

2023 Annual Report

George Gordon Battle Cemetery Trust Old Town Cemetery



About the Cover

Satellite Image of Old Town Cemetery

Note: The remains from the Elisha Battle Cemetery have been reinterred inside the yellow line (NW corner) of Old Town Cemetery. For names and dates on the numbered monuments- see APPENDIX C.

Guide to Initials

With so many Battles mentioned in this report, middle names have been added for clarity. For Battles that are frequently cited, initials rather than full names are used. Here are the initials and full names of people and locations

JSB- James Smith Battle

RMM- Rocky Mount Mills

SHW- Sally Harriet Westray

EBC- Eisha Battle Cemetery

WSB- William Smith Battle

OTC- Old Town Cemetery

THB- Thomas Hall Battle

GGB- George Gordon Battle

George Gordon Battle Cemetery Trust

Annual Report for 2023

In last year's (2022) Annual Report, the featured article was the earliest recorded history of the Battle family: emigrating from Yorkshire England to Ireland to Virginia and finally settling in Edgecombe County, NC. Elisha Battle is the Battle that made this journey from VA to NC in 1747. His son Jacob Battle like his father, farmed the land nearby. The 2023 Annual Report carries this Battle story forward with Jacob's son, James Smith Battle (JSB).

JAMES SMITH BATTLE

Introduction

JSB's life (1786-1854) was sandwiched between the 2 major American wars of this early period. He was born (1786) ten years after the Declaration of Independence and 3 years before NC became the 12th state. At the time of his death (1854), thunderclouds were forming between the north and the south. The Missouri Compromise, passed by Congress 34 years earlier and designed to provide peace between slave and free states, was no longer effective. That year the Republican party was formed, leading to Lincoln's election in 1861.

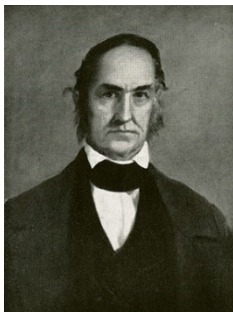
Without being distracted by war and its politics, JSB was able to concentrate on his businesses. He followed the footsteps of his grandfather (Elisha) and his father (Jacob) by managing and growing the plantation. In 1833 he expanded his interest beyond farming by contracting to build with his slaves a section of the Wilmington & Raleigh RR. In 1847, JSB and his son William, purchased the Rocky Mount Mills (RMM). At the time of JSB's death, he was said to be the wealthiest man in Edgecombe County, owning 20,000 acres and 500 slaves



James Smith Battle
circa 1934

(NOTE: the rule of thumb as to how many slaves were needed for cotton cultivation was one slave every 10 acres; since JSB also had a tobacco crop, this estimate of his slaves looks reasonable).

Genealogy



James Smith Battle
by Thomas Scully (1854)

JSB was the oldest of six children of Jacob and Penelope Battle; only one of his siblings reached maturity and she died during childbirth with her infant dying shortly thereafter. This left JSB's children as the only direct descendants of Jacob and Penelope. In 1812, JSB married Temperance (Battle) Fort, a widow of Jeremiah Fort and daughter of Jethro Battle; Jethro was JSB's uncle. *(In 19th century America, there were few marriage prospects so it was not unusual for cousins to marry).* Temperance died two years after marriage, having only one child (James Marmaduke Battle). Nine years later at the age of 36, JSB married Sally Harriett Westray (SHW); they had 6 children, (2 sons and 4 daughters), all reaching maturity. SHW died young (37) leaving her 6

children (ages 7 to 17) for JSB to raise. Details of descendants of JSB and SHW are included in NOTES on the following page.

Sallie Harriett Westray

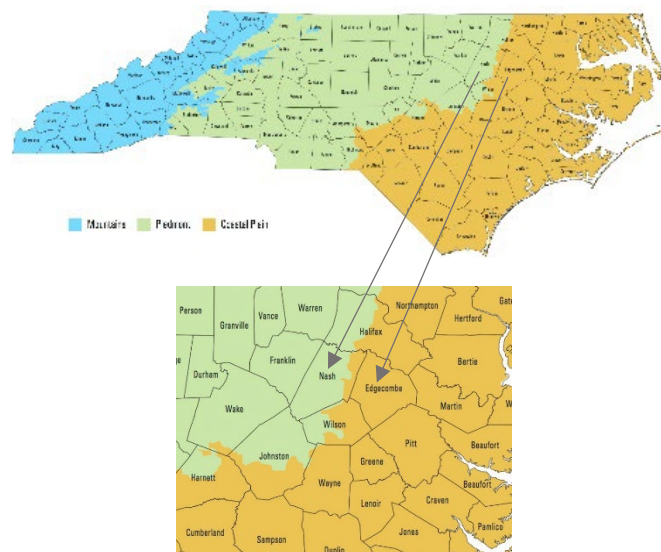
JSB and SHW were married at the family home of SHW's father, Samuel Westray in Westrayville, Nash County, NC. He was a prominent educator (having established the Westrayville Academy). He later began acquiring farmland; it is said that he accumulated 10,000 acres by the time of his death.

From the time of Elisha, the Battles had been staunch Baptists. Although SHW was diminutive in stature, her influence was large, especially on matters of religion. Of her 6 children 3 married into the Darcy family of Tarboro a well-established family of Episcopalians. *(In 1789, to show independence from the Anglican Church, the American church became known as the Episcopal Church of the U.S.; it continued as part of the worldwide Anglican Communion).* All 6 of SHW's children became Episcopalians. Since that time, the majority of weddings of JSB's descendants have taken place in Episcopal churches (although more recently, there has been an increase in secular weddings).

Rocky Mount Mills

The Early Years- By 1800, cotton had joined tobacco as the major cash crops in eastern NC. Cotton was grown in the south but textile mills were located in New England. Joel Battle, Elisha Battle's grandson (and nephew of Jacob Battle) plus two partners saw an opportunity to bring textile mills closer to where cotton was grown.

