

**James Buchanan Family Papers, Part 8 Papers of Others (Not Part of the Family), Series 1 Correspondence**

**Call Number: JBFP Part 8 Series 1**

1 box 27 folders, 34 items, 69 pages .5 cubic feet

Repository: LancasterHistory (Organization); PV7

Shelving Location: Archives South, Side18

Scope and Content Note: James Buchanan Family Papers, Part 8 the Papers of Others (Not Part of the Family), Series 1 contains correspondence from various individuals who, although not familiarly related to James Buchanan, may be related through business, extended family relationships, and friends and guests of Wheatland. Named recipients and authors include Joseph C. Passmore (1843), Virginia Pleasonton (1849), Ann Elizabeth Foster Buchanan (1850), George S. Bryan (1855); H. S. Gara (1855), George Steinman (1857), Morrison Foster (1859), D.G. Eshleman (1860), Hiram B. Swarr (1860), H. M. North (1860), William E. Cooper (1861, 1862, 1864, 1866, 1888), Harry N. Howell (1862), P. S. Dechert (1862, 1864), George W. Birdseye (1863), M. J. Nevin (1877), S. M. L. Barlow (1881), R. J. Brown (1885), William Anderson (1886), Elizabeth C. Hobson (1905), C. H. Robb (1905), Bernard Carter (1905), May S. Kennedy (1905), Mary Speer (1905), and Louisa Anderson Henry. Subject matter varies greatly from politics to family issues. There is mention of the political figures and climate in Lancaster and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania just prior to and after the start of the Civil War. There are also letters discussing the publication of Stephen Foster's songs, George Ticknor Curtis' biography of James Buchanan, the death of Louisa Anderson Henry, and the status of Harriet Lane Johnston's paintings after her death. The majority of the letters were either from or to Pennsylvania, particularly Lancaster County, with a few from New York and Washington, DC. The letters are arranged in chronological order and range from 1843 through 1905.

Dates: 1843-1905

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

System of Arrangement: James Buchanan Family Papers, Part 8 Papers of Others (Not Part of the Family) is arranged into four series. This series uses Subseries 1 to keep the consistency with cataloging throughout the James Buchanan Family Papers.

**Series 1 Correspondence**

Series 2 Financial and Legal Documents

Series 3 Ephemera

Series 4 Newspapers

Conditions for Access: Please use digital images and transcriptions when available.



LancasterHistory

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Language: English; French

Biographical and Historical Note: Many of the individuals named throughout this part of the collection are unknown, only their names as they appear on the document and the dates on those documents represent their history. There are a few exceptions.

Simon Cameron was a Pennsylvania senator in 1845 and Lincoln's Secretary of War during the Civil War. Most of his political career was tarnished with corruption scandals and rumors.<sup>1</sup> He was also a staunch opponent of James Buchanan.

George Ticknor Curtis was an attorney and author who wrote a biography of James Buchanan in 1883 entitled "Life of James Buchanan: 15<sup>th</sup> President of the United States."<sup>2</sup>

Reverend John Grimke Drayton was a highly respected Episcopalian minister from South Carolina, known for advocating on behalf of slaves and creating beautiful gardens on his estate as part of his legacy.

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Jonathan Foltz was a Naval doctor and close acquaintance with James Buchanan. [Part 7](#) of this collection contains letters to and from Dr. Foltz.

Virginia Pleasonton was an acquaintance of Harriet Lane Johnston and James Buchanan Henry and there are few letters from her to Mr. Henry in [Part 3](#) of this collection.

Stephen C. Foster was an American songwriter during the 1850's and 1860's, who composed "Camptown Races" and "Oh, Susannah!". His brother was Morrison Foster and his sister, Ann Elizabeth Foster, married Reverend Edward Young Buchanan, James Buchanan's brother, in 1833.

Henry A. Muhlenberg was an attorney who served as both a Congressman and a Senator for Pennsylvania.

