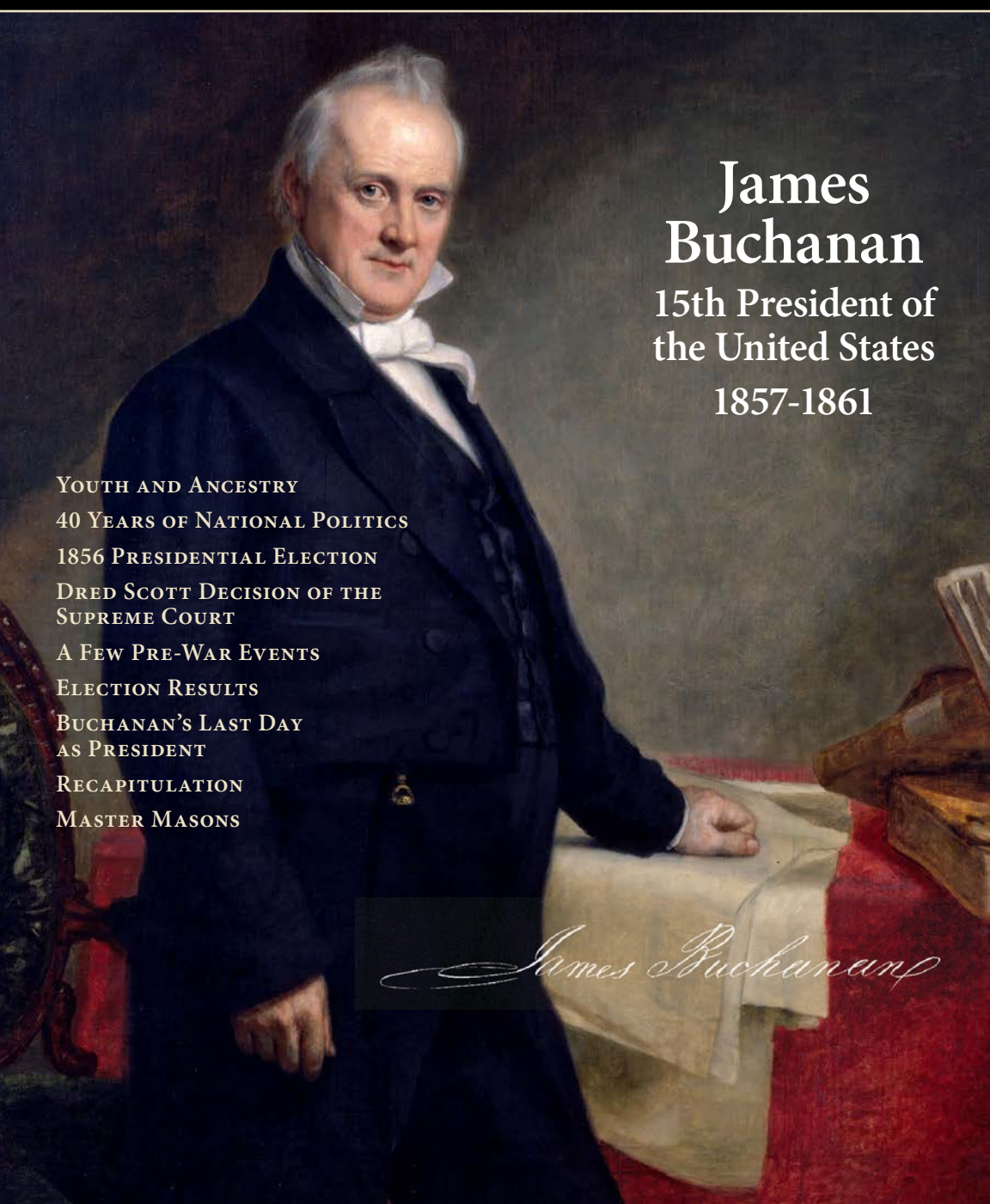




SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

BULLETIN

SPRING 2016



James Buchanan

15th President of
the United States
1857-1861

YOUTH AND ANCESTRY
40 YEARS OF NATIONAL POLITICS
1856 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
DRED SCOTT DECISION OF THE
SUPREME COURT
A FEW PRE-WAR EVENTS
ELECTION RESULTS
BUCHANAN'S LAST DAY
AS PRESIDENT
RECAPITULATION
MASTER MASONS

James Buchanan

SCOTTISH RITE CALENDAR • SPRING 2016 through FALL 2016

The meeting time for these events is 7:30 PM, unless stated otherwise, in the 2nd Floor Lodge Room. The meetings are limited to Scottish Rite Masons unless stated otherwise. All meetings are preceded by dinner at 6:00 PM in the Temple Refectory.

