

Wheatland, near Lancaster
2 March 1866

My dear James,

Mrs. David Lynch of Pittsburg has been acting the part of the importunate widow towards me & has been annoying me with letters weekly or oftener which I do not answer. I have no confidence in her though she has got a good deal from me. In her last on the 27 ultimo, she says she has been obliged to send a nurse to Brooklyn to bring her daughter Isabella home with whom you are acquainted & had only five dollars to pay all the expenses. She refers me to Dr. Cullen (?) of Montague Place Brooklyn, who says that "if Isabella lives to get home which is very hazardous that her native air may afford some benefit"

Now from past experience, I distrust this entire statement. I thought that Isabella was comfortable in the convent. If she is really going to leave, I am willing to advance her a sufficient sum to make her comfortable on the journey & I wish you would advance her the necessary amount. If it should all turn out to be fiction, as it was formerly, please to let me know. Isabella ought not to go home, unless this be necessary.

I have this moment received yours of the 1st (yesterday) informing me that 7 of my 5 p. cent Tennessee Bonds have been sold at 75; and I am glad to hear it. This has made me easy. Should they rise to 80 I shall sell the whole.

I am now alone with Miss Hetty but am content.

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry Esq

Copied from the original by F.A. Henry, American Consulate, Melbourne, Australia on July 20, 1937.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland 12 March 1866

My dear James,

I have received your favor of the 9th. Mr. Williams had sent me in due time the notice of your deposit. This will relive me from all difficulty.

I should desire very much to know the circumstances under which Isabella Lynch left the convent. She would have been more comfortable there, both as regards her temporal & spiritual welfare than with her mother. I do not understand how she could have been permitted to leave it. Did she leave of her own free will & accord? Has she left permanently? or is she to return? Less than a year ago in addition to all I had previously advanced ~~her~~ Mrs. Lynch I gave her nearly \$700 to save her property from being sold. Notwithstanding this she keeps "pegging away" at me for assistance once a week & sometimes of teneer. I do not answer her letters. She has now got on a new sham. It is now for Isabella's support she appeals to me and says what is true that I had stated I would not see her suffer. I almost suspect she has taken Isabella home for a pretense to obtain money from me. It never struck me until I received your letter "that Mrs. Lynch might not be in her right mind."

I have not heard from Mr. Schell, His silence sufficiently indicates his opinion. I shall say no more about visiting New York; but will go there whenever I may think the proper time has arrived.

I shall be very glad to hear from Mrs. Johnston at Cuba & am truly happy to think that she is satisfied with her choice which was free & voluntary on her part & without any influence from me.

As my Tennessee Bonds are in the Tin Box I enclose the receipt of Mr. Schell which please to deliver him. I wish you would keep a look out. I would sell them for 80 – and even less.

I have had a bad cold for ten days; but it is now wearing itself out.

Miss Hetty sends her love.

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry Esq

Note: More of the Mrs. Lynch case.

Copied from the original by F.A. Henry, Melbourne, on July 22, 1937.



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Wheatland 16 March 1866

My dear James,

I wrote some weeks ago to Mr. Weaver, the Cashier of the Planters Bank at Nashville concerning Miss Hetty's Coupon Bond on that city, and in his answer he requests me to give him a description of it, "date" and if any Coupons are attached how many and when payable". I think you had better send me the Bond, rather than write the description. When you take it out of the Box, you might cut off the 30 coupons from my Penna R.R. Bonds, and 6 from the Hamilton County Bonds which will be due on the 1 April deposit the amount. There is no haste.

Having written thus far I received your favor of yesterday & am much obliged for the information concerning Miss Lynch. I shall now know how to act.

My cold is much better than when I wrote. It is gradually wearing away, though I have taken nothing for it.

We are getting on as usual, scarcely ever having any good servants. I am now without a waiter & the chambermaid is about to be married & I have a poor cook. When I left Washington it was my purpose to live so well that I might ask a friend to dine with me any day; and for this purpose was willing to incur any expense; but experience has taught me this was impossible.

I get along very well during the day; but it would be a great comfort to me, especially at night to have Annie with me. She would be a companion & relieve me much by reading to me at night. I never mentioned the subject to her; but think from what I have learned she would be willing to come. But after my long experience I am somewhat afraid to invite her lest Miss Hetty, without whom I can not get along & she could not agree. I value peace so much that I would purchase it at almost any price. I have observed that Miss Hetty never mentions the girls, & when I do so never makes an encouraging observation.

