

Carrie May Buchanan

Hebron, Porter County

April 26, 1865 - May 13, 1927

Carrie May Buchanan was born in Hebron, Indiana in 1865. The daughter of Reverend James Nelson Buchanan and Rosanna S. Alexander, who served the United Presbyterian Church of Hebron, Indiana, Carrie came by a missionary lifestyle naturally. Educated in the public school of Hebron, Indiana, Carrie went on to graduate from Western Seminary, of Oxford, Ohio, in late 1880s or early 1890s. Upon graduation, she taught at an Indian Government School in Wyoming, and became an Assistant Principal of a ward school in Iowa.

Those early years, in Hebron, as a dergyman's daughter, and female student, had an impact on Carrie's view of her place in the world. According to an early newspaper article in the Vidette Messenger, she became concerned about the plight of women in Egypt after reading a story that stated, "Egyptians give more attention and care to their animals both wild and domestic, than they do to their little girls."

Inspired by the idea of all people receiving a formal education, Carrie never forgot the girls in Egypt. In 1893, the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Brethren Church appointed her as a missionary to Egypt. She attended to the girls of Egypt first as a teacher, and then principal of the American College for Girls in Cairo (ACG), which is still operational today, also known as Ramses College for Girls (RCG).

Carrie spent the better part of her life fighting for the girls of the ACG. She traveled home to Indiana and Illinois and gave talks about the living conditions of women, in an effort to raise awareness and funds for the school. Carrie made a name for herself here at home, throughout the country, and abroad. T. Davis, an east coast gentleman, left her monies to improve the school, which coined her the nickname, "The \$50,000 Teacher". Theodore Roosevelt made a deliberate stop at the school while on his African Expedition. A travel author William Curtis wrote of the accomplishments of the school and Carrie.

At a time when women were not educated, the ACG helped shape the culture of today's Egyptian women. With the help of Carrie's personal contribution and donations, the ACG became a distinguished school that produced some of Egypt's most prominent citizens today. So one small town Indiana girl, with one vision, had a global impact.

This profile was provided to ICW by Emily Austin Duran, Head of Genealogy, Larry J. Clark Genealogy Center, Porter County Public Library System.

For more information about Carrie Buchanan, go to:
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86779798/carrie-m-buchanan#>.

References will be published at the end of Women's History Month.



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