

THE STORY OF THE BUCK FAMILY

(Researched by Mrs. Colin Campbell of Winnipeg, and given to Mrs. Alice (Buck) Biggins of Fort Erie.)

Little is known today of these, our noble progenitors. There is no written record of their lives. Some printed record, by way of affidavit, tells us that our family was founded in America by Frederick Buck, his wife and infant son, who came from Germany in the 18th century. Tens of thousands left the Fatherland for England, Holland and America at this time, owing to civil and religious persecutions. They enjoyed liberty under the British flag. Thousands of them fought for it, and followed it to Canada.

Amongst them was Philip I, who was a soldier, having joined Butler's Rangers in 1776 at Fort Stanwix. He had a comfortable home in the Susquehanna Valley, with fifteen acres cleared from the forest primeval, and 100 bushels of grain in the cribs, with cattle and hogs to add to the living. The Revolutionary War claimed him as a rebel. He was made a prisoner in Philadelphia. His property was confiscated. His wife Margaret and six children found themselves in desperate circumstances. They were not alone. They had joined other refugee women and children, probably neighbours. The party now consisted of Mrs. Nelles, Mrs. Secord (Mother-in-law of Laura Secord), Mrs. Young, Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Buck, (great-grandmother of Mrs. Campbell who compiled this history) and their 31 children. They had only one pair of shoes among them. It was winter time. The commander of the British Forces heard of their desperate plight. He sent soldiers and Indian Scouts to bring them in, and in his charge they were brought to Fort George, Nov. 3, 1777, where Philip II, the third son, and seventh child, (grandfather of Mrs. Campbell), was born. We cannot picture the distress of this noble woman, her courage, or her faith in God that all would be well with the child, with herself, her half-dozen lively young children and her husband. Perhaps it was a comfort to know that he was a prisoner, and had a settled abode, as she and her children had journeyed through a wilderness with no place to lay their heads until the barracks of Quebec were reached. Barracks have little comfort at any time, but what a comfort it was for mother Margaret and her little son whom she called Philip II after his father.

There are descendants of all these splendid women among all those who are building Canada. The late Rev. Dr. Nelles, the first president of Victoria College, Cobourg, (now Victoria University, Toronto,) was a grandson. He was a friend of Philip I's son. Another was Brig. Gen. Nelles of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mrs. Campbell's mother was descended from Mrs. Young. In 1927 Mrs. Campbell was a guest at a Confederation Party given by Stanley Mills of Hamilton to mark Canada's Diamond Jubilee. Some 1,000 guests assembled. All were expected to be 60 years or over. Mrs. Campbell was asked to be guest speaker on the theme "The Coming Of The Loyalists." She quoted from the words of Mrs. Bowman's granddaughter, "They drew lots for their lands, and with their axes cleared the forests, and with their hoes, planted the seeds of Canada's future greatness." When she had finished a lady came up and said that her mother had written those words, and that her great-grandmother had been with Mrs. Campbell's great-grandmother during the trek to Canada.

In time, the enlarged refugee party was taken on to Quebec, and quartered in the barracks until spring. Then by open boat, a long voyage was theirs. They traversed the length of Lake Ontario until Niagara River was reached. They eventually settled at Ridgeway, Ontario, in 1778. After an exchange of prisoners, Philip I made his way to Niagara to join his family. He had a hazardous journey. Mrs. Spohm, granddaughter of Mrs. Bowman, tells of some of the hardships endured in the trek into the Canadian wilderness in 1783 in search of his wife and children. Within three miles of the Peace Bridge is the Buck homestead. They were promised pork and flour to sustain life, and seeds for vegetables. Tradition tells us that when the last morsel had gone that tea from the budding basswood trees sustained life until vegetation provided food. Hospitality was unbounded, and so far as was able each cared for the other, as was the Loyalist way. Once more, the forest was to be felled, the rude log cabin built and home begun anew. Philip I's family increased until there were 12, seven sons and five daughters. Half of these were born in America, and half in Upper Canada, as it was then known.

