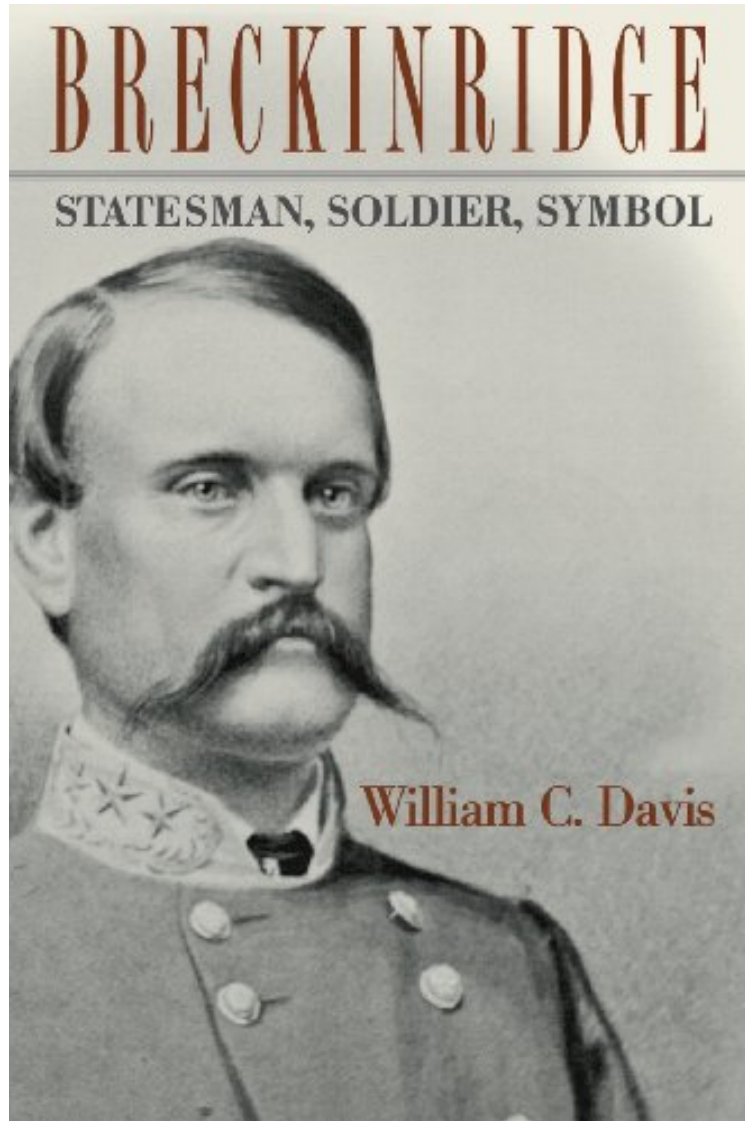


(Free read ebook) Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol

Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol

William C. Davis

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William C. Davis : Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A little dry, but thorough and necessaryBy D. ChapmanIf you want to learn about John C. Breckinridge, Confederate general and 14th Vice President of the United States, this book is clearly the place to start. For one thing, there doesn't appear to be another biography on the man in print. And though it would seem to damn the book with the faint praise to say it is the best out of a group of one, I can say without hesitation that William Davis has contributed an essential volume to our collected history of Civil War

personalities. The book traces Breckinridge as he grows up and becomes a lawyer in Kentucky, fights in the Mexican-American War, serves in the state legislature and U.S. Congress, and is elected Vice President of the United States at the youngest age in history. His ascension is meteoric, until his tragic decision to fight for the Confederacy in the Civil War destroys his legacy. Davis presents a balanced view of Breckinridge, occasionally interjecting with his own admiration or disappointment in the man, and makes a compelling case that Breckinridge deserves to be spoken of as one of the major figures of the Civil War without ever descending into hero-worship or demonizing. The book is thoroughly researched and includes exhaustive detail, particularly in recounting individual battles of the war. It's not light reading, but anyone interested in military history will enjoy the comprehensive approach Davis has taken. For others, it's easy enough to skim these sections and still come away with an appreciation for this once greatly admired public figure who has almost totally vanished from the national consciousness. It's not a casual read, but it's an excellent scholarly text. Highly recommended.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Gentleman from Virginia Civil War History Buff
By Commodore
This book is extremely well researched! It is a fascinating read and a must-have for a Civil War historian's library. I married into the Breckenridge family and purchased this book as a gift for my wife. Now I have purchased three more volumes as gifts for other members of the "clan."
William C. Davis did an outstanding job of researching and writing this important historical work. (He spent nine years interviewing various members of the family, including visits to Cabell's Dale in the Blue Grass Country of Kentucky.) Davis's accounts of Breckinridge's life post Civil War fill in the gaps not covered by other Civil War historians. Highly recommended!!!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A little overboard on detail but overall an excellent book.
By R. Scott Pearson
The author is a well respected Civil War author and expert. Obviously there is a tremendous amount of material available on John Breckinridge because Mr. Davis seems to include it all in this book. This is not a negative. If you wish to understand the tension and politics that ruled the mid 1800's you will have a full understanding after reading this book. John C Breckinridge was a true man of his times and you will close this book with a true understanding of the events leading up to The Civil War.

