

Betty, please share⁻⁹⁻ this with John.

(letter from William Aiken, Jr. to David Aiken, cont.)

to it, we go from here to France and expect to be in Paris in about a fortnight, where as you may well know I am to be located for the winter. Father returns to England and proceeds to New York by the first of September. I shall feel exceedingly melancholy when he leaves me, but trust after I commence my studies it will all pass away. I often and often think of you all and my dearest mother; it makes me feel unhappy in the extreme when I think at what a distance I am from such an affectionate mother, but it will not do to give way to such feelings so I must abandon them and hope for the best. I shall expect to hear from you frequently during my stay in Europe. Remember me kindly to Aunt and family and say to James that I hope he is progressing in his Latin and Greek and that by the time I return home, he will be prepared to enter college, at which I shall be exceedingly pleased.

Your affectionate nephew,
William Aiken

David Aiken, Esquire
Winnsborough
Fairfield District
South Carolina

James Reid Aiken

This is the James R. Aiken who gave the Bible - my great grandfather's brother.

Eldest son of David Aiken was born in Winnsboro, S.C. November 15th 1812. He entered the South Carolina College and was graduated in the class of 1832. After completing his education he returned to Winnsboro, and engaged in mercantile pursuits.

The Seminole War in Florida (1836) gave rise to a call for volunteers. A splendid company under command of Captain Derrill Smith left Fairfield for the Florida campaign. Of this company James R. Aiken was orderly sergeant, and during the active campaign waged against the powerful and sagacious chief Osceola, proved a brave and efficient officer.

Entering into public life in 1844, he was elected to the House of Representatives by a most flattering vote. He was re-elected and served a second term; after which, although still taking an active interest in politics, he did not come again before the people until 1866, when, under the Andrew Johnson reconstruction, he was elected a member of the Orr Legislature. He was also a member of the Taxpayer's Convention, held in Columbia Feb. 17th 1874, and was active in helping to wrest his state from the vicious government of the reconstruction.

When the Planters Bank of Fairfield was organized in 1854, he was chosen President, a position held by him for a number of years.

He was a fluent speaker and wielded the pen of a ready writer. He was also a great reader and compiled a book of prose and poetry, consisting of valuable articles by eminent authors, together with his own writings-("Gems of Prose and Poetry.")

He was possessed largely of public spirit, and contributed liberally to charitable and benevolent purposes, while his genial

(James Reid Aiken, cont.)

bearing and affability gained him many warm friends, both at home and abroad.

His health prevented him from taking an active part in defense of his state during the Civil War, but was useful to the cause and gave aid in many ways. (He held a civil appointment under the Secretary of the Treasury Memminger, Confederate Cabinet, as Receiver for Fairfield, Kershaw and Sumter Districts, S.C., under the Sequestration Act of 1861.

He married Eliza Jane Cloud, daughter of Dr. William Cloud and Margaret Holmes (who was the daughter of Hogden Holmes patentee of the Cotton Gin) of Chester, S.C., on December 5th 1837. She was the eldest child of a family of six girls, namely Margaret Williams Cloud (married William Lowndes Calhoun), Sarah Frances Cloud (married Samuel DuBose), Susan Ann Cloud (married Robert B. Boyleston), Mary Louise Cloud (married Elias Earle), Eunice Regina Cloud (never married).

A description of the portrait of Margaret Cloud (Mrs. W.L. Calhoun) appeared in the newspaper some years ago, as follows:

"Being ushered into the drawing room of a plantation home in Chester Co., S.C., we were transfixed with amazement, beholding on the wall the most beautiful portrait we have ever seen. The portrait is that of a faultlessly beautiful woman dressed in her bridal array. We will not be guilty of trying to describe all that ineffable loveliness, for we were assured that the skilled artist, though having all the inspiration of such a lovely subject, failed to do justice to the original.

We learned that the lady whose portrait had thrilled us with such pleasure, was the bride of W.L. Calhoun, younger son of John C. Calhoun, and that she died ere the orange blossoms faded.

Here we also met Mrs. Susan A. Boyleston, the sister of the lady whose portrait we were so admiring"

James R. Aiken was the father of a family of six children; four daughters and two sons: Eunice Amelia (born Nov. 30, 1843), William David (Born July 19, 1846), Mary Louise (born Oct. 10, 1849), Margaret Cloud Calhoun (born Jan 24th 1858), Clarence Cloud (born Jan. 30th 1841, died 9 yrs. old), Eliza Jane (died in infancy).

James Reid Aiken died July 10th 1877 in the 65th year of his life. Eliza, his wife died June 18, 1861. Their remains rest in the Presbyterian Church yard Winnsboro, South Carolina, of which church he was an elder.

His handsome old home with its massive columns was in late years destroyed by fire.

Children:

Eunice married Pierre Bacot
William David married Alice Slawson
Mary Louise married DuBose Eggleston
Margaret Cloud Calhoun (unmarried, known as "Aunt Maggie")