

WILLIAM CATER of Orangeburg-Barnwell (Abstracted by Robert E.H. Peeples from m/s by G. J. Hubbard, Troy, Alabama. 30 March 1963)

Granted pay for 290 days service during Revolutionary War in S.C. Militia from 12 May 1781 to 25 Feb. 1782; under date of 15 June 1785 empowered "William Robison, Esq." to receive his pay indent, attested by "Michael Swicord, Clerk" who wrote out and set forth fact of authorization. "S.C. Stub entries" Vol. R-T, S.C. Historical Commission, Columbia. William Robison (~~Robinson~~) was Justice of the Peace as shown by Journal of Legislature, and a neighbor of William Cater's.

"William Cater" was granted 80 A in Orangeburg Dist. on Lower Three Runs 4 July 1785 (Surveyor's Certificate 28 Feb. 1785). Plats show eastern boundary Lower Three Runs Creek, western lands of Lewis Johnson and Jesse Summerall. Barnwell District became Barnwell County and later Allendale County was carved from same and Cater's land was in Allendale County. William Cater was granted 100 A. in Orangeburg County on Tilley's Branch of Lower Three Runs 5 June 1786 (Surveyor's Certif. 1 Sept. 1784). Plat shows bound west by Tilley's lands and Esq. Young's. Hickory Branch runs eastwardly from Tilley's lands about 2/3 of the way across upper part of tract to where it forms junction with small branch running westwardly from N.E. corner of tract; this junction created Tilley's Branch which flowed southeastwardly to and across eastern boundary of tract and on down to Lower Three Runs.

"William Cater from Lewis (his x mark) Johnston", both of Orangeburg Dist., deed to 100 A. in said Dist. being part of tract of 300 A. granted Lewis Johnston on Old Three Runs, bounded north by William Robinson, Esq., S.W. by Lark Robinson, S. by lands surveyed for William Cater, S.E. by lands run for Alexander Newman. Deed dated 3 Aug. 1786. Wit: Wm & Alex Newman. Recorded 21 Feb. 1786; acknowledged by both witnesses before "William Robinson, Sr., J.P. for Orangeburg Dist." 23 Aug. 1786.

"William Catre" is on list of taxable persons in Winton Co., of Orangeburg Dist. 1788 (Will Book No. 1, 1787-1789, p. 11 in Probate Office, Barnwell.) Winton County became Barnwell Dist. c. 1800.

"James Cater from William Southwell, Jr.", both of Barnwell Dist. deed to 150 A. in Barnwell Dist. on Savannah River, SW by Sav. River, E. by William Cater, W. by James Montgomery, originally granted to John Grant. Deed dated 29 Jan. 1804. Wit. Richard Johnson and John Upton. Certification attached to deed and spread upon the record discloses that as originally written the name of Grantee appeared as WILLIAM Cater, but that before its execution the name WILLIAM was erased and JAMES was inserted; (Book B.p. 186 MCO Barnwell) attested by the two witnesses.

"William Cater from Hugh Harden", both of Barnwell Dist. deed to 50 A on Lower Three Runs bounded SW by Wm. Cater, being part of 300 A. tract originally granted to Lewis Johnson, etc. Deed dated 20 Jan. 1805 (Book B. p. 115 MCO Barnwell). Wit: John Upton, M. Calhoun.

James Cater died 1807, estate administered Barnwell Dist., notice to next of kin published at Mount Hope Meeting House. Wm. Cater (his father) and Ann Cater (his widow) appointed Administrators Nov. 1807 with James Furse as Surety on Admrs' bond... 19 Oct. 1808 Admrs paid several small account, including \$60.50 "on account" to EDWARD CATER... 6 Jan. 1808 Wm. Cater and Ann Cater, Admrs, signed certain petitions, etc. and by 1 Dec. 1809 Ann Cater had married JOHN CLARY and thereafter signs as Ann (or Nancy) Clary with x mark... 17 May 1812 Admrs made payment to Ann Clary. In Aug. 1825 James Furse, Surety on bond, petitioned to be relieved, alleging he fears he will suffer financial loss unless relieved. Petition granted and 4 Aug. 1825 William Cater was cited to make a new bond. Prior to 1825 Ann Cater Clary had moved to Savannah, Ga. No further record of disposition of estate. Inventory shows decedent owned household

