

Coll. 67

Buck-Truex Family Papers, 1872-1983

Processed by Kim Bedetti
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Monmouth
County
Historical
Association

Monmouth County Historical Association
Library & Archives
70 Court Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

Biographical Note:

The Buck and Truex families resided in Freehold, New Jersey during the late 19th and 20th centuries. William Taylor Buck (1875-1915), the only surviving son of Eleanor Taylor (1849-1928) and David Buck (1847-1926), fought in the Spanish American War in 1898 before returning to Freehold. He established himself with the hardware firm, Denise & Buck, and married Gertrude Havens Truex (1872-1922) in February of 1901. The family settled at 116 West Main Street in Freehold. Gertrude was the daughter of Matilda Simpson (1835-1915) and Charles Truex (1831-1916), a harness maker with a shop at 13 South Street. Gertrude was the fifth of six children. Her siblings were William E., Abraham Simpson, Katherine Ward, Helen Simpson, and Anna. Helen Truex was an avid photographer and took many pictures of the Truex family.

Gertrude and William T. Buck had two children, David Truex Buck (1903-1997) and Margaret Eleanor Buck (Bergen) (1908-1985). David Truex Buck founded Buck Engineering Co., later known as Lab-Volt Systems Inc., serving variously as president and/or Chairman of the Board until 1981. The company started as a fuel oil company but later evolved into a vacuum tube manufacturer for General Electric and Western Electric during World War II. David T. Buck was the first president of the Freehold Regional Board of Education, was on various local boards in Monmouth County, New Jersey, and was the first to win the Maurice Pollak Distinguished Community Service Award in 1983. He married Emilie Harding Reed (1906-2005) on September 1, 1928 with whom he had three daughters: Rachel Reed (b. 1930), Gertrude Truex (b. 1934), and Emilie Curtis (b. 1938).

Provenance:

These papers were the gift of Emilie Buck Turano in 1993. In addition to the family papers, 32 books and 2 family bibles, were also donated. These items were separated and a list of these titles can be found in the appendix. Clothing, including William T. Buck's Spanish-American War uniform were also donated to the museum collections of the Monmouth County Historical Association. Library accession #1993.22

Related Collections:

Coll. 1080, Scrapbook Collection: Contains Truex Buck's scrapbook, 1914

Scope and Content:

This collection largely consists of family photographs of the Truex-Buck Family, along with a small amount of correspondence, ephemera, genealogy research, and pamphlets.

A large number of the family photographs are of the Truex Family from the early 1900s, in particular the four Truex sisters: Gertrude, Katharine, Helen, and Anna. In addition, the photos show the family home in Freehold, outings to Pompton Lakes, the Denise & Buck hardware store, Charles Truex's harness shop, the Freehold Driving Association, the 1919-1920 Freehold High Football Squad, and William T. Buck during the Spanish-American War.

The correspondence in the collection is minimal but includes a series of letters pertaining to David Truex Buck's interest in radio operations in the 1910s and a series pertaining to an inquiry into a job with Dupont in the 1930s.

Other items include school report cards and programs, wedding and party invitations, a few bills, and pamphlets mostly pertaining to Freehold, NJ. There is a small amount of genealogy research into the Truex, Hall, and Schenck/Conover families.

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Box/Folder List:

OS	1	Photographs: Truex Family	1890, 1898, n.d.
1	1	Photographs: Truex Family	1892, n.d.
1	2	Photographs: Truex-Buck Family	1897, 1899, 1903
1	3	Photographs: Truex-Buck Family	1899-1900, n.d.
1	4	Photographs: Truex-Buck Family – Contact prints from glass plates taken by Helen S. Truex	c.1900
1	5	Photographs: Truex-Buck Family – Contact prints from glass plates taken by Helen S. Truex	c.1900
1	6	Photographs: Truex-Buck Family	1900-1953

Box/Folder List:

