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# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message

I am going to start this month's letter with a question. What was the largest city in the slave holding states? Hint: It was not New Orleans. It was Baltimore, Maryland. Baltimore was the largest city and largest port with a population of 212,000 - more than New Orleans' 168,000. Baltimore and Alexandria, Virginia were the first two cities occupied by Union troops. There were Union troops stationed in Maryland throughout the War.

Why didn't Maryland join the Confederacy? The State Legislature was not allowed to convene for over two years. Had the State succeeded, Washington would have been in Confederate territory.

Virtually, all the rail traffic from the North bound for Washington, DC, passed through Baltimore. This was supplies and troops.

While Washington was the most heavily defended City in the world with 500 cannons, Baltimore was undefended. Also, Lee could easily get back South into Virginia.

Even Newt Gingrich in his trilogy of fiction about Gettysburg in the second volume, Grant Comes East, has Lee take Baltimore.

**Dennis Kohlmann, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
Wednesday, April 8, 2020  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 0:**

**MEMBERS – 0:** No meeting and no Members.

**GUESTS – 0:** No meeting and no Guests.

1. No meeting. The next meeting is unknown at this time.
2. The next Board Meeting is unknown at this time.

**George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on April 8th was \$5,048.93. No meeting and no raffle.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2020

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 13th	No Meeting	"No Topic, No Meeting"
June 10th	John Scales	"The Campaigns & Battles of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest"
July 8th	Dr. Tad Smith	"The Fuse to the War: The Dred Scott Decision"
August 12th	Arnd Gartner	"Union Intelligence Services"
September 9th	Nancy Samuelson	"To Be Determined"
October 14th	Tim & Ginny Karlsberg	"Vicksburg"

## 2020 Membership

The 2020 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2020. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew at a monthly meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to:

George W. Foxworth  
9463 Salishan Court  
Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

Please remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

## NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the first of each month for that month's **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

[gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

## NORTH & SOUTH IS BACK!

Re-Launched in July 2019, three issues have already appeared by December 31, 2019. Each 100-page issue is packed with 7 - 8 articles plus the familiar Departments--Knapsack, Crossfire, and Briefings-- and a new one, *Civil Warriors*, that looks at little known participants in the War.

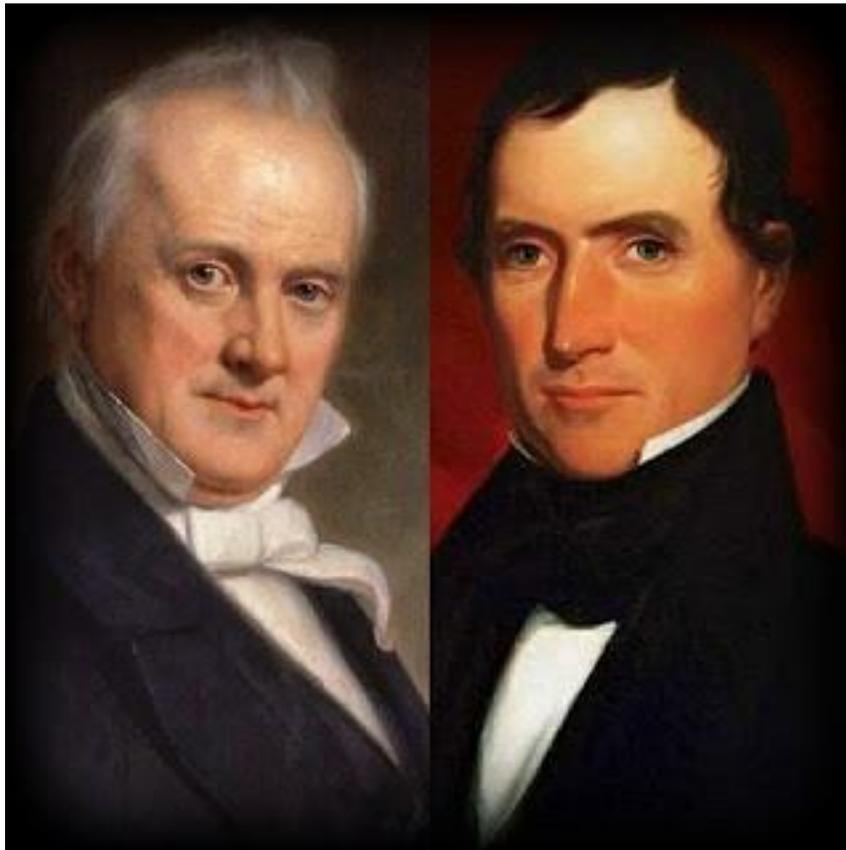
Lead article in Issue 4 is a detailed examination of whether Meade could have - and should have - trapped and destroyed the Army of Northern Virginia. (Editor says yes, 98%.) There will be a follow-up discussion article.