Just west of the Nash-Edgecombe County line, there is a granite ledger (or fault line) on the Tar River that formed a natural dam with falls. Geologists consider this a point in the dividing line between NC's coastal plain and piedmont regions, thus dividing Nash County into 2 geological regions (*most maps still show Nash as only in the Coastal Plain*). A grist mill had operated at the site since 1807. Joel and his partners purchased the grist mill as well as surrounding land. In 1818 they built a cotton mill, began spinning yarn and weaving rough cotton, primarily for the local market.

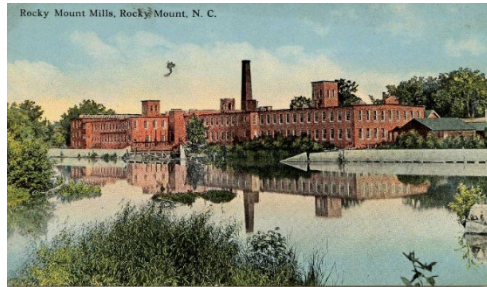


Joel died in 1829; his partners were bought out by three of Joel's sons. They operated the mill until 1847 when it was purchased by JSB (at age 61) and his son William S Battle (WSB). Since JSB-SWB's other son, Turner Westray Battle, had been bequeathed farmland, JSB bequeathed to WSB his share of the RMM; upon JSB's death (1854), WSB became sole owner.



William Smith Battle
circa 1861

Rocky Mount Mills was incorporated as a town in 1831, a city in 1911 and consolidated into the city of Rocky Mount during the 1920's.



Postcard of Mills
circa 1948

NOTES:

The genealogy of JSB and his descendants are the subject of George Eatman's Battle Book Updated (2001) and are on the Battle family website: <https://thebattlebook.com>.

Genealogy and photos of JSB descendants are organized into 3 Tables:

- *TABLE A- Descendants of William Smith Battle (1823-1915) & Mary Eliza Dancy;*
- *TABLE B- Descendants of Turner Westray Battle (1827-1895) & Lavinia Bassett Daniel;*
- *TABLE C- Descendants of Martha Ann Battle (1833-1913) and Kemp Plummer Battle (Martha Battle, the direct descendant, married a cousin, Kemp Plummer Battle).*

TABLE locations for the descendants of the 3 other children of JSB-SHW:

- *TABLE A- Cornelia Viola Battle (1824-1844) married John Dancy- no children.*
- *TABLE A- Mary Eliza Battle (1829-1893) 1st married William Francis Dancy- 2 children; 2nd married Dr Newsome Jones Pittman- 2 children.*
- *TABLE A- Penelope Bradford Battle (1830-1880) married William Ruffin Cox- 4 children, one reached maturity but died shortly thereafter; no descendants.*

*For more on JB's life read the narrative of George Eatman 's **Battle Book- Updated**: see chapters: "Introduction" & "Decedents of James Smith Battle".*

Civil War & Reconstruction Years- JSB's life had not been upended by war; WSB was not so lucky. With the outbreak of the Civil War, RMM's operations were redirected to the Confederate war effort.

Rocky Mount was spared major conflict until July 1863, when Union General Edward Potter sent a raiding party, from his base in New Bern, to Rocky Mount destroying property which included burning the RMM. The mill was rebuilt but again destroyed in 1869, this time by an incendiary (unsure as to its origin). Again, WSB rebuilt, but the economic challenges remained.

To strengthen management and to continue Battle family succession, WSB brought into RMM his son, James Smith Battle II, operating as Battle & Sons. Unlike his father, he was not an effective manager. The reconstruction period was proving too much; WSB, being “land poor” with no working capital, filed for bankruptcy in 1883. After 65 years, the Battle family lost financial control of RMM, although WSB continued to play a management role.

Recovery Years- During the 1880’s, the political and economic situation in the South began to gradually improve. In 1878, the last Reconstruction troops left the South and textile mills were again being built.

In 1885, Thomas H Battle (THB) a young attorney (and grandson of JSB), presented a plan approved by RMM’s creditors, whereby they received stock in settlement of claims. THB was elected president in 1888 and the Battles were once again running RMM. Battle management continued with THB’s son, Hyman (in 1933), his grandson, Tom (in 1975) and another grandson, John Mebane Jr (in 1993).



Thomas H. Battle
circa 1930

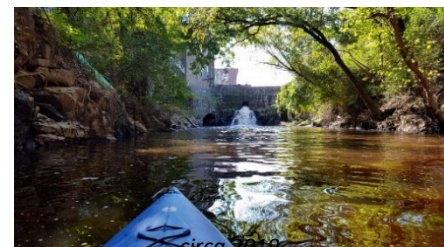
Transformative Years- In 1996, RMM ceased its mill operations, no longer able to compete in the world-wide textile market. The mill buildings lay empty until 2013 when purchased by Capital Broadcasting, a privately owned Raleigh media company that had become active in property redevelopment when it transformed the abandoned industrial site of The American Tobacco Co in Durham into a successful mixed-use area of offices, restaurants and residential lofts.



circa 2019

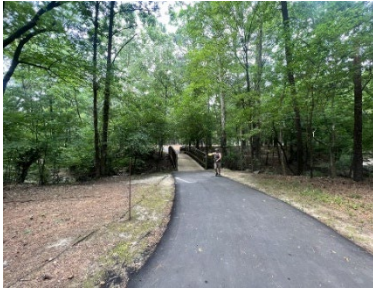
Capital Broadcasting’s plan is to duplicate this on RMM’s 82-acre campus (<https://rockymountmills.com>) with businesses, lofts and pubs; the front lawn of the mill’s ante bellum headquarters is a venue for outdoor concerts. River and Twine, a hotel of 20 of the mill workers’ homes is now a popular hotel (commonly called the “Tiny Hotel”).

Across the river from RMM is Battle Park. As with many southern cities, Rocky Mount (in 1917) erected a Confederate monument there. This had been a source of irritation, especially among black citizens since slaves were the work force of RMM during the early years. In 2020, after debate, the RM City Council removed the monument.



circa 2019

Battle Park is 60-acres of woodland and “rocky mounds” (hence the city’s name); it was originally acquired by Joel Battle in early 19th century when starting RMM. From that time until 1973, it had been an occasionally used park (aside from being a favorite romantic parking spot for young couples). In 1973, it was deeded to the City of Rocky Mount for public use. By adding amenities to this picturesque setting at the falls, Battle Park has become a popular spot for walking, kayaking, and biking.



