

**Rev. Edward Young Buchanan, D.D.,
Brother of the President**

By (MRS. D. B.) BERTHA COCHRAN LANDIS

AS a fitting close for the year 1928, which has been designated as "Buchanan Year" by the Historical Society of Lancaster County, a timely sketch of the life and activities of Rev. Edward Y. Buchanan is presented.

Our most illustrious citizen, James Buchanan, had three brothers, two of whom died in early manhood, William Speer Buchanan and George Washington Buchanan. Edward, the youngest brother, became the well-known Episcopal clergyman of Lancaster County and of Trinity Church, Oxford, Philadelphia.

From a manuscript which was presented to James Buchanan, while President of the United States, and, which is now in the possession of the Society, it appears that the family name originally was "Bucy Okyan."

Anselan Bucy, or Fair Okyan was son to Okyan—provincial king of the south part of Ulster. He was of the tribe which came into Ireland with Gathelian King of Galicia in Spain. This Bucy Okyan left Ireland and went to Scotland about the year 1016—the twelfth year of the reign of King Malcolm, the second, by whom he was assigned a coat of arms which was used by the family for many years. Some members of the family eventually returned to Ireland, but for a period of over 600 years there were many Lairds of Scotland and provincial Kings of Ireland who gradually lost their titles and their lands. There were many of the names of Anselan, Gilbert, Walter, Alexander, John, James, Edward, Archibald, Maurice, William, George and Patrick. All lived on large estates, where they were greatly respected and known as the "Lairds of Buchanan." This early history may probably account for the statement made by some historians that "James Buchanan, our President, was a born Courtier and his levees were like those of a European Monarch." Other members of his family seem to have inherited the same characteristics.

James Buchanan, the Father

In the year 1783 James Buchanan, a native of County Donegal of Ireland, bid farewell to his home land and sailed on the brig Providence bound for Philadelphia. Mr. Buchanan, who came from a very respectable family, but of limited means, arrived at Philadelphia and at once proceeded to York County. After spending a short time there at the house of his maternal uncle, Mr. Joshua Russel, he became an assistant in the store of Mr. John Tom at Stony Batter at the foot of North Mountain, Cumberland County. In 1788 he opened a store of his own at the same place and was married to Miss Elizabeth Speer, daughter of James and Mary Patterson Speer, of Adams County, but formerly of Lancaster County. From this time on he prospered and was able to give a college education to each of his four sons.

In 1796 Mr. Buchanan removed, with his family, to Mercersburg. They were of the Presbyterian faith.

In 1807, at the age of sixteen, their oldest son, James, entered Dickinson College at Carlisle. He was graduated, with the highest honors in 1809 at the age of eighteen. Shortly after his graduation he came to Lancaster and placed himself in the office of James Hopkins, Esq., to study law. He was admitted to the bar November 17, 1812, at twenty-one years of age. After a most brilliant career, which culminated in being elected President of the United States he retired to his charming home at Wheatland, Lan-

caster. Here his death occurred, June 1, 1868, in his seventy-eighth year. He lies buried in Woodward Hill Cemetery, Lancaster, in a beautiful spot, overlooking the Conestoga River.

William Speer Buchanan was graduated at Princeton in 1822. He studied law at Chambersburg and Litchfield, Conn. He took up the practice of his profession at Chambersburg and died there in his twenty-second year, December 19, 1827, just a few months after being admitted to the bar. The father died while William was still at Princeton.

George Washington Buchanan was graduated from Dickinson College in 1826 at eighteen years of age, with highest honors of his class. His brother, James took great interest in the prospects and professional education of this brilliant young man. He studied law at Chambersburg and Pittsburg, being admitted to the bar in the latter place in 1828. He practiced there and was appointed in 1830, by President Jackson, United States District Attorney for the district of Western Pennsylvania. His health, however failed in the summer of 1832 and he died in November while his brother, James, was Minister to Russia. Both of these young men gave every indication of becoming very useful in the profession. Their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Speer Buchanan, also passed away, May 14, 1833, before the return of James from Russia. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Henry of Greensburg.

Mrs. Buchanan was an excellent mother and a most delightful and instructive companion to her children. She was literary in her tastes and was a sincere and devout Christian. It was chiefly to her influence that all of her sons were indebted for a liberal education.

Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan had three daughters to reach maturity—Harriet, wife of Elliot T. Lane of Mercersburg, Maria, who married Dr. Yates of Meadville, Pa., and Jane, wife of Mr. Henry of Greensburg. She died in 1840 and it was her son, James Buchanan Henry, who, with his cousin, Harriet Lane, and Miss Hetty Parker constituted the family of Hon. James Buchanan for many years in the home on the Northeast corner of E. King and Christian streets, and later, from December, 1848, at Wheatland on the Marietta Pike.

James Henry and James Buchanan, his cousin, acted in the capacity of private secretaries to their Uncle James at intervals during his career.

Career of the President's Youngest Brother

Edward Young Buchanan, the youngest of the four sons of James and Elizabeth Speer Buchanan first saw the light of day at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, May 30, 1811, being just twenty years younger than his distinguished brother, James.

At the age of fifteen he entered Dickinson College at Carlisle and in 1828 was graduated with second honors of his class. He then placed himself under the direction of Rev. Dr. John H. Hopkins of Trinity Episcopal Church of Pittsburgh. Dr. Hopkins, afterwards became first Bishop of Vermont. By a curious coincidence the two brothers, James and Edward, had men of the same name as preceptors, though not related. Trinity Church was one of the first five parishes organized in western Pennsylvania and was visited by Bishop White in 1825. Christ Church, Meadville, was another of these early churches, having been organized in 1825 by Dr. Hopkins. After studying under the direction of Dr. Hopkins for one year Edward Buchanan

entered the General Theological Seminary, New York City, and was graduated in 1832. The following extract is taken from a letter, received at that time from his brother James, then United States Minister to Russia.



REV. EDWARD YOUNG BUCHANAN, D.D.

September 13, 1832.

Dear Brother,

"I congratulate you upon your admission to the ministry and trust that you may be an instrument in doing much good to your fellow men

The Diplomatic Corps, yesterday, attended a Te Deum at the Church of St. Alexander Nevsky, who is the greatest in the Russian Calendar. The service was very magnificent and imposing; though the tones of an organ would have made it grander. These are not used in the Greek churches. The Emperor was there and appeared to be very devout. He often crossed himself, and in one part of the ceremony kissed the hand of the Archbishop I say again, rely upon the divine blessing and your own judgment in all things, and I shall be content; but let it be taken coolly and not under the influence of the idle talk of others. Settle in no place merely for the sake of a settlement. You shall not be at any loss for money. Give my love to Mother and all the family, and believe me to be

Ever your affectionate brother,

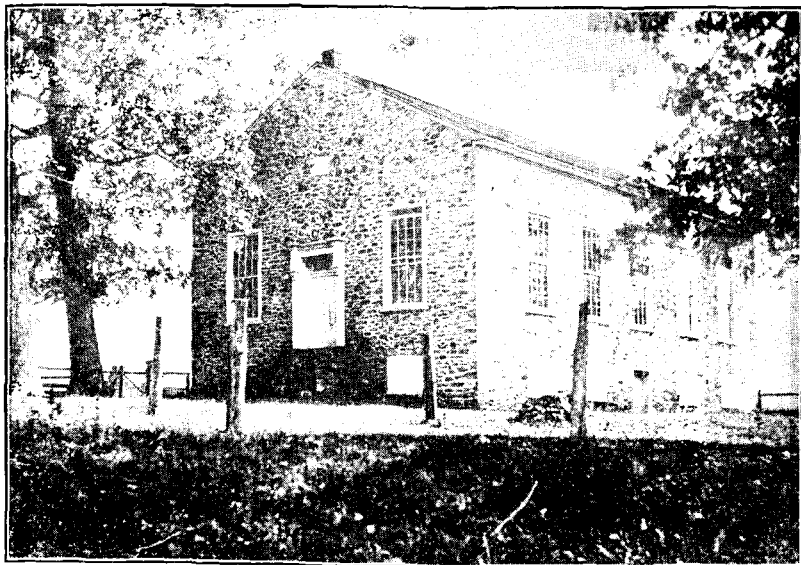
JAMES BUCHANAN."

