

**ACCOUNT OF THE BUCK FAMILY OF BUCKS  
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA; AND OF THE  
BUCKSVILLE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
HELD JUNE 11TH, 1892; INCLUDING THE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BUCK WAMPUN  
LITERARY ASSOCIATION ON SAID OCCASION**

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Account of the Buck family of Bucks County, Pennsylvania; and of the Bucksville centennial celebration held June 11th, 1892; including the proceedings of the Buck wampun literary association on said occasion by William J. Buck

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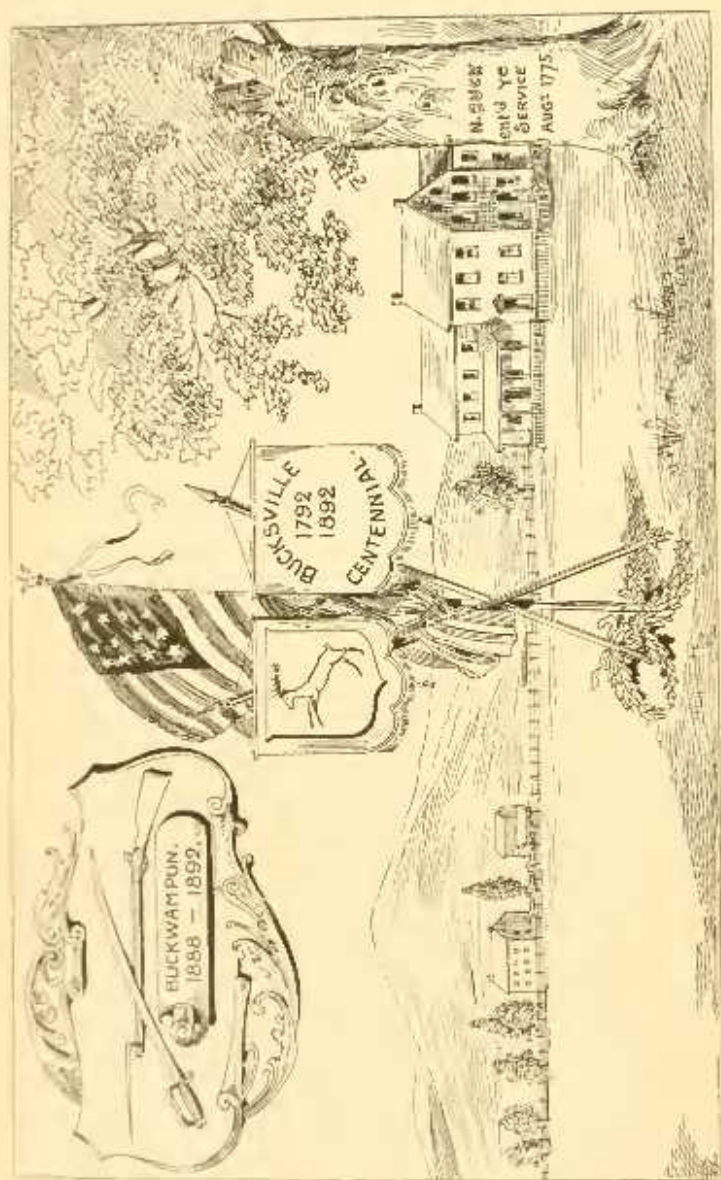
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**WILLIAM J. BUCK**

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Edited by WILLIAM J. BUCK.



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## PREFACE

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WHEN an author has attained to nearly three score and ten and has had published within the past forty-three years in various works relating to the eastern section of Pennsylvania, several thousand biographical sketches of early families that have settled here and his own excluded, will now we presume at this late hour be sufficient apology for what may be attributed herein to either family pride or self glorification. This work had its origin through the recent Centennial celebration of the founding of Bucksville, to which the family still holds sufficient claims to have it gotten up and all the expenses connected therewith borne by themselves. As we well know, it is common for such demonstrations to have appropriations made therefor from the public revenues as an aid to success, we are pleased to say that this was neither sought, expected nor desired. Herein was no dishonor and let us now ask where in all America can a similar instance be found? We know not of it in the county nor in the State.

In the preparation of this work some difficulties have been experienced which do not generally attend early families, especially of English descent, whose ideas here are only too much narrowed to one language. From the circumstances attending the origin, nationality and final settlement of the Buck family here, some of the information has been translated from the Latin, Anglo Saxon, Dutch, Flemish, French and German. Family antiquity and its location in Lorraine and surrounding sections demanded this to make it as it now appears, however briefly and superficially done; in our desire to see it from the press ere another return of paralysis. Let the reader glance at the vignette and the title page as expressly designed for this work; it is marvelous we think in several respects. The magnificence of the scenery, and with its surrounding associations, all we believe founded on fact. Again, the remarkable alliteration of the family name thereon, can a parallel be found like it in similar works of this character?



