

FROM THE BUCHANAN PAPERS OWNED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, TYPIST UNKNOWN

LETTERS FROM JAMES BUCHANAN TO JAMES BUCHANAN HENRY

Washington, October 12, 1847  
Wheatland, August 17, 1849  
Wheatland, March 7, 1850  
London, September 15, 1853  
London, February 2, 1855  
London, March 2, 1855  
London, July 27, 1855  
Paris, March 24, 1856  
Wheatland, June 13, 1862  
Wheatland, August 23, 1863  
Wheatland, March 1, 1864  
Wheatland, March 19, 1864  
Wheatland, May 31, 1864  
Wheatland, March 6, 1865  
Wheatland, January 24, 1866  
Wheatland, August 24, 1866  
Wheatland, September 13, 1866  
Wheatland, February 5, 1867  
Wheatland, June 10, 1867  
Wheatland, July 25, 1867  
Wheatland, September 16, 1867

Power of Attorney, August 13, 1861



LancasterHistory

Washington 12 October 1847.

Dear James,

I have called on Doctor Gunnell this morning who says he will attend you at any time to day or tomorrow that you may call. He lives near the State Department and Mr. Bartle or myself will accompany you to his house. I shall not again employ Mr. Humphreys. Doctor Gunnell is my own Dentist.

Could you not come out to the Doctor on one of the afternoons in the week when you are not engaged in your studies?

Yours affectionately  
James Buchanan

Mr. James B. Henry,  
Georgetown College.

Wheatland 17 August 1849.

My dear James,

Yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> Instant went first to the Bedford Springs and was returned to this place. I left the Springs on the 28 ultimo and passed a few days at Mercersburg and in its vicinity on my way home. There were many inquiries after you there, to all of which I answered that although you had made but poor progress in your education considering your opportunities; yet that you now gave promise of doing much better. I trust you may be able to enter the Sophomore Class at Princeton. Should you fail in this, I shall be grievously disappointed. Indeed I should then nearly abandon all hopes of your doing any good in any of the learned professions.

I do not wish you to have any plugs put in your teeth by any dentist at West Chester. After your vacation, when we go on to Princeton, I can get Dr. Gardette to plug your teeth. Your plugs have already cost so much, that I now wish them to be well done.

Mrs. Greenhow, her three daughters and a nurse have been staying with us for some time: but I believe they will go home next week. Harriet is still here; but seems so anxious to be in Town that probably she may not remain long. Eskridge Lane is still with me. I shall be delighted to see you at your vacation should you answer my reasonable expectations; otherwise your presence will afford me no pleasure.

Yours affectionately,

James Buchanan

Mr. James B. Yates  
At Bolmar's  
West Chester,  
Pennsylvania.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland 7 March 1850

My dear James,

Your favor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instant reached me here on the evening before last via Washington. I have now been at home a fortnight.

I am pleased that Mr. Mackan has procured for you the "Dictionnaire Universal." I hope you may make good use of it.

You will not forget to bring the dog home with you which Mr. Bolmar has been so kind as to give me.

We have very little news here which would interest you. Harriet is still in Philadelphia. James goes regularly to school to Mr. Muhlenberg & is a very industrious student. Eskridge is in his Uncle's store where he intends to remain. "Smokes" is still here.

I called to see Miss Dow, your Sweetheart, when in Washington & she sent her regards to you. I fear she will not wait, unless you should think proper to marry whilst you are a Sophomore.

The Pleasontons spoke very kindly of you, always predicting that you would yet be something which I hope may be verified. Clem reproached herself for not having written to you.

With my kind respects for Mr. Bolmar, I remain

Yours affectionately,

James Buchanan

Mr. James B. Henry,  
At Bolmar's  
West Chester,  
Pennsylvania.



LancasterHistory

Clarendon Hotel, London, 15 September 1853

My dear James,

I have received your kind & acceptable letter to day. I do not recollect the date, having left it at the Legation; & my whole time tomorrow will be occupied with my Dispatches for Saturday's Steamer.

I am glad you are still pleased with your studies & your preceptor. You must ever recollect that there is no royal road to honorable distinction & usefulness in our Country. Diligence & application to your studies are essentially necessary to your success in life. May Heaven inspire you with energy & resolution to do your duty to yourself at this important period of your life!

London is extremely dull at present, so far as fashionable society is concerned. The fashionables are all at their Country Seats or on the Continent where they will remain until the meeting of Parliament in February. The fashionable season here commences about the first of March & ends in the beginning of August, - so that I shall have a long respite which is highly agreeable. We have a constant stream of Americans, however, passing to & returning from Paris & the Continent. We see most of them at the Legation on account of their passports. I observe that those returning home are nearly all glad to get back to their Country. They remain but a little while in London, on account of the enormous expense here & the superior attractions of Paris.

Colonel Sickles, the Secretary of Legation is a talented, agreeable & gentlemanly man & I am much pleased with Mr. Welsh. Mr. Lawrence, the unpaid attaché is agreeable & industrious, & upon the whole I think there is no Legation in London superior to my own. Besides, the servant I picked up in New York is all I could desire, should he continue to be as good as he has been.

I have not yet, however, obtained a furnished house & find this very difficult. There are many to let, but it is hard to find one in a suitable situation for the Legation without paying an enormous price amounting to nearly half my salary. I shall not feel at home until I am in my own house.

I have scarcely yet seen any of the Lions, having been constantly occupied at the Legation. On Saturday, however, I go to Hampton Court to visit Ladies Wellesley & Stafford & dine with them. This palace was built by Cardinal Wolsey & is full of historical paintings & associations. It is about fifteen miles from London.

On Wednesday last, Mr. Peabody, the great & rich American Banker gave me a magnificent dinner at the Star & Garter Hotel in Richmond. There were about forty Americans present, some of whom, both gentlemen & ladies, were very agreeable. They were all on their travels. It was highly gratifying to me to meet so many of my countrymen; & the .....

..... Mr. Ingersoll has treated me with the utmost kindness as well as his charming niece Miss Wilcox. They are now in Paris; but will return home by the Steamer of the 5<sup>th</sup> October. You must call & see Mr. Ingersoll & make yourself known to him. I shall speak to him about you on his return from Paris & prepare him for your call.

I wish you to give my love to Miss Lily & remember me very kindly to her father. Remember me, also, affectionately to Mr. & Mrs. Plett, Mr. & Mrs. Van Dyke & Miss Mary & Louise, Mr. & Mrs. Tyler, Mr. & Mrs. M'Kibbin. Tell young Mr. M'Kibbin that I feel greatly



indebted to him for his cigars which I have enjoyed very much. I entirely approve of your boarding in a respectable French family & thus enabling yourself to speak the French language fluently & correctly.

Give my kindest respects to Mr. and Mrs. Cadwalader & also to Pierce Butler, should you chance to meet him, - also to Col. Martin, Mr. Westcott & .....

(Balance of letter cut off)



U.S. Legation,  
London, 2 February 1855.

My dear James,

How rejoiced I was to learn from your own letter as well as from Miss Hetty's of a subsequent date that you had recovered your health! The air of Wheatland doubtless contributed to this happy result. There you shall ever find a hearty welcome during my life: & I expect, God willing, to return to it in October.

I am rejoiced that you found such kind attention from your Uncle & Aunt during your illness. There is an old proverb that "blood is thicker than water," & your Uncle is an excellent man whose conduct is guided by moral principle & a high sense of religious duty. You ought always to treat him with marked respect & grateful Kindness.

