

James Buchanan Family Papers, Part 2 Papers of Harriet Lane Johnston, Series 1 Correspondence

Call Number: JBFP Part 2 Series 1

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Scope and Content Note: James Buchanan Family Papers, Part 2 Papers of Harriet Lane Johnston, Series 1 contains the correspondence of Harriet Lane Johnston. Subseries 1 contains letters written by Harriet to James Buchanan, Lily Macalester and Charles Macalester, Lois Buchanan, Hiram B. Swarr, Mary Speer, and others from 1848-1902. Series 1, Subseries 2 contains letters written to Harriet from Captain W. R. Palmer, Alfred Pleasanton, Laura Pleasanton, Isaac E. Hiester and others from 1854 to 1897, including several describing Washington, D.C. in 1861.

Creators: Johnston, Harriet Lane, 1830-1903.

James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland (Lancaster, Pa.)

System of Arrangement: James Buchanan Family Papers Part 2, Papers of Harriet Lane Johnston, is arranged into five series.

Series 1 Correspondence

Subseries 1 Letters from Harriet Lane Johnston

Subseries 2 Letters to Harriet Lane Johnston

Series 2 Financial and Legal Documents

Series 3 Ephemera

Series 4 Henry Elliott Johnston

Series 5 Miscellaneous Materials

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Language: English

Biographical and Historical Note:

Born on May 9, 1830, Harriet Lane was the youngest surviving child of Elliot Toll Lane and Jane Buchanan Lane. When both of her parents died of consumption, now known as tuberculosis, Harriet went on to be her Uncle James Buchanan's ward in 1841. A well-educated lady, Harriet attended several boarding schools before graduating from the Georgetown Academy of Visitation Convent at the age of 18. When James Buchanan served as the U.S. Minister to Great Britain, Harriet Lane joined him for a time and served as a hostess. During her time in England, which she noted as "the realization of a beautiful dream," she befriended none other than Queen Victoria. When her Uncle assumed the presidency, Harriet Lane assumed her role as hostess. She is considered the first First Lady, as the title had initially been given to the president's hostess during Harriet's time in Washington.

After Buchanan's presidency, Harriet Lane married Henry Elliot Johnston, a banker from Baltimore, on January 11, 1866. She was 35 years old. The couple went on to have two sons, both of whom would pass away from rheumatic fever in their early teenage years. Two years after losing her youngest son, Harriet lost her husband to pneumonia. By 1884, Harriet was a childless widow. She would go on to leave a legacy for generations to come, including establishing a children's hospital in Baltimore called The Harriet Lane Home for Invalid Children (today the Harriet Lane Clinic at the John's Hopkins Children's Hospital), preserving her Uncle's letters and manuscripts, bestowing her art collection to the Corcoran Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., and constructing the St. Alban's School, a school for choir boys. She died on July 3, 1903. [<https://www.lancasterhistory.org/about-wheatland/>, accessed 10/24/2019]

Source of Acquisition: The documents in JBFP, Part 2 were collected by the James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland.

Custodial History (Provenance): 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.



LancasterHistory

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Johnston, Harriet Lane

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Johnston, Harriet Lane, 1830-1903
Lancaster (Pa.)
Letters
Personal correspondence
Washington (D.C.)
Wheatland (Lancaster, Pa.)

Search Terms:

Baltimore, Maryland
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Letters
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Finding aids
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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/>



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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>

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Lancaster**History**

Box 1 Series 1 Correspondence, Subseries 1 Letters Sent

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 1 [Marine Pavilion Hotel], Far Rockaway, Queens, New York City, 30 July 1848

Letter to James Buchanan expressing her displeasure with Rockaway which is just as it was the previous summer. She reminds him of the medals she earned at school and asks him to take her to historic Northern towns when Congress adjourns. She says that Mr. Walker is coming but Eskridge is not, remembers the hospitality of Mrs. Dallas in Philadelphia, and asks of the health of Miss Hetty. Signed Harriette.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 2 Marine Pavilion [Hotel], Far Rockaway, Queens, New York City, 27 August 1848

Letter to James Buchanan begging him to visit her and take her away. She praises a concert given by pianist [Maurice] Strakosch and Miss Northall and urges him to purchase a piano like it. She advises him to direct his letters to the Marine Pavilion Rockaway to differentiate it from the town of Rockaway on Long Island. Signed Harriette L.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3a Wheatland, 9 April 1850