We have spoken of our English element as too much confined to only one language; had it taken a wider range their officials in public records would not have exposed their limited knowledge as they thus have, or shall it be called ignorance for it certainly imposes great difficulties in these days as to surnames of German descent. For some proof of this need not go outside of the Buck family and some of its early affiliations. Thus it is found in records as Buck, Bock, Book and Buch. The name Eck, Egg, Ick and Agg; Kohl, Kole and Kol; Heaney, Honig, Henich and Haney; Clemmer, Klemmer and Clymer. Atflerbach has been found so varied as well as other German names, that we decline to give this matter further space. Among given names, Jacob has been indifferently written Jacobi, and hence also James, Abigail frequently Appolonia; Sarah, Salome; Susanna, Susan; Hannah, Johannab; Magdalena, Maria and Mary. We intend here only to mention some of the troubles that have beset us to confirm personal identity.

The carelessness or indifference exhibited by the English officials during the colonial period in recording the names of the German immigrants on their arrival is to be regretted, and whilst now one of the most important events connected with family history is one also of the most perplexing to fix upon with certainty. Sometimes they have two given names, when they afterward assumed but one, or *vice versa*. Respecting this will give three examples from several more that pertain to this work, "Johan Nichel Buch" is stated to have arrived with Michael Hartman in 1748, and "Nicolas Buch" in 1752. Having come so near together, our evidence is so equally balanced thereon that we cannot yet positively determine which was the ancestor. The name of Hartman favors the first, whilst on the other hand no records as yet favor two given names, neither were such bestowed on any of the ancestor's ten children; yet he had a son John as well as Nicholas, and the former has almost been as common in the family. From his estimated age at arrival and subsequent marriage, the probabilities incline to the latter. "John George Kohl" arrived in 1732; in this case we possess a single evidence of this name being so called here later, but soon after, the first appears to have been totally dropped, hence proves the same individual. "John Jacob Ick" is stated to have arrived in 1741 and we know besides that his son John came with him. All records since mention him as "Jacob Eck" and possess conclusive evidence that it was the same person.



Another matter in which we have found several cases of discrepancy. In illustration will give an example. When the widow of Captain Buck died in 1858, the editor was requested to prepare the inscription for her tombstone and from the information furnished him, stated that at her decease was aged ninety-one years. Only within a year an original record of her birth has been discovered, and according to the same was born June 9, 1769, hence aged not quite 88 years 5 months, as may be seen on another page. As this work has chiefly been prepared for the descendants of the family, some of the members thereof in perusing it and afterwards seeing the age given on the tombstone, might infer that this was an error attributed to the editor, instead of a correction of what had been placed thereon. This is rather a frequent error on tombstones because supplied from tradition instead of original records. In one instance of this kind we have found a difference of nearly five years. We here touch on these several matters to show some of the difficulties that attend the genealogist in his desire to be correct and to account for the various discrepancies that may turn up to affect his reliability as an author.

As may be imagined this work was solely one of love, and the result of many years' labor in collection. We know now at its close that it has required far more time, labor and expense than was expected, but the result has proven itself more than gratifying. No pecuniary reward or profit was expected thereby and hence there could be no disappointment. To the public records at Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Norristown and Doylestown we are considerably indebted for information as also to the collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. To the Rev. G. H. Krake of Haycock, especially for researches made for us in the early Goshenhoppen records, which involved a knowledge of several languages, also to Mrs. Helena Kohl and John T. Buck of Bucksville, Charles Austin Buck of South Bethlehem and Abel B. Haring of Frenchtown, N. J. For assistance rendered us by Isaac O'Connell, Recorder of Deeds for Bucks county and to Frank N. Booze, Register of Wills, express also our thanks.

As an additional incentive to such labors, as derived now from our personal experience, feel it our duty to offer yet a few more remarks thereon as to its importance. What is a nation's history but an integral of which families constitute the parts and collectively considered the source of all strength, power and greatness. This is no more wonderful than grains of sand should form the shore or drops of water, rivers and oceans. We may carry the similitude still

further, by adding, that those apparently insignificant parts, produce more or less marked effects on their surroundings. Herein is expressed again the marked influence exerted by some families over others during the several stages of their existence. This generally appears to have been more owing to intellectual than to physical abilities, yet a combination of both is essential to check deterioration to which so many families owe their decline or downfall.

The frequent requests made to us for information on the subject of this work by relatives and friends, and our own frequent reference thereto in chronology must also show its importance. In matters respecting inheritance, legacies, hereditary rights and privileges and whatever pertains thereto, genealogy also performs a prominent part; for the want of it what fortunes have been lost to members of families through the neglect of this subject? With due attention to this matter justice need not be defeated nor estates be escheated, or what is worse assigned to those who otherwise would have had no legal claim thereto. Hence as time rolls on from the increase of population, the materials of history accumulate and the greater becomes the necessity therefor.

W. J. B.

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