BUCHANAN, JAMES - McMurtry Papers DRAWER 10C CONTEMPORARIES

Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

James Buchanan McMurtry Papers

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

April 19, 1933

Miss Thelma Lampton
Elizabethtown, Ky.

Dear Thelma;

I am writing an article for an historical magazine concerning the residence of James Buchanan in Elizabethtown. I am enclosing a short article concerning his residence there and you will notice that mention is made that some lawyer in tracing land titles discovered that James Buchanan had a large tract of land in Hardin County.

I am wondering if you have ever seen anything concerning this tract. I am trying to establish the fact that Buchanan was in Elizabethtown and if I could prove that he did own property in the county it would go a long way in proving this claim.

You have probably been asked by many people lately about the Buchanan estate, by people trying to place claims for a share of money that is supposed to be distribute to the heirs. I am not interested in that angle at all, I am merely interested in getting up some information for this article which I hope to publish in a few months.

I will appreciate anything you can do for me in this research, and I might say that I wish you much luck in your race for county clerk.

Yours Sincerely

R. Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

Elizabethtown, Ky.

April 25th, 1933.

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,

Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Gerald:

Per request of your letter of April 25th, I have examined our deed records from 1793 to 1858. I find only one deed to James Buckhanan, which must be the one referred to in the article you inclosed. This deed is dated March 15th, 1796, is made by Michael Campbell and wife Sarah to James Dickey and James Buckhanan of Franklin County,State of Pennsylvania,for 3610 Acres of land in Hardin County. Then in 1821 I found where Buckhanan and Dickey made a deed to Charles Campbell. Am afraid this is too early to be the James Buchanan, you want.

Thanks for your good wishes and anytime I can look over the records here for information you want, dont hesitate to call on me, I shall be glad to do it.

Sincerely,

Thelma Lampton.

April 24, 1933

Mr. Otis M. Mather
Hodgenville, Ky.

Dear Mr. Mather:

I am preparing an article concerning the short residence of James Buchanan in Elizabethtown and I have read the short article about Buchanan in your book entitled "Six Generations Of Larues and Allied Families" and I have a newspaper clipping taken from the Louisville Courier Journal written by you in regard to Buchanan. I am wondering if you have discovered any additional data that might be of some help to me.

I have access to quite a large collection of original manuscripts and my data on the subject is proving more interesting as I work into it.

Your book mentions Littll's and Marshall's Reports, would it profit me to have these reports for additional information? If so where could I get copies?

I mailed you a copy of my pamphlet entitled "The Lincolns In Elizabethtown, Kentucky" and I hope you enjoyed it, even though it contained little information probably that you did not already know.

I am enclosing a little pamphlet that I wrote concerning Dr. Warren which might interest you.

If you can help me in my search for new Buchanan material I will appreciate very much hearing from you.

Yours Very Truly

R. Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

OTIS M. MATHER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
HODGENVILLE, KY.

April 27, 1933.

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,

Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

I have your letter of the 24th inst., and am pleased to hear from you. I trust that you may be able to add something to what has been published in regard to the sojourn of James Bucahanan in Elizabethtown. However, I do not think I can give you any information on the subject further than what you will find in the article I wrote for the Courier-Journal.

The original record of the suit which was carried to the Court of Appeals of Kentucky twice, as stated in my article in the Courier-Journal, would probably throw some further light on the subject. You can find the reports of the cases in Littell's and Marshall's Kentucky Court of Appeals Reports, in volumes and pages shown in my article. These official Reports could likely be seen in the library of the Fort Wayne Bar Association (if there is such an organization) or in the library of some lawyer in your city. As I remember, the case was appealed from a judgment of the Nelson Circuit Court, and the original papers in the suit would therefore be in Bardstown, if they are in existence.

I thank you for your booklet, "The Lincolns in Elizabethtown", which I received some time ago and read with interest, also for the pamphlet on Dr. Warren.

I shall be glad to see what you write on Buchanan.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly,

O. M. Mather

I enjoy "Lincoln Lore", which I trust will continue to come to me. O.M.

April 27, 1933

Miss Thelma Lampton
Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Dear Thelma:

I received your letter concerning the deed records of James Buchanan and I was very glad to get this information. This is just the James Buchanan I wanted to know about. This James was the father of President Buchanan and it was because of this land in Hardin County that the future president came to Elizabethtown.

If it is not too much trouble I would like to have copies of these deeds. I would also like to have the page numbers of the books that the deeds are recorded in, and if possible to know in what vicinity this land is situated. I hope I have not asked you for too much, I am assuming that these deeds will not be so very long are hard to copy. In writing an article of this type it is almost necessary to have all the information I can get on the subject. When I use this information I should be able to give the place such information is found so the date of book and page number is very important.

I am sending you under separate cover a small pamphlet that I have recently written about the Lincolns In Elizabethtown. I can't tell you how very glad I am that you were able to find this infromation for me, because it assures the success of my magazine article. When the article is published I will send you a copy.

Again I want to thank you for this trouble.

Sincerely

Gerald McMurtry

June 22, 1933

Mr. Otto A. Rothert
The Filson Club
118 West Breckinridge Street
Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Rothert:

I am sending you along with this letter a manuscript that I have recently written entitled"James Buchanan In Kentucky". I have been very fortunate in my researches on this subject finding a wealth of new material in the Hardin County Court house in Elizabethtown, and in the Haycraft manuscripts that are now in our collection.

Lincoln literature is continually increasing and much is being written about Lincoln in Hardin County, but never has mention been made to my knowledge of the fact that while Lincoln was living in Hardin County, James Buchanan was living in the county seat of the same county. I believe such information should be made avaliable to students and I hope I have been successful in preparing this article in such a form that it will be worthy of publication in your magazine The Filson Club History Quarterly.

If such an article does not suit your magazine, I hope you will read it and tell me what you think of it. I have always been very interested in Kentucky history, and from time to time I have read numerous articles in newspapers concerning James Buchanan in Kentucky, however such articles always seen very vage, and for some reason it seems that little work has been done on the subject, until I became interested.

I have prepared 35 notes to accompany this article and I believe the will increase the interest very much, however I may have in some instances made them to lengthy

lengthy

If you should be interested in publishing such an article

as the one enclosed the notes could be revised as you see fit.

I will appreciate a word from you in regard to this, and in the event you do not publish the article I will want the manuscript returned in order that I can submit it elsewhere.

Yours Very Truly

The Filson Club
INCORPORATED
ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING
HISTORIC MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY
118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

June 23, 1933

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtrie,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. McMurtrie:

Your letter of June 22 to Mr. Rothert was received, also your manuscript on "James Buchanan in Kentucky." Mr. Rothert left today for western Kentucky. He will return in about a week and will then give your manuscript immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Evelyn R. Dale

Evelyn R. Dale

D

The Filson Club
INCORPORATED
ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING
HISTORIC MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY
118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

July 13, 1933

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtrie,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. McMurtrie:

On June 23 we acknowledged receipt of your letter of June 22 and your manuscript "James Buchanan in Kentucky, 1813."

I have gone over the MS. with great care and much pleasure. Your research, evidently, is thorough, your citations of authorities are good, and your presentation of the subject is interesting. We will be glad to publish it in The Filson Club History Quarterly.

I will make a few slight changes in one or two foot notes, the most important are these:

No. 20: will start out: It is said that the expression, etc. The reference in the second last line should read Louisville (not Lincoln) etc Turnpike.

No. 31: Third paragraph will start out: There is an old tradition that it was in the home of John Rowan etc. This paragraph will end: from Kentucky, retaining his Bardstown place as a country home.

Our October number is already "taken up," so January, 1934, is the first chance, unless something unexpected turns up and I can get it in the October, 1933, issue.

Look us up any time you are in Louisville. I suppose you get to E'town now and then.

With best wishes to you and Dr. Warren, I am as ever,

Sincerely,

Otto A. Rothert,
Secretary

D

July 15, 1933

Mr. Otto A. Rothert
The Filson Club
118 West Breckinridge St.
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Mr. Rothert:

I was very glad to know that you liked my manuscript entitled "James Buchanan In Kentucky". I of course would like to have it published in the October issue, however if that is impossible the January issue will be alright.

In preparing this article I have acquired quite a lot of valuable information which is in either photostat or typewritten form which I think would be valuable to the files of the Filson Club. I will send this material to you on the 22nd. of this month when I will be in Elizabethtown.

Now that you have decided to publish the article I can see no further use the data could be to me, however in the event I should want it again I would want you to loan it to me for a short while.

Beforethis article is published it might be of interest to you to go through this information to more completely check my statements. This of course is just a suggestion.

At present I do not have a copy of the manuscript, as I have loaned my copy to Dr. William Allen Pusey, however as soon as he returns it I will write to you again possibly giving you a few slight changes that I think should be made. I regret the fact that I did not put more time on the notes, however I believe they will fit in alright.

I surely appreciate your interest in this matter, and I assure you I will pay you a visit the first time I am in Louisville with leisure time.

Yours Very Truly

R. Gerald McMurtry, Librarian

The Filson Club

INCORPORATED

ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING
HISTORIC MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY

118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

July 17, 1933

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtrie,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. McMurtrie:

Since writing you on July 13 I have gone over your foot notes more critically, resulting in the following comments and questions:

I suggest we substitute the enclosed for your Foot Note No. 2.

Foot Note No. 4 is taken from Warren's Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood, page 121. Some quotation marks are missed by him and, in turn, by you. Please give me a revised copy.

Foot Note No. 4 refers to Sommers' History of Elizabethtown. Is this H. A. Sommers? If this is a newspaper article, give name and date of paper; if a book or pamphlet, give date and place of publication? If this refers to Samuel Haycraft's book then Chapter 48 is the wrong reference.

Foot Note No. 8 refers to Leroy Martin's Facts About Elizabethtown. The questions asked above regarding No. 4 apply to No. 8. We have neither of the two in our library.

Sincerely,

Otto A. Rothert

Otto A. Rothert,
Secretary

D

Since dictating the above we received your letter of the 15th. I hope you can come to The Filson Club when you are in the city next week.

July 20, 1933

Mr. Otto A. Rothert
The Filson Club
118 West Breckinridge St.
Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Rothert:

You will find enclosed a correction for my manuscript "James Buchanan In Kentucky". This slight correction should becmade because I assumed too much when I state that in 1821 the land was sold at a profit. The land in Westmoreland County was probably valuable and I believe that a profit was realized. This correction should be made on page 6,last paragraph. I have encolsed what I think a properly worded correction.

I have also enclosed corrections for the notes as you requested in your recent letter. I am sorry that I have made this extra work necessary for you,however I appreciate very much your interest in helping me get the article in proper shape to be published.

It will be impossible for me to come to the Filson Club this next week end,however I will be in Kentucky several times during August,and I shall make it a point to call at your office.

Saturday I will send you copies of the Buchanan deeds,photostats of manuscripts and etc. for you to place in the Filson Club files.

I also wish to call attention to the correct spelling of my name. I spell my name McHurtry,however the old way is McHurtrie. My family have always used y instead of ie,so when the article goes to press I hope you will see that the name is spelled as I spell it.

In the event you think any additional research should be made concerning my article I [illegible] I can to get the additional information. Do not hesitate to call on me at any time.

Yours Very Truly

DR. WM. ALLEN PUSEY
1301 CHICAGO BUILDING
7 WEST MADISON STREET
CHICAGO
HOURS: 10 TO 12 A. M. AND
BY APPOINTMENT

STATE 0070
STATE 0071

July Nineteenth
1 9 3 3

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
Lincoln Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Your letter of the 18th received while Dr. Pusey is out of the city. In view of the fact that you need the copy of the manuscript James Buchanan in Kentucky in such a short time I am inclosing it herewith rather than waiting until Dr. Pusey gets back to the city.

Yours very truly,

R. W. Baldwin

R. W. Baldwin
Secretary to Dr. W. A. Pusey.

Incl.