MAY 2016

- 3 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
 - 10 Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix
 - 13 **SPRING REUNION**
 - 4:00-5:15 PM – Registration
 - 9:15 PM – Recess to Saturday
 - 14 **SPRING REUNION**
 - 8:00 AM – Class reports;
Light breakfast
 - 7:30 PM – Reunion concluded
 - Feast of Consistory
 - 17 Robert de Bruce Council
of Kadosh
 - 24 Albert Pike Consistory
 - 30 **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY –
TEMPLE CLOSED**
-

JUNE 2016

- 7 **PEN/FAULKNER
PROGRAM (Open) 7:00 PM**
- 11 **DSCR TOUGH MUDDER
EVENT**
- 13 **DSCR GOLF TOURNAMENT**
- 14 Evangelist Chapter Rose Croix
- 21 Robert de Bruce Council
of Kadosh
- 28 Albert Pike Consistory

JULY 2016

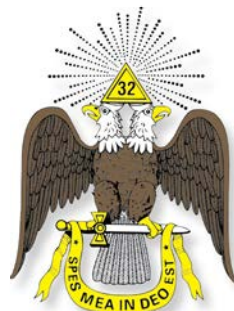
- SUMMER RECESS**
(No Meeting Until September 6, 2016)
- 8 **INDEPENDENCE DAY
HOLIDAY – TEMPLE CLOSED**
-

AUGUST 2016

- SUMMER RECESS**
(No Meeting Until September 6, 2016)
-

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 5 **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY –
TEMPLE CLOSED**
- 6 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
- 13 Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix
- 20 Robert de Bruce Council of
Kadosh
- 27 Albert Pike Consistory



BULLETIN

SPRING | 2016

JAMES BUCHANAN: 15TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

- PROLOGUE
- YOUTH AND ANCESTRY
- 40 YEARS OF NATIONAL POLITICS
- 1856 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
- DRED SCOTT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT
- A FEW PRE-WAR EVENTS
- DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION OF 1860
- REPUBLICAN CONVENTION OF 1860
- A FEW BIZARRE ACTIONS IN THE SOUTH
- ELECTION RESULTS
- BUCHANAN'S LAST DAY AS PRESIDENT
- RECAPITULATION
- BIBLIOGRAPHY
- MEN MENTIONED WHO WERE MASTER MASONS



PUBLISHER

Ill. Leonard Proden, 33°

EDITOR

Ill. Charles S. Iversen, 33°

This Bulletin is published twice a year for members of the Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

2800 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



2800



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BY ILLUSTRIOUS LEONARD PRODEN, 33°

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE
SUPREME COUNCIL IN WASHINGTON, DC



Ill. Leonard Proden, 33°

Welcome to our candidates to the Valley of Washington's Spring Reunion. This two day gathering will afford you the opportunity to witness the allegorical presentations of seven Degrees — the 4°, 14°, 18°, 25°, 29°, 30° and the 32°— which will be one act plays staged with scenery, costumes, a few special effects, sound and many well-rehearsed Scottish Rite actors. The remainder of the Degrees will be communicated to you via narration and various audio-visual methods in the upstairs Lodge Room. At the conclusion of the Reunion you will depart our Temple as a Master of the Royal Secret or a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. Moreover, we hope you find the Scottish Rite Degrees an augmentation of the lessons of our Craft/Blue Lodge Degrees and that the presentations you observe to be meaningful and profound as you seek more light in Masonry. You will find that the Scottish Rite Degrees primarily focus their teaching on history, chivalry and comparative religions and philosophies which span the arc of human civilization from Ancient Times and Classical Antiquity to the Reformation and Enlightenment.

You may find it interesting that the first Reunion held in our Valley took place in 1892 at our then meeting place – the G Street Cathedral. All Degrees at that time were conferred over a 5-day span with 26 Masters of the Royal Secret being made. No costumes, no sound, no scenery or special effects back in the day — only the oral reading of the Ritual of the Rite which was very different from what you will observe as it has since gone through several iterations. Their final day culminated in a banquet after the Consistory conferred the 32°. You, too, will participate in a Feast following the conferral of your 32°. I am also of the mind that 124 years ago those 26 newly-made 32° SR Masons found their Reunion Degrees just as profound and meaningful as you will.

Our editor, Ill. Charles S. Iversen, 33° SGIG Emeritus, determines the topic and content of each issue of the Bulletin. Presidents of the United States who held Masonic membership is his reoccurring theme and this issue is no exception as our 15th president, James Buchanan, is featured in a survey article. It has been well established that Brother Buchanan will never be ranked among the nation's more popular or successful presidents. In fact, since 1948 when the Schlesinger poll of historians first began ranking presidents, James Buchanan has never ranked higher than the third worst President. During his presidential tenure he developed no policy for keeping the nation together, made no plans to uphold the Constitution and made no preparation for the coming Civil War. While there is no doubt that he had the credentials and experience to be exceptional in managing the challenges of the presidency, he was of the opinion that all crises would disappear if he could simply persuade the people to accept constitutional law as the Supreme Court interpreted it. According to his biographer, Brother Buchanan's greatest weakness, in hindsight, was "his thorough emotional identification with the South and his inability to understand and deal with northern public opinion on the issues that separated the sections." He died with no regrets as well as an abiding confidence that history would vindicate his legacy. While this particular well-intentioned Mason was unfortunately on the wrong side of history, there are nevertheless instructive lessons to be gleaned from his life story.

