

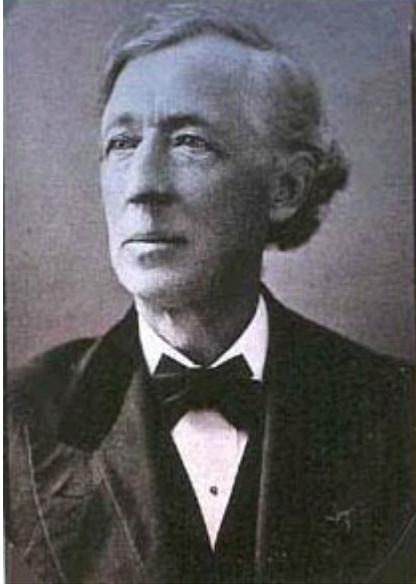
## Horatio King

(21 Jun 1811 - 20 May 1897)

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*The Evening Star, March 11, 1861*

On Saturday afternoon, the officers, clerks and employees of the Post Office Department convened in the principal hall of that edifice. The Hon. Horatio King, the retiring head of that important branch of the Government, then addressed them as follows:



My Friends: You have assembled to be introduced to your new chief, but before going through with this ceremony I wish simply to remark that, although now separated from you officially, I cannot bring myself to pronounce the word "farewell." Intimately associated as I have been with many of you for more than twenty years, were I henceforth to be separated from you socially as well as officially, I should feel sad indeed; but expecting as I do to remain in the city, where I shall doubtless have the pleasure of meeting you frequently, the unpleasantness of severing our official relations is thereby greatly softened, and I do not, therefore, propose to take formal leave of you. I need not say, however, that I shall ever remember with gratitude your uniform kindness towards me in all the positions I have been called to fill in the Department, and you have my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness.

The Hon. Judge Blair, Postmaster General, was then announced, when Mr. King, assisted by Gen. Skinner, of the appointment, E.L. Child, of the contract, and A.N. Zevery, Esq., of the finance divisions, introduced each employee by name. Judge B. courteously received them, one and all, expressing a hope that he would have their hearty cooperation in carrying on the important business of the Department. Immediately afterwards, Dr. Tate, Auditor of the Treasury for the postal department, and H. St. George Offutt, chief clerk, were introduced.

*The Evening Star, April 15, 1872*

Hon. Horatio King's closing literary reunion took place on Saturday evening, on which occasion he delivered a brief parting address to his guests. Hon. Amasa Walker, of Massachusetts, followed with a few remarks commendatory of literary reunions, and expressing the hope that the example set here would be followed in other places. Miss Ware read two favorite selections, and Prof. Brown an original poem, entitled "Good Night," by Mrs. Nealy, dedicated to Mr. King. Dr. Chickering moved a vote of thanks to the host and hostess, with some pleasant remarks, and Miss Forney, the Misses Gray, Miss Burnham, Mrs. Phillips and others favored the company with some fine music.

*The Evening Star, April 12, 1880*

### Locals

Hon. Horatio C. King of New York, formerly of this city, will deliver the alumni oration at the Dickinson college commencement at Carlisle, Penn. in June next.

*The Evening Star, March 14, 1884*

**The Longfellow Memorial.** Mr. Horatio King, secretary and treasurer of the Longfellow Memorial association of Washington, is prepared to issue certificates of honorary membership to any person who may be pleased to send him any sum not less than \$1. His agency is gratuitous and during last year he issued eight-four certificates. The certificate has a good likeness of Longfellow, a picture of his house and a facsimile of his signature to the lines

I breathed a song into the air ...  
And the song from beginning to end  
I found again in the heart of a friend.

*The Evening Star, May 2, 1884*

### **Locals**

The Washington monument was visited yesterday by Mr. W.W. Corcoran, M. Robert C. Winthrop, Horatio King, Col. T.L. Casey and Capt. Davis. The party ascended to the top and expressed gratification at the progress being made in its construction.

**King.** In this city on May 20, 1897, Horatio King, L.L.D. ex-Postmaster General. Funeral from his late residence No. 707 H street northwest on Saturday, May 22 at 3 o'clock. Interment at the convenience of the family. Kindly omit flowers.