DR. WM. ALLEN PUSEY
1301 CHICAGO BUILDING
7 WEST MADISON STREET
CHICAGO
HOURS: 10 TO 12 A. M. AND
BY APPOINTMENT

STATE 0070
STATE 0071

July Twentieth
1 9 3 3

Mr. H. Gerald McMurtry,
Lincoln Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

I am sorry I overkept your Buchanan manuscript. I put it aside to take some notes from it and delayed longer than I expected. I am glad the paper is coming out in the Filson Club Quarterly. To see it there will be soon enough for my purposes.

I shall be glad to see you any time in Chicago or Elizabethtown. I hope to be able to be down at Christmas.

Yours cordially,

WAP-B

DR. WM. ALLEN PUSEY
1301 CHICAGO BUILDING
7 WEST MADISON STREET
CHICAGO
HOURS: 10 TO 12 A. M. AND
BY APPOINTMENT

STATE 0070
STATE 0071

June Twenty-third
1 9 3 3

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
Lincoln Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

I should like very much to see the "James Buchanan in Kentucky" manuscript. Thank you for thinking of me in connection with it. I should think the Filson Club would be anxious to get it.

Yours cordially,

WAP-B

The Filson Club

INCORPORATED

ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING
HISTORIC MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY

118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

July 24, 1933

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Your letters of July 15 and July 20 were received. In the one of July 20 you enclosed a number of footnote suggestions and alterations, all of which I will take up with you when you come here in August.

We today received the large envelope you sent from Elizabethtown containing notes and source material on your "James Buchanan in Kentucky" This, too, I will keep with your manuscript until we have had a chance to go over everything together.

Today I received a letter from Judge Otis M. Mather calling my attention to the fact that the name of James Buchanan appears as a witness to a power-of-attorney given in March 1795. I am enclosing the page containing the reference referred to in the July number of our History Quarterly, page 159. I, of course, do not know who this James Buchanan is. He may have been the President's father.

Looking forward to seeing you next month, I am as ever

Sincerely,

Otto A. Rothert

Otto A. Rothert,
Secretary

D

Jacob Larue, of Frederick Co., Va., appoints Alexander and Robert Breckinridge of Jefferson Co., Ky., his lawful attorneys to ascertain all the interfering claims within the bounds of two surveys of 18,000 acres, between Floyd's Fork and the trace leading from the Falls of the Ohio to Bullitt's Lick, and to adjust and settle all disputes to the interest of said Larue. March 9, 1795.
Witnesses: Worden Pope, John Drake and James Buchanan. Recorded March 6, 1798. [*B1, p224.*]

Henry Lyne, of Henry Co., Va., appoints Stephen Ormsby, of Jefferson Co., Ky., his lawful attorney to convey, by deed, unto Richard Reynolds two-third part of 500 acres of land granted to Henry Lyne by patent May 27, 1785, in Jefferson Co., on the Ohio and adjoining lands of William Fleming and George Lyne, agreeable to a division made of the said tract between Richard Reynolds and Isaac Hite of Jefferson Co., and also to convey to Isaac Hite a deed for the other third of the 500 acres. May 25, 1793.
Witnesses: J. Colman, Joseph Kellar. Recorded July 20, 1798. [*B1, p225.*]

Benjamin Sebastian, of Jefferson Co., releases Michael Horine, of Lincoln Co., Ky., from any actions or causes of actions, debts, bonds, contracts, covenants, etc., which he ever had against him. October 23, 1797.
Witnesses: Jno. Speed, Jas. A. Sturgus [A'Sturgus], Charles Beeler, Lewis Field. Recorded February 6, 1798. [*B1, p226.*]

Cad. Slaughter agrees to a recorded obligation from Col. Richard Taylor to Benoni Demant. June 5, 1790.
Witnesses: Francis R. Slaughter, James Sloane. Recorded March 6, 1798. [*B1, p226.*]

James Smith, of Jefferson Co., being endebted to John Stucky, of same county, for £40 lawful money; and John Stucky having gone James Smith's bond for certain money to William Allison, and also for several others in small debts; James Smith, in order to pay debts, assigns and sells unto the said John Stucky all manner of goods, chattels, debts, money, and one sorrel horse. February 20, 1798.
Witnesses: Jno. Miller, John Ad Bory [Booy?], Martin Pottorff. Bill of Sale recorded March 6, 1798. [*B1, p227.*]

August 24, 1933

Mr. Otto A. Rothert
The Filson Club
118 West Breckinridge St.
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Mr. Rothert:

Knowing of your interest of the phrase "going up Salt River" I have enclosed a clipping concerning the fact.

Mr. Holman Hamilton has brought back glowing reports of the real Southern hospitality that he was accorded on his visit to the Filson Club.

In looking over my manuscript "James Buchanan In Kentucky" I noticed my carbon copy states that the elder James Buchanan was married in 1778. This is not correct. He was married in 1788. I may have corrected the original that you have, however I will appreciate it if you will check this date.

I know by the time you look over my article may more time you will wish that either you had not accepted the article for publication or that Buchanan had never been in Kentucky.

I surely enjoyed the few hours I spent in the Filson Club and like Mr. Hamilton I think it extends the most cordial hospitality.

Yours Very Truly

R. Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Found.

The Filson Club
INCORPORATED
ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING
HISTORIC MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY
118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

January 20, 1934

Mr. R. Gerald Mc Murtry,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear R. Gerald:

Some time ago I told you that your Buchanan in Kentucky would appear in the January, 1934, number of our History Quarterly, for such was my plan. I now wish to report to you that I found it best to shift its publication to our April, 1934, number. I will send you a copy of the January number as soon as it is printed, about February 1.

As ever,

Otto A. Rothert

Otto A. Rothert,
Secretary

D

January 22, 1934

Mr. Otto A.Rothert
The Filson Club
118 West Breckinridge St.
Louisville,Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Rothert:

I am rather disappointed that you are planning to hold my Buchanan article for the April issue. Of course I realize that you know best about this matter,and I appreciate very much the acceptance of the article for your publication.

In a few months the Hardin County Historical Society is going to erect in Elizabethtown a bronze tablet commemorating Buchanan's residence in the town.The tablet is already finished and is in Elizabethtown. The Hardin County Court officials are going to furnish a boulder taken from the mouth of Doe Run Creek to mount the tablet. It will be located in the court house yard.

We were very anxious that my article be published before the dedication of the tablet in order to arouse some interest in the dedication of the tablet.I shall write to the president of the society instructing him to hold up the plans for the erection of the tablet until my article is published.

Again I want to thank you for your interest in this matter,and it will be perfectly alright to hold up the article until the April issue. We will make our plans for the dedication to occur about the time the April issue is off the press.

Yours Very Truly

R.Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

The Filson Club
INCORPORATED

ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING
HISTORIC MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY

118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

January 23, 1934

Mr. R. Gerald Mc Murtry,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Gerald:

Your letter of the 22 was received this morning. I knew nothing about the Buchanan tablet the Hardin County Historical Society is preparing to erect. Even if I had known, I could not have published your article in our January number.

Since the Society wishes to dedicate the tablet in April I will offer to do all I can toward having your article on Buchanan appear in the Elizabethtown papers before the dedication and thereby help arouse a greater interest in the ceremony.

The probabilities are that our April number will not be ready for mailing until the latter part of April. I will be glad, however, to have the type of your article set up in March and have the galley sheets in the hands of the Elizabethtown newspaper no later than April 1. The Elizabethtown paper can then print it in any of its April issues and credit it as a reprint from the April number of The Filson Club History Quarterly. But under no circumstances can the article be printed in an Elizabethtown paper earlier than April 1st.

Please send me the exact wording of the tablet, also the exact size of the tablet, and I will add a footnote to your article giving these facts. And if the date of the dedication can be given me by about March 1st I will include it also in the added footnote. I suggest you write the footnote yourself. If, however, you wish me to do it I can do so, for I have the manuscript here. This footnote must necessarily be the last footnote, for we can not change the numbers of the others because the chances of making an error in the numbers are too great.

Sincerely,

Otto A. Rothert

Otto A. Rothert,
Secretary

D

January 24, 1934.

Mr. Otto A. Rothert
The Filson Club
118 West Breckinridge St.
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Mr. Rothert:

Upon receipt of your letter I have decided to ask the Hardin County Historical Society to dedicate the Buchanan tablet in Elizabethtown on April 23rd. This would be an ideal date because of the fact that that is Buchanan's birthday. If the dedication, which will be a very simple affair, is held that late in the month it will not be necessary to go to the trouble of having galley sheets made up. Very likely the Filson Club Quarterly will be sent out about that time making the article very timely.

I shall take this matter up with the officers of the society and I am sure they will agree to that date. I also like the idea of having a note added to my article concerning the tablet, size and etc. I shall send this information to you as soon as I receive it from the society.

Last week I heard Holman Hamilton give a very wonderful talk on Z. Taylor. His family which are very prominent here are helping him in this work and I believe he will be financially able to publish his researches in book form. I am sure his introductory pages will praise very highly the help and information he received at the Filson Club. This material however is not at present ready for publication.

Yours Very Truly

R. Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

The Filson Club

INCORPORATED

ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING HISTORIC MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY

118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

March 28, 1934

Mr. R. Gerald Mc Murtry,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Mc Murtry:

Your letter of the 26th was received. We will give your Fort Wayne address on our printed list of members.

It seems I made a mistake about the cover for the reprints and therefore a mistake was made in the price. The printer, in making out the price, understood me to say I wanted the pamphlet enclosed in nothing but a plain sheet of paper, same as the other paper, and without any printing on it. I discovered this misunderstanding yesterday and ordered the pamphlet printed with a gray heavy paper cover and title. This increases the price $6.25, but it being too late to consult you I told him to do the printing and add $6.25 to your bill. I hop that is satisfactory to you. In view of the fact that you have no typesetting on your bill the charges for the pamphlet are very reasonable.

Do you want all 200 sent to Fort Wayne or shall we hold some, say 100, here so you can later have them sent to Elizabethtown?

Sincerely,

Otto A. Rothert

Otto A. Rothert,
Secretary

D

March 29, 1934

Mr. Otto A. Rothert
The Filson Club
118 West Breckinridge St.
Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Rothert:

I received your letter today regarding the reprints, and it will be alright to increase the publication costs. I believe I will be able to sell enough of these to break even.

When they are finished please send me the entire 200 copies as I am going to number and sign them. I will send you some copies numbered and signed copies as soon as I receive them.

Yours Very Truly

R. Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
TO THE
KENTUCKY STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
1933-1934

NEXT MEETING, HARLAN, 1934

April 25, 1934

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation
604 West Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Mr. McMurtry:

Through Mrs. J.R.Layman, Elizabethtown, I have been privileged to read your article in the Hardin County Enterprise, April 19th, on "Lincoln, Green and Buchanan". And through her I have obtained your address.

I want to ask you if, in your research work in Kentucky, you have learned anything of Dr. Buchanan who practised medicine in Green County in 1809. Or, have you learned the names of any other doctors in that vicinity at that time?

My interest is in finding the names, and whatever else I can, of the "two physicians" who called Dr. Ephraim McDowell, December 13, 1809, to see Mrs. Jane Todd Crawford in Green County, the woman upon whom Dr. McDowell performed the first ovariotomy.

Under separate cover, I am mailing you a copy of the reprint of my address before The Filson Club on the subject of Jane Todd Crawford so that you will be able to read Dr. McDowell's own brief report (p.116) and see what he says about it. We have not been able to,definitely, identify these two physicians and I hope that perhaps, in the ramifications of your own research, you may have some clue that would help us.

For your interest and your aid, we will indeed be grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Jane Teare McCormack

Mrs. Arthur Thomas McCormack

May 1, 1934

Mrs. Arthur Thomas McCormack
Women's Auxiliary
Kentucky State Medical Ass'n.
Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Mrs. McCormack:

I appreciate very much the pamphlet you sent me concerning Jane Todd Crawford. As I am a graduate of Centre College I consequently heard quite a lot concerning both Mrs. Crawford and Dr. McDowell while residing in Danville for four years.