I don't think our political situation is very promising; but this is too long a subject for discussion. Johnson is unfortunately surrounded in his Cabinet; and if he leans upon Thurlow Weed, Raymond, Seward & the Blairs he will probably come to grief. Sherman was the best negotiator. After the South had laid down their arms and acknowledged themselves conquered, it would have been true policy to treat them with magnanimity. They are now becoming so exasperated they will probably never be our cordial friends. I see Seward has been entertained at the Manhattan Club as the guest of Richard Schell!

I am glad to learn that Harriet is safe and sound in Cuba. May God be her Protector!

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry Esq

Note: Interesting political observations. Also personal ones regarding women in the house.

Copied July 21, 1937, by F.A. Henry, from the original.



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Copied by F.A. Henry
Melbourne, July 22, 1937.

Wheatland 4 October 1866

My dear James,

I have received yours of the first with one from Mr. Williams of the same date. All's right in regard to the Coupons.

I received a letter from Mr. Riggs last night informing me that he had received the Deed from the Clerk of the Court and asking what disposition I desire to make of it. In sending him a draft for the amount of the Bill of Costs I shall say to him to take no action for the present. Before the Deed is transferred to me I should like to be in possession. It would be with great reluctance I should forcibly eject the Leonards & therefore I would be grateful if they should execute a lease until the 1 April. The amount of rent for this period is of no account. I wish as you have commenced the business so auspiciously that you would conclude it and so I shall write to Mr. Riggs.

There were three sisters of the O'Neals: One married Leonard, one Cutts & the third Greenhow. The complainant may have been either Cutts or Greenhow.

Who is to petition the Court to obtain possession? Is it not Bowie? Is he not bound to deliver me possession? I have not the late Maryland Code in my possession; but I think the form is therein prescribed.

I intended to go to Baltimore on Tuesday after giving my vote; but cannot remain with Harriet more than a week at this time.

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry Esq



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Wheatland 10 November 1866

My dear James,

I have too long neglected to answer your favors of the 8th & 25th October and to thank you for them both. You have attended to the Leonard business much to my satisfaction. My long delay has been occasioned solely by disinclination to adopt harsh measures towards the Leonards and in the expectation that something might turn up to render this unnecessary. I have heard nothing of them or from them, and they deserve no indulgence at my hands. I think I shall soon write to Mr. Riggs in conformity with your advice if I do not authorize you to employ the lawyer you recommended at Rockville to conduct thee business in the name of Mr. Riggs. The rent you have reserved of \$50 per month is too high. This can easily be changed as I do not expect anything. I have received the transcript from the record.

I have been a week with Harriet at Baltimore. She appeared to be and doubtless is very happy and her house and furniture are all that could be desired. I made the acquaintance of all the Johnston family & was pleased with them, some in a greater & some in a less degree. I confess I liked the old lady less than the rest; but I saw little of her. I was very favorably impressed with "Maggie" the wife of Jo. Johnston, and she and Harriet appear to be very intimate. It stormed and rained the first four days I was there and in consequence I did not see as many friends as I otherwise would. Harriet seems to have been visited by many of the best people in Baltimore, and I was, therefore, somewhat surprised at an intimation you gave brother Edward on this subject in regard to a Mrs. M'Kim. The M'Kims in former times & in my early day were great people but I am under the impression that their ancient glory has in a great degree departed.

Mrs. Ellis was with us for a week & is still charming. Should I live until next summer I have reason to hope she will pass several weeks with me. Before I forget, please to remember me in kind & affectionate terms to Mrs. Robb. Mrs. E was nearly a week with Harriet.

James J. Shunk and his wife and little daughter are now with me & will doubtless be here throughout the winter. He under the advice of his father in law Judge Black has undertaken to write the history of my life. I think he is competent to make a very interesting book of it; but it is a Herculean task. I do not wish to have it mentioned. They are both sprightly and agreeable with a good deal of humor & I enjoy their company.

What of Mr. Schell? How does he treat you? Has my intimation to him produced any effect? Does he talk of visiting me again? Please to remember me to him kindly.

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry Esq

P.S. Has the Virginia Loan which you purchased risen in market value? How is your business?

Note: Did Mr. Shunk write a life of Buchanan as indicated in this letter?

This letter copied by F.A. Henry on July 20, 1937, from original.



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Wheatland near Lancaster
13 December 1866.