*The Evening Star, May 19, 1897*

### **Horatio King's Illness**

#### **The Venerable Washingtonian in a Very Serious Condition**

Mr. Horatio King, Postmaster General in the Buchanan administration, is seriously ill at his home in this city, as a result of an attack of the grip during the winter, from which he has never rallied. He has been confined to his home for some weeks., and his illness, owing to his advanced age, has given rise to some uneasiness among his friends. He was permitted today, however, to see several intimate friends. Mr. King came from Maine and was appointed first assistant postmaster general in 1854, serving under Postmasters General Campbell and Holt; and President Buchanan, less than a month before he went out of office, appointed him Postmaster General. He served from February 13, 1861, until March 5 following, when Montgomery Blair succeeded him. He has a summer home at Newton, Mass., where he was to have gone within a month.

*The Washington Evening Star, Thursday, May 20, 1897*

### **Horatio King Dead**

#### **He Passed Away Peacefully After a Severe Illness**

#### **A Long Life of Usefulness**

#### **He Had Been a Resident of Washington for 50 Years**

#### **Sketch of His Career**

Ex-Postmaster General, Horatio King, died this morning at 8:30 o'clock at his residence, No. 707 H street northwest, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. His end was calm and peaceful, and he recognized to the last the dear ones gathered at his bedside. In the winter of 1895-96 he suffered a severe attack of

the grip. Last winter he was revisited by the disease in a more serious form, and failed to recuperate, steadily sinking until death ensued this morning.

He was the son of Samuel and Sally (Hall) King and was born in Paris, Maine, June 21, 1811. His father was a farmer, and emigrated from Massachusetts. His mother was a daughter of Jonathan Hall, an early settler in Paris, from Hopkinton, Mass. His grandfather was George King of Raynham, in the state last named, who, with his three brothers, served in the war for independence. George was orderly sergeant and clerk of the Raynham company, and one of the brothers fell in the war. Like most of the old and patriotic stock of the revolution and their immediate descendants, these ancestral relatives of his were staunchly democratic, which may, so far as early impressions go, account for Mr. King's political orthodoxy. Like most of the country-reared young men of that period, he was brought up on the farm, and in the ordinary acceptance of that term, he was not liberally educated, though he supplemented by careful study and voluminous reading and research the education which the common schools afforded. To a strongly practical training he added by his own exertions unusual literary culture, acquiring among his other accomplishments a good knowledge of the French language, which aided him greatly in his subsequent official career.

#### *His Career as an Editor*

In the spring of 1829, Mr. King went into the office of the Jeffersonian--a thorough Jackson democratic paper, then published in his native town--to acquire an expert knowledge of the printer's art, with the view of becoming the proprietor, if the business suited him. In about a year he bought the paper in partnership with Hannibal Hamlin, afterward senator and Vice President of the United States, and six months later became sole proprietor, being then about nineteen years of age. For a while he employed a village lawyer, at a salary of twelve York shillings a week, to assist him in editing the sheet. In 1832 he cast his first vote, for Andrew Jackson, and shortly afterward assumed the entire editorial management of his paper. Its files show him to have been consistent and earnest in his denunciation of South Carolina nullification, and throughout Jackson's administration, the Jeffersonian firmly, consistently and energetically support the old hero; and when Mr. Van Buren was, by the refusal of the Senate to confirm his nomination, recalled from England, where during the recess the President had sent him as minister, the Jeffersonian was among the first papers in the country to run his name for the presidency. In 1833 the unfortunate division of the democracy of Maine took place, and Mr. King was induced to remove his press to Portland in May of that year. The consequence was a sharp family quarrel of state and local matters for two or three years, when many of his principal competitors went over bodily to the enemy. From first to last, Mr. King combated every scheme which looked toward disunion. He edited the Jeffersonian until 1838, when he sold it to the Standard, which was soon after merged into the Eastern Argur, and may be said to still live in the columns of that staunch advocate of democratic principles. This terminated his professional connection with the public press.

#### *In the Post Office Department*

If anything more were wanted to complete Mr. King's practical education and his knowledge of business and of human nature, no better school could have been found than that which he enjoyed in his twenty-two years connection with all the various concerns and operations of the Post Office Department. There, if anywhere, the whole lesson was presented, and by a careful, diligent and intelligent observer could be learned. In that school, as was proved by his successive promotions, and especially by his eminent fitness for and usefulness in the responsible positions he occupied, he was neither an indifferent nor an unsuccessful student.