In his next letter he speaks of his brother George who is nearing the end as follows—"I had conceived the highest hopes of his future eminence and usefulness. His talents were of the first order, his manners were popular, and his principles were, I believe, perfectly pure. Alas! that his sun, which rose so brightly and promised such a brilliant day, should so soon be extinguished. Such seems to have been the inscrutable decree of an all-wise Providence."

On July 8, 1832, following his graduation at the Theological Seminary, he was ordained Deacon, by Bishop White in Philadelphia, and in regulation course was advanced to the Priesthood. For a few months, after his being made a Deacon, he officiated in Christ Church, Allegheny, for his friend, Rev. Sanson R. Brunot, who was ill. After leaving Allegheny he went to Christ Church, Meadville, where he served until 1834. This was the first Episcopal Church erected in the State, west of the Allegheny River.

Rev. Buchanan's Ministry in Lancaster County

Following the advice of his brother and his physician when his health failed, Rev. Buchanan left Meadville, and came to Lancaster County, where, on March 15, 1835, he became Rector of Old St. John's of Pequea at Compassville, to which he was to give one-half of his time. He was to care also for Christ Church, Leacock. At this time he was still in Deacon's Orders, but was advanced to the Priesthood September 15, 1835, by the Right Rev. Henry Ustick Onderdonk, Assistant Bishop of Pennsylvania. He was presented by Rev. Dr. Samuel Bowman of Lancaster. Rev. Buchanan resided on a small farm about one and one-half miles north of Cains. He did not



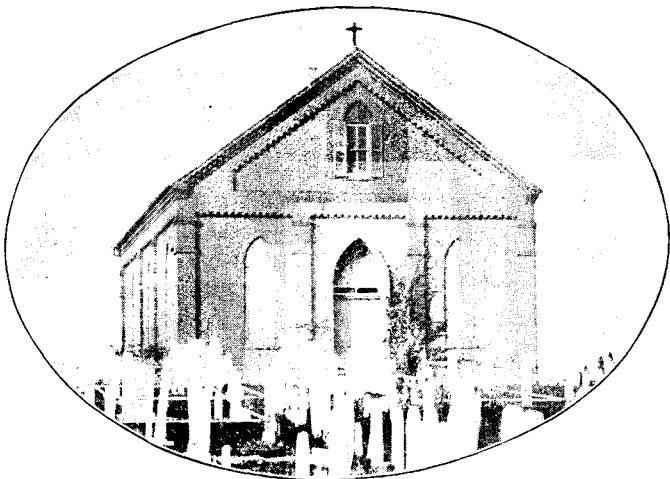
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT COMPASSVILLE

farm the land and named the place "Grace Parsonage." He brought with him to Pequea, his wife, who was Miss Eliza Foster, daughter of Col. William Barclay Foster and Mrs. Eliza Tomlinson Foster of a prominent family of Maryland. Col. Foster was a man of prominence in Allegheny and Pitts-

burgh, being at one time Mayor and member of the Legislature. He was also the father of Stephen Collins Foster, the famous composer of "My Old Kentucky Home", "Old Black Joe" and many more of the Negro songs of matchless beauty and pathos which appealed to the heart of man and powerfully aided the Anti-Slavery movement of that time. At his death, January 13, 1864, appropriate and impressive services were held in Trinity Church, Pittsburgh, and several of his sweetest melodies were played as his body was laid to rest in Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, not far from the Arsenal close to where he was born, in the midst of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of our American Independence, July 4, 1826. The Foster home-
stead on Penn Avenue, near 35th Street, Pittsburgh, is now a public shrine, visited by hundreds of admirers. It is particularly interesting to know that many of these melodies were tried out by his sister, Mrs. Buchanan, in her home at Paradise. Passersby often heard these songs accompanied by Mrs. Buchanan on her melodeon. During Mr. Buchanan's Rectorship at St. John's it was resolved January 29, 1838, to build a new church 65 ft. x 40 ft. The corner-stone of this new and larger church was laid June 21, 1838, and the church was opened for services on Christmas day of the same year.

St. John's Parish is located on the "King's Highway" or Old Road from Lancaster to Philadelphia, in the beautiful Pequea Valley. It was placed under the care of Rev. Richard Backhouse, the missionary at Chester. He officiated for ten years.