goods, farming tools, 2 horses, a woman slave and her 4 children, corn, cotton (some ginned, some unpicked in fields); total value \$1,416.00, approximately what was realized from sales. Admrs accounts submitted regularly until 1812, none found thereafter. Residue apparently amounted to small amount of land and possibly 2 or 3 slaves. Admrs made no payment to any person by name of Cater (other than one to Edward) and one or two to Ann Cater Clary (and some to her husband, John Clary). Apparently Ann & John bought a slave and household goods, etc. at the sale of value equal to Ann's share of estate. (Estate of James Cater, Filing Case 12, package 11, Barnwell Probate, and deed John Clary to Ann Clary, Deed Bk. E, p. 37). Barnwell 1810 Census shows John Clary head of household 16/26, 1 female 26/45, 3 females u/10; does not appear 1800 or 1820. On 14 Jan. 1828 at Savannah, Ga. Ann Clary in consideration of natural love & affection conveyed to "Ann Clary, mother of my two grandsons, sons of my deceased son John Clary" a slave in trust for said grandsons etc.; grandsons were John L. and George W. Clary, both u/20 (Record Bk.2-0's, Folio 498, Clerk's Office, Savannah) On 23 Dec. 1822 "Ann Clary of Barnwell" etc. made similar deed for benefit of her grandchildren William Granby Robinson and Ann Lavinia Robinson, children of Julious and Sarah Robinson (Deed Bk. O, p. 38 Barnwell) 23 Dec. 1822 "Ann Clary of Barnwell" etc. made similar deed for benefit of grandchildren Etheldred and Jane Clary (their Uncle James Clary to be their trustee "after my death") children of my son William Clary deceased. (Book O, p. 35 Barnwell) James Cater does not appear in any Barnwell Census; Edward "Cato" is in Barnwell 1810 Census head of household 26/45 with 1 female 26/45 & 1 16/26. William "Cato" appears also 1810 o/45 with 1 female o/45 & other younger persons. Edward does not appear in any earlier or later census. James Cater apparently married c. 1804 & may have left a daughter.

1790 Census Orangeburg Dist. South Part (Winton-Barnwell) WILLIAM "Catoe" heads household of 2 males o/16, 3 u/16 and 5 females; no other persons of similar name in 1790 Census in Orangeburg Dist.

1800 Census Barnwell Co. shows none but "William Cater", 1 male 26/45, 1 16/26, 1 10/16, 1 u/10, 1 female 16/26, 2 10/16, 1 u/10, 6 slaves.

1810 William "Cato" 1 25/up, 1 u/10, 1 female o/45, 1 16/26, 1 10/16, 1 u/10, 12 slaves; Edward "Cato" 1 26/45, 1 female 26/45, 3 u/10. John Clary does not appear in Barnwell Census before or after 1810.

1820 William "Cater" 45/up, 1 26/45, 1 female 45/up, 1 16/26, 17 slaves. Catherine Cater with 1 male 16/26, 1 10/16, 5 u/10, 2 females 16/26, 44 slaves. No other Cater or similar name in 1820 and NONE at all in 1830. Catherine was 2nd wife & widow of Thomas Miles Cater and dau. of Richard and Sarah Johnson of Barnwell. Thomas Miles Cater came from St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort Dist. after 1810, son of Thomas & Rachel Miles Cater; he died 30 Jan. 1819. Since William Cater's son was at least 16 in 1790 census, it is presumed he was himself born c. 1754.

