

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

IN LANCASTER

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

Wednesday, May 30th, 1934, long will be remembered as a red-letter day in the annals of Lancaster city and county, for on the evening of that date (the celebration of Memorial Day) Franklin Delano Roosevelt, thirty-second President of the United States, the distinguished leader who is giving the Nation a "New Deal," paid a brief visit to Lancaster on his way to New York city, to review the United States naval fleet, after having attended the Memorial Day exercises at Gettysburg.

Long before the presidential special train of seven Pullman coaches was due in Lancaster, from the greatest battle field in American history, the crowd began to gather in the fields to the north and south of the Pennsylvania Railroad station; and fully an hour before the train was to arrive, streets in the neighborhood were filled with anxious thousands, hoping to see the President. By 8:30 P. M., the time scheduled for the special to reach the station, railroad officials estimated that the crowd numbered well in excess of 15,000 persons,—some placed it at 20,000. Hundreds were on the Lititz and Manheim pike bridges and the approaches to them; and still other hundreds occupied points of vantage about the station hoping to get a glimpse of the President and his party. Some of the younger men and boys had even climbed trees in their eagerness to see the Nation's Chief Executive as he paid his first visit to our fair county—known far and wide as the "Garden Spot" of our country.

The Drum and Bugle Corps of the American Legion assembled on the roof of the porch over the entrance to the freight rooms of the station and entertained the vast gathering; while on the plaza, the Lancaster Newsboys' Band also entertained a large number with a concert.

It was an orderly mass of citizens; policemen had little to do

but answer questions. There was a holiday spirit prevailing everywhere, and good-humored pushing and crowding naturally resulted from the desire of so large an assemblage to see the President.

Bits of news were passed quickly through the crowd. Then came the message that the train was crossing the Susquehanna river to Columbia, where more than 5,000 people had assembled. They heartily cheered the President as his train passed through.

Mr. Roosevelt occupied a seat at the rear of his coach and those who had positions close to the tracks at Columbia were able to see him. Many persons stood on the inter-county bridge spanning the Susquehanna, hoping to see the President when the train crossed the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge.

Efforts had been made to have the train make a brief stop at Columbia, but this was found to be impracticable. Automobiles, trucks and motor vehicles, which had assembled to take part in the Memorial Day parade, were mobilized along the tracks, and when the train came in sight, sirens and horns created a bedlam of noise.

There was a murmur of excitement on the Lancaster station platform as policemen moved through the crowd and issued final instructions to those gathered near the place where the President's coach would stop.

Then, far down the track, a roar of voices was heard, sounding above the noise of the train as it rolled into the station at 9:15 P. M. (Daylight saving time).

"Here he comes!" was shouted from thousands of throats.

The President's coach stopped almost on the exact spot where railroad officials, hours in advance, had planned for it. The microphone through which the President was to speak, was on the station platform and the men whose duty it was to connect the wires had to take only a step or two to reach the coach, so closely had the railroad men calculated the stopping place.

When the train passed Mountville, President Roosevelt was seated just inside the door which opened on the rear platform of his coach, and from this point the tracks were closely lined with hundreds of persons who caught a glimpse of the President seated

in the rear coach. When the train reached Lancaster, he was standing on the platform by the side of his military aide, Col. Edwin M. Watson, of the United States army.

The vigilant service men made no spectacular display but the watchful eyes that guarded the President were upon every detail.

First, the President and men on the platform of the coach posed for the photographers. For several minutes the flashing lights punctured the darkness as camera shutters clicked in the effort to secure pictures of the imposing demonstration that had appealed to so many of our townsmen. Once the voice of a photographer boomed: "Hey, you fellows, move back and give the President a chance!" The President's face broke into a broad smile as he moved forward to please the men behind the cameras.

In the meantime, Pennsylvania State Highway patrolmen and radio technicians battled with the crowd to get the microphone aboard the train.

"Not a chance," the secret service men decided as they waved the "mike" away, but when the picture-taking was over the worries of the radio men were ended by a presidential decree which ordered the microphone brought aboard.

