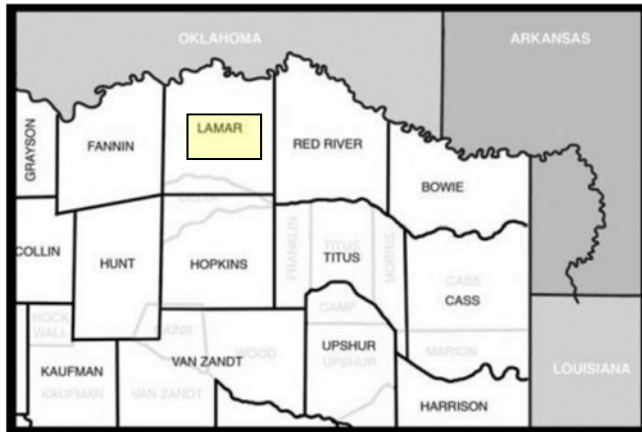


## Letter to William Burchard from John Strentzel

No. 2<sup>1</sup>

Lamar Cty [County],<sup>2</sup> 22 May 1848<sup>3</sup>



North-East Texas



Wilhelm Burchard

Dear Wilhelm,<sup>4</sup>

I received your dear [letter?] of 13 February on the 19<sup>th</sup> of last month,<sup>5</sup> and it was for me sufficient stimulus to prevent ani [*sic*] feelings of fatigue after the resumed occupation of plowing – this is a more practical illustration than ani [*sic*] other jargon could convey. My good fellow, forgive this transgression, it is very difficult for me, even impossible, to express my thoughts [in writing]. I hope that with the aid of a lexicon, which I do not have at my disposal, you can easily translate the intermixed words – just please give me the opportunity for this witty practice and I hope to correct these errors. Your misfortune<sup>6</sup> saddens me, and my Companion

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps a copy of the original letter sent to Burchard; this letter was among those in Strentzel's possession

<sup>2</sup> Lamar County, Texas: region named for General Mirabeau B. Lamar (1798-1859); Texas politician, poet, diplomat and soldier who was a leading Texas political figure during the Texas Republic era. He was the second President of the Republic of Texas

<sup>3</sup> Letter is dated on the day when John Strentzel's wife gave birth to the Strentzel's second child, John William Erwin Burchard Strentzel

<sup>4</sup> Wilhelm Burchard [William John or John William Burchard] [János Vilmos Burchard- Bélaváry]; aka Johann Wilhelm Burchard-Béleváry [Jean Guillaume]; born 1795 in Lublin, Poland; died 1881 in Vienna, Austria; buried in 1883 in the Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery in Vienna (Evangelischer Friedhof Matzleinsdorf). Trader, entrepreneur, philanthropist. Left Poland in 1825 to settle in Hungary under the single name Burchard. Lived in Eperies (now Prešov, Slovakia). Producer and trader in wine. Took part in the 1848 Uprising in Hungary. Received the Polish Virtuti Military Cross for valor on the battlefield

See: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:J%C3%A1nos\\_Vilmos\\_Burchard-B%C3%A9lav%C3%A1ry.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:J%C3%A1nos_Vilmos_Burchard-B%C3%A9lav%C3%A1ry.jpg) &

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Famille\\_Burchard-B%C3%A9lav%C3%A1ry](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Famille_Burchard-B%C3%A9lav%C3%A1ry)

<http://gw.geneanet.org/1789adrien1789?lang=fr&p=johann+wilhelm+janos+vilmos&n=burchard+von+bellavary+de+sycava>

<sup>5</sup> April 19th; Burchard was likely in Eperies, Hungary

<sup>6</sup> Perhaps a reference to the Hungarian Uprising of 1848

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian\\_Revolution\\_of\\_1848](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_Revolution_of_1848)

