

Folder 74: Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr.'s biographical notes on his father Simon Bolivar Buckner, Sr. and correspondence primarily with H.A. Watkins, 1928-1936

[Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr.]. No date. MD, 2pp.

Handwritten notes about the life of Simon Bolivar Buckner, Sr.

[H.A. Watkins?], no date. TD, 5pp.

Questions to Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. about his father, Simon Bolivar Buckner, Sr.

H.A. Watkins, Munfordville, KY to Mrs. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Louisville, KY. April 5, 1928. TDS, 2pp with envelope.

Asks after SBB, Jr. and herself and includes quotes of interest from a book called "Pioneer Days in Arkansas" pertaining to Aylett Buckner and 'Mother' Buckner. Gives news of Munfordville.

H.A. Watkins, Munfordville, KY to Maj[or] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., Army War College, Washington, D.C. Dec[ember] 2, 1931. TDS, 5pp with envelope and carbon copy of same.

Recounts details of General Buckner's account of Col. John T. Wilder's surrender at Munfordville. Describes another incident in which Gen[eral] Wilder told the story of his surrender at the governor's mansion during Buckner's gubernatorial term. Notes he has included an old newspaper clipping written by Col. Polk Johnson describing the battle of Perryville. [clipping not included] Notes he has enclosed a clipping from the Louisville Post by Eugene Newman Savoyard published after SBB's death. Critiques Engerud's history of the Siege of Munfordville. Writes that his father [SBB, Sr.] twice told him that he was offered Commander in Chief position of the Federal forces at the beginning of the Civil War and that the offer was made by Francis P. Blair. Encourages him to tell Mr. Carden about the riches of the Philippines.

[Eugene Newman], Savoyard. Jan[uar]y, 1914. Newspaper clipping. 1p with photocopy.

Remembrance of Simon Bolivar Buckner, [Sr.] published in Louisville Post.

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., West Point, NY, March 21, 1935. TDS, 3pp with two envelopes.

In reply to his letter of February 13. Affirms his desire for family photographs to potentially use in his biography of SBB, Sr. Asks if he has any personal papers that would illuminate SBB, Sr.'s relationship with Gen[eral] Burnside and notes that Burnside helped him with the Chicago property trial after the Civil War. Asks for his version of Munfordville surrender, Donelson surrender and meeting of Grant when Grant was "down and out in the 1850s." Notes that anyone he has spoken to who knew SBB, Sr. intimately says that he did not like to talk about the Civil War. Also asks for information on SBB, Sr.'s time at West Point and the farm in Hart County. Notes he's read and taken notes on all secondary material available up to 1870 but fears that there will be little extant related to the period 1870 to 1885. Shares the information he learned about SBB, Sr.'s time in Louisiana [see copy of letter from New Orleans

Public Library below]. Mentions that he has included a typescript copy of SBB, Sr.'s resignation as Inspector General of the Kentucky State Guards [see below].

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner Headquarters K[entuck]y State Guard, Louisville, KY to His Excellency B[eriah] Magoffin, Frankfort, KY, July 20, 1861, printed in The Kentucky Statesman Aug[ust] 6, 1861. Typescript copy of letter printed in newspaper, 1p.

Tenders his resignation as Inspector General of Kentucky and cites reasons.

Edward Parsons, Librarian, New Orleans Public Library, New Orleans, LA to Miss Margie Helm, Librarian, State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY, October 6, 1934. Typescript copy of letter, 1p.

Describes his search of New Orleans city directories for Simon Bolivar Buckner, Sr. in 1866-1878.

H.A. Watkins, Munfordville, KY to Col[onel] Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. May 5, 1933. ALS, 1p with envelope.

Informs Buckner that he has sent him a souvenir Kentucky Derby edition of the Courier-Journal. Notes he recently saw Duke Edward.

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieutenant Colonel S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., West Point, NY, December 9, 1935. TDS, 1p.

Talks about meeting with Mrs. Charles Moorman who had some information regarding the Chicago property. Says Mrs. Moorman told him she had heard General Buckner say "he had only 10 cents when he landed in New Orleans after the final surrender in 1865." He is enclosing a copy of a letter from former congressman Ben Johnson.