Colonel James Hale Steinman, chairman of the reception committee, introduced prominent citizens who had assembled to greet the President; and then he himself spoke briefly into the microphone to introduce the Nation's Chief Executive. The President appeared tired to those who had a close view of him as he stood on the rear platform of his coach; but he had a kindly smile as he shaded his eyes with his hand and attempted to penetrate the darkness that shut out the 20,000 men, women and children who lined the banks surrounding the train shed. Then, turning to the WGAL microphone, he said: "I wish I could see you; I can hear you and you sound fine. I have always wanted to come to Lancaster and I am going to do so sometime in the daylight and see the home of President Buchanan. I have a personal interest in the Buchanan home; many years ago, my father was secretary to James Buchanan when he was minister to England. I have always thought of Lancaster county as one of the great agricultural counties of the Nation.

I hope to come in the daylight sometime; and when I do, I hope to have more time to see you all."

His brief address finished, the President received a basket of red roses from Mrs. James H. Ross, the charming wife of Lancaster's first Democratic mayor in forty years. Mrs. Ross was the only woman to shake hands with the President and to receive his personal greetings during his brief, but crowded visit.

"Thank you so much Mrs. Ross; they're lovely, and it's been nice to see you!" exclaimed Mr. Roosevelt, with a pleased smile, as Mrs. Ross presented to him the beautiful cluster of red roses, emblematic of the house of Lancaster. Publications of The Lancaster County Historical Society, dealing with the life of James Buchanan and an engraving of Pennsylvania's only President, were also given to Mr. Roosevelt, who has shown interest in a movement to have "Wheatland" honored as a national shrine.

"I'm very glad to meet you, Mr. Ross; and I'm very glad to be here," said President Roosevelt to the mayor when they shook hands. The mayor asked if he was tired, to which the President replied in the negative. Then the mayor spoke to him about Buchanan relics, and the President said, "I appreciate that very much; I have a great interest in Buchanan."

These brief ceremonies over, the President once more posed for the photographers while Democratic leaders left the platform of the special train. President Roosevelt waved to the crowd and the crowd roared back its good wishes. Railroad signal lights waved, members of the presidential party who had alighted from the train the better to witness the local demonstration, hastily clambered on board, and the train moved slowly out of the station into the darkness of the night at 9:24 P. M. The brief stop of nine minutes had been filled to the utmost with an exhibition of hearty enthusiasm which must have carried faith, hope and renewed courage to the heart of our over-burdened President.

On the observation platform of his private car, making a sight long to be treasured by many who viewed it, stood the President of the United States beneath a tiny light which illuminated his countenance, waving a cheery farewell to the enthusiastic thousands

who continued to cheer him as the train gathered momentum. As long as he could see the crowd, the President stood outside, with head bared, waving farewell. Then as the train disappeared into the night, he retired into the car with memories of a demonstration which but a few minutes earlier he had described to friends, as being "inspirational."

Col. James Hale Steinman, who had presented the President to the assemblage, referred to the demonstration that followed as being the "greatest thrill of my life." "Other presidents have come to Lancaster," Col. Steinman said, recalling a visit by President Roosevelt's cousin, the late President Theodore Roosevelt, "but Wednesday night's greeting to the President surpassed any welcome ever given here to so distinguished a visitor."

Col. Steinman, after the special train was lost to sight, introduced a number of Democratic leaders who spoke briefly over the public address system and radio station WGAL.

Secret Service officials insisted that in the interest of safety only a limited number of persons would be allowed on the railroad station platform to greet the President.

Those officially invited were as follows:

Judge William N. Appel, Rev. Dr. Henry H. Apple, Judge Benjamin Champneys Atlee.

Charles G. Baker, Esq., Colley Baker, John Thomas Barber, Guy K. Bard, Esq., Silas Bard, W. Hensel Brown, Esq.

Hon. and Mrs. Charles T. Carpenter, John H. Carter, Elmer Curry.