I am very sorry to say that I can be of little help to you in tracing Dr. Buchanan. In my recently published article in the Filson Club History Quarterly April 1934 I have a footnote where I state that the connection between Pres. Buchanan and the Buchanans of Meade and Mercer Counties in Kentucky is so slight as to be negligible. It is my contention that there was no blood relation between the two families in this country. Very likely the Buchanan families all originated from a common progeneator in Europe.

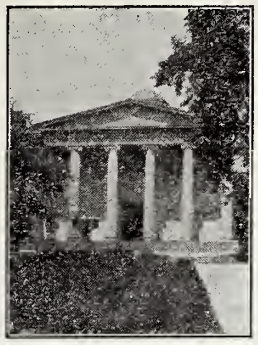
My mother; Mrs. L.B.Hoke of Elizabethtown, Ky. is acquainted with several Buchanan families in Hardin County and if you will write to here I am sure she can put you in touch with parties that will be able to give you quite a bit of information concerning the Kentucky Buchanans.

I am sorry that I am not able to be of more help to you regarding this matter.

Yours Very Truly

R.Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

Kentucky State Historical Society



Frankfort, Kentucky

May 19, 1934

Miss Lucy T. Robertson,
212 Poplar St.,
Elizabethtown, Ky.,

My dear Miss Robertson:

Some weeks ago we were very much pleased to receive through the mail a copy of Mr Gerald McMurtry's article on "James Buchanan in Kentucky, 1813", which was sent with the compliments of the Hardin County Historical Society.

I expect that you were kind enough to send the pamphlet, and am writing now, very tardily, to acknowledge it with many thanks, and to assure you that we are delighted to have it or anything of the same character which your members may get out.

I had already seen and read the article when it came out in the Filson Club History Quarterly, but we always like to have such material in separate form, as it is more convenient for filing and card-indexing, and again I thank you.

May I take this opportunity of inviting you and the members of the Hardin County Historical Society to attend the annual "Boone Day" meeting of our Society, on June 7th. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the principal address will be made by Dr Louise Phelps Kellogg, of the University of Wisconsin, on "The Fame of Daniel Boone". Dr Kellogg is an eminent historian and author, and will be well worth hearing.

The meeting is open to the public, and you and any friends you bring with you will be welcome.

Judge Samuel M. Wilson will give a short talk on the plans of the Boone Bi-Centennial Commission for the celebration of the two hundredth year of the old pioneer's birth.

Yours very truly

Jouett Taylor Cannon
Secretary

DR. BROWN PUSEY
7 WEST MADISON STREET
S. W. COR. STATE AND MADISON STREETS
CHICAGO
STATE 0070-0071

May Twenty-eighth
1 9 3 4

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
Lincoln Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

I am grateful to you for the reprint of your article on James Buchanan in Kentucky. It has given me much interesting information. My compliments and my regards.

Cordially yours,

B. Pusey.

Lancaster, Pa., Feb. 21, 1935.

Mr. R. Gerald Murtry,
Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

My dear sir:-

The pamphlet 'James Buchanan in Kentucky' has been duly received and has been read with interest. I have been active in the Lancaster County Historical Society for some few years and referred to a few of the works we have in the library on Buchanan. The fact that he spent some months in Kentucky evidently was not known to some of the biographers, another makes mention of the report that he had gone to Kentucky to establish a law practice but states that this report seems vague and uncertain of fact. Your pamphlet therefore carries all the more interest since it is annotated with proofs of his having been in Elizabethtown.

Our Society would be pleased to have a copy of the pamphlet in our files, and I wish to inquire whether one could be had for our Library. If so I will remit if there be any charge, if no charge wish to thank you for the same, and hope to be able to reciprocate the favor in some manner.

Respectfully,

C. H. Martin

C. H. Martin,
Lititz Pike,
Lancaster, Pa.

This will be printed on the inside of green paper cover

James Buchanan in Kentucky, 1813

By R. Gerald McMurtry

16 page pamphlet
100 copies $8.50
Numbered + Signed

Reprinted from *The Filson Club History Quarterly*
Louisville, Kentucky, April, 1934

824/R

James Buchanan in Kentucky, 1813*

By R. Gerald McMurtry
Librarian, Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Reprinted from *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Louisville, Kentucky
Vol. 8, No. 2, April, 1934. Pages 73-87

This style of letter for reprint only

While all the presidents of the United States have visited Kentucky, except George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson—and there is a possibility that Washington may have visited eastern Kentucky in his youth—the fact that James Buchanan lived there for a short time is not generally known. Furthermore, the fact that James Buchanan, who preceded Abraham Lincoln to the presidency, lived in Elizabethtown, the county seat of Hardin County, for several months within approximately twenty miles of the Lincoln home on Knob Creek while Lincoln resided there, has seldom been mentioned.[1]

A great amount of literature has been written about Lincoln in Hardin County, which, since its establishment in 1792, has the

*Since writing the following paper, steps have been taken to erect a Buchanan tablet, 11 by 19 inches, in Elizabethtown, April 23, 1934. *The Elizabethtown News* in its issue of February 6 publishes the following announcement:

A bronze tablet to the memory of James Buchanan, President of the United States, who lived in Hardin County, will be placed in the Courthouse yard in Elizabethtown on April 23, the anniversary of Buchanan's birth. Ceremonies will be in charge of the Hardin County Historical Society, which procured the tablet. An extensive program for the occasion will be arranged. The tablet has already been received, and is at the office of Dr. D. E. McClure, a member of the Society. It bears the following inscription:

James Buchanan / 15th President of the United States / resided for several months / at Elizabethtown in the year 1813 / where he served / as legal adviser in his father's / Western land litigations. / Hardin County Historical Society, 1934.

The tablet will be placed in the northwest corner of the Courtyard, across the walk from one to the memory of Abraham Lincoln. They direct attention to the fact that two future Presidents of the United States lived in Hardin County at the same time.

[1] Emmet V. Mittlebeeler in the Point of View Column of The Louisville *Courier-Journal*, cited in *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Vol. 6, No. 4,

James Buchanan In Kentucky
1813

R. Gerald McMurtry - Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

While all the presidents of the United States have visited Kentucky, except George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, and there is a possibility that Washington may have visited eastern Kentucky in his youth, the fact that James Buchanan who preceded Abraham Lincoln to the presidency and who lived in Elizabethtown, the County seat of Hardin County, for several months within approximately twenty miles of the Lincoln home on Knob Creek while Lincoln resided there has seldom been mentioned!

A great amount of literature has been written about Lincoln in ~~Original~~ Hardin County which has had, since its establishment in 1792, the distinction of having within its limits many great characters of both state and national importance? Hardin County, which derived its name from John Hardin,

a virginian who was murdered by the Indians the year of its establishment.[3] ~~The original County~~ embraced a large area being approximately 140 miles long and 50 miles wide and from its beginning proved to be very attractive to both settlers and land speculators.[4]

Captain Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of the president, came into Kentucky as a settler, and his son, Thomas, made his first purchase of Kentucky real estate in Harding County in the year 1803.[5] ~~Until the year 1816 when Thomas Lincoln left Kentucky~~ Thomas Lincoln ~~to~~ ~~had~~ engaged in many land transactions, ~~in Ky~~ until the year 1816 when he left ~~leaving~~ Kentucky, partly because of insecure ~~[illegible]~~ land titles.[6] Other prominent pioneer families, such as the La Follette, Clarks, and Boones, likewise left Kentucky because of land difficulties.[7]

James Buchanan Sr., the father of President Buchanan, fourteen years after the Lincoln migration to Kentucky bought a landed estate in Harding County, causing his interests in ~~[illegible]~~ the state to become that of a land speculator.[8] The Lincoln and Buchanan

Connections with Hardin County resulted in events ~~Con~~ which gave this County the unique distinction of having, for several months in the year of 1813, two future presidents living within its boundaries at the same time.

~~BUCHANAN LAND LITIGATION.~~
~~CHAPTER 3/~~

~~Fourteen years after the Lincoln migration to Kentucky, a landed estate connected the Buchanan family with Kentucky. James Buchanan Sr., the father of the President, although an emigrant from Ireland in the year 1783, was able to acquire considerable property in the East, and~~

The father of James Buchanan,

Upon arriving in this country from Ireland in the year 1783 at the age of twenty-three years, ~~he~~ resided a short time in Philadelphia and a few months later removed to Stony Batter, Franklin county, Pennsylvania.[11] In 1778 he married Elizabeth Speer, and their son, James, was born April 23, 1791.[12] ~~The father~~ He unboubtedly came in contact with numerous persons who were moving west and ~~he~~ was most likely induced by a land agent to purchase Kentucky real estate.

~~Unlike Captain Lincoln, James Buchanan, Sr. did not seek a home in Kentucky but he chose that state as a place for his investments.~~
As a rule Pennsylvanians were heavy purchasers of land in Kentucky, and Buchanan's acreage was approximately as great as were the purchases of the Lincolns. Many estates at this early date in Kentucky history literally ran into thousands of acres, but due to the fact that James Buchanan, Sr. did not migrate to the West, his holdings were probably bought more conservatively in proportion to his estate than were the investments of Captain Lincoln.

Records in the Hardin County Court House (Deed Book A- Page 233) show that on March 15, 1796, James Buchanan of Franklin County, State of Pennsylvania, became a part owner with James Dickey of 3,610 acres of land located in Hardin county. This property was purchased at one dollar per acre, and the deed was made to James Buchanan, Sr. and James Dickey both of Pennsylvania by Michael Campbell and his wife, Sarah Campbell, and Charles Campbell all of Nelson county. The deed to this property contains the name of John Speer,

a witness to the proceedings, who was most likely the father or brother of Elizabeth Speer the wife of Buchanan, Sr. The deed was executed on March 29, 1796, before James Reddle, president of the several Courts of Common Pleas in the circuit consisting of Franklin, Bedford, Huntingdon and Mafflin counties. This land was Buchanan's first investment in Kentucky.

The 3,610 acre tract is described as being located in Hardin County, ~~State of Kentucky~~, two hundred poles below the mouth of Doe Run on the bank of the Ohio River, running to the line of John May's 3000 acre survey, the line crossing the upper side of the mouth of Doe Run several times.[13] This property located then in original Hardin county is to-day located in Meade county.[14] Another tract in which Buchanan had an interest contained 5,900 acres and is described as being located on both sides of Nolin River in Hardin county. The lines ran near the mouth of the Big Sandy Spring and also below the mouth of Valley Creek and near Nolin Creek.

Little documentary evidence has been found concerning the Buchanan land immediately after the sale of the tract in 1796. No Litigation occurred until seven years after the purchase, and the property up to this time was probably considered a good investment. The owners most likely hoped, after the further settlement of Kentucky, to sell the land at a handsome profit. A large net return would probably have been realized had not incompetent executors of estates and insecure property titles entered into the bargain.

The property in which Buchanan, ~~and his partners,~~ James Dickey, and Robert Johnson, a later partner, had invested their money was originally in the possession of John LaRue (II) who died in the year 1792.[15] In his will he appointed three executors; Isaac Larue, Robert Hodgin, and Philip Phillips to administer his estate. The will devised that the estate be equally

9

divided among his children, but the executors were to sell so much of his other property and lands which he had not previously devised, as to discharge his lawful debts. Buchanan did not purchase the LaRue tracts from the executors of LaRue but they had been sold to several other parties before he became one of the purchasers.

The amount required to settle the lawful debts of John LaRue amounted to twenty-seven pounds, yet the executors had sold slaves and lands much in excess of the amount of the debts. The heirs of LaRue brought suit against the executors for the recovery of the land, stating that the land and slaves should not have been sold and that they had acted without due authority in selling the property at a sacrifice in price and without necessity. This litigation started in the year 1803 and continued for many years in the Hardin County Court.

