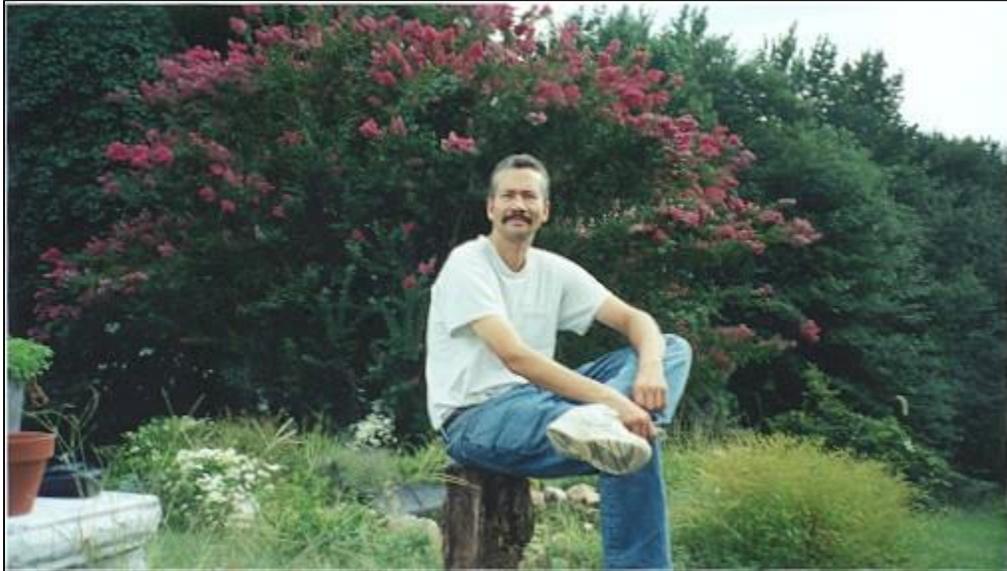


The Rattley Photographs. The following photographs and the captions were provided (unless otherwise indicated) by Robert Jackson, a descendant.



Robert Jackson

Part of his motivation is to see if anyone who views these photographs can provide him with additional information. You can reach Mr. Jackson at Rattaford@aol.com The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library has developed an extensive on-line collection of images of African American History in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. [Click here to view these images.](#)

Attached is a photograph of my great-grandfather John Edward Rattley (1855-1946) which was taken when he was twenty-one years old. John entered the Biddle Preparatory School in 1869 and graduated from [Biddle Memorial Institute](#) in 1877. Upon graduation he was offered the position of tutor at Biddle, but declined it to accept the position of principal of the [7th Street Presbyterian Church](#) Parochial School in Charlotte. When it merged with the newly established Myers Street School in 1882, John became its first principal. He held that position until 1891 when he moved with his wife and children to Washington DC.

John earned two more degrees in his lifetime. He earned his second degree in 1898 from the Howard University School of Dentistry and his third degree in 1913 from the Howard University



School of Pharmacy.

Attached is an 1870's photograph of my great-grandmother Sarah Hutson Butler (1860-1895). In the 1880 Census her occupation is listed as "teacher". I have no idea where she taught. Sarah was born in [Biddleville](#) to Joseph Butler (1822-1891) and Nancy Davidson (1829-1901).



I don't have a date for this photograph, but I believe it may have been taken in the latter 1880's. This is the Biddleville home of Joseph (1822-1891) and Nancy Davidson Butler (1829-1901). According to Aurelia T. Henderson, the late and last surviving daughter of [Thaddeus L. Tate](#) (Thad is also mentioned on your website), the rocking chair on the front porch was Joseph Butler's favorite chair. [Click here to see Tate House.](#)



Joseph and Nancy

Butler were Sarah's parents and my great-great-grandparents. Joseph was a brickmason. Both were members of [Clinton Chapel](#) in Charlotte.

This photograph was taken in 1887 of the children, teachers and principal of [Myer's Street School](#). The bearded man in the middle rear is the principal John E. Rattley.



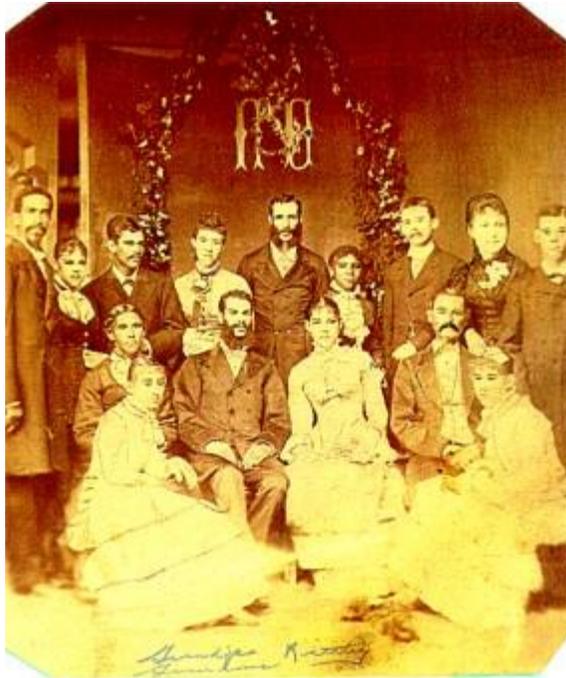
This is Sarah Butler's brother Augustus "Gussie" Butler (1868-1911) in an undated photo. He was a brickmason like his father Joseph.



This is Sarah Butler's sister Mary Lincoln Butler (1865-1928). She married Thaddeus Lincoln Tate in Charlotte in 1886. This photo was taken in 1884.