1	7	Photographs: Truex-Buck Family	1903, 1930, n.d.
1	8	Photographs: Buck Family	1910, 1912
1	9	Photographs: Photo album pages, photo wall hanging	1944, c.1900
1	10	Photographs: William Taylor Buck in the Spanish-American War	c.1898
OS	2	Photographs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grace Maybe (R.N.) in her native Cherokee dress, she lived with the Truex Family• Wedding of Helen McMurtrie to George Harrington	c. 1915 1926
OS	3	Photographs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Cross Girls• Freehold Driving Association• Freehold High Football Squad	c.1900 1912 1919-1920
OS	4	Photographs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truex residence (116 W. Main St, Freehold)• Truex Harness Shop (13 South St, Freehold)• Geo. W. Truex house• Unknown houses (2) probably in Freehold, NJ	c.1880 n.d. n.d. 1891, n.d.
1	11	Photographs: Denise & Buck, hardware store, Freehold, NJ	1900
1	12	Photographs: Historic Buildings in Freehold, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• George Ash house• Craig House• Dr. Hepburn's house, Monument Pl.• Lafayette Page house, 1968• Moreau house, W. Main St.• Stanley Orr house• West Freehold School building	1968, n.d.
1	13	Photographs: Unidentified (individuals in a horse and Buggy in front of a house)	n.d.
1	14	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjutant General William S. Stryker to Mrs. General S.D. Oliphant• E.E. Rucher to Adam Stein, letter of introduction for Truex Buck to Marconi Wireless Tel. Co.• Carl Kinsley, writing for M. Churchill, Chief Military Intelligence Branch, to Truex D. Buck• T. Charles Owen to Truex Buck• L.R. Krumm, Chief Radio Inspector, to D. Truex Buck• David Truex Buck to David G. Kennedy regarding a job at Dupont	July 7, 1892 June 26, 1918 July 2, 1918 November 27, 1918 September 2, 1919 June 4, 1931

Box/Folder List:

1	14	• David G. Kennedy to David Truex Buck regarding a job at Dupont	June 6, 1931
1	14	• David Truex Buck to David G. Kennedy regarding a job at Dupont	June 24, 1931
1	14	• David G. Kennedy to David Truex Buck regarding a job at Dupont	July 2, 1931
1	14	• Capt. J.V. Denise to David T. Buck (v-mail)	August 7, 1944
1	14	• Ulric Bell, Chairman of Fight For Freedom, to “Smash Hitlerites” with attachments: Fight for Freedom membership enrollment card; “Stop Him Congressman” Neutrality Act petition; Adolf Hitler Wanted for Murder flyer	n.d. (c.1940s)
1	15	School Papers	
		• Report cards: (David) Truex Buck from the Freehold School Grammar and Elementary Departments	1911, 1912
1	15	• Program: Freehold Grammar School Commencement Exercises, Margaret E. Buck	June 17, 1920
1	15	• Dance card: Mr. Truex Buck, Freehold High School Junior-Senior Dance	April 1, 1921
1	15	• School measuring triangle signed by H.S. Truex, D. Truex Buck, C.S. Truex, with green sheet printing guide (drawing on the back)	n.d.
1	16	Invitations and Announcements	
		• Invitation to the wedding of Matilda Buckelew to William Ellsworth Truex	August 5, 1885
1	16	• Invitation to the funeral of Ada M. Clayton (original is missing, photocopy only)	October 16, 1893
1	16	• Invitation to a “sociable” held at Mr. Henry Campbell’s residence, East Freehold	January 24, 1896
1	16	• Wedding of Carrie C. Buck to John V. Denise	June 3, 1897
1	16	• Reception for newlyweds William T. and Gertrude Buck, given by Mr. and Mrs. David Buck	February 27, 1901
1	16	• Funeral card for Eleanor S. Buck (original is missing, photocopy only)	February 7, 1928
1	16	• Wedding announcement for Emelie Harding and David Truex Buck	September 1, 1928
1	17	Contracts, Bills, and Certificates	
		• Contract establishing the Triangle Electric Company, signed by George F. Harrington, D. Truex Buck, and Wayland A. Du Bois	September 9, 1918
1	17	• Certificate for electricity for David Buck’s premises at 116 West Main St, Freehold	December 18, 1919

Box/Folder List:

1	17	• Receipt for membership to the Freehold Golf & Country Club (site of the current Monmouth Race Track)	September 1, 1922
1	17	• Tax bill for 116 West Main St, Freehold, David Buck	1925-26
1	18	Genealogy: Truex Family, Hall Family	n.d.
1	19	Genealogy: Truex Family Coat of Arms (hand-drawn)	n.d.
OS	5	Genealogy: Chart of Schenck/Conover Descent	n.d.
1	20	Miscellaneous	
		• Program: The Borough of Freehold 50 th Anniversary	October 26, 1969
1	20	• Postcard: The Black House, Ellsworth, Me.	n.d.
1	20	• Christmas card: Decorative, shows doves on both sides, with blue and white fringe	n.d.
1	21	• Photostat of a sketch of Monmouth Court House in 1713, as remembered by William Lloyd in 1810	
		Pamphlets, newsletters, newspapers	
OS	6	• <i>Scientific American</i> , Vol. XXVII, No.12, New York	Sept. 21, 1872
2	1	• "The Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and Battle of Gettysburg" by M. Jacobs	1909
2	2	• "A Visit to the Town of Freehold in 1847" by Elmer T. Hutchinson, pamphlet	1947
2	2	• New Jersey Historical Commission Newsletter	1976-1977, April 1978
OS	6	• <i>Battleground Gazette</i> , Vol.1, No. 1, Tennes, NJ	May-Dec 1977
2	3	• The Battle of Monmouth: A Commemorative Symposium, New Jersey Historical Commission, packet of materials	1978
2	4	• Rough Draft of Dave Martin's report on Camp Vredenburgh for the New Jersey Historical Commission	1983
2	2	• "The Borough of Freehold Historical Book," souvenir booklet	n.d.
2	2	• "Morristown: A Military Capital of the American Revolution" by Melvin J. Weig, with assistance from Vera B. Craig, pamphlet	n.d.
2	5	• "A Series of South Branch Canoe Cruises"	n.d.

