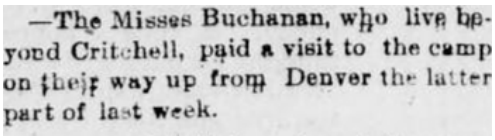
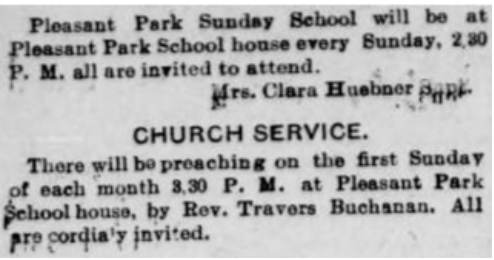
WHO CAME TO COLORADO AND CRITCHELL


—The Misses Buchanan, who live beyond Critchell, paid a visit to the camp on their way up from Denver the latter part of last week.

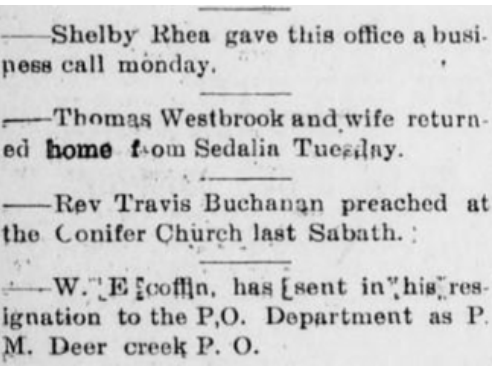
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REVEILLE
MARCH 31, 1899


Pleasant Park Sunday School will be at Pleasant Park School house every Sunday, 2.30 P. M. all are invited to attend.
Mrs. Clara Huebner Supt.

CHURCH SERVICE.

There will be preaching on the first Sunday of each month 3.30 P. M. at Pleasant Park School house, by Rev. Travers Buchanan. All are cordially invited.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REVEILLE
MAY 5, 1899

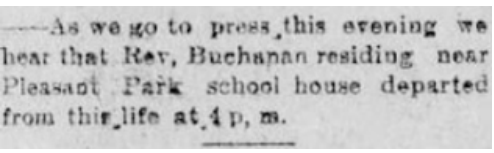

—Shelby Rhea gave this office a business call monday.

—Thomas Westbrook and wife returned home from Sedalia Tuesday.

—Rev Travis Buchanan preached at the Conifer Church last Sabath.

—W. E. Coffin, has sent in his resignation to the P.O. Department as P. M. Deer creek P. O.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REVEILLE
SEPTEMBER 15, 1899


—As we go to press this evening we hear that Rev. Buchanan residing near Pleasant Park school house departed from this life at 4 p. m.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REVEILLE
APRIL 13, 1900

By Michelle Schulten

**"WE ARE NOT MAKERS OF HISTORY. WE ARE MADE OF HISTORY."
REV. MARTING LUTHER KING JR.**

THE CONIFER/CRITCHELL CONNECTION

Who is the Travers Buchanan Family from the 1900 Census in Lamb (Critchell), Jefferson County, Colorado? Well Travers Buchanan, his wife Maryetta and their younger children, came to Colorado in 1882 as Freedmen and Freedwomen (legally freed slaves after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. The effects of Emancipation Proclamation would not be realized in Virginia until 1865, where the Buchanan family came from. In 1866, Virginia instituted "Virginia's Vagrancy Act of 1866", which allowed the incarceration for anyone -mostly Black- who were unemployed, which in turn forced many Black Freedmen, back into slavery.)

In 1882 the Buchanan Family, consisting of: James and Sarah Buchanan and their four children, and James two adult male cousins, Traverse (two spellings have shown up; Travers and Traverse) Buchanan and Thornton Buchanan, from Virginia. Per Polly E. Bugros McLean's book Remembering Lucile, the Buchanans (many various spellings) lived and slaved in Virginia on the Oatlands Plantation (3,400 acres and now a historical site and wedding venue), Bellefield Plantation, and Evergreen Plantation. Lucile, Travers niece's family, goes back four traceable generations on the Oatlands Plantation.

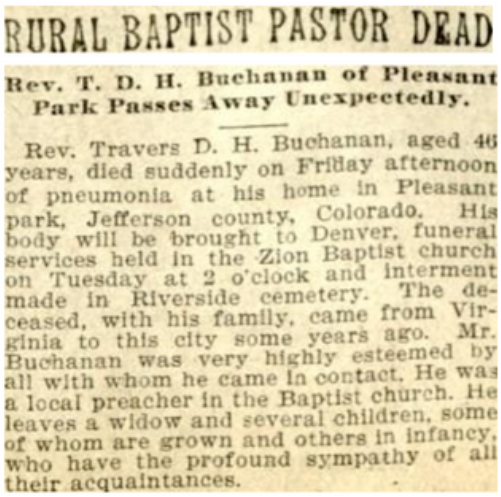
THE LARGER BUCHANAN FAMILY

In the 1880 U.S. Census, two years prior to the Buchanans arrival in Colorado, there were only a total of 1,662 Black people (mostly from Missouri and Kentucky) in the total 194,471 population of Colorado. all were looking for the American dream of owning land and providing for the future of themselves and/or their family. Upon their arrival, they settled in what was called the Bottoms area of Denver, basically where the South Platte River meets the Cherry Creek. They all were living in sheds near the river, with no running water or sewage…except when one of the rivers flooded and then they had sewage from the river.