Letter to Lily Macalester recounting her recent journey from Philadelphia to Lancaster, chats with Mr. Longenecker and Mr. Slaymaker, an encounter with Major Watson, the return of Lily's brother from his travels, the many "admirers" of Lily's aunt, especially Emerson, and asking her to send forgotten items to her by way of James Henry when he calls, in particular her corsets, an earring and her picture. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3b Wheatland, 27 May 1850

Letter to Lily Macalester chatting about a letter from Lily's Aunt Lathrop, the marriage of Miss Hayes and Bowman, the death of Uncle Edward's child, Lily's friend Samuel, Mary McKennan, Miss Muhlenberg of Reading, a coming trip through several cities of Pennsylvania and perhaps Virginia Springs with Uncle, Mr. Walker and Mr. and Mrs. Macey at Wheatland, Mr. Longenecker in North Carolina to visit a gold mine, an exhibition in Lititz to be attended by "all of us" spearheaded by Eskridge, Miss Dow, the "romance" of Miss Hetty and Mr. Bear, Mr. Hamilton (ex-minister to Denmark), and the annoyance and noise of the boys. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3c Lealand Cottage, Black Gang Chine, Isle of Wight, 29 August 1855

Letter to Lily Macalester enjoying a cottage rented by Mrs. Shapter far from London with a crashing ocean at her feet and refusing to leave when Uncle and Mr. Appleton called for her; mentioning the visit to London of the Corcorans and Louly, their child, and that Mr. C. is happy; commenting on the Queen's visit to France; saying she and Uncle will depart for home on 6 October, even though his successor has not been named; expressing her regrets in leaving such a beautiful country; coming visit to nearby



Carisbrooke Castle; commenting on the health of Mrs. Plitts and her friendship with Mrs. Lathrop; and expressing astonishment at the adventures of Mrs. F. Brown. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3d Wheatland, Tuesday, 4 November 1856

Letter to Lily Macalester asking her pardon for not writing earlier; Mrs. Plitt still at Wheatland; Uncle well and calm as he awaits the outcome of the election today; wishing Lily had written more as a political writer; Robert Eden's former dark red moustache; Eskridge getting along well using a crutch and cane; the toll that the campaign took on the family; in the election "right will prevail"; Emily Schaumburg's staying with the Porters; Colonel Pleasonton's engagement to a widow with many children and Addy's reaction; and suggests that Lily's father might follow the same example to give Lily some children to play with. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3e Soldier's Home, [Washington, D.C.], Saturday, 5 September 1857

Letter to Lily Macalester anticipating her visit with her father to Wheatland; the President and Mr. Henry send regards. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3f Soldier's Home, [Washington, D.C.], Wednesday, 18 August 1858

Letter to Lily Macalester recounting in humorous terms the romantic adventures of Lily's father, regretting that she is not in Bedford with the others, pleading with her not to stay too long at West Point lest the President and Gov. Floyd become upset, relating the latest exploits of Mr. Henry, the Major, Gov. Powell, and Gov. Floyd, remembering a fond excursion to Mt. Vernon and Mr. Schell's gift of a stone bracelet to Harriet, returning the packet "money for papers," the improvement in the health of Uncle, and the death of her pet Nettle. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3g Executive Mansion, Tuesday, 29 November 1859

Letter to Lily Macalester mentioning her own association with Banks, Miles and Mowry and Lily's association with the Lieut., Will Blanchard, Porter, Korty, Mr. Robb and the Dr. and also news about Mrs. Plitt, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Cobb and the Floyds. Envelope 8 x 14 cm. addressed to Miss Macalester, Charles Macalester, Esq. Philadelphia. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3h Executive Mansion, Sunday, 17 June, [1855] or [1860]

Letter to Lily Macalester chatting about their male acquaintances Mandeville, Schell, Charles Wister, Dayton, Pringle, Blondeel, Bernard Barton and Captain Lee; expressing approval of Lily's admirer Berghmans, and wondering, "What possessed Korty with the



idea I had 'grown stout.'" She also mentions President Buchanan, Ellen Wilson and Harriet, as well as *The Mill on the Floss*, bracelets, rowing, and strawberries. [Two dates written in later hands are 1855, 1860. Since James Buchanan was not in The White House in 1855 and *The Mill on the Floss* was published in 1860, the second date was chosen.] *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3i Wheatland, Lancaster 12 February 1862

