James Buchanan Family Papers, Part 1 Papers of James Buchanan, Series 2 Financial and Legal Documents

Call Number: JBFP Part 1 Series 2

1 box 70 folders .25 cubic ft.

Repository: LancasterHistory (Organization); PV7

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Scope and Content Note:

The James Buchanan Family Papers, Part 1, Papers of James Buchanan, Series 2 contains the financial and legal documents of James Buchanan, including invoices and receipts, ledgers, accounts, deeds and land records, and estate papers, dated 1812-1883. Among these papers are financial papers including bank statements and memorandums; documents related to land in Clarion, PA; legal papers for the settlement of the Boyd estate and other properties; summaries of three cases decided by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; a summary for the cost of a dinner in Russia in 1833; estate papers for family members and James Buchanan's will. Amos Slaymaker, Henry F. Slaymaker, Hiram B. Swarr, Edward Young Buchanan, Harriet Lane Johnston, and Henry E. Johnston are among the names found in these records.

<u>Creators</u>: Buchanan, James, 1791-1868. James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland (Lancaster, Pa.)

System of Arrangement: James Buchanan Family Papers, Part 1 Papers of James Buchanan is arranged into six series. Series 1 Correspondence Series 2 Financial and Legal Documents Subseries 1 Invoices, Receipts, Ledgers, Accounts Subseries 2 Deeds and Land Records Subseries 3 Legal Papers Subseries 4 Estate Papers Series 3 Campaign and Inaugural Materials Series 4 Speeches and Writings Series 5 Ephemera Series 6 Miscellaneous Materials

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Language: English

Biographical and Historical Note:

James Buchanan was born on April 23, 1791 to James Buchanan and Elizabeth Speer. He was the second child born out of ten children, and he would go on to outlive all but one of his siblings. Most popularly remembered as Pennsylvania's only President and as a lifelong bachelor, Buchanan committed a lifetime to politics. In 1821, he left his law practice and embarked on his political career after having been voted into the U.S. House of Representatives. He would remain in the House for five consecutive terms before serving as the U.S. Minister to Russia, a Senator in the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Secretary of State, the U.S. Minister to Great Britain, and finally, the 15th President of the United States. He died in his bedchamber at Wheatland at 8:30 AM on June 1, 1868. He was 77 years old. [https://www.lancasterhistory.org/about-wheatland, accessed 10/24/2019]

<u>Source of Acquisition</u>: These documents were collected by the James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland.

<u>Custodial History (Provenance)</u>: These documents were collected by the James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland. This collection was relocated from the Wheatland mansion to Lancaster County's Historical Society archives in the spring of 2009.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

<u>Preferred Citation</u>: James Buchanan Family Papers, Object ID, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Subject Headings:



Deeds Finance, Personal Legal documents Probate records Receipts (Acknowledgments) Tax returns Wills

Search Terms: Buchanan Collections Deeds Finance, Personal Finding aids Harriet Lane Johnston James Buchanan Legal documents Manuscripts groups Probate records Receipts Tax returns Wills

Related Materials at LancasterHistory: James Buchanan Family Papers MG-96 James Buchanan Collection Historical Society of Pennsylvania microfilm Photograph collections Curatorial collections Wheatland Mansion

Related Material in Other Repositories:

James Buchanan Papers, Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections http://archives.dickinson.edu/collection-descriptions/james-buchanan-papers

James Buchanan and Harriet Lane Johnston Papers, Library of Congress https://www.loc.gov/collections/james-buchanan-and-harriet-lane-johnston-papers/

James Buchanan Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, http://www2.hsp.org/collections/manuscripts/b/Buchanan0091.html

James Buchanan Papers, Penn State University Libraries, https://libraries.psu.edu/findingaids/1458.htm

<u>Processing History</u>: Finding aid prepared by RC, 2009-2012. This collection has been documented, preserved and managed according to professional museum and archives standards. The collection was cataloged using DACS conventions.



Box 4 Series 2, Subseries 1 Invoices, Receipts, Ledgers, Accounts

Folder 1 Washington, 25 March 1845

Bank draft from James Buchanan to Messers Cocoran & Riggs for George Plett, Esq. in the amount of one hundred and fifty dollars.