Samuel Haycraft, Jr., in his original manuscript of the History of Elizabethtown, stated under the heading of MARCH TERM, (HARDIN COUNTY COURT.) dated March 8, 1813, that several land suits in the name of James Buchanan and James Dickey were on the docket for that term.[16] The Plaintiff, James Buchanan, he further asserts, was the father of James Buchanan the future President. At this point in the manuscript there appears a note, "See James Buchanan" which ~~would~~ indicates that a further discussion of Buchanan occurred in other writings of his. Haycraft at the time of this court term was eighteen years of age which would make it reasonably certain that his statement was made from first hand knowledge and information.[17]

Buchanan was elected to the Presidency in the year 1857 and Haycraft wrote his history twelve years later. Little attention was likely paid to the Buchanan land litigation at this early period. However, after the son

had achieved fame it is most likely that many citizens recalled the residence of the then future President in Elizabethtown and the numerous land suits in which his father engaged endeavoring to clear property titles. A manuscript from the papers of Haycraft show that in the year 1815 the suit was again before the court, as an order was drawn by the County Court Clerk for money to be paid to John Helm, a witness, which is as follows:

HARDIN CIRCUIT COURT, SEPTEMBER TERM 1815.

"Ordered that William A. Clark, James Payne, Minor Lewright, Ally Overall and Thomas Lewis pay unto John Helm the sum of one pound, eight shillings and four pence for attending this court term five days as a witness for them at the suit of James Dickey and James Buchanan and travelling forty miles and returning the same distance."[18]

A Copy Test, Ben Helm, C.H.C.C.

~~Due to~~ The fact that John Helm, the surveyor, was summoned before the court, ~~it~~ would indicate that ~~he~~ was the surveyor of the lands in question. Owing to his education and training for this work he was considered one of the best in his profession, and his life in the early nineteenth century in Hardin county was one constantly fraught with danger and excitement.[19]

These land suits which began in the year 1803 were twice carried to the Court of Appeals of Kentucky as reported in Volume II, Littell's Reports, Page 258 under the case LaRue vs LaRue, and in Volume III J. J. Marshall's Reports, Page 156 under the case of LaRue Heirs vs LaRue Executors.

So persistent was the elder Buchanan in his attempts to clear his land titles and save his investments that he sent his son to Kentucky to represent his interests.[20] The son, a young lawyer, probably did all that was within his power to effect a clear and decisive settlement, but it is not to be supposed that with the departure of Lawyer James Buchanan from Elizabethtown that the property of James Buchanan, Sr. and his partners had clear titles.[21]

The maze of court entanglements had so engulfed these holdings that it is doubtful if any one of the persons concerned in the suits could foretell the outcome. Possibly the unusually active fight put forth by Buchanan and his partners during the early title difficulties was largely responsible for the long drawn out litigation.

Hardin County Court Records (Deed Book H- Page 413) show that the three partners ~~Buchanan, Dickey, and Johnson~~ by an agreement decided to hold their lands as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. Upon the death of Robert Johnson deeds dated June 8, 1809, were made partitioning the land to the executors of Johnson, ~~and~~ Buchanan, and Dickey.

Due to difficulties which arose concerning this land by reason of adverse claims, an agreement was made with Charles Campbell one of the original owners to re-convey to him their tracts in Hardin county for an amount of cash totaling $1454.47 and a deed to lands in Westmoreland county in Pennsylvania. This deed is dated March 15, 1821, and ~~contains~~ includes the name of James Buchanan, Sr. and Elizabeth (Speer) Buchanan, ~~the~~ mother of James Buchanan the President.[22] The deed was recorded by Samuel Haycraft, Jr., the clerk of the Hardin County Court, on February 5, 1823.

It was in the Fall term of Court 1822 that the case LaRure vs LaRue was decreed as related in Littell's Reports. In January, 1830, Marshall's Reports state that the case was appealed from a judgment of the Nelson Circuit Court, and the result of the suit was that the heirs of LaRue were to receive the money due them from the executors, but the titles to the land in question were not ~~to~~ be affected, thereby forever settling and clearing the property titles of the Buchanan, Dickey, and Johnson lands which had been sold previous to this decree ~~been sold.~~

Whether the Buchanans realized a profit on their investments in Hardin county property is not known, but it is highly improbable that they did, because of the expense which was most likely incurred in defending their rights to the property, even though in 1821 a profit had been realized on the sale of the tracts. It is, however, an interesting historical fact that both the father of the fifteenth and the father of the sixteenth presidents of the United States owned property within the limits of Hardin county and that both were constantly engaged in court proceedings endeavoring to protect their interests.

~~JAMES BUCHANAN'S TRIP TO KENTUCKY.~~
~~CHAPTER IV.~~

Due to the intensity of the legal battles concerning the Buchanan, Dickey, and Johnson properties, the son of the elder Buchanan, who had a few years before completed a legal education, came to Elizabethtown to represent his father's interests in these numerous land suits. Possibly the trip appealed to young Buchanan as an opportunity for excitement and adventure as well as a chance to practice his profession in a new country which afforded excellent possibilities for advancement. In the numerous Haycraft manuscripts there is to be found in faded handwriting an account of the James Buchanan Jr. trip to Kentucky which is as follows:

> "Late President Buchanan about the year 1813 or 1814 came to Kentucky, coming down the Ohio in a flat boat with Major James Crutcher and Thomas S. Crutcher with their goods." 23

This account ~~of Buchanan~~ was possibly written by Haycraft one year after the death of President Buchanan as his death occurred in the year 1868 and Haycraft wrote his history in 1869. Possibly the death of Buchanan recalled to Haycraft's mind the residence of the then future president in Elizabethtown. The appearance of the manuscript indicates that he intended to give additional information but for some reason such information was never added.

Like many early pioneers the future fifteenth president came to Kentucky by water route on a flat boat. Major James Crutcher and his son, Thomas S. Crutcher, made frequent trips to Pennsylvania to purchase goods for their store in Elizabethtown, and young Buchanan was likely able to contact them through the wholesale house from which the Crutchers purchased their merchandise. 24

Such a trip into the unsettled State of Kentucky even as late as 1813 ~~or 1814~~ was more or less hazardous; not ~~from~~ because of the Indians but on account of river pirates and robbers that were usually encountered on the trip.

An interesting account concerning the hardships endured by the early merchants is related by Haycraft who likely had Major Crutcher in mind as he was the leading merchant of Elizabethtown at this early period and was frequently going East to import merchandise for the frontier.

> "It took not only a man of enterprise, but a man of courage to be a merchant in the days of yore, when there was no stage- or railroad, or steam boat. It was a two months trip to Baltimore or Philadelphia and back. Before starting on this hazardous and laborious trip, the merchant made his will, and called his friends together to take possibly the last leave of them, and it was generally noised over the country before the trip was taken that such a store keeper was going for goods - I well remember those times.
> The merchant mounted his horse with a brace of horseman's pistols on the cantle of his saddle, led another strong horse with a padded quilt containing about two thousand Sapnish dollars - sometimes took a guard through the wilderness part of the way, and thus encumbered travelled about seven hundred miles, this at the best travel would take over hills, mountains and rivers, from sixteen to twenty days - laying in and selecting a stock of goods occupied about three weeks. Then employing several teams of Maryland or Pennsylvania wagons, each drawn by six Conestoga horses, over the mountains to Pittsburg. That trip occupied from ten to fifteen days. At Pittsburg a flat boat was purchased and the goods stowed away in it. then the broad horn, as it was sometimes called (in contempt after steam boats started) was floated down the Ohio, the merchant always on board with his hands and consumed some fifteen or twenty days according to the stage of the water (to reach the falls.
> If piloted over the falls, the boat bound for Elizabethtown and the southern counties would be finally landed at the mouth of Salt River, now West Point. Then the merchant posted off a messenger to his clerk calling for eight or ten wagons to be sent to him. The merchant remaining until the last box, crate, keg or barrel was on the wagon. Then like a bird liberated from his cage, he flew to meet his wife and children. It was a day of rejoicing of which all partook in the neighborhood. And when the wagons arrived the news spread like wildfire that the new goods had come and many a dollar had been hoarded for the occasion."

Undoubtedly Major Crutcher and his son were very glad to accommodate young Buchanan by bringing him to Kentucky, because he not only made an extra hand and ~~hired~~ guard but the civic interest of the Elizabethtown resident probably foresaw in Buchanan a permanent resident. In returning from one of these trips East, Major Crutcher met a young man at Martinsburg, Virginia, named Horatio Gates Wintersmith and prevailed on him to come to the West.[25] Wintersmith unlike Buchanan became a permanent resident of Elizabethtown.

It is not known definitely whether young Buchanan intended to make his home in the western country or whether he came to Kentucky to protect his father's interests. It is likely that he was undecided as to his future residence and if the town appealed to him he probably intended to stay. Statements by him and Ben Hardin made several years later seem to indicate that he intended to stay. As he was admitted to the ~~bar~~ Lancaster, Pa. bar to practice law on November 17, 1812, it is likely that he would seek a new country where competition would not be so great.[26]

The trip of this young Pennsylvanian down the Ohio was probably a very pleasant experience. The river course was exceedingly beautiful and the frontier setting likely appealed to him. Only four or five years later the noted naturalist Rafinesque made the same trip in a flat boat from Pittsburg and found the trip a delight and one of much interest due to the strange and unclassified animal life the scientist was able to discover.

According to Haycraft, Major Crutcher and all the merchants living in the Southern Counties of Kentucky ~~would dock~~ docked ~~his~~ their flatboats at the mouth of Salt River on the banks ~~in~~ of Hardin county.[27] From Salt River young Buchanan would travel the last twenty five miles of his journey on a

wagon loaded with merchandise, passing into the knob country with its picturesque Muldraugh's Hills, and completing upon his arrival at Elizabethtown the long journey from Pennsylvania. ~~which were described by Michaux the French traveller who rode horseback over the same route two or three years earlier from Louisville to Nashville as~~

> ~~"A steep and lofty mountain that forms a kind of amphitheatre. From its summit the neighboring country presents the aspect of an immense valley covered with forests of an imperceptible extent, whence as far as the eye can reach, nothing but a gloomy verdant space is seen, formed by the close, connected trees, and through which not the vestige of a plantation can be discerned."~~

Upon arriving at the frontier community of Elizabethtown it is mere supposition but probable, that young Buchanan made his home with Major Crutcher, for in addition to being a merchant he was also a tavern keeper. ~~Major Crutcher~~ He was a very distinguished Kentuckian who during his career was a Justice of the peace, judge of the quarter session court, trustee of the town, trustee of the Academy, and Representative and Senator in the Kentucky Legislature. In such a home it is likely Buchanan's residence was made very enjoyable.[28]

~~Because of the~~ Inspite of his youth the young Pennsylvanian's fine appearance, courteous manner, and excellent education in addition to the fact that he was a member of the bar of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, made him ~~such a personage despite his youth~~, quite an asset to the community. Little did the citizens of Elizabethtown at this time realize that he would become the fifteenth President of the United States and that residing about ~~fifteen~~ twenty miles away on Knob Creek was a small boy ~~about~~ four ~~or five~~ years of age who would become the sixteenth President succeeding him to that office.[29]

~~TWO SUCCEEDING FUTURE PRESIDENTS IN HARDIN COUNTY. 1813.~~

~~CHAPTER V.~~

Elizabethtown probably presented to Buchanan a very strange and picturesque frontier appearance. The town had been founded in the year 1793 by Colonel Andrew Hynes and named in honor of his wife, Elizabeth. Here was located the seat of justice, but the town did not prove of rapid growth as the third census credited the village in the year 1810 with only one hundred and eighty inhabitants.[30] However, at this early period in Kentucky history this community was a scene of much activity, and its people were ambitious as evidenced by the greatness ~~of~~ that some of its citizens achieved. ~~Social life was developed to a high degree and schools were established, provided in most cases with excellent teachers.~~[31] The village was not an unattractive settlement inhabited by poor and miserable people, but was a village composed of good families from the more advanced sections of the United States.

In this early period the majority of the houses were of log construction, but many of these log houses were unusually large and made of hewn logs. Two large brick ~~houses~~ residences, ~~one of which is still standing~~, created an imposing appearance.[32] In addition to these, several frame structures had been built. A stone jail expensive for that day, and a new court house were ~~also~~ in use, and the little town ~~Elizabethtown~~ also boasted of a brick yard, a tannery, a distillery, and three stores, one of which was owned and operated for a short time by John James Audubon, the great ornithologist.[33] There were several blacksmiths and gunsmiths, a shoemaker, ~~and~~ a tailor, and a dancing master residing in the town. Costumes of the frontier still prevailed, but here and there were to be seen among the buckskin leggings, hunting shirts, coon skin caps, and moccasins a few beaver hats, short breeches, low shoes with silver buckles, and knee buckles.