1796

That he and his wife were hard working and frugal to a degree beyond our thinking will be realized when one reads the memorial to his will made in 1813. Like all wills of the early days he "gave and bequeathed to his wife Margaret from his estate a good, decent and comfortable home during her natural life". He makes bequests to 6 sons and daughters in cash; and it is thought that he had given to the others during his lifetime. The homestead he bequeathed to his fifth son, William, and his seventh son, Peter, their heirs and assigns forever, to be equally divided between them. While the amount of his possessions seems little today, it must have been a fortune in 1813.

PHILIP BUCK - U.E.L.

The following data copied from "Loyalists and Their Times" by E. Ryerson is a letter from Elizabeth Bowman Spohn to Dr. Ryerson, dated from Ancaster, July 23, 1861.

"In the fall the commander of the British Forces at Niagara, hearing of their destitute situation, sent a party with some Indians to bring them in. They brought in five families, the Nelles, the Secords, the Youngs, the Bucks and the Bowmans; five women, thirty-one children, and only one pair of shoes among them all. They arrived at Fort George on the third of November, 1776, from there they were sent first to Montreal, then to Quebec, where the government took care of them - that is, gave them something to eat and barracks to sleep in, but Mrs. Bowman was exposed so much to damp and cold that she took rheumatism from which she never recovered.

In the spring of 1776 my father joined Butler's Rangers and was with Col. Butler in all his campaigns. His brother, only nine years old, went as a fifer.

But to return to my grandfather, Jacob Bowman, his captors took him and his son to Philadelphia where he was confined 18 months. After an exchange of prisoners he and his son and Philip Buck were sent to New York. From there they started for their homes, not knowing that they would never again see these homes, and that their families were far away in the wilds of Canada. The third evening after they started for home they came to a pond and shot some ducks for supper. The report of their guns was heard by some American scouts who concealed themselves until the men were asleep, when they came stealthily up and fired. The boy was wounded in the thigh after five shots had passed through his hat. The two men on the other side of the fire escaped into the bushes, but Bowman gave himself up when he knew that his son was wounded. Philip Buck escaped. The scouts left with their two prisoners."

RECORD OF THE BUCK FAMILY

FREDERICK BUCK, wife and child, came from Germany to America. He was a soldier. He settled in Pennsylvania.

Issue

PHILIP BUCK 1, born in Germany, married in America, to Margaret. 12 children.

FREDERICK, the eldest, born at Peaques River, Penn.

MICHAEL

3 X PHILIP 2, (3rd son, seventh child, ancestor of Mrs. Campbell who compiled this history, born in Montreal in 1777)

4 X GEORGE

5 X WILLIAM (our ancestor)

6 X ABRAHAM

X PETER

X MARY

X X ROSANNA

X X ELIZABETH (BETSY) X ABRAHAM CAROLINE

X CATHERINE (KATY)

X X MARGARET

(names are from the will of Philip 1.)

Issue of PHILIP 2 (1777-1863) and his wife Julianna Boehm (1795 - 1877)
 Mary, b. March 3, 1811, died 1894, married Jacob Terryberry (1804 - 1863)
 John, b. May 19, 1813, died Dec. 28, 1873, married Rachel Davis (1816-1891)
 Celinda, born June 26, 1815, died Feb. 17, 1888, married James White, (1808
 Eliza, b. Jan. 28, 1818, died April 15, 1900, married Jacob Lawrence, (1891)
 1817-1875)

George, born Feb. 18, 1821, died June 3, 1877, married Maria M. Marlatt
 Wellington, June 3, 1824, died 1907, in Australia, married Mary Ann Bullman
 (1830-1872). He was married twice.

Adelia, born March 17, 1826 died in 1826.

Helen-Julia, born Apr. 28, 1828, died May 24, 1900, married James Philip
 Gage, (1810-1883)

Verual, born April 1, 1831, died 1856.

* ANSON, born Aug. 17, 1835, died April 26, 1919, married Keturah Adelaide
 Howell, (1852-1908)

Jeanette, born June 6, 1837, died 1880, married Wm. Lyell.

Augusta-Caroline --- no information on her.

