



James Buchanan

15th President of the United States of America

James Buchanan was born on April 23, 1791, in
Cove Gap Pennsylvania.

His parents were James Buchanan Sr. and
Elizabeth Speer Buchanan.

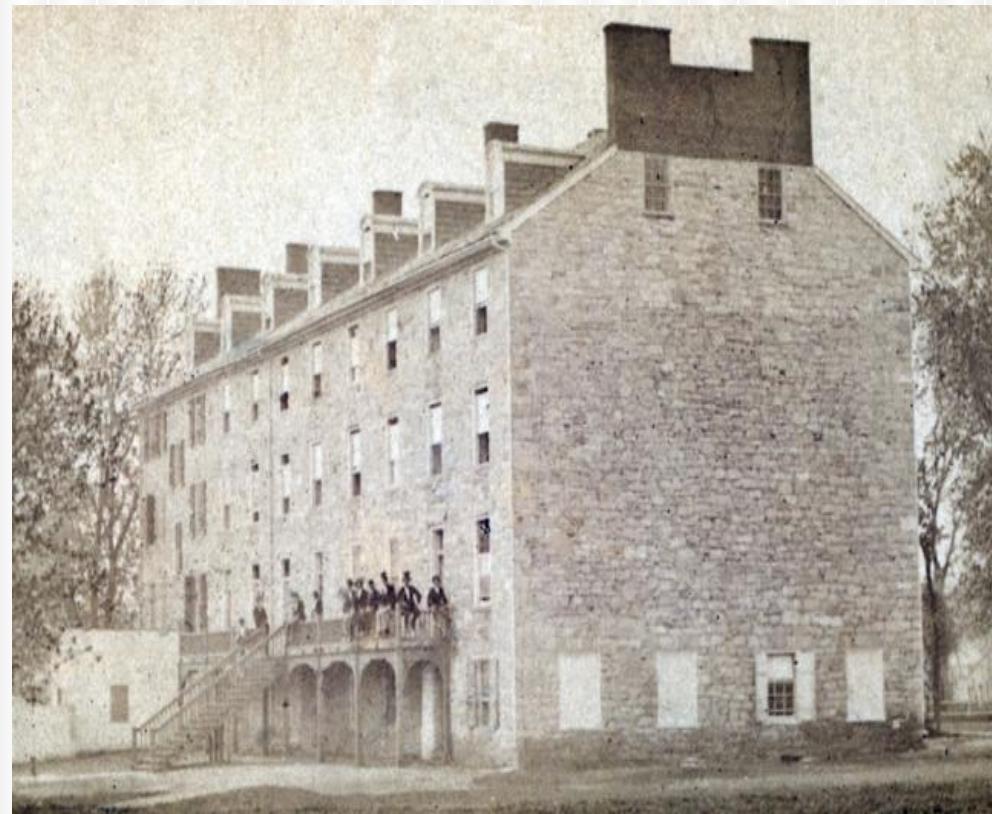
James Jr.'s father was a wealthy
merchant from Ireland.



James went to Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

He studied law and graduated in 1809.

After graduating, James opened his own successful law practice in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



James was a member of the federalist party.

However, after the federalist dissolved He favored the democratic party.

He started of his career in the Pennsylvania legislate. He served from 1814-1816.

He was then elected to the House of Representatives in 1820, where he served until 1830.



In 1831 after Andrew Jackson was elected president, James was appointed ambassador to Russia.





In 1834, a year after returning from Europe, Buchanan was elected to represent Pennsylvania in the U.S. Senate. He resigned from the Senate in 1845 because James Polk appointed him U.S. secretary of state. During James's time as secretary of state the amount of territory America owned grew by more than a third. He was secretary of state until the 1849.

James was elected President in 1856, after defeating John C. Fremont, from the newly formed republican party.

Buchanan served as president until 1861.



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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Nominee | James Buchanan | John C. Frémont | Millard Fillmore |
| Party | Democratic | Republican | Know-Nothing |
| Home state | Pennsylvania | California | New York |
| Running mate | John C. Breckinridge | William L. Dayton | Andrew J. Donelson |
| Electoral vote | 174 | 114 | 8 |
| States carried | 19 | 11 | 1 |
| Popular vote | 1,836,072 | 1,342,345 | 873,053 |
| Percentage | 45.3% | 33.1% | 21.6% |



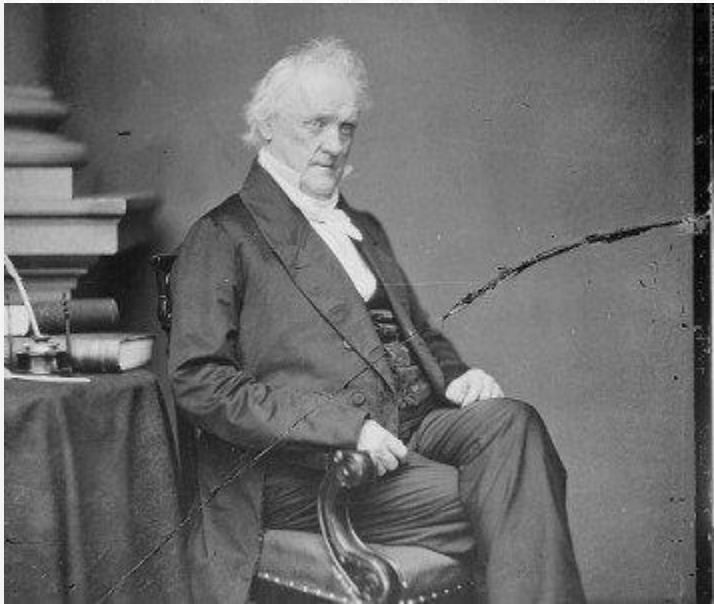
Ann Coleman

James Buchanan was the only president that never married. In 1819, James was engaged to the daughter of a wealthy Pennsylvania manufacturer. The woman's name was Ann Coleman. Sadly, the wedding was called off that same year. After the wedding was called off Ann Coleman tragically died. Rumors were that her death was a suicide.



