

LETTERS OF JAMES BUCHANAN

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

"The Works of James Buchanan," in twelve volumes, comprising the speeches, state papers, and private correspondence of Pennsylvania's only President of the United States, and Lancaster's most distinguished citizen, collected and edited by John Bassett Moore, were published in 1908, by the J. B. Lippincott Company, of Philadelphia and London. Since that publication was issued, I have discovered, among the collections of The Lancaster County Historical Society and in the files of local newspapers, letters of this distinguished statesman which do not appear in the volumes referred to.

James Buchanan arrived in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Tuesday evening, August 3rd, 1830. His object in visiting Pittsburgh was to inspect the manufacturing establishments of the city. About eighty citizens of that town invited him to partake of a public dinner, which he felt obliged to decline. The correspondence follows:¹

"Pittsburgh, August 5th, 1830.

"To the Hon. James Buchanan:

"Sir:

"A number of your fellow-citizens of Pittsburgh, friendly to the Union and to the Constitution of the United States, hearing of your arrival in this city on a visit to our manufactories, have instructed us in their behalf, to invite you to a public dinner.

"Your distinguished and useful course in the Legislature of the Nation in support of those measures so closely identified with the interests and policy of this State, has met the approbation of your Republican fellow-citizens in this quarter of the State, and the late fearless and patriotic indication of your sentiments on the all engrossing subject of 'the Union and Nullification,' has endeared you to our warmest affections.

"We, therefore, respectfully request the pleasure of your company at a public dinner on to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock—Gleim's Hotel.

"We are, Sir,

"Your fellow-citizens,

"R. T. Stewart, Ross Wilkins, Wm. Bell, Jr., S. P. Darlington, Benj. Blakewell, Joseph Barnett, James R. Speer, John Ramsey, John Gallagher and David Lynch."

REPLY TO ABOVE INVITATION.²

"Mansion House,

"Pittsburgh, August 5th, 1830.

"Gentlemen:

"I have received the invitation of my fellow-citizens of Pittsburgh, to a public dinner to-morrow afternoon, with a most grateful sense of their kindness. This distinguished honor has made the deeper impression on my

¹ Published in the Lancaster Journal, Friday, August 20th, 1830.

² Ibid.

mind, because it was wholly unexpected. It is, therefore, with much regret that I feel myself constrained by circumstances to decline its acceptance. I shall be obliged to leave this city on to-morrow afternoon or on Saturday morning; and I am sorry that even then, I shall not have seen all the manufacturing establishments, the examination of which was the principal object of my present visit.

"There are some subjects of a character so sacred that the people of Pennsylvania will never suffer them to be affected by the party politics of the day. Among them are the integrity of our Federal Union, and the protection of our domestic manufactures, to both of which you have alluded. It is to the unanimity and intensity of feeling in favor of these great and essential principles, and not to any merit of my own, that I attribute the union of gentlemen of opposite politics in conferring upon me an honor so distinguished.

"I have never known, nor have I ever heard of any Pennsylvanian who had become a proselyte to the novel and dangerous doctrine of 'Nullification.' Our attachment to the Union will always preserve us from such principles. If any one State can arrest the operation of a law of Congress, enacted by a majority of all the states and of all the Representatives of the people, then the Federal Government becomes at once powerless and contemptible and a small minority will place at defiance the will of a vast majority of the people. Such a principle would inevitably destroy the Union and with it our glory and prosperity. In this view of the subject the noble sentiment of our illustrious Chief Magistrate [Andrew Jackson] that 'The Union must and shall be maintained,' has been responded to by every Pennsylvanian.

"In regard to our domestic manufactures although we are not quite so unanimous, yet there are comparatively few of the people of this State opposed to their protection. The politicians of other states might as well attempt to shake the foundations of our mountains, as to weaken the attachment of Pennsylvania for a policy which it justly believes to be essential both to our independence and prosperity as a Nation. This policy was engrafted upon our system by the first Congress under the Constitution. It has since grown with our growth and has been a chief source of our prosperity. To prostrate institutions which have thus been called into existence, and so long and so carefully fostered by our Legislature, would be a palpable violation of the public faith, and an act of such high-handed injustice as to arouse the indignation of any people. We need entertain no apprehension of such an event.