18

The first record of Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham, in Elizabethtown is in 1796 three years after the town was established.[34] Documentary evidence through court records and early manuscripts shows that Thomas Lincoln resided permanently in Elizabethtown from about 1803 to 1808. On June 12, 1806, Thomas Lincoln married Nancy Hanks in Washington county and with his bride immediately returned to Elizabethtown to reside, and in February of the following year the couple's first child, Sarah, was born.

Little Abraham, who was born on the South Fork farm, very probably came to the county seat with his father on county court days and sufficient documentary evidence has been established to show that Abraham Lincoln passed through Elizabethtown when the Lincoln family migrated to Indiana in the year 1816.

In this small community it is not at all unlikely that James Buchanan knew Thomas Lincoln casually as Lincoln was defending his property titles in the September term of Court during the year 1813 and Buchanan being a lawyer, frequented the court house on many occasions. It is not improbable that Buchanan may have seen young Abe, but due to their difference of age and station in life, it is unlikely that any notice was paid the future sixteenth president. Sarah Bush Johnson who was to become the step-mother of Abraham Lincoln was at this time the wife of Daniel Johnson, jailer of Hardin county. As it was the duty of the jailer to keep the court house in order, his wife assumed the duty in this case and no doubt James Buchanan many times observed this industrious woman as she went about her daily task of cleaning and caring for the building.

19

A careful study of Buchanan biographies and documentary evidence indicates that he resided in Elizabethtown in the year 1813, [illegible] information is given in his biographies during that year [illegible] which would tend to show that he was [illegible] his native state of Pennsylvania.

~~As it has not been definitely established~~ whether Buchanan resided in ~~Elizabethtown in the year 1813 or 1814, His exact age while living in this community is not known~~. Horton in his Campaign Biography of Buchanan written in 1856 states that James Buchanan, Jr. was admitted to the bar November 17, 1812, when he was a little over twenty-one years of age. He further continues regarding his ability as a lawyer with the following comments:

> "He came to the bar of his native state when Pennsylvania was distinguished far and wide for the superior ability of her lawyers. She could boast then of the Baldwins, her Gibsons, her Rosses, her Duncans, her Breckinridges, her Dallasses and her Semples, who shed not only honor upon their own state but who added materially to the legal reputation of the whole country. With such men as these Mr. Buchanan was compelled to struggle for that eminence in his profession which he subsequently attained and so firmly kept. Perhaps we do not go too far in saying that there never has been so rapid a rise in the legal profession as that afforded in his case.

double space

Because of the fact that little information is given in the Buchanan biographies of his life during the year 1813, it is likely that his residence in Elizabethtown was during that year. His election as a member of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania ~~for the year~~ in 1814 ~~and 1815~~ would rather substantiate the fact that his residence in Kentucky could not have been of long duration and not during the year 1814. 35

The fact that Haycraft mentions the Buchanan case in the 1813 March Term of Hardin County Court, in his original manuscript of the History of Elizabethtown, might indicate that unusual pressure was brought to bear by the plaintiff under the guidance of the son and attorney of the plaintiff, and that the year of his Elizabethtown residence was 1813.

When Buchanan represented his father's interests in these land suits he was forced to oppose, at the age of 22 years with only about one year's experience, some of the finest lawyers in America.

Samuel Haycraft in his history states that " By 1806 twenty-two lawyers had been admitted to the Hardin County bar". Among these were Felix Grundy, afterward Senator from Tennessee; Ninian Edwards, afterward Governor of Illinois; Thomas B. Reed, afterward Senator from Mississippi; Henry P. Brodnax; John Rowan; John Pope; and Robert Wickliffe. Haycraft observes that of certain lawyers who practiced at Elizabethtown "Either of these men was far ahead in legal knowledge, statesmanship and administrative capacity of some of our presidents." 36

Ben Hardin, who was a noted lawyer and one of the most interesting characters in ~~the history of~~ Kentucky history during the first half of the Nineteenth Century, resided for a while in Elizabethtown but practiced for many years before the Elizabethtown bar. In ~~his~~ biography written by Lucius P. Little the following information is given concerning Buchanan in Elizabethtown:

> "Before Horace Greely had advised the "young man" to "go West" Ex-President Buchanan forsook his Pennsylvania home to come to Kentucky." "I recollect very well" said Mr. Hardin, in 1849 "That some thirty-eight years ago the celebrated James Buchanan, late Secretary of State under Mr. Polk, commenced the practice of law in the town of Elizabeth. There I became acquainted with him, and at that time I discovered in him a man of fine education and respectable talents. In the course of a few months he began to look unhappy, and as if he were experienceing some disappointment. His father had given him a large landed estate in Hardin county, about which there was some difficulty. At length he made me his attorney at law and attorney in fact, and went back and settled in Pennsylvania, where he was raised. Ten or fifteen years afterward I met him in Congress, and over and over again have we laughed when he told me this story:"
> "I went to Kentucky" said he, "Expecting to be a great man there but every lawyer I met at the bar was my equal, and more than half of them my superiors, so I gave it up."

The Hardin biography also contains a description of Hardin's personal appearance attributed to Buchanan, as Follows:

> "Ex-President Buchanan spoke of seeing him on one occasion at Elizabrthtown, the material of his apparel being linen, of home manufacture."

23

As to Buchanan's success as a lawyer in Elizabethtown the following ~~information~~ account found in Collin's History Of Kentucky clearly shows that the Elizabethtown bar was no place for a novice.

"Indent quotation"

with it. "At the first term of court after his arrival, among other visiting lawyers ~~were~~ was Ben Hardin - dressed in a suit of unbleached tow linen, its clumsy fit helping to give the wearer quite a clownish appearance. Buchanan was surprised to see him take a seat among the lawyers. On the third day of the term a case was called, in which the pleadings were very intricate and after the strictest ~~forms~~ English forms before the days of Chitty. His wonder grew that such a looking man as Hardin had the depth and grasp to grapple with such a case; but when he heard him argue it with a clearness, and tact, and power that evinced a master-spirit, he retired from the court house and prepared to abandon his new home - remarking to himself that if such looking men as Ben Hardin, were so smart in Kentucky, there was a better opening for him in his old Pennsylvanis home." 37

~~They met in Congress in 1821 - 23, and both lived to advanced age, Buchanan reaching a degree of continuous political preferment never equaled by more than half-a-dozen Americans. Yet he never ceased to remember his first contact with the always-rough diamond at the Hardin County bar. He told Mr. Hardin that he went to Kentucky expecting to be a great man there, but every lawyer he came in contact with was his equal, and half of them his superiors; and so he gave it up.~~

The duration of Buchanan's visit in Kentucky is not definite but it is likely that he resided in Elizabethtown for several months. Due to the slow processes of law and court procedure it was undoubtedly necessary for him to stay there long enough to attend to his father's land interests. Ben Hardin's statement that "In the course of a few months he began to look unhappy" would indicate that his residence extended over a period of several months. Just when and how he departed for Pennsylvanis is not known, but it would have been the natural thing for him to join some party going East, possibly he accompanied Major James Crutcher on ~~another~~ any eastern trip for merchandise taking the land route ~~as described by Haycraft~~ on horseback as was the custom of the merchants travelling East.

Buchanan's life from this period on to his election to the Presidency and his retirement after the election of Lincoln, ~~until his death~~ is well

24

known to students and historians. ~~He has been accused of weakness and it~~ has been charged that he could have prevented the Civil War, but the present generation in their intensive study of Lincoln's life, has come to realize that it was Buchanan's misfortune to breast the tide of secession which no one individual could have prevented. While it is true that he favored the South in his policies of State, yet he was not unlike all preceding presidents in this action due to the tremendous power of the South exerted up to the time of the election of Abraham Lincoln.

Due to the lack of documentary evidence concerning Buchanan in ~~the year~~ 1813 most of his ~~all~~ biographers have omitted to mention anything concerning his life during that year, and no mention has been made of his trip to Kentucky. The present generation in their intensive study of Lincoln's life should find early Hardin County of especial historical interest ~~naturally~~ due to the fact that the two future presidents ~~resided in the County at the same~~ ~~for a period of months~~ ~~two Hardin County residents~~ played leading roles in national ~~that~~ who were destined to play prominent parts in the most critical period thus far of the Nations existence lived in the same community in Kentucky less than one hundred miles from the birthplace of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy.

JAMES BUCHANAN IN KENTUCKY
1813
R.Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

(Revisions have been made)

To be published by The Filson Club History Quarterly
January 1934. (Not to be published without permission)

(In many instances sentence construction has been revised) 1

JAMES BUCHANAN IN KENTUCKY
1813

R. Gerald McMurtry, Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

While all the presidents of the United States have visited Kentucky, except George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, and there is a possibility that Washington may have visited eastern Kentucky in his youth, the fact that James Buchanan who preceded Abraham Lincoln to the presidency and who lived in Elizabethtown, the county seat of Hardin County, for several months within approximately twenty miles of the Lincoln home on Knob Creek while Lincoln resided there has seldom been mentioned.[1]

A great amount of literature has been written about Lincoln in Hardin County which has had, since its establishment in 1792, the distinction of having within its limits many great characters of both state and national importance. Original Hardin County which derived its name from John Hardin, a Virginian who was murdered by the Indians the year of its establishment, embraced a large area being approximately 140 miles long and 50 miles wide and from its beginning proved to be very attractive to both settlers and land speculators.[2]

Captain Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of the president, came into Kentucky as a settler, and his son, Thomas, made his first purchase of Kentucky real estate in Hardin County in the year 1803.[3] Thomas Lincoln engaged in many land transactions until the year 1816 when he left Kentucky, partly because of insecure land titles.[4] Other prominent pioneer families, such as the LaFollettes, Clarks, and Boones, likewise left Kentucky because of land difficulties.[5]

James Buchanan, Sr., the father of President Buchanan, fourteen years after the Lincoln migration to Kentucky bought a landed estate in Hardin County, causing his interest in the state to become that of a land speculator. The Lincoln and Buchanan connection with Hardin County resulted in events which gave this county the unique distinction of having, for several months in the year 1813, two future presidents living within its boundaries at the same time.

The father of James Buchanan, upon arriving in this country from Ireland in the year 1783 at the age of twenty-three years, resided a short time in Philadelphia and a few months later removed to Stony Batter, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.[6] In ~~1778~~ 1788 he married Elizabeth Speer, and their son, James, was born April 23, 1791. He undoubtedly came in contact with numerous persons who were moving west and was most likely induced by a land agent to purchase Kentucky real estate.

As a rule Pennsylvanians were heavy purchasers of land in Kentucky, and Buchanan's acreage was approximately as great as were the purchases of the Lincolns. Many estates at this early date in Kentucky history literally ran into thousands of acres, but due to the fact that James Buchanan, Sr. did not migrate to the west , his holdings were probably bought more conservatively in proportion to his estate than were the investments of Captain Lincoln.

Records in the Hardin County Court House (Deed Book A, Page 233) show that on March 15, 1796, James Buchanan of Frankling County, State of Pennsylvania, became a part owner with James Dickey of 3,610 acres of land located in Hardin County. This property was purchased at one dollar per acre, and the deed was made to James Buchanan, Sr. and James Dickey both of Pennsylvania by Michael Campbell and his wife, Sarah Campbell, and Charles

Campbell all of Nelson County. The deed to this property contains the name of John Speer, a witness to the proceedings, who was most likely the father or brother of Elizabeth Speer, the wife of Buchanan, Sr. The deed was executed on March 29, 1796, before James Reddle, president of the several Courts of Common Pleas in the circuit consisting of Franklin, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Mafflin Counties. This land was Buchanan's first investment in Kentucky.

