

Washington 4 November 1847

My dear Madam,

I have received your favor of yesterday & hasten to give it an answer.

To achieve a Lieutenancy for George is impossible. The President has never in a single instance departed from the rule which he established some months ago, to fill all the vacancies which might occur in the army by the appointment of soldiers & volunteers who have undergone the perils & privations of the Mexican Campaign. The very strongest cases have been presented; but he has never made an exception.

I think George's prospects for a clerkship are not much better, from the fact that two of your sons already hold appointments under the Government. I have stood by these sons, through good and evil report, in opposition to enemies in Pennsylvania: & I rejoice most heartily that Andrew's gallant conduct has justified all the pains which I took to procure his appointment. But, under existing circumstances I know that it would be vain to urge the appointment of George as a clerk upon any of the other Departments of the Government. In any one office, there are but thirteen or fourteen clerkships & these are of a peculiar character. Besides, no vacancy is contemplated.

With every inclination, therefore, to serve you which one of your best friends can feel, I regret that I can give you no encouragement.

From your friend  
very respectfully  
James Buchanan

Mrs. Sarah H. Porter.