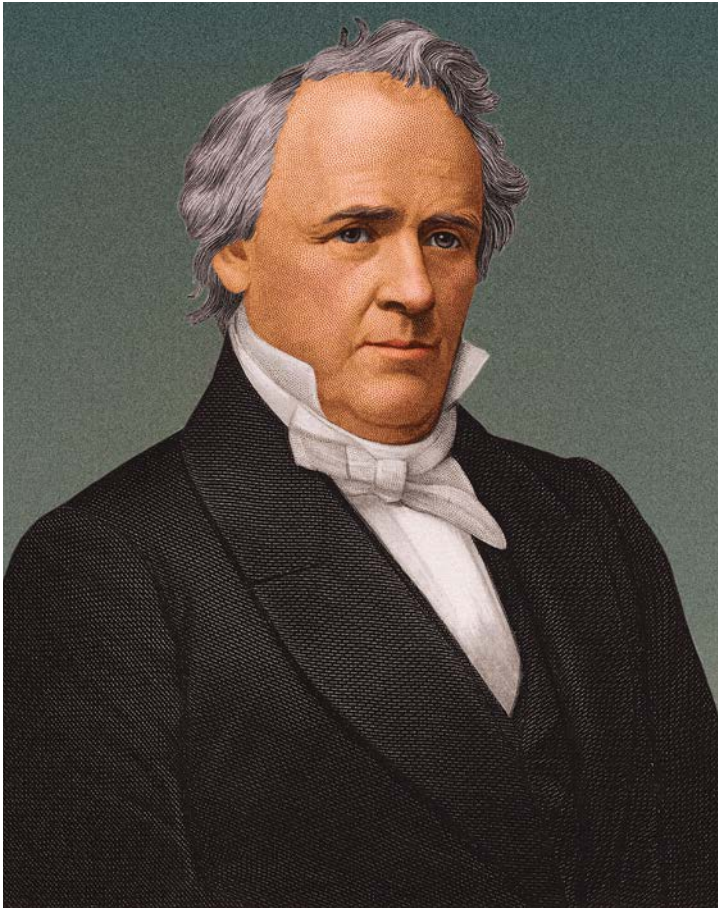
Thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason.



Scan this QR Code with your Android or iPhone to access the SR mobile website.

JAMES BUCHANAN
15TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
1857-1861

BY ILL. CHARLES S. IVERSEN, 33°,
SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL EMERITUS



PROLOGUE

In November 1856, James Buchanan was elected President by a plurality of nearly half a million votes over his nearest competitor, John C. Frémont. It was a difficult time in the history of our country, because the citizens of the southern states had announced that if any attempt was made to limit the practice of slavery, then legal in their states, or in any future states, they would secede from the United States and form a nation of their own:

thus, the United States would be divided into two separate nations. As the United States developed over the years, this threat was almost a daily occurrence backed by fiery oratory. Congress had taken up the matter many times and had passed legislation to placate both sides, north and south, but it continued unabated.

Buchanan was unique in that he, a northerner from Pennsylvania, swore during his inauguration to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States, but at the same time he was in sympathy with the southern states and their demand for the practice of continued legal slavery. It was his opinion that the states did not have authority under the terms of the Constitution to secede from the union, but that they were protected to do so by virtue of the spirit and terms of the Declaration of Independence. He looked upon slavery as paternalism for the benefit of the African race.

He spent four years in office trying to hold the nation together, and at peace, until his term expired. He almost made it, but after the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860, several southern states seceded from the United States, although their representatives retained their seats in Congress.

Just prior to Lincoln's inauguration, Buchanan is said to have spoken to Lincoln as follows: "If you are as happy in entering the White House as I shall be in returning to Wheatland (his baronial Pennsylvania homestead), you are a happy man indeed."



Wheatland, Buchanan's home in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

YOUTH AND ANCESTRY

Buchanan was literally born in a log cabin, one of eleven children, on April 23, 1791, near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. His parents were of Scots-Irish descent. As time passed, his hard-working father was able to parlay a small trading post in Franklin County, Pennsylvania into a thriving business. As a consequence, his father was able to build a large brick home (a sign of wealth) in Mercersburg, and to send James to Dickinson College for his education: unfortunately, James was suspended for “youthful indiscretion.” Returning home, he straightened himself out, returned to college, and graduated with honors in 1809. He then moved to Lancaster Pennsylvania, where he studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1812, and opened a practice there. Although originally opposed to war with Britain, when the British invaded Maryland he enlisted, and was a member of a contingent of Pennsylvania militia in Baltimore when the British Navy bombarded Fort McHenry in 1814, and where Francis Scott Key was inspired to compose the lyrical poem that is now our national anthem.



A young James Buchanan

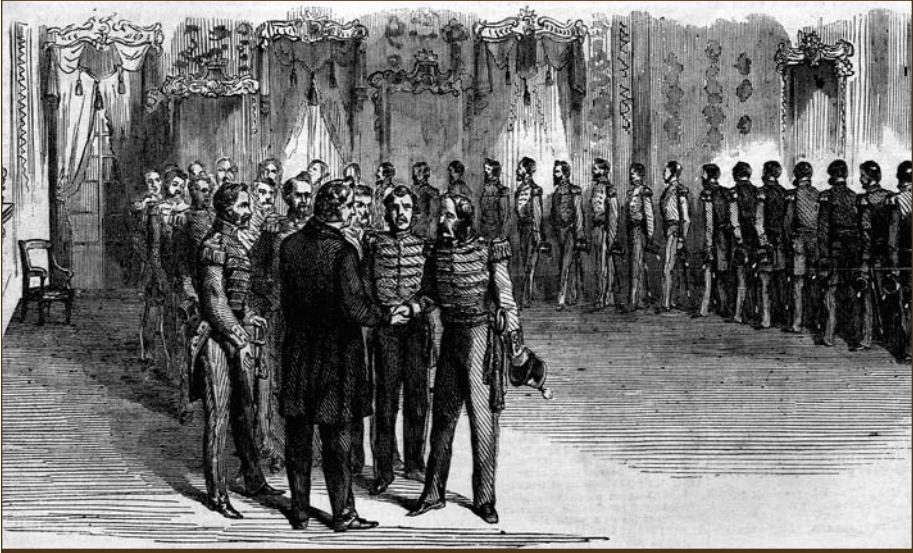
At the conclusion of the War of 1812, Buchanan returned to the practice of law and was very successful, having amassed an estate worth about \$300,000, a fortune at that

time. He also acquired an interest in local politics and filled a few state and county offices. He was a Federalist at the time, party of Washington and Adams, but which was fading out in the early 19th century.

