

(Letter from Shirlianne & Linda, dated Oct. 19, 2003)

Dear Cousins,

We talked about the remaining gravesites of the Buck Plot at our last gathering, and Shirlianne, as the matriarch of our generation, wisely encouraged us to make a decision regarding the disposition of the remaining sites. Having done so, I thought some of you might find it interesting to have a brief bio of those distant relatives who are buried there. By the way, composing this summary required searching through our material, so we are both once again in the genealogy mode! Hope you find this helpful!

Abraham Covalt Buck was the eleventh of twelve children born to Jonathan and Zuriah Covalt Buck. Abraham was born 17 August 1798 in Carter County, Tennessee, and he married Margaret Simerly ca 1823 in Jackson County, Tennessee.

The third child born to Abraham and Margaret was Sarah or Sallie. It is with Sallie, born January 1829, that the story told by the cemetery plot begins. Sallie Ann, as Mammy and Aunt Nettie referred to her, was, to say the least, an intriguing character. Records indicate that she gave birth to two, and possibly three, children without the benefit of marriage. **She died 27 June 1908, and her gravesite is #7 in the Buck Plot of the Algood City Cemetery.** The name marking her grave is Sarah A. Buck Ford. Much later in her life, Sallie Ann married Andrew Jackson Ford. **Hence, the body lying beside her, in gravesite #8, is that of Andrew Jackson Ford.** *An interesting story told by Mammy and her daughters was that upon Sallie Ann's death, Andrew Jackson Ford went to bed, turned his face to the wall and stated that he would never eat another bite of food nor drink a drop of water. He died within a few days of her death. There's some confusion here, since their death certificates state that Andrew died three days before Sallie Ann.*

Our direct ancestor, William Campbell, was Sallie Ann's first born. He was born 10 June 1853. William Campbell married Mary Caroline Ford 24 March 1875. Sallie Ann's second child, Cansada, married Buchanon Ford, Mary Caroline's brother. A brother and sister marrying a brother and sister was pretty commonplace in those days. But there's more! The father of Mary Caroline and Buchanon was none other than the man lying in gravesite #8, Andrew Jackson Ford!

William Campbell Buck and Mary Caroline Ford were Pappy Buck's parents. Mary Caroline died in 1881, when Pappy was about one year old. After Mary Caroline's death on 23 September 1881, William Campbell married Sarah Frances Carr, his first cousin. **William Campbell died 24 January 1915, and his body lies in gravesite #45 in the Buck Plot.** *Here's another interesting story...During the early years of her research, Juanita asked Shirlianne and me to help purchase markers for the unmarked graves in the Buck Plot. These graves were marked with stones, but no names were on any of them. Aunt Nettie knew exactly who was buried in each of those graves, but Juanita knew that once she was gone, it would only be a matter of time until the names would be forgotten. The monument*

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at gravesite #46 was placed as a memorial to Mary Caroline Ford but does not contain her remains. Mary Caroline was buried in an unmarked grave at a cemetery in Bloomington Springs. **Gravesite #46 is empty!** This may seem a strange thing for us to have done, but due to the animosity between Pappy Buck and his stepmother, and out of respect for the mother he never knew, Aunt Nettie wanted a marker placed there. In case you're curious, Sara Frances Carr is buried on High Island, an island on Lake Michigan, owned by the House of David in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

William Campbell and Mary Caroline had three children born to them – John W., Jackson Lee, and James Alexander, our grandfather. The oldest, John W., died unmarried at age 19 from what Mammy and Aunt Nettie referred to as Bright's disease. Their second child was Jackson Lee Buck, born 23 September 1878, married Lou Rittenberry in 1900, and died 19 December 1933. Mammy, Aunt Nettie, and our mothers always spoke fondly of Uncle Lee and Aunt Lou, who was supposed to be a first cousin to Mammy. *Note: It was through Aunt Lou that Mammy and Pappy Buck met for the first time.* Uncle Lee, Aunt Lou and their children were among those family members who joined the House of David during the early 1900's. **Prior to their leaving, two of their children died and are buried in the Buck Plot – Dorothy Florence Buck is buried in gravesite #34 and Ernest Arnel Buck is buried in gravesite #33.** *Note: Since Dorothy's death date of 1904 is the earliest date in the cemetery plot, it's likely when at least part of the plot was purchased. Mammy and Aunt Nettie always stated that Pappy Buck and Uncle Lee purchased the cemetery plot, and since Dorothy's' death date of 1904 is the earliest date in the plot, it's likely that the purchase date was on or around that time. We would love to find records of that purchase!*

Before we leave Uncle Lee, we want to mention our familial relationship to Joyce and Bill Buck, whose gravesites are #'s 42 and 43. Bill was born James William Henry Buck, 19 April 1909 to Uncle Lee and Aunt Lou. According to our records, he was the third of five children born to them. According to a 1989 interview with Bill, Shirlianne wrote,

“The uncles went to Georgia first where they were “converted” to this religion. They set out walking to Benton Harbor, Michigan. I do not know how far they went on foot, but I went by train with my mother when I was eleven years old, around 1920. I remember sticking my head out of the window of the train and losing my new cap.”

Joyce and Bill moved to Algood during the 1980's and became a much-loved part of our family.

After William Campbell married Sarah Carr, six children were born to them – Mattie, William Thomas (Uncle Billy), Wilce, Lewis, Clarence, and May. All of these half-brothers and sisters of Pappy Buck made the journey to Benton Harbor where they all, except Uncle Billy, remained throughout their lifetimes. Among these religious zealots traveling to the House of David was Aunt Pearl, the wife of Uncle Billy. Doesn't everyone remember Aunt Pearl with her snow white hair, asthma spray, and cigarettes? As long as they could travel, Aunt Pearl and Uncle Frank Sadler, her second husband, would make the train trip from Nashville to Algood several times a year for a week's stay with Mammy. Around 1989, Shirlianne recorded the following information from Aunt Ruby:

“Uncle Billy and Aunt Pearl had a farm which they sold and gave the proceeds to the

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House of David. Aunt Pearl was quite bitter toward this religious group. After learning that Uncle Billy had consumption (tuberculosis), (*House of David*) authorities there gave them train tickets to Tennessee. They arrived with 15 cents in their pockets, and stayed with Mammy and Pappy Buck until they could rent a house. Aunt Pearl took in washings until Uncle Billy died. “

Aunt Pearl is buried in gravesite #38 alongside William T. Buck (Uncle Billy) in gravesite #37. I'm not sure where Uncle Frank is buried, but presumably it is somewhere in the Nashville area alongside his first wife. **In gravesite #39 is Aunt Pearl's mother, Sarah Ballard.** *Note: Mammy told how as an infant Sarah Ballard was left in the care of a young Negro slave girl. The girl became incensed by the infant's crying and put her in the fire, severely burning the baby's feet. Throughout her lifetime, Sarah Ballard was called "Tippy Toes."*

The only other graves that requires any identification are those of Maggie and Lou Quarles in gravesites #31 and #32. (*I've always pronounced this as Qualls and would have spelled it accordingly, but the monument spelling is Quarles.*) These individuals have no familial relationship to our family but were buried inside the Buck plot in error. After realizing their error, I think the cemetery officials asked if we wanted their bodies moved, but we graciously allowed them to remain.

In the event that any of this information has sparked your interest in pursuing research on our family, please let us know. We have accumulated tons of material, but there's still a lot of work to be done. A third generation "genealogist" would be most welcome!

Merry Christmas,
Shirlianne and Linda