*Walking Path Battle Park
circa 2019*

Slavery in the 19th Century

Conflict over Slavery - In U.S. history, race/slavery has been the major issue of domestic/regional conflict. There have been other political differences, but most have narrowed over time (gay rights as an example). In contrast, from 1800 until the Civil War, sectional differences over slavery only widened. At the time of JSB’s death (1854), events were already underway, leading to a national conflict.

In the 19th century, there was a worldwide movement to abolish slavery. In Europe, the Age of Enlightenment which began in the prior century, considered freedom a basic human right. By 1850, the majority of nations in Europe and in the Americas had outlawed slavery. At the start of the Civil War, slavery was still legal in 15 of the 34 states; the US was an obvious exception.

During the first half of the 19th century, a wave of immigrants arrived from Europe looking for work in the industrial cities of the north. This increased the share of population opposed to slavery as well as opposition members in the House of Representative.

Lastly, congress had passed The Missouri Compromise in 1820, to keep the free and slave states in balance (originally 11 each). For the South this preserved its power in the Senate; for the North, it prohibited slavery above the MD - PA border (known as the Mason-Dixon Line). By 1854, the number of free states (17) had permanently outnumbered slave states (15), effectively voiding the Missouri Compromise.

The South’s argument was that each state has the right to make its own decision, i.e., states’ rights; the underlying reason was economic. The South had an agrarian economy that relied on farm labor, political power in southern states rests with the plantation owners. Their wealth was concentrated in land and in slaves; plantation owners understood the stakes in losing their cheap labor.

Upper-South and Deep-South – During the 1st half of the 19th century, the South developed into two economic regions: Upper-South and Deep-South. Settlers in the Upper-South came from 4 of the original colonies (DE, MD, VA & NC). During the Civil War, DE and MD were considered border states, i.e., did not secede, but still had slaves.

White settlers of the Upper-South were:

- owners of small to medium sized plantations growing tobacco and cotton as cash crops (Cool Spring was a larger plantation of the region).
- yeomen/farmers (small estate holders) serving local markets.
- landless farmers (the majority), from England; many arrived as indentured servants.

In contrast, white settlers in the Deep-South came from 2 original colonies: (SC & GA) plus settlers from the other original colonies or from recently formed states (e.g., western NC become TN). They were:

- a few owners of very large plantations, (growing cotton as the cash crop);
- the vast majority were landless farmers from Britain and western Europe as well as other states.

“Cotton is King” – The invention of the cotton gin (1793) which efficiently separated cotton from its seed, revolutionized cotton production. This increased the production of cotton as well as a need for slaves to cultivate it. By 1860, the US produced two thirds of the world’s cotton.



*North Carolina artist J. Chris Wilson's Landscape Painting
Cotton Field at Cool Spring*

In 1808, Congress prohibited future international slave trade. This resulted in the growth of the domestic market for buying/selling slaves. As the domestic trade grew, slaves became less a part of the plantation community and more of a commodity (or asset class) to be bought and sold.

The deep south’s climate was well suited for cotton; to meet this demand, slaves were sold from the Upper-South to the Deep-South. The term “sold down the river” references slaves transported to

the New Orleans’ slave market. This forced migration of individual slaves was devastating on the slaves’ family unit.

From the 1860 census, the US population was 31 million, with approximately 9 million located in the south. Of the US population, 4 million were slaves, most in the South with a growing portion, in the Deep-South. This source of cheap labor plus the expanding cotton market made the Deep-South the wealthiest region in the US; it also had the most unequal wealth distribution.

“A Vail of Humility between 2 Mountains of Conceit”- a tongue-in-cheek phrase, referencing NC’s 2 neighbors: Virginia and South Carolina. Virginia was the home of 4 of the first 5 presidents; its Army of Northern Virginia was the most formidable of the Confederacy. Richmond, its capital, had a population of 38,000 (1860).

In South Carolina, Charleston was a wealthy port city with a population of over 40,000 (1860) and profitable trade with the West Indies and England. “The Republic of South Carolina” under the leadership of Sen John C Calhoun, led the southern movement to secede, advocating nullification: the political theory that each state had the sovereign right to leave the Union.

In contrast, NC with its population of just under one million (1860) was rural with 35% being slaves. NC had no major cities, the largest being Wilmington with just over 10,000; Raleigh, the state capital, had under 5,000. Slaves were concentrated in NC's coastal plain region, the percentage dropped in the central and western counties; there were very few slaves in the mountain region. On a county level, there was a direct correlation between whether a county voted for secession and its % of slaves. In the 1860 census, Edgecombe County's population was 17,370 being 58% slaves. With a slave majority, Edgecombe County in 1861 voted to secede.

Despite this growing political unrest, NC's sentiment in 1860 was not to secede. In November 1860, this changed with a cascade of events, all happening within 6 months.

- November 6, 1860- Republican Abraham Lincoln was elected president with less than 40% of the popular vote. Because of the Republican's strong plank to abolish slavery, he was not on the ballot in NC or any other southern state.
- December 20, 1860- by a unanimous vote, SC legislature voted to secede.
- April 12, 1861- SC militia fired on union garrison at Ft Sumter, the US fort protecting Charleston harbor; the next day it was in Confederate hands.
- April 15, 1861- NC Governor Ellis and other southern governors refused Lincoln's order to retake the fort. "You can get no troops from North Carolina".
- April 17, 1861- VA seceded. With NC's 2 neighbors having joined the Confederacy, there was no north/south free state bordering NC.
- May 1, 1861- Governor Ellis ordered seizure of all federal property in NC and called a special session of the General Assembly to gather its Constitutional Convention.
- May 20, 1861- NC voted to secede with WSB representing Edgecombe County, joining the majority. NC thus became the 11th of 13 states to join the Confederacy.

