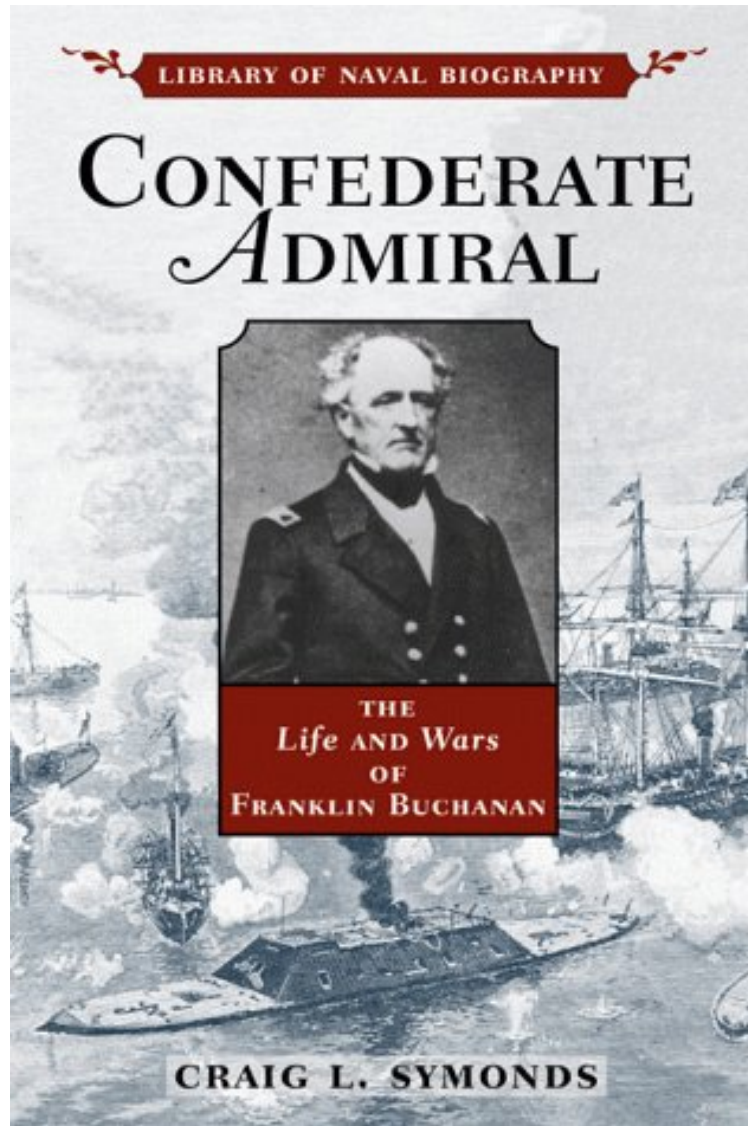


Confederate Admiral: The Life and Wars of Franklin Buchanan (Library of Naval Biography)

Craig L. Symonds

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Craig L. Symonds : Confederate Admiral: The Life and Wars of Franklin Buchanan (Library of Naval Biography) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Confederate Admiral: The Life and Wars of Franklin Buchanan (Library of Naval Biography):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I bought this book to answer one question and it ...By aztec69I bought this book to answer one question and it did just that. Unfortunately, I didn't find the answer until the last few