The 3,610 acre tract is described as being located in Hardin County, two hundred poles below the mouth of Doe Run on the bank of the Ohio River, running to the line of John May's 3000 acre survey, the line crossing the upper side of the mouth of Doe Run several times.[7] This property located then in original Hardin County is to-day located in Meade County.[8] Another tract in which Buchanan had an interest contained 5,900 acres and is described as being located on both sides of Nolin River in Hardin County. The lines ran near the mouth of the Big Sandy Spring and also below the mouth of Valley Creek and near Nolin Creek.

Little documentary evidence has been found concerning the Buchanan land immediately after the sale of the tract in 1796. No litigation occurred until seven years after the purchase, and the property up to this time was probably considered a good investment. The owners most likely hoped, after the further settlement of Kentucky, to sell the land at a handsome profit. A large net return would probably have been realized had not incompetent executors of estates and insecure property titles entered into the bargain.

The property in which Buchanan, James Dickey, and Robert Johnson, a later partner, had invested their money was originally in the possession of John LaRue (II) who died in the year 1792.[9] In his will he appointed

three executors: Isaac LaRue, Robert Hodgin, and Philip Phillips to administer his estate. The will devised that the estate be equally divided among his children, but the executors were to sell so much of his other property and lands which he had not previously devised, as to discharge his lawful debts. Buchanan did not purchase the LaRue tracts from the executors of LaRue but they had been sold to several other parties before he became one of the purchasers.

The amount required to settle the lawful debts of John LaRue amounted to twenty-seven pounds, yet the executors had sold slaves and lands much in excess of the amount of the debts. The heirs of LaRue brought suit against the executors for the recovery of the land, stating that the land and slaves should not have been sold and that they had acted without due authority in selling the property at a sacrifice in price and without necessity. This litigation started in the year 1803 and continued for many years in the Hardin County Court.

Samuel Haycraft, Jr., in his original manuscript of the His tory of Elizabethtown, stated under the heading of MARCH TERM, (HARDIN COUNTY COURT.) dated March 8, 1813, that several land suits in the name of James Buchanan and James Dickey were on the docket for that term. The plaintiff, James Buchanan, he further asserts, was the father of James Buchanan, the future president. At this point in the manuscript there appears a note, "See James Buchanan" which indicates that a further discussion of Buchanan occurred in other writings of his. Haycraft at the time of this court term was eighteen years of age which would make it reasonably certain that his statement was made from first hand knowledge and information.[10]

Buchanan was elected to the presidency in the year 1857 and Haycraft wrote his his tory twelve years later. Little attention was likely paid to the Buchanan land litigation at this early period. However, after the son had achieved fame it is most likely that many citizens recalled the residence of the then future president in Elizabethtown and the numerous

land suits in which his father engaged endeavoring to clear property titles. A manuscript from the papers of Haycraft show that in the year 1815 the suit was again before the court, as an order was drawn by the County Court Clerk for money to be paid to John Helm, a witness, which is as follows:

HARDIN CIRCUIT COURT, SEPTEMBER TERM 1815

"Ordered that William A. Clark, James Payne, Minor Lewright, Ally Overall, and Thomas Lewis pay unto John Helm the sum of one pound, eight shillings and four pence for attending this court term five days as a witness for them at the suit of James Dickey and James Buchanan and travelling forty miles and returning the same distance."

A Copy Test, Ben Helm, C.H.C.C. 11

The fact that John Helm, the surveyor, was summoned before the court would indicate that he was the surveyor of the lands in question. Owing to his education and training for this work he was considered one of the best in his profession, and his life in the early nineteenth century in Hardin County was one constantly fraught with danger and excitement. 12

These land suits which began in the year 1803 were twice carried to the Court of Appeals of Kentucky as reported in Volume II, Littell's Reports, page 258 under the case LaRue vs LaRue, and in Volume III, J. J. Marshall's Reports, page 156 under the case of LaRue Heirs vs LaRue Executors.

So persistent was the elder Buchanan in his attempts to clear his land titles and save his investments that he sent his son to Kentucky to represent his interests. The son, a young lawyer, probably did all that was within his power to effect a clear and decisive settlement, but it is not to be supposed that with the departure of Lawyer James Buchanan from Elizabethtown that the property of James Buchanan, Sr. and his partners had clear titles.[13] The maze of court entanglements had so engulfed these holdings that it is doubtful if any one of the persons concerned in the suits could fortell the outcome. Possibly the unusually active fight put forth by

Buchanan and his partners during the early title difficulties was largely responsible for the long drawn out litigation.

Hardin County Court Records (Deed Book H, page 413) show that the three partners by an agreement decided to hold their lands as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. Upon the death of Robert Johnson deeds dated June 8, 1809, were made partitioning the land to the executors of Johnson, Buchanan, and Dickey.

Due to difficulties which arose concerning this land by reason of adverse claims, an agreement was made with Charles Campbell, one of the original owners, to re-convey to him their tracts in Hardin County for an amount of cash totaling $1454.47 and a deed to lands in Westmoreland County in Pennsylvania. This deed is dated March 15, 1821, and includes the name of James Buchanan, Sr. and Elizabeth (Speer) Buchanan, mother of James Buchanan, the president. ~~the future president.~~ The deed was recorded by Samuel Haycraft, Jr., the clerk of the Hardin County Court, on February 5, 1823.

It was in the fall term of court 1822 that the case LaRue vs LaRue was decreed as related in Littell's Reports. In January, 1830, Marshall's Reports state that the case was appealed from a judgement of the Nelson Circuit Court, and the result of the suit was that the heirs of LaRue were to receive the money due them from the executors, but the titles to the land in question were not to be affected, thereby forever settling and clearing the property titles of the Buchanan, Dickey, and Johnson lands which had been sold previous to this decree.

Whether the Buchanans realized a profit on their investments in Hardin County property is not known, but it is highly improbably that they did, because of the expense which was most likely incurred in defending their rights to the property, even though in 1821 ~~a profit had~~ been realized on the sale of the tracts. It is, however, an interesting historical fact that both the father of the fifteenth and the father of the sixteenth presi-

(Revised)

dent of the United States owned property within the limits of Hardin County and that both were constantly engaged in court proceedings endeavoring to protect their interests.

Due to the intensity of the legal battles concerning the Buchanan, Dickey, and Johnson properties, the son of the elder Buchanan, who had a few years before completed a legal education, came to Elizabethtown to represent his father's interests in these numerous land suits. Possibly the trip appealed to young Buchanan as an opportunity for excitement and adventure as well as a chance to practice his profession in a new country which afforded excellent possibilities for advancement. In the numerous Haycraft manuscripts there is to be found in faded handwriting an account of the trip of James Buchanan, Jr. to Kentucky, which is as follows:

> "Late President Buchanan about the year 1813 or 1814 came to Kentucky, coming down the Ohio in a flatboat with Major James Crutcher and Thomas S. Crutcher with their goods." [15]

This account was possibly written by Haycraft one year after the death of President Buchanan as his death occurred in the year 1868 and Haycraft wrote his history in 1869. Possibly the death of Buchanan recalled to Haycraft's mind the residence in Elizabethtown of the then future president. The appearance of the manuscript indicates that he intended to give additional information but for some reason such information was never added.

Like many early pioneers the future fifteenth president came to Kentucky by water route on a flatboat. Major James Crutcher and his son, Thomas S. Crutcher, made frequent trips to Pennsylvania to purchase goods for their store in Elizabethtown, and young Buchanan was likely able to contact them through the wholesale house from which the Crutchers purchased their merchandise.[16] Such a trip into the unsettled State of Kentucky even as late as 1813 was more or less hazardous; not because of the Indians but on account of river pirates and robbers that were usually encountered on the trip.

Undoubtedly Major Crutcher and his son were very glad to accommodate young Buchanan by bringing him to Kentucky, because he not only made and extra hand and guard but the civic interest of this Elizabethtown resident probably foresaw in Buchanan a permanent resident. In returning from one of these trips east, Major Crutcher met a young man at Martinsburg, Virginia, named Horatio Gates Wintersmith, and prevailed on him to come to the west. Wintersmith unlike Buchanan became a permanent resident of Elizabethtown.[17]

It is not known definitely whether young Buchanan intended to make his home in the western country or whether he came to Kentucky merely to protect his father's interests. It is likely that he was undecided as to his future residence and if the town appealed to him he probably intended to stay. Statements by him and Ben Hardin made several years later seem to indicate that he intended to stay. As he was admitted to the bar to practice law on November 17, 1812, it is likely that he would seek a new country where competition would not be so great.[18]

The trip of this young Pennsylvanian down the Ohio was probably a very pleasant experience. The river course was exceedingly beautiful and the frontier setting likely appealed to him. According to Haycraft, Major Crutcher and all the merchants living in the southern counties of Kentucky docked their flatboats at the mouth of Salt River on the Hardin County Bank.[19] From Salt River young Buchanan would travel the last twenty-five miles of his journey on a wagon loaded with merchandise, passing into the knob country with its picturesque Muldraugh's Hills and completing, upon his arrival at Elizabethtown, the long journey from Pennsylvania.[20]

Upon arriving at the frontier community of Elizabethtown it is mere supposition but probable that young Buchanan made his home with Major Crutcher, for in addition to being a merchant he was also a tavern keeper.

He was a very distinguished Kentuckian who during his career was a justice of the peace, judge of the quarter session court, trustee of the town, trustee of the academy, and representative and senator in the Kentucky Legislature. In such a home it is likely Buchanan's residence was made very enjoyable.[21]

In spite of his youth the young Pennsylvanian's fine appearance, courteous manner, and excellent education in addition to the fact that he was a member of the bar of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, made him quite an asset to the community. Little did the citizens of Elizabethtown dream that he would become the fifteenth president of the United States and that residing about twenty miles away on Knob Creek was a small boy four years of age who would become the sixteenth president succeeding him to that office.[22]

Elizabethtown probably presented to Buchanan a very strange and picturesque frontier appearance. The town had been founded in the year 1793 by Colonel Andrew Hynes and named in honor of his wife, Elizabeth. Here was located the seat of justice, but the town did not prove of rapid growth as the third census credited the village in the year 1810 with only one hundred and eighty inhabitants.[23] However, at this early period in Kentucky history this community was a scene of much activity, and its people were ambitious as evidenced by the greatness that some of its citizens achieved. Social life was developed to a high degree and schools were established, provided in most cases with excellent teachers.[24] The village was not an unattractive settlement inhabited by poor and miserable people, but was a village composed of good families from the more advanced sections of the United States.

In this early period the majority of the houses were of log construction, but many of these log houses were unusually large and made of hewn logs. Two large brick residences created an imposing appearance. In addition to these, several frame structures had been built. A stone jail expensive for that day, and a new court house were in use, and the little town also

boasted of a brick yard, a tannery, a distillery, and three stores, one of which was owned and operated for a short time by John James Audubon, the great ornithologist.[25] There were several blacksmiths and gunsmiths, a shoemaker, a tailor, and a dancing master residing in the town. Costumes of the frontier still prevailed, but here and there were to be seen among the buckskin leggings, hunting shirts, coon skin caps, and moccasins a few beaver hats, short breeches, low shoes with silver buckles, and knee buckles.

The first record of Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham, in Elizabethtown is in 1796, three years after the town was established.[26] Documentary evidence through court records and early manuscripts shows that Thomas Lincoln resided permanently in Elizabethtown from about 1803 to 1808. On June 12, 1806, Thomas Lincoln married Nancy Hanks in Washington County and with his bride immediately returned to Elizabethtown to reside, and in February of the following year the couple's first child, Sarah, was born.

Little Abraham, who was born on the South Fork farm, very probably came to the county seat with his father on county court days and sufficient documentary evidence has been established to show that Abraham Lincoln passed through Elizabethtown when the Lincoln family migrated to Indiana in the year 1816.[27]

In this small community it is not at all unlikely that James Buchanan knew Thomas Lincoln casually as Lincoln was defending his property titles in the September term of court during the year 1813 and Buchanan being a lawyer frequented the court house on many occasions. It is not improbable that Buchanan may have seen young Abe, but due to their difference of age and station in life, it is unlikely that any notice was paid the future sixteenth president. Sarah Bush Johnson, who was to become the step-mother of Abraham Lincoln, was at this time the wife of Daniel Johnson, jailer of Hardin County. As it was the duty of the jailer to keep the court house in order, his wife assumed

the duty in this case and no doubt James Buchanan many times observed this industrious woman as she went about her daily task of cleaning and caring for the building.

