary, m June 1715 Matthew Nelson. (Capt Thomas Waldron, poss same as killed by Indians, see Section on Wars). Mary m June 1715 Matthew Nelson. Elizabeth m 1 Dec 1715 Nathaniel Peverly. Deborah m 24 Sp 1719 John Deverson.
2. John age 22 in 1674. Portsm, farmer, m Sarah Hearle who may have m 2d 13 Dec 1716 Henry Nicholson of Williamsburg, Va. His will 14 Sep ---9 Dec 1714 names his wife and 12 ch; William, gunsmith Portsm. mar in Boston 6 Nov 1699 Anne Carter and had a dau. Sarah b in Boston 11 Aug 1702. Solomon, shirwright of Kittery and Portsm. innkeeper of Greenland and Stratham, mar 1st 14 May 1702 Margaret Fernald who d 12 Jan 1719 or 1720 m 2d Judith Cutt of Portsm. who d 5 Mar 1744. His will 25 Mar 1754-27 Mar 1755 . 7 ch; John, butcher, Portsm, had lands in Me. bot of David Libby and Jacob Smith. He m 6 May 1714 Elizabeth Davis and d in 1723. 5 ch; Thomas, joiner, Gloucester, when he m 28 Jul 1718 Comfort Riggs. His will 2 Jan 1768-7 Sep 1770. 13 Ch; Elizabeth who with next 4 dau had had her portion bef. 1714 m bef 1707 George Thompson Mary m bef 1707 Moses Paul. Joanna b 1685 m John Jones, brick layer of Portsm. Kit. and Scarb. Sarah m by 1708 Edward Cater Hannah m John Mead of Stratham. Abigail d 6 Oct 1722 at Stratham at ho. of her bro-in-law John Mead. leaving est. by nune, will to niece Abigail Mead. Margaret m 30 Jan 1714-5 Moses Caverly. Susan, bethrothed to Ebenezer Wallingford of Dover who d in 1721 maing her his exec and prin. legatee, m 27 May 1722 William Young
3. Rev. John
4. Rev. Seaborn
5. William
6. William
7. William

Mary Cater was born between 1678 and 1683. She was admitted into the Brattle Square Church on Nov 21, 1703 at the age of 20. Her tombstone gives her death as Nov 1, 1748 at age 80. She married Edward Sheafe, a shipwright, born Apr 10, 1682 of Charlestown, Mass. He was the son of William Sheafe and Ruth Wood, who were married Aug 15, 1672. Edward was baptized 13 Jan 1689. Mary and Edward were married Aug 29, 1704 at Portsmouth, N.H. They had six children

Mary Cater the the 4th child of Richard Jr. (II).

On her tombstone the following epitah reads

"Here lyes buried y^e Body of
M^{rs} Mary Sheafe Wife to
M^r Edward Sheafe who
Departed this life
Novbr 1st 1748
aged 70 years"

Mary and Edward were married by the Rev. Simon Bradstreet.
(Dover NH Public Library, 13th report of Records, Commissions
Boston Marriages 1752-1809)

According the the Parks Dept. of Boston, Marys death is given as Nov 1, 1738. (this shows how records some times can be wrong)

In the Inferior Court of Common Please Dec 1692 we find in Vol. 6 - Thomas Thayer aged about 28 years deposed 4 Sep 1682 "that he did hear Ephraim Trickey swear by God many times over that he would pull down my Dame Mary Cators fence that was about her corn field".

Mary Cator testified Sep 10 1682

Family of Edward Sheafe, husband of Mary Cater
dau of Richard (II)

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William Sheafe and Ruth Woods

1. Edward, Charlestown, a Portsm, wit 1702 m 29 Aug 1704
Mary Cater His niece Mary m Gershom Griffith.
2. Edward, Mr Jacob's seaman, accus of being fa. of Mary Agawam's
ch (George Walton's Indian) 1660.
3. Sampson, ESQ, merchant, Newcastle, bp in St. Faith's par.
London 26 Dec 1646, s of Edmund and Elizabeth (Cotton) was in
N.E. perh. tempo. in Nov. 1668, ag 21, and in Boston in 1672 but
called of London. He 'visited' Newcastle in 1675, mov, there ab.
1693, but had Me and N.H. interests earlier. Dep. Collector of
Customs for NH 1698-1707, Councillor and Secy, of the Prov. 1698.
Clerk of Courts 1698; Commissary of exped. ag. Quebec 1711; in
London, in Apr 1715, representing to the Lords of Trade 'if an
enemy should possess themselves thereof (NH) as in the late war
it was much feared, it would endanger the whole country. His w.
Mehitabel Sheafe, b in Boston 28 May 1658 dau of Jacob and
Margaret (Webb) was his 2d cousin. Ch. rec. Boston; two Mehitables
b 10 Dec 1677 and 27 Nov 1680. Jacob b 18 Feb 1681 m in Newb. 22
Nov 1710 Mary Davison, approved as a Boston Schoolmaster 1712.
d there 26 Dec 1760 ag 79. 10 ch. rec. Hon Sampson, Newcastle
b 14 Aug 1683. H.C. 1702 m 27 Nov 1711 Sarah Walton who d in Newc.
19 Aug 1771 age 81. A merchant and West India trader; Councillor
1740-1761; d 1772.

The life of Richard Cater (Carter (III). son of Richard Cater (II)

Being raised in a home that was not affiliated with the local church's leaves us with very little information on Richard (III) early life. His birth can only be supposed by taking his admission at North Church, Portsmouth, dated 20 April 1693 along with his baptism three days later at the same church. (Libby) He was probably about 20 years of age at the time and this would place his birth at approximately 1673.

Between his birth and baptism little is known of him. He must have lived on his father's land and learned the family trade of farming. After his brother, John died about 1691-2 Richard then became the eldest child in the family. Around that time, or surely by 1698, his father must have turned the operation of the farm over to Richard (III). My guess is that Richard (II) was in poor health or somehow physically disabled.

The name Richard Cater does not appear at all between 1673 and 1679 when Richard (III) was, as already noted, admitted in the North Church. From this point on Richard Cater (Carter) is a busy fellow as he is involved in land transactions, witnessing documents and serving on juries between 1693 and 1703.

On 28 December 1693, Richard Cater witnessed a will of one William Ham of Portsmouth (State Papers, N.H. Vol 31) (Probate Records Vol 1 p 209)

On 11 April 1694 he was granted land adjoining his father's plantation;

April 11th 1694

By ye Comittee chosen By ye ffreeholders of y^e Towne of Dover for granting Lands given and granted unto Richard Cater his heires and assignes for Ever twenty Acors of Land as an addition to his ffathers Plantation Test will ffurber Clark of s^d Comittee The Above grant voated & Confermed in generalll Towne metting The sixteenth day of Aprill 1694....Test Jn^o Tuttle Towne Clerk (Dover Town Records Vol 3 p20)

This land grant tells us that his father (Richard II) was still alive in 1694 and that Richard (III) was now a land holder. It is significant that this land was given him exactly one year after he joined the North Church.

A few months later on 7 June 1694 Richard Catter is mentioned as a witness in a matter relating to William Vaughn, a merchant in Portsmouth (Inferior Court of Common Pleas, Vol 10)

On 2 Sept. 1695 Richard Cater was one of three witnesses to a deed of James Tobey Sen^r of the town of Kittery, Maine. (York Deeds Vol 4) It is evident that on this document he signed his name. It is significant that he spelled it Carter a spelling that occurs more frequently as the years passed. A year later Richard Cater witnessed yet another deed. This time for Samuel Miller of Kittery

on October 19 1696. (York Deed, Vol 4) Five months previously his son John was baptized at North Church on May 24 1696 as the son of R. Cater (N.H. Gene. Record Vol 3) In January 1697-8 Richard Catter is sworn in on a coroners jury to look into the death of a man who drowned in the river (Libby) (List 294)

In summary, his adult life to this point is an example of apparent upright actions and a development of trust between the leaders of the community and this young man of about 25 years of age. Sometime during this period he became the father of his third child, Richard (IV) about 1698. At this point Richard (III) Cater and his wife, Margaret enter into a most interesting land transaction with Colonel Thomas Packer of Portsmouth. Richard is styled in this document as being of Kittery and states his occupation as house-carpenter. This deed is in reference to 34 acres of land at the bottom of Great Bay on the Piscataqua River. This was the same land that his grandfather, Richard (I) had obtained from James Rawlings in 1657. The excerpted deed of August 14, 1698 can be found in another section. According to this deed there was a previous deed that had apparently been lost. What is really happening here is a crime committed by Richard (III) against his brother Edward, his sister Mary and his father Richard (II). These 34 acres were not legally his but his father's, and after the father's death it should have gone to the children equally. Richard (III) as the administrator of the estate, had probably leased or rented out these 34 acres to Packer and on a subsequent date decided to sell it to him on the sly. They probably agreed to the amount; drew up the deed; exchanged the money and the deed; and then kept quiet not recording the deed (probably waiting for the death of Richard (II)). Richard (III) kept quiet because he and his wife Margaret would be able keep all of the money if the deed were not disclosed and the true situation revealed. Packer on his side probably wanted title to the land and felt this was the only sure way to obtain it at bargain rates. Since Packer held the deed, even if it wasn't recorded, it could be tucked away and recorded at a later date. This worked fine until he seems to have lost it and the new deed of 1698 is drawn up. No mention of the exact sum of money that was paid is noted in this document as the object of this deed is to conceal not reveal. Also there is a clause warning Richard against selling the land to another person. This clearly shows that the grantee not the customary grantor must have drawn up the deed, even though the opposite was the usual case. To make the conspiracy even more complete, the second deed is not recorded until 30 April 1702, some six months after the father, Richard (II) died. By this time Packer must have felt the cover-up was complete and it was safe to take legal possession.

Apparently this scene worked well until the following quit-claim deed was filed on May 16 1726 between the dispossessed brother and sister of Richard (III) (who had previously died) and Thomas Packer, the son of Colonel Thomas Packer who was also dead.

Catter & Mary Sheafe to Packer

To all People to whome these Presnets Shall come Edward Cater of Portsmth in ye Province of New Hampshire Ship Carpenter, Mary Sheaf as attorney for her husband Edward Sheaf of Chrlstown in ye County of Middlesex in y^e Province of Massachsets Bay Shipright and also ye s^d Mary Sheaf in her own behalf Send Greeting. Know yee that y^e s^d Edward Cater & Mary Sheafe as attorney to her affores^d Husband and allso in her own behalf for Divers good Causes and Considerations then moving but more Especially for and in Consideration of y^e Sum of fivety Pounds Currant money of New England to them in hand Before y^e Ensealing hereof well & Truly p^d by Thomas Packer of Ports^o affores^d Gentleman Hame Remises Released & forever quit Claimed & by these Presents for themselvs^s for the above s^d Edward Sheafe as is above Expressed and their Heirs for the above s^d do fully Clearly & absolutely Remise Release and for Ever Quit Claim unto aforesaid Thomas Packer his Heirs & assigns in his full and Peaceably Possession and Seazin for Ever all Such Right, Estate, title, interest and Demand whatsoEver as they or Eigher of them had or Ought to have in or to all That four acres of Meadow Land and thirty acres of upland (which Their brother Richard Catter Late of Kittery in the County of York in the province of y^e Massachusets Bay afores^d: Yeoman Deceased Sold to the s^d Thomas Packer's Father: Coll^o Thomas Packer Late of Portsmouth afores^d Esq^r Deceased) as per a deed of sale under the hand and seal of the said Richard Carter and Margaret his wife, baring Date the fourteenth day of August 1698..... In witness whereof They here unto Sett Their Hands and Seals the Sixteenth day of May in the Twelth Year of ye Reign of our Sovereign Lord George by ye grace of god of Great Brittain France & Ireland King Defender of the faith 7c: Anoq Domini 1726...

