

## General John Buchanan Served as a Member of "Secession Convention"

(This paper was prepared for the Confederate Centennial Celebration, and for the book of Biographical Sketches of the Members of the Secession Convention. Written by a member of the Advisory Committee, A. A. B. Walker).

General John Buchanan was a member of the Secession Convention. He was born August 9, 1790 in western Fairfield County and died April 2, 1862, in Winnsboro.

The Buchanan Clan is an ancient and honorable one, and is of Celtic origin but the family history of the Buchanan ancestry is traced clearly back to Biblical times; and this record is in the Archives in London, England, a copy of which is in the possession of Buchanan descendants in Winnsboro. It included in the British Isles many men of brilliant mentality, soldiers of fame, noted professional men and statesmen. George Buchanan, the noted scholar, an ancestor, was a close relative of the late President James Buchanan.

The Buchanan lands of Scotland were sold, seized or abandoned and they came from Ballymona, Ireland, to America. Their acres lay in Monteith and the Lennox and near Lochs Katrine and Lomond. One of the family castles and estates was called Blairdusk.

Before the Buchanans immigrated to America they were people of culture and wealth. They were not Covenanters as is shown by their fine furnishings, oil portraits and libraries. Captain John Buchanan, one of the three brothers of the original settlers, "wore knee britches and silver buckles on his shoes — the trappings of a gentleman until the day of his death."

The first Buchanans of the line of General John Buchanan to set foot on American soil were two uncles, Captain John (later to become the Revolutionary hero, also, was the first American officer to greet Lafayette when he disembarked at Georgetown, South Carolina, and shared his tent and body-servant, Pompey Fortune, with the Frenchman) and his brother, Robert Buchanan, Lieutenant in the Revolution, and who had the first classical school in Charleston, and was the moving inspiration for organization of Mt. Zion College in Winnsboro. These two, with their maternal uncles, John and Robert Phillips (great uncles of General Buchanan) of Ireland and England, landed in Charleston, South Caro-

tenant Robert, 1748-1780; Captain John 1750-1824; William Buchanan, 1758-1813, stayed in Ireland; Creighton Buchanan 1760-1823; and one sister, Mary, married 1st. to McCarty, 2nd, to McDowel, both of Ireland.

Creighton was the patriarch of the family in America, and was the father of General John Buchanan. His mother was Creighton's first wife, Mary Milliken, the widow Valentine. In 1788 Captain John Buchanan brought to Fairfield his youngest brother, Creighton, and Mary Milliken Buchanan, her two Valentine children, his mother, Rachel Phillips Buchanan, his widowed sister, Mary McDowel and her children and placed them in a home on his farm near Little River.

The other children of Creighton and Mary Milliken were: Rachel married John McMaster; and Martha. Later Creighton married Elizabeth Smyth or Smith, the widow Stewart. General Buchanan's half-brothers and half sister were: Doctor Robert Augustus Buchanan, married to Rebecca Claudia Woodward, daughter of Martha Williamson Woodward and Osmond Woodward; Calvin Buchanan went to Texas as a young man; and Elizabeth Buchanan married McKinney Elliott.

General John Buchanan married Harriett Yongue. She was the daughter of a Fairfield County Presbyterian minister, Samuel Whorter Yongue. They had four children: John Milliken Buchanan married Eugenia Felder; Samuel Whorter Yongue Buchanan (admitted to the Bar May 17, 1811); William Creighton Buchanan died in the Confederate War; Ann Buchanan married Doctor Edward Palmer.

The three sons of General Buchanan graduated at the South Carolina College as did their father in 1811. John Milliken was class of 1842; Samuel Whorter Yongue Buchanan class of 1846; William Creighton class of 1852.

John Milliken Buchanan, who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States after the close of the Civil War went to Mexico, where some of his children were born. The children moved to Texas and one son, James Paul Buchanan, was Senior Congressman from that state for many years. He was a shining legal light in Washington having held the chairmanship of the House Appropriations Committee and of several other important com-

Captain John Buchanan, who with two others, built the First Methodist Church of Winnsboro.

It is said no man of the state was held in greater esteem than General John Buchanan. He was head of the Bar for years and had been in the War, of 1812, Adjutant in the regiment that served at Charleston. A man of profound mind, great dignity and high ideals his personal integrity became a legend. He ran for governor in 1850 against his friend and family connection, Job H. Means, losing by only one vote. It is said by the father of historian Alex Salley of Columbia, because the general spoke first at the meeting and presented too deep a speech for the understanding of the average citizen.

General John Buchanan born in the Little River section of Fairfield County in 1790 died in Winnsboro April 2, 1862 and his remains are interred in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Winnsboro. After his death his wife made her home with her daughter, Ann Palmer, in Mobile and passed away about 1874 and her body rests in Alabama.

With two exceptions all the children of General Buchanan's son John Milliken Buchanan and wife Eugenia Felder, lived and died in Texas. Adele Buchanan married Doctor Mikell Salley of Orangeburg, South Carolina, and they had five daughters, three of whom married. One is Mrs. Heyward Gibbs of Columbia. The youngest son of John Milliken Buchanan was James Paul Buchanan, the Congressman.

From "History of the Buchanan Family of Fairfield County, South Carolina" by Louise M. McMaster quoted "Mr. Robertson read the following resolution immediately and it was unanimously agreed: Resolved that this Convention be heard with emotion and profound sorrow and regret the announcement of the deaths of General J. Buchanan, Colonel John H. Mear Major William Strother Lyles, who at the time of their deaths were members of this Convention from the District of Fairfield. Resolve that the Convention tender to the respective families and relatives of the deceased the expression of sympathy in these events. Copy of the same sent to families." From the Journal of South Carolina Convention of 1860-61-62, Page 403.

The official positions held by General John Buchanan were as follows:

GRADUATED AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN MEDICINE AS AN HONOR STUDENT IN 1927.

HE SERVED IN WORLD WAR WITH ACCLAIM IN THE CAPACITY OF MAJOR AS THE HEAD OF A MEDICAL UNIT, BOTH IN ICELAND AND IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE OF WAR. HIS REPUTATION AS PHYSICIAN AND DIAGNOSTICIAN FOLLOWS THE PATTERN OF HIS FATHER. HE IS A MEMBER OF MT. ZION SOCIETY AND OF VARIOUS CHARITABLE, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL ORDERS. HE IS HEAD WARDEN OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WINNSBORO. HE IS ALERT AND ACTIVE IN THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF HIS COUNTY, BEING THE MOVING SPIRIT IN THE EFFORT AND SUCCESS OF BUILDING THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. HIS AND HIS FATHER'S PORTRAITS HANG IN THE FOYER OF THE HOSPITAL.

THE CHILDREN OF THIS UNION ARE: JOHN CREIGHTON BUCHANAN, III, WHO MARRIED MARGARET JANE RILEY OF MARYLAND; FLORIDE DWIGHT BUCHANAN MARRIED TO JOHN TABB HEYWARD, JUNIOR, OF RION, SOUTH CAROLINA, SON OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN T. HEYWARD, SENIOR; DAVIS DOUGLAS BUCHANAN, A STUDENT.

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