Folder 2 2 November 1846

Note from James Buchanan to Messers Cocoran & Riggs enclosing the balance due on his note. At top of note: "Re'd. 2 Nov. [J. Nothtrite]"

Folder 3 "Memorandum of Uncle James' business to be attended to on 1st April 1848." Outstanding loans of Samuel Charles, Bernard Flynn's estate, John Reynolds, James M. Hopkins, James B. Henry's estate, Mary F. Hopkins, Ellis Lewis, Henry Mellinger, Dr. Nathaniel W. Sample, William F. Baker, Henry Eshleman, Michael Withers, Moore Connell, Abraham Peters and others, and John Robinson.

Folder 4 Lancaster, 18 April 1848

Note from James Buchanan for Mr. Hutter instructing him to receive the remainder of Dr. Sample's loan and return the memorandum to him. On reverse: "Uncle James' memorandum concerning Mr. Hutter April 18, 1848."

Folder 5 Washington, 30 June 1848

Letter to William W. Hubbell from James Buchanan noting the receipt of his letter of the 27th and thanking him for unspecified information.

Folder 6 Washington, 30 January 1849

Note from James Buchanan to James B. Lane informing him that Mr. Peters may deposit \$500 or \$800 to his account in the Lancaster Bank. At bottom of page: "Copy of letter to Uncle James, Lancaster Feb. 1/49 Mr. Peters deposited this day to your credit in the Lancaster Bank \$800 as part payment of his Bond to you, for which I have him a receipt in your name. Your Affec't nephew, James B. Lane."

Folder 7 Lancaster, 2 April 1851

Receipt from Buchanan acknowledging the receipt of \$23.62 on James B. Lane's bond. On separate page is an enumeration of the interest.

Folder 8 Wheatland, near Lancaster, 15 March 1852

Receipt from Buchanan acknowledging the receipt of \$660 for a year's interest on Mr. John N. Lanes' bond of \$11,000.

Folder 9 [March 1857]

Memorandum from James Buchanan to Mr. Swarr giving details about a large parcel of land between Middletown and Harrisburg that Purser Welch conveyed to Christian Thudium, Thudium sold to W. M. Beetem of Carlisle and Beetem sold to Wheeler.



Box 4, Series 2, Subseries 1

Folder 10 Wheatland, 11 February 1862 James Buchanan's account with Reynolds & Evans for money they received for the sale of lands in Clarion County and for the rent of Lucinda Furnace in the amount of \$48.48.

Folder 11 London, 31 December 1863 James Buchanan's account with Baring Brothers in the amount of £3056.10.4.

Folder 12 London, 31 December 1863 Harriet R. Lane's account with Baring Brothers in the amount of £2162.18.2.

Folder 13 Washington, 1 April 1865 James Buchanan's "special a/c" with Riggs & Co. in the amount of \$1553.82.

Folder 14 1866 James Buchanan's account with Chemical Bank for the year in the amount of \$21,616.41.

Folder 15 London, 31 December 1866 James Buchanan's account with Baring Brothers in the amount of £1187.6.

Folder 16 Lancaster, 23 April 1868 Check written on Farmers' National Bank of Lancaster by James Buchanan to Esther Parker in the amount of \$160.

Folder 17 Wheatland, near Lancaster, 24 April 1868 Handwritten cashier's check on the Farmers' National Bank of Lancaster by James Buchanan to Thomas Gordon in the amount of \$54.

Folder 18 Lancaster, 11 April 1861 Receipt from James Buchanan to John W. Jackson, Esq. for \$600 on account of Col. Samuel C. Stambaugh.

Folder 19 St. Petersburg, Russia, 7 March 1833 Summary of cost of dinner for 16 people.

Folder 20 Washington, 8 February 1839 Receipt from James Buchanan to Jane Lane for \$150 received.

Folder 21 Wheatland, 12 April 1861 Promissory note in the amount of \$30 from Andrew White to Buchanan.



Box 4, Series 2, Subseries 1

Folder 22 Lancaster, 27 November 1861 Promissory note in the amount of \$30 from D. R. Ehler to Buchanan.