I owe you many thanks for the local information you gave me concerning Lancaster County. Should you have an opportunity, I hope you will remember me most kindly to the late Miss Theodora, now Mrs. I know not what.

I scarcely know why, but when a student I liked Coke upon Littleton & derived great advantage from it. His Lordship was both obscure & involved & set all method at defiance. He was an unamiable & hard hearted man, & I entertain but little respect for his memory. I am well acquainted with the present Lord Chancellor, Lord Chief Justice & Chief Baron. Judging from their powers of conversation, I should not think they were superior, if equal to our first class Judges & Lawyers. "'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view.'" Their best Speakers in Parliament, as debaters, are not equal to our own. We have reason to respect ourselves, when compared with the other people of other nations; & yet we boast too much.

I hope you do not think of a trip to Europe until after your admission. Nothing ought to distract your attention from your studies at the present period. When do you expect to be admitted?

I hope your Cincinnatti [sic] investment may prove advantageous & that you received your interest in due time.

The Surplus which you expect to have in the Spring [sic], as it will not amount to much, I would advise you to invest in some very secure Bank Stock in Philadelphia where you might transact your business. The possession of such stock may prove advantageous to a young man in a variety of ways.

Harriet has been absent for more than a month visiting friends in Lancashire; but I expect her home this evening. She enjoys herself very much; & yet I do not believe she is in love with England. Certainly her uncle is not & shall rejoice to return to his own happy land.

My health is as usual. Please to remember me kindly to Mr. Cadwalader, Mr. & Mrs. Plett & all other friends & believe me always to be yours affectionately

James Buchanan

Mr. J. Buchanan Henry,  
Care of Henry & Scharff,  
14 Wall St.,  
New York.



LancasterHistory

Legation of the United States,  
London 2 March 1855.

My dear James,

I have received & hasten to answer your favor of the 6<sup>th</sup> ultimo. I am most happy to learn that your health has been restored & trust you may employ the necessary precautions to prevent a return of your disease.

I wish to always to be convinced of the deep interest which I feel in your welfare, & of my willingness to promote it in any manner in my power.

In my opinion you ought not for the present to trouble yourself with speculations in California or elsewhere. Although you might be acquiring information generally on this subject, yet the time has not arrived for your decision. The study of the Statute Laws of Pennsylvania & the decisions ..... where you may settle: & I would strongly advise you to pursue the very same course of study that you would, had you a fixed purpose to remain in Pennsylvania. You may rest assured that you will never repent this, no matter where your lot may be cast, although I hope this may be in your Native State. God willing, I shall return home in October & then we can consult fully on this matter. In the mean time, let your motto be “sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” The greatest men who have lived & especially George Washington never decided upon important questions, until the hour for decision had arrived, & then having determined they pursued their course with energetic perseverance. This delay, for the reason, that up till the moment of action, they might receive information which .....

James B. Henry, Esquire,  
84, West 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York.



Legation of The United States  
London 27 July 1855

My dear James,

By some unaccountable accident I have mislaid your last letter, though I was most happy to receive it as I always am to hear from you. As I expect to be at home, with the blessing of Providence, before your admission to the bar, we can then consult together in regard to your future movements, your visit to Europe included. Of course I shall advise you to nothing without having your own permanent welfare exclusively in view.

I can really give you very little information which would be interesting to you. The news of the war you receive by every Steamer, & I see it is extensively republished throughout the United States. The fashionable season is now "on its last legs" & I am heartily glad of it; though Harriet seems to thrive upon fashionable dissipation.

I am always giving you advice which may not always be agreeable. What I am about to say is not elicited by your past conduct but is only intended as a warning. I have recently had occasion to observe the unhappy effects upon an otherwise respectable young man of a departure from the truth. There is no one principle of greater importance to any man, both in regard to his welfare in this world & his hopes in the world to come than a sacred regard for truth. The first departures from it generally consist in "white lies," calculated to excuse some omission. These answer the purpose so well that it encourages the individual to proceed until at last he is detected in a positive falsehood, as in the case to which I refer, & then his character is blasted forever. I would advise you, with all my heart, never to tell "a fib," however comparatively innocent may be its character. Obedience to principles is the true rule in this case both for a Christian & a gentleman. I again repeat that these remarks are merely cautionary & I most ardently hope & believe they will never be applicable to you in the slightest degree.

I look forward with unmixed pleasure to the termination of my connection with this..... the 30<sup>th</sup> September next. Still I shall ever gratefully remember the attention & kindness I have received in this Country. Although proceeding from the same origin, the English are not so sprightly & agreeable a people as the American, & do not possess the same powers of conversation. They are not so quick of apprehension nor so enterprising as our people. Society here is of a much more formal grave & reserved character than in our Country. Their dinners are magnificent; but the pleasure which you enjoy mainly depends upon the character & powers of conversation of the person on your right & left at table. Conversation rarely becomes general as with us. There is little or nothing of what we call sociability in society. There is no such thing, even among relations, as "dropping in" of an evening & thus passing an agreeable hour. On the whole in every particular I shall go home even better satisfied with my country than when I left it. They have been very kind to me in their own manner. Please to remember me most kindly to Mr. & Mrs. Plett & to Mr. Cadwalader. Harriet sends her love to you. You are often the subject of kind conversation between us.

Yours affectionately  
(Signature cut out)

Mr. James B. Henry.



LancasterHistory



U.S. Legation,  
Paris 24 March 1856.

My dear James,

I came to this City on Friday last & I am staying with Judge Mason. It is my purpose, Deo Volente, to leave for the Hague on a visit to Mr. Belmont on Wednesday & after passing a few days there & at Brussels to return to Paris & embark on the Arago at Havre on the 9<sup>th</sup> April.

I have spoken to Mr. Dallas who will present you according to your request. I have, also, made an arrangement with Baring Brothers & Co., through Mr. Thomas Baring, to advance you £100, should you require it.

Mr. Moran will remain with Mr. Dallas for a month. He says he is too poor to keep him longer.

I know of no particular news from home which would interest you. The Penna. State Convention has met & been unanimous much to the gratification of my friends. Harriet's letter which I enclose may give you some local information. I write in great haste. Mr. Mason & his family will, I have no doubt be very kind to you on your arrival in Paris.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

Jas. B. Henry, Esq.

P.S. Yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> was received two or three days before I left London.



Wheatland, 13 June, 1862

My dear James,

I have received yours of yesterday. The portrait of the Prince was received here on yesterday & is now standing in the large Dining room. It is quite a splendid painting. It came without charge.

I enclose several communications for Harriet. The British Theatricals was franked to her by Montgomery Blair. There is a small package for her postmarked at Boston which from "the feel" contains some article of dress. This I do not send.

Brother Edward left here this morning after an agreeable visit of several days.

I am happy to learn that your business is rapidly increasing. It remains to be seen whether you will have sufficient energy & industry to keep up with it.

I remain yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esqu.  
14 Wall Street,  
New York, N.Y.

P.S. Miss Hetty desires to be affectionately remembered to you & Mrs. H. She will be very glad to pay you a visit but knows not when.



Wheatland, near Lancaster  
23 August 1863.