Mary Elizabeth Provost (b. 1820), dau. of William Provost who married c. 1818 in Barnwell Dist. ANN CATER (10 Apr. 1797 - 16 Aug. 1871 buried Linwood Cemetery, Columbus, Ga.); Provost family lived Barnwell Dist. continuously until 1847/48 and all their children were born there; Ann Cater Provost died at home of her son-in-law, William McElvy and her dau. Eliza (his wife), about 10 mi. from Columbus, Ga. Mary Elizabeth Provost married John S. Coombs; after 1869 when her daughter married a Hubbard, she lived with the Hubbards until her death when G. J. Hubbard was 21; he spent a great deal of time talking with her about her family; he knew his great uncle, William Frank Provost, and great aunts Eliza Provost McElvy and Alice Gertrude Provost Corbett-Hammond and their families, as well as great aunt Emma Provost Terry. They all recalled that their mother, Ann Cater Provost, had sisters Elizabeth Cater Coker and Mary Cater Furse and brother Hezekiah W. Cater, a banker in Montgomery, Ala.

Mrs. Emma Terry had William Provost's Family Bible; Mary Elizabeth Provost Coombs had a picture of Ann Cater Provost, her mother which G. J. Hubbard now has. Mr. Hubbard and his sister have several "beautiful heirlooms" which came down to them from William Cater of Barnwell. They recalled that William Cater "lived to a very great age, became very infirm and died from the effects of burns due to having fallen into the fireplace while trying to walk at a time when the other members of the family happened to be out" and was buried in family graveyard near his place of residence known as "Cater Hall", his plantation on the Savannah River and Lower Three Runs Creek 15 mi. south of Barnwell. Some 30 yrs. after death of Mary Elizabeth Provost Coombs in 1892, her sister "Trudie" told G. J. Hubbard she recalled her 2 aunts and uncle Hezekiah and had a vague recollection of uncle "Edward" but was not certain. She said she was about 5 yrs. old when her father moved from Barnwell to Alabama and she was married and moved to Georgia when fifteen and knew little about her Barnwell relatives. When living at Guyton, Ga. some years after the War Between the States she knew that "Cater Hall" where her grandfather had lived, was owned by Mr. Pinckney Brown. The Provosts also remembered their cousins, Daniel Coker, Allie and Mary Peyton, Mary Ball and Lewis Hay, and neighbors named Montgomery and Crockett. Aunt "Trudie" said that she was well-acquainted with her cousin, Stephen S. Furse and his family when living in Savannah years earlier.

Mr. Hubbard visited "Cater Hall" plantation, located on west side of Lower Three Runs Creek in the angle formed by the Creek and the Savannah River, ~~not~~ far from railroad stations of Martin and Millettville in Allendale County (formerly part of Barnwell County); the house had burned years before but the plantation was still known as Cater Hall place and near mouth of Creek was a large lake (popular fishing place) widely known as Cater Hall Lake. The plantation embraced lands described in grants and deeds to William Cater and the deed to James Cater.

Lawrence G. Richardson, born 1853 and reared on the place, when he was 76/77 yrs old told Mr. Hubbard that his father, W. T. Richardson had bought it about 1860 from a "free Negro named Jack Hazel" and that he had lived on the place with his father's family until 1878 when he married and moved away; he said the place was well-known as "Cater Hall" and there was a small plot of ground covered with dense growth and said to be the Cater burial place where people named Cater and Provost were said to be buried; it was a small plot and there were no gravestones. He did not know from whom Jack Hazel had bought the place but recalled that Pinckney Brown had once owned it; he had not seen the place in many years and was then unwell and physically unable to visit it with Mr. Hubbard.

No Barnwell wills, estates or conveyances found indicate when or how William & James Cater lands passed into other hands. Judgment Rolls & Book of Decrees 1824-28 indicate considerable litigation involving Peytons, Furses, Cokers, etc. and partition of lands in which William Provost, Stephen Smith & James Furse were commissioners. William Cater died between 1824 and 1830.

Jack Hazel bought and sold much land in Barnwell County 1857-1863, including Cater Hall. On 3 Mar. 1858 he bought 725 A. bounded N. & E. by Charles J. Brown, S.E. by Lower Three Runs, S.W. by Savannah River as shown by attached plat made 29 Oct. 1853 by R. H. Stallings at request of Col. W. A. Owens. The plat is recorded in connection with the deed and is designated on its face as a plat of "Cater Hall Place". (Deed Book LL, p. 101).

