

The John Buchanan Station Blunderbuss

August 13, 2015

The Friends of John Buchanan Cemetery

WE DID IT!!



Through the efforts of so many people, we have raised the \$13,800 needed to place a commercial grade aluminum fence around the Historic Buchanan's Station Cemetery. All those bidding sent their proposals based on the same fence design and from the same supplier. The low bidder was Ram Fence of Nashville, and the fence will have two gates and the five-foot high fence will look similar to the one shown in the photo to the left.

Friends of Buchanan Station Cemetery

Maurice Kellogg, President
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Ellen Davis, Secretary
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The mission of the Friends of Buchanan Station Cemetery is to promote the preservation of the historic Buchanan Station Cemetery as an educational and interpretational asset for the citizens of Middle Tennessee.

Blunderbuss

Editor, Joe Cathey

Special thanks go to the cemetery owner, Scott Pope, who worked hand-in-hand with our Dick Davis to get the title to the cemetery land transferred to Metro Nashville. Dick, along with Historian Mike Slate, has been the primary catalysts to make this all possible; their perseverance and patience is incredible.

Dick, Judy Vecchione and I went to the cemetery this afternoon (8-13-2015) to check on the progress Metro Parks & Recreation had made in removing dead and dying trees and brush from the cemetery so the fence could be installed and to get rid of trees that might fall on the headstones. A special thanks to MNPR Director Tommy Lynch, Shain Dennison, Jerry Terlfinko, Jerry Rains and those who did the hard work (please see photos on the following page).



Interpretive signage has been selected by Tim Walker, Director, Metro Historical Commission and will be installed soon after the fence is erected (please see the two panel signs below).

Nonoriginal records survive for this burial ground of the Buchanan family and friends. Early interments likely include Samuel Buchanan, evidently killed by Indians outside the station walls in 1786, and John Buchanan, Sr., killed inside the station the following year.

"The cemetery is in a dilapidated condition...you have to get about in a haphazard fashion and feel sorry the branches to get a glimpse of the few stone headstones, which, by the way, all face the north...."
Will T. Hale, 1900

During an archaeological survey completed in 2012, 67 graves were identified.

Intermentes:
John Buchanan
Sarah Ridley Buchanan
Elizabeth Bidley
George Buchanan
Jane Buchanan Haynes
Alexander Buchanan
Robert Porter McFarland
Winfred Royal McFarland
McFarland infants (2 stones)
W. Atkins
Unknown Buchanan (stone broken)
Martha Buchanan
Buchanan infants (3 stones)
T. H. Williams
M. D.

Other family and friends probably buried here:
Samuel Buchanan, brother
Margaret Kennedy Buchanan, first wife
Jane Buchanan, 1st wife
John Buchanan, Sr., father
Jane Trindle Buchanan, mother
Cornelius Riddle, freesterman
William Buchanan, freesterman
John Blackburn, freesterman

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BUCHANAN STATION CEMETERY

The Cumberland Settlements

In the winter of 1779 - 1780, the family of John and Jane Trindle Buchanan was among the earliest permanent American settlers of the bend in the Cumberland River where the city of Nashville, Tennessee is now located. The Buchanans and other families began construction of a fortified settlement, or station, at this location on Hill Creek about four miles east of Nashville in the spring of 1784. It is thought that the complex, which later included one of the earliest grist mills in the area, was completed in 1785.

The entire middle Tennessee region was a hunting ground for numerous Native American Indian tribes who contested the right of settlers in the area. During those early years, many settlers, including John Buchanan, Sr. and his son Samuel Buchanan, were killed by Indians at the station. By 1787, the settlement was led by the oldest surviving son, John Buchanan, who later became known as Major John Buchanan.

Buchanan Station is at the Fork Nashville

Major John Buchanan was a farmer, land speculator, surveyor, businessman and writer. In 1783, he authored a manuscript known as *Buchanan's Arithmetic*, a handwritten book detailing all arithmetic operations—addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots and other equalities. This remarkable book was bound in deer skin provided and cured by Buchanan.

Buchanan's Arithmetic

The Attack

The inhabitants at Buchanan Station were constantly threatened by Indians. On Sunday, September 30, 1792, several hundred Creek, Cherokee and Shawnee warriors attacked the station en route to Fort Nashborough (Nashville). At the time, the complex was occupied by a small group of families that included only about 20 men.

Fighting from the front corner blockhouses that made up the station, the settlers killed and severely wounded a number of Indian leaders, including Kachatalico, during the battle. Sarah (Sally) Ridley Buchanan, the wife of Major John Buchanan, kept the men supplied with black powder and musket balls during the attack, continually encouraging them to keep up the fight. At the time she was pregnant with the first of their 13 children. The child was born only 11 days after the battle.

Sally Buchanan died in November 1831. Major John Buchanan died a year later in 1832. Members of the Buchanan family and others lived at Buchanan Station until the property was sold in 1841.