In the fall of 1838, Mr. King went to Washington to look for a newspaper opening, but not finding one to his mind, he, in March, 1839, accepted a clerkship at \$1,000 per annum in the Post Office Department, tendered him by the then Postmaster General Amos Kendall. Thus at the foot of the

ladder he commenced that connection which proved alike beneficial to the country and honorable to himself, and whence he climbed, every step marked by his ability and his energy, to the chief position. He thus had the proud distinction of being the only person who has ever started in the lowest clerkship and ended with the highest office in the department, that of Postmaster General. For years he was the corresponding clerk for New England in the contract office, a position of considerable responsibility, and requiring for the proper discharge of its duties the closest application and a large amount of labor. In 1850 he was transferred to a corresponding desk, having charge of the foreign mail service. In this connection his services were of the most beneficial character. Success under his management attended the effort to extend and improve our postal arrangements with foreign nations. In these days, when lines of steamships map the oceans as lines of railroads do the land, when almost every important commercial city of Europe, the islands and South American have their corresponding connection with some city of our Union, whoever, really and essentially has improved this branch of the service has conferred a benefit upon nations which not only the present, but future generations will fully appreciate.

#### *Characteristics as an Official.*

In the spring of 1854, on the death of Major Hubble, Mr. King without solicitation on his part, was appointed by President Pierce to the office of first assistant postmaster general. To his subordinates he was considerate, kind and obliging, requiring of them, as he should, to have all the business entrusted to them, speedily and properly done, and their work kept up, but never acting captiously nor finding fault needlessly. One secret of his official success was his exactitude in keeping all his business in hand, his desk, at the close of each day being always clear of papers, and his positive requirement of his clerks that everything sent to their desks should be promptly attended to.

#### *Becomes Postmaster General.*

He held the position of first assistant postmaster general until January 1, 1861, when he became acting postmaster general. February 1 he was nominated by President Buchanan and on the 12th confirmed by the Senate as Postmaster General, serving in that capacity until the inauguration of President Lincoln and the appointment of his successor, March 7, 1861. He filled all these places with fidelity and distinguished ability. He was Postmaster General when treason stalked with a bold front through the streets of the national capital. As a lifelong democrat, Mr. King was loyal to the core, and remained so during the entire struggle. Though exempted by law from the performance of military duty, he furnished a representative recruit, who was duly mustered in and served in the Union army. This exhibition of patriotism and public spirit received official acknowledgment from the government.

After retiring from the Post Office Department he was appointed, In April, 1862 one of a board of commissioners to carry out the provisions of the emancipation proclamation in the District of Columbia. This position was tendered him by President Lincoln, unsolicited, and doubtless on account of his conspicuous services near the close of the previous administration. His associated commissioners were Daniel R. Goodloe and Dr. John M. Broadhead, with Wm. R. Woodward as clerk and B. M. Campbell as expert. Nine hundred and ninety-six claims, embracing 3,100 slaves, were presented within three months, limited by the law. Of these claims, thirty-six in whole and twenty-one in part, were rejected for disloyalty or defective titles, embracing 111 slaves, so 2989 were paid for under the act. Thirteen other claims for twenty-eight slaves were made after the time limit, and allowed by Congress, making the total number of slaves paid for 3,017.

The service of the commission was limited to nine months, and on finally leaving office, Mr. King became an attorney before the executive departments and the international commissions, which profession he followed until about 1875, when he retired as far as practicable from active business. He originated a series of Saturday evening literary entertainments at his private residence, which became

very popular and contributed very much to elevate the literary tone of the city. The 100th and final meeting, was held, February 2, 1884.

#### *Varied Accomplishments.*

While not a fluent speaker, he was for years a ready and strong writer for newspapers and magazines on political, historical and literary subjects. In 1875, he published, "Sketches of Travel, or Twelve Months in Europe," and in 1895 "Turning on the Light," a dispassionate survey of President Buchanan's administration from 1857 to its close, and other original articles.

June 11, 1896, the honorary degree of L.L.D. was conferred upon Mr. King by Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.

Mr. King's somewhat eventful life has been one of usefulness. In all the positions he has filled he has inaugurated important improvements, including, about 1883-85, the "Penalty Envelope," a convenient and economical device used by all the departments of the government for franking official mail matter, and which it is estimated has saved the government at least \$100,000 every year since its introduction. Mr. King worked seven years before congress to have this device ordered by law, and neither received nor expected a cent for his efforts. It was simply a "labor of love" for the good of the service and the benefit of the government.

This is only one of his many good deeds. He was always a public-spirited citizen. For sixteen years he took great pleasure in his duties as a member, and most of the time as secretary of the Washington National Monument Society, and had the great satisfaction of seeing the completion and dedication of the beautiful marble obelisk -- a magnificent tribute to the memory of the father of his country. Congress having put the monument and everything concerning it under the charge of the War Department, and the work allotted to the society having been accomplished, he, with other of his associates, tendered their resignations.

