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By Frank Clark

Edward Lyon Buchwalter - Soldier, Entrepreneur, Banker

Edward Lyon Buchwalter was born June 1, 1841, and reared on the family farmstead in Hallsville, Ross County, Ohio. He was the eldest of three brothers. He was enrolled at Ohio University in Athens when the Civil War started. He left the university at the age of 21 and voluntarily enlisted in the Union Army on August 15, 1862. His unit was Company A of the 114th Ohio Infantry where he rose to the rank of sergeant.

Buchwalter's first engagement with the enemy was at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou on December 26 - 29, 1862. This was on the northern approaches to Vicksburg. The Confederates won this battle and Buchwalter was one of 1005 men wounded. His wounds were minor and he would go on to fight in the Battle of Fort Hindman in Arkansas on January 9 - 11, 1863. He actively participated in several more battles that led up to the siege and capture of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863.



Buchwalter's ability led him to being commissioned first lieutenant in the 53rd United States Mississippi Colored Infantry on July 25, 1863. This unit was ordered to Miliken's Bend in Louisiana. They were bivouaced there until January 1864 and then recalled to Vicksburg. They were stationed in Vicksburg again until October 1864. He was promoted to captain during his stint there. His next campaign involved leading troops up the White River to St. Charles, Arkansas. The final months of the war saw him return to Vicksburg and then on to the state capital of Jackson.

With the war over, his military duties continued, first as Provost Marshall of Macon, Mississippi and later in the same position in Meridian, Mississippi. He was also in charge of the Freedman's Bureau in Meridian. March 8, 1866, saw him mustered out and receiving an honorable discharge. Later, he would join the fraternal order of the Grand Army of the Republic. He would also become the Commander of the Ohio Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. He also exhibited kind feelings towards former Confederate soldiers during the rest of his life.

Buchwalter returned to the family farm in Hallsville for a few years. He moved to Springfield with his wife and family in 1872. He was one of the organizers of The Superior Drill Company and president from 1883 to 1903, when it was merged into the American Seeding Machine Company. He continued as president of the latter business concern until 1911.

During this time, he helped organize the Citizens National Bank of Springfield, Ohio in December 1898, charter #5160. This bank succeeded the Second National Bank of Springfield, charter #263. He was the first president and served until the bank consolidated with the Lagonda National Bank of Springfield on July 27, 1927. The new bank became the Lagonda-Citizens National Bank and operated under the Lagonda's charter #2098.

The Citizens National Bank issued Series 1882 Brown Backs, Date Backs, and Value Backs. This Clark County bank finished its career with Series 1902 Plain Backs. Pictured is a \$10 1902 Plain Back with rubber stamped signatures of Cashier F.E. Hosterman and President Edward L. Buchwalter.

After a long and fruitful life, Buchwalter died in 1933 and was buried at the historic Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum in Springfield. ❖