Index - Removed Items:

- Allaire Chapel. *Hymns for the Living Church*, Hope Publishing Co., Ill., 1977.
- *American Revolution in Drawings & Prints*, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1974.
- Beck, Henry Charlton. *Tales & Towns of Northern New Jersey*, Rutgers, 1964.
- Bible: Ellen S. Buck, presented by her father and mother, dark brown, heavy embossement with square emblem in center of cover - Buck, Taylor, Truex, Reed, Bergen (1847-1938).
- Bible: Ginger brown, embosses with diamond emblem in center of cover, small scrap of notesheet with E.G. Taylor and Lydia Wyckoff information inside.
- Babcock, Blakely B. *Jonathan Buck*, Ellsworth American, no date.
- Burchard, John & Albert Buck-Brown. *The Architecture of America*, Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1962.
- Caton, Bruce. *Mr. Lincoln's Army*, Country Life Press, NY, 1951.
- Cohen, David Steve & Barbara Smith Irwin. *Folklife in New Jersey*, New Jersey Historical Commission, 1982.
- Cole, Bernard, Harry Goth, William Miles. *Contributions of Citizens of Freehold and Surrounding Communities During the War Between the States*, 1961.
- *Conflict at Monmouth Court House*, New Jersey Historical Commission, 1978.
- Cunningham, John T. *New Jersey – America's Main Road*, Doubleday & Co. Inc., 1966.
- Gilman, Malcom B. *Monmouth – Road to Glory*, Trenton Publishing Co., 1962.
- Girouard, Mark. *Life in the English Country House*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1978.
- Harrington, M.R. *Indians of New Jersey – Dickon among Lenapes*, Rutgers, 1963.
- Hornor, William S. *This Old Monmouth of Ours* (original copy), Moreau Brothers of Freehold, 1932.
- McCormack, Richard P. *New Jersey from Colony to State 1609-1789*, New Jersey Historical Commission, Roe Publishing Co., 1916.
- Miers, Earl Schenck. *Where the Raritan Flows*, Rutgers, 1964.
- *New Jersey in the American Revolution 1873-1783*, New Jersey Historical Commission, Geslack, 1975.
- Nickerson, Richard. *Philip Freneau, Poet of the Revolution*, New Jersey Historical Commission, 1917.
- Nicolson, Nigel. *National Trust Book of Great Houses of Britain*, David R. Godine Pub., Boston, 1978.
- *Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*, 2 vols., Charles L. Webster & Co., 1886.
- Postcard of West Main Street, Freehold, NJ
- Postcard of the Hotel Belmont, Freehold, NJ
- Rice, Allen Thorndike. *Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln*, Burr Printing House, 1885.
- Salter, Edwin. *Salter's History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, NJ*, E. Gardner & Son, Publishers, 1890 (original copy)
- *A Sketch of Monmouth County New Jersey, 1683-1929*. Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, 1930.
- Smith, Samuel Stelle. *The Battle of Trenton*, Philip Freneau Press, Monmouth Beach, NJ, 1965, signed copy.

- Smith, Samuel Stelle. *Lewis Morris*, Humanities Press, 1983.
- Stockton, Frank R. *Stories of New Jersey*, Rutgers, 1961 (2 copies, 1 hard, 1 paperback).
- Stryker, William S. *Officers & Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War*, Wm. T. Nicholson & Son Pub., 1872.
- Washington, George and Marvin Kitman. *George Washington's Expense Account*, Harper & Row, NY, 1970.
- Wallace, Philip B. *Colonial Houses Pre Revolutionary Period Philadelphia*, Architectural Book Publishing Co. Inc., 1931.
- William, T. Harry. *Lincoln & His Generals*, Grosset & Dunlap, 1952.
- Yoseloff, Thomas. *Battles & Leaders of the Civil War*, 4 vols, 1956.

Sources:

- The Buck, Bergen, Reed, Taylor, Truex Family Bible, Bible Records of the Monmouth County Historical Association.
- David T. Buck obituary, newspaper unknown, Miscellaneous Family Name Files: Buck Family, Monmouth County Historical Association
- William T. Buck obituary, Asbury Park Press, June 4, 1915
- Charles Truex obituary, Asbury Park Evening Press, December 15, 1916