Near Martin, S.C. Mr. Hubbard visited Mr. & Mrs. Milledge B. Furse in their home and from their family records ascertained that William H. Peyton married a daughter of Col. Tarleton Brown; that their dau. Allie Peyton, married John James Cater and had a dau., Gertrude, who married J. H. Ussery and was the mother of Mrs. Furse, while her husband, Milledge Furse, was a descendent of James Furse, Sr. and wife Mary Cater.

Inscriptions on stones in Furse family cemetery nearby included:
 "James Furse, Sr. of Barnwell Dist.
 Died Saturday May 11, 1850, aged 76 yrs. and 16 days."

"Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Mary Furse, consort of James Furse, Sr.,
 Died July 16, 1855 in the 69th year of her age."

Edward W. Peyton and wife, Mary, are also buried here with headstones with inscriptions.

Mr. Hubbard was told that James Furse Family Bible was in possession of Stephen Furse, a Savannah cotton merchants Mrs. C.P. Wilson of Sav. obtained a transcript which included:

"James Furse born in Bristol, Eng. 1774,
 Married Mary Cater June 10, 1806
 Died May 11, 1850, aged 76 years
 His wife died July 16, 1855, aged 69 years"

"Mary E. daughter of James and Mary Furse
 Married Edward W. Peyton, Esq. Jan. 23, 1828"

In the Will of "James Furse, the elder of Barnwell" etc. dated 26 May 1835, proved 1850, he provided for "wife Mary" and his eight children, mentioning only three: son James, daughters Eliza and Mary Peyton; wife and son James, Executors. Wit: William Provost, James Sanders and John J. Cater. Signed: James Furse, Senior.

30 July 1855 James Furse petition for Administration on estate of his mother, Mary (Cater) Furse, & was appointed. (Journal Bk. B p.233, Filing Case 127) His account of sales, 20 Nov. 1855 shows virtually all property sold to following:

Mary Peyton, William, Rev. Joseph J., James, George, Edward and Eliza Furse, and Thomas T. Hay - apparently seven of the children & husband of another. "Charleston Observer" 26 Apr. 1845 has notice of marriage of Rhoda Marion Furse to Dr. Thomas T. Hay by Rev. S. H. Hay, all of Barnwell Dist.

Benjamin Coker's Will executed Barnwell Dist. 27 Apr. 1818, proved 29 Sept. 1818, left all property to "dear wife Elizabeth (Cater) Coker during her natural life" and then to be sold & proceeds equally divided between their children: James, Mary, Lucy, Daniel & Julia. Wit: Stv. Smith & John S. Fowke. Signed: Benj'n his x mark Coker (Bk b.p.22 filed in Bundle 31, pkg.4)

Elizabeth (Cater) Coker's Will executed Barnwell 11 Sept. 1849, left 2 slaves to son James with reversion to his living issue at his death, & if none, then to "my grandchildren Joseph B., John B. and William P. Coker, the children of my son Daniel B. Coker". Remainder of her property she leaves in trust for son Daniel B. Coker for benefit of his said three sons to be equally divided when they attain age of 21 yrs. Son Daniel B. Executor. Wit: James Furse, Jr., Willie P. Jarrell & William Furse, M.D.; Signed Elizabeth her x mark Coker (Bk. D.p.171-173, filed Bundle 109, pkg.7L)

Hezekiah W. Cater, b. Barnwell, had a mercantile business in Augusta and suffered severe loss from devastating fire, later moved to Montgomery, Ala. and was Cashier of Central Bank of Alabama. in 1820 Census in Augusta 30/40 yrs with 1 female 20/30 and no others; in 1850 Montgomery Census age indicated born c. 1790. His signature is on paper currency issued by Bank on exhibition in Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts; he died before 1870, leaving no son but apparently he had two dau., one of whom is buried in old municipally-owned Montgomery cemetery. He may have had a 2nd wife by whom no children; they were closely related to the WARE family, prominent in Montgomery. Mr. Hubbard & sister have pair of ornate cups & saucers once property of Hezekiah W. Cater which were given to Mary Elizabeth Provost Coombs at Mrs. Cater's death; they are known as "Uncle Cater's Chocolate Cups".