<sup>1</sup> The Gilder Lehrman Institute. (2015) *Mr. Lincoln & Friends: Simon Cameron (1799-1889)*. Retrieved from <http://www.mrlincolnandfriends.org/inside.asp?pageID=84&>

<sup>2</sup> Syracuse University Libraries. (2008). *George Ticknor Curtis Letters*. Special Collections Research Center, Retrieved from [http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/c/curtis\\_gt.htm#adminlink](http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/c/curtis_gt.htm#adminlink)

Source of Acquisition: These documents 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.

Preferred Citation: James Buchanan Family Papers, Object ID, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Subject Headings:

Buchanan, James, 1791-1868 (LHo-LOC n 78095586)

Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889 (LHo-LOC n 86114834)

Curtis, George Ticknor, 1812-1894 (LHo-LOC n 50018718)

Drayton, John G. (John Grimke), 1815-1891 (LHo-LOC n 2010029897)

Foltz, Jonathan Messersmith, 1810-1877 (LHo-LOC n 2006065090)

Foster, Stephen Collins, 1826-1864 (LHo-LOC n 50023175)

Foster, Morrison, 1823-1904 (LHo-LOC n 94035068)

Johnston, Harriet Lane, 1830-1903 (LHo-LOC n 78093745)

Letters (LHo-LOC sh 85076240)

Muhlenberg, Henry A. (Henry Augustus), 1823-1854 (LHo-LOC n 88126876)

Wheatland (Lancaster, Pa), (LHo-LOC sh 88004274)

Personal correspondence

Search Term:

Correspondence, Personal



LancasterHistory

Letters  
Wheatland  
Finding aids  
Manuscript groups  
Buchanan collections

Related Materials at LancasterHistory:

James Buchanan Family Papers  
James Buchanan Collection, MG0096  
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>

George Ticknor Curtis Letters. Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University. [http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/c/curtis\\_gt.htm](http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/c/curtis_gt.htm)

Stephen Collins Foster (1826-1864) Collection; Center for American Music; University of Pittsburgh Library; <http://www.pitt.edu/~amerimus/foster.htm>

Processing History: Processed and finding aid prepared by KB, Fall 2015. This collection has been documented, preserved and managed according to professional museum and archives standards. The collection was cataloged using DACS conventions.



LancasterHistory

**Series 1**  
**Subseries 1**

**Folder 1** Letter from Mrs. Passmore to her son, Joseph C. Passmore, Esq. regarding recent events and a wedding at Wheatland. Lancaster, PA. 30 September 1843. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 2** Transcription of part of a letter from Simon Cameron to Hon. H.A. Muhlenberg regarding his connection to a defunct newspaper and pledging support to Muhlenberg's election. Middletown. 22 July 1844. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 3** Letter from Virginia Pleasonton to her mother written in French with a postscript in English. Also contains a wax seal from the envelope. 2 April 1849. (2 items, 2 pieces)

**Folder 4** Letter from Stephen C. Foster to William E. Miller regarding the copyrights and publications of his songs "Louisiana Belle," "Uncle Ned" and "Oh, Susanna." Cincinnati, OH. 25 May 1849. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 5** Letter from Stephen Foster to his sister, Anne Eliza Foster Buchanan, about the marriage to Jane McDowell and their travel plans. Pittsburgh, PA. 16 July 1850. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 6** Letter from George S. Bryan to H. S. Gara, president of the Board of Trustees for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church, resigning his position as Chorister. Lancaster, PA. 8 October 1855. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 7** Letter from N. Glindy to Gen. George Steinman regarding the appointment of Dr. Foltz as Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Baltimore. 16 June 1857. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 8** Letter from Stephen C. Foster to his brother, Morrison Foster forwarding a daguerreotype of himself, inquiring about a letter to Mr. Bateman and a song he sent to Firth Pond & Co. to be published. Pittsburgh, PA. (photostatic copy) 13 June 1859. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 9** Letter from D. G. Eshleman to Rev. John G. Drayton introducing H.B. Swarr and H.M. North. Lancaster, PA. 10 April 1860. (1 piece, 1 item)