This photo was taken in the Baumgarten Studio presumably on June 6, 1881--the date of the marriage of John Rattley to Sarah Butler. Stephen Mattoon of Biddle Univ performed the ceremony in Clinton Chapel.



This is a remarkable photograph. The woman is Mrs. Stephen Mattoon, wife of the president of Biddle Institute, now Johnson C. Smith University. Many people do not realize that initially the entire faculty of what is now Johnson C. Smith University was white. Dr. Mattoon, a Presbyterian minister from the North, raised the money to build Biddle Hall, which was completed in 1883. These dedicated Christians felt duty bound to provide an excellent education to the young African American men who attended the school. **Caption written by Dan Morrill.**



N.W. Harlee is an 1879 graduate of Biddle Memorial Institute. N.W. Harlee Elementary School in Dallas, Texas is named in his honor.



W.I. Lewis is an 1877 graduate of Biddle Memorial Institute.



This is an early 1900's photograph of Edna Rattley (holding baby), daughter of John and Sarah Rattley, with her cousins Estelle (front seat) and Cora (middle seat) Tate. The woman in the backseat is unidentified. In the background is Grace AME Zion Church.

[Grace A.M.E. Zion Church](#) still stands on South Brevard Street. It was known to have an especially refined congregation. Anyone interested in Charlotte's African American history of this era should read Janette Greenwood's [Bittersweet Legacy](#) (UNC Press). **This paragraph written by Dan Morrill**



Cora L. Butler Brown (1865-1898) is one of the twin daughters of Joseph and Nancy Butler.



This is an undated photograph of Nancy Davidson Butler (1829-1901) who was "free" prior to the Civil War.



Rev. Robert P. Wyche, pastor of the 7th Street Presbyterian Church, earned an Arts & Sciences degree from Biddle Memorial Institute in 1877.



This photo of Samuel Pride, an early principal of Myers Street School, was taken by the J.H. Van Ness photo studio of Charlotte. Pride is also in the 1881 Rattley wedding photo.



This Baumgarten photo is of R. P. Bearden, grandfather of artist Romare Bearden.



These are unidentified photographs. If anyone knows who these people might be either contact Dan Morrill at N4JFJ@aol.com or Robert Jackson at Rattaford@aol.com

This is the first of the unidentified photos from Sarah Butler Rattley's photo album. J.H. Van Ness is the photo studio.



On the rear is "H Baumgarten, Photographer, Over Nisbet & Bros Store". It is negative number 4057.



No information on photo.



This Baumgarten photo was taken when the studio was over Nisbet's Store. It is negative number 3706.



This Baumgarten photo (opposite Wittkowsky & Rintels) is negative number 3410. Written on the rear in faded letters are the initials "M.C.G."



The original photo lacks contrast. On the rear is "H. Baumgarten, Photographer, Opposite Wittkowsky & Rintels."

Jacob Rintels was a leading Jewish merchant. His house still exists as the [Rintels-McManaway House](#).



Here are more unidentified photographs. If you know anything about the people depicted here, please contact Robert Jackson at Rattaford@aol.com or Dan Morrill at N4JFJ@aol.com

Baumgarten photo.



Baumgarten photo.



Van Ness photo. Inscribed "To Sarah. My darling friend."



Baumgarten photo.



Baumgarten photo.



Approximately 40 percent of Mecklenburg County's population in 1860 was African American, mostly slaves. There were "mulattos," people of mixed racial background. If you have any knowledge about these photographs please contact Robert Jackson at Rattaford@aol.com or me at N4JFJ@aol.com

Dr. Dan L. Morrill

As is usually the case with mixed-heritage genealogies the 'white' side is a mystery. It is somewhat interesting that Nancy was "free" in 1860 while it seems all the other "black" Davidsons were slaves at that time. I do happen to have one photograph---an original which I am attaching---that is *not* from Sarah's photo album, but *is* from the collection of her family photos. When I showed it to Thad Tate's daughters Aurelia & Cora in 1976, Cora studied it for a long time then said she thought the people in it were familiar, but couldn't remember their names.

The daughter on the left has some sort of an emblem draped over her right shoulder. What is particularly interesting is that their house is constructed of brick rather than wood. I wonder whether there are any existing photos of houses in Charlotte that resemble this one.

I could use your knowledge of Charlotte history. What do you think of this photo? Oh and you can post it to the website if you'd like. My great-grandfather Rattley began shooting and developing his own photographs by the 1890's. He may have taken this one. **Robert Jackson**



Baumgarten photo.



Baumgarten photo.



Photographer identification is faded but appears to be "D.R. Davis."



Baumgarten photo. Signature along bottom in red ink is "H. Baumgarten."



These are the last of the unidentified photographs in the Rattley Gallery. Obviously, we would very much like to hear from you if you can supply us with any information. Also, special thanks to Robert Jackson for sharing these photographs with us. Contact Robert Jackson at Rattaford@aol.com or Dan Morrill at N4JFJ@aol.com

There are three images of the same woman, all taken by C.W. Motes on White Hall Street in Atlanta, Georgia. The first two are dated 1876 and 1878. On the bottom of this photo is inscribed, Class '81. This woman also resembles the unidentified woman who is between William Partee and [George E. Davis](#) in the Rattley wedding photo.



Baumgarten photo.



Baumgarten photo.



The Photo studio is not identified; however, it is identical in size, framing, cardboard backing and background to another Baumgarten photo.



Van Ness photo.



Van Ness photo.

