

Note from Eileen Bush
6/16/2014

Thank you, Kevin, Heffernan, for writing a wonderful tribute to our great grandfather, David C. Bush.

Our cousin, Harold Bush, recently emailed to me your article from the Oakland Journal. My sister, Anne Louise Bush Tait, and I, Eileen Bush Pazos, are also great grandchildren of David C. Bush. I left Oakland 45 years ago, married and settled in south Florida. Sister Anne left in 1985 and made her new home in Ormond Beach Florida. We both lost our husbands in 2002 and 2004 and now live together here in Ormond.

We learned from your writing a lot of interesting facts that were unknown to us (or perhaps forgotten) We were aware that D.C. was a pretty big landowner and that he donated property for the building of the railroad, the rr station and later the firehouse. We did not know that our family's old house in Oakland was the first ticket office for the railroad, nor did we realize how influential and visionary old great grand dad was in actually bringing the railroad to town and the fact that he risked his personal fortune for the sake of the community. We were not aware that he was on the Bd of Directors of the NJ Western Railroad either.

Anne and I used to walk or bikeride frequently down Powder Mill Lane, but never associated it with our ancestor who sold land and built a railroad spur in order for this enterprise to get started.

We know the story about the naming of our town.... that some folks suggested Bushville , but David C. humbly turned it down and suggested Oakland instead. I always thought it would be fun to say, I'm Eileen Bush from Bushville...how do you do?" (and even funnier if my first name was Rose)

I was also happy to know that the folks back in the old days had fun once in a while, like celebrating the arrival of the railroad with big barrels of hard cider.

David Christie Bush Jr. was our grandfather who owned a grocery store in the WigWam building at Bush Plaza. He was a very generous man too, and was especially active in Ponds Church where he gave much of his time, energy and financial support. The carillon bells in the steeple are one of his donations. The younger D.C. wasn't as much a visionary or innovator as his dad. I can well remember that he refused to believe that man landed on the moon . "It was all a trick", he said, after seeing it on television.

My father was Irving Bush who in earlier years served as the town's postmaster and who worked at his father's store prior to setting up his own insurance business. He and my mother (nee Ruth Sheffield) lived in Oakland for more than 70 years and they were both very active in the community, especially during the war years. They moved to Ormond Beach, Florida with my sister and her husband in 1985. Dad was 96 when he passed away in 1996, and mom was 102 when she died in 2002.

I assume that my cousin, Harold Bush, Jr., has updated you on his side of the Bush family. His father was also named Harold (my dad's brother). He and his sister, Doris, lived in Oakland for many years. His parents and his sister are deceased.

Again, I want to thank you, Kevin, for this wonderful (tho "unauthorized) biography. Perhaps you are right in suggesting that David C. Bush is Oakland's "George Washington" and "father of Oakland". You've given my sister and me a new perspective on our great grandfather and we will hereafter hold him in even higher esteem.