"One of the best arguments in favor of the tariff may be found in the flourishing condition of this city. Here are to be seen the benefits and the blessings of the system fully exemplified. Much as I anticipated, I had no just conception of your various and extensive manufactories. A history of their origin and progress, whilst it would be the best commentary upon the wisdom of the policy which created them, would place Pittsburgh in that elevated rank which it so well deserves to occupy in the view of the Nation.

"With sentiments of respect and gratitude, I am truly yours,

"James Buchanan."

"To General R. T. Stewart, and others of the Committee."

"Lancaster, February 22nd, 1832.

"Gentlemen:

"I respectfully request that you will not nominate me for the office of Vice-President of the United States, before the convention to be held on the 5th of March next. While making this request, I cannot forbear to express my profound gratitude to my Democratic fellow-citizens of the county of Lancaster, and of the other counties in the State, who have instructed their delegates to support my nomination.

"My name was first brought before the public for this office without my previous knowledge, and I have not at any time since considered myself a candidate. From the beginning, my determination upon this subject has been at variance with the wishes of my friends. I have never omitted, upon any proper occasion, to contrast my own humble claims to public favor with the high qualifications which ought ever to distinguish and adorn the Vice-President of this great Republic.

"I did not believe that the character of my public services had placed me in that elevated position before the American people, which a citizen should first occupy, to justify his selection for the second office in the Government. To preside over the Senate of the United States, and to decide all questions on which they may be equally divided, is an exalted public trust, which can never be usefully or safely confided to any citizen, unless he enjoys in advance the highest confidence and respect not only of that body, but of the people of the sovereign states which its members represent. Besides, when I reflected that this office was the resource provided by the Constitution to supply any vacancy which, in future times, might occur in the office of President, I felt still more solemnly impressed, that the station demanded a statesman of more mature age and longer experience than I possess.

"I might add, that some time after the termination of the last Congress, I was offered the mission to Russia, which I agreed to accept. The Senate has recently confirmed my nomination, and I expect in a few weeks to embark for St. Petersburg. This circumstance would of itself preclude me from being a candidate for any other office at the present time.

"Ardently hoping that the deliberations of the convention may tend to promote harmony in the Republican party of the Union, to continue for another term the patriotic and successful administration of our venerable President [Andrew Jackson], and to maintain for Pennsylvania the exalted rank which she now holds among her sister states.

"I remain respectfully your friend,

"James Buchanan."

"To Gardner Furniss, Christian Wolf, Major John Maglaughlin, James Humes, Benjamin Champneys, Joseph S. Lefever, Dr. Abraham Bitner, and James H. Houston, delegates from the county of Lancaster to the Democratic State convention."

³ Published in the Lancaster Journal, Friday, March 16th, 1832.

"Washington City, February 5th, 1835

"To the Editor of the Lancaster Journal:

"Sir:

"I have observed with profound gratitude, that my Democratic fellow-citizens of the county of Lancaster, have brought my name before the public for the office of Vice-President. Permit me, through your paper, to express to them my warmest acknowledgments for this new testimony of their regard

"Under existing circumstances, I believe I should best promote the harmony and success of the Democratic party throughout the Union, by declining to become a candidate for this distinguished honor. My determination thus to act has been freely communicated to all my friends who have consulted me on the subject, and I am glad that the nomination in Lancaster county affords me an opportunity of making that determination public.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"James Buchanan."

INVITATION FROM PITTSBURGH.⁵

"Pittsburgh, July 8th, 1837.

"Dear Sir:

"The undersigned, your friends and fellow-citizens, deeply impressed with a sense of your able and uniform support of Democratic principles, both in our State and general governments, desire to tender to you a mark of their cordial respect and good wishes; and request of you to name such time as may be convenient to you for meeting them, and others of your fellow-citizens, to partake of a dinner. We would and should be happy to meet with you thus, either now or on your return from Meadville, to which place, we understand you are about to proceed.