Folder 23 [No place], 28 May 1862

Account of James O. Carson with Buchanan. On reverse: "May 28, 62 – Account & letter of James O. Carson enclosing a draft of James W. Carson & Co for \$436.82. This is a final settlement except for above 30 Bushels of corn still on hand. May 30 – Ans[']d expressing my appreciation & my thanks for the manner in which he has managed my farm."

Folder 24a No place, 1863 Statement for income tax assessment of Buchanan for 1863.

Folder 24b No place, 1864 Statement for income tax assessment of Buchanan for 1864.

Folder 24c No place, 1866 Statement for income tax assessment of Buchanan for 1866.

Folder 25 No place, 1 March 1865 John Seldomridge, Prothonotary, received payment in the settlement of James Buchanan vs. Franklin K. Curran.

Folder 26a No place, 1865 Income tax assessment of Buchanan for 1865.

Folder 26b No place, 1868 Income tax assessment of Buchanan for 1868.

Folder 26c No place, 1869 Income tax assessment of Buchanan for 1869.

Folder 27 Washington City, October 1866 Promissory note from William Flinn to Buchanan. On reverse: October 1866 Due Bill from William Flinn for \$100. (My check in his favor was dated 27 October on the Farmers National Bank of Lancaster.)

Folder 28 London, [January 1868] Bank statement for 1867 from Baring Brothers & Co.



Box 4, Series 2, Subseries 1

Folder 29 Lancaster, 3 April 1868 **MISSING?** Receipt in the amount of \$4.60 from A. B. Kaufman to Buchanan for insuring the East Orange Street property.

Folder 30 Lancaster, 3 April 1868

Receipt in the amount of \$900 from A. B. Kaufman for insurance with Girard Insurance Co. on a double two-story brick dwelling house for the term of one year located on the south side of East Orange St., Lancaster, Pa.

Folder 31 [No place], 9 May 1868

Receipt in the amount of \$25 from Mary Wall to Buchanan for her passage in the steerage to Southampton by the [Bronson] line of steamships.

Folder 32 [Wheatland], 12 July 1867

Note of James Buchanan recording the loan of \$10 to a son of Admiral Reeside to help him complete his journey from Arkansas to New Jersey. He will return the loaned amount by mail as soon as he reaches home.

Folder 33 Lancaster, 8 April 1867

Receipt to H. B. Swarr, Esq., \$41.39, one half of the rent of Orange Street lot less the taxes up to 1 April 1867 signed for Samuel H. Reynolds.

Folder 34 Lancaster, 9 March 1868

Receipt to H. B Swarr, Esq, \$234.19 for rent of Orange Street lots less taxes and in full received by M. Carpenter, Esq. for one half of purchase money of said lots signed for Samuel H. Reynolds.

Folder 35 No place, no date.

Account sheet of Buchanan & Reynolds in account with Reynolds & Evans for expenses associated with surveying the Streighenberger tract and Mahle tract. Pennock Mitchell & Co., John Scott & Co., B. J. Reed, S. M. Reynolds, Campbell & Lamberton, and William Carpenter.

Folder 36 9 Chemical National Bank February 1867 G. G. Williams memos credits to JB's bank account for 9 February, 1 March, 1 April, 13 July, and 1 October 1867.

Folder 37 [1 January 1868] Memorandum of James Buchanan's income tax return for 1867.

Folder 38 Chemical National Bank 1 February 1868 Bank statement for 5 February 1867 to 1 February 1868.



Folder 39 Chemical National Bank 1 April 1868, 2 May 1868 G. G. Williams memos credits to JB's bank account for 1 April and 2 May 1868.



Box 4 Series 2, Subseries 2 Deeds and Land Records

Folder 1 Lancaster, 17 August 1812

Indenture between James Crawford, farmer, of Lampeter Township, Lancaster County and William Crawford of George Town in the District of Columbia, one of the sons of James Crawford "of the other part," for a tract of land comprising 240 acres in Lampeter Township bought from his father for \$60.

