

faded from the national scene. For a biography of the nation's President see Robert Seager, II, *And Tyler Too: A Biography of John and Julia Gardiner Tyler*, (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1963).

<sup>52</sup>At the first Democratic national convention a rule was adopted requiring a presidential candidate to receive two-thirds of the qualified votes to be nominated. This rule was designed to insure that the party's nominee would have backing throughout all parts of the country. It was not until 1844 that the rule had its first test and ironically denied Van Buren, one of the party's founders, a nomination.

<sup>53</sup>Although performing admirably and beyond expectation in the annexation of Texas, settlement of the northwest boundary with Great Britain, the war with Mexico, and creation of an independent treasury, Polk was unable to win popular acclaim or widespread political support which caused him to leave the White House frustrated and discouraged.

<sup>54</sup>The Free Soil party, formed at a convention in Buffalo, New York, in August 1848, was composed of anti-slavery Democrats and Whigs and other anti-slavery groups. The party's slogan, "free soil, free speech, free labor and free men," expressed their policy of westward expansion as well as a position on slavery.

<sup>55</sup>The New York dispute involved a conservative faction ("Hunkers") and a liberal anti-slavery faction ("Barnburners"). The divisiveness was so deep that both sides refused to participate in the 1848 convention which had voted 126 to 125 in favor of dividing New York's votes between the two groups. Congressional Quarterly, Inc., *National Party Conventions 1831-1980*, 3rd ed., (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1979), p. 27.

<sup>56</sup>Taylor's wife was the daughter of Walter Smith and Ann Mackall. The Taylor's own daughter, Sarah Knox Taylor, in 1835 married Jefferson Davis, the future President of the Confederacy. Charles Frances Stein, *A History of Calvert County*, (Baltimore: Calvert County Historical Society, 1960), p. 167.

<sup>57</sup>A "Taylor State Convention" was held in Baltimore on April 26, 1848 allegedly of moderate men of all party persuasions to support the candidacy of General Taylor who had achieved success and acclaim from his efforts in the Mexican-American War. This gathering is noted in J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County*, (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881; Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1971), p. 123.

<sup>58</sup>The Compromise of 1850 involved five pieces of legislation passed during the summer of 1850 after six months of protracted and heated debate. The measures were (1) admission of California as a "free state" in accordance with that state's preference but without Congressional mention of slavery, (2) territorial description of Texas and assumption of Texas state debts, (3) provisions of territorial government for land acquired from Mexico, (4) abolition of slave trade but not slavery in the District of Columbia, and (5) a strengthened fugitive slave law. This legislative package was marshalled through Congress by Daniel Webster, Stephen A. Douglas and Henry Clay while being opposed by extremists from the south such as Jefferson Davis and the north such as William H. Seward.

<sup>59</sup>Pierce had served in the U.S. House of Representatives (1833-1837) and Senate (1837-1842) but before the slavery issue began taking its political toll on parties and prospective candidates.

<sup>60</sup>Charles R. Schultz, "The Last Great Conclave of the Whigs," *M.H.M.*, December 1968, Vol. 63, pp. 379-400.

<sup>61</sup>The Whigs rejected Tyler in 1844 and Fillmore in 1852, both incumbents who had succeeded to the Presidency from the office of Vice President. In 1848 the Democrats dumped Polk for Senator Cass and in 1888 the Republicans shut out Chester Arthur in favor of Senator Blaine,