

THE CITY OF TROY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
TROY, ALABAMA

June 2, 1953

Rev. F. B. Peeples  
Jesup, Ga.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of May 20, 1953 is quite interesting. Some thirty years ago I was in Barnwell and that neighborhood searching for material relative to the Cater family. In the course of my search there was a suggestion from some one that there was a Rhodes-Gater connection and that a family of that connection lived in that section. (As I recall it the name of the family was Rhodes, or possibly Lawton.) In any event I visited the residence of this family and was shown a family Bible, which in all probability is the one you have. My older notes are not available just at this time and after all these years my memory is not too clear as to the details. I do not recall the exact location of the residence, but it must have been within a radius of not more than about forty miles of Barnwell. The entries in the Bible were of too late a date to throw light on my problem, so the matter made no great impression on my mind.

I have just recently heard from another source of the Bible in the possession of Mrs. Charles F. Cater of Quitman, Georgia. I am assuming that this is the same Bible that many years ago was in the possession of a Cater family in Forsyth, Georgia, who were descendants of Lewis Franklin Cater of Perry, Georgia. Lewis Franklin Cater was a descendant of Thomas Miles Cater (1786-1819) and his second wife, Catherine Johnson. He was son of their son, Thomas Johnson Cater.

I feel sure ~~###~~ that the Bible now in Mrs. Cater's possession is the same as the one above referred to by me, and, if so, I have seen it, studied the entries in it and made copies of them, which I still have.

As a matter of fact this is not the FAMILY BIBLE of Thomas Cater and Rachel Miles. It is the family Bible of Thomas Miles Cater, and it is so written on the fly leaf. There are numerous entries of births and deaths of the children of Thomas Miles Cater and his two wives, together with similar entries as to himself and his wives and the dates of their marriages, and several comments of a religious nature signed by him and his wives. All these entries evidently were made by Thomas Miles Cater and his wives.

\* { Preceding the above entries there is a list of entries giving the dates of birth, death and marriage of Thomas Cater (1751) and Rachel Miles and the dates of birth of their children, and in the same instances the dates of their death and marriage. With the exception of the date of death of Thomas Cater himself these entries

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are in one and the same handwriting and were made at one and the same time, by one and the same person. They are in an entirely different handwriting from the entries relating to Thomas Miles Cater and his family.

The Bible itself clearly indicates that none of the entries in it were made before it became the family Bible of Thomas Miles Cater and certainly the entries relating to the family of Thomas and Rachel (Miles)Cater were not made contemporaneously with the occurrence of the events, but were made many years later. It is said that these entries were made by Thomas Cater and they probably were and probably were copied from an older Bible. I am here merely stating the facts, not questioning the authenticity of the Bible entries. Other records and traditions seem to support their correctness.

I knew quite a good many descendants of Thomas Miles Cater back in 1920-1921, some of whom were 80-90 years old at that time. Silas McPherson Cater's people are still prominent in Anniston, Ala. and Silas Cater is quite prominent in Montgomery, Alabama. I know a great deal of the genealogy of these Caters, whose ancestor came to South Carolina in 1681. I am inclined to believe that my ancestor, William Cater, who first appears in Orangeburg District in 1785, and had served in the S. C. militia in 1781-1782, was a kinsman of Thomas Cater (b.1751), but have not been able to get the evidence to establish that such was the case.

If you will take another look at 1790 census you will note Sylvester CATOR in Claremont and "William CATOE" in Orangeburg, South Part, (later Barnwell). This "William Catoe" was on the Winton County (later Barnwell) tax list 1784-85 as "William Catre". All his land grants, deeds etc (1785-1788 and after) are in the name of "William Cater" and his signature is "William Cater". The spelling CATOE and CATRE are erroneous. This is my CATER ancestor.

*Cater Hall \**  
Thomas Cater (1751) lived in St. Peters Parish, Beaufort District, at a residence known as Cater Hall. This was very near the line between original Barnwell and Hampton Districts and was in Hampton. I have been to the site. Thomas Miles Cater resided there until 1810, when he got into financial difficulty and the place was sold by order of court and the proceeds were ordered to be invested in lands by Col. McPherson, as Trustee for Cater's wife. McPherson invested in Barnwell lands and the place is shown on Mill's Atlas and is now, I think, in Allendale County just south of Brier Creek. This sale and re-investment occurred in 1810 and that was where Thomas Miles Cater resided after that time. After the sale of Cater Hall it ceased to be so called and later became known as \_\_\_\_\_ Farm. I can not at the moment be certain of the name, but it was either a flower or a fruit. I rather think it was Cherry Blossom, but am not at all sure.

In the meantime, beginning in 1784-1785 my ancestor had been acquiring lands at the point where Lower Three Runs Creek empties into Savannah river. For some reason unknown to me this place was surveyed in 1850 and a plat of it recorded on Barnwell deed records, plainly designated as "Plat of Cater Hall Place." It is still so known, or at least was, a few years ago, and there was on it a well known fishing place known as "Cater Hall Lake".

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This was not the land bought with the proceeds of the Cater Hall sale in St. Peters Parish and I am inclined to think that this new Cater Hall was so named because it belonged to some member of the family which had formerly owned the Cater Hall in St. Peters. But this is a long story. If you are interested I shall relate it in a later letter, and shall also give you some further information as to your Cater pedigree and the Miles connection.

Sincerely,

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G.J.Hubbard