**Folder 10** Letter from "Aunt" Mary Deckert to William E. Cooper regarding a democratic rally for Hiester Clymer. September 27, circa 1861-1881. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 11** Letter from Harry N. Howell to his sister regarding a gift and a riot in Lancaster. Lancaster, PA. 1 February 1862. (1 item, 1 piece)



**Folder 12** Letter from Capitolia to Mr. Herr forwarding a pair of gaiters to Mr. Herr and inquiring of his marital status. Cincinnati, OH. 22 February 1862. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 13** Letter from P. S. Dechert to John M. Cooper regarding shipment of Mr. Cooper's saddle and bridle to him in Johnstown, PA, with envelope. 22 July 1862. (2 items, 2 pieces)

**Folder 14** Letter from Stephen C. Foster to G. W. Birdseye, Esq. reference a song for a Mr. Cooper. One photostatic copy and one photocopy. New York, NY. 11 February 1863. (2 items, 2 pieces)

**Folder 15** Letter from P. S. Dechert to John M. Cooper describing a calming of a state of alarm in Chambersburg and his rent collections on behalf of Mr. Cooper. Chambersburg, PA. 5 July 1864. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 16** Letter from J. M. Cooper to his wife advising of his expected arrival home. Harrisburg, PA. 18 April 1866. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 17** Letter from J. M. Cooper to his wife while in Bedford Springs, PA with Mr. Buchanan. Bedford Springs, PA. 28 July 1866. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 18** Letter from M. J. Nevin to Mrs. Shunck describing the chain of title for Wheatland. Caernarvon, PA. 6 January 1877. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 19** Letter from Samuel L. M. Barlow to George T. Curtis, Esq., regarding a draft of his biography of James Buchanan. Mr. Barlow writes to discourage Mr. Curtis from including the story of Buchanan's fiancé, Ms. Coleman. New York, NY. 17 October 1881. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 20** Letter from R. J. Brown to "Coolidge" with the metes and bounds description of a piece of land in Bolton, New York. Bolton, NY. 17 February 1885. (1 piece, 1 item)

**Folder 21** Letter from Maggie Bowne to William Anderson regarding the death of his sister, Louisa Anderson Henry, James Buchanan Henry's second wife. Stapleton, NY. 22 March 1886. (2 items, 3 pieces)

**Folder 22** Letter from the Leader Publishing Company to J. M. Cooper acknowledging his acceptance to attend their annual dinner for the Newsboys and bootblacks. Pittsburgh, PA. 18 December 1888. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 23** Letter from C. H. Robb to Elizabeth C. Hobson regarding the bequest of Harriet Lane's paintings. Washington, DC. 16 January 1905. Original and carbon copy. (2 items, 4 pieces)

**Folder 24** Three letters:



Original copy of letter from May S. Kennedy to Bernard Carter, regarding Harriet Lane's wish not to sell any of her paintings. Charlestown, WV. nd. (1 piece, 1 item)

Original copy of letter from Bernard Carter to Mary Speer regarding the interpretation of Harriet Lane's wishes in her codicil and requesting a meeting to discuss the disposition of the paintings. Baltimore, MD. 9 November 1905. (1 item, 3 pieces)

Original copy of letter from Bernard Carter to May Kennedy advising of his request for a meeting to discuss the disposition of the paintings. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 25** Letter from unknown to unknown, addressed to "my dearest son" but on the whole mostly unintelligible with many parts missing. Envelope is disintegrating. Location not discernable. nd. (2 items, 3 pieces)

**Folder 26** Letter from unknown to Lou (possible Louisa Anderson) regarding the ill health of the author. nd. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 27** Letter from unknown, (possible a "Susie") to "Luly," possibly Louisa Anderson, regarding her trip home and mutual acquaintances. There is damage to the top and bottom on all pages. Annapolis, MD. 24 September [ ]. (1 item, 1 piece)

**Folder 28** Letter written in English and [Swedish]. Possibly from or to Eugene Francois de la Croix. Goteborg, [Sweden]. 13 December 1870. (1 item, 1 piece)