At this time he courted a young lady, Ann Coleman, the daughter of a wealthy mill owner in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Her parents apparently disliked Buchanan, and called him a “fortune hunter”. Although he and Ann had made some plans for the future, her parents would not cooperate, and Ann committed suicide. Her parents would not even permit Buchanan to attend Ann’s funeral. Whether this experience soured him on marriage, or not, he never married.

40 YEARS OF NATIONAL POLITICS

Probably no man was better experienced in government affairs than was James Buchanan and thus no better suited to become President of the United States. He was steeped in offices in both the legislative and executive departments of the federal government, and was even offered a seat on the Supreme Court, the highest judicial body. All of this despite the fact that he was neither exciting nor charismatic.



Introduction to the President of the Officers of the Seventh Regiment, at the White House, Feb. 23, 1860.

His experience in the national government started when he was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Pennsylvania in 1820 as a Federalist. Upon being seated he realized that his party was almost non-existent and certainly without clout. The two primary parties were the Democrats and the Whigs. In the presidential election of 1824 he favored Senator Henry Clay, a Whig, but he lost. So he turned in the other direction and in 1828, backed Andrew Jackson, a Democrat, who won. From that time forward he became a Jacksonite. As a matter of fact, he remained in office so long that he was probably Jackson's last political heir. He had a knack in expressing his political opinions publicly so that they would appeal to the majority of persons present.

After having served in the House for ten years, in 1834, he was elected to the United States Senate where he served until 1845. That year President Polk offered him the offices of Attorney General and associate Justice on the Supreme Court, both of which he declined. But, he accepted appointment as Secretary of State. It was while serving as Secretary of State that his tendency to push the maximum good was limited to his personal satisfaction. President Polk added the western-most third of the continental United States to the Union, but Buchanan did not use his office to push to the maximum for results. For instance, in negotiating with Great Britain for the location of the boundary between Canada and the Oregon Territory, he was satisfied with a more southern line than the President. In 1848,

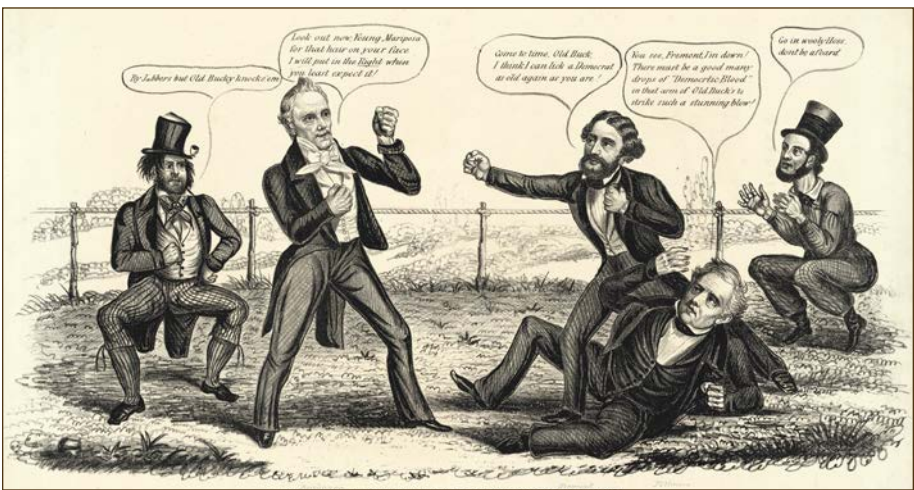
while negotiating the spoils of the Mexican War in the southwest portion of the Country, he was more satisfied with less than was President Polk. Polk had to add the clout that was needed to obtain the maximum results.

While in Congress, like most members, he roomed in boarding houses. Not having a wife, it was a logical solution for him. Many married Congressman left their wives at home with their families and friends, while they lived in rooming houses when Congress was in session. Sessions were shorter then, and living standards in Washington left much to be desired. It was during these sessions that Buchanan associated socially with his fellow legislators, mostly with the southern ones because they were more frequent roomers than the northerners. Because of this association he was more familiar with the problems of the southern legislators in their states – the primary one being slavery, how to cope with it, how to protect it, and how to justify it. Perhaps because of this continual association, he sympathized with their practice of slavery although he owned no slaves himself and had no personal affiliation with them.

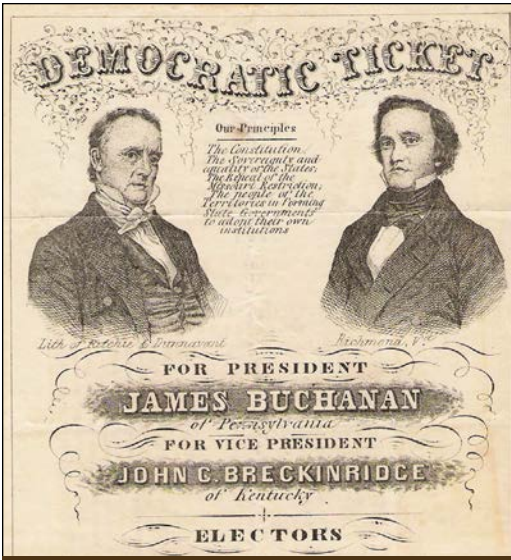
Buchanan served in two high diplomatic posts: as Minister to Russia and later as Minister to Great Britain. It seems that he performed well in both posts. In 1848, Buchanan sought to obtain the presidential nomination on the Democratic ticket, but was not chosen, and returned to his law practice in Pennsylvania. In 1853, Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire became President, and he too favored the South's position.