To subscribe go to [northandsouthmag.com](http://northandsouthmag.com) or call Keith on (559) 260 3852 (Pacific time).

# James Buchanan & William Rufus King

William Rufus DeVane King was born into a family of wealthy planters on April 17, 1786 in North Carolina. He attended elite prep schools and entered the University of North Carolina when he was 12 years-old. He left early to apprentice to a lawyer but very soon turned his attention to politics. By 1810, at the age of 25, he was elected to Congress. Six years later, he was sent as Secretary of Legation to the American Embassy in Saint Petersburg, Russia. He took advantage of his appointment, traveling extensively and soaking up the sights of foreign lands. Some insinuated that his flamboyant dress and gossipy manners stemmed from his time abroad.

On King's return from Russia, he took the advice of his older brother to move South where there were untold opportunities and cheap land. King was one of the original leaders of the movement to make Alabama the 22<sup>nd</sup> State. He purchased 750 acres of land and built a plantation he named Chestnut Hill. It was "staffed" by close to 500 slaves. He urged for improvements in services, communications, and roadways. He helped give the Capitol its name, Selma. For his efforts, he became the first elected Senator to be sent to Congress from the brand new State of Alabama.



James Buchanan Jr. and William Rufus DeVane King

King's terms in Congress overlapped with that of James Buchanan, a young Congressman, and later Senator, from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They struck up a warm friendship though they didn't appear to have much in common. King was five years older than Buchanan. Buchanan was broad shouldered, sturdily built and handsome. A critic of King's called him a "tall, prim, wig-topped mediocrity." King was a Democrat and

Buchanan a Federalist. The two men came from different parts of the country and were born into vastly different socio-economic backgrounds.

They were soon inseparable. Buchanan called their relationship “a communion.” They shared a room at Mrs. Ironsides’s Boarding House on Tenth and F Street in Washington, DC. They were both old enough and wealthy enough to afford private rooms but so great was their conviviality that they continued to share a home for most of the next fifteen years. They were often seen strolling the streets of Washington arm in arm.

Newspapers printed that King was known for “his fastidious habits.” Buchanan began to adopt many of King’s Southern manners. They both loved fine dining, gossiping with friends, brightly colored silk handkerchiefs, and expensive silk stockings. When invited to a dinner or dance in the Capitol, they chose to wear identical outfits. Buchanan also started to champion some of King’s political views.

There were countless jokes at their expense. Buchanan was widely known as “Granny Buck” and King became known as “his better half.” Andrew Jackson called William King “Miss Nancy” and James Buchanan “Aunt Fancy.” Postmaster General James Campbell called them “Buchanan and his wife.” They were famously known as, “The Siamese Twins” and “The Nancy Boys,” nineteenth century slang for gay couples. Aaron Brown, a law partner of President James Polk, wrote to Polk’s wife, “...politicians mock Buchanan and King to their faces about their effeminate temperaments.”

The Nancy Boys didn’t seem to care. They were beloved friends, colleagues, confidantes, and partners in every sense of the word.

Lovers? Perhaps. Or perhaps not.

King served in the Senate from 1819 until 1844 when President John Tyler chose him to be the U.S. minister to France. He wrote from France to James, “I am selfish enough to hope you will not be able to procure an associate who will cause you to feel no regret at our separation.” About this time, Buchanan wrote a friend, “I am now solitary and alone, having no companion in the house with me. I have gone a wooing to several gentlemen, but have not succeeded with any of them. I feel that it is not good for man to be alone; and should not be astonished to find myself married to some old maid who can nurse me when I am sick, provide some good dinners for me when I am well, and not expect from me any very ardent or romantic affection.”