May 25, 1835, he married Ann Collins of Portland, Me., by whom he had seven children, only three of whom survive, Mrs. Annie A. Cole of Washington, D.C., Gen. Horatio C. King of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Henry P. King of West Newton, Mass. The others died young. His first wife died September 22, 1869, and he married February 8, 1875, Isabella G. Osborne of Auburn, N.Y., who survives him.

Mr. King was a notable example to the youth of this country. Born and bred under circumstances which gave him no greater advantages that are enjoyed by a large majority of the young men of the Union, he attained by his own energy, industry and perseverance an exalted station, and made for himself a name and a reputation of which any man may be proud.

Mr. Henry F. King, with his wife, arrived at the King residence on H street from Boston just before the death of his venerable father, and was at his side when he died. The arrangements for the funeral have not been completed.

#### *A Double Bereavement.*

The blow came with terrible force to General Horatio C. King, the eldest son of the dead man. He was unable to visit his father because he was in attendance at the bedside of his daughter in New York. She died yesterday, and while overwhelmed with grief at her loss, the news was sent to him that his father was no more.

Horatio King lived at 710 H street northwest.

*The Evening Star, May 22, 1897*

#### **Funeral of Horatio King**

#### **A Distinguished Attendance at the Impressive Services**

#### **Singing of Hymns of Which the Deceased Was the Author--**

### **A Touching Incident of the Ceremonies**

The funeral of the late Horatio King took place this afternoon at 3 o'clock from his late residence, No. 707 H street northwest. The flags on all public buildings were at half-mast today in honor of the late ex-Postmaster General, and a distinguished attendance listened to the tribute of Rev. Dr. Alexander Mackay-Smith, who conducted the services.

The relatives present were Mr. King's widow, his son, Gen. Horatio C. King, his daughter, Mrs. Annie A. Cole, and her daughter, his son, Henry F. King, and wife, his only surviving brother, Cyrus S. King, wife and daughter; his nephew, Rev. G.M.P. King; his niece, Miss Jane Maria Leavey, and Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Talbot, the latter a sister of Mrs. Horatio King.

Mrs. Horatio C. King was so prostrated by the long illness and death of her daughter, Ethel, who was buried Friday, that she was unable to attend.

Music was rendered by a female quartet from the Assembly Church. In compliance with the expressed wishes of Mr. King, two hymns written by himself on his trips to Europe in 1867 and 1875 were sung, one to the tune of "Federal Street," the other to original music written for the occasion by Professor Theo. P. King.

The interment will be private.

The Evening Star, May 25, 1897

#### **Burial of Horatio King**

The remains of Horatio King were placed in his lot in the Congressional cemetery yesterday morning. Only his immediate family and his brother and wife were present. On the grave were placed a wreath on behalf of his grandchild, Miss Ethel King of Brooklyn, N.Y., who died May 18, and the beautiful wreath sent to the funeral services May 22 by Mr. Julian and Lady Passondete, in their loving sympathy. It is an interesting coincidence that Mr. King should be laid away on the birthday of Queen Victoria, and his last resting place be beautified by the offering of her most exalted representatives in this country.

The Evening Star, June 19, 1897

#### **Horatio King's Estate**

##### **Will Disposing of It Submitted for Probate Today**

The will of the late Horatio King, filed the 24th of last month, was made public today. It is dated December 21, 1895, and names Horatio C. King of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Henry F. King of West Newton, Mass., sons, and the testator's widow, Isabella G. King, as executors.

To the widow are given the family dwelling on H street, and all the household furniture, effects, books, paints, etc. To Horatio C. King, the son premises 46 Willow street, Brooklyn, N.Y., 100 shares of stock in the Texas Land and Cattle Company, also all proceeds from the testator's old post office and all other claims business. To Annie A. Cole, a daughter, lot in square 304. To the widow another lot in the same square, 25 shares in the Metropolitan Railroad Company absolutely, and a lot on Temple street, West Newton, Mass., for life or during widowhood, with remainder to Henry F. King a son. To the latter is given a third lot in square 304 this city, and a lot on Temple street, West Newton, Mass.

The residue of the estate is to be equally divided between the widow and three children. The testator says that if, by any possibility, either or any of the beneficiaries shall oppose or contest any of the

provisions of the will, such beneficiary or beneficiaries, or their descendants, shall be debarred from all participation in the estate.