

102 Brookwood Avenue



James Washington “Billie” Buck (1867-1941) and wife, Emma C. Bickey (1874-1941) were the first to live in the house at 102 Brookwood Avenue. James was a photographer born in Baltimore, MD. James owned and operated the Buck Studio at 109 Princess Street. He was previously married to Mary Elizabeth Blythe (1874-1956) and they had five children together. James and Mary divorced in 1923 in Reno, Nevada. In 1926, James married Emma and in 1928 they built and moved into 102 Brookwood Avenue in Wilmington, NC.

James Buck was a successful outdoor photographer in Wilmington. He created photos of many local events such as the dedication of the George Davis Memorial in 1911 and St Mary’s Church in 1912. In 1911, Buck created the Wilmington police department’s first “mugshots”. He famously climbed Tidewater Power 150 foot tall smokestack in 1916 to take panoramic photos.

102 Brookwood – James W. and Emma C. Buck House – c. 1928, c. 2000 C – Building

This one-story, side-gabled, Craftsman-style bungalow is three bays wide and triple-pile. It has plain weatherboards, four-over-one wood-sash Craftsman-style windows, exposed rafter tails, knee brackets in the gables, and an exterior brick chimney in the right (north) gable. The six-panel door is sheltered by a two-bay-wide, front-gabled porch supported by columns, with a four-light window and exposed purlins in the gable. There is a one-story, shed-roofed bay projecting from the left (south) elevation, a gabled bay projecting from the right elevation, and paired windows in the side gables. A c. 2000 wide, one-and-a-half-story, gabled wing at the left rear (southwest) has gabled dormers on the right and left elevations and an upper-floor balcony at the left rear. The one-and-a-half-story wing intersects a one-story, gabled wing at the right rear (northwest) that extends beyond the one-and-a-half-story wing and has paired French doors with a six-light transom that open to an uncovered deck. The house was built for James W. Buck (owner, Buck Photography Studio) and

his wife, Emma C. Buck. The house was sold in 1931 to Walter G. Hashagen (manager, King’s Cash Grocery) and his wife, May C. Hashagen.

Deeds

- 1927 Brookwood Realty Corporation to Realty Trading Corporation, Deed 186 Page 438, Deed
- 1928 Realty Trading Corporation to James W. Buck and wife, Emma C. Buck, Book 188 Page 43, Deed
- 1931 James W. Buck and wife, Emma C. Buck to Walter G. Hashagen and wife, Mary C. Hashagen, Deed 218 Page 230, Deed
- 1964 Walter G. Hashagen and wife, Mary C. Hashagen to Frank M. Mabry, Jr. and wife, Margaret B. Mabry, Book 755 Page 101, Deed
- 1967 Frank M. Mabry, Jr. and wife, Margaret B. Mabry to Elizabeth Parker West, widow, and Jesse Coe Parker and wife, Pearle Wilburn Parker, Book 819 Page 326, Deed
- 1987 Elizabeth Parker West, widow to Robert F. Wilson and wife, Jean Strong, Book 1400 Page 1146, Deed
- 1989 Robert F. Wilson and wife, Jean Strong to William Scott Gilbert and wife, Angela Holt Gilbert, Book 1451 Page 1631, Deed
- 1995 William Scott Gilbert and wife, Angela Holt Gilbert to Peter T. Brown and wife, Marlee K. Murphy Brown, Book 1892 Page 1064, Deed
- 1997 Peter T. Brown and wife, Marlee K. Murphy Brown to Davis M. Thomson and Miriam L. Mason as joint tenants with right of survivorship, Deed 2214 Page 500, Deed

1930 Federal Census

NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	COLORED	BORN	PLACE OF BIRTH	INDUSTRY	EDUCATION	RENTAL VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE
James W. Buck	Head	M	63		MD	Maryland	Photographer	8											
Emma C. Buck	Wife	F	48		MD	Maryland		8											
Walter G. Hashagen	Head	M	44		NC	North Carolina	Salesman	8											
Mary C. Hashagen	Wife	F	39		NC	North Carolina		8											
Katherine Hashagen	Daughter	F	16		NC	North Carolina		8											
Mary Ellen Hashagen	Daughter	F	12		NC	North Carolina		8											