My dear James,

Most sincerely & deeply do I sympathize in your affliction for the loss of your excellent wife. It is a trying Providence for you; but I trust you will bear it like a man & a Christian. It was a saying of the ancients that those whom the Gods love die young. They were without hope for the future; but the Christian faith & spirit & the Christian life of your wife furnish a certain hope that she is now in bliss with her Redeemer. If you are still in Annapolis I trust you may return home this way. A few days here before again engaging in the duties of your profession might serve to prepare you for them. I need not say you would receive a cordial welcome from all of us.

I passed a fortnight at Bedford very agreeably in the beginning of the month. These Springs are endeared to me by ancient associations. When I visited them first I was one of the youngest; but recently, with a single exception, I found myself the oldest man in the company. I was treated with great kindness & respect; people of Bedford & its vicinity received me with all their former enthusiasm.

Annie Buchanan & her sister Lois left us on Thursday last & we have now no other company.

With my kind regards to Mr. Nicholson & his family I remain your friend & kinsman

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esquire.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland, 1 March 1864

My dear James,

I write to you I may say from a sick room not having been down stairs for near a fortnight nor out of bed for more than three days. I have had another attack of painful & acute rheumatism in the legs which compelled me to lie in bed for more than a week & deprived me of the power of locomotion. Thank God! I have now recovered from the severity of the attack & hope to be in the office tomorrow.

The time has again arrived when we are obliged to trouble you about our Coupons in the Tin Box. On the 1 Feb: 4 N.Y. Central R.R. Coupons - \$140. There will also be due to her on the 1 April 7 Coupons on Penna. R.R. Bonds - \$210. w (c) to save trouble might be cut off now.

To me there was due on the 1 Feb:

Interest on 10 Hudson Riv. R.R. Bonds for which I send a draft ..... \$350.00

Coupons

4 Penna. State Bonds, payable in specie .....	100.00
5 Coupons – N.Y.C.R. Road Bonds .....	175.00
3 “ – Del. & Raritan Canal .....	<u>90.00</u>

In addition to this there will be due to me on 1 April:

30 Coupons – Penna. R. Road Bonds .....	900.00
6 “ Hamilton County Ohio Bonds .....	180.00

You might, also, detach the Coupon from Miss Hetty's Bond, Penna. R.R. w. will be due on 1 April & send it to me. All the others place to my credit in the Chemical Bank.

Miss Lane has not been well for some time. Harriet Buchanan is still here.

The New York Democrats have put “their foot in it.” Nothing better could be expected from a party led by Dean Richmond & August Belmont, etc. These men broke up the party at the Charleston Convention.

Yours affectionately,  
James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esquire,  
14 Wall Street,  
New York.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland, March 19, 1864

My Dear Mr. Henry,

I send this day by Adams Express a Box directed to you Gr. by West St. containing your Father's Likeness and your Mother embroder [embroidered] Picture also a Quilt, Caster and part of a ticker belong [belonging] to your Mother the Quilt is much worren [worn] but it is your own Dear Mother's work and I thought you mite [might] value it. I was not well the day that they w. here but I hope they will carry safely. Your Uncle and Miss Lane are well and wish to be kindly remembered to you the quiet and rest has improved your Uncle very much. Mr. James Lane has lost his little Daughter Patty she was buried this day week she dide [died] with Scarlet Fever. The Almighty dose [does] all things well since the Death of this dear Child there has been a reconciliation [reconciliation] between Mr. B and Mr. Lane our Neighbour Mr. Beir has rented his farm and left the Neighbourhood his good old Mouter is very ill at her Daughters Mrs. Beisman Mrs. Fahnestock is here she desires her kind regards to you and would be delighted to see your little boy please give me love to Dear Mary and kiss Buchanan for me may health and happiness attend you all is the wish of your

Old friend Hetty.

P.S. Please remember me kindly to Mr. Shell.

James B. Henry, Esquire,  
14 Wall Street,  
New York.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland 31 May 1864

My dear James,

I have received your favor of yesterday & shall doubtless in due time receive the Documents which you have sent.

We are all very much gratified with the prospect of seeing you on Saturday Week. Whilst I am warmly attached to Mr. Schell & should be happy to see him at any time; yet as I presume your stay with us will not be long & as I desire to talk with you about domestic matters, it might be well not to press him to accompany you. Still should he propose it there is an end of the question. You will inform us by what train you will arrive so that I may send for you to Lancaster.

In writing to you I had entirely forgotten the Bond of George Sanderson for \$2000. Please to bring it with you as well as any letters you may find in the Tin Box from Baring Brothers & Co.

I observe that the Quick Silver Mining Company has been chartered by Pennsylvania & has its office in New York whilst the Corpus is in California. Has the Company been recognized & upon what terms by the Legislature of California? If not, it will be very much in their power. I do not wish you to answer this question until we have the pleasure of meeting. I already own Eighty Shares of their Stock & should feel inclined to purchase more if satisfied on this point.

I have communicated your message to Harriet & with Miss Hetty she sends her love to you.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan.

J. Buchanan Henry, Esquire,  
14 Wall Street  
New York



LancasterHistory

Wheatland, 6 March 1865.

My dear James,

I duly received your favor of the 6 February; and you had done all things right for which I thank you. I received 5 p. cent in gold as a dividend on the Quick Silver. Can it be possible this proceeded from earnings. I feel uneasy, solely on your account, because of the large amount of this stock you hold. But you are at the fountain head and know better.

The 1 April is now approaching and I shall want several papers out of my tin Box.

1. Bond and Mortgage and two Judgment Bonds on notes of Davis Clemson
2. Bond and Mortgage John Daveler
3. Bond and Mortgage William Flinn
- 4.

You should send these on by ~~Mail~~ or Express should not private opportunity offer, when convenient, before the 1 April.

On that day 1 April, there will be due to me

30 Coupons – Penna. R. Road Bond	\$900.00
6 Coupons – Hamilton County (Ohio)	180.00

Please to remember these.

Miss Lane left here for Washington on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo and arrived there on the next day as she informed us. Since then neither Annie nor myself has heard from her.

I read Mr. Lincoln's second Inaugural on Saturday evening and can truly say, that notwithstanding my political opposition to him, I read it with deep feelings of sorrow.

Please to remember me kindly to Mr. Schell & Judge Roosevelt. Miss Annie & Miss Hetty send their love. The latter is suffering from a very bad cold.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esq.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland, 24 Jan. 1866.

My dear James,

I find I can now send the drafts if you so desire.

~~Enclose~~ Tell Mrs. Johnston I have received letters from Mr. Herbert Saunders & Mr. Cellon containing warm & complimentary felicitations on her marriage. I would write to her myself but have not heard of her return to N. York.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esq.  
14, Wall Street  
New York.



Lancaster**History**



Wheatland, 24 August 1866.

My dear James,

I have received your favor of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Having little or no confidence in Bowie I am very anxious to have the Deed for the property. Mr. Riggs has kindly offered to pay the expenses which I shall refund to him without delay. Of all things I wish to get clear of Bowie & his prevarications. Mrs. Leonard abuses him without stint in a letter addressed to me on the 12<sup>th</sup> July from "Aix-la-Chappel, near Poolsville, Montgomery County Md." The letter ~~which~~ is long & rambling. In it, among many other things she says "Mr. Bowie tells her when he is pressing her: "It is not my wish to disturb you I am only obeying Mr. Buchanan's orders." She then launches forth in savage abuse of Bowie who she says might long ere this have paid the debt had he done his duty, etc. Whether Mr. Bowie told her so or not she must have an idea that I am the party in interest.

