

Minnie Julia Beatrice Buck

"Mrs. Colin Campbell"

Loyalist forebears:

- **Philip Buck** of Bowman Creek and Susquehanna River, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania. Private in Butler's Rangers. He settled in Bertie, Lincoln, Niagara.
- **John Howell, Sr.** of Mohawk River, New York Province. Sergeant Major, 2nd Battalion, Sir John Johnson and Butlers Ranger's. He settled in Sophiasburg and Ameliasburg.

Minnie Julia Beatrice Buck was born 18th June 1862 in Palermo, Ontario to Dr. Anson Buck and Keturah Adelaide Howell. She was loyalist descended on both sides. The Bucks had roots in Germany, Mecklenburg and the Palatinate, and the Howells in Wales.

She was educated at Oakville Collegiate Institute and Wesleyan female College in Hamilton. She taught at Ottawa Ladies Presbyterian College from 1881 to 1882.

In 1884 Minnie married Colin H. Campbell, a barrister. They moved to Winnipeg, where he was called to the bar and joined a practice, specializing in Real Estate Law. His many enterprises proved lucrative over the years and in they built a spacious home, "Inverary", on Roslyn Road. Colin Campbell was elected MLA. He served as Attorney General in the Rodmond Roblin Cabinet and was very much involved with the planning the new legislative building. He is said to have "worked himself to death". (Blanchard). He suffered a stroke in 1913 and died the following year.

The early decades of the Twentieth century were the great era of volunteer organizations. Upper class women were not expected, indeed allowed, to work outside the home. Their domain was the many patriotic and service organizations. It was here that Minnie found her metier.

Mrs. Colin Campbell participated in service organizations both locally and nationally. She served on the Board of the Winnipeg YMCA and as Vice-President of the National YMCA. She was a councillor of the Winnipeg Red Cross and Secretary of the first Provincial Red Cross Society.

In the field of the arts she was a member of the Women's Music Club and the Western Art Association.

The focus of Mrs. Campbell's greatest involvement was the Independent Order of the Daughters of the Empire. The I.O.D.E had been organized during the South African War to support the Canadian Volunteers. Its purpose was to promote patriotism, service to others, and loyalty to the Crown. Just before the War Mrs. Campbell's leadership of a fundraising committee of the Winnipeg chapter of the I.O.D.E had raised \$ 12,000 (present equivalent \$300,000) for the construction of a pavilion at the Ninette Sanatorium (Blanchard). During World War I Mrs. Campbell was probably the most influential I.O.D.E leader in Western Canada. She travelled widely throughout the West raising funds to provide necessities and comforts for the soldiers and their families at home.

Mrs Campbell led the campaign to raise \$100,000 to equip a hospital ship. The campaign began in September, 1914. By the end of September, the National I.O.D.E had raised \$ 250,000. It was used to equip the Royal Navy Hospital at Portsmouth, England, and to purchase 40 ambulances.

It has been said that Minnie Campbell was "one of the most important women in Winnipeg" during World War I (Blanchard). As a wealthy widow with servants to care for her children, she was free to devote her time to war work. Her "forceful personality" (Blanchard) and organizational skills enabled her to shine. She is regarded as the founder of social work in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Campbell's devotion to the British Empire was recognized in Britain. She was presented at court and received Coronation Medals of Edward VII, George V, George VI, and the Silver Jubilee Medal of George V. Poland awarded her the Golden Cross of Poland for her war relief work. In 1935 she was inducted into the Order of the British Empire.

Mrs Campbell was a Founding Member of the Manitoba Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association.

Minnie died on 3rd November, 1952 at Port Arthur while visiting her daughter. She was buried in the family plot in St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg.

In September 2013 an ad appeared on a web-site selling medals. Mrs Campbell's medals were offered for sale, accompanied by a photo and description: Order of the British Empire, St. John's Ambulance Officers Breast Badge, Coronation Medal 1902, Coronation

Medal 1911, Jubilee Medal 1935, Coronation Medal 1937, and Polish Cross of Merit".
They sold for USD \$1,100.00. How very sad!

Sources:

- Ancestry.com
- "Anson Buck", A Sketch by S.H. Corrigan , M.D.
- Henderson Directories
- UELAC Directory
- Memorable Manitobans, MHS Web-site
- Obituary, Winnipeg Free Press, 6th November 1952
- *Winnipeg's Great War* - Jim Blanchard

Submitted by Mary Steinhoff, Secretary, UELAC, Manitoba Branch