Letter to Charles Macalester referring to his future happiness, Annie Buchanan's visit to Wheatland, the sudden death of Murray Rush, and thanking him for reporting on Kory's financial position. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3j Wheatland, 7 July 1862

Letter to Charles Macalester expressing happiness that Lily has returned home, declining an invitation to visit Lily so soon after her trip, reminding him of his promise to visit Lancaster, and enclosing a note for Lily. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3k Brevoort House [Hotel], Fifth Avenue [New York] 11 December 1873

Letter to Lily Macalester relating her sadness at the death of Lily's father. Envelope addressed to Madame Berghmans, 1016 Spruce Street, Philadelphia. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 3l 120 Park Street [Baltimore], 27 March 1874

Letter to Lily Macalester thanking her for the memorial to Lily's father, regretting not hearing from her more often and mentioning Buchanan's illness, Ella Kerr, and Lily's new house in Washington. *Photocopy. The original is in the collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 4 56 Harley St., [London] Wednesday 4 July [1855]

Letter to Mr. Blomfield concerning a party to be given on the 5th by Mrs. Fletcher Norton and the Lord Mayor's water party.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 5 Wheatland, Lancaster, 5 September 1861

Letter to Mr. Rush seeking a lieutenancy in a regiment of Civil War soldiers being raised by his brother, Richard, for a deserving son of neighbor Rev. John Nevin

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 6 Wheatland, Lancaster, 11 July 1863

Letter to Miss Mary acknowledging her latest letter and inviting her to stop by on her way home; saying that Miss Hetty is not well but improving; Uncle hopes Mrs. Elsgood will accompany Mary on her visit.



Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 7 Wheatland, Lancaster, Saturday morning [1868]
Letter to Lodie [Lois Buchanan] concerning the illness of James Buchanan and the doctors who have visited, instructions regarding putting away baby's winter clothes, a "lost card," decorating the house in Baltimore, Mr. Johnston's horse, and Buck's account of the family in Baltimore. [in pencil] .

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 8 Wheatland, [Monday, spring 1868]
Letter to Lodie [Lois Buchanan] reporting on Lodie's father's sermon on Sunday; visits by Buck and James; Uncle's slight improvement that might permit Harriet to return home for a short time; departure of Lodie's father if improvement continues; the visit of Blanche, Alice, and John Nevin and seeing John and Pattie in church; and greetings to those in Baltimore.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 9 Wheatland, [Thursday, Spring 1868]
Letter to Lodie [Lois Buchanan] with detailed instructions on spring house cleaning; sympathy that Lodie's dress does not fit; Uncle's interest in Baby whom she misses desperately; requesting food for Uncle; doctors coming soon; Mr. Baker due soon; pep talk to Lodie on the necessity of arrangements because of Uncle's ill health; mentions Mr. Johnston, Graham Bowdoin, Maggie, Mrs. Kerr, Netzie, and Mary; and asks that more things be sent to her.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 10 Wheatland, 21 August 1868
Letter to Lodie [Lois Buchanan] happily approving of her recent engagement; noting that Harriet, in improving health, is writing either to Oxford or Bethlehem; delivering Netzie's messages to Miss Hetty, who also is improving; "dear little son" has been quite ill but now is a little better, is getting several teeth, loves Aunt Annie's present, can talk and say his prayers; Lodie's letter destroyed as promised; Mr. and Mrs. Shunk are visiting; Mrs. S. and Jane are afraid to go to York because of the fever epidemic; and love to "cousin" Alex.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 11 Wheatland, 21 August 1868
Note to Hiram B. Swarr requesting the loan of his copy of The Age of August 19th and 20th.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 12 Wheatland, 25 August 1868
Letter to Hiram B. Swarr requesting all the papers collected by Mr. Smith and any articles of interest from The Age to aid her in writing her book. She refers to a letter which she is forwarding from Mr. Johnston. Addressed to H. B. Swarr, Esq., Duke Street.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 13 [1]20 Park Street, [Baltimore], 28 November 1868
Letter to Hiram B. Swarr enclosing receipt for money sent; concerned about the erection of a monument to James Buchanan, especially the plans of Mr. Howell and Mr. Gaddess; asking about Mr. Buchanan's disposition of James' canes; and asking if the amount of a loan due bears interest. (Part of top of first page torn off.)



Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 14 120 Park Street, [Baltimore], 6 April 1869
Letter to Hiram B. Swarr asking why she has received \$5000 of her inheritance and what disposition has been made of the remaining two-thirds, preferring Pennsylvania Rail Road mortgage bonds to bonds and mortgages owned by the estate.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 15 Lancaster, 30 July 1869
Letter from Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston to H. M. North, Esq. The letter is an invitation from Mrs. Johnston inviting Mr. North to visit. Missing as of July 2010, but a photostatic copy is available at MG-096 F015 It07.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 16 120 Park Street, [Baltimore], 31 December 1869
Letter to Hiram B. Swarr urgently requesting that he accept the return of the papers of James Buchanan from Mr. Reed [supposed biographer] to keep them out of the hands of the Republicans, who would pervert them.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 17 120 Park Street, [Baltimore], 6 January 1870
Letter to Hiram B. Swarr acknowledging receipt of two checks and requesting that he henceforth deduct his commission before writing the checks and happy that Mr. Reed has been cooperative about James Buchanan's papers and wishing to know who holds them now.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 18 120 Park Street, [Baltimore], 19 May 1871
Letter to Hiram B. Swarr strongly declining his request to use part of her inheritance to fund the President's biographical project; objecting to his attempt to take over the supervision of the project, but approving of the replacement of Mr. Reed by Mr. Welling and pledging the Johnstons' support for the new author.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 19 Wheatland near Lancaster, 3 July 1881
Letter to Mary Speer containing family gossip including the health of Mary's father, the white pudding (which Henry Morris tried and failed to like, as did Harriet's family); [son] Harry is out all day in the goat wagon and never feels tired and she hopes great improvement to report when Da Costa comes; Chand Black just left; futile attempts to send cherries to Mary, Bessie, and Carrie; son Harry is saving material of the assassinated President [Garfield]; inviting them to Wheatland with Mr. Speer as well. 2 sheets folded. Envelope addressed to Miss Mary C. Speer, 1st National Bank, Pittsburgh, Pa. with 3 postmarks and stamp.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 20 United States Hotel, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., 2 September 1881
Letter to Mary Speer concerning the health of Cousin Charley and that of Harriet's son Harry; invites Mary to accompany them to Europe and assured her family that they will treat her as their own daughter. Letterhead for United States Hotel, Saratoga Springs, N. Y. Envelope addressed to Miss Mary C Speer, 1st National Bank, Pittsburgh, Pa. with postmark and stamp mailed from Fifth Avenue Hotel, Madison Square, New York on 22 September 81 at 12 p.m.



Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 21 1739 I Street, [Washington, D. C.], 19 February 1900

Letter to Mary Speer talking of the wintry weather, May's inability to wear the ulster because of her weak back, Charles' bad cold, Ethel stopping by from her travels in several cities, Harriet's wish to spend some time with Mary in a quiet spot and Lillian Pauncefote's wedding. Letter and envelope edged in black; envelope with stamp and postmark addressed to Miss Mary C. Speer, Craft Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Postmark on reverse of envelope marked Rec'd, Feb 20, 1900.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 22 At sea [13 June 1900]

Letter to Mary Speer describing voyage to Liverpool on slow ship with uninteresting passengers except for Bishop Dudley and Dora Mudock from Baltimore; Mary not well enough to travel to Scotland after Chester; and Charley Richardson having attached himself to them aboard ship. Stationery of the R. M. S. Majestic, envelope postmarked with stamp at Chester, England, Ju 14, 00 addressed to Miss Mary C. Speer, Craft Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U S of America. Postmark on reverse of envelope marked Rec'd Jun 23, 1900.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 23 1539 I Street Washington, D.C., 10 December 1900

Letter to Mary Speer mentioning meeting Willy Kuhn in New York with whom she discussed Mary's forthcoming European trip; mentioning Mary, Louise and Charlie's visit to the Horse Show in New York; inviting Louise and Mary to visit in Washington; deploring the overdone custom of sending flowers to debutantes, but enjoying Mary Carlisle's tea; noting the death of Mrs. Washington McLean and the improved health of Mr. Carlisle; attending the Curry-Connelly wedding; noting that Jane Fraser is still in St. Louis even though the health of her mother has improved; George at home and she and May very busy; and Mrs. Hornsby lives on the block. Letter and envelope addressed to Miss Mary C. Speer, Craft Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, postmarked Washington, 10 Dec 1900 at 2 p.m. and postmarked from Pittsburgh Dec. 11 at 4 a.m. Both edged in black.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 24 Mt. Vernon Hotel, Monument Street West, Baltimore, Tuesday night [29 October 1901]

