

Fairfield County Genealogy Society Research Library Research Log

Member: Yes (priority), ☒ No

Position in-line:

Surname(s): BLATTON

Target:

Started:

Ready to File ☒

Completed: 8 5 15

Start research using Request, Family Group & Pedigree Sheets

Check off each item as research is completed

- BookCat (Online Card Catalog)
 - Key in surname being researched
 - FB = Family Books
 - FF = Family Files
 - VF = Vertical Files
 - VF Church = Vertical Files labeled Churches
 - VF Fairfield = Vertical Files labeled Fairfield
 - VF Plats = Vertical Files labeled Plats
 - VF Wills = Vertical Files labeled Wills
- Computer with Large TV Screen
 - Check ICON labeled Research Room
 - African American Folder
 - Books Folder
 - CDs Folder
 - Church Cemeteries Folder
 - Family Books Section Folder
 - Family Researched Files Folder (also check Master List Spreadsheet)
 - Funeral Homes Folder
 - Maps, Map Information Folders
 - Obits Folder
 - Plats Folder
 - Wills Folder
 - Check Online Research Sources Folder
 - Other web resources available, like USC Libraries, etc.
- Main Room – Southwest Corner
 - Local Church History & Denominational Church History
 - Deeds
 - Wills
 - Equity Court
 - Cemeteries
 - Birth Scrapbook
 - Marriage Notices & Scrapbook
 - Death Notices & Scrapbook

Genealogy Resource Library

From: Genealogy Resource Library [fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2015 6:22 PM
To: 'Pat West'
Subject: RE: Research Request - Bratton-DuBose Plantations

Hello Pat,

I am very sorry, but I have not been able to find anything about the Bratton plantations except Wynn Dee and the Brattonsville Plantation. I forwarded your email to Pelham, just in case she might have some resources that I am not aware of.

Hope you have enjoyed being in SC and have been successful in your research,

Eddie

Eddie Killian
FCGS-Fairfield County Genealogy Society, President
Fairfield County Archives and Family Resource Library Research Volunteer

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Fairfield County Genealogy Society

Mail: Fairfield County Genealogy Society
P.O. Box 93
Winnsboro, SC 29180-0093

Library: 2nd Floor of the Fairfield County Museum
231 South Congress Street
Winnsboro, SC

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00AM-5:00PM; (Lunch 12:30PM-1:30PM)
Saturday, Sunday or Monday by appointment
Volunteer staffed, please call before coming

Phone: (803) 635-9811
Fax: (803) 815-9811
Email: <mailto:fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net>
Website: <http://www.fairfieldgenealogical.org>
Meeting Date: Normally 3rd Thursday of the Month (usually at museum)

Projects: Please check web site announcement page for latest details
<http://www.fairfieldgenealogical.org/announcements.htm>
Outreach: Research Library, Abandoned Cemeteries, DNA, Social Media, Community
Officers: Please check web site officers page
<http://www.fairfieldgenealogical.org/officers.htm>

From: Pat West [mailto:gcwoman@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:59 PM
To: fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net
Subject: Research Request - Bratton-DuBose Plantations

Hi Eddie (or to whomever this is appearing)!

I am almost ready to start writing the book about the Carolina Brattons, but still have a few loose ends to tie up. One involves plantations owned and/or operated by General John Bratton. I really haven't been able to find much information about whether he ever actually owned or operated Roseland and Farmington Plantations; I think I have figured out he managed Farmington, which was owned by the DuBoses and eventually auctioned off. According to Luke Austin's book about Gen. Bratton, the general assumed control of the combined holdings of the Bratton and DuBose families after the Civil War and formed a partnership with a banker in Baltimore, who furnished the capital, but I can't find any references regarding that. Also according to Luke, the general concentrated on farming cotton and raising imported cattle, sheep, and swine, but I've seen nothing about that, either.

I have found literally nothing about Canaan Plantation, although I know it existed as I have seen it mentioned in *Slave Narratives* by at least two ex-slaves. It shows up on the following website as being owned by a Bratton - if it is the correct one - but indicates it was in another county: <http://south-carolina-plantations.com/georgetown/canaan.html>

In an article in one of your newsletters (I've been doing extensive research on your website), there was also an indication that one of the properties owned by Theodore S. DuBose was named Rock Hill, but I don't know if that had ever been an actual plantation, or just involved some buildings and property. ("Winnsboro: A Century of News," *Fairfield Genealogical Society Newsletter*, vol II, no. 3, September 1996).

