

[Rough draft of speech given at James Buchanan's tomb, 1 June 1938: date derived from text]

As I stand on this hallowed ground, I am minded [sic] that almost within the hearing of my voice – lay sleeping, three men whose lives were closely bound together with common ties, and whose walk of life was along parallel paths. All three were distinguished members of the Lancaster Bar and all three were brought up in the same political school. One was of Mr Buchanan's own day and the other was of a succeeding generation. Stugh McAllister North who rests a few steps from this tomb, was a warm personal friend and political advisor of Mr. Buchanan. The other was one of the most brilliant sons ever raised up in Pennsylvania, William Uhlen Hensel, who, to his dying day championed the issues which made Mr. Buchanan the storm center of controversy during the dark days preceding [sic] the civil war. No man, in his day and general did more to set the course of Mr Buchanan right before the people than did Mr Hensel and no man done more to extend the name and fame of Mr Buchanan and help to heal the wounds and scare which hatred made.

On Tuesday, May – 1861 Mr North as chairman headed a groupe [sic] of our citizens – without distinction as to party, to Washington, to accompany the ex president back home to the retirement which awaited him at his beloved Wheatland in Lancaster. The Baltimore & Ohio railroad company provided a special train, and Wm P Smith, master of transportation accompanied Mr Buchanan and his party.

The reception of the ex president in Baltimore was a perfect ovation. Great crowds met him with enthusiastic applause, and similar demonstrations were held at Glen Rock — and Columbia. The train slowed down as it reached Dillerville and stopped at the crossing of the Harrisburg turnpike. There they were met by a great crowd who quickly formed a procession headed by Mr Buchanan in an open barouche drawn by four gray horses, and they marched in the Harrisburg turnpike to James St, thence to North Queen, and south on Queen to Penn Square which was completely packed with citizens of the town & surrounding country who had come to hear the home coming address of welcome of Mayor Sanderson and the response of Mr Buchanan.

After a welcome which would have warmed the heart of any man, Mayor Sanderson grasped the hand of Mr Buchanan in “fraternal greeting, invoking upon him Heaven's choicest blessing, in time and eternity”

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The response of Mr. Buchanan is so so rich in sentiment, and so beautifully expressed coming as it did from a heart overflowing with gratitude that I ask your indulgence for the few moments it will take to read it to you

One hour later the procession reached Wheatland, and as the gates opened to receive the master, a band stationed there played softly "~~Home Sweet Home~~" "Home Again." The eyes of many who witnessed the touching scene were dimmed with tears.

didnt know where his next meal was coming from

I bring these few incidents to you this morning because I am minded [sic] that exactly three score & ten years ago the spirit of our friend and neighbor -- our president -- passed -- as the poet Tennyson so beautifully expresses it "to where beyond these voices there is peace Three days later, a great procession wended its way to this sacred spot and as the coffin rested over the open grave now marked by this modest stone, groupes [sic] of men were still marching along the Marietta Pike on their way to the tomb of their neighbor and friend.

I am glad in the knowledge that future generations of men and women still come to this shrine to pay reverent tribute to the memory of this great man.

In the latter years, the few remaining kinsmen of Mr Buchanan no longer attend his last resting place. So a groupe [sic] of friends of his own party, delight to do this service of love and remembrance, and I am glad, that on this day of tender memories our dead are not forgotten

The wreath will now be laid by

[No name provided]

After which we will be attentive to prayer by the Rev Mr A Fred Rentz

Taps will be sounded by Scout James Dunn associated with the color guard furnished us by the Scout Groupe [sic] of St James Ep. Church.

[Punctuation is the writer's]

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