

**TRIBUTES TO MY FATHER
AND MOTHER AND SOME
STORIES OF MY LIFE**

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Tributes to my father and mother and some stories of my life by Jesse Mercer Battle

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JESSE MERCER BATTLE



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1911

DEDICATION

To my grandson, EUGENE BATTLE SMITH, and to my granddaughter, MARGARET PARKER SMITH. May my grandson be as good and useful a man as my father was, and may my granddaughter be as good a wife and as good a mother as my mother was,

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MY FATHER.

In the September, 1906, number of the "Wake Forest Student" I find the following statement concerning my father. I have been told that it was written by Professor Collier Cobb, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. It contains a mere outline of a very small part of the services rendered to the Baptists by my father. Doctor William Hooper, a life long friend, wrote a more extended notice, giving more data and more detail; this obituary notice was sent to the Biblical Recorder, a Baptist paper, published in Raleigh, N. C., and edited at that time by a Mr. Richard Mills. It is greatly to be regretted that this paper of Doctor Hooper was lost, misplaced or purposely suppressed, for it contained matter of the greatest importance concerning my father, written by a master hand and a loving friend. At this time Doctor Hooper was too old and feeble to reproduce his paper.

Noting that the paper did not appear in the next issue of the Biblical Recorder, I went to its office in Raleigh and asked Mr. Mills for the paper. He said that he was very sorry, but the paper was misplaced and he could not

lay his hands on it at that time, if he found it he would send it to me. I never received it. The explanation was easy, I understood the situation well. My father was no longer a Baptist, and the Baptists were no longer interested in him, living or dead. Another reason which had some weight is that the columns of a newspaper or magazine are worth money. At that time I knew so little about such matters I did not think to ask what would be the cost of the space that Doctor Hooper's paper would occupy. Had I done so, I am almost certain that the paper would have appeared. I now give Professor Collier Cobb's paper.

“Elder Amos Johnston Battle, son of Joel and Mary P. Battle, was born at Shell Bank, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, on the eleventh day of January, 1805. His parents, being of an influential family and having ample means, gave to their son the superior advantages of a good education, which he continued to enrich by close study and extensive reading during the whole of his laborious and useful life.

“Placed above the necessity of manual labor and possessing talents of a high order, the world proffered to him success and honors in the learned professions, the arena of politics and the emoluments of wealth, all of which he spurned as possessing inferior attractions