shares that sympathy – but keep up your good spirits and be cheerful, it will require your utmost prudence, energy, perseverance and even temper, to brave the storm successfully – it is true, your age<sup>7</sup> deserves and requires repose, but the experience of advanced age will compensate [for] the lack of youthful strength – but allow me to note that the best remedy is to remove the cause of the disease. Concentrate your powers on one point – ignore the sneers of busybodies, choose one point of the compass and do not deviate from it, neither right nor left – find consolation in the awareness of loyally fulfilled duties – the boys<sup>8</sup> are now growing up, they cannot earn money yet, but no doubt they will. Henry<sup>9</sup> is in Louisville, KY on a small speculation, I can say today that he may consign to you about [\$]27,100 as payment on our account,<sup>10</sup> and that as soon as possible – I would gladly increase the remittance, but money is not super abundant with him – we have enough to eat, drink milk and honey, and heaven knows how [we] would like to share it, but bills [currency] can only be captured with effort – I am very concerned for the remittance, so many of the most distinguished houses default daily, that one can no longer determine who is solvent. It has been some time since I saw the names of your Vienna friends<sup>11</sup> -- for that reason, I advised Henry to obtain the aforementioned from Triest.<sup>12</sup> Since 23 February, the uncertainty has increased, we hear that your Mettern[ich]<sup>13</sup> met his fate at last, all these events so sudden in their eruption, have been expectet [*sic*] here for some time and we must fear that much time will have to pass befoor [*sic*] the disjointed society will find its point of gravitation[;] much good will come of this situation for the U.[nited] States, but in your country all business is only local.



<sup>7</sup> Burchard was 53 years old in 1848

<sup>8</sup> Perhaps the nephews of Louisiana Erwin Strentzel (Andrew Jackson and Samuel Augustus, Jr.); or, the sons of William J. Burchard (Henri, Jules-Conrad, Gustav, Louis and Konrad)

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfannin/erwin2.html>

<https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=hu&u=http://www.macse.org/gudenus/mcsat/fam.aspx%3Fid%3D92251&prev=search>

<sup>9</sup> Henry [Heinrich or Henryk] Christian Strentzel, brother of John Strentzel

Born 1817 (Lublin, Poland) – Died September 3, 1865 (Martinez, CA)

<sup>10</sup> Strentzel had Power of Attorney for W. Burchard; See: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/BurchardLetterToStrentzel.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Unknown

<sup>12</sup> During the Italian and Hungarian revolutions Trieste remained faithful to Austria

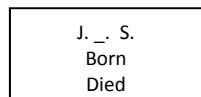
<sup>13</sup> Prince Klemens von Metternich; resigned as the Austrian Empire's Foreign Minister during the Hungarian Revolution of 1848

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klemens\\_von\\_Metternich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klemens_von_Metternich)

Photo: "Metternich (c. 1835-40)" by Anonymous, zeitgenössischer Meister. - Selbst erstellt (im Heeresgeschichtlichen Museum Wien), Pappenheim at de.wikipedia. Licensed under Public Domain via Commons - [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Metternich\\_\(c.\\_1835-40\).jpg#/media/File:Metternich\\_\(c.\\_1835-40\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Metternich_(c._1835-40).jpg#/media/File:Metternich_(c._1835-40).jpg)

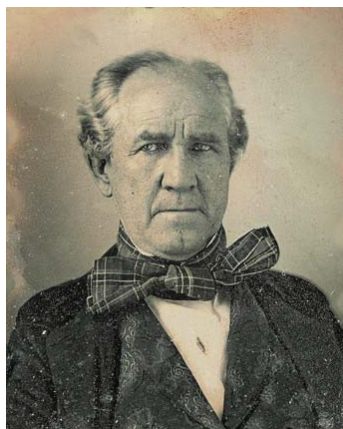
I am seeing to the desired power of attorney/proxy and it will need to be some months before I am legitimized; we will see. Heaven knows what more will come to pass – Had it been 2 months earlier I might have had this matter easily taken up by our State Representative in Congress.<sup>14</sup> -- It is the wish of both of us that you have this sum in your hands and you hand over [money] to Paulina<sup>15</sup>, little by little, so that the men's part, on both sides, clears the taxes...<sup>16</sup> In case Paulina or her children want to come here, I would surely support them, but I have no wish for Gajewski<sup>17</sup> and I disclaim him completely. My axiom is neither interfere nor be interfered [with], especially in family squabbles.

I would like a plain father...<sup>18</sup> perhaps one on this commission --- for the love she mutual. My dear [from Bavaria?] that repeat what was said in [letter?] No. 1.<sup>21</sup>



Sketch of a headstone with initials for John S. Strentzel Sr.

headstone placed in memory of my of your good Lublin friends wants to take I would take over the costs. I thank Zosia<sup>19</sup> [sends?] and assure her the feelings are Louisa favors her -- you mention Par.[?]<sup>20</sup> [there?] is 5 at my mill [?] effort [?] and I



