

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Letters from James Buchanan to Jessie Magaw

Date: 1862-1866

Location: MC 1998.10

Contact:

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

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

300/5

Whealland, near Lancaster

28 November 1862.

My dear Jesse,

Your kind letter has afforded me sincere pleasure. I am rejoiced that Providence has afforded you the opportunity of receiving an excellent education. For this you ought to be very thankful to your Heavenly Father & industriously improve your time. Should you neglect your education now, you will repent this all your life.

* I trust you will be so docile & respectful to your teachers & so kind & gentle to your companions, that all, as you pass along will say; — "There goes dear little Jesse." How happy this would make me!

Had I known your mother was at
Meadville, I should have pressed her
to visit me on her return to Washington.

I should be delighted to see you,
but do not intend to visit Washington
during the approaching winter. Should
we both live I hope to see you at
Wheatland during your summer vacation.
I am now in my seventy second year
& cannot expect to live much longer; but
should we never meet, may the blessing
of God rest upon you & make you a
wise, virtuous & happy woman.

Your Cousins, - the two Harveys &
Miss Betty send you their kindest loves

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan
Miss Lydia Magaw,

Wheatland, near Lancaster
28 November 1862.

My dear Jessie,

Your kind letter has afforded me sincere pleasure. I am rejoiced that Providence has afforded you the opportunity of receiving an excellent education. For this you ought to be very thankful to your Heavenly Father & industriously improve your time. Should you neglect your education now, you will repent this all your life.

I trust you will be so docile & respectful to your teachers & so kind & gentle to your companions, that all, as you pass along will say: - "There goes dear little Jessie". How happy this would make me!

[Page Break]

Had I known your mother was at Meadville, I should have pressed her to visit me on her return to Washington.

I should be delighted to see you; but do not intend to visit Washington during the approaching winter. Should we both live I hope to see you at Wheatland during your summer vacation. I am not in my seventy second year & cannot expect to live much longer; but should we never meet, may the blessing of God rest upon you & make you a wise, virtuous & happy woman!

Your cousins – the two Harriets & Miss Helty send you their kindest love.

Yours affectionately,
James Buchanan

Miss Jessie Magaw

150

Wheatland, near Lancaster

9 February 1866

My dear Sister

It afforded me great pleasure to receive, on yesterday, your favor of the 2^d Inst.

I was much attached to your mother whose name you bear and this attachment has descended on yourself. She was gentle & mild

& amiable and died the death of a Christian.

She had not a very happy lot in this world;

but I humbly trust her spirit is now with

her father in Heaven. Always cherish her

memory. You ought to be thankful to a

kind Providence for the excellent mother ~~has~~

~~has~~ provided to take her place. I hope

you may ever be affectionate & dutiful

to her and be careful never to do any thing

* she does not approve. I am pleased to perceive
you write so good a hand, which is a valuable
accomplishment, and trust you may greatly
improve by reading the English works recommended
by your mother. Read them carefully & slowly
not as a task: and endeavor to recollect what
you read. To skim over books without contemplating
their contents in your memory is of but little
advantage. I am rejoiced to learn that your
mother and yourself intend to pay me a visit
in the Spring. I hope then to find you, should
we live, an accomplished girl with high
christian principles for your guidance. There
never was a wiser maxim book for this
life & that which is to come than, "Remember

your Creator in the days of your youth."

Your Cousin Harriet was married to
Henry E. Johnston of Baltimore on the 11 January.
She left on the day of the wedding and I have
not seen her since. I believe she is happily married.
She would have sent cards to your father
and mother & to yourself; but did not know
where to direct them. I now enclose them.

You apply for particulars of the wedding to
a person little skilled in such matters. It was
comparatively private. The guests were confined to
Miss Lanes & Mr. Johnston's relatives and a few
of her oldest & most intimate friends. The number
present little exceeded forty. They were married at
1 O'clock on the day & there was a handsome celebra-
-tion at two. I think no wedding party ever
enjoyed themselves more. The bride & groom left at
5 ~~from~~ for New York and are now in Baltimore.

I believe they intend soon to visit Cuba.

Maria paid us a long visit during the last summer & Autumn; and made herself so agreeable that we were sorry to part from her. She is, I think a very fine girl & often talks of you affectionately.

Miss Annie & Harriet Buchanan have not yet returned home since the wedding. Both with Miss Hettie desire to be affectionately remembered to you. I forgot to mention that the marriage ceremony was performed by their father.

My own health is good considering my advanced age being now in my 75th year.

Please to present my warm & affectionate regards to your mother & remember me very kindly to your father & believe me to be ever your

affectionate uncle

Miss Sepia Magaro.  James Buchanan

Wheatland, near Lancaster
9 February 1866

My dear Jessie/

It afforded me great pleasure to receive, on yesterday, your favor of the 2d Inst. I was much attached to your mother whose name you bear and this attachment has descended on yourself. She was gentle & mild & amiable and died the death of a Christian. She had not a very happy lot in this world; but I humbly trust her spirit is now with her father in Heaven. Always cherish her memory. You ought to be thankful to a kind Providence for the excellent mother ~~he~~ ~~has~~ provided to take her place. I hope you may ever be affectionate & dutiful

[Page Break]

to her and be careful never to do any thing she does not approve. I am pleased to perceive you write so good a hand which is a valuable accomplishment, and trust you may greatly improve by reading the English works recommended by your mother. Read them carefully & slowly not as a task: and endeavor to recollect what you read. To skim over books without implanting their contents in your memory is of but little advantage. I am rejoiced to learn that your mother and yourself intend to pay me a visit in the Spring. I hope then to find you, should we live, an accomplished girl with high Christian principles for your guidance. There never was a wiser maxim, both for this life & that which is to come than, "Remember

[Page Break]

your creator in the days of your youth."

Your Cousin Harriet was married to Henry E. Johnston of Baltimore on the 11 January. She left on the day of the wedding and I have not seen her since. I believe she is happily married. She would have sent cards to your father and mother & to yourself; but did not know where to direct them. I now enclose them.

You apply for particulars of the wedding to a person little skilled in such matters. It was comparatively private. The guests were confined to Miss Lane's & Mr. Johnston's relatives and a few of her oldest & most intimate friends. The number present little exceeded forty. They were married at 1 O'clock in the day & there was a handsome entertainment at two. I think no wedding party ever enjoyed themselves more. The bride & groom left at 5 ~~from~~ for New York and are now in Baltimore.

[Page Break]

I believe they intend soon to visit Cuba.

Maria paid us a long visit during the last summer & autumn; and made herself so agreeable that we were sorry to part from her. She is, I think a very fine girl & often talked of you affectionately.

Misses Annie & Harriet Buchanan have not yet returned home since the wedding. Both with Miss Hettie desire to be affectionately remembered to you. I forgot to mention that the marriage ceremony was performed by their father.

My own health is good considering my advanced age being now in my 75th year.

Please to present my warm & affectionate regards to your mother & remember me kindly to your father & believe me to be ever your

affectionate uncle
James Buchanan

Miss Jessie Magaw