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**Admiral Reynolds, General's Brother,**

**Gave Hawaii Start Toward Statehood**

# Lancaster Native Explored Islands Over Century Ago, Pushed First Treaty With U.S.

When happy Hawaiians trooped to the polls this past week, they were paying unconscious tribute to a Lancaster sailing-man who was among the first Americans to explore the islands, and also among the first to fall in love with them.

He was Rear Admiral William Reynolds. If the name sounds familiar, it should. For this was a brother of the Hero of Gettysburg, Maj. Gen. John Fulton Reynolds. Historically, the admiral has always been overshadowed by his more famous brother—almost as much as was another brother, Gen. James L. Reynolds. Two generals and an admiral in the same generation—it's a record that few other families could boast.

Lancaster may be proud of the fact that all three of these distinguished military men were born in this city.

A reminder of this coincidence turned up fortuitously this past week in a collection of material presented to Fackenthal Library at Franklin & Marshall College by Thomas R. Brendle, of Egypt, Pa., a retired minister, who was a member of the Class of 1908 at F&M. Together with a great quantity of Pennsylvania Dutch folk literature, there came the Brendle library of assorted books and pamphlets. Among them was "A Memoir" of the Reynolds triumverate, delivered by J. G. Rosengarten before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, later printed in "The United Service," and reprinted as a pamphlet by the Lippincott Co. of Philadelphia in 1880.

(Rosengarten, incidentally, was treasurer of the Reynolds Memorial Association which in 1884 dedicated an equestrian statue of Gen. John F. Reynolds at Broad & Market Streets, Philadelphia. A souvenir booklet of this occasion is also included in the Brendle collection.)

## OLD LANCASTER STOCK

The Reynolds brothers were of old Lancaster stock. John, their father, was born near Lancaster, the son of William Reynolds who married the great granddaughter of Mary Ferree, pioneer of the Paradise area who came here in 1709. John published the Lancaster Journal 1820-1836. Their mother was Lydia Moore, descendant of early Scotch-Irish settlers in this county. The three, in order of birth:

WILLIAM REYNOLDS, born Dec. 10, 1815, became an admiral.



WILLIAM REYNOLDS, from portrait dated 1845, in possession of Lancaster County Historical Society. Photographer was Charles W. Eberman, then at 24 W. King St.

JOHN FULTON REYNOLDS, born Sept. 20, 1820, became a major general and died from a sniper's bullet at Gettysburg.

JAMES LEFEVRE REYNOLDS, born March 8, 1822, became a lawyer and was Quartermaster General of Pennsylvania under Gov. Curtin throughout the Civil War.

It is William whose career is particularly topical today. In the Rosengarten memoir, which is also available in part in a Lancaster County Historical Society paper of 1934, it is recalled that William was appointed a Navy midshipman in 1831—before his 15th birthday. Congressman James Buchanan, a friend of the family, obtained the appointment.

## EXPLORED ISLANDS

Seven years later William sailed with the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, which probed odd corners Lieutenant caught up with him while he was assigned to this duty. One of the areas he helped explore was the Sandwich Islands. Today we call them Hawaii, the 50th State.

# Brother, Statehood



THE SANDWICH ISLANDS of Admiral William Reynolds' day have become the 50th State of the Union. Hawaii's importance to shipping, both mercantile and naval, and its commercial possibilities, impressed the Lancaster-born admiral so much that he engineered the first treaty between the islands and the United States. The poster above illustrates some of the 400-mile stretch of islands, now with a population of 154,000, and their principal products and attractions.



**BROTHERS TOGETHER IN DEATH**—Graves of Gen. John Fulton Reynolds (left), and Admiral William Reynolds (with anchor, at right), stand side by side in Lancaster Cemetery. (Sunday News Photo).

Nine years after the Wilkes Expedition returned to port, William Reynolds regretfully went on the retired list because of recurring ill health. But he remembered the romantic isles of the Pacific, and had himself assigned to Hawaii. Ten years in the islands so renewed his health that he applied for active duty in 1861, and was made commander of naval forces at Port Royal. He became a commodore in 1870; served as Chief of Bureau and Acting Secretary of the Navy in 1873 and again in 1874, having been made Rear Admiral in the former year; was appointed to the command of the U.S. naval force in the Asiatic Station but was stricken down and obliged to return home.

While in Japanese waters, he made his will, mentioning especially the famous sword which the enlisted men of the Pennsylvania Reserves had ordered for their beloved general before his death at Gettysburg. William left his brother's sword to their nephew, Lt. John Fulton Reynolds Landis, a West Pointer. A press clipping enclosed with the memoir—there is also a pencilled Reynolds genealogy, and obituaries of William and his father—re-

veals that the heir to the sword died suddenly in Georgia at the age of 31.

When William died at 64, in 1879, tributes from old comrades revealed something of his service in Hawaii. Although on the inactive list, he was serving as naval storekeeper there, and this gave him opportunity to find out something about the economic importance of the islands. He became impressed with Hawaii's strategic position with relation to both navy and merchant marine.

He pointed out that more intimate commercial relations between Hawaii and the United States would increase business and tend to strengthen this country's position of leadership in the world. William Reynolds pushed successfully the negotiation of a Hawaiian treaty of reciprocity. His opinion reportedly carried great weight with the many public men who consulted him on the subject. Hawaiians "have always borne in grateful memory his long residence in their midst, and his action in forwarding the treaty which has secured them a strong alliance with the United States, and saved them from the risks of an unwelcome protectorate from some distant power," according to one of the tributes from a Hawaiian representative in Washington.

From the evidence, Reynolds was a sort of one-man lobby for the Hawaiian treaty, an indispensable way-station on the road to statehood.

Admiral Reynold's last voyage was his most glamorous. Sailing aboard his flagship, the "Tennessee," he passed through the Suez Canal, receiving "unusual honors" from the Khedive of Egypt and later from the British officers in India. Rosengarten said that, "In China and Japan, in Siam and Singapore, he discharged with great success the large discretion necessarily vested in our naval commanders in the East."

### WIFE WALKED WITH EMPRESS

He sailed his ship close in by the Great Wall of China where it comes down to the sea, and his wife, the former Rebecca King of Lancaster, was the first American woman permitted to walk on the wall with the Empress of China.

The mention of Gen. John F. Reynolds' sword in Admiral Reynolds' will is a reminder that brother never forgot brother. The other "forgotten" Reynolds, the bachelor lawyer James, became a student of the life of John at Gettysburg.

So it is that the other Reynolds brothers, long over-shadowed may shine again in some of the reflected glory of their hero brother. E. J. Nichols, Penn State professor who wrote the John F. Reynolds biography "Towards Gettysburg," has contributed to a remembering of William and James. And perhaps the Civil War centennial, now close upon us, will give them still more of the attention they have deserved.