I know that all of the plantations were eventually sold off, but do you have any specifics? I realize that Reconstruction and the ensuing lack of slave labor, then the Great Depression and "the end of cotton farming due to the boll weevil" in the county had an effect.

John Bratton of Sewanee indicated that there was a fire that destroyed many of the family's records, so maybe some or much of this is a dead end, but anything that you can find would be greatly appreciated!

Please say hello to Pelham for me. I just finished transcribing the interview I did with her father, and it brought back such wonderful memories of my trip to Winnsboro:)

Pat

Pat West, Personal Historian
www.TreeofLifeMemoirs.com
(931) 598-5913 home/office

Genealogy Resource Library

From: Genealogy Resource Library [fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 2:00 PM
To: 'Pat West'
Subject: RE: Research on General John Bratton & Family

Hello Pat,

Your request is now number #11 of the 19 remaining request.

Thanks for your patience with us.

Apparently good news, the word must be out about us (see FYI below).
However, we are still supplied by a volunteer staff.

As FYI: we were getting on average about 3 request per month, this past year our average was 20 request per month;

our walk-in visitors is up from January 2014, 110, to an average of 139 walk-ins per month in 2014, 226 last month;

out of state visitors is up from January 2014, 2, to an average of 14 out of state visitors per month, 16 last month, recently 12 in one day.

We would love to provide our services at no cost and hope to one day be able to provide this service.

However, at this time we are totally supported by volunteers and donations.

On our membership application you will see we provide a multiple of research tools and supplies for researchers.

We are a 501-C3 society and all donations are tax deductible.

Normally, we encourage researchers to become members of our chapter (see website).

Members receive free priority research and free paper copies for their membership year.

For non-members, we normally charge \$15 per request (3 hours) and \$.10 per copies.

For our records would you please share any information you have updated on your family lines.

The information will be filed and made available in our family files.

This will aide to expedite future request for research and assist walk-in researchers.

Please let us know if you need any further assistance and feel free to call us to check the status of your request.

Eddie

Eddie Killian

FCGS-Fairfield County Genealogy Society, President

Fairfield County Archives and Family Resource Library Research Volunteer

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Projects: Research Library, Abandoned Cemeteries, DNA, Social Media, Community Outreach

Officers: Please check web site officers page
<http://www.fairfieldgenealogical.org/officers.htm>

From: FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM [mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net]

Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 8:46 AM

To: Pat West

Cc: Genealogy Resource Library; Suzanne Johnson; edangates

Subject: Re: Research on General John Bratton & Family

Pat,
How is John Bratton of Sewanee these days? I used to correspond with him many years ago and know he would be getting up in years. I think Luke spent days at a time with our genealogy collection previous to my becoming the museum director, also came here for a book signing event and we have corresponded much in the past. My brother is a grad of Sewanee and I believe he knew Mr. Bratton. Another family connected to that period at Sewanee was the Means/Kirbysmith. The famous sculptor, Maria Kirbysmith lives in nearby Camden and is a friend of mine. We are presently embarking on a plan to begin restoration work in the Means family cemetery in western Fairfield County, so will soon be in touch with relatives of that family group. My memory is not as good as I'd like, but it seems I remember that Isabella Means was the mother (grandmother?) of Gen. Bratton.

Also, I suspect you may already have contacted Karen Stokes of the SC Historical Society Foundation in Charleston. If not, I will forward her contact information to you when I get in to work shortly.

I don't know if our paper files on the Bratton family contain more recent additions to the collection since that time or not, but we have greatly upgraded our research room with the addition of a part-time manager. Eddie Killian can take your questions via email and will be the person you need to correspond with on the planned dates to come visit us at the museum facility. Copying to him here for that. There is some small fee setup for research at a particular level, but we encourage researchers to join the genealogical society which entitles one to free services. Eddie can explain this better. Also, his help in-house when you come is gratis.

My father, who turns 96 next week, remembers Randall Bratton as I was walking in the cemetery with him recently (St. John's Episcopal Ch.) and he pointed out the grave. Also, our UDC chapter (and also the local SCV chapter) are named for General Bratton and we recently had a small ceremony on his birthday placing flowers at the grave (which is in need of maintenance).