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Signed Sealed & Delivered | Edward Cater (& seal) |
| in the presence of | Her mark |
| Moses Ingraham | Mary Sheaf Atorney |
| Solomon Cotton | for her husband (& seal) |
| | y ^e mark of |
| | Mary Sheaf (& seal) |

New Hamp. Prov Deed Vol 5 p 542-544)

It seems that somehow the true nature of the dealings between Richard (III) and Colonel Packer had come to light and the Catters were threatening to sue in court and Thomas Packer Jr. felt it better to settle this way for 50 pounds than to have the truth revealed in court before the public.

Twice in the year of 1700 Richard (III) is recorded as constable of Dover. On March 4 1700 he is recorded as Ritt Carter. (Inferior Court of Common Pleas) and as R. Carter for Dec. 3, 1700.

A year later, on Dec 8 1701 Richard Cater is again granted land by the town of Dover, this time twenty acres along the highway

between Portsmouth and Bloody Point at Stoney Hill (Dover Town Records Vol 3 p 72)

At this point a summary of the family would be most appropriate. The Cater family in 1701 consisted of the father Richard (II) and his three living children: Richard (III), Edward and Mary. One son John had died previously about 1691/2. Also, Richard (III) had his wife Margaret and four children: Elizabeth, John, Richard (IV) and Mary living with him. They were all living on 55 acres of upland that had been granted to the family. (35 acres to Richard (I) in 1664 and 20 acres to Richard (III) in 1694). They also thought (except for Richard (III) that they possessed the 3/4 acres that Thomas Packer was living on. The farm appears to have been insufficient to provide the family with a decent income as we have noticed that house-carpentry has become the occupation of Richard (III).

It is at this time that Richard (II) dies of smallpox as previously noted. This seems to be the pivotal point in the family's history. Shortly after his death, the three children agree to sell all of the old Cater estate except the 20 acres obtained in 1694; (deed excerpted)

This Indenture made the Eight day of October in the first yeare of the Reigne of our Soverainge Lady Anne by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, ffrance and Ireland Queen Defender of the ffaith &c: Between Richard Carter of pine point neare Bloody Point in the townpp of Dover in the Providence of New Hampshire in New England Housecarpenter and Margaret his wife, Edward Carter Brother of Said Richard of the same place Housecarpenter and Mary Carter of the same place Sister of the said Richard Carter Singlewoman of the one part, and John Knight of Portsmouth alias John Chavalier of Portsmouth in the said Province M^rchant of the other side Wittnesseth that they the Said Richard Carter and Margarett his wife Edward Carter and Mary Carter, for and in Consideration of the Sume of one hundred pounds Current Mony of New England (give)....All that this the Said Carters ffarme or Tract of Land Lying at a place formerly called poine point, neare Adjacent to a place Comonly Called Bloody Point, Scituate lying and being in the Township of Dover in said Province of New Hamp. containing fifty five acres more or less, thirty five of which was formerly Granted by the Town of Dover to Richard Carter Deceased father to the said Richard Carter one of the Grantors.... Always excepting and Reserving to the said Richard Carter Grantor, and his heires, Eighteen foot Square of Land lying in one corner of the Orchard, where Richard Carters Grantor' father and Mother was Buried....In Witnesses....the day and yeare first before writen : Annoq Domini 1702.....

Richard Carter
Margaret Carter (by mark)
Edward Carter (by mark)
Mary Carter (by mark)

(New Hamp. Prov Deeds Vol 6 p 346).

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A couple of things might be mentioned here that were discussed earlier. This deed is extremely misleading as it leaves the impression that Richard (I) was the father of the grantors. The truth is that Richard (II) gained right to the land through reversion in 1679 and he (Richard (II)) is the person mentioned as buried in the orchard. Possibly Richard (II) and brother and sister were unfamiliar with the fact that their grandfather actually had obtained the land in 1664, ten years or more before they were even born. Hopefully this genealogical study has en- boled the reader to see this.

Why they wanted to sell the old farm is only speculation but possibly the area was too crowded and they wanted out since their holdings were too small to support a large family; or possibly they felt that other enterprises were more financially rewarding than farming. Except for Richard (III) who stays on this land, the rest of the family left the area for good by 1710. Edward married and went to Portsmouth and Mary married and moved to Boston and then to Charlestown, Massachusetts.

In 1712 Richard (III) and possibly his brother Edward were listed as members of a scouting party led by Captain James Davis (the Indian fighter) of Oyster River. Richard was listed Richard Carter and Edward as Edward Cater. (Quint-Hist. Memo. of Ancient Dover New Hamp. Vol 1 - 302).

Sometime between this 1712 date and 26 Apr 1722 Richard (II) died. On the 1722 date a deed was made by Richard (IV) Carter and Mary Carter selling the twenty acres of land in Stoney Hill that was ordained in 1694 to a John Downing. This deed mentions their widowed mother Elizabeth, meaning that Margaret must have died after 1702 and Richard (III) probably married Elizabeth before his death. (New Hamp Deeds Vol 15)

Mr Libby recorded Richard (III) as dying on Jun 15 1703. However Leslie A Carter had the following to say about that date. " The second record of death Jun 15 1703 pertains to Richard (III). Savage in his "Genealogical Dict. of New Eng.) is the first to mention this date of death. Libby questioned it and Robert Givins was unable to find the original source for it. While it is not believed to be an invention, it could be any number of things: a typographical error, the death of Margaret, or simply read 1703 for 1713. But whatever the case happened to be, it is a fact that Richard (III) was alive in 1712. In that year, he Richard Carter....(was) a soldier in the New Hamp. scouting party under Capt. Davis.

To repeat, the deed dated 1722 and the Bickford land grant in 1726 refer to Richard (III) as 'formerly of Dover' which place became known as Newington in 1714. So, it would appear that Richard (III) had died most likely on Jun 15 1713 and not 1703.

As Mr L.A. Carter stated, no death date was ever found for Richard (II) and probably now one will never be found. We fail to hear anymore about the elusive Elizabeth Carter, his wife, either.

In summary Richard (III) in his adult life to this point is an example of apparent upright actions and a development of trust between the leaders of the community and this young man of about 25 years of age. Sometime during this period he became the father of his third child Richard (IV) about 1698. Then from 1702/3 Richard Carter (III) became one of the biggest crooks ever.

Margaret, the first wife of Richard (III) has been greatly neglected. Her name is not even mentioned in the Carter pedigree. Libby mentions her name briefly, but we learn of her only through these deeds. In 1698 she signed her name as the wife of Richard Catter, and in 1702 the wife of Richard Carter. Hence, she was the real mother of John who was baptized in 1696. In the quit-claim deed dated 1726 she is mentioned for the third time and last time in the New Hamp. records. At Kittery in 1741 a Margaret Cater was married to Gattensbury Wittum. At this time it would appear that this Margaret, who is now being mentioned for the first time was an unknown daughter of Edward Cater and named after his sister-in-law.

Since Margaret's marriage to Richard (III) was still in existence on Oct 8 1702, it would seem hardly possible that his second marriage to Elizabeth could have taken place before 1703. But supposing it had, and a child from this union happened to be Richard Carter of Scarborough, then the earliest we could hope to place his date of birth would be Jun 1703. This would make him anywhere between 14 and 16 years of age at the time of his marriage to Sarah Peavey on Feb 12 1718/19.

Unless we have information to the contrary, Margaret was not only the real mother of John, but also the real mother of Richard, Mary and Elizabeth.

In 1719 Richard Carter was living as a tenant on the Packer's farm in Greenland or western Portsmouth. Richard's brother John appears to have continued to live in Newington but whatever land he held after 1719 at this time cannot be construed as part of his 'grand-fathers lands'.

There are 3 main documents 1644, 1694 and 1702 and a composite arrangement will be combined in the following:

....that the said grantors, Richard Carter and Margaret, his wife Edward Cater a brother, and Mary Cater a sister, have conveyed unto John Knight, alias John Chevalier, the Carter farm formerly at a place called Pine Point, containing 25 acres was formerly granted by the town of Dover to Richard Cater, deceased father of Richard Carter, one of the grantors, bounded to order 10th 12 mo 1664, also, 20 acres granted by the town of Dover in 1694 to the said Richard Carter, grantor.

Family of Samuel Meloon, husband of Mary Cater b abt 1700
 dau of Richard (III)

Meloon, Maloon, Malone Luke
 Greenland taxed Bloody Point 1672 and of Dover when he m Hannah
 Clifford 20 Nov 1677 (Lists 356j 359b 62) He and John Partridge
 were bondsm. for tav. keeper John Johnson Mar 1695-6; of Hampton
 1710; liv in Greenl. 1723. Appar. his ch only one dau. proved.
 all sons but George shown by fa's deed to Joseph. Greenl. 1723
 he to pay his bros (four). (Lists 338a) Elizabeth, who o.c.
 and was bp at Greenl. 1716, poss. his w.; he o.c. and was bp 1726
 6 ch bp 1730 and perh. others older. Adm on east. of one Joseph
 of Greenl. gr. to Gideon Walker in 1761. Sarah b abt 1679 m
 Samuel Nudd. Hannah m in Greenl. bef Nv. 1710 Nathl. Watson.
Elizabeth, dau of Luke of Hampt. in ct. 1710 then mar to Samuel
 Brown. Jane and Abigail (presum) both recd. into covt. and bp.
 No. Ch. Portsm. 1 May 1715. Jane was there 1716. Samuel m in
Greenl. 19 Nov 1724 Mary Cater. He o.c. and was bp in Newington
 10 Nov 1728. 4 ch. bp there and in Greenl. 1728-1733. Luke. One
Luke Mulloon m Mercy Lufkinint 19 Feb 1735. Mark, Greenl. 1722
 m there 21 May 1731 Abigail Robinson. 4 sons rec. Exeter 1732-1737.
Nathaniel. One Nathl. was husb of Rachel Robinson in 1745. George
 taxed Greenl. 1719 not ment. in deed 1723 and name poss. an error.
 One James Mullon m Ann Harris in Newb. 18 Sep 1722.

John Cater Sr. (I) of Kittery was the only living son of Edward and Sarah (Cotton) Cater of Portsmouth. He was also the ancestor of Certain Barrington Caters who changed their name to Decatur (DeCatur, DeCater) between 1829 and 1833. The maiden name of John's wife Mary is William and probably married about 1736. No record of Marriage has been found to date. John Cater Sr. (I) born about May 11 1712 and baptized in the same year. He died about 1800/01.

William Johnson (son-in-law) of John Cater Sr. had settled in Limington, Maine who filed intention of marriage to Martha Cater on April 4 1770 and a Marriage of William Johnson to Abigail Cater Apr 19 1770 (Original Kittery Records). Since the Will of John (I) mentions his daughter Martha Johnson it is the belief that the name of Abigail in the marriage record is incorrect.

John's name frequently appears in the original records as Cator and Catter as does the name of his forebears. The descendents of Edward, through his only living son John Cater Sr. (I) are quite numerous. They held their 105th reunion this year, 1980 with kin attending from all sections of United States.

In 1768 John Cater Sr. (I) of Kittery had deeded to his son, John Jr. (II) 70 acres of land at Barrington under the Barrington Charter, by his grandfather Edward in 1722 or thereabouts, However between 1829 and 1833 certain descendents of John Cater Jr. (II) had changed their name to Decatur for which no recorded reason has been found except for what Leon Brock stated earlier.

Many instances could be cited, occuring among the Barrington Caters where the father used the old family name, and his sons used Decatur. One instance is known where the father lived and died under the name of Decatur though he chose to call himself Cater in his later years. One of his sons after a visit to relatives in the East, returned to his home in Minnesota and thereafter was known as Charles Cater. The vital records of Methnseun, Mass. list his birth under the name of Decatur. Hence, it is hoped that it has been conveyed herein, the fact, that the Cater family is a real entity and not a figment of the imagination.