Civil War Carnage - The Civil War was from 4/12/1861 (Confederate capture of Ft. Sumter) to 4/9/1865 (Ceasefire at Appomattox Courthouse). In 1860, both sides (for very different reasons) believed, if there were any conflict, it would be brief. Instead, the Civil War lasted 4 years and became US's deadliest; the traditional death estimate (which many now believe is understated by as much as 20%) has been 620,000 (360,000 Union and 260,000 Confederate). Civil War deaths equaled 2% of the 1860 population. In comparison, the US loss of 405,000 during WW II was less than one-half of 1% of the 1940 population.

The size of loss shocked both sides; it was largely because war strategies had not kept pace with science and technology:

- More soldiers died of wounds and disease than killed in action. The importance of a germ-free environment when treating the wounded on the battlefields or in hospitals was not well known or practiced; dysentery was rampant.
- War tactics had not adopted to the new weaponry; the fast-loading rifle had replaced the musket; charging soldiers in tight formations became easy targets.

For the Confederate side, the war was especially bleak. Although the South had fewer deaths than the North, its death rate was twice as high; since the war was fought in the south, it impacted more southerners. In the North, eligible males could avoid service by finding a substitute or paying \$300; more than 50% of eligible males in the north did not fight. Recent

immigrants resented this, precipitating the New York City draft riots of 1863. In the north, it had become a poor man's war.

For most of the war, southerners had no such option (although doctors and those heading critical industries were exempt). As the war dragged on and more southern troops were needed, conscription ages and service times increased. The plantation owners (i.e., the ruling class) were more removed from the war's horrors than the typical confederate soldier since they made up the majority of the officer class and those who qualified for exemptions.

Since NC had no deep-water port outside of Wilmington, military battles during the early and middle years were mostly fought elsewhere. NC troops, however, fought throughout the war, suffering more battlefield deaths than any other confederate state. They also earned the reputation of being steady under fire "as if they had tar on their heels".

After General Sherman made his infamous Atlanta to Savannah "March to the Sea" in November 1864, he turned north to the Carolinas, capturing Columbia SC. In late December 1864, another Union force under General Benjamin Butler, attacked Wilmington and nearby Ft Fisher; its objective: close the port with its supply lines to General Lee's army of Northern VA. Wilmington fell in late February 1865; about this same time, Sherman captured several eastern NC towns (Kinston, Fayetteville, and Goldsboro). The NC fighting ended on April 26, 1865, when Confederate General Joseph Johnston surrendered to General Sherman at Durham Station; this officially ended the Civil War in NC.

Battles, Slavery, and the Civil War

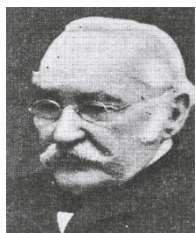
Where were you during the War? Below are male Battles and husbands of female direct descendants of JSB during the Civil War period (1861-1865).

The number following the name is the age in 1861.



Dr. Newsome Jones Pittman

- **Dr Newsome Jones Pittman (43)** - 2nd husband of Mary Eliza (Battle) Dancy; they were married after war's end. He served as a doctor during the war.



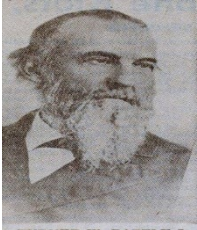
William Smith Battle

- **William Smith Battle (38)**- Exempt. He owned and operated the Rocky Mount Mills which produced clothing for the Confederacy. In 1861, WSB representing Edgecombe County, voted to secede.



*John Sessums Dancy
circa 1862*

- **John Sessums Dancy (40)** – Husband of Cornelia Viola Battle; she died within a year after marriage, leaving no children. In 1862, he received a captain's commission as Quartermaster of NC's 17th Regiment of CSA; he died in 1888.



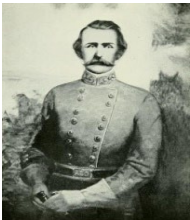
*TURNER W. BATTLE I
Turner Westray Battle
circa 1858*

- **Turner Westray Battle (34)**- When war broke out, he and several neighbors formed a company in which he was Captain (Company 1, 5th Regiment of CSA).



*Kemp Plummer Battle
circa 1881*

- **Kemp Plummer Battle (30)**- Exempt. Husband and cousin of our direct ancestor Martha Ann Battle; married in 1855. President of Chatham RR which hauled coal to the Confederate armament factories. Represented Wake County in voting for secession; later regretted that decision. Became president of UNC 1876-1891. Close friend of WSB.



*William Ruffin Cox
circa 1862*

- **William Ruffin Cox (29)**- Husband of Penelope Bradford Battle; rose to Brigadier General of Army of Northern Virginia; Congressman from NC: 1881-1887; Secretary of the US Senate (its administrative officer): 1893-1900.



*James Smith Battle
Circa 1858*

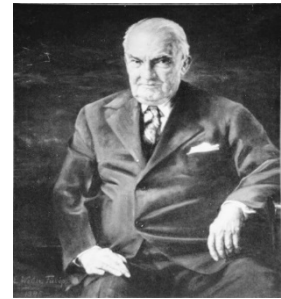
- **James Smith Battle II (15)**- At age 17 was drafted; in 1863 appointed aide-de-camp to Brigadier General William Ruffin Cox who was married to his aunt, Penelope Battle.

Although few southerners escaped the war, many of the Battles had special military status- being born into privilege had its benefits.

Slaves: part of the plantation community or a commodity? - Following the US's prohibition of the international slave trade (in 1808), the domestic slave market grew, especially in the Deep South. This resulted in there being two divergent views of slaves by their owners:

- slaves as a commodity to be bought and sold; or
- slaves as part of the plantation community.