James W. Buck, head, owns, 63, born Maryland, photographer
 Emma Buck, wife, 48, born Maryland

1940 Federal Census

NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	COLORED	BORN	PLACE OF BIRTH	INDUSTRY	EDUCATION	RENTAL VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	VEHICLE VALUE
Walter Hashagen	Head	M	44		NC	North Carolina	Salesman	8											
Mary Hashagen	Wife	F	39		NC	North Carolina		8											
Katherine Hashagen	Daughter	F	16		NC	North Carolina		8											
Mary Ellen Hashagen	Daughter	F	12		NC	North Carolina		8											

Walter Hashagen, head, owns, 44, born NC, salesman
 Mary Hashagen, wife, 39, born NC
 Katherine Hashagen, daughter, 16, born NC
 Mary Ellen Hashagen, daughter, 12, born NC

Wilmington Directories

1928 James W. Buck (Emma C.) proprietor The Buck Studio at 109 Princess
1930 James W. Buck (Emma C.) The Buck Studio
1932 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.) manager Kings Cash Grocery
1934 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.)
1938-40 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.) salesman
1942 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.) clerk
1948-52 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.) clerk Tide Water Power Company
1956 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.) service clerk Carolina Power and Light
1958 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.) dispatcher Carolina Power and Light
1960 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.) clerk Carolina Power and Light
1962 Walter G. Hashagen (Mary C.)

Buck Family

James Washington Buck (1867-1941)

1st Wife: Mary Elizabeth Blythe (1874-1956) - married 1893 Richmond, VA

d. Virginia Elizabeth Buck (1894-1894)

d. Jeanette Edith Buck (1895-1968)

d. Mary Blythe "May" Buck (1897-1916)

d. Bessie Elliot Buck (1900-1994)

s. Howard Harrison Buck (1903-1978)

James and Mary divorced in Reno, NV in 1923

James Married Emma C. Bickey (1874-1941) in 1926 – Ellicott City MD

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
 (a) County New Hanover
 (b) Township Cape Fear
 (If in town limits, leave blank)
 (c) City or town Wilmington
 (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)
 (d) Street, hospital or institution County Home
 (e) Length of stay in hospital or institution 8 yrs
 (Yrs., mos., or days)
 In this community _____
 (Yrs., mos., or days)

Registration Dist. No. _____ Certificate No. 21
 2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:
 (a) State NC (b) County New Hanover
 (c) City or town Wilmington
 (d) Street or R.F.D. X 7. A
 (e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? No
 (f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? _____ years.

3(a) FULL NAME James W. Buck
 3(b) If veteran, name war _____ 3(c) Social Security No. _____
 4. Sex Male 5. Color or Race White 6(a) Single, married, widowed, or divorced. married
 6(b) Name of husband or wife Edith
 (c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years.
 7. Birth date of deceased July 13, 1867
 (month, day and year)
 8. AGE: Years 74 Months _____ Days _____ If less than one day hrs. _____ mins. _____
 9. Birthplace Baltimore, Md.
 (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
 10. Usual occupation photographer
 11. Industry or business _____

FATHER
 12. Name Don't know
 13. Birthplace " "
 MOTHER
 14. Maiden Name " "
 15. Birthplace " "