A careful study of Buchanan biographies and documentary evidence indicates that he resided in Elizabethtown in the year 1813. Horton in his Campaign Biography of Buchanan written in 1856 states that James Buchanan, Jr. was admitted to the bar November 17, 1812, when he was a little over twenty-one years of age. He further continues regarding his ability as a lawyer with the following comments:

> "He came to the bar of his native state when Pennsylvania was distinguished far and wide for the superior ability of her lawyers. She could boast then of the Baldwins, her Gibsons, her Rosses, her Duncans, her Breckinridges, her Dallasses and her Semples, who shed not only honor upon their own state but who added materially to the legal reputation of the whole country. With such men as these Mr. Buchanan was compelled to struggle for that eminence in his profession which he subsequently attained and so firmly kept. Perhaps we do not go too far in saying that there never has been so rapid a rise in the legal profession as that afforded in his case." [28]

His election as a member of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania in 1814 would rather substantiate the fact that his residence in Kentucky could not have been of long duration and not during the year 1814.[29]

The fact that Haycraft mentions the Buchanan case in the 1813 March Term of Hardin County Court, in his original manuscript of the History of Elizabethtown, might indicate that unusual pressure was brought to bear by the plaintiff under the guidance of the son and attorney of the plaintiff, and that the year of his Elizabethtown residence was 1813.

When Buchanan represented his father's interests in these land suits he was forced to oppose, at the age of 22 years with only about one year's experience, some of the finest lawyers in America. Samuel Haycraft in his history states that "By 1806 twenty-two lawyers had been admitted to the Hardin County bar."[30] Among these were Felix Grundy, afterward senator

from Tennessee; Ninian Edwards, afterward governor of Illinois; Thomas B. Reed, afterward senator from Mississippi; Henry P. Brodnax; John Rowan; John Pope; and Robert Wickliffe. Haycraft observes of certain lawyers who practiced at Elizabethtown "Either of these men was far ahead in legal knowledge, statesmanship, and administrative capacity of some of our presidents." 31

Ben Hardin, who was a noted lawyer and one of the most interesting characters in Kentucky history during the first half of the nineteenth century, resided for awhile in Elizabethtown but practiced for many years before the Elizabethtown bar. In Hardin's biography written by Lucius P. Little the following information is given concerning Buchanan in Elizabethtown:

> "Before Horace Greeley had advised the 'young man' to 'go west' ex-president Buchanan forsook his Pennsylvania home and came to Kentucky. 'I recollect very well,' said Mr. Hardin, in 1849, 'that some thirty-seven or thirty-eight years ago the celebrated James Buchanan, late secretary of State under Mr. Polk, commenced the practice of law in the town of Elizabeth. There I became acquainted with him, and at that time I discovered in him a man of fine education and respectable talents. In the course of a few months he began to look unhappy, and as if he was experiencing some disappointment. His father had given him a large landed estate in Hardin County, about which there was some difficulty. At length he made me his attorney at law and attorney in fact, and went back and settled in Pennsylvania, where he was raised. Ten of fifteen years afterward I met him in Congress, and over and over again have we laughed when he told me this story:
> 'I went to Kentucky,' he said, 'expecting to be a great man there, but every lawyer I met at the bar was my equal, and more than half of them my superiors, so I gave it up.'" 32

The Hardin biography also contains a description of Hardin's personal appearance attributed to Buchanan, as follows:

> "Ex-President Buchanan spoke of seeing him on one occasion at Elizabethtown, the material of his apparel being linen, of home manufacture." 33

As to Buchanan's success as a lawyer in Elizabethtown the following account found in Collin's History of Kentucky clearly shows that the

Elizabethtown bar was no place for a novice:

"At the first term of court after his arrival, among other visiting lawyers was Ben Hardin - dressed in a suit of unbleached tow linen, its clumsy fit helping to give the wearer quite a clownish appearance. Buchanan was surprised to see him take a seat among the lawyers. On the third day of the term a case was clled, in which the pleadings were very intricate and after the strictest English forms before the days of Chitty. His wonder grew that such a looking man as Hardin had the depth and grasp to grapple with such a case; but when he heard him argue it with a clearness, and tact, and power that evinced a master-spirit, he retired from the court house and prepared to abandon his new home - remarking to himself that if such looking men as Ben Hardin were so smart in Kentucky, there was a better opening for him in his old Pennsylvania home." 34

The duration of Buchanan's visit in Kentucky is not definite but it is likely that he resided in Elizabethtown for several months. Due to the slow processes of law and court procedure it was undoubtedly necessary for him to stay there long enough to attend to his father's land interests. Ben Hardin's statement that "In the course of a few months he began to look unhappy" would indicate that his residence extended over a period of several months. Just when and how he departed for Pennsylvania is now known, but it would have been the natural thing for him to join some party going east; possibly he accompanied Major James Crutcher on an eastern trip for merchandise taking the land route on horseback as was the custom of the merchants travelling east.

Buchanan's life from this period on to his election to the presidency and his retirement after the election of Lincoln is well known to students and historians.

Due to the lact of documentary evidence concerning Buchanan in 1813 most of his biographers have omitted to mention anything concerning his life during that year, and no mention has been made of his trip to Kentucky. The present generation in their intensive study of Lincoln's life should find early Hardin County of especial historical interest due to the fact that the two future presidents, who were destined to play prominent parts in the most critical period thus far of the nations existence, lived in the same community in Kentucky less than one hundred miles from the birthplace of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. 35

NOTES

X = Revised

1. Emmet V. Mittlebeeler in the point of view column of The Louisville Courier Journal - The Filson Club History Quarterly - vol. 6 - no. 4 - October, 1932, - page 420.

X In addition to Hardin County's two succeeding presidents of the United States whose terms ran from 1857 to 1865, records show that Kentucky Governors James Proctor Knott, Simon Bilivar Buckner, and John Young Brown whose terms ran from 1883 to 1895 all lived for a time in Hardin County and succeeded each other to that position. Sommers' History of Elizabethtown Chapter XLVIII.

2. Mary Allen Goodson: Hardin's Fort and its Founder, page 3.

X Samuel Haycraft, Jr.: History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 21.

3. Captain Abraham Lincoln with his family migrated from Virginia to Kentucky in the year 1782.

Thomas Lincoln purchased, on September 2, 1803, from John T. Stater, for 118 pounds, 230 acres of land in Hardin County located on Mill Creek. Louis A. Warren: Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood, page 47.

X 4. When Abraham Lincoln wrote his autobiography for Scripps, he said: "From this place (Knob Creek) he (Thomas Lincoln) removed to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in the autumn of 1816, "Abraham then being in his eighth year. This removal was partly on account of slavery, but chiefly on account of the difficulty in land titles."

5. Jesse La Folette, the grandfather of Senator Robert M. LaFolette of Wisconsin, was a neighbor of Thomas Lincoln on Knob Creek in Hardin County, Kentucky. Warren Files, Lincoln National Life Foundation.

The western ancestor of Senator William E. Borah of Idaho lived at a point near Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, about forty miles south of where Lincoln was born. The Lincoln, LaFolette and Borah families all lived in Kentucky at the same time. Warren Files, Lincoln National Life Foundation.

6. The father of President Buchanan was descended from Thomas Buchanan of Romelton County, Donegal, Ireland. "History of Strathendrick" by J. Guthrie Smith of Glasgow, Scotland.

There does not appear to be proof that any "brothers or sisters" of James Buchanan, Sr. came to America. Browning's "Americans of Royal Descent" 1882, pages 48-49.

It is highly improbable that the early Kentucky Buchanans principally of Mercer and Meade Counties were of any relation to President Buchanan. Browning's "Americans of Royal Descent" says "The degree of relationship between President James Buchanan and the brothers, Thomas and Alexander, is so slight as to be negligible."

7. In 1780 Squire Boone passing through this way (Meade County) in company with a certain John McKinney discovered at the head of Doe Run a spring which he frequented sundry times. George L. Ridenour: Early Times in Meade County, Kentucky, Chapter III

On January 3, 1783, Squire Boone entered 6,000 acres of land on the Ohio River below the mouth of Doe Run. George L. Ridenour: Early Times in Meade County, Kentucky, Chapter III.

An old stone mill erected a century ago on Doe Run Creek has been converted into a resort hotel, and is today one of Kentucky's picturesque attractions.

8. The Counties of Mead, Breckinridge, and LaRue have been organized from the original territory included in Hardin County. The present area is 606 square miles, the fourth largest in the state. Leroy Martin: Facts about Elizabethtown.

9. Fifty-one years after the death of John LaRue (II), numerous citizesn of the southeastern part of the large County of Hardin petitioned the Legislature of Kentucky for the establishment of a new county, which they asked should be called Lynn, with Hodgenville as its county seat. The act creating the county was approved March 4, 1843, but at the suggestion of John LaRue Helm, who was at that time influential in the politics of the state, he having previously served several years as Speaker of the House of Representatives, the name Lynn was rejected, and the new country was called LaRue. This name may have been given partly in recognition of the numerous LaRues who were living or who had lived withing the territory cut off from Hardin County, but it was

more particularly for Governor Helm's grandfather, John LaRue. Otis M. Mather: Six Generations of LaRues and Allied Families, page 83.

10. Samuel Haycraft, Jr. was born August 14, 1795. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Samuel Haycraft(Jr.)of Elizabethtown, Ky., is a witness of the highest possible credibility. No more esteemed and trusted man lived in Hardin Coutny, where he was clerk of both county and circuit courts from 1816 to 1857 inclusive, a member of the Kentucky State Senate and "one of the most determined supporters of the Union." Haycraft knew personally those of whom he writes and.....was a staunch friend of President Lincoln. Weik MSS. Beveridge: Abraham Lincoln, page 5.

11. Unpublished Manuscript of Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown.

12. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Ky., page 46.

13. When James Buchanan, the future president, left Elizabethtown, Ky.,he made Ben Hardin his attorney at law and attorney in fact. Lucius P. Little: Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries, page 353.

14. James Buchanan, Sr. died in Franklin County, Pennsylvania in 1821 leaving issue by his wife, Elizabeth Speer (whom he married in Adams County, Pa.), as follows: (1) James (2) William Speer (3) George W. (4) Edward Young (5) Jane --- according to Carleton H. Miller there were other daughters, Mrs. Harriett B. Henry and Mrs. Maria Yates. Browning's Americans of Royal Descent 1882, Pages 48-49.

15. Haycraft MSS. Warren Files, Lincoln National Life Foundation.

16. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, pages 98-99.

17. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 106.

18. R. G. Horton: The Life and Public Services of James Buchanan, page 17.

19. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 99.

20. The expression "going up Salt River" for defeated candidates grew out of a tradition that Henry Clay went up that river in a steamboat to have a game of poker and missed his speaking appointment in consequent, and thus lost the presidency.

Bayard Taylor who visited Kentucky in 1855 undertook to learn the origin of the phrase "Going up Salt River." The explanation he received was that in earlier days the salt makers up Salt River bore a reputation for rowdyism that made them ther terror of all the surrounding country. Whenever a flatboatman on the Ohio became unruly his mates would promptly subdue him with a threat to send him up Salt River and turn him over to the tender mercies of the salt makers. Taylor says that the phrase first acquired political significance about 18 40 but he makes no mention of Henry Clay in this connection. S. G. Boyd: The Lincoln and Nashville Turnpike, Kentucky State Historical Register.

21. The second brick residence to be erected in Elizabethtown was the home of Major James Crutcher in the west angle of the public square, two stories high, well finishd with a set of marble steps in front, being superior in material and finish to anything of the kind in the following sixty years. This house was the hospitable mansion of the major until about 1818. Hatcraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 77.