Following are deeds found in the New Hamp Prov Deeds Vol 19

Dates Feb 18 1733/4 Recorded Feb 19 1733/4
Consideration: One hundred and eight pounds
Description: Dwelling house and lot (40'x80') with frontage on Deer Street, Strawberry Bank, Portsmouth
Division of Estate: John Catter, according to this deed #2 and on his own authority as son and heir of Edward Catter, was empowered by opinion and license by the Judge of Probate to make sale of the whole paying the proper proportion out of the sale to the children of Edward Cater.

Comment: This deed marks the beginning of the mentioning of the name of John Cater in the NH Prov Deeds. And, other than in his baptismal record in 1712, his name occurs only in the New Hamp. and Maine deeds mentioned herein, and in Kittery Tax records not before 1755. No First, Second or Third Church records of Kittery mentions his name before 1751. One New. Hamp. deed shows that he was a resident of Newington as late as March 31 1735/6. He was styled "of Kittery" not before Feb. 21 1740, notwithstanding that family records give the date and place of birth of his son John Cater Sr. (I) as Kittery Nov 25 1736.

Regarding the estate of Edward Cater of Portsmouth, and according to the NH State Papers (Probate Records Vol II) bond was given for the administration of the estate on May 24 1732 by Samuel Hart, Thomas Trickey and George Walton, the latter two of Newington. Administration granted to Thomas Trickey on May 25, 1732.

On Dec 11 1733 a warrent was issued to certain persons, all of Portsmouth to report on the division of the estate into five parts, which report returned on the same day, stated, that the estate could not be divided without damage. Hence, without any given names mentioned in the published probate proceedings, an effort will be made herein to explain the division of the estate into five parts as applying only to four children of Edward Cater. Also, the widow, Sarah (Cotton) Cater received her "third" as implied by the sudden drop in the value of the estate between two inventories.

Inventories dated May 25, 1732 and Dec 11 1733, at which time the estate was declared not divisible, show that the value of estate had shrunk from 272 to 185 pounds. The latter sum, less five pounds, is equivalent to the consideration paid by Dodivah Bickford, though in the next deed to follow actually 50 pounds was paid, the balance being covered by a mortgage. Thusly, the difference of 87 pounds between the two inventories seemingly, would approximate the "thirds" accorded the widow.

In making an analysis of the report or warrant issued Dec 11 1733 with respect to the dividing of the estate into five parts and the determining of the names of the beneficiaries, the following North Church (Portsmouth) baptismal records should be noted: Mary Kater July 16 1710; John Cator May 11 1712; Sarah Cater Apr 18 1714; and Edward Cater Jul 8 1716. And of Edward Cater Jr., it is the only time that his name has appeared in records. It has been assumed that he had died at an early age and was not living on Dec 11 1733.

Hence, John and his sisters, Mary and Sarah were then living on the above mentioned date. John the only living son and principal heir, unquestionably had received an extra share or $2/5$ ths of the residue of his father's estate, in accordance with the customs then prevailing in the settling of estate of persons who died intestate. Likewise, Mary and Sarah, both received one (I) share or together $2/5$ ths of the estate. With all four shares of $4/5$ ths of the estate accounted for, seemingly the final share had gone

to their sister Margaret, of whom there is no record prior to that of her marriage in Kittery.

While there is no positive proof that John Cater had a sister named Margaret, yet, there is sufficient evidence to support such a belief. As for instance, the manner in which she fits into division of the estate of Edward Cater. Then, again, there is the fact that Edward had a sister-in-law by the name of Margaret. Lastly, and when one considers the uncommonness of the name Cater in the early records of Maine and New Hamp. it points to only one family group by that name. It is significant that Margaret's marriage in Kittery co-incides with John Cater's purchase of land in Kittery in 1741. though he was styled of that place some fifteen months earlier. The record of intentions of marriage of Margaret Cater daughter of Edward and Sarah (Coton) Cater of Portsmouth is as follows:

Source: Kittery town records p 119
Kittery Records: ms by Dr Fogg Vol 2
Originals: Intentions Book 2
"Gattensburg Wittum & Margaret Cater, both of Kittery
Intentions of marriage entered Feb 27, 1741.

In the NH Prov Deeds (that follows) it will be seen that John Cater Sr (I) was a resident of Newington as late as March 13 1735/6 though he is at no time ever mentioned in Newington church or town records. Since the above given date which has caused instance of him being styled "of Kittery" it is this date which has caused questions to the family records with respect to John Cater Jr (II) born at Kittery, Nov 25, 1736 whether he was actually born in that place.

NH Prov Deed Vol 21:414
Dates: Feb 19 1733/4: Recorded Dec 20, 1735
Parties to Agreement: Grantor, Dodivah Bickford of Portsmouth NH. Grantee, John Catter, Shipwright, residing at Newington.
Consideration: 130 pounds of current money
Description: Similar to that given above.
Mortgage Agreement: Dodivah Bickford agreed to pay the sum of 130 pounds with interest on or about April 15 1735.
Witnesses: Thomas Trickey and George Walton

Comment: Agreement extended by NH Prov Deed Vol 23:210
Abstract of deed furnished by the Utah Genealogical Society.
Dates Mar 13 1735/6: Acknowledged Mar 20 1735/6: Recorded March 30 1738. Deed mentions Winifred Bickford the widow of Dodivah. John Cater's residence is given as Newington.

NH Prov Deeds Vol 26/12
Dates: Feb 21 1740; Acknowledged Sep 17, 1741: Recorded Apr 16 1742.
Parties to Agreement: Grantors, John Catter, shipwright of Kittery Maine and his wife Mary: Grantee, Joseph Cotton, boat builder of Portsmouth
Consideration: 170 pounds current money

Description: Except for the mentioning of property in the northerly part of Portsmouth, the description is similar to that given in a deed under Edward NH Prov Deed Vol 7 and NH Prov deed Vol 19 above

Witness: William Parker, Joseph (?) Langdon, Jr; Samuel Hart, J.P. Joshua Peirce, Registrat.

Assignment: John Cater and his wife Mary to Joseph Cotton, land and lot mentioned above (Deer Street) including two thirds of dwelling house and all other buildings standing thereon, Reversion of the other "thirds" of dwelling house in possession of tenant in dowry (Winifred Bickford, widow?) including one-half of pew in front part of first gallery in the North Meeting house in Portsmouth, belonging to Edward Cater, deceased.

Comment: The above deed dated Feb 21 1740 marks the beginning of a long absence of active land holding by descendants of Edward Cater of Portsmouth and Bloody Point Newington NH, unless one takes into account land lying dormant, purchased by Edward Cater in 1722 under the Barrington Charter. This land at Barrington Charter. This land at Barrington NH was deeded in 1768, by John Cater Sr, (I) of Kittery to his eldest son John Jr (II) which deed is the only proof that the latter was originally from Kittery, Maine

N.H. Prov Deeds Vol 101:225

Dates: Sep 20 1668: Acknowledged Sep 1768 Recorded Mar 20 1771
Parties to Agreement: Grantors, John Catter Sr shipwright of Kittery and his wife Mary. Grantee, John Catter Jr. Husbandman of Barrington NH.

Consideration: One (I) pound lawful money

Description: Seventy acres. Location in Barrington, see full text of deed (inclosed) \$5.

Witnesses: Samuel Brewster; Sarah Brewster, Mark Hunting, J.P. D. Peirce, Registrar.

Comment: John Cater Jr (II) received the above mentioned land in Barrington as an absolute estate of inheritance in fee simple Whether his brother Edward Cater, a Rev. War Soldier had participated in the residue of land in Barrington, if any, is not known at this time. It is a fact that John Jr (II) and his brother Edward were bequeathed 5 shillings each under their father's will dated Sep 21 1773. One Barrington, Strafford County Deed Vol 15:537 from John Catter to Edward Catter dated May 1 1793, refer to Kittery, Mar 28 1774. There is a York Maine record of intentions of marriage of Edward Cater of Kittery to Susan Dill of York Me. dtd Aug 31 1770. Since Kittery tax records for 1770 list Edward Cater, it does not appear that he was a resident of Barrington before that date.

York County, Maine Deeds Vol 19:388

Dates: May 14 1741: Acknowledged May 14 1741: Recorded, June 18, 1741

Parties to Agreement: Grantors, Rev Joseph Whipple, clerk of Hampton, in the Providence of New Hampshire and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Cutt of Kittery, deceased, and his mother-in-law Dorcus Cutt, Widow.

Grantees: Jeremiah Paul of York and John Cater of Kittery Shiprights

Consideration: Five hundred pounds and ten shillings in bills of credit on the Province in New England, aforesaid.

Description: Approximately 45 acres lying in the township of Kittery and divided equally between Jeremiah Paul and John Cater. For location of land see full text of deed attached.

Witnesses: John Newmarch: William and Mary Whipple: Elihu Gunnison, J.P. and Daniel Moulton, Registrar.

Comment: The above-mentioned deed dated 1741 marks the beginning of the purchase of land in Maine by John Cater Sr. It was this land that comprised the homestead farm, reduced to some 30 or more acres, that he bequeathed in 1773, to his youngest son, Cotton Cater, the Revolutionary War soldier. Of this family there appears to have been another son, Joseph Cater, probably born between John and Edward who served in the French and Indian Wars and died of wounds Jul 28 1758

John Cater 1st, and his youngest son Cotton and possibly another son Joseph who served in a foot company in 1758 remained in Kittery while his sons Edward and John 2nd took up a land grant in Barrington. This land was originally granted to the grandfather Edward Cater, husband of Sarah Cotton, in 1722.

This all seems simple until one starts thinking about two Cater women. One is Lydia of Greenland who married David Haines on Feb 17 1743 and the other Lois Cater said to have been born Nov 6 1763 in Holderness, NH. Holderness located in Grafton County was first settled in 1740 which was then Indian Country. It would be interesting to discover that she is a daughter of Edward Cater of Barrington.

COTOR, COTTON, PRIVATE

Enlisted May 12, 1782 for three years, for the town and received 90 bount at Wells, Me., May 31, 1782, from his class in the town. In February, 1783 he was a in a Capt. S. Smith's Company of the Fifth Mass. Continental. On March 10. 1783, he had two years, two months and two days more to serve in the Army, and he was probably discharged in December 1783.

Born Sept 5, 1755 at Killery, son of John and Mary Williams Cator, his marriage intentions to Mary Felker, of Barrington, NH. published at Kittery in April 1775. Lived in what is now the upper part of Eliot in 1776 also in 1786.

N.H. Province Deeds Vol 21:414

Dates: February 19, 1773/4 Recorded December 20, 1735

Grantee: John Catter, shipwright, residing in Newington

Grantor: Dodivah Bickford of Portsmouth, NH

Consideration: 130 pounds of current money

Comment: Abstract of deed furnished by Utah Genealogical Society

Dates: March 13 1735/6 Recorded March 30, 1738. John Cater;s residence is given as Newington NH

Taken from the first census of the United States, Barrington Town - John Cater-free white male of 16 years and upward including heads of families- 1: free white males under 16 years 6: free white female including heads of families.

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Cotton Catter of Kittery, Maine

It is very little information when considering the fact that he lived in Kittery for at least 45 years from the time of his birth. Except for the baptismal records all other information pertaining to Cotton must be obtained from printed sources and mostly from the military records. His name appears as Cater, Catter and Cator in various records mention him. His own baptismal record gives Catter, while those of his children, his name appears as Cater. He was the son of John and Mary Catter, and baptized in the Third Church of Kittery on Sep 30 1753.