Hon. G. Graybill Diehm, Hon. George E. Downey.

George H. Earle III, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Ensminger.

Miss Agnes T. Ferriter, Wellington M. Foutz, J. Andrew Frantz, Esq., Albert H. Fritz.

Milton Thomas Garvin, Floyd Gibbons, Miss Ida Guffey, Hon. Joseph F. Guffey, Miss Pauletta Guffey.

William H. Hager, Frederick W. Hammond, Paul Heine, Sr.,

George W. Hensel, Jr., Richard D. Hoak, Mrs. Grace Smith Hoffman, Hon. and Mrs. Charles M. Howell, Ralph B. Hull.

Mrs. Jacob F. Kautz, Rev. Dr. Harry M. J. Klein, August A. Krimmel, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Logue.

A. J. Malmed, Mr. and Mrs. Austin E. McCullough, Mr. and Mrs. Clair R. McCollough, E. M. Miley, Mrs. Albert F. Montgomery, Adam Z. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley N. Mumma.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl N. Netscher, William J. Neuhauser, Mrs. Hugh M. North.

Col. and Mrs. Paul J. Quinn.

Emmett Rasbridge, Miss Mary Willson Rettew, Wallace L. Robinson, Mayor and Mrs. James H. Ross, Judge Lester W. Roth.

Judge Oliver S. Schaeffer, Harry Schneitman, William Shand, Mr. and Mrs. Louis G. Shenk, Hon. Simon Shissler, W. Clyde Shissler, Harry Shreiner, Fred Smith, Grover C. Snyder, Christian W. Stehman, Mrs. Caroline H. Steinman, Col. and Mrs. James Hale Steinman, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Steinman, Harry J. Stumpf, William S. Sullivan, J. Frank Sweeton.

Warren Van Dyke, Frederick John Vaux.

Richard Fox Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. S. Davis Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Lyman Windolph, William Frederic Worner.

ROOSEVELT LETTERS

Hon. James H. Ross, mayor of Lancaster, writes as follows: "In coming into personal contact with President Roosevelt I felt very strongly the dynamic driving force of his personality, and also caught the warm sympathy that seems to go out to all people. When I had the privilege of meeting him in Lancaster, he had just ended a hard day in Gettysburg and in traveling, and seemed somewhat worn and tired; but he expressed himself in a bright, kindly way, saying that the splendid ovation was a relaxation; and that it gave him inspiration to go forward with the great task before him. He seemed to be deeply interested in Lancaster, and talked

at some length of former President James Buchanan. He spoke of his father's contact and service with Lancaster's President,—the only one, so far, who has represented Pennsylvania as Chief Executive of our Nation in the White House. He expressed a keen desire to return to Lancaster when he has more time, in order to visit our many historical places about which he seemed to be well informed."

Later, Mayor Ross received the following appreciative letter from President Roosevelt:

"The White House, Washington.

"June 8th, 1934.

"My dear Mr. Ross:

"I have not had an opportunity before this to thank you for that very interesting old engraving of James Buchanan. It will occupy an honored position among my treasures.

"I need not tell you how grateful I am to you and to the good people of Lancaster for that wonderful welcome on the evening of May thirtieth. I shall hope on my next visit to your city to be able to spend a little more time.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Franklin D. Roosevelt."

"Honorable James H. Ross,

"Office of the Mayor,

"Lancaster, Pennsylvania."

The unusually fine reception given to our President on the evening of Memorial Day, 1934, by so large a number of enthusiastic citizens of Lancaster must have been to him a source of much cheer and comfort. We trust that his efforts to better economic conditions, may be so guided and blessed by a divine Providence, that lasting prosperity may come to our beloved country.

It will be noted that the President, in his address to the people of Lancaster, stated that many years ago his father was secretary to James Buchanan while he was minister to England. Some of the older inhabitants of this community were of the opinion that it was his grandfather and not his father who served in this capacity. In

order to determine this matter, the librarian of The Lancaster County Historical Society wrote to the President, as follows:

"Lancaster, Pa.

