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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Peter Washington

Date: July 6, 1853

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Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Wheatland, near Lancaster 6 July 1853

My dear Sir / My friend & neighbour W. Lightner was here on the 4th to inquire whether I had received his appointment, but I told him to be patient, - it would come in due time. I told him that W. Cantine his successor had become a great Democrat & was to be retained, which annoyed us all very much. But so the world wags. Lightner is a very close fellow & a popular man & possesses much influence with our Democrats.

I hope you have presented, - indeed I doubt not you have presented strongly to the Secretary my application in behalf of Carlton B. Cotton of the Western part of this State. No man better deserves a good Clerkship, & there are few men who would better perform the duties of almost any Desk. I feel very anxious for his success; but considering how very little I have been able to accomplish for my friends, I scarcely venture to hope for his appointment. You would place me under obligations which I shall not soon forget, if you will urge this appointment on the Secretary. But if the thing is impossible, I should be pleased to know it & thus place him out of suspense.

With my respectful regards for W. Guliver I remain,

very respectfully,

Your friend

James Buchanan

Peter G. Washington Esq