

WILLIAM CROSBY

The earliest authentic record of the distinguished Crosby family of South Carolina begins the latter part of the seventeenth century when William Crosby patented land in Berkeley County December 5, 1696.

Dennis Crosby, a descendent of William Crosby, obtained a grant of 300 acres of land, on Thickety Creek, Berkeley County, S. C., August 18, 1763; also two grants of 150 acres each on Broad River, Craven County, February 20, 1760, and November 24, 1767, and a grant of 150 acres, Beaver Creek, Craven County, November 24, 1760.

Dennis Crosby married Hannah Reed and had the following children: William, John, Richard, Thomas, and a daughter who married James Jeter.

Thomas Crosby, the one of the four brothers who is of especial interest to us, as the ancestor of William Crosby, the subject of this sketch, married Margaret Davis in 1770. Died March 3, 1797. Names of his children, found in his will and also in a complete Bible record, are as follows: Dennis, married Lucy Conway; Nancy, married Alex Daniel; Thomas, born 5-2-1775, died in 1795. Margaret married Adam Pooler; John died, aged 15 years; Stephen, married Charry Coleman; Richard, died aged 27; Allen, married Mary Hughes; Mary married Robert Park.

Thomas Crosby and his brothers, William and Richard, espoused the cause of the colonist, and were brave soldiers all through the Revolutionary War, participating in many important battles.

Stephen Crosby, son of Thomas Crosby and Margaret Davis, was married in 1780 to Charry Coleman. The following are names of their children: Thomas, married Charlotte Parks; Nancy, born 5-3-1801, died 1827; William married Martha B. I. Thomas; Coleman, married Frances Ney; David, married Lucy Boul-

deep interest in the cultivation of his plantations. His home, which is still standing, was built on a high hill, the gradual rise of the hill prevents one's realizing its elevation of 700 feet, but once upon the summit there is an unusual wild beauty in its far-reaching view. In the sunshine of this lovely home, our own William Crosby passed his boyhood days. Here at his Mother's knee he learned to fear God and love his country. Stephen

William Crosby was married 10-8-1829 to Martha B. I. Thomas of Union County, S. C. The names of the children were as follows:

1. Francis Cornelius Crosby.
2. James Washington Crosby. (He was a soldier in C. S. A. After the war he with his family moved to Texas.)
3. Paulina Jane Crosby.
4. Mary Angelina Crosby.
5. Amanda Catherine Crosby, married 12-18-1859, J. M. McCullum, M. D.
6. Charry Coleman Crosby. On 1-14-1838 married J. J. Rabb.
7. Stephen Crosby. *gone*
8. David Crosby. *Son*
9. Joseph H. Crosby, married L. A. Crosby on June 27, 1865.
10. Walter Scott Crosby.
11. Rufus Elder Crosby, twins.
12. William Baxter Crosby. Married June 13, 1867. Georgia A. Brunson, of Beaufort S. C.
13. John Bunyan Crosby. Married Mattie Price.
14. Henrietta Victoria Crosby.
15. Martin Isabella Crosby. Married 8-27-1872 A. Douglas Bell and moved to Florida.

William Crosby owned 3,000 acres of land in the north-west section of Fairfield county, between Sandy and Broad Rivers, and eighty-three slaves, at the close of the War of Secession. His home was one where the charm of plantation life was well illustrated, and where fat, contented negroes gave a living proof of happiness in their sheltered existence. A frequent guest at his house is credited with the remark: "that the best argument that Mr. Crosby

but firmly, and required honest labor of all. He managed his large estate with practical ability. Agriculture, he called the "first pursuit" that is the most important occupation among men. He introduced into this section "Egyptian Corn," which was so popular for many years.

William Crosby was one of the wealthiest as well as one of the most popular men of his time. Though descended from a distinguished family and reared in affluence, he had that love for his people, that knew no caste or class. He was a civic and religious leader in his community. From a diary which he kept for many years of his life, it was found that he gave the land and built the Cool Branch Baptist Church.

With the fall of the Confederacy, came also the fall of his personal estate; not only had he sacrificed much of that estate for the cause, but with slaves freed and demoralization on every hand, the very magnitude of his landed estate made more certain and even hastened its destruction.

His lands became a burden and soon after his death in 1868 his property vanished under the intolerable conditions of Reconstruction.

His memory will ever be revered as typifying that patriotic unselfishness that characterizes the noblest of South Carolina's sons.

William Crosby had five sons in the War of Secession. Walter was killed at Gettysburg; Rufus died of pneumonia at James Island, James, Joseph and William Baxter, after the war was over returned home to face debts incurred by, and in preparation for war, depreciated land values, and in demoralized labor. All industries were depressed, the negroes were idle, and the whole people seemed to have lost all their energy, taxes were ruinous, fields uncultivated, in thousands of instances farms were sold, too, to pay taxes, and the people felt degraded when they reflected that their belated state was under the regime of "carpetbag and scalawag rule." During