"Very respectfully, we remain,

"Your friends and fellow-citizens,

"Thos. Hamilton, Jas. Cunningham, H. H. Peterson, Wm. B. Foster, R. H. Kerr, George R. Riddle, John Sarber, T. Yost, Capt. Gross, Wm. McClurn, James Findlay, David Lynch, M. Tiernan, J. R. McClintock, Z. McDonald, James P. Stuart, John Gallagher, Thomas O'Neil, A. Hays, R. H. Douthitt, P. Mulvany, L. S. Johns, John Smith, Webb Closely, James H. Neel, James Anderson, Sr., Wm. Alexander, James Patterson, Jr., Jas. Patterson, Sr., John McKnight, H. H. Van Amringe, E. Trovillo, Robert Morrow, Charles Shaler, J. L. Armstrong, T. B. Dallas, James Gray, Samuel Frew, A. Byerly, Thomas Phillips, James May, A. Brackenridge, John S. Blakely, Brown Irwin, A. Morris, George Darsie, Wm. Pentland, Linton Rogers, G. Mellon, Joseph Cupples, C. McKibbin, H. McCullough, Jacob Smith, Hugh Toner, James Armstrong, C. Upperman, James Fulton, R. C. Townsend, John Anderson, J. J. Alsbridge, Wm. Moody, Luke Fortune, A. Alexander, Wm. O'H. Robinson. James S. Horn."

⁴ Published in the Lancaster Journal, Friday, February 13th, 1835.

⁵ Published in the Lancaster Intelligencer. Tuesday, August 1st, 1837.

"Meadville, July 11th, 1837.

"Gentlemen:

"Please to accept my warmest thanks for your kind invitation to a public dinner. Whilst previous arrangements prevent me from accepting it, I cannot but feel deeply sensible of the honor which has thus been conferred upon me,—emanating as it has from those whose good opinion I so highly value. It shall be my pride and my pleasure to endeavor to preserve your esteem, by pursuing steadily the same course in public life in which it has been acquired.

"During my short visit to Pittsburgh, I was happy to learn, that although suffering from the collapse which is an inevitable consequence of the spirit of speculation, when stimulated in convulsive action by extravagant banking, that her embarrassments were but slight compared with those of other commercial and manufacturing cities. May the present cloud soon pass away; and may she long continue to enjoy that healthy prosperity which is a just reward of the intelligence, industry and enterprise of her citizens!

"With sentiments of the highest respect, I remain,

"Sincerely yours,

"James Buchanan."

"To Messrs. Jas. Patterson, John McKnight, H. H. Van Amringe, and others."

TO THE DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS OF FAYETTE COUNTY.⁷

"Lancaster, June 29th, 1839.

"Gentlemen:

"Accept my cordial thanks for your kind invitation to be present with my Democratic friends and fellow-citizens of the county of Fayette, at their celebration of the approaching anniversary of our National Independence. I regret that circumstances, which I need not mention, render it impossible for me to leave home at the present moment; otherwise, I should gladly have availed myself of this occasion to pay a visit, which I have long contemplated, to the south-western counties of the State.

"While celebrating the anniversary of the Nation's birth, permit me to congratulate you upon the present bright and cheering prospects of the Democratic party throughout the Union, whose acknowledged leader in his day [Thomas Jefferson], was the author of the Declaration of Independence. This party has passed a fiery and fearful ordeal, since the commencement of General Jackson's administration. In the violent political struggles which, since that period, have, in rapid succession, convulsed the country, many of our most distinguished leaders have either become neutral or openly deserted to the enemy; but the people, notwithstanding, have still remained true to their own cause. Their motto has been, as I trust it ever may be: *'Principles, not men.'* The party has been purified in the furnace of persecution. It is

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Published in The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, July 23rd, 1839.

now founded upon a rock against which neither the winds nor the waves can prevail. We have lopped off all the branches of false doctrine which a selfish expediency had engrafted on the venerable oak of Democracy; and now freed from the parasites and creepers who adhered to it solely for the purpose of elevating themselves, it stands forth in its own naked and native strength and grandeur. 'Moored in the rifted rock, proof to the tempest's shock.'

"The two great political parties of this country owe their origin to the very nature and structure of the Federal Constitution. Under whatsoever names they may be called, they must continue to exist whilst that instrument shall endure. The abandonment of old names and the adoption of new ones, have never yet changed and never will change the essential principles of our political opponents. They have resorted to this expedient from their characteristic belief in the 'gullibility' of the people, and have always, in the end, been disappointed. When you apply to them the touchstone of principle, you find them to be always the same, under every disguise.