Before the Deed is made I must have the records of the Court examined at Rockville to see that I have a good title. I have no copy of the Deed of trust ~~from to~~ nor of its assignment to Bowie to secure the payment of the money advanced by Mr. Riggs. It was dated before the Maryland code existed. By it, Vol: 1. p. 578, the Trustee is bound to give security for the faithful performance of the trust, with other wise provisions.

Whilst at the Bedford Springs I met with Frederick S. Poole Esquire of Poolsville who appeared to be a decent and respectable man very willing to oblige me who describes the property as very much out of repair – ~~with~~ bad fences and but three ~~fields & fences~~ fields on the place. He says the quality of the soil is naturally good; but it is worked out. He had no idea I had any interest in it; and I told him only as I had procured the loan from Mr. Riggs to Leonard & wife I felt ~~mys~~ a great interest that he should not suffer.

I enclose you Bowies advertisement for the Sale, so that if a deed should be made to Mr. Riggs it may conform thereto. I wish this returned. Mr. Bowies answer to Mrs. Riggs "sharp note" may indicate the course which ought to be pursued and I give you full authority to act in the matter.

If a lease is to be made Leonard & his wife ought to be bound up in it to leave the premises as you suggest on the 1 April. She ought to be a party to it in due form with the proper acknowledgement as the property belonged to her.

Mrs. Johnston & Beck Shunk (formerly Black) are now with me.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esq.  
Care of Lombard Odier & Co.  
Geneva, Switzerland.



LancasterHistory

P.S. I find that the original deed of trust from Leonard & wife was to Horatio Trundle, dated in February 1857. I find in looking over my papers I wrote to Leonard on the 17 June 1863, and from this letter he might have inferred I had an interest in the matter; but Mrs. Leonard in her long letter does not refer to it. I certainly never gave any orders of any kind to Mr. Bowie.



Wheatland, 13 September '66.

My dear James,

I have received your favor of the 11<sup>th</sup> and am gratified with the course you have pursued towards Bowie & shall be very glad to get clear of him. I shall not altogether believe in this however, until I hear the deed has been placed upon record. It is not my wish to turn Mr. & Mrs. Leonard out of possession at present provided they will take a Lease; but this should be carefully drawn. I would not trust Bowie to do it. The title seems to be good.

I enclose you a check for \$73.32, your expenses & \$50 for a fee. The latter I shall increase when you shall have completed the affair. I date it on the 2 October because my deposit is now low in the Chemical Bank. It will be increased after you shall have deposited the 6 Coupons of Hamilton County Bonds and the 30 of Penna. R.R. Bonds.

Harriet has been here for some weeks & Mrs. Johnston left here yesterday after a visit of a week. I think she is very happy; and believe she is in the condition that married ladies love to be in. My own health is as usual.

I very much fear that the defection of Mr. Johnston from his party will not greatly add to the Democrats strength in this State. Still ~~we~~ our friends entertain good hopes of carrying this State & relying on the information of others. I think these are well founded. Harriet & Miss Hetty send their love to you. Remember me kindly to the Judge & Mr. Schell.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esq.  
240 Broadway  
New York.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland, 5 February 1867.

My dear James,

I have received your favor of the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo and am well satisfied that Mr. Williams should apply for the writ of possession and shall be much obliged to you if you will give him his instructions in the name of Mr. Riggs. I received a letter from Dr. Blake of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst. In which he states that "Mrs. Leonard died with the last two or three weeks of pneumonia on the farm near Poolesville. She leaves but one child, Miss Peter by her first husband. I believe she never had any children by Mr. Leonard. I hear he is very poor." This is doubtless true and he is a poor creature. I would not wish to turn him out of possession at the present moment. Besides, who would take the possession for Mr. Riggs? It would not do to leave the place a waste. Could you not write to Mr. Williams? Of course I shall pay him for his services. He could tell all about Mr. Poole. I have no doubt Mr. Riggs is sick & tired of the whole affair.

There was due to me on the 1<sup>st</sup> Penna. State Loan \$100., New York Central R.R. \$175., Delaware & Raritan \$90. You need not, however, cut these coupons off, until shortly before the 1<sup>st</sup> April, when there will be Hamilton County Bonds \$180 and Penna. Rail Road \$900.

I am truly sorry you have lost the Tyler will case and could have wished you had argued it yourself before the Court of Appeals. I think you ought not to lose any good opportunity of appearing as a lawyer before the public.

Mr. Shunk's health is not good & is very variable. Besides, his head is now full of the notion of connecting himself with a Daily Newspaper in Philadelphia. His progress has not been so rapid as I could have desired through he is abundantly capable. His little wife is a charming person. I have had the rheumatism for a week; but is has now nearly passed away.

Miss Hetty desires to be kindly remembered.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esquire,  
240, Wall Street  
New York.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland, 10 June 1867.

My dear James,

Your letter from Annapolis encourages me to hope that you will soon be with us. I need not assure you a cordial welcome. I have plenty of excellent claret & can furnish you as much of this medicine as your heart can desire.

As you will probably not be in New York on the 1 July I would thank you to cut off the Coupons from the following:

2 May	Little Miami .....	\$240
1 June	Del. & Raritan .....	120
1 July	Penna. R.R. Bonds .....	300

If you will be in New York on the 1 July I do not wish this to be done.

Annie & Alice Buchanan are now here. How long they will remain I do not know.

Miss Hetty is still on the Crutch. She walks now but with one.

If you will inform me by what car you will reach Lancaster I shall send for you.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esq.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland, 25 July 1867.

My dear James,

As I cannot visit Long Branch before you go to Lake George, if I should leave home at all, I shall go for a few days to Cape May. My good friend, Mr. Baker has offered to accompany me & remain with me there; and this is a strong inducement.

William Buchanan is now here & is nursed by Miss Annie. It is a melancholy spectacle to see a youth of his age in a consumption without the least idea that he is suffering under this incurable disease. He is very weak under the influence of this warm weather.

When Harriet returns from the Bedford Springs I believe it is her intention to pass the months of August and September at Wheatland.

I cannot express to you how much pleasure your late visit afforded me. I should be glad it could be often repeated.

The following Coupons will be due me the 1 August:

Penna. State Loan	\$100
New Y. Gen. R.R. Loan	175
Del. & Raritan	90

I fear I give the ~~Central~~ Chemical Bank much trouble with little profit and I fear they think so. I am quite willing that my tin box should be opened but twice in the year.

I should like very much to see your son; but I know not how this can be accomplished.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esq.  
33, Wall Street  
New York.



LancasterHistory

Wheatland, near Lancaster  
16 September 1867.

My dear James,

I have received yours of the 14<sup>th</sup>, with the gin which I think very good. Benton's book has not yet come to hand, nor the knife sharpener.

A letter came here from Mr. Shunk to you dated on the 7<sup>th</sup> which I took the liberty of opening. In this he says: "On overhauling my papers of which there is a large & confused mass, I discovered that a material part of those which I need to make the memoranda Mr. Buchanan desires, are among a lot which I left in the safe of a friend in Philadelphia during the last spring when compelled (to accompany Mrs. Shunk) to shift my baggage from a large trunk to a smaller one. I wrote at once for these & expect them by every express. As soon as they come I will lose no time in extracting from them what I want & forwarding to Mr. Buchanan whatever I conceive will be useful to him."