"October 26th, 1934.

"Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

"On the evening of May 30th, 1934, you made a brief stop-over in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at which time you delivered a short address to more than 20,000 people who had assembled at the station to see and hear you. The Lancaster County Historical Society will publish in its Proceedings an accurate account of this visit.

"In your fine address, you were understood to say that your father was secretary to Hon. James Buchanan when he was Minister to England. Some of our townspeople are of the opinion that it was your grandfather and not your father who served in this capacity. Mr. Buchanan was Minister to the Court of St. James from 1853 to 1856. If your father was his secretary at that time, he must have been comparatively quite a young man.

"Trusting that you will be good enough to enlighten us on this point, and with all good wishes for a successful administration, I remain,

"Sincerely and truly yours,

"William F. Worner."

To this letter our kindly President, although sorely pressed with his many demandful duties, graciously wrote this personal reply:

"The White House, Washington.

"November 9th, 1934.

"Dear Mr. Worner:

"I fear that no copy of my remarks at Lancaster is in existence.

"I have always understood that my father, who graduated from Union College in 1848,¹ was in London while James Buchanan was

¹ James Roosevelt, the President's father, was born at Hyde Park, New York, July 16th, 1828, and received the degree of A. B. from Union College in 1847. After two years of European travel, followed by graduation from

Minister to England; that he met Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Buchanan told him he was very shorthanded at the Legation, and that my father acted as secretary to him for several months.

"I shall always remember with the greatest of pleasure my visit to Lancaster, and I shall hope to be there some other time in daylight.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Franklin D. Roosevelt."

"William F. Worner, Esq., Librarian,

"The Lancaster County Historical Society,

"Lancaster, Pennsylvania."

JAMES BUCHANAN

It is quite natural that the visit of President Roosevelt to Lancaster, should recall memories of James Buchanan, Pennsylvania's only President, whose home was in Lancaster. The following brief outline of his life should prove interesting:

the Harvard Law School, in 1851, and by two years of legal practice, he became active in the directorship or presidency of several large mining and railroad interests in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Illinois. Later, he was vice-president of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, president of the Champlain Transportation Company, trustee of several trust companies and chairman of the Maritime Canal Company of Nicaragua. He was appointed state commissioner of Public Schools, and was an alternate state commissioner for the World's Fair at Chicago. He was a founder and president of the New York Hospital, member of the Board of State Charities, of the State Charities' Aid Association, manager of the Hudson River State Hospital and of several other organizations. He was a Democrat, and a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He died December 8th, 1900, in New York city, of heart-disease, after a year of failing health.

He married, in 1853, Rebecca B. Howland, who was born January 15th, 1831. She was a daughter of Gardiner Greene and Louisa (Meredith) Howland. Mrs. Rebecca Roosevelt died August 21st, 1876; and on October 7th, 1880, Mr. Roosevelt married Sarah Delano, born September 21st, 1854, daughter of Warren and Catharine Robbins (Lyman) Delano. The child of Mr. Roosevelt's first marriage was James, born March 27th, 1854, who married Helen Astor. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, born in the Hyde Park home on January 30th, 1882, was the child of the second marriage, and became the thirty-second President of the United States.

James Buchanan, the fifteenth President of the United States, was born in a small frontier town, at the foot of the eastern ridge of the Alleghenies, in Franklin county, Pa., on April 23rd, 1791. The place where the humble home stood was called Stony Batter. His father was a native of the north of Ireland, who had emigrated in 1783, with little property save his own strong arms and resolute will. Five years afterward, he married Elizabeth Spear, the daughter of a respectable farmer. With his young bride, he went into the vast wilderness, staked his claim, erected his primitive log hut, opened a clearing with his axe, and settled down with heroic determination to win his way in life's battle. When James, the son, was eight years of age, his father removed to the village of Mercersburg, where the lad was placed in school, and commenced a course of study in English, and the classics. His progress was rapid, and at the age of fourteen he matriculated at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. Here he developed marked ability in his studies, and easily ranked among the leading students of the institution.

