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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to John R. Savage

Date: January 1, 1840

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Ocar Sir/

(Washington 1 Sanuary 1820)

I have done to many other gentlement, that your son can know no profest of obtaining a medshipman's wantant. It would be easy for me to say that I would recommend him, as I should on with pleasure thin; and thus by presenting wain hopes of success to him present him from engaging in some other business; but I cannot pursue such a course.

For several years those were no appointments made from Sennylvania, the because we had more than one proportion of justice to the other States of the Union required that our number should be reduced. There willies more is a soon wife be the vacancy; but there are at least liventy applications enterior to gaves which are supported in the strongest manner. The objects of the Oepartment is to scatter there appointments with an equal hand over the deferent states of several of the applications are of the Congressment Districts in Sennylvania which have never had a midshipman.

I deem its proper, under such execumulanew, to dear spankly with a good; because your son's allenters ought to be fixed on some other pursuit. It should lime before the meeting of Congress, I applicate for a medishipman's warrant for a nephero of my own - the only application for a relative of my own which I have ever made, - and I was refused. I was glad of its; because the boy has we consequence turned his alternation to another pursuit.

M. John. R. Savago.

yours very respectfully

Washington 1 January 1840

Dear Sir/

A sense of duty compels me to write to you as I have done to many other gentleman, that your son can have no prospect of obtaining a midshipman's warrant. It would be easy for me to say that I would recommend him, as I should do with pleasure [one word illegible]; and thus by presenting vain hopes of success to him prevent him from engaging in some other business: but I cannot pursue such a course.

For several years there were no appointments made from Pennsylvania, because we had more than our proportion & justice to the other States of the Union required that out number should be reduced. There either now is or soon will be a one vacancy; but there are at least twenty applications anterior to yours which are supported in the strongest manner. The object of the Department is to scatter these applications with an equal hand over the different States & several of the applications are from Congressional Districts in Pennsylvania which have never had a midshipman.

I deem its proper, under such circumstances, to deal frankly with you, because your son's attention ought to be fixed on some other pursuit. A short time before the meeting of Congress, I applied for a midshipman's warrant for a nephew of my own - the only application for a relative of my own which I have ever made, - and I was refused. I was glad of it; because the boy has in consequence turned his attention to another pursuit.

Yours very respectfully James Buchanan

W. John R. Savage