Folder 2 Lancaster, 2 December 1848

Deed between William M. and Catherine H. Meredith of Philadelphia and the Honorable James Buchanan, Lancaster County, for a three-story brick messuage or tenement with barn and other buildings and three tracts of land in Lancaster Township for \$6750. [Named Wheatland by James Buchanan] Photographic negative. *Housed in JBFP Oversized Box 1.*

Folder 3 Chester County, Pa., 22 March 1865

Land draft of a plantation in Valley Township, Chester County containing 124 acres and 5 perches sold by Mr. Samuel Torbert to Honorable James Buchanan of Wheatland, Lancaster County. Surveyed by James C. Carpenter. Includes draying of the farm with dimensions and the bordering lands of Joseph Fulton, Edward D. Copes, Green Maitland, and Samuel Hatfield. Farm is hand-colored in green.

Folder 4 Montgomery County, Maryland, February 1857 MISSING

Statement of account between Riggs & Company relating to the Leonard notes and also to the sale of the property by W. Bowie. Culmination of a long and somewhat bitter struggle between the Leonard family and Buchanan. 2 page manuscript. 32 x 20 cm. *Housed in JBFP Oversized Box 1.*

Folder 5 Lancaster, 24 January 1858

Lease of East Orange Street property by Buchanan to E. T. Fisher, the eastern portion of which is occupied by J. M. Green. Fisher paid his rent through April 1869. On reverse: note in Buchanan's hand on back of document. 2 page manuscript.



Box 5 Series 2, Subseries 2 Deeds and Land Records

Folder 6a West Chester, Pa., 14 August 1862

Deed from Walter and Mary Ann Townsend to James Buchanan and Joseph B. Baker for 329 acres and 10 perches of land in East Caln and Valley townships, Chester County, Pa.

Folder 6b West Chester, Pa., 1 August 1864

Deed from John G. Edge, surviving Executor of Richard Pim to James Buchanan and Joseph B. Baker for a lot of land in East Caln containing 48 acres and 27 perches.

Folder 6c West Chester, Pa., 17 February 1865

Deed from James Buchanan to Joseph B. Baker for the undivided moiety or half part of 329 acres and 106 perches in East Caln and Valley Townships and 48 acres and 27 perches in East Caln Township, Chester County, Pa. Contains stamps.

Folder 7 Lancaster, 19 November 1868

Condition of sale of Buchanan's Orange Street property by his executors, Edward Y. Buchanan and H. B. Swarr. Includes newspaper advertisement of the property and a drawing of the property lying between East Orange Street and a public alley, bordered on property of Mr. Musselman and Mr. Thomas. Contains stamps. Manuscript of 3 pages.



Box 5 Series 2, Subseries 3 Legal Papers

Folder 1 Lancaster, 7 October 1818

Legal opinion of James Buchanan with suggestions on what David Witmer should do to make the title of John Landis indisputable involving land given by Abraham Witmer to the Lancaster Trading Company. Mentions names of Andrew Groff, and John Groff.

Folder 2 Lancaster, 3 September 1829

Summons to Amos Slaymaker and Henry F. Slaymaker, executors of the last will and testament of James Boyd, deceased v. James Boyd, John Boyd and Samuel Boyd, administrators of William Boyd, deceased, to produce the indenture between James Boyd, John Boyd, Samuel Boyd and Joseph Boyd dividing the land of their father, William Boyd, among themselves.

Folder 3 Lancaster, 15 September 1829

Summons to Boyd's executors v. Boyd's administrators requiring them to produce the deed of conveyance in which James Whitehall of Donegal Township is the grantor and James Boyd, John Boyd, Samuel Boyd and Joseph Boyd are the grantees. Buchanan served the notice on Samuel Boyd.

Folder 4 Lancaster, 21 August 1830

Summons to James Boyd to produce at trial several deeds and other documents involving the Boyd brothers, James, John, Samuel and Joseph, in which they transferred to themselves land previously owned by their father. Sent to George B. Porter, attorney for the defendants.