Sam Houston

Two months ago I received from ex-president Houston<sup>22</sup> the charter of the mineral estates surveyed in the previous year on the lake (Lake Superior); the district is comprised of estates situated on the south side of this lake – between the rivers Chocolate<sup>23</sup> and Fond du Lac in Wisconsin Territory,<sup>24</sup> the amended report of the surveyor speaks of that portion, very highly -- specifying the range of the ore, their richness and variety -- gold, silver and exceedingly rich copper ore, iron and considerable tin, with I believe signs of quicksilver, besides, said country is unrivalled in its water facilities – I

<sup>14</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second\\_Texas\\_Legislature#House\\_of\\_Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Texas_Legislature#House_of_Representatives)

<sup>15</sup> Unknown

<sup>16</sup> Avoids taxation

<sup>17</sup> Perhaps Michał or Stanisław or Franciszek Gajewski mentioned in books of the 1840s

<sup>18</sup> John Strentzel's father, John S. Strentzel (Sr.); born in 1771; died in Lublin in 1848

<sup>19</sup> Diminutive of Zofia (Sophia); John Strentzel's mother, or John Strentzel's sister;

Sophia (Zofia) Meizner Strentzel was born in 1785 in Lublin. Her daughter, Sophia, was born in 1820 in Lublin

<sup>20</sup> Perhaps Herr Parreys, mineral collector

<sup>21</sup> This passage is unclear

<sup>22</sup> Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, 1836-1838; 1841-1844

"Sam Houston c1850-crop" by unidentified - George Eastman HouseNative nameGeorge Eastman House International Museum of Photography and FilmLocationRochester, New York, United StatesCoordinates43° 09′ 08″ N, 77° 34′ 49″

WEstablished1949Website<http://www.eastmanhouse.org/>. Licensed under Public Domain via Commons -

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sam\\_Houston\\_c1850-crop.jpg#/media/File:Sam\\_Houston\\_c1850-crop.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sam_Houston_c1850-crop.jpg#/media/File:Sam_Houston_c1850-crop.jpg)

<sup>23</sup> The Black River

<sup>24</sup> See: Report on the Geological Survey of the State of Wisconsin, Volume 1 by James Hall, Josiah Dwight Whitney, Jeffries Wyman, Joseph Leidy



am confident that with a solid practical knowledge in that branch a man would not starve here, besides there is Upper California, New Mexico with a most healthy climate and delicious wine in all probability the whole mining region of Mexico – starve, a man may starve provided he is a fool, to succeed it is true, requires a different management – the old humdrum ways will not do – a man must be ready for every emergency, today he works

with a hoe or behind a plow tomorrow be ready for the office of governor – this spirit pervades the majority of our population and how much your pedants may shake their wigs, the experience proves that you can find here men for every emergency – great God if that was the case with your own county, how much suffering prevented – tears dried –

I will make inquiries and write of Brzoz [and?] Gustav<sup>25</sup> – poor Otilia,<sup>26</sup> in exile! And where’s the mother?<sup>27</sup> Poor Kep<sup>28</sup> spends time looking in vain for thousands [of dollars] – Our Astor,<sup>29</sup> your Rotsch.,<sup>30</sup> arose from nothing – so if we see people who made their fortune for nothing – if we come upon a broken thread, not starting fresh, if fortune does not assure a modest life, and maybe satisfying – I

<sup>25</sup> Unknown; perhaps **Brzoz**; or Stanisław **Brzozowski** who played a role in the 1848 revolution; and perhaps **Gustav** Potworowski

<sup>26</sup> Burchard’s daughter, Otilia Burchard  
<http://gw.geneanet.org/1789adrien1789?lang=fr&p=johann+wilhelm+janos+vilmos&n=burchard+von+bellavary+de+sycava>

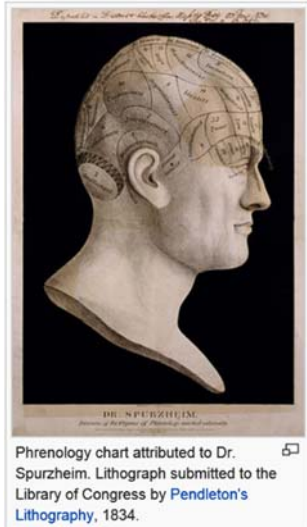
<sup>27</sup> Burchard’s wife, Karolina Wiemuth; died in 1879

<sup>28</sup> In Polish “Kep” is pronounced “Kemp”; perhaps “James C. Kemp” mentioned in *A Doctor’s Gold Rush Journey to California* by ISP Lord; alternately, perhaps someone from the Kemp family in Texas

<sup>29</sup> John Jacob Astor, first multi-millionaire in the United States

<sup>30</sup> During the 19th century, the Rothschild family is believed by some to have possessed the largest private fortune in the world

am sorry for your dear girls,<sup>31</sup> send them here and they not pine long in single blessedness.



