



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**WALTER L. K. BUCKINGHAM, SR.
GENEALOGICAL COLLECTION
1781-2007**

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Walter L Karnes Buckingham, Sr.

By: Mary Louise Buckingham Carpenter

Daddy was born in the Beasleys Bend community of Trousdale County, TN on October 1, 1926 to Arnet and Blanche Belcher Buckingham. He lived in the Beasleys Bend area of Trousdale County most of his life.

He met his future wife when her family moved to the Bend in around 1940. He always said that he knew he was going to marry her the first time he saw her little bony knees under the desk. Her name was Louise Agnes Birchett and she was the love of his life. She was born in Davidson County, TN on November 29, 1928 to George Richard and Mary Alice Sweeney Birchett.

Daddy and Momma were married on April 19, 1947 and shared their lives just a few weeks short of 61 years when he died of a sudden heart attack on February 8, 2008. She only survived him by a little short of 5 months, dying July 3, 2008 .

My twin brother Walter, Jr. and I were born on April 11, 1948.

Daddy served his country in the U.S. Army for two terms in the early 1940's.

Daddy spent most of his working years as a truck driver, he liked being outdoors, never wanted to be cooped up indoors.

He was a minister for close to 30 years in the Church of Christ and was instrumental in starting a congregation in Dixon Springs, TN in the late 1960's.

Daddy was a certified genealogist and Trousdale County Historian and enjoyed helping people find their relatives, a large part of this was done as a volunteer at the Fred A. Vaught Memorial Public Library in Hartsville, TN. He volunteered for over 20 years and has helped hundred of researchers find what they were looking for. He was just as excited to find information for someone else as he was when he found some of his own. People came from all over the country to Trousdale County because they had heard what a great genealogist they had at the Library.

I think the proudest Daddy ever was of me was when I was hired as Director of the Fred A. Vaught Memorial Public Library. He worked closely with me in continuing to develop a great genealogy department started by the former librarian, Judy Baker, when he began volunteering during her 8 years at the library.

I was Director for 14 years, leaving a few months after his and Momma's deaths.

Daddy served on the County Commission in Trousdale County two terms separated by about 16 years, he was serving at the time of his death. He loved his Trousdale County and did everything he could in any capacity he could to do what he considered the best

thing for the county. He was very outspoken and had no trouble making his opinion known, he was not always agreed with, but respected by most of the other Commissioners as well as the citizens of Trousdale County.

The County as well as the State of Tennessee issued proclamations after his death.

Before the frailty of age and problems with vision Daddy was a well-known patron of the Tennessee State Library and Archives and always enjoyed his searches and interaction with the staff there.

After he was no longer able to drive in Nashville due to frail health as well as failing eyesight, his good friends and genealogy buddies Lorraine and Jim Bronner would take him to the archives and they would all have a good time with their individual research. They also were kind enough to deliver the collection of his research for donation to the archives, Lorraine making the comment to me that she felt like she and Walter were making their last trip together. This donation was very hard for us both but we felt that he would have really been pleased to have the products of his years of hard work there and available for others to access. He was all about helping others in any way he could and I feel that by doing this he is still helping folks even though he is no longer here.

He was one of a kind and sorely missed by all who loved him.

If those who use his works catch just a small glimpse of the man whose blood, sweat and tears went into them, they will be blessed.

The Walter L Karnes Buckingham, Sr. Collection

is donated to the Tennessee State Library And Archives by his children: Mary Louise Buckingham Carpenter & Walter L Karnes Buckingham, Jr.;

Grandchildren: Lisa Diane Buckingham Wheat, Connie Lynn Buckingham Walker & George William Carpenter, IV;

Great Grandchildren: Taylor Page Walker, Sean Alexander Wheat and Austin Cole Wheat.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Walter L. K. Buckingham Sr. Genealogical Collection, 1781-2007, was donated by his family through the agency of Lorraine Bronner of Lebanon, Tennessee. The collection consists of 9 cubic feet and is arranged alphabetically by subject. There are no restrictions on the use of the collection.

The collection arrangement retains the creator's original order. The collection contains genealogical research on various families from around Tennessee as well as out of state, including correspondence between families and Buckingham concerning the research; research on topics such as the Battle of Hartsville; newspaper clippings; copies of census records, indentures, wills, and other documents.

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4. Allen, Robert, n.d.
5. Allen, Tony & John S. Lauderdale, 1996
6. Allison, Don R., 1909-1999
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12. Blalock, Linda Lee Research, 1990
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15. Branham, Susie, 2004
16. Brawner, Rebecca, 1900-1919
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6. Cannon, Nell Nesmith, W.A.J., 1810-1990
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9. Carman, Gene, 1910-2002
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12. Carr Bible Records, 1818-1994
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20. Guffy, Mechelle, 1910
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23. Haley, E. P., 1976
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10. GeneLiles, Frankie, 1805-1997
11. Linville, William J., 1990
12. Lowe-Buford Letter, 1864
13. Lucas, Darrel L., 1998

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14. Lynch, Pat, 1991
15. Macon County History, 1991
16. Malone, Robert, 1942-1993
17. Maps---Various, n.d.
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17. Molnar, Steve, 1996
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21. Motley, Rachel D., n.d.
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16. Tennessee Historical Quarterly, 2005
17. Terry, Frederick, n.d.
18. Thiessen, Louise, 1994
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