

Nanjemoy, Md.

June 16, 1866

My Dear Friend.

I suppose through Jessie you have heard of my health [Ice ?] I am now in what we ladies call a "Pecht [sic] of trouble," I might say a bushel and you are the only friend I would ask to help me out. You already know of my late losses, which I find are impossible, but to them I am, in a measure reconciled, but my wharf (if finished making the farm worth about 2000 more than it is now) is at present, (for want of funds and the failure and running off of the contractor) in a condition to wash off also causing the 1300 already invested in it to be lost, but to go on with it I have not one cent, to finish it will require several hundred dollars. I therefore want you to loan me, for as long a time as possible six hundred, I giving you my note with interest. I feel it my duty to do all I can to save, what I have worked hard to get for months past. The reason I ask for "as long a time as possible," is, that out of our pay, I may each month save something so to be able to meet the note when due – After the contractor ran off (he finding the money due him from me, would not near pay his expenses, I took the funds in hand (due him had he finished) and since I saw you have worked hard to carry on the work, but find to day [sic] I am out of funds, and the wharf not near finished. So I write to you at once, hoping you may be able to help me. Can you do so? Please write me at once, as each tide makes a perceptible draw back upon a dirt wharf unfinished. It seems as though my troubles would never end. I heard of you to day [sic] through Jessie, she is delighted with her visit. Capt Magaw is still quite sick. I am too much annoyed at this time to write any thing [sic] but a business letter. I wish it was so I could see you and have a good talk. I much prefer it to writing. Accept much love.

From [Trans?], affectionally

M. Magaw

Hon

James Buchanan.

[On back of letter] 16 June '66. Margaret Magaw

19 June answd & sent her a check on the Chemical Bank, N. Y. for \$600.00

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