Soon the men had made enough money to escape the Bottoms. James and Sarah bought property in the new Barnum neighborhood and built a home, also without any indoor plumbing. The Barnum neighborhood was platted and developed by Phineas Taylor Barnum, P.T. Barnum of circus fame. Travers attained a homestead acreage in Critchell. Thornton moved to another location in Denver.

While living in Denver and the Barnum neighborhood, Sarah's parents went on to have six more children, all girls, one of which was Lucile. Lucile's branch of the family kept their house in the Barnum neighborhood, that James and Sarah built until 1989 when Lucile's estate was sold after her death. After James and Sarah died, their only son, Fenton lived in the house until he died in 1963. When Lucile retired from teaching, in the summer of 1949, she moved back into her childhood home and lived there until she was forcibly removed by the city at aged 103, for inability to take care of herself. What a tragic story of unimaginable heartache, that, so it seems was unnecessary. She died in an institution at the age of 105.

The Rocky Mountain Reveille.



RURAL BAPTIST PASTOR DEAD

Rev. T. D. H. Buchanan of Pleasant Park Passes Away Unexpectedly.

Rev. Travers D. H. Buchanan, aged 46 years, died suddenly on Friday afternoon of pneumonia at his home in Pleasant park, Jefferson county, Colorado. His body will be brought to Denver, funeral services held in the Zion Baptist church on Tuesday at 2 o'clock and interment made in Riverside cemetery. The deceased, with his family, came from Virginia to this city some years ago. Mr. Buchanan was very highly esteemed by all with whom he came in contact. He was a local preacher in the Baptist church. He leaves a widow and several children, some of whom are grown and others in infancy, who have the profound sympathy of all their acquaintances.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
APRIL 16, 1900

DEATH OF COLORED MINISTER.

The funeral of Rev. Travers D. Buchanan, the colored minister, who died last Saturday at his home in Platte Canon, was held from Zion Baptist church yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The services, which were largely attended by colored people of this city, were conducted by Rev. C. H. Edwards, assisted by Elder Ford, Rev. Mr. Scott and Rev. Mr. Davis. The interment was at Riverside. The deceased leaves a wife and seven children who are living upon the ranch recently leased by him in Platte Canon.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
APRIL 21, 1900

During Lucile's life she lived as a boarder with many influential and famous Black Americans in Little Rock, Kansas City, and Chicago, while being a schoolteacher and always continuing her higher education. She, and her family, rubbed elbows with the elite of Denver and the cities that Lucile lived in. Lucile attained two college degrees in Colorado, one from UNC in 1905 – being the first Black person to graduate from UNC, and from CU Boulder in 1918, being the first Black Woman to graduate from CU. She had attained her teaching certification and taught her entire career, in Colorado, Arkansas, Kansas, and Illinois. She also never stopped going to college, taking many courses in education, from German to school administration. Nor did she ever stop voting, her last ballot was cast just prior to her death at age 105.

It appears the thought in the Buchanan family was that to get what you wanted in life you needed to live by the philosophy of W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington. Their doctrine on "The Talented Tenth", were words to live by in their culture of upper to middle class Black folks in the White world.

Lucile's mother, Sarah Bishop Berkley Buchanan, not surprisingly, was the child of a Black slave mother and the White plantation owner at Oatlands Plantation in Virginia. Sarah endured much, bringing her family hundreds of miles across the country to a newly founded state, in hopes of finally throwing off the chains of slavery and Southern Reconstruction. She birthed 10 children, four in Virginia, with her first dying in infancy, and another six after coming to Colorado. She even endured one of her children committing suicide, presumably from the pressures of trying to fit into the White world. She hauled water for blocks every day for years until her home in the Barnum neighborhood was finally annexed by the City of Denver and brought water to that part of the neighborhood. She worked doing laundry for extra money for her family, while her husband James worked for the Barnum association. James did everything from hauling dirt to planning the streets and water supply lines.

BACK TO THE CONIFER/CRITCHELL CONNECTION

Travers Buchanan had a relatively short life. After moving to Colorado Travers and his wife, Maryetta (also spelled Marietta and Mariatta, and sometimes referred to as Mary), were married in Virginia in 1875 and came to Colorado with the others in the Buchanan Family. His life was lived as a Reverend of the Baptist faith. He delivered the sermons at the Pleasant Park Schoolhouse for nearly two years, based on newspaper articles. He passed away in his home in Critchell/Pleasant Park on April 13, 1900, from pneumonia. He was homesteading in the area at the time. Having applied for his homestead in 1885. Mary received the patent for the land after her husband died, although it was not until 1906 for some reason (I'm still looking into any information I can find for that. Original patent to Mary here. She sold the property to a Zachariah Hooper, also an African American, in December 20, 1907. I am also researching whether or not Travers was the first Black person to have homestead property in the Conifer area. As of the 1890 Census the closest Black/African American person lived in Golden.)