Remick, author of "A record of the services of the commissioned officers and enlisted men of Kittery and Eliot, Maine gives Cotton's date of birth as Sept 5, 1755, but believe the birth of Cotton could have occurred on the 5th but, because of the numerous errors in Remicks book - relating to others, we will stand on the date of Sep 5 1753, unless proved otherwise. Also in view of the fact that between the birth of our ancestor, John Cater Jr, on Nov 25 1736, of which there is no baptismal record, and that of the baptismal of his brother Cotton in 1753, a child bearing period of almost 18 years is indicated. This would seem to establish John 2nd as the eldest child of John and Mary Cater from which fact we might conclude that the Catter's (Cater) baptismal in the North Church, Portsmouth, in 1712 it would also seem that he was about 23 years of age when he married.

His marriage intentions to Mary Felker of Barrington were published in Kittery in 1775. The records of the Second Church of Kittery show that they renewed their baptismal covenant on Sep 15 1776, his wife being referred to as "Molly". Their son Joseph Cater was baptized on the same day.

It is further said by Remick that Cotton lived in what is now the upper part of Eliot in 1776 also in 1782 and in 1786. The last mention of Cotton is in the 1790 Federal Census.

Cotton Cater (Cator) served in the Revolutionar War. No record of him has been found that he had been a pensioner. He enlisted on May 12 1782 as a private for 3 years for the town and received a bounty of 90 pounds at Wells, Maine May 31 1782 from his class in town. In Feb 1783 he was in Capt S. Smith's company of the Fifth Mass. Continental. On March 10, 1783 he had 2 years, 2 months and 2 days more to serve in the army and he was probably discharged in Dec 1783. In the Mass Soldiers and Sailors of the Rev War. Cotton was reported as serving in the place of John Dummerway.

The children of Cotton and Mary (Felker) Cater baptized in the Second Church of Kittery are as follows: Joseph bap Set 15 1776 William bap Apr 12 1778, Nabby bap Sep 12 1780 and Sarah bap Nov 9 1784.

Regarding the name "Nabby" it is the only time ever seen in records either as a christian or as a nick name. She may be located in later years under a different name.

The record of Cotton's children is incomplete, when told he had a son John who died in Portsmouth, NH. His death is recorded in the August 7 1798 issue of the New Hamp Gazette. He is identified as the son of Cotton Cater of Kittery, Me, age 22.

John was unquestionably Cotton's first child, and it is of interest that his name should appear in the records or print for the first time after a period of 22 years. In a similar manner, why couldn't John Carter of Scarborough be the son of John and Sarah (Lary) Cater (Carter) for we learn of him for the first time 18 years or so later with the recording of his marriage in Scarborough to Hannah Sands in 1738 5 years after the removal of Richard Carter from Western Portsmouth to Scarborough, Maine.

Family of Mary Felker wife of Cotton Cater

William Charles Felker (Capt Julius) abt 1765-1840 (Strafford Prob Rec Dov NH Vol 54 p 545) will dtd 7 Jan 1839 proved May 3 1842 Beq to his w Hannah (gray) Felker in 1839 not living whom he m on Dec 9 1796 by Rev Benj. Balch, leav his household goods etc to his 4 dau (after Hannahs death) Anna, Lebbets, Hannah Holmes, Mary Felker and Rachel Varney and 4 sons Charles, Levi, John and Samuel

Hannah Felker b abt 1805 Barrington m Rev. John Cater Holmes.

Felker, prob a german name of Filker

Polly Cater (Molly) of Barrington m Joshua Holms of Rochester NH on Dec 25 1796 on Christmas Day by Rev. Benjamin Balch who is bur in the "Pine Cem" in Barrington besides his grave is that old "Old Aggie" a negro slave who previously in another family ended her life in the household of Benj Balch. Many stories have been written about "old aggie". In 1850 Joshua and Polly at 78 were in the Cen. Rec. of Randolph NH as being in the home of Abel N Watson and his wife Susan Holmes (Their dau home) plus 6 children. They were earlier located in the Rochester NH Fed Cen.

John Cater Jr, born in Kittery, Maine Nov. 25, 1736 died
in Barrington, New Hampshire, Jan 26, 1801

Father John Cater Sr

Grandfather- Edward Cater

Wife Susan Johnson

Son- John Cater (III) wife- Susan Holmes

John Cater Jr (II) assisted in establishing American Independence
while acting in the capacity of- Signer of the Association Test
and also of the petition in favor of John Garland in 1776,
Barrington.

To the Hon^{ble} Council and House of Reprerentatives, for the
Colony of New Hampshire Covened At Exeter on next Tuesday the
6th of March 1776.

The petition of the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the town of
Barrington hereby shews that your Petitioners was greatly alarmed
at the news of John Garland, Esq. of said Barrington being
omitted in the late Appointment of Magistrates for the County of
Strafford. He being a person in the opinion of your petitioners
of the best, natural Capacity for Such an office in said town and
of equal acquaintance to any other and while in that office per-
formed to General Satisfaction and more especially considering
how much he has Executed himself in the glorious struggle for
Liberty in which America is, now Contending wherefore your pet-
itioners humbly Pray that the said John Garland may be appointed
a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid which we concieve
Will Be a Benefit conferred not only on the town of Barrington
but the County alone and your Petitioners as in duty bound will
evar Pray. John Cater

The following is a memorandum of the authority for this statement

Association Test-

N.H. State Papers Vol viii 1776-1783 p 206

Petition for John Garland

N,H, Town Papers, Hammond. Vol Xi A.F. 1680-1800

Maine History and General Records Vol 9 p 116 A true and perfect
List of the 4th foot company of Militia in Kittery under command
of Capt. Charles Frost taken at Kittery July 1762
John Cator and John Cator Jr mentioned

file
Wt
50

EPIRAIM CATER.

When the land in the towns of Barrington and Strafford was put up to be drawn by lottery, John Cater drew lot No. 9, containing one hundred and fifty acres, the same now owned by David Y. Cater. Ephraim Cater is the third (on the paternal side) in descent from the John Cater mentioned above.

John Cater had five children, as follows: Sally, Betsey, Mollie, Susan, and John. John, his youngest child and only son, married Susan Holmes for his first wife, and their family consisted of the following: Joseph, Joel, Ephraim, Susan, John, Betsey, Joshua, Cyrus, and Isaac. His second wife was the widow of Mr. Grover, by whom he had one child, Hiram H. He took a third wife, Mary Leighton, of Dover. He died Oct. 2, 1863. John (his father) died Jan. 26, 1801.

Of his family but four are living, viz.: Cyrus, Isaac, Betsey, and Sally.

The subject of this sketch was born Jan. 9, 1800. He attended the district schools of his neighborhood, living with his father a portion of his time until he married. His father's family was so large and his stock of the world's goods so small that he found it difficult to maintain them. When Mr. Cater was twenty-one he married Charlotte Otis, daughter of Joshua Otis, of Strafford. She was the granddaughter of Micajah Otis, one of the founders of the Free-Will Baptist Church. To them were born eight children, six boys and two girls, as follows: Joshua O., Martha

J., Joseph L., Andrew J., Martin Van Buren, Abigail S., David Y., and George F. Of the family, Joshua O., Joseph L., Andrew, and Martin Van Buren are married, and with their families live in Minnesota; Martha J. married Israel P. Ham, of Dover; Abigail died in infancy; David Y. married Flora F. Huntoon, of Farmington; George married Almira Meader, of Rochester, N. H.

Mr. Cater is drawing a pension for service in the war of 1812. In 1830, Daniel Ham and he ran for selectmen; the first vote was a tie, and the same result followed three distinct elections on different days. It was finally settled by choosing an outsider, the adherents of each claiming that they would stay by their man until death.

The tract of land now owned by Mr. Cater and his son contains three hundred and fifty acres, including the one hundred and fifty acres mentioned above as having been drawn in a lottery. The family are noted for their longevity. In politics Mr. Cater is a Democrat, and with pride he says he cast his first vote for Gen. Jackson. He carries his great age easily, reading the finest print without the aid of glasses.



EPHRAIM CATER.

Ephraim Cater enlisted Sep 12 1814 and served until Sept 29 1814 as a private in Capt. John Hay's company of N.H. Militia. Pension Certificate No 23038 issued Jul 11 1878, rate \$80.00 per month. Act of March 9 1878

Concord NH Agency Veteran's Pension Case No SC 23038

Sons George F, and David Y mentioned.

John Cater Jr (II) was born Nov 25 1735/36 of Kittery, Maine son of John and Mary Williams Cater. He died in Barrington NH June 26 1801. His will mentions his wife Susannah and the following children, John, Betty, Susannah, Sarah Gray and Molly.

There has been no marriage record pertaining to John Cater Jr other than the record of his intentions of marriage

Source: Kittery Records, Me, by Dr Fogg Vol 2 pt 1:39
Kittery Town Records Vol 2:15, Original Intentions Book 2:143

"John Cator Jun and Susannah Johnson both of Kittery, their Intention of marriage Entered August 28 1765.

John Cater, Southern Division, Col John S. Ford, Caters battalion, 3 company cavalry, taken from Correspondence, ETC Confederate Chp LX P 1457.

Up to this point the Cater-Carter-Decatur families have been pretty well documented. Not much is known of John Cater Jr (II) but hope later maybe something will show up.

Sep 20 1768 Catter, John, Kittery, Mass and Mary
to
John Catter Jr Barrington
70 acres of land in Barrington
found this deed at Exeter NH

J. O. Cater Came To Minnesota In 1856

L. W. Cater, Son of Pioneer, Tells
of Early Days in Sherburne
County

By Martha Scherfenberg

Joshua Otis Cater was born in Barrington, N. H., June 25, 1821. He lived on his father's farm till 1844, when he bought a small farm adjoining the homestead. He was married in 1846 to Lousia Woodis, a little Quaker girl. In 1856, he came to Minnesota, accompanied by his three brothers, Joe, Martin, and Andrew. They spent the summer visiting in various parts of the state and Joe took a claim in Baldwin, Sherburne county. They returned to New Hampshire where Joe was married in 1857. He then came back to Minnesota and built a house in Princeton. He was one of the first postmasters and his house was the post office for a number of years.

J. O. Cater traded his farm in New Hampshire for one in Sherburne county and came to Princeton in 1860, where he and his wife and children stayed with Joe and Martin Cater till Joshua took a claim in Foley. They lived there less than a year, when the boys persuaded their father to move to the prairie land which they owned in what is now Haven township, Sherburne county. Mr. Cater was one of the first settlers and helped to organize the town of Haven, and was the chairman of the first town board of supervisors.

L. W. Cater, oldest son of J. O. Cater who was thirteen at that time, tells the story of their first years in Minnesota:

"We came as far as La Crosse on the train and up to St. Paul by boat. Father bought a three-year-old heifer and calf there. But he had no money for horses or oxen

so he hired a man with a team and wagon to take our trunks up to Princeton. Mother drove the team and father, the man and I walked behind the wagon. The smaller boys walked part of the time. The cow couldn't travel very fast, but it wasn't much of a road and we were barefoot. It was about eleven o'clock in the forenoon when we got to Uncle Mart's at Princeton. He and a neighbor were breaking together and they had six oxen on the plow. They left me to drive while my uncle went up to the house with the rest of the family. Maybe I wasn't scared to take that goadstick! I had never driven such a team and they said one big fellow wouldn't keep the furrow. But when we went in to dinner the neighbor praised me, and I drove the team six weeks.

We lived rather a rough life for two or three years. You can realize, perhaps, how little we had to do with, when you remember that we brought everything: clothes, cooking utensils, dishes, and all on one wagon. On the train we were allowed 100 pounds for each person and we were careful not to have more, as we would have had to pay extra. I think father paid the man who brought us from St. Paul ten dollars.