Ben Johnson, Bardstown, KY to Professor A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY. March 8, 1935. TD, 1p. [copy]

Confirms his professional and personal relationship with Governor Buckner [Johnson was Speaker of the KY House during Buckner's governorship] and recounts Buckner's knowledge of Dick Tate [State Treasurer at the time] absconding with state funds. Also relays how Buckner lent state money from his Chicago land transaction at no interest.

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., West Point, NY. December 17, 1935. TDS, 1p.

Thanks SBB, Jr. for his statement on his father's wealth. Notes stories about "enormous lawyer's fees" related to Chicago land sale.

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., West Point, NY. December 31, 1935. TDS, 1p with envelope.

Discusses travel plans to Munfordville and looking forward to meeting Buckner.

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., West Point, NY. January 9, 1936. TDS, 2pp with 2pp enclosure.

Thanks Buckner for meeting with him and reports that he has written only a little of Chapter I. Has enclosed a review of points in SBB, Sr.'s biography that they have discussed. Encourages him to publish his father's poetry.

W.E. Brooks, The Manse, The First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, WV to Colonel S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr. February Fourth, 1936. TDS, 1p.

Asks for information regarding the relationship between Ulysses S. Grant and Simon Bolivar Buckner, Sr. to use in his biography on Grant.

Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., [West Point, NY?] to Dr. W.E. Brooks, The First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, WV. February 7, 1936. TD, 3pp.

Replies to Brooks that he intended in responding earlier but illness prohibited it. Recounts several stories SBB, Sr. relayed to him about US Grant. Informs him that he has original handwritten notes that Grant wrote to SBB, Sr. during the latter's visit to Grant's home during Grant's "last illness."

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., West Point, NY. February 11, 1936. TDS, 2pp with envelope.

Reports he is now working on Chapter II and reviews information he has. Asks questions about gaps in information.

Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., [West Point, NY?] to Dr. A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY. February 27, 1936. TD, 2pp [copy].

Sends notes of interest he's found in letters from his grandfather to his father 1840-1843.

Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., [West Point, NY?] to Dr. A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY. March 3, 1936. TD, 4pp [copy].

Writes that he's discovered a letter that explains why his father abruptly left West Point and includes extended quotation from said that is dated February 14th, 1850 SBB, Sr. to T. H. Buckner. Adds notes from correspondence November 16, 1850- February 1857, SBB, Sr. to various family members.

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., West Point, NY. March 3, 1936. TDS, 1p with 2pp enclosures.

Thanks him for last letters. Expects to begin Chapter IV that day. Encloses copy of poem by SBB, Sr. written at Fort Warren Prison, May [18]62.

Lieut[enant] Col[onel] S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Jr., [West Point, NY?] to Dr. A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY. March 5, 1936. TDS, 4pp [includes second copy of same letter].

Writes that he has reviewed “about fifty” letters from his father to “his young wife while he was at Fort Atkinson.” Quotes from November 29, 1851 letter from SBB, Sr. to his wife about reading Shakespeare with a group of other soldiers. Describes SBB, Sr.’s accounts of reconnoitering as far as Ranton Mountains and Big Timbers. Quotes from March 20, 1852 and March 28, 1852 letter to his wife about his encounters with the Indians. Notes that letters include news of the death of SBB, Sr.’s father.

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieutenant Colonel S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner,[Jr.], West Point, NY. April 8, 1936. TDS, 1p with envelope.

Reports that letters from Mrs. Moorman regarding Ft. Atkinson and Ft. Snelling supplemented letters he’s received from SBB, Jr. Starting on Chapter V.

A.M. Stickles, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green, KY to Lieutenant Colonel S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner,[Jr.], West Point, NY. June 15, 1936. TDS, 1p with envelope.

Notes Mrs. Moorman went through “hundreds of your father’s letters and others in her collection and let me have those of historical interest.” Asks after any data regarding Civil War that has not been passed on.

Aylett H. Buckner, Muhlenberg Iron Works, Muhlenberg County, KY to Cadet S[imon] Bolivar Buckner, Military Academy, West Point, New York. June 3, 1840. Typed transcript, 3pp, two copies.

Sends his affection and briefly talks about business.

S[imon] B[olivar]Buckner, Fort Atkinson, Santa Fe Route, [Ford County, KS] to Mr. T. H. Buckner, Beechland, P.O. AK. December 24th, 1851. Typed transcript, 2pp.

[no author] [no date]. TD, 1 p, two copies.

Biographer’s notes?