

Captain John Knight Bucklyn, A.M., LL.D.

In Connecticut, Captain John Knight Bucklyn was best known as the founder and long-time head of Mystic Valley Institute, a leading college preparatory institution to which persons of substance sent their children for education.

Captain John K. Bucklyn graduated from Brown University in 1861 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He then taught school, until the outbreak of the Civil War and his enlistment into the Army

After he returned from Army service in 1865 Captain Bucklyn served as principal of the Mystic Public School until 1868 when he established the Mystic Valley Institute. The Institute received a charter from the State of Connecticut in 1880.

Captain Bucklyn was a member of: the Loyal Legion of the United States, the Grand Army of the Republic (Commander of the Williams Post for several years); The Society of Soldiers and Sailors; Rhode Island Historical Society; New London County Historical Society; The Union Baptist Church of Mystic (30 years as superintendent of the Sunday School).

Captain Bucklyn married Mary McKee Young. January 9, 1864, at the Central Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island

Captain John K. Bucklyn died in Mystic, Connecticut in March 15, 1906.

Captain and Mrs. Bucklyn had two sons: John Knight and Frank Abbott.

John Knight Bucklyn, Jr., M.D., the oldest son, was born in Mystic, Connecticut, July 31, 1865. [Ed. Note: It might be noted that Captain Bucklyn had been at home with his wife recuperating from his injuries received in the Civil War, had returned to active military service, and then resigned from active service to return home because of the "ill health" of his wife. One might suppose that the "ill health" of his wife was her pregnancy, because John Knight Junior's birth came shortly after his return home.]

John, Jr., attended the public schools of Mystic until the opening of the Mystic Valley Institute, which he then attended, After that he attended the New York College of Homeopathy, graduating with an MD degree in 1887. He was a doctor for thirty year in mystic, known, among other things, for his use of X-rays. John, Jr. was a Republican and a Baptist. He served on the Mystic School Board and was a member of: Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Mystic; New London County Medical Society, Connecticut State Medical Society, and American Medical Association.

Frank Abbott, M.D. the youngest son of Captain John Knight Bucklyn, followed the same path as his brother and graduated from the New York College of Homeopathy with an MD degree. However, he did not practice medicine. He married Elizabeth Beckwith of New York City. At Frank's death, his son Harold E. Bucklyn lived with his uncle Dr. John K. Bucklyn, Jr., in Mystic.

Source: Benjamin Marshall, *A Modern History of New London County Connecticut*, Vol. 2, p. 714. Without saying where they were granted, Marshall accords Bucklyn the degrees of A. M., and LL.D. (Master of Arts and Doctor of Legal Literature).