In the year 1809, at the age of eighteen, he was graduated with the highest honors of his class. His form was tall and graceful; he was vigorous in health, fond of athletic sports, and was filled with an abundance of physical activity. He came to Lancaster the year he completed his college course, for the purpose of studying law; and at the outbreak of the War of 1812, under the James Madison administration, he was admitted to the practice of that profession at the Lancaster county bar—a bar, which according to James Ford Rhodes, one of America's foremost historians, "has always been noted for its excellent lawyers." He soon became a conspicuous figure in the community which he had chosen for a permanent residence; and came into special prominence in 1814 through a stirring patriotic address which he delivered in Lancaster, after the city of Washington had been captured by the British. As a Federalist in politics, he had disapproved of the war, but when the capture of Washington had aroused every patriot to defend the country against an invading enemy, a public meeting was held in Lancaster for the purpose of obtaining volunteers to march to the defense of Baltimore, James Buchanan, then twenty-three years of age, addressed the gathering, and was among the first to register his

name as a volunteer. With a company of dragoons, he marched to Baltimore and served until he was honorably discharged. Upon his return, the county of Lancaster elected him a member of the House of Representatives in the Legislature of Pennsylvania, where he served with rare ability until the end of the session. From 1816 to 1820 his law practice in this community increased rapidly. When barely twenty-nine years of age, he was elected on the Federalist ticket and took his seat in Congress as the representative from his home district. To this high office he was re-elected every two years until 1830. Two years later, he was appointed minister to Russia, and in December, 1834, he took his seat in the Senate of the United States. He filled this position until 1845 when he became secretary of State, under James K. Polk, until 1849. Mr. Pierce upon his election to the Presidency, honored Mr. Buchanan with the office of minister to England which position he filled with credit from 1853 to 1856. In the autumn of the latter year he was elected President of the United States.

When Mr. Buchanan left office on March 4th, 1849, as secretary of State under President Polk, it was with the fixed determination not to enter public life again. A few months before, he had purchased the charming estate, known as Wheatland, situated half a mile west of the city of Lancaster. This substantial old mansion had for some years been occupied as a summer residence by the Hon. William M. Meredith, an eminent lawyer, who was secretary of the Treasury under President Taylor; and this became Mr. Buchanan's home until his death in 1868.

The year is not known, definitely, in which this attractive old mansion was built. On January 29th, 1828, John Ross sold to William Jenkins, Esq., a prominent member of the Lancaster bar and president of the Farmers Bank of Lancaster, 156 acres and 68 perches of land in Lancaster township for \$11,731.87.² Eight years later, on November 12th, 1836, William Jenkins and Mary F., his wife, sold to Thomas F. Potter of Tweedside, from near the city of Savannah, Georgia, 17³/₄ acres and 25 perches of this tract for \$9,000.00. The deed states that the purchase included a "two story brick messuage or tenement, barn and other outbuildings."³ From

² Recorder's office, Book K, Vol. 5, p. 155.

³ Recorder's office, Book T, Vol. 6, p. 318.

this it is quite certain that Wheatland was built between the years 1828 to 1836. Shortly after Potter acquired the property, the United States suffered from a severe financial panic. Values, including real estate, had been greatly inflated. On May 8th, 1845, Thomas F. Potter and Sarah J., his wife, sold the property, which at this time had been increased to a little more than 22 acres, and received from William M. Meredith, of Philadelphia, the sum of \$6,750.00,—\$2,250.00 less than they had paid for it. Incidentally, the deed refers to a "three story brick messuage."⁴ It is doubtful whether any change was made in the building. It is generally supposed that when the deed was recorded in 1836 it was considered a two story structure; and in 1845 it was recorded as a three story building.