Folder 5 Philadelphia, 3 April 1868

Insurance policy issued by Girard Fire and Marine Insurance Co., Philadelphia, for the amount of \$3.60 that insured James Buchanan against loss or damage by fire for \$900 on his double two story brick dwelling house on the south side of Orange Street between Lime and Shippen Streets, Lancaster. Countersigned by A. B. Kaufman, agent for the company. *Housed in JBFP Oversized Box 1.*

Folder 6 Philadelphia, 23 November 1829-MISSING

Pleas before the judges of the Circuit Court of the United States, Pennsylvania District, Philadelphia, entered in the October 1825 session of the court detailing the failure of the Marietta and Susquehanna Trading Company to pay its debts. Signed and sealed on 23 November 1829 by D. Caldwell, Clerk, certifying that the entire document is a true and faithful copy of the original housed in the Court. Manuscript of 12 pages plus cover; 42 x 27 cm. *Housed in JBFP Oversized Box 1.*

Folder 7 [Germantown], 5 April 1861

Memorandum of mortgage and unpaid judgment executed by Christian Thudium to Aristides Welch giving details of the judgment and assigning the balance of the judgment to Buchanan.



Box 5, Series 2, Subseries 3 Legal Papers

Folder 8 Germantown, 5 April 1861

Aristides Welch assigning to Buchanan his judgment against Christian Thudium entered in the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County in the amount of \$6,027.29 including the terms of agreement.

Folder 9 Harrisburg, 20 December 1861

Revival of the judgment of Aristides Welch (for the use of Buchanan) against Christian Thudium amounting to \$6,871.19 and a like sum against J. C. Bomberger, Jacob Seiby and James Whisler (Terre Tenants).

Folder 10 Harrisburg, 20 December [1861]

Revival of the judgment of Aristides Welch (for the use of James Buchanan) against Christian Thudium for the sum of \$6,871.19 and a like sum against J. C. Bomberger, Jacob Seiby and John Whisler for a like amount. Docked costs of \$18.95.

Folder 11 Lancaster, 9 July 1867

Power of attorney granted under the will of the late Stephen Pleasonton of Washington granting the power to James Buchanan for his daughters, Laura and Clementina, in which Buchanan outlines terms under which the daughters can receive funds for their own use followed by a listing of the loans and stocks and their value received from their father's will. Witnessed by Charles R. Frailey (alderman) and Charles Denues (notary public). Prepared by James Buchanan.

Folder 12 Lancaster, 20 June 1867

List of securities delivered by Hopkins Lightner, agent, to James Buchanan, trustee for Laura and Clementina Pleasonton. Note on back in Buchanan's hand: \$34,002.25.



Box 5, Series 2, Subseries 3 Legal Papers

Folder 13 No place, no date

Summaries of three cases argued by Buchanan and ultimately decided by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvana:

1. Commonwealth v. Hambright in which a freed Negro named Tom was imprisoned in Pennsylvania until Tom agreed to go to New Jersey by Isaac Law, to whom he was indentured until age 28. Mr. Hopkins, representing Tom, argued that he could not be imprisoned by his master after age 21. Mr. Buchanan represented the master and argued that the master could take Tom to New Jersey. The Surpreme Court ruled in Tom's favor.

2. Eckart v. Wilson (represented by Slaymaker and Hopkins), a case claiming slander. The defendant accused the plaintiff (represented by Frazer and Buchanan) of poisoning Bob Waters, even though Waters was alive in Western Pennsylvania. The Court of Common Pleas ruled in favor of the plaintiff since Waters was alive. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the defendant and awarded a *venire facias de novo*.

3. Rohrer (represented by Buchanan and Rogers) v. Stehman (represented by Frazer and Hoplins), a case involving the will of Stehman, who dictated a will to John Hubley, a scrivener. After the will was dictated and written down Hubley read it back and Stehman approved. The case hung on the fact that the memorandum taken at the time was read to Stehman, but the formal will was not. The plaintiff argued that the will was invalid. The lower court ruled for the plaintiff and the Supreme Court agreed.



Box 5 Series 2, Subseries 4 Estate Papers

Folder 1 Franklin County, Pennsylvania, 29 December 1838 Agreement between Elliott T. Lane and James Buchanan concerning funds of Jane B. Lane, Elliott's wife and James' sister, and in case she makes no will, how the estate will be divided. Involves bequeaths from her father, James Buchanan, and her mother, Elizabeth Buchanan. Also mentioned in the agreement are her sister, Harriett Henry, and her brother, the Reverend Edward Y. Buchanan, and her four children, James B. Lane, Elliott E. Lane, Mary Elisabeth Lane and Harriett Rebecca Lane.

