

Wednesday Review Club Presents Portrait To Braswell Memorial Library

In the spring of 1922 a group of young women organized the Wednesday Review Club, the third oldest literary club in the city. At about that same time the Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library was dedicated (in October, 1923) as a gift to the city from the late Dr. Mark R. Braswell, in memory of his son.

The young women were helped immeasurably in their literary program planning and preparation by the librarian, Mrs. Nell G. Battle, and last Wednesday the club members honored Mrs. Battle in appreciation for her assistance to them, and her contribution to the community in her capacity as librarian, by presenting a portrait of her to the Braswell Memorial Library.

Mrs. H. H. Weeks, acting for the president, Mrs. C. C. Harris, who was unable to be present, made the presentation. The portrait was accepted for the library by Mrs. J. R. Bennett, who since the inception of a public library in the city, has been active in that field. She has served as a member of the board of directors of the Braswell Memorial Library since its beginning and was recently made a Life Member.

Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. R. T. Jeffreys, the present librarian, gave brief histories of the public library system in Rocky Mount.

The portrait was painted from a picture of Mrs. Battle before her retirement in 1944 after 22 years of service as librarian.

Established Bookmobile
Long recognized for her outstanding ability Mrs. Battle has a notable list of accomplishments to her credit. She helped to organize the first bookmobile built which was taken over by the government for an ambulance in World War II and toured the country to establish stations for the visits of the bookmobile.

During World War II she was appointed by the late Millard F. Jones to keep a record of all service men and women from Rocky Mount for the State Historical Association.

She is a charter member of the Research Club the oldest literary club in the city and is a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd having served as organist for twelve years and as president of the Woman's Auxiliary in addition to other offices and work too numerous to name.

Mrs. Battle is the mother of three children, Mrs. Frank S. Wilkinson with whom she makes her home, Mrs. E. L. Eatman and the late Turner W. Battle who served in the armed forces and died during the last war.

A charming and lively lady she is now in her 83rd year. Always abreast of the times, Mrs. Battle could be easily recognized for her modern spirit when several years ago she was one of the first to purchase a car of very advanced and streamlined appearance. And she drove it until about a year ago.



Mrs. J. R. Bennett is accepting the portrait of Mrs. Battle for the Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library, of which Mrs. Bennett has been a director since its beginning.

Mrs. Battle's service and that of the library may be summed up in the words of Henry Van Dyke: "A good library in the midst of a community is like a spring of living water and the librarian, like those givers of a cup of cold water upon whom Christ gave a special blessing."

Guests At Luncheon

Mrs. Battle's daughters, and her granddaughter, Mrs. Turner W. Battle, Jr. were special guests of the Wednesday Review Club at the luncheon given in the New Orleans Room of the Ricks Hotel Wednesday. Other guests were Mrs. Jeffreys, Mrs. Thomas B. Battle, wife of the grandson of the Dr. Braswell, Mrs. Bennett, and Mrs. H. L. Hicks.

A two course luncheon was served. Christmas arrangements of pink dahlias and pink poinsettias with sprays of greenery and silver surrounded by Christmas balls of

pink and silver centered the tables which were covered with pink cloths.

Members of the Wednesday Review Club are: Mesdames Hyman L. Battle, G. A. Burton, G. R. Edwards, H. H. Elmore, C. C. Harris, Sr., E. G. Johnston, J. B. Keller, R. A. King, B. B. Nicholson, M. R. Robbins, Woodall Rose, Sr., C. T. Smith, W. C. Spencer, Adam Thorp, Lewis Thorp, W. L. Thorp, H. H. Weeks, Sr., Miss Vivian Braswell, and Miss Louise Wilkinson.



"The Battle girls," looking lovely as usual, shown here at the Wednesday Review Club luncheon, honoring Mrs. Nell G. Battle. They are, left to right, Mrs. Battle's daughter, Mrs. Frank S. Wilkinson, Mrs. Battle, another daughter, Mrs. Ed Eatman, and Mrs. Turner W. Battle, the wife of Mrs. Battle's grandson.