John C. Breckinridge rose to prominence during one of the most turbulent times in our nation's history. Widely respected, even by his enemies, for his dedication to moderate liberalism, Breckinridge's charisma and integrity led to his election as Vice President at age 35, the youngest ever in America's history. After a decade of being out-of-print, *Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol* returns as the quintessential biography of one of Kentucky's great moderates. Historian William C. Davis sheds light on Breckinridge's life throughout three key periods, spanning his career as a celebrated statesman, heroic soldier, and proponent of the reconciliation. A true Kentucky hero, "Old Breck's" bravery in battle, dedication to the pursuit of truth, and unique ability to win the loyalty of others rank him alongside Henry Clay and Simon Kenton. Drawing from a remarkable collection of sources, including previously unknown documents and letters, as well as the papers of his associates and extensive aid from the Breckinridge family, Davis presents the legacy of a man often overlooked.

"A substantial and needed contribution to the Confederate biography."
American Historical "This is a first-rate biography?well-written, well researched, and with a good balance. . . . At last John C. Breckinridge has found his biographer."
Journal of Southern History "Davis tells the remarkable life story of the prominent congressman, senator and vice president and noted Civil War figure."
Lexington Herald-Leader "Davis explains the importance of Breckinridge's often overlooked contributions and his dedication to American politics. The book presents the story of a Kentucky hero whose life and legacy give insight into our nation's rich history."
kydirect.net "[Breckinridge] is the quintessential biography of one of Kentucky's most important but underappreciated figures. Davis' work is the first to delve into the life of a man who lived to serve, and it focuses on his roles as statesman, soldier and diplomat. Davis weaves a detailed narrative, pulling previously unpublished information from a variety of sources."
civilwar.com "Breckinridge came, of course, from one of Kentucky's most distinguished families. He added his own considerable luster to the lineage."
Kentucky Gazette "Author Davis, considered the first to write a definitive Breckinridge biography, utilized a variety of sources, including previously unknown documents and letters and papers from associates and the Breckinridge family."
Eithne O'Leyne, Book News Inc. "This biography is well worth the time and investment."
H-Net sFrom the Inside Flap
John C. Breckinridge rose to prominence during one of the most turbulent times in America's history. Born to a well-known Kentucky family in 1821, he became a celebrated statesman, heroic soldier, and supporter of compromise. Widely respected, even by his enemies, for his dedication to moderate liberalism, Breckinridge's charisma and integrity led to his election as Buchanan's Vice President at age 35, the youngest in America's history. After a decade out of print, *Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol* returns as the stirring biography of one of Kentucky's great moderates. Historian William C. Davis was the first to write a comprehensive biography about Breckinridge, offering a laudatory account of Breckinridge's spectacular political rise from state legislator to Vice President that distinguished his antebellum career. Davis places the too-often overlooked Breckinridge in his rightful place in the framework of American history through a remarkable collection of sources, including previously unknown documents and letters, as well as the papers of his associates and extensive aid from the

Breckenridge family. A true Kentucky hero, "Old Breck's" bravery in battle, dedication to the pursuit of truth, and unique ability to win the loyalty of others rank him alongside Henry Clay and Simon Kenton. In this welcome return of an important volume, Breckinridge presents the life of a man whose life and legacy contains valuable insight into our nation's history. About the Author William C. Davis, director of programs at the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and professor at Virginia Tech, is the author or editor of more than fifty books, including the Virginia at War series. He was also the chief consultant for The History Channel's Civil War Journal.