pages. Still, a fascinating story about an interesting man who left his mark on history. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Confederate Admiral By Manray9 Craig Symond's "Confederate Admiral" is a brief biographical account of the life of Franklin Buchanan, the Confederacy's first admiral. Buchanan was prominent in the antebellum U.S. Navy serving as first superintendent of the U. S. Naval Academy, storming the Mexican fort at Tuxpan, and acting as flag captain during M. C. Perry's mission to open Japan in 1853. Buchanan went on to fight in the two greatest actions of the nascent Confederate Navy. He commanded CSS VIRGINIA during the first day of the Battle of Hampton Roads in 1862 and led the ironclad CSS TENNESSEE against D. G. Farragut's fleet at the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864. He was seriously wounded in both actions. Symond's biography is not a remarkable example of the biographer's art, but it is a serviceable book, perhaps mostly of interest to Civil War or naval history buffs. It is worth reading. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. CONFEDERATE ADMIRAL: THE LIFE AND WARS OF FRANKLIN BUCHANAN By Robert A. Lynn CONFEDERATE ADMIRAL: THE LIFE AND WARS OF FRANKLIN BUCHANAN Craig L. Symonds Naval Institute Press, 2008 Quality Softcover, 312 Pages, Maps, Photographs, \$18.95 Franklin Buchanan, born in Baltimore, Maryland, entered the U.S. Navy as a midshipman in 1815 and became George Bancroft's chief advisor in planning the U.S. Naval Academy and became its first superintendent from 1845-1847. He fought in the Mexican War, commanded the sloops of war Vincennes and Germantown, and commanded the steam frigate Susquehanna, the flagship in Perry's expedition to China and Japan 1852-1855. He was then promoted to captain and assumed command of the Washington Navy Yard in 1859. He resigned on 22 April 1861 on the belief that his state of Maryland was going to secede but when it didn't; Buchanan had second thoughts. He was turned down and was commissioned a captain in the Confederate States Navy on 5 September 1861 and was named Chief of Orders and Details and took command of the Chesapeake Bay Squadron in early 1862. He commanded the first ironclad CSS Virginia in its initial appearance in Hampton Roads on 8 March 1862. He was subsequently wounded in the battle with the USS Congress in the leg while his brother, Paymaster McKean Buchanan, was killed. The honor to command the CSS Virginia against the USS Monitor went to Catesby ap Roger Jones. After recovering from his wound in August, 1862, Buchanan was promoted to the rank of admiral and sent to command Confederate naval forces at Mobile Bay, Alabama. He oversaw the construction of the ironclad CSS Tennessee and was on board her during the Battle of Mobile Bay with Rear Admiral David G. Farragut's Union fleet on August 5, 1864. Wounded and taken prisoner, Admiral Buchanan wasn't exchanged until February, 1865. He was on convalescent leave until the Civil War ended in April, 1865. Following the conflict, Buchanan lived in Maryland, then was a businessman in Mobile until 1870, when he again took up residence in Maryland to become the president of the Maryland State Agricultural College. He later died on May 11, 1874 and was buried at the Wye House family plot outside Easton, Maryland. Author Craig L. Symonds' CONFEDERATE ADMIRAL: THE LIFE AND WARS OF FRANKLIN BUCHANAN is a meticulously annotated and well written account of one of the Confederacy's best and brightest naval minds. It isn't only a fascinating account of the U.S. Naval Academy's first superintendent and his remarkable career in the U.S. Navy but also his stellar service to the Confederacy. Symonds' definitive study is a superb book. Lt. Colonel Robert A. Lynn, Florida Guard Orlando, Florida

A leading historian of both the Civil War and American naval history takes a fresh look at Franklin Buchanan, the U.S. Naval Academy's first superintendent who went on to become the Confederate Navy's first admiral. Buchanan's resignation from the U.S. Navy in April 1861 as the nation teetered on the brink of Civil War is one of the many dramatic episodes in this revealing biography. Convinced that his native state of Maryland was about to secede from the Union, Buchanan gave up his commission; when Maryland did not secede, he desperately tried to get it back. Unsuccessful, he eventually went South, where as the Confederacy's only full admiral he helped mold its naval strategy and took command of both the Virginia (Merrimack) in the battle of Hampton Roads in 1861 and the Tennessee in the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864. While Buchanan's Civil War experiences helped define the drama of the period, his fifty-year naval career illuminates the sweeping changes in the U.S. Navy of the antebellum years. This stimulating and authoritative biography chronicles Buchanan's life as a midshipman on the square-rigged sailing frigate Java and as a commander at the helm of the coal-burning side-wheel steamer Susquehanna. It examines his pivotal role in the establishment of the Naval Academy and his experiences both as the first American to set foot in Japan and the first to conn a U.S. Navy warship up the Yangtze River. More than a record of events in Buchanan's career, this biography helps readers understand Buchanan's character and appreciate the broader issues of politics, slavery, loyalty, and professionalism in the era of America's greatest national trauma.

From Booklist Franklin Buchanan is best known for taking the Confederate ironclad Virginia into action at Hampton Roads in 1862 and later commanding the ironclad Tennessee against Farragut at the Battle of Mobile Bay. During a long naval career, begun as a midshipman just after the War of 1812, he had already sailed aboard merchant vessels; served as first commandant of the troubled, short-of-funds Naval School (later the Naval Academy); fought in the Mexican War; and, as flag captain, accompanied Commodore Perry on one of the first diplomatic voyages to Japan. The first full-scale modern biography of Buchanan represents him as a superior seaman and administrator, a

courageous combat leader, and a fond husband and father. He was also a disciplinary martinet, feckless with money, and too easily converted to a pro-Southern viewpoint by slaveholding Maryland in-laws. Symonds' useful book inaugurates the Library of Naval Biography, which, if subsequent volumes are as seaworthy as the first, should add indispensably to naval historiography. Roland Green
From the Publisher
Winner of the 1999 John Lyman Book Award for Biography and Autobiography, sponsored by the North American Society for Oceanic History
About the Author
Craig L. Symonds taught history at the U.S. Naval Academy for thirty years. He is the author of ten books on naval and Civil War subjects, including *Lincoln and His Admirals*.