Since the date of this letter I have heard nothing of or from Mr. Shunk. Mr. Reed is to be here on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to commence our work. I shall now leave this Shunk affair to him.

Mr. Johnston left here this morning for Baltimore. Mrs. J. & the baby are both well.

I am improving in strength every day and the Doctor has ceased to prescribe any medicine for me except a bitter for my stomach. Still I do not think the obstruction is entirely removed, yet I have a fair prospect, with the blessing of Almighty God, of a final recovery.

I need not say that we shall, at all times be most happy to see Mr. Schell.

I enclose a check for \$25 w.(c) will pay for the gin, the Book & a knife grinder.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

J. Buchanan Henry, Esq.



LancasterHistory

Know all men by these Presents that I James Buchanan, do by these Presents nominate, constitute & appoint Messrs William & John O'Brien of the City of New York my true & lawful Attornies for me & in my name & stead to transfer on the books of the Second Auditor of Virginia at Richmond or in any other lawful manner a certificate No. 897 for Eleven Thousand dollars owned by me & dated on the 8 February 1850, of "Stock created in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia passed on the first day of March 1847 entitled 'An Act to provide for the completion of the James River & Kanawha Canal from Tidewater at Richmond to the Town of Buchanan & for other purposes;" & generally to do & perform any & every lawful act & thing necessary to effect the same & to make sale of the said Certificate, & also with full power of substitution & revocation. And I hereby ratify & confirm whatever my said Attornies or their Substitute or Substitutes may lawfully do in the premises.

Given under my hand & seal in the City of Lancaster & State of Pennsylvania this thirteenth day of August, 1861.

James Buchanan      (seal)

Executed in presence of  
J.B. Kaufman  
C.B. Kaufman

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City of Lancaster  
State of Pennsylvania.

Be it known that on the thirteenth day of August A.D. One Thousand Eight Hundred & Sixty one before me the subscriber a Notary Public and for the said City duly commissioned & qualified & residing within the said City of Lancaster personally came James Buchanan the same being well known to me as the party constituent who executed the within Power of Attorney to Messrs. William & John O'Brien & acknowledged the same to be his Act & Deed.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed my notarial Seal at the City of Lancaster the day & year first written on this acknowledgement.

J.B. Kaufman  
Notary Public



LancasterHistory



LETTERS TO THE REVEREND ROBERT HENRY

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Washington, December 11, 1837

Washington, March 12, 1838

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Lancaster**History**

Washington 11 December 1837.

My dear Sir,

I have received yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant enclosing fifty dollars from Dr. Speer for which I thank you. I hope he may now exert himself and at least discharge the interest during this winter. There were ten years' interest due on the 1 October last, amounting to \$84. If he will pay me the principal \$140, on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April next, I will accept it in full satisfaction. I wish to be done with it.

I am fixed at comfortable quarters, with agreeable companions, but do not anticipate a very agreeable session. The political waves will probably run high and I am getting tired of the storm.

Although we lost New York at the last election; yet those of our party who have the best opportunities of judging express a confident hope that the next election will show a different result. It is certain that if clouds of darkness rest upon our prospects in the North, hope is beaming upon us from the sunny clime of the South. The old Republican party of that portion of the Union are rallying and re-uniting in favor of the present administration.

James Lane had returned to Lancaster a few days before I left and apparently in good health.

Edward and his family were well.

I enclose you an advertisement which has been sent to me. Perhaps it might be useful to Elisabeth. Would it not be well for you to inquire of Dr. Miller whether it would be likely to prove serviceable? I would not use these patent medicines without first ascertaining that they can do no harm. Harriett might write to the Doctor.

Harriett's last letter gave me much pleasure. Give my kindest love to her and to Elisabeth and believe me to be

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

P.S. I have endeavored to impress on Harriett that her health depended upon exercise. I entertain no doubt of it.

Rev. Robert Henry,  
Greensburg,  
Westmoreland County,  
Pennsylvania.



LancasterHistory

Washington 12 March 1838.

My dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst, enclosing me \$140. I am glad my demand against Doctor Speer has been settled even at the sacrifice which I have made and thank you for your trouble.

We have nothing new here.

Please to give me best love to Harriett and believe me ever to be sincerely and affectionately

Your friend

James Buchanan

Rev: Robert Henry,  
Greensburg  
Westmoreland County  
Pennsylvania.



LancasterHistory

LETTER FROM JAMES BUCHANAN

TO

MRS. ELISABETH BUCHANAN

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St. Petersburg,      July 3, 1833

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Lancaster**History**

St. Petersburg 3 July 1833.

My dear Mother,

I can now write to you with some degree of certainty in relation to my return to my native land. With God's blessing I hope to be able to leave St. Petersburg in the beginning of the next month, in consistency with the duty which I owe my country. By that time I feel almost confident I shall have finished all my public business. I shall spend a few months afterwards in visiting some parts of Europe, and hope to reach the United States the last of November or beginning of December. You may rest assured that I shall then lose no time in paying you a visit; when I trust in Heaven you will still be in the enjoyment of your usual health. Inclination and duty, - affection and gratitude all render you the first object of my affections.

I returned, the beginning of the last week, from an excursion to Moscow, with which I was very much gratified. It is a most picturesque and beautiful city. Its numerous churches surmounted by cupolas of every form and of every color give it a romantic and an Asiatic appearance. Many of these are gilt and when the rays of the sun are reflected from them the eye is dazzled with their splendor. I also visited the celebrated monastery of the Trinity at the distance of 40 miles from Moscow. On the road, I think we must have seen 10,000 pilgrims going ~~to worship at~~ or returning from the Shrine of St. Sierge [Sergius] the Tutelary saint of the place. The nine tenths of them were women. In ancient times the Sovereigns of Russia went on foot from Moscow to this monastery to pay their devotions. The haughty and voluptuous [voluptuous] Catherine, who was entirely destitute of religion, was the last of them who performed such a pilgrimage. But I shall proceed no further. ~~Or might~~ I shall have much to tell you upon my return. I may add that the Archimandrite or Abbot of the monastery, whose countenance is the very picture of benevolence, kissed me affectionately on taking leave, according to the custom of this country, and presented me with a consecrated picture of St. Sierge. This was the only occasion since my arrival in Russia when I have submitted to the operation of being kissed by a man.

My health, thank God, continues good. Indeed, this climate, severe and bad as it is seems to agree with me perfectly. Literally speaking, we have at present no night. The twilight of the evening does not entirely cease before that of the morning commences.

I intend tomorrow to celebrate the 4 July by giving a dinner to all the respectable Americans who are now in St. Petersburg. In the summer we have a number of supercargoes and masters of vessels who come here for the purposes of trade; but there is only one resident American merchant in the City. He and his family however are very pious and very well informed. His name is Ropes. In conjunction with some of the English of the same character, they have obtained the express permission of the Emperor to build a British and American Congregational Chapel. At his house I meet a clergyman by the name of Swan, an able and interesting man, who is a missionary among the Pagans of Siberia, under the protection of the Russian Government, and who is now engaged in translating the Scriptures into their barbarous language. It is impossible not to feel a high degree of respect for a scholar and a gentleman, who for the love of God and the good of his fellow men thus consents to become a voluntary exile in Siberia.



On Saturday last we had by the papers news from New York up till the 1 June; but no letters. By a letter received some time since from Lancaster I heard of Edward's marriage, but have learned nothing of it from himself. This is not remarkable as many of my letters have miscarried, but how I am at a loss to conjecture.