"The fundamental principle of the Democratic party is a firm and abiding reliance upon the virtue and intelligence of the people. We hold it as a canon of our political faith, that the people are capable of self government, and require no extraneous influence to make them tread the path which leads to the greatest good for the greatest number. Hence we have ever been jealous of the exercise of any power or any influence by the Federal Government, which the people of the several states, in their sovereign capacity, have not clearly granted under the Constitution of the United States. The Democratic party, therefore, has, from the beginning, advocated a strict construction of the Federal Constitution, and has always opposed every invasion of State rights.

"On the contrary, our opponents, whatever name they may have assumed, have ever advocated an extension of the powers of the Federal Government; and by a loose construction of the Federal Constitution, have endeavored to create what they have always admired—a strong government. Distrusting the capacity of the people for self government, for the purpose of influencing them, they have, from the beginning, sought alliance with the money power. If the present were the proper occasion, their whole history might be cited in the proof of this position, from the day the first bank of the United States was chartered until the feelings of the Democracy of Pennsylvania were outraged by the treacherous desertion of public servants in whom they confided, and the consequent revival of that institution which had been doomed to destruction by the Democracy of the Union.

"How simple and beautiful are the principles of Democracy, when carried out faithfully and fairly into practice! The Federal Constitution confers no power upon the Congress of all the states over the question of domestic slavery; much less does it grant power to the people of any one State to interfere with this delicate question within the limits of another. Democracy is, therefore, content to leave the subject of abolition to those to whom it constitutionally belongs, and thus to preserve the peace and harmony of the Union.

"The Federal Constitution confers no power upon Congress to charter a

bank of the United States, and by thus allying the Federal Government to the money power, to create a combination which might prove too strong for the people. Democracy is, therefore, opposed to this usurpation. It is true that on two occasions, 'this vagrant power' to create a bank, as Mr. Clay formerly characterized it, has been exercised by Congress, under the pressure of a fancied necessity. The result has manifested, that whenever eternal and immutable principles are made to yield to temporary expediency, they always vindicate themselves in the end, by inflicting ten times more suffering than was sought to be averted by their abandonment.

"The Federal Constitution recognizes gold and silver as the only standard of value; and, therefore, Democracy desired, without any feeling of hostility towards well regulated state banks, to dissolve the connection—unfortunate for both—which has heretofore existed between them and the Federal Government, and to return gradually to the ancient practice of collecting, keeping and disbursing the public revenue, in the constitutional currency, through the agency of responsible officers, instead of irresponsible banks.

"We might run out these examples to any extent; and, in the end, we should discover that almost every invasion of our rights has resulted from a violation either of the spirit or the letter of the Federal Constitution, whilst we have enjoyed peace, happiness and tranquility, in proportion to our adherence to the strict Democratic construction of that sacred instrument.

"Economy is a cardinal principle of Democratic policy. It was the glory of public men among the ancient Romans, in the better days of the Republic, to be liberal with their own money, and parsimonious with that of the people. Generosity in individuals, when they can afford to be generous, is a noble trait of character; but to be extravagant at the expense of others, is rank injustice to them. The representatives of the people, therefore, whatever disposition they may choose to make of their own money, ought to guard, with extreme care, the money of the people with which they are entrusted. It is a disregard of this Democratic principle which has swelled to such an enormous amount the State debt entailed upon ourselves and those who shall come after us. Who has not deplored the extravagant and profligate waste of the public money, during the period of the late administration, for the purpose of subserving corporate, local and individual interest, in which the people generally had no concern? It is high time that these abuses should be corrected. Our debt is annually increasing, whilst we are compelled annually to borrow money to discharge the interest upon it. Our public improvements, on which we relied to pay this interest, although highly advantageous to the State, have as yet yielded but little more than was necessary to keep them in repair and in successful operation. The interest and the honor of the State, equally required that the main lines should be completed. Without a resort to State taxation, this can only be accomplished by the most rigid economy. In our present embarrassed condition, how absurd is it in itself, and how unjust to the people of the State, to be squandering their money upon objects of a merely local character; or bestowing it in aid of wealthy incorporated companies! Thanks to the present governor! [David R. Porter]. He

seems determined to arrest this profligate expenditure; and he may rest assured that no administration can now be sustained in Pennsylvania, which shall not observe the most rigid economy. The time has passed for being generous; we must now seek only to be just, and to preserve the public faith inviolate, without taxing the people, if that be possible. The excellent principles so clearly stated, and so forcibly maintained, in the late financial report of one of your own representatives, are those on which the Democratic party ought to act, at least until the public improvements shall have become productive.