My dear Sir,

Permit me to recall myself to your kindly memory by introducing to you my nephew J. Buchanan Henry Esquire of New York. He was my private Secretary during a portion of the time I was President and I much regretted that he left me to practice his profession in your City. A stranger there and without friends to assist him he has got along slowly by surely. I do not doubt his ultimate success, because he deserves to succeed and already supports himself genteely [genteelly].

I have believed that it would be highly gratifying to him to be noticed by you; and from your former kindness to me on one occasion which I shall never forget, I am emboldened to commend my nephew to your favorable regard.

From your friend
very respectfully
James Buchanan

Cornelius Vanderbilt
Esquire

Legation of the United States.
London 9 January 1856.

My dear Madam,

Permit me to solicit for my nephew, Mr. J. Buchanan Henry of Philadelphia the pleasure of your acquaintance. He has very recently been admitted to the practice of the law, having pursued his professional studies under John Cadwalader, Esquire. Whilst commending him to your kindness and attention, I remain always

very respectfully,
Your friend
James Buchanan

Mrs. Robert Walsh

Note: Two letters of introduction which did not pass through the mails from James Buchanan introducing his nephew J. Buchanan Henry. The first was addressed to Cornelius Vanderbilt Esquire, New York and the second to Mrs. Robert Walsh, 30 bis rue de Rivoli, Paris. It may be noted that in a letter dated 15 February 1868 Mr. Buchanan wrote to Mr. Henry "I fear you were not received very cordially by Mr. Vanderbilt. Still I am pleased that you presented him my letter."

The two above letters copied from the originals by F.A. Henry, American Consulate, Melbourne, Australia, on July 19, 1937.



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Wheatland 14 December 1867

My dear James,

Christmas is now approaching and I presume you will then visit your son at Annapolis. I shall be very glad if you can make it convenient to pay me a visit either in going or returning. It would be very agreeable if Mr. Schell and yourself could visit Wheatland during the holidays. Tell him how happy I should be to see him either with or without you. Perhaps he would be the more inclined to come on account of Mrs. Lane who speaks in glowing terms of his kind attentions during her last visit to New York. They must have had a decided flirtation. I see amongst his other honors, he has been elected a Director in the N.Y.C. R.R.

Harriet and Henrietta Buchanan are now with me, as well as Emily Baker.

I have no local news of any interest to communicate to you.

In addition to the Little Miami & Delaware Coupons, Which I wrote to you in my last, there will be due to me on the 1 January \$300 Penna R.R. Coupons.

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry Esq

Note: Copied from the original by F.A. Henry, at Melbourne, July 21, 1937.



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Copied from the original
by F.A. Henry, Melbourne,
July 22, 1937.

Letter from J.C. Buttre herein referred to
copied on reverse.

Wheatland 7 Feb: 1868.

My dear James,

I have received yours of the 5th Inst. From this it appears that in writing to you last, I mentioned the Hamilton County Bonds instead of the Little Miami. The missing coupons are 8 Miammis due 1 November 1867 \$240, about which I had written you previous to the 1 December and spoken to you when you were last here.

I have received such as letter from Mr. Williams as causes me to think no more for the present of withdrawing my account.

I have received a letter from Mr. Buttre which I send you. What I desire is some copies of the same impression as that hanging up in my office; if they be equally good and distinct. Whether these are what he calls the "Plain impressions" at \$3.00 each or the "India Proofs" at \$5.00 each I do not know. I never saw any of the colored ones. I would thank you to call at his establishment some time when you are perfectly at leisure, there is no hurry, and examine them. I shall certainly purchase several copies of such as I already have. These have always been considered very good.

I have heard nothing from Mrs. Magaw respecting the Murillo affair; though I cannot believe she would suffer Jessie to prosecute it any further. We expect Maria here today.

Henrietta Lois & Miss Hetty send their love.

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry Esq



Copy of letter from J.C. Buttre, Engraver and Publisher, No. 48 Franklin Street, which is referred to in Mr. Buchanan's letter on reverse.

New York, Jan'y 2, 1868.

Dear Sir:

Mr. J. Buchanan Henry requests me to send you a statement of prices & kinds of prints, I have on hand of your likeness. I have of plain impressions __ Published at \$3.00 each about twenty copies, of India Proofs at \$5.00 each, about seventy copies __ Colored at 10, about fifteen copies. If you should desire to order a number of copies I would supply them at one half the rates. The(y) can be sent safely by express, or in any other way selected.

over

I am Yours Respfly
J.C. Buttre

Ex-President
James Buchanan
Lancaster
Penna

Note: Copied from the original by F.A. Henry, Melbourne, Australia, on July 23, 1937.