Folder 2 Franklin County, Pennsylvania, 1 January 1839

Copy of the agreement between Elliott T. Lane and James Buchanan possessed by Harriet Lane Johnston. On reverse :"Article of agreement between Elliott T. Lane and James Buchanan concerning my Mother's Estate, Decr 31, 1838." At end of document: "a copy." And a summary of her mother's estate not included in the original.

Folder 3 Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 9 July 1872

Printed version of the court case between the Executors of James Buchanan's estate and Henry E. Johnston and Harriet L. Johnston, his wife, concerning the papers left by Buchanan, some delivered to William B. Reed for the purpose of writing a biography (as directed by the will, but Reed refused to write the biography), the alleged mis-handling by E. Y. Buchanan of a large number of family papers in the possession of the defendants, and the unwillingness of E. Y. Buchanan to destroy certain papers as directed by the will.

Folder 4 Lancaster, Pennsylvania 10 June 1868

Printed version of the will of James Buchanan directing that his body be interred in the Woodward Hill Cemetery; that all debts ("which are small") be paid out of the estate; that the furnishings of the house be divided among Harriet L. Johnston, Edward Y. Buchanan and J. Buchanan Henry, with the provision that Esther Parker be given \$200 worth of the articles; bequeaths his wearing apparel, gold watch, watch chain and seals to Edward Y. Buchanan; bequeaths \$5000 to Esther Parker; bequeaths his two certificates of loan, Nos. 43 and 43 or the sum of \$2,000 if the certificates have been disposed of "for the use of poor and indigent females of the city" to be added to the \$4,000 already provided; begueaths \$1,000 to the Presbyterian church in Lancaster of which he is a member; directs that all the real estate he owns be sold; directs that the proceeds from the sale of real estate, rents, etc., be distributed as described to his relatives: Harriet Lane Johnston, Edward Y. Buchanan, J. Buchanan Henry, John B. Lane, James B. Lane, Elliott E. Lane; Mary E. Dunham, Maria B. Weaver, Jessie Magaw, James B. Weaver, John Bliss Weaver and Maria Magaw. Codicils bequeath sums of money to Martha J. Lane, William B. Reed (to write his biography), his wife, Mary L. Reed; domestics Peter Hillyer, Mary Smithgall, Lizzie Stoner; and finally, bequeaths the dwelling at Wheatland and all its land of 22 acres to Harriet Lane Johnston.



Box 5, Series 2, Subseries 4

Folder 4 (cont.)

In same folder is a carbon copy of the will. Original is housed in MG-96, Folder 33.

Folder 5 Lancaster, 17 May 1883

Account of Edward Y. Buchanan and H. B. Swarr, guardians of E. Elliott Lane, the will of James Buchanan, late of Lancaster Township, Lancaster County, deceased, showing the amount debited and credited on behalf of Elliott Lane in the amount of \$16,542.22. Signed by the guardians and certified by C. F. Jones.

Folder 6 Lancaster, 27 January 1867

Last will and testament of Buchanan detailing the dispersal of his estate, which is to be divided among his family and housekeeper, his church, and the city of Lancaster. Two copies stapled onto blue backing.

Folder 7 Lancaster, 27 January 1867 and 1 June 1868

Last will and testament of James Buchanan detailing the dispersal of his estate, which is to be divided among his family and housekeeper, his church, and the city of Lancaster. One copy stapled onto blue backing.

Inventory and appraisement of the goods, chattels, rights, and credits of James Buchanan...lists the personal property.

Folder 8 Lancaster, 1 June 1868

Inventory and appraisement of the goods, chattels, rights, and credits of James Buchanan...lists the personal property.

Folder 9 Lancaster, 27 January 1867 and 1 June 1868

Last will and testament of James Buchanan detailing the dispersal of his estate, which is to be divided among his family and housekeeper, his church, and the city of Lancaster. Printed.