JSB's view on slavery is best described by his grandson, George Gordon Battle (GGB). Even though GGB (1868-1949) was born after the Civil War and lived his adult life in New York, he had a special affection for eastern NC and his boyhood home, Cool Spring. His father, Turner Westray Battle (1827-1895) took over management of Cool Spring following JSB's death in 1854. In the late 1920's, GGB authored chapter VIII in the original (1930) Battle book, sharing stories about his father and grandfather as well as remembrances of his childhood at Cool Spring,



George Gordon Battle
circa 1946

Here are recaps of two stories about life at Cool Spring from GGB's chapter:

- Blacksmith Dick- was a slave at Old Town who was married to Aunt Rose, a slave from an adjoining plantation; her owner was moving south taking his slaves. Blacksmith Dick came to JSB in distress. JSB first tried to see if Blacksmith Dick could join them. When that didn't work, JSB bought Aunt Rose so that the couple could remain together. Both are buried with JSB in Old Town Cemetery.
- This second story has a legal twist; here it is in brief:
 - JSB's overseer got into an altercation with Will, one of JSB's slaves.
 - Will fled, the overseer went home for his gun.
 - The overseer pursued Will and shot him with birdshot.
 - When Will was caught, a fight ensued; Will pulled a knife and inflicted a wound on the overseer's arm.
 - The wound became infected, and the overseer died.
 - Will went to trial and was sentenced to be hanged for murder.

JSB studied the circumstances and concluded that Will had not committed murder, as charged. He therefore hired one of the top defense attorneys in NC. At the trial, the murder conviction was upheld. The case (known as *State vs. Will*) was then appealed to the NC Supreme Court where the verdict was reduced from murder to manslaughter, saving Will's life and setting precedent as to a slave's right to defend himself.

The following is the concluding paragraph from GGB's chapter in the 1930 Battle book:

These memories of those remote days when slavery still existed seem now very faint and distant. That old civilization has completely passed- like an unsubstantial pageant faded. Indeed, the

civilization which I recall in my boyhood on the Cool Spring plantation has vanished almost completely. We all recognize that slavery was evil and rejoice that it no longer exists throughout the world except in some of its darkest corners. But on the plantation, such as that of my grandfather undoubtedly the conditions were as favorable as possible. By the lapse of time the old Cool Spring life has also vanished into the smoke of the past. In a book devoted to genealogy with its roots leading far into that past these old memories of the by-gone years may, I hope, prove to be of some interest.

Based on these remembrances, it is clear that JSB cared for his slaves and considered them part of the Cool Spring family, not a commodity. These stories, however, illustrate, even if well treated, the institution of slavery was abhorrent. As to the larger question of whether JSB opposed slavery, there is no evidence that he did. A few plantation owners did free slaves in their wills; JSB did not. It should be recognized however, that he lived 170 years ago in a very different era.

FINANCIALS

Investment Results

In contrast to negative investment returns in 2022, investment results rebounded in 2023, especially the 4th quarter. During 2023, in spite of the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, inflation modified and the possibility of a soft landing for the economy improved; the market responded positively.

Below are the financials for the last 3 years taken from the trust's brokerage statements.

	2021	2022	2023
Beginning balance	105,738	118,266	110,854
Income			
Gifts	400	17,778	4,400
Invest Inc	4,778	3,144	3,949
Change in value	11,980	(16,684)	9,435
Total	17,158	4,238	17,784
Expenses			
S. Ward	135	0	9,655
G. Gurganus	1,485	0	0
Other	0	11,650	2,433
Total	4,630	11,650	12,088
Ending Balance	118,266	110,854	116,549

Note: Due to yearend timing, \$5,333 of checks (\$2,160 for mowing & \$3,173 as partial payment for the new ledger) have been issued by the trust but not reflected in the December financials; these will be reflected in January.

The financial highlights for this 3-year period (2021-2023):

- Even though the trust's value declined 18% in 2022, it increased over 10% for the 3-year period (from \$105,738 to \$116,549);
- 3-year gifts received: \$22,578;
- 3-year expenses paid: 28,368, broken out-
 - Interment Expenses: 17,578
 - Fees for obtaining tax exempt status: 4,000
 - Reoccurring Expenses: 6,790.

See APPENDIX E for details on these individual gifts and expenses. Anticipated one-time expenses for 2024, are: (1) new monuments for EBC area within OTC, (2) plantings in the EBC area and (3) past amounts (\$400) for work on plantings that have just been submitted. Based on these anticipated expenses, the trust should be able to absorb these expenses and still maintain a strong Balance Sheet.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

This three-year interment process of consolidating our two cemeteries should be finally completed in 2024. The head of the NC Archeological Unit that specializes in preserving family cemeteries commented that our managing and recording of the interment process is the best she has seen. We want to continue this into the future and therefore need family financial support. Our 2024 goal is to increase the number of Battle family members who regularly support the trust. Currently we rely on two cousins to cover most extra expenses. This makes the trust vulnerable should we lose one of these supporters; we need to broaden the base.

Everyone's financial situation is different so this goal is to increase the number of Battle cousins who annually support the GGB Cemetery Trust, not a particular sized gift. If you decide to support, you will receive an acknowledgement letter confirming tax deductibility.

Should you choose to support, please make your gift payable to **GGB Cemetery Trust** & mail to:

Richard Battle, GGBC Trustee
2905 Montpelier Court
Raleigh, NC 27609

The Battle cemetery is how our family stays connected (even though scattered geographically) and is a place where we honor our ancestors. We hope you will help.

APPENDIX A

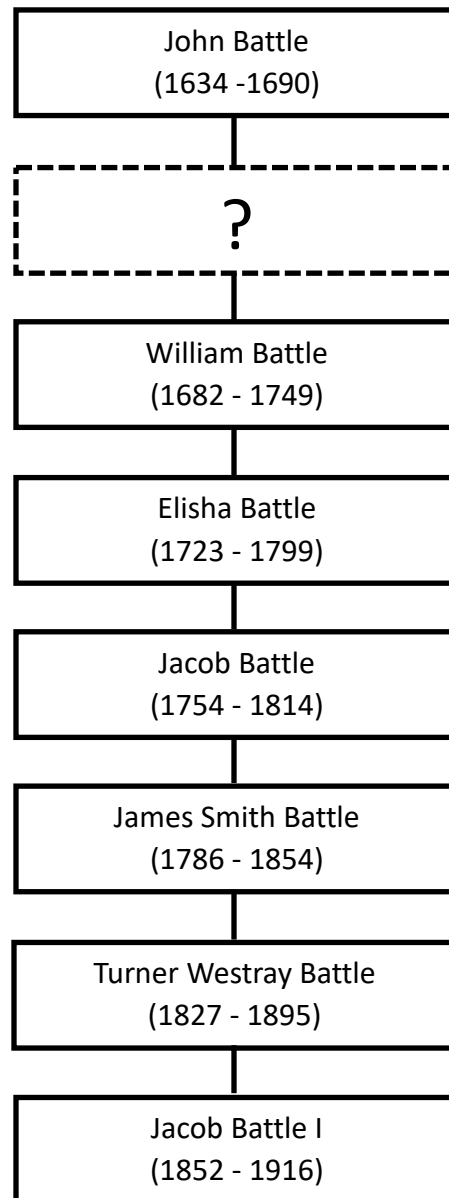
Contact List for Direct Descendants of Jacob Battle
(as of January 26, 2023)

