

# Battles On UNC Board 119 Years

By ELIZABETH NAPIER.

CHAPEL HILL — Probably the name of Battle is more inextricably tied up with the University of North Carolina than any other in the 158-year history of the institution.

Battles have been enrolled at Carolina since almost the first year of its operation—1795. Joel Battle of Rocky Mount was a student in 1798-1800.

There are several memorials to the distinguished Battle family on the campus today, including Battle Dormitory and Battle Park, both named after President Kemp Plummer Battle.

And the "bible" of students of history of the University is the voluminous two-volume work of the former president who headed the institution from 1876 to 1891. His history covers the period from 1789 when the University was founded until 1912.

Aside from the many Battles who have been enrolled as students and President Battle, who guided the institution wisely through a difficult period in its history, there has been a Battle on the Board of Trustees continuously for the last 119 years—except for the six years, 1867-74, when the University was closed following the Civil War.

## First On Board.

William Horn Battle, who was born in Edgecombe County in 1802, served as trustee from 1833-1868. Following the University's reopening, William Horn Battle, the father of Kemp P. Battle, who was soon to become president, again served as a trustee, re-

maining on the Board until his death at the age of 77 in 1879.

His son was a trustee for six years prior to the closing of the University—from 1862 to 1868—beginning his service to the University on the Board at the age of 31, the same as his father. Kemp P. Battle became president of the institution in 1876, a year after the University reopened, and remained as head until 1891. Thereafter he was professor of history until the last few years of his life. He was a trustee from the reopening in 1874 until his death in 1919 at the age of 87.

President Battle's son, Thomas Hall Battle, who was born in Raleigh in 1860, became a trustee upon his father's death and served on the Board for 10 years when his son, the present Kemp Davis Battle, Rocky Mount lawyer, was elected a trustee. Kemp D. Battle has served on the Board of Trustees 23 years and has long been one of its most active and influential members.

William Horn Battle, the first "Battle on the Board" (1833-1868), took his A.B. degree at the University in 1820. He was awarded an LL. D. degree in 1852. A lawyer, he went into politics and was a member of the House of Representatives from 1833-35. From 1834 to 1840 he was reporter to the Supreme Court of North Carolina and in 1840 became a judge of the Superior Court. In 1848 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court, continuing in this capacity until 1868. During this time he was also a professor of law at Chapel Hill, and continued so for

two years (1877-79) after the University reopened following the Civil War. He was twice commissioned to revise the north Carolina Statute Books.

William Horn Battle's son, the future president of the University, Kemp Plummer Battle, was born in Franklin County in 1831. He took his A. B. degree at the University in 1849 and his A. M. in mathematics in 1852. From 1850 to 1854 he was a tutor in mathematics at Chapel Hill.

As a lawyer and member of the Board of Trustees, he voted, in 1864, against general exemption of students for war duty, but was overruled. He was State Treasurer from 1865 to 1868 and at the same time was a trustee, along with his father, William Horn Battle. He was elected in 1874 permanent secretary-treasurer of the Board of Trustees and was chairman of the committee for reorganizing the the University after the Civil War. He was also a member of the committee to solicit funds for aiding in reopening the University.

Dr. Battle, in recognition of the fine service he performed in bringing the "New University" back to life and rebuilding it, has been called "Father of the new University." It was his passion to root the institution deeply into the good will and affection of the people.

When he was elected president, the student body numbered 112 and the faculty 12; when he resigned the student body numbered 197 and the faculty 19.

Thomas Hall Battle, a banker, was born to Kemp P. and Martha Ann Battle in Raleigh in 1860. He took his A. B. degree in 1880 at the University and studied law in 1881-82, afterwards practicing in Tarboro and then in Rocky Mount until 1898 when he went into banking and cotton manufacturing.

He became president of the National Bank of Rocky Mount, the Rocky Mount Savings and Trust Company, the Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Company, the Rocky Mount Homestead and Loan Association, and treasurer of the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills.

Thomas H. Battle was solicitor of the Edgecombe county court from 1882 to 1885, was Mayor for 10 years, Alderman for 20 years, chairman of the School Board from 1885 to 1919 and president of the Rocky Mount Public Library Association.

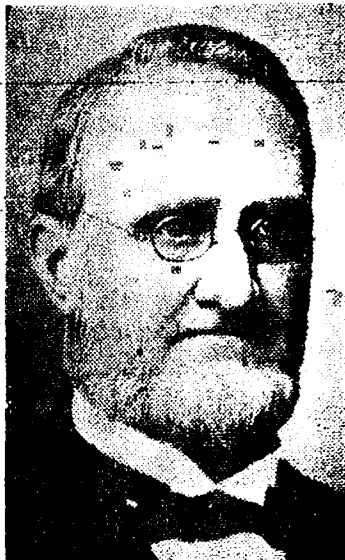
He was married three times, first to Elizabeth Mershon Davis, then to Sallie Dortch Hyman and lastly to Mary Norcom Weddell. Kemp Davis Battle, the present Trustee, was the only child of his father's first marriage. The only other son of Thomas H. Battle is Hyman Llewellyn Battle of Rocky Mount, child of the second marriage, who is executive head of Rocky Mount Mills. Daughters are Mrs. W. C. Paxton, Mrs. A. F. Comer, Mrs. Jim Mebane, and Miss Mary Thomas Battle, now a student at the University.

The present member of the Board, Kemp D., is now 63 and he has been a trustee since 1929. He is married to the former Laura Maud Bunn, graduate of the Woman's College in 1914, and they have two daughters, Elizabeth Mershon Battle of New York, who took her degree at the University and Laura Maud, now a graduate student.

Hyman Battle is 55 and has two sons, Hyman, Jr., 27, a lawyer now serving with the armed forces in Korea, and Thomas Braswell Battle, 22, of Rocky Mount, also a graduate.



WILLIAM HORN BATTLE.



KEMP PLUMMER BATTLE.



THOMAS HALL BATTLE.



KEMP DAVIS BATTLE.