In 1848, being assured that France would not interfere with the U.S. annexation of Texas from Mexico, King returned home and took up his Senate seat again. President Zachary Taylor had died and his Vice President, Millard Fillmore, was now President. There was no official Vice President. William King was chosen to be the President Pro Tem of the Senate and was now first in line to become President if Fillmore died.

In 1852, Franklin Pierce, instead of the newly moderate Democrat, James Buchanan, was chosen by the Democratic Party to run for President. The Vice Presidential nomination was offered to King. Buchanan urged King to accept. King accepted but he was ill. He began to decline all social invitations and soon disappeared from society. Diagnosed with tuberculosis, he resigned from the Senate and sailed to Havana hoping the warm climate would restore his health. When he left, his friends described him as “looking like a skeleton.”

When the Pierce/King ticket won, King was too ill to get back to Washington in time for the March 4 inauguration. Congress passed a special dispensation allowing him to be sworn in on foreign soil. On March 24, 1853, two U.S. soldiers held him up while he recited the Oath of Allegiance and became 13th Vice President of the United States.

King started home from Cuba but his ship was delayed several times. Barely alive, he arrived at Chestnut Hill on April 17, 1853 and died the following day. He was Vice President for forty five days, the shortest term ever served by any Vice President. He is buried in Live Oak Cemetery, in Selma, Alabama.



William Rufus DeVane King



James Buchanan Jr.

After King's death, Buchanan always kept "a likeness of the late Vice-President King, whom he loved," nearby. He also kept a large portrait of Ann Coleman over his fireplace, his fiancé who was rumored to have committed suicide after she had broken off their engagement in 1819.

After the deaths of both King and Buchanan, as stipulated in their wills, all their correspondence was destroyed by Harriet Lane, the niece who had served as Buchanan's First Lady, and Catherine Ellis, a niece of William King.

James Buchanan had served in the House of Representatives from 1821 - 1831 and in the Senate from 1834 - 1845. He was Secretary of State from 1845 - 1849. He began his Presidential term under the dark shadow of the financial panic of 1857.

Southern born William King had played a significant role in shaping Buchanan's policies. Buchanan shrugged off the Dred Scott Decision. He believed slavery morally wrong, but was against Emancipation. He didn't stop the brutality in Bloody Kansas. John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry came to its bloody conclusion under his Administration. His Cabinet was riddled with Southerners who were allowed to arm themselves with ammunition from the Federal arsenal. Fort Sumter was seized on his watch.

On the day he left office, he told incoming President Abraham Lincoln, "If you are as happy, dear sir, on entering this house as I am in leaving...you are the happiest man in the country."

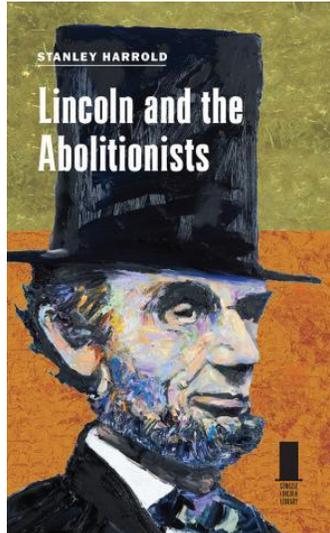
Buchanan died on June 1, 1868 and is buried at Woodward Hills Cemetery in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**Submitted by Judith Breitstein**

# Stanley Harrold. Lincoln and the Abolitionists

Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2018. vii + 155 pp. \$24.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-8093-3641-8.

Reviewed by Martin P. Johnson (Miami University Hamilton). Published on H-FedHist (January, 2019). Commissioned by Caryn E. Neumann (Miami University of Ohio Regionals).