	Initials	Full Name	State	Age
1	SN	Stacy Nicholas	OR	64
2	TWB	Turner Westray Battle VI	FL	77
3	TWB	Turner Westray Battle III (VII)	DC	49
4	TWB	Turner Westray Battle IV (VIII)	DC	11
5	TWB	Madison Elizabeth Battle	DC	9
6	TWB	Isla Latham Battle	DC	4
7	TWB	Sloan Barksdale Battle	FL	36
8	SSB	Stephen Shackelford Battle	NC	73
9	SSB	Kristen Elizabeth Sebastian	NC	39
10	RSB	William Richardson Staats Battle	NC	64
11	RSB	Cameron Shackelford Battle Leonard	NC	35
12	RSB	Turner Battle Leonard	NC	5
13	RSB	Davis Coleman Leonard	NC	3
14	RSB	Walker Robins Leonard	NC	1
15	RSB	Sterling Battle Stilley	NC	33
16	RSB	John Bryan Stilley IV	NC	2
17	RSB	Carolanne Battle Stilley	NC	1
18	RSB	William Richardson Staats Battle Jr	NC	30
19	RSB	William Richardson Staats Battle III	NC	1
20	RSB	Eliza Wells Battle	NC	2
21	ELE	Edward Laughtin Eatman Jr.	SC	79
22	ELE	Edward Laughtin Eatman III	FL	53
23	ELE	Shannon Gay Eatman	NC	58
24	ELE	Amanda Nicole Long	NC	36
25	ELE	Jonathan Tyler Long	NC	33
26	GHE	George Hackney Eatman	VA	77
27	GBE	Gordon Battle Eatman	NM	75
28	GBE	Sara Rose Eatman	TX	41
29	GBE	Theodore Carson Toohey	TX	3
30	GBE	Maxwell Sawyer Toohey	TX	3
31	NBE	Nell Battle Eatman	VA	70
32	NBE	Andrew Christian Edwards	VA	42
33	NBE	Richard George Battle Edwards	MD	43
34	NBE	Mary Elizabeth Edwards	MD	11
35	NBE	Joshua Zachary Edwards	MD	9
36	GWF	Gordon Wilkinson Folger	NC	88
37	GWF	Lee Alphonso Folger IV	NC	61
38	GWF	Lee Alphonso Folger V	NC	24
39	GWF	Alison Wilkinson Newbold Folger	NC	21
40	GWF	Francis Wilkinson Folger	NC	58
41	GWF	Caroline Jourdan Folger	NC	23
42	GWF	David Alexander Folger	NC	21
43	GWF	Kathryn Carlyle Battle Folger	NC	17
44	FSW	Frank Smith Wilkinson Jr	MN	84
45	FSW	Smith Kemp Wilkinson	MN	42
46	FSW	Westray Battle Wilkinson	MN	3
47	FSW	Eloise Battle Ratan	MN	41
48	FSW	Scarlett Battle Ratan	MN	6
49	FSW	Josephine Kemp Ratan	MN	4
50	FSW	Charlotte Scannell Heins	MN	37
51	FSW	Benjamin Carter Wilkinson	MA	31

NOTE: Descendants of Jacob Battle plus step & adopted children

APPENDIX B

2023 Annual Report: Direct Descendants
John Battle to Jacob Battle I

**NOTES:**

1. There is strong circumstantial evidence that a generation is missing between John and William Battle; explanation is provided in the NOTE of the 2022 Annual Report, pages 5-6; (in the NOTE he is designated as "X" Battle);
2. Jacob I & his first wife, Iva Isabella Steele, had one child, a son, Jacob II; the sole living descendant from this line is Stacy Nicholas (see APPENDIX A);
3. The remaining living descendants (6) from Jacob I are from the Jacob and Nell Gupton line (see APPENDIX A).