Please give me love to Harriett and Elisabeth. Remember me affectionately to Mr. Henry and believe me ever to be your grateful and affectionate son

James Buchanan

Mrs. Elisabeth Buchanan  
Care of the Rev: Mr. Henry  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania.



LancasterHistory

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POEM BY

MRS. ELISABETH BUCHANAN

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Lancaster**History**

## THE FIRESIDE

Dear Chloe while the busy crowd  
the vain the wealthy and the proud  
in follies maze advance  
tho singularity and pride  
be called our choice we'll step aside  
nor join the giddy Dance.

From the gay world we'll oft retire  
to our own family and fire  
Where love our hours employs  
No noisy neighbours enters here  
No intermeddling strangers near  
to spoil our heartfelt joys.

if solid happiness we prize  
Within our breast this Jewel lies  
and they are fools who roam  
the world has nothing to bestow  
from our own selves our Joys must flow  
and that dear hub our home.

of rest was Noah's dove Bereft  
When with impatient wing she left  
that safe retreat the ark  
giving her vain excursion o'er  
the Disappointed bird once more  
explored the sacred bark.

though fools spurn Hymens gentle power  
We who improve his golden hour  
By sweet experience know  
that marriage rightly understood  
gives to the tender and the good  
A paradise Below.

our babes shall richest comforts bring  
if tutored right they'll prove a spring  
Whence pleasures ever Rise  
we'll form their minds with studious care  
To all that's manly good and fair  
And train them for the skies.





While they our wisest hours engage  
they'll joy our youth support our age  
and crown our hoary hairs  
they'll grow in virtue every day  
and thus our fondest loves repay  
and recompence [sic] our cares.

No borrowed Joys they're all our own  
While to the world we live unknown  
Or by the world forgot  
Monarchs we envy not your state  
We look with pity on the great  
and bless our humbler lot.

our portion is not large indeed  
but then how little do we need  
for nature's calls are few  
in this the art of living lies  
To want no more than may suffice  
And make that little do.

We'll therefore relish with content  
Whate'er kind providence has sent  
Nor aim beyond our power  
for if our stock be very small  
tis prudence to enjoy it all  
Nor lose the present hour.

To be resigned when ills betide  
patient when favours are denyd  
and pleased with favours given  
dear Chloe this is wisdoms part  
this is that incence [sic] of the heart  
Whose fragrance smells to heaven.

We'll ask no long protracted treats  
Since winter life is seldom sweet  
but when our feast is oer  
grateful from table we'll arise  
Nor grudge our sons with envious eyes  
the reliecks [sic] of our store.



thus hand in hand thro life we'll go  
its checquerd paths of joy and woe  
with cautious steps we'll tread  
Quilt its vain scenes without a tear  
Without a trouble or a fear  
And mingle with the dead.

While Conscience like a faithful friend  
Shall thro the gloomy vale attend  
and cheer our dying breath  
Shall when all other comforts cease  
Like it kind angell [sic] whisper peace  
And smooth the bed of Death.

Wrote by me

E.B.



LETTERS TO MRS. HARRIET BUCHANAN HENRY

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St. Petersburg,	August 3/15	1832
St. Petersburg,	January 14/16	1833
Lancaster,	November 4,	1837
Lancaster (?),	April 2,	1839
Lancaster,	October 26,	1839
Lancaster,	November 11,	1839
-----	May	--
-----	September	-- (fragment)

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St. Petersburg 3/15 August 1832.

My dear Sister,

I received a letter from brother Edward on the 19 July N.S. which gave me the first information of your marriage. Since then I have been expecting to hear from you by every post, but no letter has yet arrived.

May Heaven smile upon your union; and may the gloomy circumstances which attended your nuptials be the precursors of many years of domestic happiness!

I confess I did not feel very anxious that you ever should be married. This indifference was no doubt partly selfish. I had often indulged the hope that we might spend the evening of our days together in my family; but Providence has otherwise directed. I trust you may make as good a wife as you have been a daughter and a sister. In that event your husband will be a happy man.

My situation in this country is as agreeable as I ought to have expected; still the language, the manners, the political institutions and the religion of these people are so entirely opposite to our own, that I shall never be as happy as I would be in our own highly favored land. I am nevertheless content: and feel animated by the hope that during my sojourn, I shall be enabled to render some service to my country. My reception has been kind: and I have every reason to believe I am acceptable as a minister to this Government. The circumstance will enable me to pass my time both more usefully and agreeably.

I have been forcibly struck since my arrival here with the general profanation of the Lord's day particularly in the afternoon. This is not confined to the members of the Greek Church; but extends to English Episcopalians and French and German Lutherans and Calvinists. Now although I do not believe in a Pharisaical observance of Sunday, and am inclined to think it was the practise [sic] of the early Christians to devote a part of it to the social meetings of families and to rest and innocent recreation after labor; yet I have been shocked at the purposes to which it is here applied. It is the day for giving great dinners which a man in a public station must attend or suffer the interests of his country to be injured. After rising from the table cards or dancing or both are uniformly introduced. Whilst these amusements are proceeding it is not at all uncommon for persons to discuss the merits of the preacher whom they had heard in the morning. Indeed the profanation of the Lord's day is so universal throughout the Continent of Europe that the people are not conscious of committing any impropriety whilst indulging in these amusements. The Emperor and Empress whose private characters are without reproach and whose example has done something to improve the morals of their Court often have balls at their palaces on Sunday evening. I need not say to you that I have determined never under any circumstances to indulge either in dancing or card playing upon such occasions. On the contrary, I entertain a hope that my abode in this land of strangers will increase rather than diminish my religious feelings. I am sorry they are not much stronger. The goodness of God follows me continually, and I detest my own ingratitude.

My domestic arrangements are comfortable. I have taken a very good house on the banks of the Neva which commands a fine prospect of that noble river and of the vessels entering this beautiful and splendid city. Mr. Clay the Secretary of Legation and Mr. Barry are members of my family. We constitute a small but pleasant society within ourselves. The American Consul Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Munroe, a young gentleman of Washington City, who is an aid-de-camp of



the Emperor often dine with us: and during the summer we see many American Captains of Vessels and Supercargoes. With some economy, I hope to be able to live upon my salary, and that is more than I expected when I left the United States.

I feel very anxious to hear from poor George. The last I heard from him was by the letter from Edward. I fear we cannot indulge more hope of his final recovery. May he be prepared for death as well as for life, and whether living or dying may he be the Lord's.

The season here has been unusually cool and wet. Indeed, we have had but few summer days. It has however been healthy and I am inclined to believe that this climate will be the means of relieving me from bilious attacks. We have heard that the cholera has been making dreadful ravages in Canada but have not learned that it has reached the United States, and I hope we never shall. We have been entirely exempt from it in St. Petersburg; thought it has been prevailing in many of the cities of Europe.

Please to present my kindest respects to Mr. Henry. Give me love to Elisabeth and any members of our family whom you may see. Do not neglect to write to me and believe me to be ever your affectionate brother.

James Buchanan

Mrs. Harriett Henry  
Care of the Rev. Mr. Henry  
Greensburg  
Westmoreland County  
Pennsylvania.



LancasterHistory

14 or 26<sup>th</sup> N.S.  
St. Petersburg 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1833.