This famous old church at Compassville is in Chester County while part of the land is in Lancaster County. The first church, built of logs in 1729, was situated in a beautiful spot near the Welsh Mountains and was constructed largely through the generosity of Martha Bazaillon, wife of a French-Canadian Indian Trader. The family names of Lightner, Ubil, Henderson, Yeates, Douglass, Atlee, Clemson, Baldwin, Boyd, Bazaillon, Hopkins, Gibbs, Ferree, and many others, appear on the early records and stones in the old churchyard.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LEACOCK, PA.

Place of Dr. Buchanan's Longest Local Service

Christ Church, at Leacock, was organized May 2, 1818, and came under the care of Rev. Buchanan at the same time that he assumed his duties in

Old St. John's, of Pequea, in 1835. His ministry in this church continued for almost twenty years. He was considered an excellent preacher and was highly esteemed. The records of this church contain the names of some very prominent families in that section at the time, viz.: Judge John Lightner, Joel Lightner, Sr., Joel Lightner, Esq., Nathaniel F. Lightner, John Yeates, George Ellmaker, John and Andrew Dunlap, Shaw Frew, Isaac B. Burrowes, Jacob Eshleman, and many others.

On August 31, 1845, Rev. Buchanan resigned the rectorship of St. John's after ten and one-half years of service, giving two reasons for his doing so,—(1) The difficulty of attending the congregation in connection with Christ Church, Leacock, and a new church in contemplation at Paradise; (2) The conviction that it would be greatly to the interests of St. John's to have their own exclusive minister.

All Saint's Church on LaFayette Hill

On July 31, 1841, a meeting was held at the public-house of Amos Witmer for the purpose of organizing a parish in Paradise. The following persons were present,—Redmond Conyngham, J. Lightner, Adam K. Witmer, John Yeates, J. Eshelman, Jr., David Witmer, J. Yeates Conyngham and Rev. E. Y. Buchanan, who was elected Rector of the Parish. A vestry was chosen and the first services of the Parish, which was named "All Saint's," were held in a stone school-house, standing at the foot of LaFayette Hill, September 12, 1841. The church in Paradise is largely due to Redmond Conyngham's zealous liberality, he having purchased the land about that time. He married the daughter of Judge Jasper Yeates and several of his descendants are still prominent workers in the church. The Parish and Church were admitted into the Diocese of the State at a convention held in 1842 at which time there were only seven communicants. The Sunday-school numbered forty regular attendants.

The congregation, rapidly, grew too large for the school-house and on Monday, August 7, 1843, the corner-stone for a new frame church on the top of LaFayette Hill was laid by the Right Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, D.D., who delivered an address. Rev. Samuel Bowman also addressed the congregation. The building committee with the Rector, was R. Conyngham, A. K. Witmer, J. Eshleman, Jr., and Henry Witmer. Charles Myers was the builder. The church was consecrated, December 3, 1843, by Bishop Onderdonk, assisted by the Rector in the presence of a large congregation. During the next two years a pipe organ was secured and a bell hung in the tower of the church.

Many of the early family names are still on the active list of worshippers although the names of Trout, Beam, McClelland, Doyle, Kinzer, Kessler, Wardle, Lechler, Lingerfield, Warfel, Michael, Hemphill, Quin, Hood and Lockwood no longer appear. The Rev. E. Y. Buchanan was the beloved Rector for thirteen years.

"All Saint's" Cemetery is located on the hill south of the church and was used as a burial ground by the Indians many years ago. It was the resting place of Chief Tanawa for many years, but after a removal, the location of the grave was lost.

During the Rectorship of Rev. R. I. Chittenden in 1894 the old church on the Hill was removed and a newer, handsomer one, of stone, erected along the "Lincoln Highway." Rev. Frederick Marx Barton, a descendant of Rev. Thomas Barton of St. James's Church, Lancaster, served the congregation for the last few years. Since the resignation of Rev. Barton, several months ago—services are being conducted by Rev. Harry G. Hartman, of Lancaster.

The school-house in 1841 was known as the Paradise Seminary with Enos Stevens, A. B., as principal, and Susan M. Kennedy as assistant. James

C. Beckel was teacher of music. In 1843 the attendance was 39 boys and 24 girls. Here, too, the Paradise Lyceum had a library of 600 volumes, a col-



ALL SAINT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PARADISE, PA.

lection of minerals and plants, a set of globes, surveying instruments and a number of other articles.

