

June 27, 1927.

My dear Charlie:

As I had it from my mother, her Aunt was engaged to Buchanan while the other sister was engaged to a distinguished churchman, afterwards known as Dr. Muhlenberg. It is perhaps significant that Robert Coleman was a man of wealth, for those days. He permitted the Buchanan engagement; he strongly resented Muhlenberg and was shabby enough to make interest in the parish to have him driven out.

Her Aunt Anne Caroline came to believe that Buchanan was not sufficiently devoted to her and that she had better not marry him. She broke off the engagement. I do not know how long it was after that that she died but my mother always spoke of her as having died of a broken heart.

Buchanan was always taboo in the family. I remember my mother saying to my father, who was a Wig [sic], "of course, you will vote for ten cent Jimmie" – which he did.

At all events, my mother's impression was that Buchanan behaved badly and that he had always though life been disloyal to his friends. I am sure it was in respect of John W. Forney who was one of his strongest adherents and whom he treated very badly.

I don't think that in those days young ladies were very apt to commit suicide. I entirely discredit any such story. Surely my mother would have mentioned such a startling fact if it had been a fact.

Anne Caroline Coleman died December, 1819. My mother was married in 1828, so that she must have been old enough when her Aunt died to have known what happened. She lived in Lancaster at the time, I think.

I am extremely obliged to you for these letters. I have had them copied and am sending the copy to you. If you are willing that I should retain them, kindly return them.



I am quite familiar with the Pleasant diary. It is the only reference I have to my father's services in the War of 1812. Of course, I have read Pleasant's Rhapsodies about this beautiful lady. I am wondering if Henry Pleasant has had the Diary copied. The part that refers to the war has been printed in the Historical Society Magazine.

With my best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Charles P. Keith, Esq.
227, South 4th Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

MG96_Folder038_Insert2_19270620(Keith)



LancasterHistory²