1856 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Slavery was the burning issue and dominated national politics. The practice of slavery was legal in 12 states of the South, even tolerated in the District of Columbia. There were two primary political parties: the Democrats from Andrew Jackson's day and the newly founded Republicans.



The Grand National Fight – 2 against 1 fought on the 6th November 1856 for one hundred thousand dollars



Democratic ticket of Buchanan and Breckenridge

The Democratic Party was divided between the pro-slavery South and the anti-slavery North. The South was solidly pro-slave, but the Northern Democrats were split between those who opposed on moral grounds and those workers who tolerated it because of a fear that if freed then the slaves would travel into the North and take away jobs of Northern laborers.

It is said that in the South, three-fourths of the white residents did not own any slaves, and that 72% of those who did, owned less than 10 each. Half of the slave owners each owned less than 5 of the nearly 4 million slaves. Half of the 4 million lived on plantations where each plantation had 10 or more. By 1860, the onset of the Civil War, half of the

slaves lived in cities and towns, some as domestic servants, some as temporaries hired for short periods of time from their masters by business men, merchants, factory owners, ship yards, and saw mills, or lumber yards. They permeated and fed the economy of the South.

On the other hand, the newly created Republican Party was almost exclusively anti-slavery and was located in the northern and border states. Its leader and co-founder was John C. Frémont, the famous pathfinder, and Western explorer, who led the way to California where he served as its first United States Senator. He formulated the state's "Bear Flag" and participated on behalf of the state against a Mexican rebellion. He was originally a Whig, as were most members of the new party, and when he discovered gold on his property he became wealthy. It also



Inauguration of James Buchanan

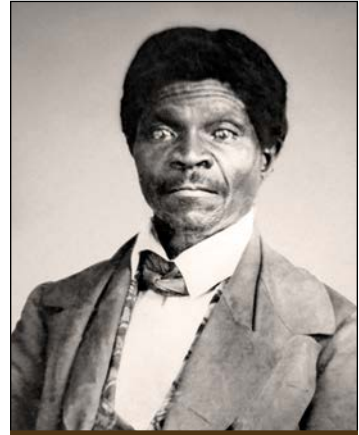
did not hurt his political aspirations that he was the son-in-law of Thomas Hart Benton, a leader in the United States Senate. Frémont's slogan was: "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Men, Fremont," and although nationally renowned, he was not popular in the South. Abraham Lincoln made more than 50 speeches for him, but to no avail. Although the new party did well, Fremont lost to Buchanan. In the popular vote, Buchanan got 45%, Fremont received 33%, and Millard Fillmore finished third with 22%. The electoral vote: Buchanan took all

southern states, plus Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania; Fremont took eleven states, all in the North; and Fillmore carried only Maryland. Buchanan was duly selected, and was inaugurated March 4, 1857.

DRED SCOTT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT

In March 1857, two days after Chief Justice Roger B. Taney had sworn in James Buchanan as President of the United States, the Supreme Court of the United States released the decision and opinion in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. The Chief Justice himself wrote the majority opinion, which was 34 pages in length. It is believed that Buchanan was aware of the content of the case when he gave his inaugural address. It was proven from the lately discovered correspondence between President-elect Buchanan and associate justice Robert Grier of Pennsylvania that Grier voted with the majority at the request of Buchanan. The Chief Justice owned slaves and a majority of the Supreme Court consisted of southerners.

The facts of the case are briefly stated as follows: Dr. John Emerson, a southern physician, owned Dred Scott and other members of Scott's family, as slaves. The doctor enlisted in the army medical corps and then traveled among several states of the Union, including at least Illinois, Wisconsin, Louisiana and Missouri, ending in Missouri. He took Scott with him at all stations. An Attorney persuaded Scott to file a suit in the trial court in St. Louis, Missouri, petitioning the court to declare Scott to be a citizen. After a hearing, the trial court declared Scott had become a citizen of Missouri and therefore, was a free man. An appeal was taken to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals where the court reversed the trial court and declared Scott to be a slave despite his residences. Scott's attorney then applied to the Supreme Court for *certiorari* (review), and it was granted. All records and issues were then transmitted to the high court for disposition. Two oral hearings were held before the court.



Dred Scott

Chief Justice Taney's opinion goes into great detail covering the founding documents of the United States and the lives of our forefathers. It is a very exhaustive analysis of the law at that time and reveals today how the thinking in this country has changed over the decades that have followed. Today it sounds course, cruel and disgusting, but when covering any historical issue, the researcher must interpret history and its actors in accordance with the era as it existed at that time.

In a most succinct manner the findings of the Supreme Court were basically as follows:

1. Free or slave, blacks were not citizens of any state and had no standing before a state or federal court. He put it crudely by adding that: "Negroes are so inferior that they have no rights which a white man was bound to respect."

2. Scott had never ceased to be a slave and therefore was not a citizen, but property of his owner, “no different from a mule or horse.”
3. Slaves were property and property was protected by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, or Bill of Rights, and Congress had no right to deprive citizens of their property, including slaves, anywhere in the United States.