The writer received the following letter from one whom we all respect and honor—

Lancaster, Pa., June 15, 1928.

My dear Mrs. L;—

You ask me if I recall Rev. Edward Y. Buchanan, who in my early boyhood was rector of the Episcopal Church at Paradise, Lancaster County, Penna.

I do, indeed. He was one of the men who impressed me most in those far-off days—a high-grade clergyman of quiet and dignified manner, held in respect by everybody. The church seemed a more sacred place when he was in the pulpit.

We had pews in three churches, one in the Old Leacock Presbyterian Church, near our home, north of Gordonville, a second in what was the new Presbyterian Church at Paradise—and a third in the Episcopal Church at Paradise, my mother having been brought up in St. John's Church at Compassville. We attended services regularly in all three churches. My mother, a genuine Christian of the best type, was much impressed by both Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan.

It will be eighty years at the coming Christmas of 1928 since "Jim" Buchanan, oldest son of the Rector, and I gathered box-wood from the ample grounds of Oak Hill Academy for the decoration of the Episcopal Church on the Hill at the west end of the town, nearly a mile away. We were both boys at the Academy—I a year or two younger than he—but didn't he drive "like Jehu", that boy? And didn't I enjoy it—backwards and forward again and again? I have had many a hard drive before and since—but I have no memory of anything better than "Jim's" work that day—and our gathering of those Christmas greens. I recall many a memorable observance of our High School Christmas since, but never any that I think of more pleasantly than this.

And that same Christmas Eve we spent at the parsonage—a stone building still standing on the west bank of the Pequea Creek at Paradise. I was a little fellow, quiet and almost unnoticed, I suppose, but all eyes, and ears and mental touch. How I remember the opening of the large box that had just been received from Hon. James Buchanan of Lancaster, with lavish gifts for everybody in the family—and especially a splendid copy of the Bible for his brother—the finest I had ever seen. I had never known or imagined such an evening as this—and was it possible that I—a live child—could ever forget it?

Mrs. Buchanan, the wife of the Rector, was a woman as unusual as her husband. She played the small organ in the church for the choir. My brother and I greatly enjoyed it and talked of it often to each other as the best music we ever heard. She was a sister of Stephen Collins Foster, the noted song writer, author of dozens of songs that are widely known and sung throughout the English-speaking world—the most noted man in this direction that our country has yet produced.

Very truly,

J. P. McCASKEY.

The Home at Paradise

This old stone house, according to the survey of the Lancaster and Philadelphia Turnpike in 1806 was a tavern, kept by Peter Forney and known as the "Sign of the Spread Eagle." Here Rev. Buchanan and his family lived from 1841 to September 17, 1854. On April 1, 1854, Hon. James Buchanan purchased the house from Adam K. Witmer. It remained in his possession about ten or twelve years when it was again sold. The children of Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan were Miss Annie, who passed away in 1927, having lived in Philadelphia many years and well known for her church work; Henrietta, who often visited her Uncle James; Lois, who became the wife of Alexander J. Cassatt, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad and who lived in Rittenhouse Square for many years, where she passed away in January, 1920; Harriet, and Alice, wife of Mr. Maskell Ewing. There were several sons. Mrs. Ewing is now living at Villa Nova. Several grandchildren of Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan also reside in Philadelphia. Charlotte Foster, the oldest daughter of Dr. Buchanan is the only member of the family buried in All Saint's Cemetery at Paradise.

Rev. Buchanan Ends His Ministry in Lancaster County

On October 8, 1854, Reverend Buchanan entered upon the Rectorship of Trinity Church, Oxford, Philadelphia, having faithfully ministered in Lancaster County for almost twenty years. This was his last charge.

Trinity Episcopal Church of Oxford, Philadelphia, is one of the oldest churches in Pennsylvania, having been founded about the same time that St. David's of Radnor was begun. The people of these two settlements were mostly Welsh, and having difficulty in understanding the English language, asked for a missionary of their own from the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." In 1714 Rev. John Chubb became the missionary to Oxford and Radnor, which, for many years were continued as Missions.

Soon after Dr. Buchanan took charge of Oxford he opened a Sunday School room in the tower of the church in May, 1855. From this time on he was untiring in his efforts for the good of the church and his people. In 1857 he prepared a Historical Sketch of the Parish of Trinity Church, Oxford, which was published by Lindsay & Blackiston of Philadelphia.