Letter to Mary Speer announcing her safe arrival in Baltimore on the train; mentioning Mrs. John Morris and Louise, the Davises, Mrs. Lehr, Miss Riggs, Louise Dawson, Sydney Price, Mrs. McRea, Aunt Annie, Mme. Elise and Mr. Murphy; and wishing love to cousin Charley, Sarah, Louise, and Mary. Letter and envelope addressed to Miss Mary C. Speer, Craft Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, postmarked Baltimore, 30 Oct 1901 at 1 p.m. and postmarked from Pittsburgh Oct. 31 4 a.m.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 25 [Unknown], 24 January 1902

Letter to Louise expressing grief at the condition of cousin Charley; praising the Cassatt-Stewart wedding; glad that Hank Riggs' mother is better; glad that May has a young friend, Ethel Kennedy, here with her; excusing Mary from her visit on the 30th, but expects her on 6th February. Edged in black and blank envelope not matching stationery.



Series 1, Subseries 1, Folder 26 No place, no date.

Bottom half of a letter to Mary [Speer] commenting on the elegant shawl; leaving for Bedford; love to Mrs. VanDyke; and kind regards from the President.



Box 1

Series 1 Correspondence, Subseries 2 Letters Received

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 1 London, 2 August 1854

Note from [M.] Somerset lamenting his inability to be useful to her Ladyship on this wet night. Envelope addressed to Miss Lane, 56 Harley Street. Intact seal in red wax on back.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 2 [Washington], 15 August 1856

Letter from Alfred Pleasanton expressing his choice for a trip to Canada; his delight in taking Clemmie's advice to borrow silverware from Mrs. Turnbull just in time to entertain (he is a soldier); his meeting with General Harney's married daughter and French son-in-law who are on their way to St. Louis; his meeting with Col. Geary, governor of Kansas, who is certain that he can contain the trouble there; promising to work for James Buchanan if he consents to their trip; and learning that the black Republicans in Congress have stopped insisting that troops be removed from Kansas.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 3 Fort Myers, Florida, 13 December 1856

Letter from Alfred Pleasanton congratulating Harriet on the election and her concomitant elevation to first lady; warning her that in her new position she will have to use all her skills to discern the truth; predicting great popularity for Florida as soon as General Harney is able to remove all of the Indians; and noting that the general's father-in-law, Mr. Mullanphy, once offered James Buchanan land in St. Louis if he would go out there.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 4 New York, 31 December 1859

Penciled note accompanying a New Year's gift from Mr. Schell to Miss Lane expressing his high regard for Miss Lane and his deepest obligation to the President. Written in the third person and unsigned.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 5 Washington, D.C. 9 May 1861

Letter from Ella Magruder describing her preparation to leave Washington and her family's travel plans as well as her father's resignation of his commission rather than fight against his country's flag. Letter has cross-hatch writing.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 6 York, Pennsylvania, 13 May 1861

Letter from A. J. Glossbrenner apologizing for not yet having arranged the President's papers stored in the attic at Wheatland and relaying rumors of fighting in Kentucky and Illinois. 1 sheet folded with bottom two-thirds of back sheet removed.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 7 Washington, D.C. 16 May 1861

Letter from Captain W. R. Palmer saying he is happy to forward her letters to Mrs. S. S. Lee who is not in good spirits and has left for the home of Mrs. Fitzhugh by whom Capt. Lee was brought up; referring to mutual friends Lord Lyons, Captain Magruder, Mrs. Wilson, the Ledyards and Mrs. Buchanan.



Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 8 [Washington], Coast Survey Office, Monday 29 April 1861

Letter from Captain W. R. Palmer saying he is happy to forward her letter to Captain Lee; that he allowed his niece Angela Turner to drive with Mrs. Palmer to Arlington and along the way they found Captain Lee sitting on a trunk; and that he still hopes a bloody war may be avoided.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 9 Washington, D.C. 7 June 1861

Letter from Ellen Woodbury relating the excitement in the city with the bands and officers there; attending a dinner at the White House where she was seated between Mr. Smith and Commander Stewart and describing Mrs. Lincoln and the livery and demeanor of the retained servants; meeting Mrs. Lincoln's half-brother now in the Southern army; and making friends with some secretaries to get West Point appointments for two "very nice fellows."