"We cleared about two acres of land at Foley, which we put into corn, potatoes and garden stuff. Then we paid up on the claim and moved to the prairie where we could get along faster. But we worked just as hard here. We had 100 acres of small grain before we had any reaper. Jim was the best hand with the cradle and I bound. We couldn't take our time for it. The grain had to be cut on time and that meant hustle every day just as hard as we could. We threshed our grain the first two years with a flail. Then we had a two-horse-power thresher. The first steam-power thresher in Haven was owned by Gen. Thomas of Elk River. Of course we had no mowers then. For years we cut over the big meadow with scythes, and we used to have some good races when we got some other boys to help.

"Our first reaper had a sort of weighted reel that pushed off a bundle of unbound grain at regular intervals. The next one had room for two men to stand on it. They took the bundles of grain in turn, bound them, and threw them off. Then we bought a harvester which had a revolving table with three men to bind. This cut a wider swath and was a little faster than the others. The worst trouble was that we always had to hurry so when the weather was so hot. When the days were extra bad we often worked at night.

"No one ever bought machinery on credit much in those days. We borrowed the money if we didn't have it. I remember father borrowed twenty dollars in gold to pay for our first breaking plow. The woman who loaned it to us let us have it on condition that we return the gold coin. We didn't get it paid for two years, when father had to pay fifty dollars in paper money to get the gold coin. I worked two days for interest.

"Wheat was forty cents when we paid seventeen dollars for a barrel of flour. But we had chances to make some money, too. One summer I traded ten bushels of wheat for two little two-year-old steers. A year from that fall I got \$150 for my team of oxen. One day Jim and I cut 500 tamarack posts and got fifty dollars for them. We broke eighteen acres of land for Mr. Jodoin and got two fine buffalo robes for it. (One of these robes is nearly as good as new now).

"I paid twelve per cent interest on the first hundred dollars I borrowed to buy land in Haven. Most of the time we paid six and seven.

"There were only three or four schools in the county when we came. We didn't go to school till we were about grown. Mr. Brady, a neighbor, decided to have his boy go to school. The only school available was a private school about five miles from his home in Clear Lake. He spotted trees in the fall and Joe Brady had a trail straight through the woods to school. He soon had a good path. Joe was a popular district judge in California in later years.

"Yes, of course, we had our scares about the Indians. Once Dr. Palmer of Sauk Center warned people here that there was to be an Indian outbreak. We all gathered in Galen Mault's large log house and the house was packed full. We

were worried about our stock. Most of them had turned everything loose and had a big job getting it together again. There was no outbreak.

"One day the Indians butchered the horse and carried it off. On day, about the time of the outbreak four big braves came up to the house when father was gone. I had an ax ready and Jim stood back of the door. Mother went to the door. The Indians asked for something to eat, got it and went away. I always had a good deal of sympathy for the Indians. The whites played so many dirty tricks on them. The white people were just as surely a curse to them as they were to the whites. I know one of the old settlers who kept a supply of whisky bottled in very small bottles. An Indian government blanket was an average price for one of these bottles."

The four daughters of L. W. Cater married farmers and all live in Haven township. L. W. Cater ran the farm till 1919 when he was seventy-two years of age. His son-in-law Frank Miller bought the farm and Mrs. and Mrs. Cater now live in Clear Lake. Two other sons of J. O. Cater are living. Track make his home in St. Cloud in summer and in Washington in winter. Herbert lives in St. Cloud. Only three of Mr. Cater's grandsons are farmers. Lloyd and Arthur have farms in Haven, and Otis has a big ranch in Washington.

PATRIARCH OF THE PRAIRIE.

JOSHUA O. CATER DIES AT AD-
VANCED AGE IN HAVEN
TOWN.

LIVED THERE FOR 42 YEARS.

WAS THE OLDEST OF A PROMI-
NENT NEW ENGLAND
FAMILY.

Joshua O. Cater, the first settler in what is now Haven township, Sherburne county, is dead at the age of 82. Mr. Cater was a veritable patriarch, and is survived by a family of grown children and numerous grand children. He had held several offices of trust in his town and his memory will long be cherished by his family and neighbors as that of an upright, honest man who had rounded out four score years in his community and left his children the heritage of a good name.

Joshua O. Cater was born June 25, 1821, at North Barrington, N. H., and emigrated to Princeton, this state, in 1860, coming a year later to Haven and taking a homestead near the present site of Cable station. He was married in 1846 to Miss Louisa Wood-Is. Eight children were born to their union, and of these five survive. They are: L. W., J. F. C., A. T., A. D. and H. J.. The deceased are: Ephriam E., Chas. Albert and Martha L. The venerable wife of deceased, died some years ago and in addition to his immediate family there are brothers, A. J. Cater of Walla Walla, Wash., and David Y., of North Barrington, N. H. The last named is still living on the Cater homestead where the family has resided for the past 150 years. All the sons are here for the funeral, which will be held from the late residence in Haven town at half-past 11 o'clock Tuesday morning. Rev. C. J. Swain pastor of the Cable Congrega-

tional church, officiating. The interment will be made at Clear Lake. H. J. Cater reached St. Cloud from his home at Jennings, La. on Saturday but too late to see his father alive. All the others live at Haven. The brothers, because of their advanced years, will not come on for the funeral.

J. O. Cater was the eldest of his family and was a man typical of the hardy New England stock from which he sprang. Strong in his convictions of right and wrong, he was uncompromising with what he believed to be bad and hearty in his sympathy with what he thought to be good. He was the first chairman of the Haven town board and had held various town and school district offices.

The immediate cause of death was blood-poisoning. Last August he sustained a minor injury to his leg. There was an abrasion of the skin and from this blood-poison ensued and ultimately caused his death. Since the death of his wife he had made his home on the old Cater homestead with a son, A. T., he having purchased the homestead some years ago.

The pallbearers selected for the funeral are; Ed. Stephens, C. W. Ayers, W. C. Scherzenberg, W. J. Kendrick, N. K. Hunt and Mr. Wiley.

The funeral of the late Joshua O. Cater was held at the family homestead at 10:30 this morning. Rev. C. J. Swain of Sauk Rapids officiated. The funeral services were quite largely attended by the old friends and neighbors of the family. The interment was made at the Clear Lake cemetery.

AN OLD SETTLER DEAD

J. O. Cater, of Cable, Gathered to His Fathers at the Advanced Age of Eighty-Three.

Saturday at 1 o'clock, at the Sherburne county home, following a long illness, occurred the death of J. O. Cater, for many years past a resident of this section of the state, and the patriarchal father of a large family of children who have grown up and settled for the most part in the community.

The deceased was a cripple for many years but not sufficiently to disable him. Recently his leg began to give him trouble and within a few days past gangrene set in, death being a result. His age was 83 years.

The funeral is to be held tomorrow from the home two miles southeast of Cable station and interment will be made at Clear Lake. Rev. Swayne, of Sauk Rapids, will officiate at the funeral exercises.

The surviving children of the deceased are five sons, Herbert, Woodberry, Trask, James and Arthur. The latter was sent for to Louisiana and arrived Sunday too late to see his father alive. One daughter along was born and she died more than a quarter of a century since.

*Published in the St. Cloud, Minn.
Daily Times Newspaper Dec. 28, 1903
Died June 26, 1903*

PAIRAKUH OF

THE PRAIRIE.

JOSHUA O. CATER DIES AT AD-
VANCED AGE IN HAVEN
TOWN.

Joshua O. Cater, the first settler in what is now Haven township, Sherburne county, is dead at the age of 82. Mr. Cater was a reputable patriarch, and is survived by a family of grown children and numerous grand children. He had held several offices of trust in his town and his memory will long be cherished by his family and neighbors as that of an upright, honest man who had rounded out four score years in his community and left his children the heritage of a good name.

Joshua O. Cater was born June 26, 1821, at North Barrington, N. H., and emigrated to Pringeton, this state, in 1850, coming a year later to Haven and taking a homestead near the present site of Cable station. He was married in 1845 to Miss Louisa Woods. Eight children were born to their union, and of these five survive. They are: L. W., J. F. G., A. T., A. D. and H. J.. The deceased are: Ephram E., Chas. Albert and Martha L. The venerable wife of deceased, died some years ago and in addition to his immediate family there are brothers, A. J. Cater of Wall, Walla, Wash., and David Y., of North Barrington, N. H. The last named is still living on the Cater homestead where the family has resided for the past 150 years. All the sons are here for the funeral, which was held from the late residence in Haven town at half-past 11 o'clock Tuesday morning, Rev. C. J. Swain, pastor of the Cable Congregational church, officiating. The interment was made at Clear Lake. H. J. Cater reached St. Cloud from his home at Jennings, La., on Saturday but too late to see his father alive. All the others live at Haven. The brothers, because of their advanced years, will not come on for the funeral.

J. O. Cater was the eldest of his family and was a man typical of the hardy New England stock from which he sprang. Strong in his convictions of right and wrong, he was uncompromising with what he believed to be what he thought to be good. He was the first chairman of the Haven town board and had held various town and school district offices.

The whole process is a learning experience, Scherfenberg said. It can be entertaining, he said, recalling the past of another one of his ancestors, J.O. Cater.

Cater was a grain farmer with a stubborn streak, according to Scherfenberg. However, the streak didn't run deep enough so that his sons couldn't talk Cater out of moving from the woods around Foley in 1860 to the treeless fields of Sherburne County's Haven Township. That first year they harvested 100 acres of grain.

The stubborn streak was demonstrated sometime later when the Northern Pacific Rail Road started laying tracks through Sherburne County. Cater didn't like the price he was offered for a section of his land so he spent the summer keeping track crews away with the persuading presence of a shotgun.

with the agreement that Cater the land. family could ride the train for free anytime and anywhere with the

Years later, Scherfenberg said, roads' records and found that even then, the company did not own the land. "He was stubborn," Scher-

The immediate cause of death was blood-poisoning. Last August he sustained a minor injury to his leg. There was an abrasion of the skin and from this blood-poison ensued and ultimately caused his death. Since the death of his wife he had made his home on the old Cater homestead with a son, A. T., he having purchased the homestead some years ago.

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Joshua Otis Cater
by Martha Scherfenberg

My grandfather, Joshua Otis Cater came to Minnesota from New Hampshire in 1856 with his three brothers, Joe, Martin and Andrew. They spent the summer here and Joe took a claim in Sherburn County. They all went back to New Hampshire that fall. Joe married there, and then came back to Minnesota and built a home in Princeton, where he kept the post office for many years. His brother Martin Cater lived on a farm near Princeton.

Joshua and his wife Louisa (Woodis) Cater came to Minnesota to live in 1860. At this time they had six boys, Wood, Jim, Ephraim, Trask, Arthur, Herbert, Charles and Martha were born in Minnesota.

In St. Paul when they came to Minn. they hired a man who had a team and wagon to take them to Princeton as did Joshua and the owner of the team. This man asked them only ten dollars for the trip.

Joshua had traded his farm in NY for 480 acres of Prairie land near St. Cloud, Minnesota. They lived with Joe and Martin the first summer and then moved out to St. Cloud. They had been on a very rocky farm in New Hampshire, then they had stumps and new land at Princeton. The prairie farm seemed wonderful to them.

Wood was now 14 and Jim 12 they had no easy time for the next few years. They had 100 acres of small grain before they had any kind of reaper. The boys got to be experts at cradling and binding. The first two years all the grain was thrashed with a flail, now owned by the writer) then they hired a 2 horse power thrasher, they got the different reapers as they came on the market, but for many years they had to work as fast as they were able all through harvest to get the grain before it went down. My father said in hot weather they slept part of the day and worked nearly all night. During the first years they were very hard up.

Grandpa (Joshua) bought a breaking plow for 20 dollars. He borrowed the money and promised to pay it back in gold. It was two years before he was able to pay it back and then had to pay \$50.00 in paper money to get the \$20 gold piece back.