16(a) Informant's Signature County Home Records
 (b) Address Castle Home Road
 17(a) Burial (b) Date thereof 9-13-41
 (Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month, day, year)
 (c) Cemetery Bellevue
 (d) Location Wilmington, N.C.
 18(a) Funeral director Yon's Funeral Home
 (b) Address Wilmington, N.C.
 19(a) 9-12 1941 (b) C. F. Scutter, Jr.
 Filed Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
 20. Date of death 9-11 1941, at 2:00 P.M.
 21. I certify that death occurred on the date above stated; that I attended deceased from 9-7 1941, to 9-11 1941, and that I last saw him alive on 9-11 1941.
 Immediate cause of death Senility
 Duration _____
 Due to _____
 Due to _____
 Other conditions (include pregnancy within 3 months of death) None
 Major findings: Of operations None
 Of autopsy _____
 Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.
 22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
 (a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____
 (b) Date of occurrence _____
 (c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State) _____
 (d) Did injury occur about home, on farm, in industrial place, in a public place? (Specify type of place) _____
 While at work? _____
 (e) Means of injury _____
 23. Signature [Signature] M.D.
 Address [Address] Date signed 9-11-41

James W. Buck
 Born: 13 July 1867 Baltimore, MD
 Death: 11 September 1941 Wilmington, NC
 Occupation: photographer
 Burial: Bellevue Cemetery, Wilmington, NC



James Washington Buck



Mary Elizabeth Blythe



Buck Family- James Buck, daughter Mary Buck
Wife Mary Buck, daughter Jeanette Buck



James Washington Buck 1921



Buck family uncrating a new Bicycle c. 1909



Buck family enjoying watermelon c. 1913
Mary, daughter Jeanette, son Howard, James, daughter Bessie

Personal story from Ancestry tree owner Jeanette Lanier

“James "Washington" Buck was my paternal great-grandfather. Washington Buck was one of the first professional photographers in the Southeastern United States. Somewhere around 1921, he left my great-grandmother and his children to live with "a younger woman," my parents were told. "Emma," who is mentioned in a later census, may have been that woman. In a Dec. 27, 1923 letter to his son, Howard Buck, Washington states that his "decree" (divorce) was granted in July of 1923 in Reno, Washoe County, Nevada. He also states in said letter that he has "adopted" the name of "Billy Buck," saying it is "easy to remember." It appears that Washington and Emma eventually married in 1926 in Howard County, Maryland. Needless to say, it was a great scandal and my father was told all of his life that his grandfather was "dead." To his first family, he probably was. Only in 1941, after Washington Buck had actually died, was my father told that his Grandfather Buck had not been dead all those years. My father never saw a picture of his Grandfather Buck, as we only discovered pictures of Washington Buck after my father's death. Perhaps this was by design. Ironically, after only being remarried a few years, it appears that Washington Buck was sent to a "county home" in Wilmington, NC, by his wife, Emma, and lived out the last years of his life there. Records indicate that he is buried in an unmarked grave in Bellevue Cemetery in Wilmington, NC.”

Mr. J. W. Buck, the photographer, who had a stand just to one side of the approach to Lumina, lost heavily by the storm. His tent, apparatus, family clothing, etc., were swept away by huge waves which crossed the beach from the ocean to the Banks Channel of Wrightsville Sound. He saved some of his effects but estimated his loss at not less than \$100.

Mr. Buck says the storm awoke him at 3:30 a. m., and he watched the rising tide as it dashed higher and higher on the beach. Realizing that it would finally reach his tent, at 6 a. m., he awakened his family consisting of wife and four children where they were asleep in the big tent. By that time tide was washing close to the tent and hardly before he could realize it the surf was pounding where his tent was. He managed to save only a few things, before he and his family had to take refuge on the upper floor of Lumina. As the tide began to rush from the ocean across the beach into the sound, he and his wife and children made their way up the beach to the Tarrymoore Hotel, wading in water two feet deep in many places. They lost all the clothing they had except that which they had on and that was drenched with salt water.

1906

CHRISTMAS RUSH ON

Busy Doings at Police Headquarters Rogues' Gallery Started

The Christmas rush is on now at the police station and the officers are kept busy. From yesterday morning at 7 o'clock until last night at 10 19 arrests had been made, and at that time the end was not yet in sight. The unfortunates are charged with a wide variety of offenses, most of them, however, being alleged vagrants, drunks, drunk and disorderlies, and other minor charges. Several are charged with carrying concealed weapons.