Facts and circumstances show conclusively that William Cater (name of wife unknown) was father of 3 daughters: Mary, wife of James Furse, Sr.; Elizabeth, wife of Benjamin Coker; Ann, wife of William Provost; and a son, Hezekiah W. Cater. Census reports indicate he had 2 or possibly 3 other sons. That James and Edward were two of them is a logical conclusion.

On 17 May 1810 Benjamin "Cato" had grant for 340 A. Orangeburg Dist. on McTear's Creek, waters of S. Edisto, bounded on Edgefield line and Benjamin Cato's land. (Grants Vol. 55, p. 174) On the same date William Cato had grant for 1000 A. in same district, (Grants Vol. 55, p. 160, Plat Book 42, p. 176) described as "situate on Boggy Gully, waters of S. Edisto River". Mill's Atlas designates one of two principal forks of Lower Three Runs as "Boggy Gut" (synonymous with "Boggy Gully") which extended northwardly towards South Edisto, flowing in opposite direction. The same name appears on branch of Steel Creek a little Southwest of headwaters of Furse's Creek which flowed into Lower Three Runs. Grants to Benjamin and William Cato were in same general section as lands of William and James Cater, the Cokers, Furses and other related families. No Benjamin Cato or Cater appears in Barnwell records or Censuses; he was probably a son of William Cater.

The name Cater appears on Winton-Barnwell records many times over a period of more than 100 years, always spelled "CATER", except on 1788 tax list where it is "Catre". The "Cato" or "Catoe" variation does not appear in Winton-Barnwell records and obviously was an error on the part of the scribe who wrote it. All tombstones and family records use the spelling "CATER". In addition to the variants mentioned, there are examples of phonetic spellings such as "Cator", "Kator" and "Kater".

ABSTRACT BY R. E. H. PEEPLES:

William Cater, born c. 1754, died c. 1825/30, of "Cater Hall", served 290 days Militia duty 1781-82 (SC Stub Entries), 1790 Census Orangeburg Dist, South Part (Winton-Barnwell-Allendale) no slaves; 80 A. grant Lower Three Runs 28 Feb. 1785; 100 A. Tilley's Branch, Lower Three Runs 1 Sept. 1784; bought 100 A from Lewis Johnston 3 Aug. 1786; on list of taxable persons Winton Co., Orangeburg Dist. 1788; 1800 Census 26/45 6 slaves; 1810 Barnwell Census 45 up; 1820 Barnwell Census 45/up; 1000 A. Boggy Gully, South Edisto, 17 May 1810. Wife's name not known; children:

James Cater, died 1807, married Ann (Nancy) who married 1808/9 John Clary. Bought 150 A on Savannah River, Barnwell Dist. 29 Jan. 1804 originally recorded to "William" but erased and "James" inserted.

Edward Cater, 1810 Census 26/45, probably brother of James.

Ann Cater (10 Apr. 1797 - 16 Aug. 1871) married Barnwell Dist. c. 1818

William Provost, born SC 1782/3, moved Alabama 1848/9; children (12):
 Mary Elizabeth Provost (1820-1892) m. John S. Coombs; their dau. married in 1869 a Hubbard, son G. J. Hubbard and a dau.; Wm. Franklin Provost (born 1821); Eliza m. Wm. McElvy (lived near Columbus, Ga. where Ann Cater Provost died & was buried); Charles James; George F. P.; Catherine; Emma and Alice Gertrude ("Trudie").

Elizabeth Cater, b. c. 1780, Will dated 11 Sept. 1849, m. Benjamin Coker (Will proved 29 Sept. 1818: children: James, Mary, Lucy, Julia and Daniel B. (b. 1808) m. Mary & had sons: Joseph B., John B. & William P.

Mary Cater, (1786, died 16 July 1855) m. 10 June 1806 James Furse, Sr. (b. Bristol, Eng. 1774, died 11 May 1850 Barnwell Dist.) children: James, Eliza, Rhoda Marion m. 26 Apr. 1845 Dr. Thomas T. Hay,