This decision obliterated all legislation, including compromises enacted by Congress that restricted slavery, from the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, to the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the Compromise of 1850, and all laws passed on this issue. This case split the North and South wider, and Representatives and Senators were emboldened by it. The historian, Sean Wilentz, wrote “Well before inauguration day, Buchanan was fully apprised of how the Court would rule.” This was followed by an economic slowdown in the economy of the country, large enough to turn both houses of Congress over to the Republicans in 1858.

A FEW PRE-WAR EVENTS

When James Buchanan took office as President in March 1857, both bodies of Congress were in the hands of the Democrats, the majority of justices on the Supreme Court of the United States were southerners, and the President had appointed a majority on his Cabinet from the South.

Much of Congress’s time was spend on the issue of slavery and its effects on government and society. Many years earlier Congress had passed the Missouri Compromise, an act that required two states to be admitted at the same time, one pro-slavery and one, anti-slavery. It provided equanimity among the states of the union. When the Dred Scott decision came down from the Supreme Court, it annulled that law, among others.

A pro-slave corner of Kansas Territory applied to Congress to be admitted as a pro-slavery state. Progress was made until the effort was discovered, whereupon a vote was taken statewide to become a state and the result of that vote was 6 to 1 against slavery, so it was admitted to the Union as a free state.

In 1859 a man called John Brown entered Harper’s Ferry, in western Virginia, with cohorts, all well-armed, with the intent to persuade the slaves in that state to revolt militarily against their masters and be free. Although the invasion caused many injuries and deaths, it failed, Brown was severely injured, and the “revolution” was nipped in the bud. The governor of Virginia wanted Brown to be prosecuted severely as an example to others who might aspire to such a feat, so he had Brown indicted for murder and insurrection. Brown was brought into court on a cot severely wounded and helpless. There he was tried, convicted, sentenced, and hanged. Brown became a symbol of heroism for the abolitionists throughout the land. It is suspected that he had some financial aid from wealthy Northerners. In 1863, during the Civil War, West Virginia became a state, loyal to the Union.

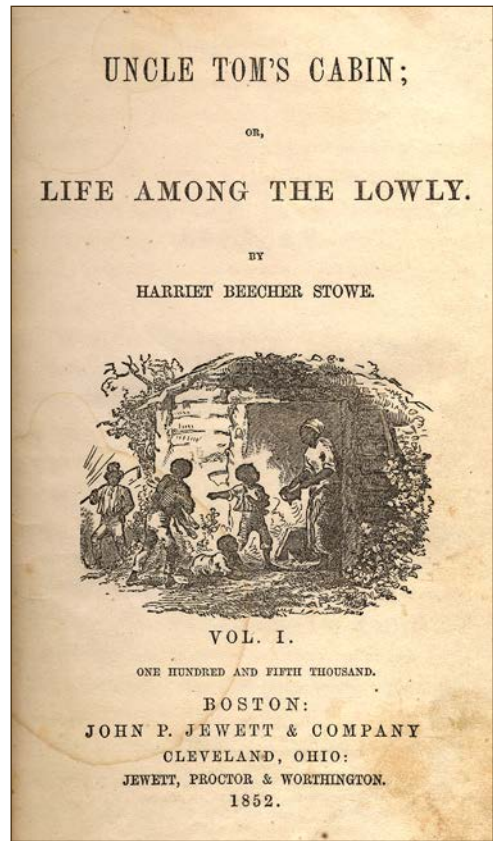
Many of the Protestant churches in the country were united administratively causing intercourse among those in the north with those in the south. This became intolerable

to some of the leaders and their congregations, so in many instances the churches of a particular denomination in one area separated from those in the other area.

Some slaves succeeded in escaping from their masters with the aid of Northern sympathizers. “Underground Railroads” were formed by abolitionists in the North who assisted slaves to leave their masters and move northward from state to state until they were free. Some went as far as Canada. Most of the escapees were from states nearest to the North because they had the best chance of success. This violated the federal law that required all slaves to be returned wherever found. One of my great-grandfathers operated an underground railroad in Massachusetts.

Literature was published in the North in an effort to spread upon the public, the inhumanity of slavery. Probably the most famous book was *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriett Beecher Stowe.

President Buchanan had a scapegoat for all the country’s troubles: the Republican “fanatics” in the North. Whenever possible, he avoided contact with all Republicans, free soil moderate Democrats and anyone else willing to discuss issues, grievances and fears of Northerners. He stated that the South was justified in “revolutionary resistance to the government of the United States.” Buchanan made the following statement: “Who could for a moment indulge in the horrible idea of abolishing slavery and the massacre of the high-minded, and the chivalrous race of men in the South? ...For my own part I would, without hesitation, buckle on my knapsack, and march...in defense of their cause.”



The first edition of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly” was published in 1852

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION OF 1860

The Democrats chose Charleston, South Carolina, for their 1860 national convention. The Southerners wanted it there, in the most radical state, where they would have greater clout to obtain a southern candidate for president and a platform favoring continuation and growth of legal slavery. Several “fire eaters” led by William Lowndes Yancey of Alabama were vociferously determined to control the southern Democrats hold on a pro-slavery platform, but many Democrats, even in the South, believed slavery to be immoral. After

considerable jockeying, the convention voted to reject Yancey's platform demands, whereupon most southern representatives bolted the convention. They had nominated John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky to be the Democratic candidate for president.

Several weeks later, some northern Democrats reconvened their convention in Baltimore, Maryland, and nominated Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois as the Democratic nominee for president. With the party split down the middle, victory in November appeared to be slim.