I don't know if you are interested or not, but the Bratton house is still in existence, known as Wynne Dee for its maternal connections with the Winns and Brattons. Unfortunately, the mother-daughter residents are not particularly open to visits as their economic status has not allowed for proper upkeep of the structure. I will inquire, however, if you would at least like to walk around the yard for photos. The daughter and granddaughter of Joe Cathcart have lived in the house all of their lives, but I don't think they have familial connections to the Bratton lines. In looking at the tax assessor's online information at http://qpublic5.qpublic.net/sc_display.php?county=sc_fairfield&KEY=126-01-11-022-000, it looks like Tirzah Ketchin Cathcart sold the property to Joe in 1942. Beyond that, I am not sure of Tirzah's connections, but as she was a Ketchin, there may have been a marital connection in her family to the last of the Brattons who lived there. That is something Eddie can find out. She has been dead many years, but there may be descendants we can furnish you references for. We look forward to meeting you when you come to Winnsboro. Copying here to Eddie (fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net) and to volunteer museum collections archivist Suzanne Johnson and collections research assistant Ed Gates.

-Pelham Lyles

From: "Pat West" <gcwoman@gmail.com>
To: fairfieldmus@truvista.net
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2015 4:10:08 PM
Subject: Research on General John Bratton & Family

Dear Ms. Lyles,

I have been commissioned by one of the descendants of General John Bratton to write a book, a family history, on some of the Brattons from Carolina (Col. William Bratton of Brattonsville, Gen John Bratton, Bishop Theodore Bratton, etc.), and will be in Carolina the week of July 29th. I will be leaving that Wednesday or Thursday the 3rd or 4th, and was wondering if your organization would have any information on General John Bratton. According to your website, you are closed on Mondays, but I could come by on Tuesday or Wednesday. Should I go ahead and make an appointment with you for one of those days?

I believe you may have had a visit with Luke Austin, who wrote a book about General John Bratton (Letters to his wife that he wrote during the Civil War). I will be focusing on General Bratton's post-war political and civil career after that period, so that is the sort of information I will be looking for. I will also be doing research at the University of South Carolina Libraries and Collections, and may also be visiting the York County Historical Society.

I don't know if you can truly answer my questions about whether any material is available on General Bratton without doing research, but I would be glad to pay you or one of your volunteers to at least do a limited search to see if there is information I could explore on General Bratton.

Sincerely,

Pat West, Personal Historian
www.TreeofLifeMemoirs.com
Sewanee, TN
(931) 598-5913 home/office

Genealogy Resource Library

From: Fairfield Museum [fairfieldmus@truvista.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 11:39 AM
To: 'Pat West'
Cc: 'Genealogy Resource Library'; 'Suzanne Johnson'
Subject: RE: Research on General John Bratton & Family

Pat, My father says he will plan on being available here at the museum on Thursday and can also take you over to the cemetery. 10:30---how does that sound for a time to meet? Also, I received this on Penny Renwick, who is the younger member of the household at Wynne Dee. She lives with her mom Perry Ann who is a Vietnam widow and the two of them are somewhat reclusive. You may want to write Penny to let her know you are coming and I will ask my friend, who is in the DAR with the Renwicks, to help us get her attention. Below is information on them...

Eddie will be here on Thursday to help with the genealogy resources, so you may be able to get a good bit done on that day. My father is a real talker!

We have copies of the St. John's Epis. Ch. History here which has a good bit on the Brattons. Looking forward to meeting you soon...

-Pelham

); email for Penny is: wynndee3@yahoo.com, phone number" 803-718-0275, good luck sometimes they don't answer the phone.

From: Pat West [mailto:gcwoman@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 5:45 PM
To: Fairfield Museum
Cc: fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net; spjboro47@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Research on General John Bratton & Family

Yes, I'm talking about being there the week of June 22nd through June 27th, less than a week from today. By the time I get down there and checked into a hotel room in Columbia, though, I won't get anything else accomplished that day, so can start to work on Tuesday the 23rd.

Speaking of that, in looking back on all of my dates, since I'm allowing two days for research at the Columbia University libraries, actually Tuesday the 23rd and Wednesday 24th (unless I get it all done on the 23rd), it looks like the only day I will have to come to Winnsboro will be on Thursday, the 25th or Saturday the 27th.

Since the museum will be closed on that Saturday, maybe I could come to the museum on Thursday to do the research (hopefully your dad could come over then, too), then I could see Wynn Dee later that day or on Saturday. It seems like it might be too much to do it all on one day, and since I'll have a hotel room through Saturday night, I could also visit Wynn Dee on Saturday and/or see your dad then. Would be glad to meet him anywhere that is convenient for him.

