

pioneering spirit got the better of him. He became interested in the new Territory in Oklahoma, and applied for a position in the Normal School at Edmond, Oklahoma.

In the fall of 1894, he started his position as teacher of American History. It was here he developed a deep love for the Oklahoma Territory which would not become a state until 1907.

In 1894, our father met and fell in love with Miss Vinnie Galbraith from Terrell, Texas, who had just graduated with highest honors in piano from Kidd-Key College in Sherman, Texas. She came to Edmond to be the head of the Piano Department of the Norman School.

In 1895, father joined a faculty of four at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, and in June 1896 he married our mother, who also came from a pioneer loving family. Mother's father, Thomas Joseph Galbraith, migrated from southern Indiana in 1878, to the little town of Terrell, Texas, 32 miles east of Dallas. He was also interested in Oklahoma Territory and came up from Texas to make the famous run on April 22, 1889.

He brought with him his son Clinton A. Galbraith to acquire a piece of this new land. Uncle Clint remained in Oklahoma the rest of his life, and for many years served as a Supreme Court Judge in Oklahoma City until his death.

In 1902, father sent for his nephew, Tom B. Matthews, to come from Tennessee to attend Oklahoma University. It was Tom B. that gave father the nickname "Uncle Buck" - the name by which he was known the rest of his life, not only in Oklahoma University, but all over the country.

In the early days of Norman, father took a great interest in civic affairs, serving for many years on the City Council and on the School Board. He was instrumental in getting the Norman waterworks established with an abundant supply of good, pure water.

In 1906-7, "Uncle Buck's" old love of politics led him to run for a seat on the Constitutional Convention, which was to make the laws for our new state. This campaign to win this seat was the hardest battle of his life; there were four other contestants. It was during this contest that he bought our first and only horse and a NO TOP BUGGY! He drove over every inch of his constitutional district, meeting every farmer, speaking at every schoolhouse. It paid off - he won!

This political victory was by no means a financial gain. He asked for a six months leave of absence from the University without pay, and he was earning ten dollars a day at the University. The convention paid only four! With a wife and three little children at home, it must have given him a source of great worry. I don't remember ever being hungry, but I have often wondered why. "Uncle Buck" did love his Oklahoma.

During the 1906-7 convention which met in Guthrie, our father worked hard to promote good government in the state, he also wanted laws to keep the educational institutions in the state out of politics. There is on file in the University Library a publication which cites many of the pro-

years teaching in the state, went on after father's death to make quite a reputation for herself teaching in the Oklahoma University Teachers Training School, until her retirement a few years ago.

"Uncle Buck" died when his only two grandchildren were too young to remember him. I am sorry he could not have lived to have known of their successful lives. Robert Toombs, his grandson, an excellent portrait painter, lives with his wife, Pamela, and two lovely stepdaughters in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Betty Toombs Rushton, his granddaughter, is married to Dr. F. E. Rushton, a successful pediatrician in Sarasota, Florida. My great regret is that "Uncle Buck" could not have known his four great-grandsons, "The Rushton Boys" to pass on to them his many interesting stories of the early days in Oklahoma and Cleveland County.

This is a copy of a letter written by my grandfather, J. W. Galbraith, my mother's father, the night of April 23, 1889. The original letter was written by lamp light in his tent in Purcell, I.T.

Purcell, April 23, 1889

My Dear Children:

I will take time to drop a few lines to you. I am well as could be expected under the exciting circumstances. All of a buzz here yet. I witnessed the greatest scene here yesterday that ever took place. Just think of it, millions of acres of land disposed of in forty minutes, in forty minutes there was a man on every claim in Oklahoma. It was great to see the army of contestants drawn upon the banks of the Canadian river; at each and every ford that could be crossed, to see them at the water edge mounted on the best cow ponies eager for the signal, then when it came - to see them plunge into that terrible stream with its boggy bottoms, some horses down with their riders under them, those that were behind rushing over them.

When they struck the bank of the promised land I never saw such running. I had a fine view, I could see for six miles. There was one widow lady made the race from this point, she had one mile to make - she made it like a hero. She jumped off her pony, raised her flag, fired her pistol, as much as to say "I am lord and master of this land." I will not try to describe the scene further, but will say it was the most magnificent thing I ever witnessed.

Clint and Jeff went to Oklahoma, I remained here, we will finish laying out our town here then. I will look after them, I don't know what luck they had, I have not heard from them. If they have been as successful as I have, we are in good luck in the promised land.

I will select two lots for Clint, two lots for J. W., then I will take two for Jeff and two for Sam Wallace. Our town is called Lexington.