May 23. 10 o'clock. This evening we received a boy with a very capacious head -- Gete<sup>32</sup> and Spurz[.]<sup>33</sup> both may rejoice – we name him John William<sup>34</sup> – the mother [is] as well as could be expected – this will be the reason she will abstain from the pleasure of writing to you. –

Thank you for news from the Kingdom [of Poland] – whenever an opportunity offer[s] I promise the same mementoes from me—Greet Dr. Bach<sup>35</sup> and I fear you will need to ask him for help... I have not eaten beans I think since I left Lublin, today [I] got a large number of my own growth.

[Address, written in large letters vertically between two paragraphs:  
“P. [Pan ?]<sup>36</sup> W. Burchard Esq., Eperies, Austria.” The address is surrounded with repeated scribbles of various words, including “Austria”; “P. W. Burchard”; “Growth”; Honey Grove,” *opusciem*, Polish for “I left, departed”; “Address: Honey Grove, Fannin C., Texas”; “New Orleans”; and so on.<sup>37</sup>]

---

<sup>31</sup> Otillia and Charlotte Burchard

<http://gw.geneanet.org/1789adrien1789?lang=fr&p=johann+wilhelm+janos+vilmos&n=burchard+von+bellavary+d+sycava>

<sup>32</sup> Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: German writer; believed in the vertebral theory of the skull

<sup>33</sup> Johann Gaspar Spurzheim: started the discipline of phrenology in the 18th and 19th centuries

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann\\_Spurzheim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Spurzheim)

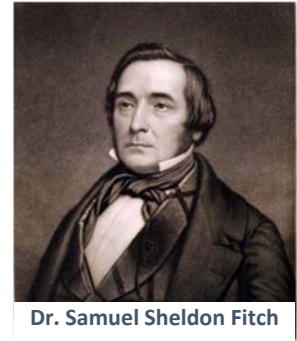
<sup>34</sup> John William Erwin Burchard Strentzel: 22 May 1848 (Lamar Co., TX) - 20 September 1857 (Martinez, CA)

<sup>35</sup> Perhaps the Dr. Bach of Eperies mentioned in *Medicinal-Schematismus der oesterreichischen Monarchie: Jahrbuch ...*, Volume 1 by Jos Nader

<sup>36</sup> *Pan*: Polish for Sir or Mister

<sup>37</sup> Austria; New Orleans, LA (1840); Louisville, KY; Honey Grove, Fannin County, TX; Lamar, TX: Places where Strentzel lived; the letter to Burchard was in Strentzel's possession, so perhaps it was returned to him by way of one of the many places he had lived, or perhaps it is a copy

It would be a good idea to inform Ludwig<sup>38</sup> on the new theory of healing and prevention of pulmonary consumption as established by the lecturer D[r]. Fitch.<sup>39</sup> I believe that with the translation of this book and more so by following the suggestions proposed by experience already established he could not only make a lot of money, but also save many lives – If it is your wish, I will write about the matters in my next [letter]



## Acknowledgments

Susan Flynn (Personal Collection, Strentzel Letters)

**Translated** from the original German and Polish **by William “Fred” Hoffman**,  
Co-Author (with Jonathan D. Shea) of *In Their Words*  
(<http://www.langline.com/Publications.htm>)  
with **Ute Brandenburg** (GermanScriptExperts.com)

Research: Maureen Mroczek Morris (San Francisco), Fred Hoffman (Texas) and Roman Włodek (Kraków)

See also: <http://www.PolishClubSF.org/BurchardLetterToStrentzel.pdf>  
and  
<http://www.PolishClubSF.org/Strencel.pdf>

---

<sup>38</sup> Perhaps Dr. Gottlieb Martin Wilhelm Ludwig Rau, pioneer of homeopathy  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=Pgs30xOShAQC&pg=PA555&lpg=PA555&dq=Dr.+Gottlieb+Martin+Wilhelm+Ludwig+Rau,&source=bl&ots=cMtn0l3bhu&sig=I-KUjSIoffjkzuARu1YwHJbWJmc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCoQ6AEwA2oVChMI6Pfo6OTWxwIVCFqICh3NgQdt#v=onepage&q=%20Ludwig%20Rau&f=false>  
<http://homeoint.org/seror/biograph/rau.htm>

<sup>39</sup> Dr. Samuel Sheldon Fitch, a New England pulmonary consumption (tuberculosis) specialist