On December 2nd, 1848, William M. Meredith and Catharine, his wife, sold the property to James Buchanan for the same price which they had paid for it three and a half years earlier.⁵

From Mr. Buchanan's correspondence it appears that after the agreement for purchase had been made and part of the purchase money paid, Mr. Buchanan learned, indirectly, that Mr. Meredith regretted the bargain, upon which he wrote the following letter, which is a model of old-time courtesy and consideration:

"My Dear Sir:

"I have seen Mr. Fordney since I came here, who read to me a part of your second letter. From this I infer that you regret having parted with Wheatland. Now, my dear sir, if you have the least inclination to retain it, speak the word, and our bargain shall be as if it never had been. It will not put me to the least inconvenience, as I have an excellent house in Lancaster. Indeed, I feel a personal interest in having you in the midst of our society, and if you should retain Wheatland I know that, after you shall be satisfied with fame and fortune, you will make this beautiful residence your place of permanent abode."

To which Mr. Meredith replied with equal courtesy in the following words:

⁴ Recorder's office, Book C, Vol. 7, p. 450.

⁵ Recorder's office, Book K, Vol. 7, p. 635.

"I have to express to you my deep sense of the courtesy and consideration which induced you to make me the offer which your letter contained. I cannot accept it, because to do so would be to take advantage of your friendly impulses, which I ought not and cannot do."

That is a fine example of "the square deal." Mr. Buchanan removed to his new property the furniture which heretofore he had used in Washington and in his Lancaster house at the north-east corner of North Christian and East King streets, and established in beautiful Wheatland a home destined to be widely known for its comfort, dignity, repose, and kindly hospitality.

Mr. Buchanan, by his will dated August 21st, 1867, bequeathed the historic estate to his talented and popular niece, Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston, wife of Henry E. Johnston, of Baltimore. The property remained in Mrs. Johnston's possession until June 16th, 1884, when she disposed of it, for \$16,000.00, to Mrs. Mary A. Willson.⁶ From Mrs. Willson it descended to her son, the late George B. Willson, who was the owner of this historic mansion until his death on September 14th, 1929. He, in turn, bequeathed it to his cousin, Miss Mary Willson Rettew, who retained it until her death on November 4th, 1934. Miss Rettew by her last will and testament directed that Wheatland be sold as well as the furniture in it, which at one time belonged to President Buchanan, and that the proceeds be applied toward the erection of a fire proof building to be known as "The Willson Memorial." The latter building when erected is to contain two rooms divided by an arch in which the furniture owned by the Willson family is to be preserved. The remainder of the building is to be used as a meeting place by The Lancaster County Historical Society and as a museum in which to display its valuable collections.

Shortly before his death, Mr. Willson erected at his own expense a bronze tablet on one of the pillars at the entrance to this fine old estate. The inscription is as follows:

"Wheatland, the home of James Buchanan from 1847 to 1868;

⁶ Recorder's office, Book F, Vol. 12, p. 442.

15th President of the United States. Marked by Geo. B. Willson, the owner since 1884, and The Lancaster County Historical Society, 1928."

It will be noted that on the bronze tablet it is stated that it was "the home of James Buchanan from 1847 to 1868." This is an error, since Mr. Buchanan did not acquire the estate until December 2nd, 1848, as is shown by the records in the Recorder's office in the court house in Lancaster. Mr. Willson doubtless trusted to his memory, which is a fickle thing, and Professor Beck, who prepared the inscription, evidently accepted Mr. Willson's statement without checking the date before the tablet was made.

BUCHANAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

The citizens of Lancaster, Pa., had the unique privilege on Memorial Day, 1934, not shared by any other city or community in the United States, when it ushered in the day by paying a tribute of respect and affection to a former President of the United States,—James Buchanan, *last* of the old-time Democrats; and by ending the delightful spring day celebration with entertaining Franklin Delano Roosevelt, thirty-second President of the United States and the popular leader of *modern* progressive Democrats. Mr. Roosevelt, whose stop-over in Lancaster was very brief, and who was on his way to New York harbor to review the naval fleet, had just come from the historic battle field at Gettysburg where he had delivered the Memorial Day address before an immense crowd gathered on the sacred ground which had turned the tide of the Rebellion and had hastened peace to a war-stricken country in the trying years of 1861–1865.