APPENDIX C

Old Town Cemetery

Numbered Monuments with Names

#	Style	Name	Birth Yr - Death Yr
1	Planter	Livy Bassett Battle	1876 - 1876
2	Planter	Matilda Moore Battle	1867 - 1867
3	Planter	Henry (Harry) Bunn	1879 - 1879
4	Planter	Bennett Bunn	1884 - 1884
5	Box/Ledger	Penelope Cox Bunn	1881 - 1884
6	Cross	Harriett Westray Battle Bunn	1856 - 1884
7	Cross	Bennett Bunn	1857 - 1895
8	Cross	Turner Westray Battle Bunn	1875 - 1948
9	Cross	Lavinia Bassett (Daniel) Battle	1831 - 1905
10	Cross	Joseph Daniel Battle	1877 - 1890
11	Cross	Iva Isabella Steele Battle	1874 - 1894
12	Cross	Jacob Battle, Jr.(II)	1875 - 1912
13	Upright	William Wrght Battle	1898 - 1898
14	Upright	Martha Westray Battle Long	1901 - 1972
14 (a)	Marker	Westray Battle Boyce Nicholas	1926 - 2007
	Cross	Wilkinson Family Monument	
15	Marker	Frank Smith Wilkinson	1905 - 1980
16	Marker	Dorothy Battle Wilkinson	1909 - 1997
17	Ledger	James Marmaduke Battle	1812 - 1850
18	Planter	Lavinia Daniel Battle	1906 - 1908
19	Planter	Maria Stith Battle	1865 - 1865
20	Planter	Lavina (Lavinia) Bassett Battle	1896 - 1896
21	Planter	Turner Westray Battle	1827 - 1905
22	Ledger	James Smith Battle	1786 - 1854
23	Ledger	Cornelia Viola Battle Dancy	1824 - 1844
24	Ledger	Sally Harriett Westray Battle	1803 - 1840
25	Cross	Joseph Daniel Bunn	1877 - 1899
26	Cross	Nannie (Barlow Speight) Battle	? - 1896
27	Cross	Turner Westray Battle	1827 - 1895
28	Cross	Jacob Battle	1852 - 1916
29	Cross	Lavinia Daniel Battle	1906 - 1908
30	Cross	Nell Gupton Battle	1875 - 1961
30 (a)	Cenotaph	Mary Long Battle Eatman	1912 - 1979
31	Doublemarker	Blacksmith Dick	1788 - 1858
32	Doublemarker	Aunt Rose	1808 - 1890
33 (a)	Cenotaph	Treadwell Downing Covington Jr	1926 - 2014
33	Ledger	Elizabeth Battle States	1902 - 1981
34	Ledger	Bettie Plummer Wright Battle	1877 - 1943
35	Ledger	Gaston Battle	1871 - 1937
36	Ledger	Turner Westray Battle IV	1899 - 1944
37	Upright	Robert Staats Battle	1954 - 1955
38	Ledger	Turner Westray Battle V	1921 - 1974
39	Upright	Francesca Barksdale Shackelford (Battle)	1923 - 1994
40	Cenotaph	Battle Booth	

NOTES:

(1) This appendix is from a report on insured values at OTC prepared by Ward Sutton in early 2000's.

(2) It identifies the monuments at OTC; the 2023 Annual Report cover is a "map" as to location of these monuments.

(3) #s on this report correspond to #s on the "map"; if # is followed by (a), monumnt was installed after Sutton's report.

(4) Names match Battle genealogical information; any name differences are noted by "()"

APPENDIX D

Interment Process

Disinterment from Elisha Battle Cemetery- Reinterment to Old Town Cemetery

Introduction

In the pre-industrial South, cemeteries adjacent to family farms were common gathering places for reunions and other family events for both white and black families. During the post WW II period, these family cemeteries were lost at a rapid rate to land developers with little effort to preserve them; others had become over-grown and fallen into neglect. To avoid losing this piece of history, NC established a State Burial Association Commissioner. For family cemeteries, regulations required that the landowner receive permission from the local governing body before any development.

The Battles were fortunate that 75 years ago a cousin established a trust to maintain the 2 family cemeteries. Thanks to the income from the trust plus periodic gifts from family members as well as an engaged team of Battle cousins, the family cemeteries have been well maintained.

Following our 2012 Battle family reunion, the cemetery team (George Eatman, Gordon Folger and trustees Richard Battle & Stephen Battle) looked into the possibility of consolidating our 2 cemeteries; for various reasons, the team decided not to proceed. In 2021, the cemetery team (with Battle cousin Frank Wilkinson joining the team) revisited the question. An updated analysis was made and in early 2022, the 2 trustees (Richard & Stephen Battle) decided to proceed.

Disinterment from Elisha Battle Cemetery (EBC)

EBC was established in the latter part of the 18th century after Elisha emigrated from VA to Edgecombe County. His grandson James Smith Battle established the 2nd family cemetery, Old Town Cemetery (OTC) about ½ mile east of EBC with gravesites dating from the 1840's. OTC is still active while EBC is not. The proposed plan was to remove (disinter) the remains from EBC and move (reinter) them to OTC. The Cemetery team met at the 2 cemeteries on May 17, 2022, to decide on how best to proceed. Also, present was Steve Ward, who would handle the interment process and Gary Gurganus, who does the planting at OTC and advise the cemetery team on best spot to reinter at OTC.

Since there were no remaining markers at EBC, the question became: how many gravesites? There was a 1995 study done by John Clauser, a consulting NC archaeologist that examined ground depressions at EBC; this study concluded 14 probable gravesites. George Eatman who is our family genealogist looked at this from standpoint of family ancestry and felt there should be fewer.

To get better information, trustees engaged Richard Grubb & Associates, a nationwide consulting firm. Its principal business is working with real estate developers in states that require a search for gravesites before any development can begin. Grubb uses ground penetrating radar (GPR) a non-invasive analysis in the probable cemetery area, looking for anomalies which could be gravesites. On April 19, 2022, Grubb, with Steve Ward present, made a GPR analysis at EBC. After the site visit, Grubb did its number

crunching analysis producing a report; it concludes there are 7 probable gravesites. This supported George's view. For those who like to get into the weeds, the Grubb report is on the Battle family website. To read the report:

- Open thebattlebook.com
- On home page, click "Links to more Battle Related Info" (lower middle of screen)
- Under this section, click Old Town Cemetery Reports, then click "2022 GPR survey"

The second hurdle was obtaining government permission to disinter. It was incorrectly assumed permission was needed from Edgecombe County, where EBC is located. Since Rocky Mount has a waste water treatment plant near EBC, Rocky Mount's authority (through its Planning Commission) actually includes the EBC area even though 5 mile east of the city. After posting the required public notice in the local paper, the Rocky Mount City Council met on June 13, 2022 and gave permission to disinter. On Nov 15, 2022 George Eatman again met with Steve Ward at EBC. Steve using his backhoe, began the disinterment process.



Skull & bones unearthed from a gravesite during the disinterment process (November 15, 2023)

Within the EBC area there is a large oak with an extensive root system; this could have resulted in the Grubb analysis giving false positives. Recognizing this, Steve took this into consideration and also found 7 probable gravesites; this confirmed Grubb's analysis as well as George's opinion.



November 15 group photo for disinterment: Joel Boseman, Steve Ward & his crew, cousins George Eatman and Bill Battle plus Gary Gurganus.

Reinterment to Old Town Cemetery (OTC)

After disinterring EBC, Steve put each of the 7 remains in a standard 2' X 1' X 1' wooden box for later reinterment at OTC. It was decided that the OTC reinterment area should be the NW corner of OTC. On March 31, 2023 George Eatman met with Steve Ward and Gary Gurganus at OTC; Steve began the reinterment process.