Joshua's two children were born in Minnesota, both died in childhood. The six boys who came here from N.H. lived to marry and have families. My father, Levi Woodbury (Wood) lived to be 86. He had six children and 21 grandchildren. There are now 40 of his great grandchildren.

Joshua's grandchildren and great grandchildren are worthy representatives of the grand family. I am his oldest grandchild. I am proud of my six children as 'samples'. My eldest daughter teaches here in the Black Hills Teachers College. Ruth my second child teaches remedial reading in Portland, Oregon. Frank my

oldest boy owns 880 acres in the Red River Valley and has just been voted 'Master Farmer'. Lester gets a good salary at fine machine work in Minneapolis, Ben is an electrical engineer with Northern States Power Co. and Burt is director of eleven counties in F.H.A.

For myself, I can say only that I have brought up six children as good Americans who do a lot for their church and worthy organizations, never touch a drop of liquor or use profane language. But they are no sissies, they will be tough on themselves as President Ike says, if we have a long war.

Burt was in the last war two years and he wrote me "I am not kicking about food or anything I have to do I am just homesick".

NOTE: It is this authors belief according to records that the three children born in Minnesota were Martha born Mar 8 1861 and died Oct 22 1896 and not at child birth. Herbert John born Apr 2 1863 and died June 6 1939 and Asa Trask who died Dec 15 1938. This will differ from Martha's recollections that all the children born in Minn died in childbirth. This is incorrect, There were three children born in Minnesota and not two, and none died in childbirth. No record has ever been found on Joshua having two children born in New Hampshire who died in childbirth before Levi was born.

Joseph Low Cater arrived in Minn 1855 went back to N.H, that fall and in 1856 with three brothers returned to Minnesota where Joshua stayed with Joseph and his family for 1 year in 1960.

THE CATER FAMILY
by Ruth Scherfenberg

We have just a little printed material about our family, but my grandfather had a good memory. His name was Levi Woodbury Cater. His father was Joshua Otis and his father was Ephraim. Back of these three generations the family does not pretend to have much authentic records. Most of the Cater family have been English and French. The name originally was DeCatur. Stephen DeCatur who was in the war of 1812 was our ancestor. Three brothers came here and each one decided to found a family. The oldest one kept the name DeCatur the next was Cater and the youngest was Cates. The last one died early in life without family. The other two have descendants in many of the states. A story from a Rochester NH paper which my mother has kept begins Aug 28 1903, the 28th annual reunion of the Cater and DeCatur families.

My great grandfather Joshua Otis Cater died just before I was born but I have heard a great deal about him. He was a brilliant man but was not as popular as my grandfather was. He was born at North Barrington, NH in 1821. He was brought up on a farm but farming was not the only occupation. Everyone who could work in factories did so. The farms were rocky. When they came here the prairie land seemed wonderful to them. The fences in NH were stone walls. J.O. fell on one of these when he was a boy. His hip was hurt so badly that one leg was two inches shorter than the other. He always walked with a limp but he was a very strong man. J.O. was married in 1846 to Louisa Woodis, a quacker girl who worked in a factory. She was Scotch Irish. They had seven sons and one girl who died when she was eight years old. The son, Charles died about the same time.

In 1856 J.O. came to Minnesota accompanied by his three brothers Joe, Martin and Andrew. They spent the summer here. Joe took a claim in Sherburne County. They all went back east and Joe was married there. He came back however, and built a house in Princeton and had the post office there for years. In 1860 J.O, and his wife came back here. They came to La Crosse on the train and from there to St. Paul by boat. J.O. bought a three year old heifer in St. Paul but he had no money for horses or oxen as they were high at that time. He hired a man with a team and wagon to take their trunks from St. Paul to Princeton and paid ten dollars for this. Louisa drove the team, The three younger children rode, but the men and older boys walked. Grandpa (L.W.) was thirteen then and Jim eleven. Everything they brought from the east was on that one wagon and there was no money for anything more except their food. On the train they were allowed one hundred pounds per person and people tried not to bring more. Freight was high. They brought no farming equipment. They lived with Joe and Martin the first summer. The next year they cleared a small plot and had it in corn and garden. Then the boys persuaded their father to move to the prairie land in Haven township, Sherburne County. They obtained 480 acres by trading in their NH farm. They got along better here but worked very hard.

They had 100 acres of small grain before they had any kind of a reaper. Grandpa's brother Jim used the cradle and Grandpa bound. Both of them were hard to beat. They had to be good because the grain had to be cut before it went down. The first two years that they were on the prairie they threshed all their grain with a flail. Then they hired a two horse power thresher. Their first reaper had a weighted reel that pushed off a bundle of unbound grain at regular intervals. The next one had room for two men to stand and take the bundles of grain in turn and bind them and toss them off. Then they bought a harvester that had a revolving table, with three men to bind. This cut a wider swath and was a little faster, but they had to hurry too much to get the grain cut in time. When days were too hot they worked most of the night. J.O. borrowed twenty dollars in gold to pay for their first breaking plow. He promised to pay back in gold coin. He paid it back in two years but he had to pay fifty dollars in paper money to get the gold. They had 160 acres of meadow land and sold tons and tons of hay which all had to be mowed and bunched by hand. One day Grandpa and Uncle Jim cut five hundred tamarack posts and sold them for fifty dollars. They broke eighteen acres of land for a neighbor and got two large buffalo robes. We have the larger one which seems unbelievably big for one hide.

They had many scares about the Indians. Once they all gathered in the largest log house in the neighborhood and stayed three days. There was no outbreak. They had trouble finding their stock as most of the stock had been turned loose. The Indians were daring. One day when grandma was alone with the children the Indians butchered a steer in the yard in full view from the house and carried the meat away. They often came and demanded food.

J.O. helped to organize the town of Haven and was the first chairman of supervisors. Briggs township had been divided into Haven and Palmer. The two towns were to have been called Cater and Briggs but the two families had a spat and the towns were named for outsiders. It was too bad as the two families were soon friends again.

Grandpa Joshua should have been a lawyer. He really enjoyed a lawsuit. People came from miles away to ask him questions about law. He had a great 'row' when they put the railroad cornerwise through his farm. He stopped the work for awhile but he had to give up. He carried a case with the telephone company to the Supreme Court. The decision made there was the first in regard to cutting trees and setting posts for lines. The Caters wrote the petition for the old road along the Mississippi River where it is now. J.O. had a great time about one road that he didn't want. This was a track which cut through his land which they persisted in keeping in use long enough to make it a legal road. They cut wires and cut down posts and made all kinds of trouble for him before they gave up. He finally set posts very deeply in the ground, studded thickly with nails to hinder chopping. He finally got the road on his line.

About the year 1880 a publishing company sent men through this territory gathering history for a book: 'A History of the Upper Mississippi Valley'. They made a calling on early settlers in each town and getting a brief life story. One of these men talked to J.O. Cater and son Eph and took notes on their history. The son ordered one of the books, but J.O. did not, as they were ten dollars and he thought one in the family would do. A while later an agent brought the one Eph had ordered and also one for Joshua which the agent claimed J.O. had ordered. J.O. sent him away. Another man came and was sent away. When the third one came, J.O. talked very pointedly to him and told him to tell his company they'd better not dare sent another man. Then the company brought suit against him. In the meantime J.O. found that some of his friends had been bluffed into paying ten dollars for the book when they had not ordered it. In each case the company based its claim upon the fact that they had the man's history in the book. J.O. drove many miles finding people in Foreston, Princeton and in Sherburne County who would appear at the trial as his witnesses and they all told the same story. M.D. Taylor of St. Cloud was his attorney. He won the case.

The trial was at Elk River. J.O. had so many witnesses that when there was no train that night, J.O. went to Quinn Nickerson, hotel-keeper and asked him if he could get up a good supper for them. Nickerson guaranteed the meal and secured help. Then J.O. got the skating rink for a dance, sent some friends out to ask everyone and provided the music and supper free. Grandpa L.W. said it was one of the biggest times he ever went to.

The Cater family has never been strong on war. J.O. was called and an officer said he was exempt. A few days later he heard from St. Cloud that he would have to go. He was a fast walker and a strong man, but one leg was shorter than the other. He had a noticeable limp and always used a cane. When he got this word from St. Cloud he took his cane and started for St. Paul. He walked all the way, went to the head officer and told him he was suppose to go into the army. How could he when he carried a cane? The officer swore and said "What is thinking of?" We don't want any cripples in the army." So Joshua got something to eat and started back. It was rather a joke in the family that he was a good walker but couldn't march, though no one blamed him. He was only a boy and there were many younger ones.

Ephraim Cater and Descendants
by Capitola Cater Jordal
grandaughter of Andrew Jackson Cater

When the land in the towns of Barrington and Strafford was put up to be drawn by lottery, John Cater drew Lot No 9 containing one hundred and fifty acres, the same now owned by David Y. Cater

In 1830 Ephraim Cater and Daniel Ham ran for selectman; the first vote was a tie, and the same result followed three distinct elections on different days. It was finally settled by choosing an outsider, the adherents of each claiming that they would stand by their man until death.

The family is noted for their longevity. In politics Ephraim was a democrat and with pride he said he cast his first vote for General Jackson. He carried his great age easily, reading the finest print without the aid of glasses, thru his last years,

This is quoted from the Barrington Chapters of the "History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties" published in 1882.

Ephraim Cater was the third child on paternal side of John Cater III. He was born in Barrington Jan 9 1800 and married Charlotte Otis of Strafford Oct 25 1821. His children were all born in Barrington. His eldest son Joshua Otis married Louisa Woodis, in Lowell, Mass Aug 29 1846.

Strange to relate, but the marriage records in Lowell, record his name as "John Decatur". Stranger still, he never used that name nor have his descendants. Joshua always said that "Cater" was a good enough name for him and incidentally, so did my father Chas. Cater saying the same thing after a trip back to Maine and New Hamp, many many years ago.

As a child I can remember hearing my father tell his friends that he and his father Andrew Jackson Cater visited many cemeteries where his family had been buried for a great many years and that "Cater" was the only name that they found inscribed on tombstones there. Upon returning home he decided that he would retain the name of "Cater" as long as he lived and all of his children have done the same. His only brother "Joe Cater" who resided in Spokane, Wash. at the time and Joe's son Clare C. Cater now of Spokane Wash. also used the name "Cater". However, my father's four sisters, Abbie Mae, Evelyn and Maude decided that they would take the name of "Decatur" as also did their children.

Andrew Jackson Cater was Ephraim's fourth child. He married Clara Grant and they had six children, two boys and four girls. My family being descended from this second son "Chas Cater" who married Grace Ellis Holman. They had six children, one boy and five girls. Lottie who died when only a few years old, Dessie, Capitola and

Grace and Blanche and Charles Jr. To date this family has had four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. One grandson, having passed away on Dec 28 1949 in an automobile accident at Griffith Park.

My grandfather Andrew Jackson who served in the Civil War was granted land in Minn. as many Civil War Veterans were. Even my father Chas, homesteaded a big farm here at Herman, Minn.

These Minnesota brothers raised fine families, who are scattered all thru the west. Some located in the south. In fact, there may be more "Caters" then "Decatur" in Minn. (Many more, as all the St. Cloud descendants are "Caters" and there are many hundreds of them there). And more in the west than are in New England.

Two sons of Ephraim who remained in the east had no children. The first reunion was held in the homestead which was then in Ephraim's possession. He died in 1887 and is buried on the land that his father had owned. A nice stone marks his grave.

Andrew Jackson Cater: Co. D 5th Regiment NH Volunteer Infantry
 age 20 Res Rochester, Enlist Mar 10 1862 mustered out Apr 2 1862
 as a private died Jul 13 1863 at Lt Wood New York Hosp
 (fm Reg NH Soldiers and Sailors, War of Rebellion by Anyling Ch 5)
 Who could this man be?

GOOD OLD LADY GONE

Mrs. A. M. Cater, One of Princeton's Early Settlers, Dies After Illness of Short Duration.