"In conclusion, permit me to offer you the following sentiment:

"Rigid Economy — or, State Taxation: the only alternatives for maintaining the public credit. If the people desire to avoid the latter, they must take care that their representatives shall practice the former.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"James Buchanan."

"To A. L. Little, H. W. Beeson, R. T. Galaway, Hiram Blackledge, James McClane, and E. M. Greeg, Esquires, Committee, etc."

FROM THE RHODE ISLAND SUFFRAGE PARTY.⁸

"Washington, August 22nd, 1842.

"Dear Sir:

"Please to accept my grateful thanks for your kind invitation, in behalf of the committee of which you are the chairman, to unite with 'the Democrats and friends of free suffrage' of Rhode Island, at their 'Mass Clam Bake', on the 30th instant. I can assure you that it would afford me great pleasure to be with you on that occasion, but engagements, both of a public and private character, render this impossible.

"I most sincerely sympathise with the suffrage party of Rhode Island; but their sufferings are destined to have a speedy termination. Public opinion, in this country, is more powerful than the sword; more terrible than any army with banners. Millions of brave and free hearts throughout the Union beat responsive with your own, in the cause of your political emancipation. Your gallant little State is now the only spot in our favored country where freeholders, and their eldest sons, constitute a privileged class, and where the natives of other lands, who have fled from oppression at home and became American citizens, are denied the privilege of voters. This will not, cannot, long continue.⁹ The march of free principles is onward, and their progress cannot be much longer arrested in the land of Roger Williams. Universal Suffrage and representation, according to numbers, are pillars upon which American freedom must repose. Persevere, then, in your righteous cause; and by

⁸ From The Intelligencer & Journal, Tuesday, September 20th, 1842.

⁹ Mr. Buchanan proved himself a good prophet, for the same year in which the letter was written, a more liberal constitution for Rhode Island was adopted by popular vote.

a firm and energetic, but peaceful contest, conquer from your oppressors the rights and liberties of freemen. Your victory is certain.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"James Buchanan."

"To P. W. Ferris, Chairman."

REPLY TO INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF THE THAMES, ONTARIO, CANADA.¹⁰

"Lancaster, October 1st, 1842.

"Gentlemen:

"I feel sincerely sorry that important engagements, which from their nature cannot be postponed, will prevent me from accepting your kind invitation to unite with my fellow-citizens at Danville, in celebrating the anniversary of the Battle of the Thames. The war-scarred hero¹¹ of that memorable day well deserves the lasting gratitude of his country. Whether we consider the wisdom and boldness of his plan of attack against the British and their savage allies, or the desperate and dashing courage with which it was executed, his countrymen have equal reason to be proud of the victory.

"But Col. Johnson's fame does not rest on this brilliant exploit alone. He is benevolent as brave. During his long services in Congress, suffering humanity in every form has enlisted his warmest sympathies; and to do good to his fellow men in distress has been his constant employment. In an especial manner has he ever been the soldier's friend. In the days of youthful vigor, he

'Cheer'd him in camps, in marches, led;

And with him in the battle bled';

and in the councils of the nation, he has always been the devoted and efficient advocate of the old soldier. I deeply regret, therefore, that I cannot unite with you in doing honor to whom honor is so eminently due.

"With sentiments of the highest respect, I am,

"Yours truly,

"James Buchanan."

"To William Overfield, Seth Salisbury, John S. Gibons, Jesse W. Griffiths, and others."

REPLY TO INVITATION TO VISIT BRADFORD COUNTY.¹²

"Lancaster, May 22nd, 1843.

"Gentlemen:

"I feel greatly indebted to you for your kind invitation to visit Bradford

¹⁰ From The Intelligencer & Journal, Tuesday, November 8th, 1842.

¹¹ Col. Richard M. Johnson is said to have killed the famous Indian Chief, Tecumseh, in the battle of the Thames, October 5th, 1813. He represented Kentucky in the United States Senate from 1819 to 1829. He was Vice-President of the United States from 1837 to 1841, under President Martin Van Buren.