Gary Gurganus & Steve Ward at Old Town Cemetery following reinterment (March 31, 2023)

When reinterment is completed in early 2024, this 10' X 20' area within OTC will include:

- The existing ledger, which will be moved from EBC; it lists Elisha Battle's accomplishments;
- A new companion ledger that describes the interment process from EBC to OTC;
- Underneath the EBC ledger, the remains of Elisha and his wife Elizabeth;
- Underneath the new ledger, the remains of Jacob and his wife Penelope plus the 3 children that died in infancy;
- A plain cross below (east of) the 2 ledgers.
- *No Trespassing* and identifying signs will be mounted on the Cemetery fence.

The inscriptions on both ledgers:

THE LEDGER AT ELISHA BATTLE CEMETERY

BORN — NANSEMOND COUNTY, VIRGINIA,
JANUARY 9, 1723

SETTLED ON THIS PLANTATION 1747

JUDGE OF EDGEcombe COUNTY, COURT
MEMBER OF COMMISSION TO LAY OUT TOWN OF
TARBORO

MEMBER, CLERK, FOR MANY YEARS MODERATOR
OF KEHUKEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, MEMBER
FOR TWENTY YEARS

PROVINCIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER
STATE SENATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION

EDGEcombe's MEMBER COMMITTEE OF SAFETY
DURING REVOLUTION

SUCCESSFUL PLANTER — STURDY PATRIOT —
SINCERE CHRISTIAN

THE PATRIARCH OF THE BATTLE CLAN, HIS NAME
IS REVERED BY A HOST OF DESCENDANTS

DIED NEARBY MARCH 6, 1799

THIS STONE ERECTED 1935 BY GEORGE
GORDON BATTLE

ELISHA BATTLE FAMILY CEMETRY

ON NOV 15, 2022, 7 REMAINS FROM THE ELISHA BATTLE
CEMETERY (EBC) WERE DISINTERRED & MOVED ½ MILE
EAST TO OLD TOWN CEMETRY (OTC)

RELYING ON GENEALOGICAL RECORDS, THESE BURIALS
TOOK PLACE DURING THE LATE 18TH CENTURY/EARLY
19TH CENTURY

BECAUSE OF AGE, MUCH OF THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AT
GRAVESITES HAS BEEN OBSCURED

GROUND PENETRATION RADAR RESULTED IN SEVEN
PROBABLE EBC GRAVESITES

IT IS BELIEVED THE SEVEN ARE:

ELISHA BATTLE (1723~1799)
& WIFE ELIZABETH SUMNER BATTLE (?~1794)
JACOB BATTLE (1754~1814)
& WIFE PENELOPE LANGLEY BATTLE (1762~1800)
THE 3 CHILDREN OF JACOB & PENELOPE
THAT DIED YOUNG
LUCY BATTLE (1789~1794)
THOMAS BATTLE (1793~1799)
THOMAS LANGLEY BATTLE (1799~1805)

JACOB & PENELOPE BATTLE ARE REINTERRED
BELOW THE COMPANION LEDGER

JAMES SMITH BATTLE, THE ELDEST CHILD OF
JACOB & MANY OF HIS DESCENDANTS ARE
BURIED IN THE MAIN AREA OF THE OTC

"THY REMEMBRANCE SHALL ENDURE
INTO ALL GENERATIONS." ~ PSALM 102



Two sides of the reinterment area at OTC will be the cemetery fence; the other 2 sides will be planted with a rosemary hedge. It is expected that the process will be completed during the 1st half of 2024; a family celebration will be scheduled thereafter.

Our neighbor

Joel and Jean Boseman are the current owners of the farmland that was the Battle plantation. We are fortunate to have them as our neighbor. They are interested in continuing to farm the land (in contrast to say, developing a mobile home park). They also would like to have the EBC area as their family cemetery.

When the land surrounding EBC and OTC was originally sold in 1908 to a non-Battle interest, there was a codicil in the purchase agreement that gives the Battle family the 2 cemeteries with access rights. As a sign of the close relationship with the Boseman's, the trustees decided to forego any contractual rights from the codicil regarding EBC (but not OTC).

APPENDIX E

2023 Annual Report
GGBT Gifts & Expenses / Last 3 Years

	Gifts				Expenses				Net
2021	G Eatman	Unrestricted	3/24//21	200	Ward Sutton	Mowing	1/15/2021	945	
	G Eatman	Unrestricted	12/1/2021	200	Ward Sutton	Mowing	9/13/2021	1,485	
	-	-	-	-	Ward Sutton	Monument Cleaning	9/13/2021	2,000	
	-	-	-	-	Gary Gurganus	Plantings	9/30/2021	200	
				400				4,630	(4,230)
2022	F Wilkinson	Tax Exempt App	7/19/2022	2,500	IRS	Tax Application fee	5/12/2022	600	
	F Wilkinson	Unrestricted	8/16/2022	3,178	Wipfli	Tax Advice	5/24/2022	2,500	
	G Eatman	Grubb & Asooc	10/7/2022	200	Grubb & Asooc	Radar Survey	5/27/2022	4,472	
	F Wilkinson	Grubb & Asooc	11/22/2022	900	Grubb & Asooc	Survey & Report	8/10/2022	3,178	
	F Wilkinson	Wipfli	12/28/2022	11,000	Wipfli	F/up Tax Advice	11/15/2022	900	
				17,778				11,650	6,128
2023	G Eatman	Unrestricted	1/20/2023	2,200	Ward Sutton	Mowing (1922)	2/27/2023	2,160	
	Tim Battle	Unrestricted	3/2/2023	1,000	Ward Sutton	Moving Graves	2/27/2023	7,495	
	G Eatman	Unrestricted	3/7/2023	1,200	Dobson Monument: Ledger (not used)		7/23/2023	2,433	
				4,400				12,088	(7,688)
				22,578				28,368	(5,790)

Notes: gifts show donor, date gift made & \$ amount.