Was a Woman of Many Noble Qualities and Much Beloved by All

Those Who Knew Her.

Mrs. A. M. Cater, one of Princeton's oldest and most respected citizens, died at a quarter after 8 o'clock on Friday morning, November 8, from kidney trouble superinduced by a cold. Mrs. Cater had passed her 75th year and up to within ten days of her death was in fairly good health.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. George Swerfager in the Congregational church on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock and the body was followed to its last resting place in Oak Knoll cemetery by a large number of the kind and gentle old lady's friends.

The pallbearers were Messrs. F. M. Campbell, J. W. Goulding, Charles Judkins, L. S. Libby, A. W. Woodcock and Solomon Long.

Relatives of Mrs. Cater from out of town who attended the funeral were: T. Cater, Edward Cater, Arthur Cater, St. Cloud, Mrs. E. L. Spencer, Miss Eunice James, Minneapolis, and George Wheeler, St. Paul.

Mrs. Cater was born in New Hampshire on June 13, 1832. Her maiden name was Amanda M. Moulton, and she was married to M. V. B. Cater on September 19, 1852, in her home state. In 1857, with her husband, she came to Minnesota and settled on a homestead in Sherburne county—the farm now owned by E. Lenz. Mr. and Mrs. Cater remained upon this homestead until 1862, when they moved onto a farm about a mile west of Princeton. Shortly after the death of her husband, in 1884, she vacated this farm and came into the village of Princeton to reside, remaining here to the time of her death. She was the mother of four children, viz., Emma F. (Mrs. Griffith), Edwin V., John W. and Lilly A. (Mrs. Blakney). Mrs. Griffith of Princeton and John W. Cater of Boston, Minn., are the only children surviving her.

Mrs. Cater was a true Christian, a devout member of the Congregational church and also a member of the Dorcas society. She was of a kindly disposition, charitable to a fault, and generous to the needy—ever ready to assist the afflicted and relieve suffering. Coming, as she did, to the northwest when it was a veritable wilderness, she was compelled to endure many hardships and privations, but perseverance and an implicit faith in her Maker enabled her to overcome all obstacles and, with other pioneers, prepare a way for future generations. Many are those who will mourn this truly good woman's taking away.

Death of E. W. Cater.

It becomes our sad duty to chronicle the demise of one of Princeton's most respected citizens, Mr. E. W. Cater, which occurred at his late home, four miles east of this village, last Sunday evening. Mr. Cater had contracted a virulent type of typhoid fever while ministering to his brother and mother, who were afflicted with the disease, and for ten or twelve days prior to his death was delirious most of the time. The funeral, on Tuesday, was largely attended, for he was held in high esteem by his neighbors. Services were held in the M. E. church, the Rev. J. S. Bunick officiating. The remains were carried to Oak Knoll cemetery, and tenderly and reverently deposited alongside those of his father, who had preceded him.

Deceased was born in Barrington, N. H., June, 1853, and came to Minnesota with his parents two years later; has resided in Princeton ever since up to the time of his death. On Sept. 4th, 1875, he was married to Miss Annita Brown, at her father's home, in East Minneapolis. It was a genuine love match and they lived happily together. Five children, three boys and two girls, the youngest of which is a little over a year old, blessed the union. Mr. Cater was a general progressive man, and had opened up one of the best farms in Miller Lake county. Everything around his place betokened thrift and energy, and it seems hard that he should be called away just as he was beginning to enjoy the fruits of his hard labor. Last spring, by an almost unanimous vote he was chosen a member of the board of supervisors of Princeton township, and the wester, who was associated with him on the board, can truthfully say, he served the town well and faithfully. He was a public-spirited citizen, and his vote and influence were ever cast in favor of any measure that would tend to promote the interests of his town and county. Mr. Cater will be missed, sadly missed, in the neighborhood where he resided, by his mother, brother and sisters, but most of all by his bereaved wife and five little children—for he was a kind and affectionate husband and father. Honest, genial friend, farewell!

Mrs. A. M. Cater was the wife of Martin Cater who was the brother of Joshua and Joseph. She was the mother of Edward W. who was the father Edward M. Cater who married Nellie Cater. Their sons are Charles, Lyle, Marion and Wayne Cater.

George W DeCatur (1836-1909) married 1858 Mary E Shedd b 1838

George Cater: age 32 Sex male single length of res 5 mo occupation
labor place of birth no value of property
(taken from the census, territories of New Mex and Ariz 1864
p 197)

From Dover NH Public Lib Dover GT Falls and Rochester Dir 1884-
1845 by Dudley

Geo F Cater Fireman for CmCo address 16 Atkinson 1876-1877

Geo F Cater Eng House 16 Atkinson (Bdwy) and in 1892 also Eng
only house at 30 Atkinson

Pioneers Of Haven Town Observe 50th Jubilee Thursday

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Cater, Now
Of Clear Lake, Have Hun-
dred and Three Guests

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Cater of Clear Lake celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at Clear Lake yesterday. Dinner was served to one hundred and three guests at noon; the table decorated with yellow roses and a huge wedding cake.

Guests at the dinner include Herbert and Frank Cater of St. Cloud and James Cater of Minneapolis, brothers of Mr. Cater; Mrs. Frank Wellington of Big Lake and Mrs. J. H. Williams of Chicago, Mrs. Cater's sister; and Mr. Charles Snow of Minneapolis, her brother; Mrs. Ruth Eddy and son, Mr. and Mrs. Almon Hanson of Big Lake; Mrs. A. D. Cater of Brainerd; Mrs. Arthur O'Neill and Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Neill and Miss Hazel Cater of Minneapolis. The fourteen grandsons and six granddaughters of Mr. and Mrs. Cater were all present. It is a remarkable fact that in this family of thirty members there has not been a death in the last twenty-three years.

The evening reception was given at the Clear Lake town hall which was beautifully decorated. A second dinner was served at 7:30 to the one hundred relatives and about three hundred invited guests.

A short program was given by relatives of the bride and groom. Miss Hazel Cater of Minneapolis gave two beautiful vocal solos accompanied by Mrs. McCormack of St. Cloud. Mrs. Abbie Miller and Mrs. Lottie Davis daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Cater sang "Put on your Old Grey Bonnet." They were accompanied by Miss Edna Cater of St. Cloud. Miss Gertrude Evert gave a piano solo. Charles Cater of St. Cloud, the only son, gave a short resume of the married life of his parents. He emphasized the fact that through hard work they had always been in comfortable circumstances, their principal comfort in the consciousness that their life was well-

lived, and their pride was in their family, not in material things.

The program was followed by dancing.

During the afternoon Grandpa and Grandma Cater showed they were good sports by driving around town in a jazzy old car with a bunch of their grandsons who had decorated with old tires, old shoes, mottos, a red flag and a bottle of "Grandpa Cater's Special" in a conspicuous place. This proved to be coffee, his strongest drink.

Mr. Cater was supposed to be largely responsible for county option in Sherburne county before the days of prohibition.

A pretty sight was that of the four grey-haired Cater brothers standing together for their photograph.

Mr. Cater will be eighty years old in September and Mrs. Cater had her 73rd birthday in April. They were both born in New England. Mr. Cater in Bangor, Maine, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Snow who moved to Minnesota when Mrs. Cater was 14 years of age. Mr. Cater came with his parents at the age of thirteen. Mr. and Mrs. Cater were married in Big Lake and made their home on a farm in Haven town for 41 years. Eight years ago they moved to Clear Lake. They have four daughters, Mrs. W. F. Scherfenberg, Mrs. E. M. Cater, Mrs. Frank Miller, and Mrs. Judson Davis, who live

within two miles of each other in Haven, and one son, Charles, of St. Cloud.

Mr. Cater held town office nearly all his forty-one years on his own farm but when delegates came to him repeatedly to get him to try higher offices, he always said "I am happier where I am."

Mrs. Cater at yesterday's festivities wore her wedding gown of half a century ago, a yellow silk poplin with accordion pleats.

June 16, 1927

Published Dec 13 —
St. Cloud Daily Times

JAMES F. CATER DIES ON COAST

Succumbs at Home of Daughter in Los Angeles; Went West 7 Weeks Ago.

James F. C. Cater, one of the prominent pioneers of Sherburne county for many years, died at 11:45 a. m. Friday at the home of his daughter, Louise, in Los Angeles, California. He had been ill for two weeks.

Mr. Cater was born near Dover, New Hampshire, on February 5, 1850. At the age of eight years he came to Minnesota with his parents, who were among the first pioneer settlers in Sherburne county.

—January 4, 1880, he married Miss Frona B. Schneider of Two Rivers from which union the following daughters were born: Mrs. Emogene Johnson, Punsutawney, Pa.; Louise and Martha Cater, Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Grace Lynch, St. Cloud; Mrs. Bessie Ewald, Chicago; Mildred, now deceased and Hazel at River Falls, Wis. There are 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Brothers surviving are: L. W. Cater, Clear Lake; A. T. Cater, now in Marlin, Wash.; and H. J. Cater of St. Cloud.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.



J.F.C.
ST. CLOUD, MINN.

ARTHUR GEORGE CATER

Arthur George Cater, route one, St. Cloud died Sunday. He was a life long resident of Haven township, Sherburne county, born Aug. 1, 1882, a son of the late, Ephriam and Mary Cater.

On May 14, 1913, he married Flora J. Payne, who survives with the following children: Harold, Donald and Arthur Jr., St. Cloud; Howard, St. Augusta; Erwin, Santa Cruz, Calif.; Mrs. James Smith (Eleanore) St. Cloud; Mrs. James S. Baker (Blanche) Minneapolis; Mrs. Richard Schibongki (Donna) Sauk Rapids; Mrs. John Kretchmer (Annabelle) Minneapolis; Mrs. Dale Grunseth (Fae) Tucson, Ariz.

There are 23 grandchildren.

One brother, Edgar A. Cater, St. Cloud, also survives.

Friends may call at the Tschumperlin - Williams funeral home Tuesday after 7 p.m. Other arrangements are incomplete.

Burial will be made in the Clear Lake cemetery.

MARY ELIZABETH BOYD CATER

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Boyd Cater, 624 Fourth avenue south, died at 10:05 Sunday morning at the age of 78 years. She had been ill for several months.

The funeral will be held at the residence at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and at 2:30 o'clock from First Presbyterian church with Rev. H. E. Baldwin officiating. Burial will be in the family lot in the Clear Lake cemetery where Mrs. Cater's husband, Ephriam E. Cater, was buried 42 years ago. Pallbearers will be Fred Mosford of Clear Lake, Charles Beard, Rufus Biggerstaff, George Scherfberg, Boile-Pudnam and E. J. Kennedy.

Born in Harlan, Ill. on May 8, 1857, Mrs. Cater grew up in Harlan and in Louisville, Kentucky. She made the trip to St. Paul on a Mississippi steamboat settling in Clear Lake. She moved to St. Cloud 23 years ago. She was a member of the Presbyterian church and the women's missionary society of that church.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter, Mrs. A. J. Curry, and Arthur and Edgar Cater of St. Cloud. There are 18 grandchildren. A sister, Mrs. A. C. Branchley lives in West Allis, Wisconsin.

E. E. CATER was born in Stafford county, New Hampshire, on the 23d of April, 1852. Came with his parents to Minnesota, and this township, in 1860, and has lived here ever since. In 1879, he removed to the farm which he now occupies. Mr. Cater was married on the 26th of October, 1878, to Miss Mary Boyd, of Clear Lake. Of two children born to them, but one is living.