* Anson Buck was a doctor who practiced in Palermo, Ontario. He and his
 wife had two daughters, one of whom was Minnie (Mrs. Colin Campbell).
 She had two children, Elizabeth and Colin, Jr.

WILLIAM BUCK (son of Philip 1, grandson of Frederick Buck who came from
 1788-1852 Germany) married Sarah Wilson. His son was John.

JOHN BUCK married Jane Johnson of Brantford.

1820-1874 Their family: Almeda, born April 1, 1842

William (Wilson), born August 7, 1845 (our ancestor)

Mary Elizabeth, born May 1, 1847

Charles M. born May 20, 1851

EDMUND Horatio, born Dec. 12, 1857 May 6, 1923

Alfred W. 1859 - 1859

Albert J. 1859 - 1861

Robert B. July 26, 1861.

Melissa

Wallace - 1851-1886

(It is not certain if these last two were of this family).

ALMEDA BUCK married Edward Neasury. Children were John, William, Cora,
 Charlie, Phoebe. All lived in Buffalo.

MARY BUCK did not marry.

EDMUND HORATIO BUCK married CAMANTHA A. JANSEN (1862 - 1948)

Children were Jesse, George and Flora.

JESSE married Mona Eliot Freeman (b. 1887).

Children: Frances Marian, b. 1907 (married Thorne
 Spear, b. 1906)

Edward George, b. 1909

Ruth Nina b. 1912

GEORGE EDMUND married Nina Rosanna Jansen

Children: Mildred Alice (married John Barnes)

GRACE GEORGIA 1910

Emma Mary, b. 1911

Betty Jane, b. 1922

FLORA, b. 1902, married Orville Erwin Sherck, b. 1897.

MELISSA BUCK married John Dennahower. Children were Emma, Ella, Hazel,
 Oscar, Garnet. and John who was killed in an accident.
 These all lived around Bridgeburg.

WALLACE BUCK married Minerva Cwinko. Their children were Florence who
 married Fred Chappell; Elmer who lived at Niagara Falls
 and George who lived near Hamkey Turnpike in Lackcwanan,
 N.Y. and owned a planing mill.

great great

dist. of Belmore & Howard SY P E S W I L S O N

Edward Redgenant

great grand father
Wm. Thomas

1887-1961
1888-1939

DEC. 30/1996

SEPT. 7. 1995

WILLIAM BUCK, born 1845, son of John, grandson of William, great-grandson of Philip, great-great-grandson of Frederick Buck who came from Germany, married Clarissa Near.

Their children were: Bertha (1870), John (1873) and Alice (1875).

BERTHA BUCK (1870 - 1940) married Ernest Thomas (1866 - 1910)

JOHN BUCK (1873 - 195) married Elsie Zabitz. They had two children, Fern and Edward. Fern has one daughter, Elsie.

Edward, deceased 195 , had four children.

ALICE BUCK married Alvin Misener, and later Algernon Biggins. She had two (1875-1962) sons, Clarence (deceased 1952), and Orlin. Clarence was married to Grace Mathewson; Orlin to Florrie Fenwick. He has one son, Gary Misener.

FAMILY OF BERTHA BUCK & ERNEST THOMAS:

Fred Thomas b. 1889, married Minnie Miller. Their children are:

Ruth
Frank (deceased 1977)
Leroy
Jean

Kenneth Thomas b. 1891 married Velma Miller (deceased, 1977). Their children were:

George
Dora
Florence (deceased, 1977)
Mabel
Myrtle
Lottie
Lois
Ken Jr.
Orlin
Carl
Velma (deceased in infancy)

May Thomas, b. 1897, married Percy Price b. 1893. They had one child, Gwen, b. 1925; married to Leonard Odd in 1947. They have four children: Kelvin, b. 1949
Phyllis, b. 1950, married to William Metcalfe in 1974. They have one son Stephen, b. 1978.

Colleen, b. 1952, married to Peter Mumford in 1977.

Janice, b. 1956, married to Frank Pistohlkors in 1979.

Mildred Thomas, b. 1907, deceased 1964, was married to Chester Teal. They had four children, Anna, Reg, Stanley, Fred.