I have tried to get my mail but there are such crowds I can't get near. I will try tonight, I want word from Clint, he took the tent I think. Jeff and Wallace are with him in the tent, I hope they are doing

JAMES SHANNON BUCHANAN

"Uncle Buck"

By Frances Buchanan Bond

In writing this story of our father, I have no research material available, only my memories of the many years as the daughter of a wonderful, generous man who gave so much of his time and life to his family. At the same time he was busily engaged with his many duties in Oklahoma University and in the political beginnings of our state.

The former Oklahoma University students who will read this will well remember his keen sense of humor and his ability to win the affection of the thousands of students who passed through his office, "shaking in their boots"; however, they soon learned that "Uncle Buck's" bark was worse than his bite and that he always had their interest in his heart.

On October 14, 1864, during the Civil War and six weeks before the bloody "Battle of Franklin" our father James Shannon Buchanan was born in Franklin, Tennessee. He was the youngest of five children born to Thomas Buchanan and Rebecca Jane Shannon.

During the sad days of Reconstruction and the financial loss of those times, our grandfather moved to a farm off the Manchester Pike near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It was here that father grew up, and like so many other southern families had quite a financial struggle to get his education.

Our father inherited his pioneering spirit from his early ancestors who had a part in the early history of Tennessee. His elder brother, John Price Buchanan, who entered the Civil War at the age of 16, was elected Governor of Tennessee in 1890, and was instrumental in forming the Farmers Alliance of that state. He was known as the "Hayseed Governor."

"Uncle Buck" graduated from Cumberland University in 1887 with a Bachelor of Science Degree and purchased the Cornersville Institute in Cornersville, Tennessee. He conducted this school for five years, leaving it to become Assistant Superintendent of Schools during his brother's term as Governor.

In 1893, father received a teaching fellowship to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, which enabled him to receive his Masters Degree in History and Government. It was during this year in Vanderbilt that his

gressive features he sponsored during this convention. For instance, "The initiative and referendum, the fellow servants liability section, women and child labor provisions, work on the committee on municipal corporations," and many other contributions.

"Uncle Buck's" contributions to education in the state cannot be left unmentioned. He drew up the first plan for inspecting and accrediting high schools. He planned to take the University to the people in the state by an extension division. His plan for the correspondence study was accepted by the faculty but could not be carried out due to lack of funds. Later, when the extension division was put into action, they used almost his identical plans.

"Uncle Buck" was appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1909, and held that position until 1923. In 1922, he was elected Dean of Deans of the fourteen states that made up the North Central Association of Colleges. Father was host to this group at their meeting in Norman.

In 1923, during a political upheaval in the state, the fine President of Oklahoma University, Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, resigned; father having been in long service was appointed acting President and in 1924 was appointed president until a permanent one could be found. This was the year of my marriage to Frank B. Toombs, of Chicago, the father of my two children.

Father was director for some years of the Historical Association of the state and obtained the first appropriation for the Association from the Legislature. He and his dear friend, Dr. Edward Everett Dale, who was an author and historian of note, founded the state's historical magazine. These two friends also collaborated on writing a History of Oklahoma which was used in the public schools for several years.

Education and politics were not "Uncle Buck's" only interest; he was active in the Presbyterian Church of Norman. He organized a "Brotherhood Class" non-denominational. It grew and grew, until there were over 700 members, too large for the church, so they moved downtown to the old "Opera House." This Brotherhood class was known not only in the state, but also over the country. After several years this class had to disband, but the members honored father with two things; a GOLD watch and a gun, because he had "bragged" about never having owned them.

I have not mentioned a sad or critical period in the lives of our family, but our mother died in May, 1921. "Uncle Buck" bravely carried on for several years alone.

There were four children born to James and Vinnie Buchanan; Frances, James, William, and Mary Margaret. Of the four I am the eldest and only survivor.

On December 23, 1924, the newspapers ran a headline: "Dean Buchanan is all SMILES: HE IS MARRIED!" Miss Katheryn Osterhaus (Katy), a native of Norman and a former student of "Uncle Buck," had taken on a family. She made several very happy years for our father until his death in March, 1930. Kathryn, who previous to her marriage to "Uncle Buck" had several successful

well. I am living well here, I took James Moore in my room last night. James made the race but got beat.

When you write drop us at Purcell as I will come back here soon to fence my lots. Clint and I will fence our lots under one fence at present. I can't lay any further programs till I find Clint. I think Clint and Wallace have struck something or Wallace would have come back last night for he had John Moore with him.

I have not tried to write much now but I don't know whether you can read what I have written.

I send a kiss to my baby Nelly, and send my love to all, so good by,

J. W. Galbraith

*The original letter from Mr. Galbraith is now in the possession of the Cleveland County Historical Society due to the generosity of his two granddaughters, Frances Buchanan Bond (Mrs. E. S. Bond) and Margaret Lindley Nigh (Mrs. Gifford H. Nigh).