My dear Sister,

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 20 October last, on the 24 December, N.S. [N.S. refers to “new style,” or European, or Gregorian calendar]. It was longer than usual on the passage. Thus, I have at length received from yourself the information that you have been married since my departure from the country. Without any commentary upon what appears to me to be a strange neglect, considering all the circumstances, I shall endeavor to make the best excuses for you in my power. I felt towards you both as a father and as a brother, and I did expect that both inclination and duty would have prompted you to inform me sooner of the most important event which can occur in the life of a woman. Do not however for a moment suppose I am offended: I am only disappointed.

Since the conclusion of the Treaty I have had much more leisure; and my life glides on rather pleasantly than otherwise. I have experienced much kindness in this country, and have made friends among this strange people from whom it will cost me a pang to part. Still my affections for my own country have become stronger by absence, and I feel I can be no where so happy as in my native land.

The horrors of a Russian winter exist chiefly in the imagination of those who enjoy a more genial climate. I can say with truth, that I have not yet experienced inconvenience from the cold. On the contrary, I am disposed to believe, they suffer as little from this cause as we do in Pennsylvania. Their provision against it is admirable. The extreme shortness of the days has appeared very strange to me. In the middle of December the sun rose at 11 minutes past 9 and set at 43 minutes after 2.

Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst. N.S. was New Year’s day in this country, and I present at the strangest spectacle I have ever witnessed. When I went to Court in the morning the Empress told me that they would have a select ball that evening, to which they had issued cards of invitation to more than 20,000 of their friends, and hoped I would not fail to be present. I was a perfect Saturnalia. The immense and splendid saloons of the palace were thrown open for the admission of the populace and those best informed say there were fifteen thousand persons present. I shall not attempt to describe the Russian costume. It is altogether different from ours: but what gave a picturesque effect to the whole was that the Native Russian of the lower ranks universally wear long beards. Every room was so crowded that it seemed impossible for any person to pass and yet the most profound silence and order were preserved. The Emperor conducting a lady of the Court and the Empress conducted by a gentleman moved repeatedly through all the rooms and the crowd every where made way. We followed with our partners in train. The heat and the smell were almost insupportable, but the spectacle exhibited even in this country a remaining trace of the natural equality of mankind which made it very interesting. The Emperor is a very popular sovereign and feels that confidence in mingling with his subjects which is rarely the lot of a despot. Both he and the Empress seemed to be curious to ascertain the effect which the spectacle would produce on me, and this gave me an occasion of conversing freely with them both, an honor not very often granted to members of the diplomatic corps.



About five hundred of us supped in an apartment which reminded me of the descriptions I have read in the Arabian Nights entertainments. It was the banqueting chamber of the splendid and magnificent Catherine, and all that imperial taste and imperial wealth could provide to adorn it had been exhausted. Those Diplomats who have visited the different Courts of Europe say that they have never seen in any other country any thing to be compared with it. The present Emperor who is rather plain and economical is indebted for this splendor to his Grand-mother.

In the groups there was one object which attracted much of my sympathy. That was the queen of Georgia. Her Country is now a province or rather [a] dependency of Russia, and although she was treated with great respect she appeared solitary in the crowd. She seemed to take but little interest in what was passing around her.

I can say with truth that I felt sorry all this occurred on the Lord's Day. We cannot refuse invitations to the Court. To the Diplomatic Corps they are always considered as commands. Their refusal would be viewed as a want of respect for the Emperor.

I cannot yet say what time I may expect the pleasure of returning to the United States. I have already written to General Jackson upon the subject; and I entertain some hopes that I may leave St. Petersburg in November next; but I fear it is more probable I may have to finish my two years in this country. Longer I shall not remain unless something unforeseen should occur.

The death of poor George has made a strong impression upon my feelings. Since I received the information I have had no heart for going into gay society; and until within a few days I have abstained from it altogether. I can no longer indulge my feelings. I am glad the gay season will last but about 6 weeks longer; for when Lent commences all parties cease.

I have derived much pleasure from the society of a young American whose name is Munroe. He is of a good family in Washington and came to Russia about ten years ago to seek his fortune, simply because, as he says himself, he was unfit for any business in the United States. He is now the aid-de-camp of the Emperor, and I think I may add his most confidential aid-de-camp. He has been in many battles, and they say here is as brave as his own sword. He is devotedly attached to the Emperor and Empress without having lost his devotion for his own country, and is one of the most agreeable and kind-hearted men I have ever met. He has got tired of peace and solicited to be employed in the expedition against the Egyptians. His request has been granted and he has left St. Petersburg. I regret his departure very much.

I asked him if he did not wish to return to his own Country. He replied it was the nearest wish to his heart but exclaimed "What could I do in America. I am fit for nothing there."

At your request I have thus written you a very long letter to amuse you, for I have put much upon a page. Allow me to caution you against an error which has been too common in clergymen's wives. Many of them have set up as leaders particularly of the females in their husband's congregations, and thus excited jealousy and hatred against themselves and have done more harm than good. According to my reading of the New Testament this conduct corresponds not with the Christian character of females. The milder and more domestic Christian virtues are more becoming, and I think more useful. But do not suppose that I undervalue piety in any person. God forbid!

Give my kindest love to Mother. May the peace of Heaven rest upon her and your whole family! It is my ardent prayer that we may all live under the divine protection, until we shall



meet again. Give my love to Elisabeth. Remember me affectionately to Mr. Henry and believe me to be ever

Your affectionate brother

James Buchanan

P.S. Remember me also to any other persons in your family.

Mrs. Harriett Henry  
Care of the Rev: Mr. Henry  
Greensburg,  
Pennsylvania.



Lancaster**History**



Lancaster 4 November 1837.

My dear Sis,

I received the melancholy information of Mr. Henry's death is afternoon from Mr. Drum. His two letters of October 31 and November 1 arrived together. In the former, he refers to a letter which he had written to me the week before; but which I have never received. I state this because it may have contained a request or a suggestion that I should go to you. This I would have done immediately, and indeed I remained at home supposing it probable I might receive such an intimation. I should most gladly have been with you during the trying scene and given you all the support in my power. It is now necessary, under divine assistance, that you should rouse your energies and take care of your health for the sake of your child and your other relatives. I hope you will cultivate a patient, contented and resigned spirit and bear your great loss with fortitude which becomes a Christian. You are welcome, most welcome to a home with me where I think you may promote my happiness as well as your own. Whether you choose to accept this offer or not, still a change of scene will at present conduce both to your health and comfort; and unless you have made some other arrangement, you ought to spend the winter with Jane and Edward. The session of Congress will close on the 4<sup>th</sup> March; and then I shall be most happy, if you desire it, to take you home.

I write this by the first mail, although it is possible I may be with you nearly as soon as my letter; and at all events, God willing, I shall reach Greensburg before the close of the present week. The day will depend upon a matter of important business which I should cheerfully have left to be with you in time to be present at the decease or funeral of Mr. Henry; but under existing circumstances two or three days cannot make so much difference. Still this may be decided before the second car leaves for the West tomorrow. At all events, with the blessing of Providence, I shall be with you not later than Saturday. I may have to go by the canal and stop at Blairsville. I presume there will be no difficulty in this event in hiring a conveyance from that place to Greensburg.

Jane is yet here; but will return home the first good day with James. She says she would be delighted if you would spend the winter with her. She is in her usual health and sends her kindest love.

From your affectionate brother

James Buchanan

Mrs. Harriett Henry  
Greensburg  
Westmoreland County  
Pennsylvania.