This sharp and rapid survey by one of the foremost scholars of American abolitionism provides an illuminating review of Lincoln's on-again, off-again relationship with the persistent and demanding band of writers and activists who worked to end slavery and protect the rights of Black Americans. Drawing upon decades of experience in the field, Stanley Harrold, a Professor of History at South Carolina State University, argues that abolitionists "fundamentally influenced" Abraham Lincoln's "evolving political orientation" and that, in the end, "he influenced them, as well" (p. 3). Beyond this, Harrold presents a sustained argument that Lincoln was far more the protector of the rights of Whites than a crusader for justice for people of color.

Harrold begins by arguing that Lincoln and abolitionists inhabited "different worlds" but that Lincoln had especially far to travel in their eventual convergence. Northeastern abolitionism was rooted in religion and the Declaration of Independence; Lincoln's view on slavery derived from "slaveholders Thomas Jefferson of Virginia and Henry Clay of Kentucky," who endorsed "only very gradual emancipation schemes, rejected Black equality, and denounced abolitionists" (p. 5). Harrold depicts Lincoln following this path precisely and argues that Lincoln's whiggish nationalism and opportunism determined his early course far more than moral antagonism to slavery. In the 1830s and 1840s, Lincoln was more likely to attack opponents for abolitionist principles than to embrace them himself. Instead, Lincoln "merely disliked slavery" and opposed its expansion not so much from moral revulsion but because it was not a beneficial labor system and because it was the basis of slaveholder domination of the Federal Government (p. 2).

Harrold then traces a "limited convergence" during which Lincoln in the 1850s more clearly spoke out against slavery. For Lincoln, this convergence was especially

facilitated by his law partner, William Herndon, who furnished Lincoln with abolition journals and put him in second-hand contact with noted abolitionist Theodore Parker. In addition, Lincoln's sense of the legal injustice of the Dred Scott Decision drove him to assert more openly that "colored people," as he said at Springfield in 1857, were indeed part of "the people of the United States" (p. 54). On the other side of the equation, Harrold also shows how some abolitionists from the late 1840s onward were more willing to move toward political action in support of allies like radical Republicans (a category that does not include Lincoln). Some even argued, along with Frederick Douglass, that the Constitution could be a shield of freedom as well as a sword of oppression.

Finally, Harrold recounts the "contentious relationship" between Lincoln and the abolitionists during the War, each supporting and bewailing the other in turns. Lincoln is portrayed as a compromiser who is willing to permit slavery to continue and to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act (p. 77). It was "Lincoln's policy of holding U.S. property in the South" that led to the attack on Sumter (p. 74), a formulation that illustrates Harrold's tendency to minimize the role of Lincoln's antislavery policy of non-extension as a cause of the War and that strips his Government's position of much of its moral standing. Still, "Lincoln seemed to draw closer to the abolitionists" across 1863 and beyond. He met with abolitionists, ceased to mention colonization publicly, and began to think of emancipation as possibly part of God's will (p. 95). As throughout, the passages Harrold devotes to the diverse treads of abolitionism are especially strong, drawing upon his expertise and long experience with this complex material. Harrold shows how some abolitionists, William Lloyd Garrison in particular, drew closer to the Government, eventually forsaking others (such as John Frémont or Salmon Chase) and embracing Lincoln's reelection. Wendell Phillips was never fully reconciled.

To a great extent, then, Lincoln and the Abolitionists presents the widely accepted picture of Lincoln as a man capable of moral and political development, even if Harrold sees Lincoln's growth as somewhat stunted. But Harrold virtually ignores the Thirteenth Amendment and does not mention that it was a central element of Lincoln's reelection platform. Similarly absent is Lincoln's direct role in the creation of the Freedmen's Bureau, which sought to protect freed people, and his eventual open support for voting rights for some African Americans. Instead, Harold emphasizes the contrast between the abolitionist ideals of "universal emancipation and black rights" and Lincoln's "apparent racism" and "expressed willingness to preserve slavery as the price of reunion" (p. 113). One can only agree with Harrold in concluding that the "stressful evolving relationship" between Lincoln and the abolitionists certainly does reveal "complexities" (p. 114).

If there is additional discussion of this review, you may access it through the network, at: <https://networks.h-net.org/h-fedhist> Citation: Martin P. Johnson. Review of Harrold, Stanley, Lincoln and the Abolitionists. H-FedHist, H-Net Reviews. January, 2019.

**Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.**