Miss Harriet Lane, who became the popular mistress of the "White House" at Washington, during her Uncle James Buchanan's administration, was confirmed in her Uncle Edward's church at Oxford, May 8, 1863, and was also married by him to Henry E. Johnston, Esq., of Baltimore, January 11, 1866, at Wheatland, Lancaster.

In May, 1876, Dr. Buchanan preached the Convention sermon in St. Andrew's, Philadelphia, which was published by request. A copy of this sermon is preserved in the Archives of the Episcopal Church Historical Society.

Dr. Buchanan resigned the Rectorship of Trinity Church in 1882 after celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination by Bishop White. He resigned by reason of failing sight. His entire ministry was spent in his native state and he was highly honored by his Diocese, being upon important committees and boards as long as he could in any way serve.

Over the door of the Sunday School building, erected in 1883 is the following inscription—

"Commemorative of the Rectorship of the
Reverend Edward Y. Buchanan, D.D.,
in this Parish, 1854—1882."

And there was presented to him a heavily embossed silver pitcher and two trays, inscribed—

"Presented by the congregation of Trinity
Church, Oxford, Philadelphia, to the
Reverend Edward Y. Buchanan, D.D.,
on the fiftieth anniversary of
his Ordination, 8th July, 1882."

Dr. Buchanan passed into that Great Beyond, January 20, 1895, and lies beside his good wife in the Oxford Cemetery. At that time he was the sole survivor of those Missionary Priests on whom the great Bishop White laid hands, and thus derived his authority to preach and administer the Sacraments of the Church from one who himself, derived his Episcopal character from the consecrating hands of Archbishop Moore, of Canterbury, in the chapel of Lambeth Palace, February 4, 1787. His brother, Hon. James Buchanan, likewise, was the last President of the old line school of the Democratic party that preceded the Civil War. In this way he became a link between the anti-bellum days and those of the new Democracy of the present time.

A Philadelphia paper of January, 1897, contains the following account—

“A handsome stone altar was unveiled yesterday and used for the first time in the historic Christ Church, Second street above Market. The altar is the gift of Mrs. A. J. Cassatt, and was erected as a memorial to her father, Rev. Dr. Edward Y. Buchanan, who was for many years associated with the church, and was ordained to the sacred office by the late Bishop White.

“The new altar stands directly back of Bishop White’s tomb in the chancel and takes the place of the old wooden altar.

Previous to the sermon, the Rector, Rev. Dr. C. Ellis Stevens, said—“Many of the older members of the congregation will remember the labors and faithful service of Dr. Buchanan, in whose memory this altar is to-day unveiled. He was kind and sympathetic in all his ministrations and was the last clergyman ordained by Bishop White. It seems very appropriate that a memorial should be placed so near the tomb in which Bishop White lies, in this chancel.

“The original altar of Christ Church occupied the position the new one now occupies. In 1788 the pulpit was moved to the center of the church and a mere table took the place of the original altar. The pulpit was afterwards restored to its original position at the side of the chancel. It seems highly fitting that a more durable and substantial altar should take the place of the wooden one that has been so long in use. On this spot the first Communion service of the American Church was read, and it was adopted into the Prayer Book by the General Convention, then assembled in this church. The spot is therefore especially sacred to American churchmen and deserving of a costly memorial.”

The new altar is of Caen stone and white marble from Carrara, Italy. It is exquisite in design. The steps bear the inscription—

“In the glory of God and in memory of Edward Y. Buchanan, D.D.,
ordained in this parish by Bishop White, 1832.”

Thus two prominent brothers of the Buchanan Family—James, the oldest member and Edward, the youngest, came to Lancaster County, and in passing have left an impress behind them of worthy note and distinction—One in the Civil and Political history of the Country and the other as one of those missionary saints in the Spiritual World, who labored incessantly to advance the Kingdom of Christ.

Author: Landis, Bertha Cochran.

Title: Rev. Edward Young Buchanan, D. D. : brother of the president / by (Mrs. D. B.) Bertha Cochran Landis.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Buchanan, Edward Young, 1811-1895.
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society, 1928

Description: 123-132 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 32,
no. 9 & 10

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.32

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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