Albert A, Cater

Son of Arthur Douglas Cater

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As auditor of Case County, Minnesota Albert A. Cater is giving the taxpayers of the county an illustration of what hard and fast rules of economy can do in the way of saving their money. In the first year of Mr. Cater's occupancy of the office the saving has amounted to something over one hundred and ten thousand dollars as compared with the expenditures of other years. There was a crying demand for economy by taxpayers and the board of county commissioners, with the able assistance of Mr. Cater set itself the task of pruning away every expenditure that was not absolutely requisite for the county's welfare. The results accomplished during the one year of 1923 give eloquent promise for the future financial ease of the county, and a great part of the credit is due to Mr. Cater, and it is accorded him by the voters. He was born in Haven Township, Sherburne County, Minn, on April 12 1885, the son of Arthur D, and Martha A (Chisholm) Cater, the father being a native of New Hampshire and the mother of the Province of Quebec, Canada. They were among the pioneers of Minnesota, and located in the state with their sons Albert, Allen, when the latter was only two years old. The father was a lumberman by occupation and has followed the business practically all of his life, and in addition has conducted a farm in Sherburne county for a good many years. He is now a resident of Pine River, Minnesota where his occupation is that of timber buying for the Cuyuna Range mines.

Albert A. Cater obtained his education from a number of sources. He attended the grade schools of Sherburne county when a boy, and went from them to the high school at Anoka, Minnesota and followed this with a business course in the Vath Business College at St. Cloud, Minnesota. After ending his schooling Mr. Cater was engaged in a general merchandise business at Sauk Rapids, Minnesota for two years, after which he worked for five years for the International Lumber Company at International Falls, Minnesota. For the next eight years Mr. Cater was employed in the land and timber department of the state auditors office, his headquarters being at Cass Lake, Minnesota. He was at Cass Lake when in November 1922 he was elected county auditor of Cass County.

Mr. Cater was married in June 1910 to Hattie Manthey and to them 5 children have been born: Allen, Mildred, Dorothy, May and Marie the two latter being twins. Politically Mr. Cater is a republican and in religion he and his wife are members of the Luthern church. Fraternally Mr. Cater belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge of Brainerd, Minnesota and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge at Cass Lake.

Ida Elizabeth Gulde, wife of Lloyd C Cater

Ida was born in Eden Township, Marshall Co, Iowa daughter of Rosa Catherine Kieler, of Wisconsin and Jacob Ginter Gulde born May 20 1873 and died Jan 17 1937. Frank Luis Gulde father of Jacob born Apr 2 1867 and died July 4 1937. Ida's parents were married Sept 19, 1892.

Ida was 5 years old when the family moved to Minnesota about March 1899 and didn't know direction, but she believed it was 4 or 5 miles from Baxter.

The above information supplied by Dorothy Cater Bengsten, a dau. The following is my recollection of both Ida and Lloyd Cater.

I remember visiting Uncle Lloyd and Aunt Ida on their farm and how I looked forward to visiting with them, we would get up early do our chores with no argument because we were going to the farm. I remember hunting season, when Aunt Ida would sew red patches on the hunting jackets, preparing food weeks in advance, and getting the 1 1/2 ton truck ready. The truck had a canvas top with stake sides covered with a canvas tarp, inside the truck they had beds, a stove to heat with and I think to cook on. It looked very comfortable and how I wished I could go. I remember helping just a little and with envy as Uncle Lloyd prepared for this trip up north to hunt deer in the snow. I waited patiently until his return and watched for his truck to return so we could have a venison dinner. They introduced me to wild meat and today venison and bear are my favorite meats. Ida did a marvelous job in preparing those meals and probably never knew at the time for those days, year after year. Ida's life before marriage was very hard as it was for everybody and when she married Lloyd she worked like a man in the fields and at thrashing time, which was another big event in my life, we would pile into the car and head for Uncle Lloyds farm where we children (my brother and Dorothy and Myrtle, my sister phyllis being to young) drove the pony with a cart full of lemonade and water into the fields for the field hands. I think back now what a bother we must have been always in the way and asking to many questions but those days I still cherish and were very happy times for me. During trashing times, cows were milked and we drank warm milk, Uncle Lloyd used to squirt milk into my mouth, how I loved it, but my brother would not drink milk unless it came from a bottle, so they would put the milk into the bottle and he drank his fill. They always had a bottle of milk ready for my brother. I can remember the many tables of delicious foods and so pretty arranged, and later how all the grandfathers would husk corn brought in with the pony and wagon, some would take the kernals from the cob and the women filling canning jars. They would can enough for everybody to last until next harvesting time. It was a lot of work dishes, canning and hauling the cobs and husks off and cleaning up after the days work, but I loved it all I wanted to be everywhere at one time. To me, it was the only way to live and I dreaded the time when it was time to go home. Dorothy reminded me of when I would get sick watching the cattle eat the cobs,

I remember us kids going into watermelon patch and jauling back mellon and putting them in the horse trough to cool to eat later. And we ate our hearts out. After the Lloyd Cater family moved into St. Cloud, and we were a little older, I would invent excuses to go to their house which was only a couple blocks away and I would talk to Uncle Lloyd and Aunt Ida for hours and follow them around like a puppy dog, they were the closest thing I had in having parents. How I loved them. One night after dark, and the huge apple tree in their yard was full of apples ready to eat I climbed out of the upstairs window in my home and down the porch roof and climbed down a big oak tree to the ground and I snuck over to Uncle Lloyds house and I climbed the apple tree and was busy stealing apples, not knowing it, they watched me and had called my grandparents and told them what was going on, and to have them tell me to go back after more, I went back for more apples and was securely in the tree, when all of a sudden, I was being sprayed with water from the garden hose held in the hands of my uncle, being to scared of what would happen, I ran all the way home, with no apples, and was met at the door by my grandparents, wearing a grin on their face, and asked me if I had learned my lesson, I was grounded all the next week, I learned later Dorothy and Uncle Lloyd and caught me and had told me grandparents not to punish me that he would take care of it, and he did, I never ate another apple off his tree. We loved to ride the pony and wore the animal out, it was later sold to LeRoy Davis. How many memories that live with me today and I get a chuckle out of them all.

WILLIAM JAMES CATER, one of the very prominent men in the business world of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, was born December 8, 1874, at Brickville, Ontario, a son of William and Mary Ann (Ferris) Cater, of Ontario.

The early education of Mr. Cater was received in the public schools of the community in which he was born and reared. Later, he removed to the United States, and there attended the Boston Business College, in Boston, Massachusetts. He then went to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and there entered the grocery and general market trade. He continued in this type of endeavor for twenty-five consecutive years, meanwhile engaging in further business pursuits. For several years he held the position of general manager and treasurer of the Eldridge Brewing Company, and was also managing director of the Times Publishing Company. In 1921, he retired from this line of business activity to give all of his time to his increasingly large realty interests. He is now president of the Atlantic Heights Real Estate Company, and is also a director of the Portsmouth Trust and Guarantee Company, and the Portsmouth Building and Loan Association.

Mr. Cater is active in the civic affairs of his city, as well as the general affairs of his State. A staunch supporter of the Republican party, it was upon this ticket that he was twice elected a member of the City Council of Portsmouth, an office he held for the usual two-year term. He also served as a representative to the New Hampshire State Legislature for two terms, and in the year 1924 was a delegate to the National Republican Convention. Mr. Cater was appointed a member of the New England Commission on Foreign and Domestic Commerce by Governor John H. Bartlett, serving on this commission for three years. He has also served as a major on Governor Bartlett's staff. During the period of the World War, Mr. Cater served as a

member of the Fuel Commission. In his fraternal affiliations, he is a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, Free and Accepted Masons, passing through successive honors to the thirty-second degree, of the Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite; the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Cater is very active in club work, a member of the Warwick Club, of which he is president; the Portsmouth Country Club, the Portsmouth Athletic Club, of which he served two years as its president; and the Boston Athletic Club.

William James Cater married, in Portsmouth, Sadie A. Holmes, daughter of Joseph R. and Charlotte (Seavey) Holmes. Mr. and Mrs. Cater maintain their residence in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

JAMES A. BARNES was born in Barnesville September 19, 1823. He was reared a farmer, and for a number of years followed that occupation. In 1849 he married Miss Matilda Cater, a daughter of William Cater, of Somerset township, where he had removed. In February, 1864, he enlisted in the army and became a member of Company C of the 60th O. V. I., and served fifteen months. Participated in the attack on the lines at Petersburg, and on the 30th of September, 1864, lost his right arm in the engagement at Poplar Grove Church, Va. Returned home May 15, 1865. In 1866 he was elected assessor of Somerset township, and also was made collector of that township for the county treasurer. In the year following he was re-elected assessor and also justice of the peace, serving one term. In 1868 his wife died and in the winter of 1869 he removed from Boston, his home in Somerset, to Barnesville, where, in the spring of 1870, he was elected assessor. In the fall of 1871 he was elected to the office of county recorder, on the Republican ticket, by a majority of 25 votes. He took charge of the office January 1, 1872. He was re-elected in 1874 by 491 votes, and run again in 1877, but, being declared beaten by two votes, he contested the election and won it by three. He was married to his second wife, Lizza A. Bumgarner, daughter of H. R. Bumgarner, of St. Clairsville, in 1876. He has rendered full satisfaction as a public officer.

That was 625 years ago (656 in 1929) and the Decatur emigrant came direct to America from France only 181 years ago; so there can be no connection between the two families or names.

In copies of English records we will find "Thomas Cater, witness to the will of John Batt of the Cittie of Newe Sarum, County of Wiltshire, Tanner, sick into dye. Dated Oct 1557". "Aevliscombe Devonshire, England, Ciprian Cato and Maude Pringe were married 1580." The last of these two records, that of the marriage of 1580 is forty years before the Mayflower came to Plymouth and nearly seventy years before Richard Cater came to Dover,

"Martha Pennoyer, of London, widow, relect of William Pennoyer late of London, Esq., deceased" will, dated "16 July 1672 proved July 1674 wills "To my cousin Andrew Cater, minister at Hide Hall twenty pounds and to his brother Henry Cater twenty pounds." This is of interest because at the time of the American Revolution there was in New Hampshire an Andrew Cater who went to war from Stratham, thus showing the connection between the American and English branches of the family.

The first settlement in New Hampshire was made at Dover and the next at Portsmouth. Matthew Giles was living on property 24 June 1648, as by deed from Richard Cater, so that he must have been in Dover as early as 1648 to be able to deed property to others. Savages Dictionary of New England Families gives Richard Cater of Dover, 1650 had Richard who died about 1690. Richard, Dover, son of the preceeding died 15 June 1703. We also find Richard Cater was taxed in Dover 1650; at Bloody Point in 1656 before the end of 1655 had taken "ye oath of fidelity." The son Richard had land given him in 1693/4 in addition to his fathers plantation.

The early New Hampshire records were not kept as carefully as one might wish. In speaking of the settlement of Dover, one writer says "The New Hampshire colonists, neither Pilgrims nor Puritans, satisfied with both the existence and the ceremonies of the Established Church, the Espiscopalian, came here as bold and hardy pioneers in commercial enterprise, whose number of beaver skins bought of the Indians, or of fish cured for the English markets, had none of the romance to attract a historian.

Dover, New Hampshire, was settled in 1623 and was first called Pascataquack, as was also Portsmouth, afterwards Cocheco and Northam, but has borne the name of Dover more than two hundred years. The name Bloody Point came to be attached to part of Newington, lying in Dover jurisdiction, during Capt. Wiggins control, before 1635. The two patents, the Dover of Swamscot, the Pascataqua or Portsmouth, conflicted. A point of land in the present town of Newington was convenient for each and included in each. Capt. Wiggins, agent for the upper plantation, and Capt Neal agent for the lower, disputed about the possession and drew swords. "But, says Hubbard, both the litigants had so much wit in their anger as to waive the battle, each accounting himself to have done very manfully in what was threatened, so as in respect, not of what did, but what might have fallen out, the place to this day retains the formidable name of Bloody Point.