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 10 Washington, D.C. Sunday morning, 14 July 1861

Letter from Captain W. R. Palmer relating how much he and his family miss her; enumerating how many have been promoted over him; and describing a military expedition in which he participated.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 11 Lancaster, 17 September 1870

Manuscript copy of letter from Isaac E. Hiester on behalf of James Buchanan's executors requesting that Harriet send the ex-president's papers to them where they will be stored in a bank in Philadelphia until they can be placed in the hands of a new biographer to replace the one who declined the task. The original letter can be found in Folder 32.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 12 Staines, England, 12 July 1872

Envelope addressed to H. L. Johnston, 21A. Book Street, Hanover Square, London, with two other postmarks on the back with an embossed seal. [written on back of envelope "Ascot, Prince of Wales."] 1 penny stamp attached.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 13 Hagerstown, Maryland, 9 February 1897

Letter from Col. H. Kyd Douglas recounting his attendance at Buchanan's inauguration as part of an escort from Franklin & Marshall College and his subsequent graduation with a diploma signed by the President, his presence at the John Brown raid, his wounds and the kindness of Henry E. Johnston, and commanding the brigade which fired the last Confederate shot at Appomattox. Envelope addressed to Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston, Washington, D.C., with 2-cent stamp attached. Written on the envelope: "A beautiful interesting letter from Col. H. Kid Douglas Ans. Feb 14, 97".

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 14 Hagerstown, Maryland, 16 February 1897

Letter from Col. H. Kyd Douglas noting that he had not visited Lancaster since the death of Prof. Nevin; and recalling a speech he made with Col. [John] W. Forney at the Fulton Opera House during the Hancock campaign in which he referred to Forney leaving the Democratic party and himself leaving the Union, both "only to return later."



Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 15 Hagerstown, Maryland, 7 June 1901

Letter from Col. H. Kyd Douglas regretting that business in court prevented his traveling to Mercersburg to see her dedicate a portrait of James Buchanan; and recalling once again the events of Buchanan's inauguration. Envelope addressed to HLJ at 1739 I Street, Washington, DC; franking, postmark, and stamp from Hagerstown, wax seal on back with a second franking and postmark from Washington, D.C.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 16 No place, 30 March 1854

Letter from Alfred Pleasonton commenting on Charles' change of personality for the worse, the illness of Clemmie [Clementina Pleasonton], and the parties at Mrs. Carroll's, Mrs. Davis', Mrs. Markoe's, Mrs. Senator Thompson's, and Mrs. Sumner's, where he met his "destiny."

Letter from Laura Pleasonton (written on the end of Alfred's) recounting the illness of Clemmie and Laura's "attending to" the Wainwright affair.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 17 Washington, D.C. 3 April [1856-1860]

Letter from William Palmer promising to send her his portrait, mentioning his visit home where he saw Mr. Plitt, referring to the disconsolate Captain Lee, the Rev. Mr. Pyne agreeing to stay on following an inspiring address by Mr. Carlisle, attending a reception at the Navy Yard for the wedding of one of Com. Buchanan's daughters, and the mourning of Mrs. Harris on the death of the Colonel's two brothers.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 18 Washington, D.C. 28 April [1865]

Letter from Mary E. Gwin lamenting the situation in Washington with its swarms of Union soldiers, referring to her husband [William McKendree Gwin, former senator from California], her outrage at the rumor of the marriage of Harriet to Mr. Carlisle, her inability to convince her soon-to-be-married cook to leave Washington to work for Harriet, and describing with contempt the new coat of arms at the White House.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 19 [Washington, D.C.] 17 July [1861]

Letter from William Palmer to Harriet Lane explaining his delay in writing since he is regulating the Georgetown to Virginia military ferry, mentioning Harriet Buchanan and the President, and expressing confidence that the Union forces under General Mansfield will drive the Confederates out of Fairfax Courthouse and Manassas.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 20 Washington, D.C. 26 August [1861-1865]

Letter from Anna L. Franklin to Harriet Lane enclosing photographs and describing the activities of General [William Buel] Franklin and the four New York regiments he will command; General McClellan's review of General McCall's division; her disgust with the rebels; the signs of war passing through the city; and her hopes for an end to the struggle.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 21 17 E Street, Washington, D.C. 17 August [1861-1865]



