

<http://www.library.ci.corpus-christi.tx.us/MexicanWar/buchananrc.htm>

Bvt. Major-General Robert C. Buchanan was born, 1811, in Baltimore, Md. He was graduated from the Military Academy, July 1, 1830, and promoted to the Infantry, in which arm of service he passed through every grade; was, for several years, Adjutant of his Regiment; became a Brigadier-General, U. S. Volunteers; and for over a third of a century was actively engaged in every duty of his profession, as detailed in his foregoing Military History.

In Indian wars he took part, during the Black Hawk hostilities of 1832, commanding the gunboats on the Wisconsin River, -- in Florida, 1836-38, was engaged in the Battle of Okee-cho-bee and several minor actions against the Seminoles, -- and, 1856, was scouting against the Rogue River savages; in the Mexican War, 1846-48, he participated in nearly every battle from Palo Alto to the Capture of the Capital; and during the Rebellion, 1861-65, was engaged in the various contests of the Peninsula, Northern Virginia, and Rappahannock campaigns. In these wars, for his gallant and meritorious services, he received no less than five brevets from Major to Major-General.

After the termination of the Civil War, he held a most important command in Louisiana in very troublous times of the reconstruction period, when it required the utmost discretion to avoid bloodshed and preserve the peace. Of these trying services, his Asst. Adjutant-General, General Neill, says: "Buchanan's course was strongly characterized by wisdom, firmness, and moderation under the most trying and difficult circumstances in which a Department Commander has ever been placed since the war.

"On the meeting of the Legislature, anticipating trouble and bloodshed, by his strong and manly and prompt action I believe he saved the city of New Orleans from massacre.

"I do not know any officer of the army whose personal and official integrity, whose impartial discharge of the very delicate and highly responsible duties of his post, stands higher than that of Robert C. Buchanan. He was the very soul of honor, and one of the first soldiers under whom I served.

"I cannot find words to express my admiration of Buchanan, on account of the remarkable coolness, good sense, and sound judgment which he always displayed under the most exciting scenes, when grave issues were at stake.

"Our country has never given him the credit which he deserves for the great success which he achieved in the prevention of bloodshed and preserving the peace while the city of New Orleans was seething with disloyalty, riot, and threatened bloodshed."

General Buchanan was one of the most prominent Infantry officers of the Army, in which he performed long, faithful, and honorable service. Though a rigid disciplinarian, he was always kind and considerate to

subordinates; just and incorruptible in all his dealings; dignified and courtly in his demeanor; gallant and chivalrous on the battlefield; and ever a worthy and noble exemplar to his profession.

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/6499449/person/-946420735/media/4?pgnum=1&pg=0&pgpl=pid%7cpgNum>

father Andre Buchanan born 1791
mother Caroline Johnson 1787 -1862
spouse Sarah Murray Winder 1826-

Robert Christie Buchanan (March 1, 1811 – November 29, 1878) was an American military officer who served in the Mexican War and then was a general in the Union Army during the American Civil War. In a career than spanned more than forty years, Buchanan held numerous commands (including several forts) and received multiple citations for bravery and distinguished service.

Buchanan was born in Baltimore, Maryland. **He was the nephew by marriage of President John Quincy Adams**, and received his appointment to United States Military Academy during Adams' administration. (**His mother's sister was Louisa Adams, the First Lady.**) He graduated from the Academy in 1830 and was assigned to the 4th U.S. Infantry as a brevet second lieutenant. His assignments included service in the Black Hawk War (he was in charge of gunboats during the Battle of Bad Axe) and against the Seminoles, as well as in the removal of the Cherokees to the Indian Territory. He was promoted to captain during his service in Florida.

Buchanan participated in the Mexican War in command of the Maryland Volunteers. He was in the Battle of Chapultepec, the Battle of Palo Alto, the Battle of Resaca de la Palma, the Battle of Molino del Rey, and the capture of Mexico City. For his service in Mexico, Buchanan was twice brevetted in recognition of his gallantry in action.