22. Lincoln in a letter written in 1860 to Samuel Haycraft, Jr. says: "The place on Knob Creek, mentioned by Mr. Read, I remember very well." Nicolay & Hay: Complete Works of A. L., Vol. 6, page 38.

23. Little: Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries, page 31.

The population of Hardin County was between eight and ten thousand in 1810, the land laws having been modified and settlement encouraged in every way possible. By the year 1816 half a million people had settled in Kentucky and this number was constantly increasing. Beveridge: Abraham Lincoln, Vol. 1, pages 32-33.

24. General Duff Green, an early Elizabethtown school teacher, married Lucretia Edwards, an aunt of Ninian Wert Edwards, who was a brother-in-law of Abraham Lincoln. He lived in the same house in Elizabethtown in which Thomas Lincoln was married to Sarah Bush Johnston. Gen. Green became very influential in national politics during the administration of Andrew Jackson becoming a member of his famous "Kitchen Cabinet."

25. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 108

26. Lincoln Lore, number 44.

27. Louis A. Warren: Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood, page 292.

28. R. G. Horton: The Life and Public Services of James Buchanan, page 17.

29. R. G. Horton: Life and Public Services of James Buchanan, page 22.

30. Albert J. Beveridge: Abraham Lincoln, page 19, Note # 1.

31. Ninian Edwards was the father of Ninian Wirt Edwards, the brother-in-law of Abraham Lincoln.

Henry P. Brodnax dressed in white cassemere, short breeches, silver buckles... and very fine cotton stockings, and a long white ribbed dimity coat, the long skirts of which nearly touched the ground. In his will he appropriated $20,000 to the Brodnax Professorship in the Theological Seminary at Danville. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, pages 178-179.

It was at the home of John Rowan near Bardstown that the song "My Old Kentucky Home" was written by Stephen Collins Foster, a cousin of Rowan. Rowan later removed to Louisville where he became one of the leading lawyers of his time and one of the first United States senators from Kentucky.

Edward Young Buchanan, a brother of President Buchanan, married Ann Elizabeth, a sister of Stephen Collins Foster in the year 1833.

John Pope was a senator in Congress from Kentucky from 1807 to 1812, acting a part of the time as president pro tem of that body. In 1829 he was appointed governor of Arkansas. He served as a representative in congress from 1836 to 1843. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 174.

Robert Wickliffe was admitted to the Elizabethtown bar in the year 1802, becoming one of its first members. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 45.

32. Lucius P. Little: Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries, page 352-353.

33. Lucius P. Little: Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries, page 560.

34. Collin's History of Kentucky, Vol. 11 (Hardin County).

35. Jefferson Davis was born in that part of Christian County, Kentucky which now forms Todd County, on June 3, 1808.

JAMES BUCHANAN and ABRAHAM LINCOLN

RESIDENTS OF HARDIN COUNTY, KY.

By

R. Gerald McMurtry

Hardin County - 1792

Hardin County, in addition to its fame as the county in which Abraham Lincoln was born, has since its establishment by the State Legislature in 1792 the distinction of having as residents within its boundaries many great characters of both national and state importance. A great amount of literature has been written about the boyhood of Lincoln in Hardin County and historians have often cited the fact that Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, was likewise a native of Kentucky, having been born only nine months before Lincoln and within a distance of less than one hundred miles from the birthplace of the great emancipator.[1] However, the fact that James Buchanan who preceded Lincoln to the presidency, and who lived in Elizabethtown, the county seat of Hardin County, for several months, within approximately twenty miles of the Lincoln home on Knob Creek while Lincoln resided there, has seldom been mentioned.

The territory of Hardin County was formed out of a part of Nelson County and before other divisions of Hardin County territory were made it was very large, being approximately one hundred and forty miles long and fifty miles wide.[2] It derived its name from John Hardin, A Virginian who was murdered by the Indians in 1792.[3] In the year 1843

there was a division of a part of the county's territory forming out of it what is today known as Larue County.[4] Within the present boundaries of Larue County were located the two Kentucky homes of Abraham Lincoln.

In the year 1793 Colonel Andrew Hynes founded within the county limits a town located on the Southern slope of Muldraughs Hill and Severn's Valley Creek, which he named in honor of his wife, Elizabeth. Here was located the seat of justice or the county's capital, but Elizabethtown did not prove of rapid growth as the third census credited the village, in the year 1810, with only one hundred and eighty inhabitants.[5] However, at this early period in Kentucky history this frontier community was a scene of much activity, and its people were ambitious as evidenced by the greatness that some of its citizens achieved.

In the first quarter of the nineteenth century the county attracted many settlers and land speculators. Land offices in many sections of the United States and in foreign countries sold Kentucky real estate.[6] Hardin County was very attractive to the speculators and many people made inroads into its territory filling not only the coffers of the land speculators but increasing the population of Elizabethtown and the county.[7] Purchasers of this real estate naturally became identified with the seat of government in order to file claims, record deeds, and attend to the general routine of business necessary in land transactions.

The town presented a picturesque frontier appearance in that early period as a majority of the houses were of log construction. However, many of these log houses were unusually large and made with hewn logs. Two large brick houses one of which is still standing created an imposing appearance.[8] In addition to these, several frame structures had been constructed. A stone jail expensive for that day and a new court house were also standing. Elizabethtown also boasted of a brickyard,

a tannery, a distillery, and three stores, one of which was run by John James Audubon, the great ornithologist.[9] There were also several blacksmiths and gunsmiths, a shoemaker, and a tailor and dancing master residing in the town. Costumes of the frontier still prevailed, but here and there were to be seen among the buckskin leggins, hunting shirts, coon-skin caps, and moccasins a few beaver hats, short breeches with ~~low~~ stockings, low shoes,and silver buckles at knee and ankle. ——— Such was the town about the year 1813 or 1814 when James Buchanan, a lawyer and land agent resided within its limits.

While all the presidents of the United States have visited Kentucky, except George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, and there is a possibility that Washington may have visited eastern Kentucky in early manhood, the fact that Hardin County about the year 1813 had within its boundaries the future fifteenth and sixteenth presidents is a rare and unusual circumstance.[10]

THREE FORMER KENTUCKIANS IN NATIONAL POLITICS

1860

By
R. Gerald McMurtry, Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

The fact is not generally known that in December 1860 the fate of the Union in a large measure rested in the hands of three former residents of Hardin County, Kentucky. The three men most prominent in the public eye during this critical month were James Buchanan, the President of the United States; Abraham Lincoln, the President Elect; and Duff Green, a Southern political leader of long standing. All three of these men had been residents of Hardin County and for several months during the year 1813 all three were living at the same time within that county's limits.

It is generally known that the first seven years of Lincoln's life were spent in original Hardin County, but the fact has seldom been mentioned that James Buchanan, the future fifteenth president, was also a resident of that county during the year 1813 when he came to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, to defend his father's interests in numerous land suits that were before the Hardin County Court. Duff Green came to Elizabethtown in the latter part of the year 1812 and opened a school, which by a coincident brought together in the same county and within a twenty mile radius three future national political statesmen, two of whom became presidents of the United States.

While Green resided in Elizabethtown he married Lucretia Edwards, a sister of Governor Ninian Edwards. Mrs. Green's nephew, Ninian W. Edwards, and Abraham Lincoln married sisters and this family alliance led to a warm personal friendship between Mr. Lincoln and General Green. Green left Elizabethtown in the year 1817 and went to Washington, D. C. where he soon became

a favorite of President Andrew Jackson, and it was generally known that he was the confidential adviser of the President.

During his residence at Washington he shared a great amount of government patronage and on one occasion he visited London and interviewed a good portion of the British cabinet and suggested his ideas of international policy. He was credited with immense party power, but in 1830 on the alienation of John C. Calhoun, he took sides with the Vice President. He supported Henry Clay for the presidency in 1832 and Mr. Calhoun in 1836, becoming for many years the political leader of his section of the country.

So close was the friendship of the Lincolns and Greens that when Abraham Lincoln came to Washington in 1847 as a member of Congress from Illinois he took up his residence in Carroll place, then known as "Green's Row" in order that he might be near General Green and his wife near Mrs. Green.

James Buchanan knew of the friendly relations that existed between Green and Lincoln and, being a democrat and pro-slavery and knowing of Green's zeal for the Southern cause, he selected him as his envoy to Springfield with an urgent invitation to Lincoln to come immediately to the capitol, with assurances that he would be received and treated with all due respect. The object of the invitation which Green explained to Lincoln was that they might consult and act in concert to "save the Union without bloodshed."

Such an invitation by Buchanan whether the proposition came by authority or not was quite a problem to Lincoln. He could not publicly question the truth of the envoy or the nature of his mission. The scheme was adroitly planned and General Green's whole aim was to induce Lincoln to assume the responsibility of the revolt in the South. Such a maneuver by Buchanan and Green, had it proved successful, would have been a great detriment to Lincoln upon his induction to the office of the presidency.

When the proposition was first submitted to Lincoln, Green was greatly encouraged in his belief that Lincoln would accept in order to ease the unfavorable sentiment that was daily growing in the South as a result of his election. One thing, however, interfered with the plan; Lincoln had an appointment with Senator Ben Wade whom he was expecting by every train. Green probably assumed that he would start to Washington as soon as he had met that appointment. Senator Wade eventually came and, upon hearing of Lincoln's invitation to Washington, he immediately opposed such a trip. Lincoln in due time declined President Buchanan's invitation.

The failure of the scheme did not discourage Duff Green, who next sought to obtain from Mr. Lincoln a letter which could be used in the southern states to offset the state convention and Cooper Institute speeches of Lincoln in which he emphatically stated "this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free." Such a statement led the South to believe that Lincoln and his party meant to destroy the institution of slavery and Green hoped to satisfy the South that they had no reason to fear any attempts to emancipate their slaves. In this he also failed because the carefully worded letter which Lincoln wrote to General Green was first sent to Senator Trumbull to be delivered "if, on consultation, our friends, including yourself, think it can do no harm." Senator Trumbull and the friends of Lincoln intercepted the letter and Green had nothing tangible to work with. Thus the two very elaborate and wily schemes that might have changed the whole aspect of Lincoln's administration from 1861 to 1865 were completely foiled.

It is likely that Lincoln saw clearly through the plans of General Green but by his attitude of interest and assumed willingness he was able to diplomatically handle the propositions of General Green. Due to his friendship with General Green and the warm personal friendship between Mrs. Lincoln

and Mrs. Green, Lincoln probably managed the situation in the best possible manner without openly antagonizing Green and the prominent political friends of Buchanan. Such political schemes and maneuvers show what intricate problems Lincoln was compelled to deal with immediately after his election.

However, the unusual and unique face is that original Hardin County in the year 1813 had, not one, but three men living within its limits who were destined to play prominent roles in the beginning of the most drastic and critical period, thus far, of the nation's existence.

1. Original Hardin County was organized in 1792 and was approximately one hundred forty miles long and fifty miles wide.
Haycraft, Jr., Samuel: History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 21

The counties of Mead, Breckinridge and LaRue have been organized from the original territory in Hardin County. The Knob Creek farm on which Lincoln lived in the year 1813 is today located in LaRue County.

The article entitled Buchanan, Lincoln, and Duff Green was published in The Century Magazine, June, 1889, pages 317-318.

2. Little, Lucius P.: Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries, pages 352,353.

3. James Buchanan, Sr. the father of the President made his first land purchase in Kentucky in the year 1796. Hardin County Court Records (Deed Book Page).

4. Haycraft, Jr., Samuel: History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 110 .

5. Haycraft, Jr., Samuel: History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 111.

6. Haycraft, Jr., Samuel: History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, page 142.

7. Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. 2, page 742.

8. The Century Magazine: Life of Lincoln, November, 1887, page 87.

9. The Century Magazine : Life of Lincoln, July, 1887, page 386

10. General Green's own account of his mission to Springfield and of his interview with Lincoln in Richmond after its occupation by Federal troops may be found in "Facts and Suggestions" by Duff Green, Published in 1866 by Richardson & Co., New York, and Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.