Following a beautiful custom of the past eight years, a memorial committee appointed in 1926, by Guy K. Bard, Esq., chairman of the Democratic County Committee of Lancaster, consisting of Frederick W. Hammond, Mrs. Mary Costigan Reilly, of Lancaster, and George W. Hensel, Jr., of Quarryville, arranged a morning pilgrimage to the tomb of James Buchanan, fifteenth President of the United States, whose remains repose under a modest monument in the Woodward Hill Cemetery, Lancaster, Pa.

Headed by Mayor James H. Ross and a group of representative citizens, the party left the center of the city at 9 A. M., and were met at the Buchanan tomb by a large group of interested spectators. A patrol of Boy Scouts from troupe number 3, of St. John's Protestant Episcopal church, in charge of Scoutmaster Henry Rehm, acted as honor guard to two flag bearers and a bugler, who took their places at the grave. In addressing the assemblage, Mr. Hammond expressed his gratification that each year finds an increasing interest in the simple ceremony which purposely is not advertised to draw the curious public, but does appeal to many of our citizens, regardless of party affiliations, who delight to do honor to *our* own former townsman and *our* former President. The chairman introduced Leander T. Hensel, of Quarryville, who, assisted by Milton T. Garvin, was to place the wreath on the grave. Mr. Hammond stated that Mr. Hensel was one of the very few survivors who were personally acquainted with Mr. Buchanan; that he had frequently listened to conversations between the former President and his father, the elder George Hensel, at that time a prominent merchant of Quarryville, as they frequently dined together at the famous old White Swan Hotel.

The handsome wreath of roses and Bermuda lilies was banked with sprigs of hedge of Mr. Buchanan's own planting at his beloved Wheatland, in 1857. After the placing of the wreath on the tomb of the honored dead, the assemblage was attentive to an earnest prayer delivered by the Rev. William H. Bollman, pastor of the First Reformed church, Lancaster. The brief but impressive ceremony was concluded by the sounding of taps by Scout bugler Ralph Groff.

The committee in charge of this annual brief memorial service has often been requested to enlarge on this highly commendatory ceremony in order that it might attract a larger group of people, but the thought is that the greater value is in its beautiful simplicity, and in the appeal to those who appreciate the fact that we have in our keeping the dust of one of the truly great men of our country. The years have healed the wounds that hatred made during the distressing pre-war days, and in the mellow perspective we can now calmly estimate the life and attitude of James Buch-

anan in the most trying period of American history. The past few years have extended his name and fame and have marked him as a statesman and a great constitutional President. The Hon. Jeremiah S. Black, a distinguished American jurist, concludes an estimate of the life of his friend Buchanan with these noble and truthful words: "The incorruptible statesman whose walk was upon the mountain ranges of the law."

Until the hatred and bitterness engendered during the period preceding the Civil War arose, President Buchanan's life had been well-nigh blameless, and he was regarded as one of our ablest statesmen and leaders; and even during his term as President he honestly sought, no doubt, to do his duty as he understood it. We of the present day can scarcely conceive of the conflicting conditions existing in our country during the latter part of his administration. Those who knew him best were firm in their belief that he was moved to do what he felt to be the right; and that he retired to his beautiful grove-surrounded Wheatland to spend his sunset days, after his stormy experience in Washington, comforted with the thought that he had earnestly sought to be true to the Light as he understood its leadings.

The following brief synopsis of the more important events in Mr. Buchanan's life will show to what he attained and to what extent he was trusted by three Presidents of the United States, and by others who knew his real worth:

Diligent student in college.

Brilliant young lawyer.

Soldier in War of 1812.

Member of the State Legislature.

Member of Congress.

Envoy extraordinary to Russia. Appointed by President Jackson.

Member of United States Senate.

Secretary of State under President Polk.

Minister to England. Appointed by President Pierce.

President of the United States.

Honored and beloved citizen of Lancaster.