After the war, Buchanan was assigned to various posts and recruiting duty. In 1853, the 4th Infantry was assigned to the Pacific Coast. He established Fort Humboldt. Under his command was Cpt. Ulysses S. Grant. When Grant's drinking began to affect his duties, Buchanan allegedly asked for and received Grant's resignation from the Army.[1]

In 1855, Buchanan was promoted to major. He commanded the District of Southern Oregon and Northern California from Fort Humboldt, and participated in the Rogue River Wars in Oregon.

Civil War

Buchanan was stationed in Los Angeles, California, at the beginning of the Civil War. He was ordered east, and his regiment was placed in the defenses surrounding Washington, D.C.. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and given command of a brigade in what became the Army of the Potomac. He participated in the Peninsula Campaign, including the Battle of Yorktown, and the Seven Days Battles, including the Battle of Gaines' Mill, the Battle of Glendale, and the Battle of Malvern Hill. He then fought in the Northern Virginia Campaign in the Second Battle of Bull Run.[2]

Buchanan, by then nicknamed "Old Buck" by his men, commanded the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, V Corps during the Maryland Campaign (part of George Sykes's Regulars). At Antietam, Buchanan strongly protested a decision to halt his advance on what he maintained was a weakly defended portion of the enemy line. In his opinion, his Regulars could have and should have carried Cemetery Hill, defended primarily by artillery with only the depleted Virginia brigade of Richard B. Garnett in support.

Buchanan was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers on November 29, 1862, and shortly thereafter fought at the Battle of Fredericksburg. In 1864, he was promoted to colonel in the Regular Army. He was nominated for promotion to brigadier general in the Regular Army, but the Senate did not act on the nomination.[3]

Buchanan then went on recruiting duty and then led the defenses of Fort Delaware. For his service at Second Bull Run and Fredericksburg he was brevetted to brigadier general and major general.

Postbellum

After the war, Buchanan mustered out of the volunteer forces and reverted to colonel in the Regular Army. He was placed in command of the 1st U.S. Infantry at New Orleans and helped enforce Reconstruction activities with his men. He subsequently commanded the Department of Louisiana, and then served in the Freedmen's Bureau.

He retired from the Army on December 31, 1870. At the time of his retirement, he was in command of Fort Porter in New York.

Buchanan died in Washington, D.C., and is buried at the Rock Creek Cemetery.

Name: **Robert Christie Buchanan**

State Served: District of Columbia

Highest Rank: Major General

Birth Date: 1811

Death Date: 1878

Birth Place: Baltimore, Maryland

Army: Union

Promotions:

Promoted to Full Lt Colonel (4th RA Inf)

Promoted to Brevet Colonel

Promoted to Full Brig-Gen

Promoted to Brevet Major-Gen

Biography: ROBERT C. BUCHANAN

Buchanan, Robert C., brigadier-general, was born in Maryland about 1810, was graduated at West Point in 1830, served then in the Black Hawk and Seminole wars, and in 1838 was promoted captain.

He served during the military occupation of Texas in 1845-46, and in the Mexican war, being brevetted major for gallant action at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Tex., and lieutenant-colonel for meritorious conduct at the battle

of Molino del Rey, Mexico.

He was appointed major in the 4th infantry, Feb. 3, 1855, served on recruiting, garrison and court martial duty until 1861, and in September of that year was promoted to the lieutenant-colonelcy of the 4th infantry and stationed at Washington, D. C. where he remained until March, 1862. He took a prominent part in the Peninsular campaign, winning the brevet of colonel for gallantry at Gaines, mill, was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers in Nov., 1862, and, after March, 1863, commanded Fort Delaware.

He was promoted colonel in the regular army in 1864 and in 1865 was given the brevets of major-general and brigadier-general, U. S. A. for gallantry at Malvern hill, Manassas and Fredericksburg.

He was a member of the military commission, Dec. 1, 1865, to investigate the complaints of Prussia concerning the Massachusetts enlistments in 1863, was a member of the Iowa claims commission in 1867, was in command of the district of Louisiana in 1868, and of Fort Porte in 1869-70. He was retired at his own request Dec. 31, 1870, and died in Washington, D. C., Nov. 29, 1878.

Source: The Union Army, vol. 8

Rock Creek Cemetery Plot: Section A, Lot 31
Find A Grave Memorial# 5886957