

[Lancaster New Era, 22 April 1976, page 12]

At Woodward Hill Cemetery

Ceremonies Sunday to Mark Buchanan's Birth

Community residents are invited to attend a ceremony Sunday at 3 p.m. at Woodward Hill Cemetery in Lancaster at the grave of James Buchanan, the only U.S. President from Pennsylvania.

The event is being held to observe the 185th anniversary of his birth. Born in Mercersburg, he was the nation's 15th chief executive. He moved to Lancaster in 1812 and was in office during the period of 1857–1861. On June 1, 1868, President Buchanan, then 77, died in Lancaster at Wheatland, his family home.

Band Concert

The program will begin with a 30-minute band concert by the Lebanon High School band, directed by Anthony Gerace. An honor guard from the Army garrison at Fort Indiantown Gap, the Pilot Club, Girl and Boy Scout troops from Hamilton Park and St. Philip the Apostle churches of Lancaster will also take part.

C. Richard Beam, professor of German of Millersville State College, is scheduled to sing two solos, the National Anthem and America the Beautiful. The bugler for taps will be John Copenhaver, of the Lebanon High School band.

Col. Ervin V. Johnson, commander of Fort Indiantown, has been designated to represent President Ford by placing a wreath provided by the White House on the grave. He will be joined by Mayor Richard M. Scott, of Lancaster, Ret. Lieutenant General Daniel B. Strickler, secretary-treasurer of the Woodward Hill Cemetery Board, along with Mrs. Helen Bennet, Worthy Matron, James Buchanan Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

Other participants

The chaplain, Lt. Col. Harold E. Nunemaker, of Fort Indiantown will give the invocation. The welcome will be presented by Mrs. Bonnie L. Jolly, Pilot Club President.

Planning Sunday's program are the Army Garrison at Fort Indiantown, along with the Lancaster Pilot Club, the organization which raised funds to keep Buchanan's grave.

[No date or source on original but, per newspapers.com:
Lancaster Intelligencer Journal, 21 April 1975, page 26.]

[photo caption]

Buchanan's Birth Observed

The 184th anniversary of the birth of President James Buchanan was observed Sunday in ceremonies at Buchanan's grave in Woodward Hill Cemetery.

Col. Ervin V. Johnson, commander of the U.S. Army Garrison at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, presided over the wreath laying ceremonies.



LancasterHistory

Music for the observance was provided by the fifth grade choral group of James Buchanan Elementary School under the direction of Mrs. Cynthia Waitt, and the 324th U.S. Army Materiel Command Band from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, directed by CW2 Louis C. Wells.

President Buchanan, the only Pennsylvanian to hold the nation's highest office, was president from 1857 to 1861. He was born April 23, 1791 near Mercersburg and died June 1, 1868, in his Lancaster home, "Wheatland," at the age of 77.

[Lancaster New Era, 9 June 1976, page 14.]

With Pa. Hall of Fame Plaque, June 19

Buchanan To Be Honored

The election of James Buchanan to the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame will be marked in Lancaster, Saturday, June 19, with the presentation of a plaque to Wheatland, Buchanan's home on Marietta Avenue.

Charles V. Snyder Jr., president of the Wheatland Foundation, will join Ralph P. Coleman Jr., of Jenkintown, president of the Hall of Fame, in dedicating the plaque.

The ceremony will take place on the rear veranda of Wheatland, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Jack W.W. Loose, president of the Lancaster County Historical Society, will speak. The Lancaster Fencibles will participate as an honor guard.

Buchanan was inducted into the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame, located at Girard College, Philadelphia, in 1973. The hall elects six distinguished Pennsylvanians each year.

Coleman said the plaque honoring Buchanan will be the first in a series to be placed in various parts of the state as a tribute to members of the Hall of Fame. To date 24 have been inducted.

The members are inducted in Founder's Hall at Girard College in November of each year. As part of the program appropriate speakers present addresses on each new member. Snyder spoke for Buchanan.

[Lancaster Intelligencer Journal, 27 February 1958, page 12.]

James Buchanan Funeral Described By John Rengier

Despite a request that there be no pomp or parade, President James Buchanan's funeral procession was two miles long.

John B. Rengier, local attorney, imparted this information at the dinner meeting of Lancaster Pilot Club in Hotel Brunswick. Introduced by Mrs. Grace t. Steinmetz, chairman of the community service committee, Mr. Rengier stated that so many organizations turned out that they couldn't get in to view the body. Only Masons were permitted to pay their last respects at Wheatland. Others lined the street on Marietta Avenue.



LancasterHistory

The funeral procession was headed by the city police, the chief marshal and six aides. Also in line were 400 firemen, representing eight companies, with the Union Company, of which Buchanan was a member, having the place of honor.

Next came Mayor George Sanderson, city council members, county commissioners, county officers, judges, 65 members of the Bar Association, medical faculty, the press, trustees, faculty members and student body of Franklin and Marshall College, numbering 75.

Millersville Normal School was represented by 210 persons, including 75 ladies. St. Joseph's and St. Peter's Association had 150 in line, the Democratic Association 100; Lancaster Odd Fellows, 175; Harrisburg sent 100 dignitaries, and even the Mayor of New York attended with his city council members.

The City Cornet Band played and the Free and Accepted Masons walked just before the carriages.. Riding in three carriages were the clergymen, with the pallbearers, all of whom were lawyers, taking up five carriages. Next came the hearse, then eight carriages for the honorary Masonic pallbearers, the family, and congressional committees.

In all, 125 carriages were hired which cost the estate \$450. At the cemetery the Masons dropped sprigs of greens into the grave and sang a funeral dirge. President Buchanan died June 1, 1868, at the age of 77.

Mrs. Jean Seitz offered the opening invocation. Favors were replicas of James Buchanan's tomb filled with chocolate pennies. Pennies were scattered over the table.

The brass bowl filled with yellow and green carnations, jonquils, snapdragons, yellow roses, Harvest Moon carnations and greens, and flanked by brass candlesticks with green candles, were presented to Miss Margaret Stahl, retiring president, in appreciation of the use of her apartment so that members could work on the James Buchanan Memorial Fund Drive now in progress. It was announced that Pilot members have given 4,155 hours in the drive thus far.

The club's next business meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, in Hotel Brunswick.