An innovation was started in the police department yesterday when the rogues' gallery was instituted. The officials have decided to have all those charged with an offense more serious than "drunk" photographed, and able them to keep tab on a certain element that they believe responsible for a large portion of the lawlessness here. Mr. J. W. Buck, the photographer, has been secured to do the work. About 15 negroes were "snapped" yesterday, "Bill" Townsend possessed of a somewhat shaky record already, having the honor of leading the list. "Bill" was tickled with the idea and coolly told the officers that he thought the plan a good one. The photographs will be placed on file for future use.

Among those arrested yesterday were: L. Huggins, colored, charged with the larceny of a length of chain from Mr. R. R. Stone, Officer J. W. Smith making the arrest; James Ward, colored, arrested by Patrolman Leon George, charged with carrying a concealed weapon in the form of a razor; W. Deen and E. D. Harriss, white, and Iziah Donaldson, colored, arrested by Patrolman Leon George, charged with gambling by shooting craps, and David Jones, colored, arrested by Patrolman W. R. Applebury, on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon, to wit, a revolver.

1911

"IN THE SUNNY SOUTH."

Interesting Views of Snow About Wilmington and Beach.

Mr. J. W. Buck, the well known Wilmington photographer, has just completed some very interesting views of the recent snows in the city and at Wrightsville Beach. Mr. Buck, himself a Northern man, has been in the South six of eight years and the snows this Winter were the first of consequence he had seen here, therefore, he fared forth after the recent storm and secured some excellent views. Not the least interesting was a view at Wrightsville Beach, where several tempted fate to the extent of going in the surf and then "wallowing" in the snow on the sands. Mr. Buck has a most realistic picture of this view and they were much admired by those who saw them yesterday.

1912

Photographs of Dedication.

Mr. J. W. Buck, the well known Wilmington photographer, has made some excellent pictures of the dedication ceremonies recently at the Cathedral of St. Mary's and these will be on display in a few days in a show window at Yates'. The photographs have been copyrighted and will be placed on sale at the proper time by Mr. Buck.

1912

PANORAMIC VIEW TAKEN

Mr. J. W. Buck Snaps City From Top of Smokestack 150 Feet High.

From the top of the big 150-foot smokestack of the Tidewater Power Company, which is nearing completion at the foot of Castle street, Mr. J. W. Buck took a snapshot of Wilmington yesterday morning.

The ascent to the summit of the tall smoke carrier was made through the interior in a "bucket" type of elevator propelled by a hoisting engine on the outside. Mr. Buck says that the top of the chimney has a vibrant motion that is not the most pleasant thing in the world to observe.

A fine view of the city and water front is obtainable from this lofty perch, and Mr. Buck should have little trouble in disposing of the panoramic views that he made yesterday.

1916

FOR WORK OVERSEAS

Rejected For Active Service With Army, J. W. Buck, Wilmington Photographer, With Y. M. C. A.

No happier man was to be found in Wilmington yesterday than J. W. Buck, a well known Wilmington photographer, who was on the eve of realizing his ambition of having an active part in the world war. He left last night for New York to go overseas as a member of the Y. M. C. A. forces and many an American soldier is going to make friends with this Wilmington man, who has been determined to do his part in winning the war for civilization.

Rejected for acceptance as a member of the officers' training school on account of age, but qualifying in every other particular, Mr. Buck started in a year ago to do his part at home. He joined the home guard and

sacrificed his photography business and became chief clerk to the district medical advisory board at a nominal salary. He was always to be found at the post of duty.

When the call came for men to go overseas with the Y. M. C. A., he saw here an opportunity to serve in a more active capacity. His services were offered in any capacity that could be used. He received notice a few days ago to report in New York this week for final examination before being assigned to duty overseas.