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Wheatland 15 February 1868.

My dear James,

I have received your favor of yesterday and now enclose, with many thanks, the \$15.00 which you paid for my pictures. They have not yet come to hand; but they will doubtless soon be here.

The little Miami Coupons, so wrote Mr. Williams were placed to my credit on the 10th. I am sorry you have had so much trouble in this affair.

I am much gratified that through the influence of Judge Roosevelt you have been concerned (?) for the Connecticut R.R. Please to remember me to him very kindly and thank him in my name for all his kindness to you.

I fear you were not received very cordially by Mr. Vanderbilt. Still I am pleased that you presented him my letter.

Yours affectionately,
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry Esq

Note: Copied from the original by F.A. Henry, on July 23, 1937, at Melbourne, Australia.



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Wheatland

Aug 22. 1864.

My dear James,

I do not know what you will think of my long silence after your kindness is sending me the jewels to wear. I am sorry to say they came after we had started for B & I delayed writing you until I could tell you they were in my possession. When they came here Miss Hetty did not like to keep anything so valuable in her possession so she transferred them to Mr. Swan. As soon as I heard they had arrived I set to Miss Hetty for them together with some other things. She sent all but the jewels. By that time the time of our stay was uncertain. The rebels were about threatening the Penna RR & I was afraid to risk their being started. So you see, dear James your kind intention was not carried out but I am as grateful to you & appreciate your kind thought as much as if I had enjoyed the use of the jewels. I will take good care of them & will make use of some of them yet. Neither Mr. Schell nor Mrs. Roosevelt got to B as you know. The raid prevented I suppose. Mr S would have come if Uncle had staid but he got tired in two weeks & left us with a friend to return when Uncle Ed went there to preach. We only got home on Friday. I am keeping Harriet talking over things, but she has to go home this week. We had a charming time. I enjoyed myself as much as ever and was greatly benefited, & I trust the improvement may continue. I made a great mistake in not staying longer. It was so nice having Harriet with us. It made me enjoy everything doubly. She made a decided conquest of Mr. Sam Phillips of W-N-A a real nice fellow. She is very indifferent but he is determined to keep it up. The Magrainys (?) were there & all went off to Niagara except Robert whom we left behind. He looked old and miserable when he arrived but improved more than anyone I ever saw. He intended going to Sharon today. P2

Henry Johnston was there & we renewed a great deal of our old acquaintance. On his part I think it was all renewed – what you would think if I did so too? He came away when we did & went with Uncle Ed to Phil'ia; thought perhaps he might go to New York. We bought most of the gay people with us when we came away & separated at different points along the road – so there was nothing but adieux all the time which was very sad. We found Dr. Samson of W—N & his daughter here when we arrived, & you will be glad to hear that Miss Hetty was immersed by him on Saturday evening in the spring. He & his daughter left this morning. He is President of Columbia College & a very agreeable and talented man. Dr. Blake was at B – Mr. Phillips was of his party & he seems to think everything of him. I do hope that Dody is strong again. How long with you keep him at Lake George & then what are they going to do? We are really suffering for rain here. They have had rains all round but none here for 7 weeks. You may imagine the condition of things. It was dry when we first went to B but afterwards constant showers kept everything lovely. I took your advice at B and had a splendid time. One charm was that one never heard anything of politics, & yet I hear that they have put me in the papers as leading the secession feelings. What ought to be done with such falsifiers? If you see any notice of our trip send it to me. I read nothing at B & wrote nothing – just gave myself up to enjoyment. The mount of exercise I took there & the little sleep I got was marvelous & I was so strong & well. Harriet got fat & rosy the first three weeks but I think she took the water a little too long & was



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not quite so well for a week. I find my zeal for enjoyment is as great as ever. There were enough young men to make thee place pleasant. If you had been there, our little party would have been complete. This new draft is awful & for no good. I still believe and trust you will escape.

Do let me hear from you at once. I am anxious to know about Dody. Tell me your plans & if you saw Henry J. & what you think. Write soon & with many thanks for the jewels (Shall I keep them until you come or return them when you are in N.Y.?)

believe me ever

Yours affectionately

Hhat

Note: Copied from the original by F.A. Henry, Melbourne, July 23, 1937. This is apparently a letter from Miss Harriet Lane to James Buchanan Henry as from its contents, it must have been so. Covering envelope is missing.