LancasterHistory

[2d April '39]

Not having practised [sic] law since my return from Russia, I have not kept up my reading; and when I informed you that in case of the death of your son, two thirds of the real and personal property of Mr. Henry would go to his relations I was mistaken. When I left the country and the practice, such was the law; but during my absence it was changed. Should Buchanan die, which may Heaven prevent; you would be absolutely entitled to all Mr. Henry's personal property – and to all the real estate during your life; - that is the personal property would be your own as much as any other property you have in the world and the house and lot would be yours for life. This will prevent me from excepting to the admin. account of Mr. Davis; because it makes no difference. If you child lives it is all the same, if he dies, you will have all the personal property; and it is from this that the money w(c). Mr. Davis allowed Mr. Henry to take w(d) be refunded.

If you can trust me for the 6 dollars and some odd cent you may send me the note.

Yours affectionately

J.B.

Mrs. Harriett B. Henry  
Mercersburg  
Franklin County  
Pennsylvania

2d April '39



LancasterHistory

Lancaster 26 October 1839.

My dear Sis,

I rejoice to learn from James and from a letter received from Dr. Speer that your health is improving.

The time is now at hand when Elisabeth must be fixed for the winter. It is probable I shall be much home during the next month; and towards the end of it I must leave for Washington. James says that you expressed a great anxiety to have Elisabeth near you; and she would be well calculated to cheer you up. Her conduct has been good since she has been with me; and I think she must be popular in Lancaster from the attention which she receives. But to come to the point. If the circumstances of Mr. Lane's family permit and if you can take her until the next spring, she may go. Of course, she must pay her boarding. If she cannot go, with propriety, into Mr. Lane's family; and you think there is any other place in Mercersburg where she can stay comfortably, safely, and respectfully, then engage boarding for her there; and give me a speedy answer one way or the other. I must fix her for the winter as soon as possible. One circumstance which would reconcile me to her going into another family in Mercersburg than Mr. Lane's is that I do not voluntarily wish to raise a talk here which might be injurious to Edward or his wife. Still if it becomes my duty to fix her in this County, they must take the consequences of their own conduct; and should it become necessary that I should express an opinion on the subject it will be against them and in favor of Elisabeth. I have no fears but that she will soon render herself beloved by any family into which she may enter provided she is treated kindly. She does not know what a favorable opinion I have of her; on the contrary I have always talked to her in such a manner as that she might rather infer the reverse. It is true that she is too giddy, too fond of company and has not an adequate idea of the important responsibilities of life; but she is affectionate and gratefully sensible to kindness.

I repeat that I hope you will let me hear from you decisively, one way or the other, very soon; for I must fix her in the course of ten days or two weeks.

Remember me affectionately to Mr. Lane and the family and believe me to be

Your affectionate brother

James Buchanan.

P.S. Should Elisabeth go to Mercersburg, I shall take her there, unless a good opportunity should offer to Chambersburg where Mr. Lane might meet her.

Mrs. Harriett B. Henry  
Mercersburg  
Franklin County  
Pennsylvania.



LancasterHistory

Lancaster 11 November 1839.

My dear Sister,

I have received great pleasure from learning by Elisabeth's letter that Dr. Speer is now of opinion that you will recover rapidly and that you have been mending very much within the last week. I have never been of opinion that the blood which you have spat proceeded from your lungs. I regret to learn however that your spirits are dejected. You ought to rally all your energies and endeavor to become cheerful and contented. A few short years and the whole generation of mankind now upon the earth must go to their long home, and to repine that this is our destiny is to complain of our inevitable lot. By the fear of death, we place ourselves in bondage all our lives. It is our duty to make our peace with God, in the manner pointed out by the Gospel, and submit to his holy will as to the time of our removal hence. I make these remarks, not because I have any apprehensions that you are in danger at present; but for the purpose of urging you to cultivate that state of mind which will best promote your health and happiness here and will best prepare you for futurity.

It would afford me the greatest pleasure to pay you a visit, and I shall do so, God willing, before I go to Washington should you continue to desire it. At the same time, I believe, if your spirits should continue depressed, the sorrow of separation after a brief visit will more than counterbalance the pleasure of meeting. But your pleasure shall be my will in this matter; and if I believed you were in any danger, I should hasten to see you without a moment's delay.

My own impression is that your anxiety to see me arises in a great degree from a conversation which we had in regard to the disposition of your property. This is very proper, because if you were in the most perfect health, it would be wise for you to regulate this matter which can be done as effectually by me here in Mercersburg. Under this impression, I enclose you a few questions to which you may, if you please, annex brief answers and forward them to me by mail. I will then prepare the instrument which you may sign and return to me and no persons need know any thing about it except ourselves, should you so desire. Should you still, however, persist in desiring to see me, I shall either visit you, life and health permitting, on my way to Washington or during the Christmas holidays.

Elisabeth among others things writes me as follows: "I received the money you sent yesterday and return by sincere thanks to you for sending it on so soon." Her head must have gone a wool gathering. I sent her no money.

Remember me affectionately to her – the little girls, Mr. Lane, Sr. Miss Hetty desires me to give her love to you and Elisabeth.

Ever your affectionate brother

James Buchanan.

Mrs. Harriett B. Henry  
Mercersburg  
Franklin County  
Pennsylvania.



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To whom do you desire to give your property, in case your son should die under age and without issue: State how you wish to divide it in that case?

Do you wish to give any Legacies to any person, in case your son should live, as I trust and believe he will do. If so, state the individuals and the amount, or if in furniture, what articles.



May

My dear Sister,

I have this moment received from Edward a letter requesting me to send you \$70 or 80 – and also to send for him to Elisabeth \$25. I now enclose you a check for \$110 which will be paid at the Bank of Pennsylvania, \$85 for yourself and \$25 for Elisabeth. You can either get the money yourself by calling at the Bank or Mr. Kittera will get it for you.

I also enclose you a letter from Mr. M'Laughlin which has been lying here for some time. James told me that if one came from him, it contained money, and it was your wish I should keep it. As Edward's letter informed me that you might be in Philadelphia for some time I this day opened that from Mr. M'Laughlin and took the money out, deeming it would be safer to keep it here than send it enclosed. I hold the \$60 for your use. Please to acknowledge the receipt of the letter to him.

I shall be in Philadelphia, probably, on Saturday week. I trust that Buch's hearing may be improved. Give my love to Elisabeth. Let me hear from you and believe me to be your affectionate brother

James Buchanan

Mrs. Harriett B. Henry  
at Mrs. Israel's No 91  
S. 3d Street  
Philadelphia.



LancasterHistory

September

Miss Hetty will write to you soon. Should you continue unwell, I should like to see you before I go to Washington. Towards you my feelings of affection can never change. Give my love to the little girls – and my kind respects to Mr. Lane and believe me ever to be your affectionate brother

James Buchanan

P.S. Could it be possible that you are salivated by having taken counterfeit Beckwith pills. Dr. Harris once told me that he had seen two persons salivated in this manner. I think Beckwith's pills would be of service to you. Mrs. Slaymaker has been unwell and she attributes her cure to their use. After reading this letter carefully I wish you to destroy it and return the enclosed by the returning mail, merely stating how your health is, if you don't wish to write more.

Mrs. Harriet B. Henry  
Mercersburg  
Franklin County  
Pennsylvania.