¹² From The Intelligencer & Journal, Tuesday, June 13th, 1843.

county; and for the warm commendation of my public conduct which you express. Whilst sensible that I do not merit this approbation in so high a degree as your partiality has bestowed upon it, I am yet conscious that in my congressional career, I have never deviated from the course so clearly pointed out both by Democratic principles and the wishes of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania. To believe that I possess their confidence is to me a source of the highest and purest gratification.

"I know not whether it will be in my power to take Bradford county in my way, in returning from Meadville, for which I am about to set out on a visit to my only sister. Your county possesses an interest for me, which has, I presume, been long since forgotten by its inhabitants. Whilst a very young man, as a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, I took a decided and active part, under the lead of the late General M'Kean, in favor of the hardy pioneers who were its first settlers. The strong impressions which were then made upon my mind, in favor of the bold and indefatigable men who first clear the forest and render it the fit abode of religion and civilization, have ever since remained, and will be as lasting as my life. If, in Congress, I have been the steady advocate of granting pre-emptions to actual settlers in the far west, my zeal in their behalf was first kindled by the wrongs and the hardships which the first settlers of Bradford and the neighboring counties endured from unjust and contracted legislation. Under such circumstances, it would afford me heartfelt pleasure to meet these ancient settlers and their descendants, now comprising a large and important portion of one of the most prosperous and intelligent communities to be found in any county. Should I be unable to accomplish this wish, I hope you will accept the will for the deed.

"With every sentiment of regard,

"I remain,

"Yours sincerely,

"James Buchanan."

"To Willson Scott, V. E. Piolett, C. N. Shipman, David Cash, John Hanson, Uriah Terry, G. F. Mason, P. L. Shaw, Addison M'Kean, L. Smith, and H. C. Myer, Esquires."

TO JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL.¹³

"Wheatland, near Lancaster, July 6th, 1853.

"My Dear Sir:

"I have received your favors of the 10th and 14th ultimo; and thank you cordially for your kind invitation to make your house my home on my arrival at London. There, I know, from past experience, I should feel at home. I regret to say, however, that although fully prepared myself, I shall not be able to leave on the Baltic on the 9th, as I had intended. Doubtless the Department has written or will write you on the subject, as it is of great importance that you should not leave until a new minister shall arrive. This

¹³ Original letter preserved among the Steinman papers in The Lancaster County Historical Society.

would be rendered more embarrassing as the Secretary of Legation has returned home.

"I would cheerfully write you the news; but have nothing of the least importance to communicate, except what you will see in the public journals.

"I shall write you again the moment the time of my departure shall be fixed.

"With sentiments of sincere and grateful regard, I remain,

"Your friend,

"James Buchanan."

"July 7th. It is now quite uncertain whether I shall go as Minister to England,¹⁴ as there is a fair prospect of settling the disputed question in this country.

"His Excellency.¹⁵

"Joseph R. Ingersoll.

etc., etc., etc."

¹⁴ Buchanan was appointed Minister to the Court of St. James by President Pierce in 1853. He resigned the office in 1856, and in the autumn of that year was elected President of the United States.

¹⁵ Ingersoll was born in Philadelphia and was graduated from Yale College (now Yale University) in 1804. He was a representative in Congress from Pennsylvania from 1835 to 1837, and again from 1842 to 1849. He was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Great Britain in 1852 by President Fillmore.

(To be continued)

Minutes of The Lancaster County Historical Society

March 4th, 1932

The regular monthly meeting of The Lancaster County Historical Society was held in the Society's building, 307 North Duke street, on Friday evening, March 4th, and was called to order by the president, Prof. Herbert H. Beck. Twenty-five members were present.

The treasurer, Albert K. Hostetter, reported a balance in the treasury on February 5th (the date of our last meeting) of \$690.81, which, with the deposits by John W. Lippold,—for dues, \$300.00, and \$5.00 for rent by Raymond G. Hiestand, made a total of \$995.81. The expenditures amounted to \$7.90, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$987.91.

The librarian reported the following donations: Emblems of the World War Service Associations in Lancaster, presented by Mrs. Albert M. Herr; a Genealogy of the Ball Family, from Mrs. Milton H. Dittenbaugh; a copy of an address delivered in Congress December 11th, 1889, in commemoration of the inauguration of President George Washington, by Melville Weston Fuller;