Mr. Buck is only one of a number of Wilmington men who have offered their services for this important work. H. B. Bailey left a week ago and S. A. Matthews expects to leave in a few days. J. Stevenson Brown is another business man who has offered his services and will probably leave today for New York. There are more men of their type, ready to go whenever they are needed or wanted.

Divorce Suits Filed.

Two suits for absolute divorce were filed with the clerk of superior court yesterday as follows: John E. Newton, from his wife, Nettie A. Newton, and Bessie L. Brown from her husband, Erriksen E. Brown.

1918

GREETINGS FROM PARIS

Col. Walker Taylor Receives Cablegram from James W. Buck.

Col. Walker Taylor has received a cablegram containing Christmas greetings from James W. Buck, a former citizen of this city who is now serving with the Y. M. C. A. in France. The cablegram is dated at Paris, December 23. It reads:

"Best wishes for a merry Christmas to you and my family and friends in dear old Wilmington. Tender my sincere sympathy to those having lost dear ones in recent epidemic; also to those having lost them overseas. Wilmington is the dearest spot on earth. Good enough for best people on the earth."

1918

URGES SELF-DENIAL FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE

Mr. Buck Believes It Would Also Help at Home

Writing to The Star, James W. Buck suggests a period of self-denial in behalf of the suffering children of Europe. Mr. Buck believes that, by his plan, great benefit will accrue to the donors as well as to the needy little ones. His letter follows:

"In this drive for funds for the impoverished children of Europe, I believe if we return to some of the denial practiced by our citizenry during the war, that Wilmington can make a very substantial contribution and her citizens physically benefitted, and also gain the consciousness of having aided in saving some of those from a fate that makes one shudder.

"Let this denial be voluntary now instead of compulsory, and watch for results.

"I suggest that on one day of each week during a period of four weeks, each man, woman, and child who is physically able to stand it live on the very simplest food available, and give the balance between an average day's expense and this simple day's living to this fund.

1920

"The rest thereby gained by our many overfed and overworked organs will doubtless prove of such benefit that many may make it a permanent feature of their lives, thereby causing better health and insuring an added lease on this grand old earth.

"The giving along this line will not only amount to a very substantial sum, but it also will permit of a greater volume of food to be disposed of overseas, while at the same time we are having the benefit before the recipients, making it a blessing to both.

"If a person gives a dollar, and has still a sufficiency left, he has given but little. When a person gives, and by that very act increases the world supply, his self-denial has proved a lasting benefit, and should the good people of the old U. S. A. act together, what a wonderful cargo could be shipped to Europe on account of what I firmly believe would be four days of beneficial self-denial.

"I like the idea of the Rotary club having a soup luncheon, and honor bound to eat nothing else between breakfast and their evening meal, be it dinner or supper, and giving the usual cost of their luncheon to this worthy cause.

"We men might carry this denial a bit farther by doing without our cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco, the ladies may be prevailed on to dispense with candy, chewing gum, and carfares, while the children can always be counted on to devise some way in which they can also help, and make these days red letter days for the helpless kids of Europe.

"I make this plea not because I think I am a big-man, or a small-man, but just because I am a hu-man."

Page 7.

Please Add:

1924

J.W. Buck, noted local photographer, opened a new photographic studio Monday in the Princess Building, 109 Princess Street. The new studio is well equipped, attractively furnished and presents a neat appearance. WILM.STAR, c.12-10-1924.

1924

BILL REAVES COLLECTION
New Hanover Public Library

2w Equipment Is Installed In Studio

James W. Buck, who recently attended a National convention of the Photographers association in Pittsburgh, while there purchased new equipment for his studio at 109 Princess street and it is now installed.

Mr. Buck, in speaking about the National meeting stated that the photographers of the country who are members of the association were doing a great work in the advancement of photography and that the new ideas and new equipment were doing much towards educating the public to the value of photographs.

Photographs, it is pointed out, are records that are almost indispensable and the tendency towards having them made more often is growing.

10-5-27S