

William Cain (1792-1878) ~

m. Anna Maria DuBose, b. 1793, d. 8 Jun 1827

m. 1829 Anne Porcher Palmer, b. 10 Aug 1804, d. 31 Aug 1855

William Cain, son of Daniel Cain (d. 1794) and Elizabeth Greenland, was born 31 October 1792 in Charleston District. He attended Pineville Academy and South Carolina College, from which he graduated in 1812. Subsequently, he taught at Pineville Academy briefly, but soon turned his attention to cotton planting.

In 1827, he and Isaac Marion Dwight purchased and divided Somerset Plantation (1,463 acres) in St. John's Berkeley Parish, and three years later, he bought Dwight's share of the property. Eventually, he added an adjoining 712 acres to Somerset and remodeled the dwelling house. Cain, in 1859, acquired Somerton Plantation (2,025 acres), also in St. John's Berkeley. According to the 1860 federal census, his real and personal estates were valued at \$33,000 and \$120,930 respectively; the slave schedules for that year listed 167 slaves as his property.

Elected to the House, William Cain represented St. John's Berkeley in the Twenty-fourth (1820-1821), Twenty-eighth (1828-1829), Twenty-ninth (1830-1831), and Thirtieth (1832-1833) General Assemblies. While in the House, he was a member of the committees on public buildings (1820-1821), privileges and elections (1820-1821, 1830-1833), and education (1828-1833). Following a special election for the state Senate, he qualified 22 November 1841 to serve St. John's Berkeley in the Thirty-fourth General Assembly (1840-1841). Re-elected to the Senate, he served his home parish in the Thirty-fifth (1842-1843) and Thirty-sixth (1844-1845) General Assemblies. He was a member of the Senate committee on South Carolina College, education, and religion (1841-1845). On 8 December 1846, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina for a two-year term. As a delegate for St. John's Berkeley, Cain attended the Secession Convention and signed the Ordinance (1860).

Other offices and memberships he held included commissioner of high roads for St. John's Berkeley (1830-1836); member and vice-president, and president (1831) of his local nullification society; commissioner of free schools for St. John's Berkeley (1831, 1834, 1838, 1841, 1844, 1850, 1853); justice of the quorum for St. John's Berkeley (1839); presidential elector (1844); *ex officio* trustee for South Carolina College (1846-1848); commissioner of public buildings for St. John's Berkeley (ca 1849-1855); president of Black Oak Agricultural Society (1858); and member of the South Carolina Historical Society.

William Cain was married twice, first to Anna Maria DuBose, daughter of Samuel DuBose (1758-1811) and Elizabeth Sinkler. They were parents of two children: Anna Maria (1822-1823) and William DuBose (1824-1826). Anna Maria DuBose Cain died 8 June 1827, and is buried in St. Stephen's Episcopal Churchyard in St. Stephen, SC.

William Cain married secondly, on 6 January 1829, Anne Porcher Palmer, daughter of Joseph Palmer (1776-1841) and Elizabeth Catherine Porcher. They had eight children born to them: Ann Eliza Palmer, Julia Amanda, William Henry, Joseph Palmer, John Caldwell Calhoun, Anna Maria (1841-1905), Eliza Catherine, and Edward G.

Anne Palmer Cain predeceased her husband on 31 August 1855. Survived by five children, William Cain died 20 August 1878 in Pinopolis. Both William and Anne are buried in St. Stephen's Episcopal Churchyard, St. Stephen, SC.

Personal Note: William Cain's wife, Anna Porcher Palmer was my 2nd great-grandaunt. William was brother-in-law with my 2nd great-grandfather Dr. Peter Patrick Porcher Palmer (1809-1885).

Keith Gourdin, Pineville, SC