In an effort to find a candidate who might pull the party together and be unified in November, John Bell of Tennessee was proposed on another ticket for president who might solidify the party in peace and unity. So now there were three Democrats running for president on three different tickets.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION OF 1860

The Republican convention was held in Chicago, Illinois. Seward was rejected and Abraham Lincoln was nominated as their candidate for president. Lincoln's immediate solution for the slavery issue was to permit it to continue legally in the southern states, but not to admit any more slave states to the union. He believed that slavery would then die out of its own volition and the southern states would have no present reason to secede from the Union. He urged the south to remain calm, and he agreed not to take any action against their states provided they remained a part of the Union. In other words, he advocated maintaining the status quo. Lincoln was a Republican and thus not trusted by the Southern Democrats. Within two months after Lincoln's election as President, South Carolina seceded, followed by six other southern states.

A FEW BIZARRE ACTIONS IN THE SOUTH

The political life in the country having turned against the interests of the Southern states, strange eruptions occurred throughout those states. Slaves were often arrested for rebellious acts; false reports were circulated that drinking water had been poisoned; persons who declared opposition to slavery in Texas were hanged; a vendor of presidential campaign buttons was hanged when a button featuring Lincoln dropped out of a package of Breckinridge buttons. President Buchanan and former President Pierce both favored Breckinridge for president, and they were both northerners, as stated above.

ELECTION RESULTS

The popular vote in November 1860 resulted in the following:

Lincoln: 1,866,157 votes.

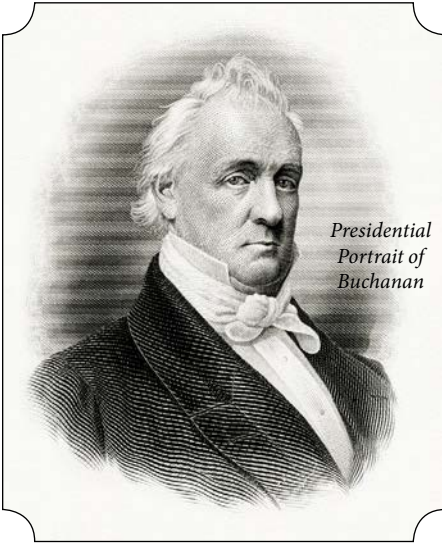
Douglas: 1,379,937 votes.

Breckinridge: 847,781 votes.

Bell: 588,879 votes.

A majority of voters in eight slave states voted for Bell and Douglas. Their combined take was 750,000 votes to 570,000 for Breckinridge. Bell and Douglas took 48% of the votes cast in the states that seceded. Breckinridge did not receive more than a handful of votes in the northern states, nor did he receive a majority in the southern states. When Lincoln took over the presidency, the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress. The majority of members of the Supreme Court were from southern states and owned some slaves.

BUCHANAN'S LAST DAY AS PRESIDENT



*Presidential
Portrait of
Buchanan*

As stated above, South Carolina seceded from the United States on December 30, 1860, by a unanimous vote of its legislators; and prior to Lincoln's inauguration six additional states had seceded. The vast majority of southerners did not own any slaves, yet they followed the lead of the slave owners.

Buchanan blamed the crisis entirely, in his words, "on the intemperate interference of the Northern people with the question of slavery." He stated later that peace and harmony would prevail if the slave states "were let alone and permitted to arrange their domestic institutions in their own way." As previously noted, he even stated that the southern states were "justified in revolutionary resistance to the government of the Union."

He did virtually nothing to prevent the seizure of United States forts in the south until the commander of Ft. Sumter in Charleston's harbor asked for help. Yet, he had no trouble in sending 2,500 army troops to suppress Mormons in the Utah territory.

But to his credit, Buchanan sent naval vessels to the Caribbean islands to control British influence there. He also undertook to control activities in Mexico that were contrary to the interests of the United States. His last days, a resolution was proposed in the United States Senate to condemn him for his failure to perform his duties as president, but the resolution failed.

RECAPITULATION

By way of recapitulation, it is interesting to note a few events in the life of James Buchanan:

1. He was the last president to have been born in the 18th century, namely in 1791.
2. He was the oldest person to have served as president until Ronald Reagan took office.

3. He was the only president to have served as a bachelor throughout his four-year term in office.
4. He was the last president to have served as Secretary of State.
5. His niece, Harriett Lane, served as his hostess in the White House. She was in her 20's.
6. His inaugural was the first one to have been photographed.
7. He was probably the best-qualified person to have become president, having served in high government positions for forty years prior to becoming president.
 - a. Member of United States House of Representatives for ten years.
 - b. Member of the United States Senate for eleven years.
 - c. Secretary of State under President James K. Polk.
 - d. Minister to Russia.
 - e. Minister to Great Britain.
 - f. Started his political career as a Federalist, and then became a Democrat.
 - g. When he was president, he favored secession of southern states from the United States.
 - h. Buchanan was tall, handsome, highly equipped to be president.
 - i. His Vice Presidential candidate, Rufus King, died before his inauguration.
8. In 1866 he published his memoirs in order to respond to many politicians who blamed him for precipitating the Civil War and by aiding and abetting the south. He died on June 1, 1868 in his home believing that he had favorably refuted the charges of his critics.

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The Presidents of the United States, by David G. Dalin and Alfred J. Kolotch.

James Buchanan, by Allison Lassieur.

MEN MENTIONED WHO WERE MASTER MASONS

THOMAS HART BENTON (1782-1858)

United States Senator from Missouri (1821-1851). Defended sound money and fought national bank. Defeated for Senate so won seat in House of Representatives. His daughter married John C. Fremont. Benton was a charter member of Missouri Lodge No. 1 in St. Louis, but withdrew during the anti-Masonic era.