Because James Buchanan never married, his niece Harriet Lane, fulfilled the role of first lady.





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In his inaugural address, Buchanan called the territorial issue of slavery “happily, a matter of but little practical importance.”

I believe that this was his real problem during his presidency. He ignored the issue of slavery.

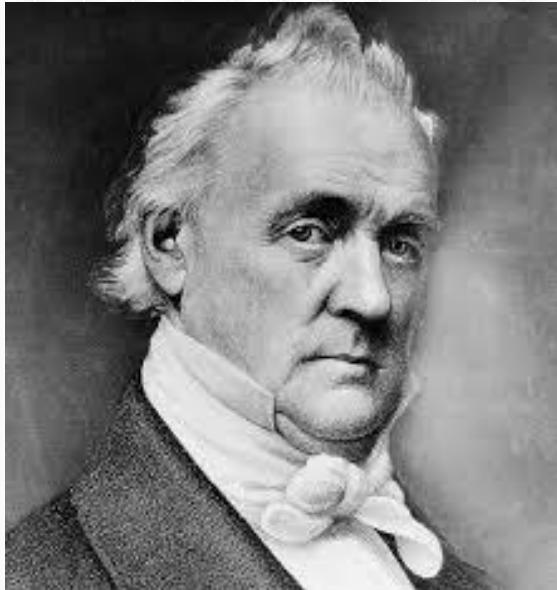
Slavery was a huge issue when he was elected and instead of trying to deal with the issue James decided to focus on other matters.

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Although James Buchanan did make many mistakes during his time as president, I do feel bad for him. I think he was thrown into a pretty difficult situation.

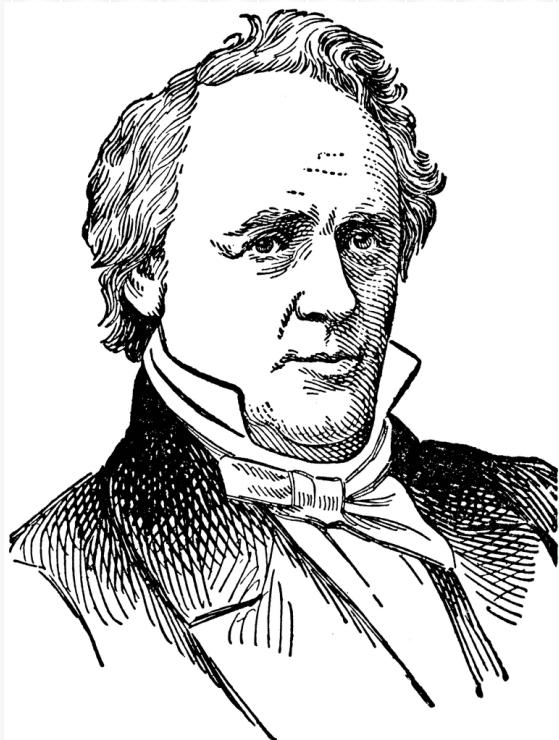
Buchanan was the president before Abraham Lincoln, I believe as we look back on past presidents and their approaches, strategies and decisions, we come to the conclusion that everyone other than Abraham Lincoln himself didn't have the right approaches and strategies. In the end I do believe Buchanan did what he thought was best for the country at the time. We might not agree with him, but I do believe he did his best under the circumstances.

President James Buchanan's impact on history was nothing really, some historians would say that his contribution was he brought the civil war on America more quickly.

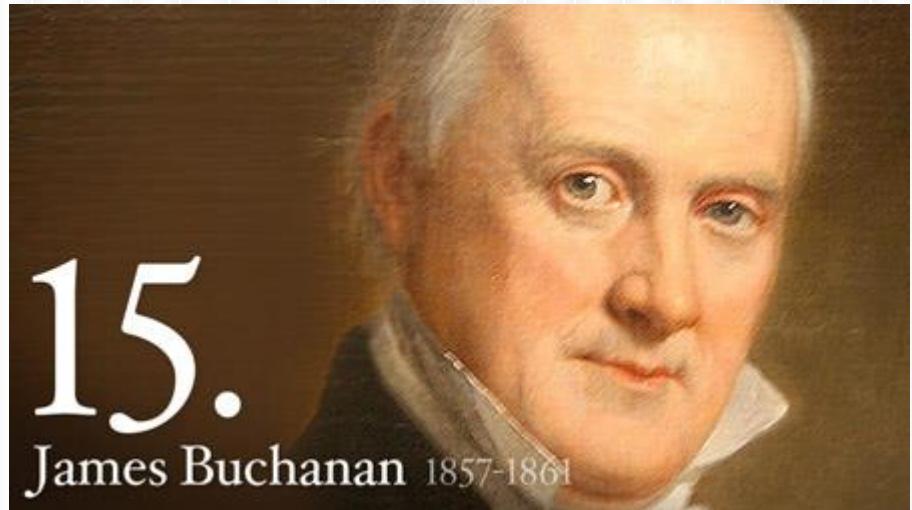


Having determined not to become a candidate for reelection, I shall have no motive to influence my conduct in administering the Government except the desire ably and faithfully to serve my country and to live in grateful memory of my countrymen.

March 4, 1857



Sadly, James Buchanan's only claim to fame was how horrible a president he was.



James Buchanan died on June 1st 1868, in Lancaster Pennsylvania, three years after the end of the Civil War. He is buried in Woodward Hill Cemetery in Lancaster Pennsylvania.