Sorry for the confusion. It has been quite complicated setting everything up. I wasn't able to finalize my Raleigh meetings until this past Sunday, and they couldn't meet with me until the 29th, then I realized that there was no way I could get everything done that week. Then there would be 4th of July traffic going back and I'm supposed to be in Memphis for a family weekend then!

If absolutely necessary, I could drive back to Columbia after my trip to Raleigh and be there on Tuesday, the 30th, staying another night and driving home on the 31st. If I find that there is a ton of research material at the university library or at Fairfield that I still need to go through, I might have to do that, anyway.

Hope Eddy's family situation isn't too bad. I'll copy Eddy and Suzanne, too, so we can all stay on the same page.

Pat

Pat West, Personal Historian
www.TreeofLifeMemoirs.com
(931) 598-5913 home/office

On Jun 16, 2015, at 4:14 PM, Fairfield Museum <fairfieldmus@truvista.net> wrote:

Pat, Eddie is out with a family emergency but I hope he will be back in by tomorrow to catch up on the work he is behind with. I think you are talking about the following week (June 24-26)...right? I am going to line up the contact information for the Renwicks who live in the Bratton house and when I know when you plan to be here, can get Daddy to come over to talk to you here in the museum. A week day is best here as the museum is closed on Saturday and I am assisting with a Chamber of Commerce Ag+Art tour event Saturday and Sunday, 27 and 28. Copying here to Eddie for his attention. –Pelham

From: Pat West [<mailto:gcwoman@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 4:57 PM
To: Fairfield Museum
Subject: Re: Research on General John Bratton & Family

Pelham,

I've just sent an email to Eddy and Suzanne about my trip, which will be a week earlier than planned, and I'm hoping to be at the museum to do research next Wednesday, Thursday, or Saturday, whichever day works out best for them.

I'm writing to ask about interviewing your father, if he has time. If he knew Theodore Bratton's son, Randolph, it might really give me more insight into Theodore and the Brattons in general. I'll be staying at a hotel in Columbia from Monday, June 22, through Saturday, June 28th, doing research at the Columbia libraries the first two days (unless I finish earlier than expected), and meeting with the site manager at Brattonsville and seeing Brattonsville on Friday, June 26th, so it looks like I might have time to interview your dad and maybe to even see General Bratton's grave and take a photo of his house in Winnsboro.

I also wondered if you could contact the current owners of Wynn Dee or give me their contact information so I could ask about taking a photo of their home, something I wouldn't feel comfortable with without their permission.

Thanks again for all of you help. Hope I'll be able to meet you, too!

Best,
Pat

Pat West, Personal Historian

www.TreeofLifeMemoirs.com
(931) 598-5913 home/office

On Jun 10, 2015, at 4:06 PM, Fairfield Museum <fairfieldmus@truvista.net>
wrote:

Genealogy Resource Library

From: Pat West [gcwoman@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 4:31 PM
To: fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net; spjboro47@gmail.com
Subject: Research at Fairfield County Museum

Dea Eddy and Suzanne,

I've been emailing with Pelham Lyles (I think she has copied you two on at least one of our emails) and would like to see what information you might have available regarding General John Bratton. I have been commissioned by one of his descendants, John Bratton of Sewanee, TN, to write a family history focusing on four of the more well known or famous Bratton families from Carolina, and one chapter will focus on Gen. Bratton and his family. Mr. Bratton (of Sewanee) wants me to concentrate on Gen. Bratton's post civil war life - his social, civic, and political life after the war, since there has already been a book written by Luke Austin about the general's time in the Civil War. I would also like to know more about his family life while he was growing up. I want the readers of this book to come away with a real feel for what these families were like, not with just a list of facts.

I am coming to the Columbia area next week, about a week earlier than I had originally planned, as I realized I needed more time. I will be driving to Columbia next Monday, June 22, and staying in the area through Saturday, June 27th, when I will be driving unto Raleigh for a couple of days.

I've scheduled two days, Tuesday the 23rd and Wednesday the 24th, to do research at the university library, and will be going to Historic Brattonsville on Friday to meet with the site manager and possibly the historian and to see Brattonsville. In other words, I could come to the Fairfield Museum to do research next Wednesday, Thursday, or Saturday. Would one of those days be best for you?

I look forward to hearing from you and to the trip. Good thing I have an air conditioned car, as it really seems to be heating up lately!

Best,
Pat West

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