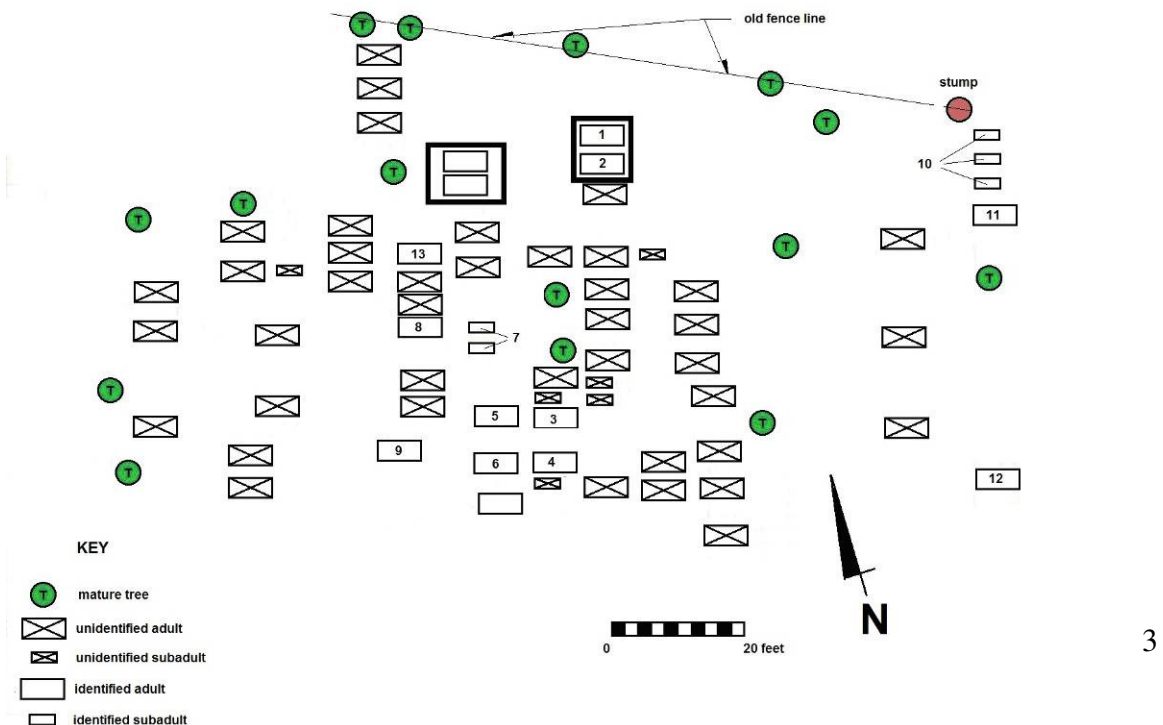
BUCHANAN STATION

The drive towards the preservation of the Buchanan's Station Cemetery began in early 2012 by Historian Mike Slate who tirelessly championed the cause by educating several news people and recruiting the support of the landowner to this preservation effort. Momentum took off when Dr. Harvill

Eaton, President of Cumberland University, brought the many talents of his professors and staff to plan and execute the September 30, 2012, celebration of the 1792 Battle of Buchanan's Station.



Next the Cultural Resources Survey and Report on the Cemetery. Archaeologist Dan Allen did a remarkable job of researching the site, identifying both marked and unmarked graves and provided the following in his report:



John Buchanan Cemetery; list of interments [(keyed to map above) Individuals marked with an asterisk * are traditionally buried in the cemetery but their grave locations are unknown].

#	Name	Birth	Death	Marker type
1	Major John Buchanan	Jan. 12, 1759	Nov. 7, 1832	limestone bedstead
2	Sarah Ridley Buchanan	Oct. 28, 1773	Nov. 23, 1831	limestone bedstead
3	Elizabeth Ridley	1794	May 25, 1810	limestone bedstead
4	George Buchanan	Oct. 11, 1792	Feb. 22, 1816	limestone bedstead
5	Jane T. Alexandretta Haynes	Oct. 31, 1824	June 7, 1843	white marble tablet on base
6	Alexander Buchanan	Mar. 22, 1794	Apr. 9, 1836	limestone bedstead
7	McFarland Infants (2)	unknown	unknown	limestone bedstead
8	W. Atkins	unknown	Jan. 16, 1899	inscribed fieldstone
9	Buchanan (broken)	unknown	unknown	limestone bedstead
10	Buchanan infants (3)	unknown	unknown	limestone bedstead
11	Martha Buchanan	Nov. 3, 1811	Sept. 15, 1840	limestone bedstead
12	T. H. Williams	Aug. 23, 1826	Jan. 7, 1848	limestone bedstead
13	M. D.	unknown	unknown	inscribed fieldstone
14	Robert P. McFarland	Mar. 30, 1795	January 16, 1823	limestone bedstead
15	Winifred "Winnie" Lloyd McFarland	Oct. 1793	Apr. 1863	limestone bedstead
*	Alexander Buchanan	1763	Apr. 2, 1781	
*	Samuel Buchanan	1765	May 8, 1786	
*	Margaret Kennedy	unk.	1789	
*	Jane Buchanan Todd	Nov. 5, 1760	1792	
*	John Buchanan Sr.	1727 (Ireland)	1792	
*	Jane Trindle Buchanan	1740	1792	

In July, the Buchanan Station Cemetery was proclaimed a **Historic Landmark** by Metro Council, thanks to its introduction by 15th District Councilman Phil Claiborne, and approved by Mayor Karl Dean.

Lastly, none of this would have been possible without the generosity of so many people who joined the *Friends of Buchanan's Station Cemetery*. I know I will leave out a few folks, and for that I am sorry. Here are the contributors I have identified in my files that made the fence project a success:

Washington Foundation
Mr. Miles Ezell
Buchanan Log House
Anonymous
Ms. Cindy Todd Brumfield
Mr. Allen Berry
Mr. Lawrence Epps
Mr. Garnett Forkum
Mr. Buck Epps
Mr. Dick Davis
Ms. Harrett Jewell
Dale & Sally Swain
Kathy Lauder & Mike Slate
Ms. Dorris Smith
Mr. William Whitworth
Ms. Danya Downey
Ms. Margaret Veaser
Judy & Bill Vecchione
Dr. Richard Batey
Ms. Judith Hamill
Joe & Nancy Cathey
Mr. Ron Sharpe
Councilman Jeff Syracuse