



The Buck Mansion and gardens in 1891.

History of the Buck Estate and Foundation

Frank Buck Sr., a prominent fruit-grower and the first mayor of Vacaville, had the Queen Anne Victorian built in 1891. He lived in it with his wife, Annie Stevenson and their two sons, Leonard and Frank Jr.

Leonard, a medical researcher with UCSE, inherited the home in the 1920s and renovated it and the gardens in the '30s. Part of the renovations included putting the brick exterior on the home, adding the brick walls, the pond and art-deco reflecting pool featuring spouting griffins.

Frank Buck Jr. served in the U.S. Congress from 1933 until he passed away in 1943 at age 54. After Frank's death Leonard and his wife Beryl deeded the home to Eva, so she could live 'in town' instead of 'on the ranch', now known as the Warden's home at CMF.

Eva raised her two children, William and Carol, here and lived in the mansion until her death at age 92 in 1990.

Eva created the Solano Education Foundation in 1989, selecting the first two Frank H. Buck scholars. After Eva's death, the foundation was left in the hands of family members who revised it to the Frank H. & Eva B. Buck Foundation, deeming the estate as The Foundation's permanent headquarters.

The house and gardens underwent another renovation in 1995-96. The third floor serves as the offices for The Foundation staff. The second floor retains a homey-interior. Many family heirlooms are on display from throughout the eras. The ground floor and attic are used mainly as utility and storage areas.

The gardens are under the supervision of Landscape Architect John Gilpin, co-owner of Live Oak Landscape. Gilpin re-designed the estate grounds in 95-96 creating a blend of Victorian and English gardens. Organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers for bouquets are grown in the back Cutting Garden.

The Carriage House, designed from the original barn, was built in 1997-98 and upgraded in 2006.

It provides a meeting place for The Buck Scholars and is available to non-profit groups on a limited basis to use for fund-raising events, dinners and board meetings. Applications to use the facilities can be found on our website at www.buckfoundation.org, along with more Buck family and foundation history and scholar information.

Estate focal points and answers to commonly asked questions

- The Buck Estate is approximately one and one-third acres.
- The tower behind the reflecting pool was built in the '30s and houses the electrical equipment for the pool and pond.
- There are approximately 300 roses on the estate.
- The marble piece located in the stone semi-circle is the original well-head and was imported from Spain.
- The chains coming down the outside of the mansion are rain chains.
- The croquet court is one-third the size of a regulation court.
- The Chinese Wisteria is around 90-years-old, and Japanese Wisteria was recently added.
- Estate Manager Teresa Willis and her cats live in the cottage.
- Yes, we do swim in the pool. No, it isn't heated.
- The gardens run on well water, so we don't have to filter out chloramines for the Koi.
- The netting over the pond protects the fish from the Great Blue Heron, Hawks, a Kingfisher and Raccoons.
- The framed fruit labels hanging in the Carriage House are originals from The Buck Co.
- Eva had the building in the cutting garden built for the cub scouts to meet in when she served as a den mother.
- Eva donated the land for the Vacaville Museum next door, as well as provided an endowment for the Museum.

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The Scholarship, Board and Staff

The Frank H. Buck scholarship is available to those that live or attend school in Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Contra Costa, San Joaquin and Napa counties, which was the area represented by Frank Buck Jr. in Congress.

Eleven students were awarded the scholarship for 2009 bringing the total to 270. The scholarship provides major support and the scholars can attend the university of their choice as well as study abroad.

Buck descendants currently serving on The Board of Directors include:

Carol Franc Buck (Frank and Eva's daughter), Christian Erdmann, Paul Buck, Walter Buck (Frank's grandsons) and Stacey Morris (Walter's daughter) .

The staff includes:

Robert Walker, *Executive Director*; Gloria Brown, *Scholarship Director*; Roseanne Harriman, *Finance Director*; Teresa Willis, *Estate Manager and photographer*; and John McCann, *Information Technology Manager*.

The Frank H. and Eva B. Buck Foundation's board has made the decision to spend down its endowment and close in December 2015. The Board of Directors have been contemplating this decision for several years, and have chosen 2015 as the closing date of the Foundation, which marks the 25th Anniversary of the Frank H. Buck Scholarship program. The final class of Frank H. Buck Scholars will be chosen in the spring of 2010 which will allow them adequate time to complete their undergraduate education while the Foundation is still in existence. Although the Foundation will close, the Buck Scholar Alumni Association was organized in 2008 as a nonprofit organization and will continue to engage in charitable and educational activities.