Thomas H. Benton



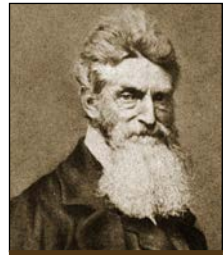
John C. Breckenridge

JOHN CABELL BRECKINRIDGE (1821-1875)

14th Vice President of U.S. Major General in Confederate Army. Born near Lexington, Kentucky. Vice President and Secretary of War in Confederacy. Petitioned Des Moines Lodge No. 41 (now No. 11) Feb. 1842. Senior Warden in 1843. Fled to Cuba and Europe after Civil War. Member of Good Samaritan Lodge No. 174 in Lexington, Kentucky Temple Chapter No. 19, RAM, Webb Commandery, KT, 33° Scottish Rite, AASR, March 28, 1860. Died May 17, 1875. Buried with KT Masonic services.

JOHN BROWN (1800-1859)

American abolitionist fanatic to some and a martyr to others. A Freemason who withdrew during the anti-Masonic period of 19th century. Raised in Hudson Lodge, Hudson, Ohio. Denounced the fraternity.



John Brown



James Buchanan

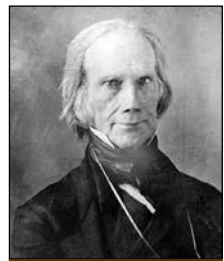
JAMES BUCHANAN (1791-1868)

15th President of the United States. Dedicated 40 years in high federal offices. Raised a Master Mason January 24, 1817, in Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Elected Junior Warden on December 13, 1826 and Master on December 27, 1822. Member of Perseverance Lodge No. 21 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Appointed as first district deputy Grand Master December 27, 1823. Exalted as RAM in Chapter No. 43 in Lancaster. Assisted with erection of statue of George Washington in Washington Circle, DC, and was the

speaker February 22, 1860. He died June 1, 1868 and had a Masonic burial.

HENRY CLAY (1777-1852)

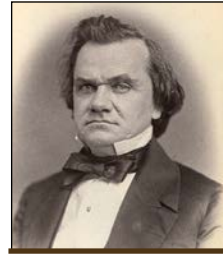
Member of U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Secretary of State. Born in Virginia but moved to Kentucky in 1797. A lawyer. Speaker of the House. Raised in Lexington Lodge No. 1 Lexington, Kentucky. Worshipful Master and Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky. Sponsored a national meeting in Senate Chamber to advocate the creation of the office of National Grand Master of U.S. It was well attended but failed when one state voted against it. He demitted from his lodge. He was reinstated later and became an honorary member of St. John's Lodge in New York City. He was a Whig and ran for the office of president three times unsuccessfully. In the 1970's he was elected by the Senate as one of the five greatest Senators in history. He received Masonic services after his death.



Henry Clay

STEPHEN AUSTIN DOUGLAS (1813-1861)

U.S. Senator (1847-61) and U.S. Representative (1843-1847) from Illinois. Born in Brandon, Vermont. Was a judge in Illinois Supreme Court in 1841. Democratic candidate for President in 1860, but lost to Lincoln. He supported Lincoln on the issue of slavery. Raised in Springfield Lodge No. 4, Springfield, Missouri in 1840. He was Grand Orator of Grand Lodge, and a Royal Arch Mason. A monument was dedicated to him in Chicago, and President Andrew Johnson attended the ceremony.



Stephen A. Douglas



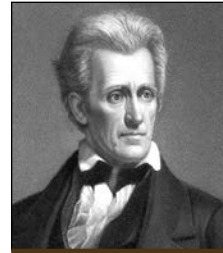
John C. Fremont

JOHN CHARLES FREMONT (1813-1890)

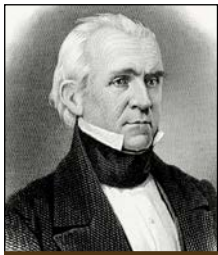
American explorer and army officer. First Republican presidential candidate, but defeated by James Buchanan in 1856. Son-in-law of Thomas Benton. He was generally considered to be a Master Mason, but no written proof has been found.

ANDREW JACKSON (1767-1845)

7th President of the United States. A lawyer and army officer. Held several high federal offices. Past Master of Harmony Lodge No. 1 in Nashville, Tennessee. Elected Grand Master of Masons in Tennessee in 1822 and 1823. Honorary member of Federal Lodge No. 1 in DC and Jackson Lodge No. 1 in Tallahassee, Florida. Deputy Grand High Priest in Tennessee. Introduced Lafayette to Grand Lodge of Tennessee in 1825 while President of U.S. Gave many Masonic speeches.



Andrew Jackson



James K. Polk

JAMES KNOX POLK (1795-1849)

11th President of the United States. Governor of Tennessee. Born in North Carolina where his father was a large landowner, farmer and surveyor. Graduated from University of North Carolina in 1818. Affiliated with a law office to study law. A good orator. Served as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Raised as Master Mason September 4, 1820 in Columbia Lodge, Columbia, Tennessee. Also a Royal Arch Mason in Lafayette Chapter No. 4, Nashville, Tennessee. Attended cornerstone laying of Smithsonian Institution in DC with George M. Dallas, then Vice President of the United States. Died June 15, 1849 and was accorded a Masonic service.

THE SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

2800 16TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20009
TEL: 202-232-8155
WEB: DCSR.ORG



”The test of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there.”

James Buchanan

1791-1868