Letter from Josephine Seaton to Harriet Lane enclosing a message in French from Chevalier P. Massone of Naples praising Harriet's beauty and spirit and enclosing his address; hoping that her uncle recovers from his illness soon and remembering the high regard in which he is held by her family; regretting the passing of the old society in Washington which can be partially restored only by Harriet's return.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 22 Philadelphia, 20 October

Letter from Lizzie Norris informing Harriet, whom she calls Hatty, that she will receive an invitation to Korty [Mr. Kortright] and Mattie's wedding and that apparently Mattie is unaware of the former flirtation between Korty and Harriet in the White House.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 23 Washington, D.C. 23 October [1867]

Letter from Laura Pleasonton to Harriet Lane welcoming her back from her trip abroad and catching her up on the death of Louise Corcoran in Paris; relating rumors about Harriet's engagement to "some Duke or Earl " or Mr. Tyson; mentioning that Laura's sister now lived in Philadelphia near Mrs. Henry Reed; imparting news of Jessie's death, Miss Hetty's illness from eating oysters, Mrs. Boyer's broken spine, and many details of Emily's death; looking forward to receiving her collection of autographs; and their disappointment to have missed James Henry while in Lancaster.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 24 Wheeling, Virginia, 10 December [1857-1860]

Letter from E. L Houston, née Nora Gibson, to Harriet Lane renewing their school relationship and asking for her influence in obtaining for her stepson, Archibald W. Houston, a state appointment to West Point.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 25 Washington, D.C. Monday 22nd [1856]

Letter from Alfred Pleasonton responding to her note acknowledging receipt of "Niagara trifles;" expressing happiness that James Buchanan was so well received in Philadelphia and is sure he will win Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey; doubting that Miss Cutts is marrying for love; distressed that his sisters Clemmie and Laura have taken up gambling; looking forward to Dan Rice's circus; and offering his services to the campaign of her uncle.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 26 Envelope addressed to Miss Lane, Staten Island.

No franking, no stamp.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 27 London, 11 March 1863

Letter from Baring Brothers & Co. to Mrs. Harriet R. Lane, Wheatlands, Pennsylvania, showing the current amount of her account and with regards from Mr. Sturgis to her and Mr. Buchanan.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 28 Mt. Ida, 29 May 1884

Letter from Nahum Capen to Harriet Lane Johnston referring to the forty letters that he had received from President Buchanan. The letters had been relayed from Mr. Reed to Mr. Curtis to Rev. Dr. Buchanan, who has unpacked 18 of them and not yet found the paper giving the conversation between President Buchanan and Col. Benton. Mr.



Capen would like to give her his index to the letters and visit her in Baltimore if she wishes.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 29 Lancaster, 23 November 1868

Letter from Charles M. Howell to Mrs. Henry E. Johnston explaining that the weight of James Buchanan's tomb will be carried by an interior brick arch; asserting that the plan differs only slightly from the wishes of Mr. Buchanan, unlike the draft which he received from Mr. Johnston which is very pretty; and that H. W. Swarr and E. Y. Buchanan have approved the plan.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 30 Baltimore, 28 February 1874

Envelope to H. B. Swarr, Esq., Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on which is written a note by Swarr: Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston Rec'd Feb 28, 1874 in answer to my letter of the 20th inst. concerning Mr. Reed's offer to resume the Biography. Monogram of HLJ on reverse. With stamp and postmark from Baltimore, Feb 27, 8 p.m.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 31 11 envelopes postmarked 1852 through 1868 addressed to Miss Harriet Lane or to Mrs. Henry E. Johnston and one to Mrs. George W. Baker. Five are addressed care of Wilson McCandless, Wm. J. B. Lane, Frederick Brown, Esq., George Plitt, Esquire, or Robert Tyler, Esquire. Three from James Buchanan carry his signature and free franking, one has an intact seal; 2 others carry intact seals; 3 carry stamps; 2 are marked "paid"; 7 carry postmarks; and one has no markings.

Series 1, Subseries 2, Folder 32 17 September 1870

Letter from Isaac E. Hiester to Harriet Lane Johnston requesting that she send all remaining papers of James Buchanan to the executors of the estate, by whom they will be arranged and endorsed before their deposit for the use of the future biographer when chosen. A manuscript copy of the letter is in Folder 11.

