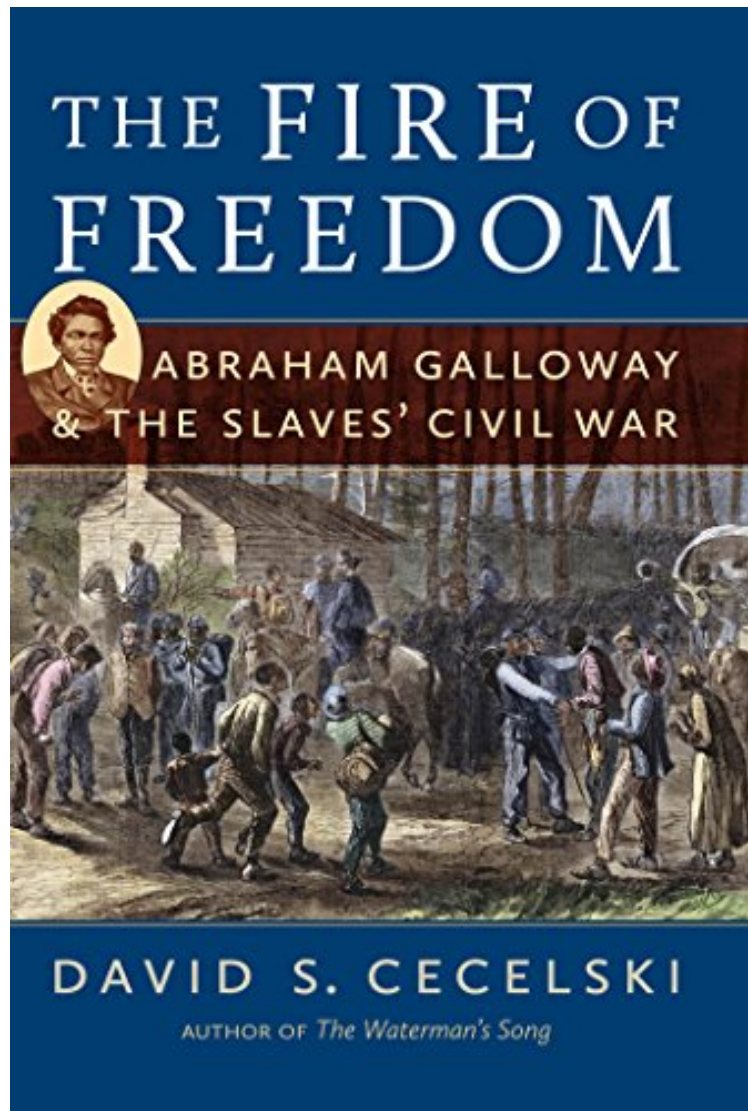


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# The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway and the Slaves' Civil War

David S. Cecelski

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**David S. Cecelski : The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway and the Slaves' Civil War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway and the Slaves' Civil War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Far more than a biography, this masterpiece of the ...By Timothy B. Tyson Far more than a biography, this masterpiece of the historian's craft cracks open the worlds of slavery, abolition, Emancipation, multiracial democracy, and the bitter betrayals of Reconstruction. Son of a white man and an enslaved black woman, Abraham Galloway lived one of the most stirring and profound American lives ever: an enslaved

craftsman; successful runaway from slavery in North Carolina--William Still, abolitionist corresponding secretary for the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee, recorded Galloway's the escape from Wilmington, stowed among the cargo of a schooner carrying turpentine and pine tar, and counted Galloway "among the bravest of the brave"; dashing race rebel Abolitionist; daring conspirator against human bondage, colleague of John Brown and organizer of a Haiti-based expedition to attack plantations on the Gulf Coast and hasten civil war in the wake of Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry; leader of a far-flung radical political organization in the eastern North Carolina maritime that included thousands of slaves and runaways behind Union lines at New Bern; fearless Civil War spy and then spymaster so crucial to the Union war effort that he met with Lincoln in the White House and recruited three Union generals to help rescue his mother out of the most heavily guarded port in the Confederacy; fighter against not only Southern slavery but white supremacy in the Northern armies, once even pulling his ever-present pistol on racist Union officers who assaulted his friend and fellow black soldier; the most important Southern postwar African American political leader, sharing podiums with Frederick Douglass all over the country; among the founders of the Equal Rights League, the first national civil rights organization in US history, and organizer of five chapters in his home state; pioneering advocate of broad-based democracy including woman suffrage; North Carolina state legislator who helped write the 1868 state constitution that, though marred by subsequent discriminatory amendments, remains the basis of the current state constitution; and an inspiring figure even for our time, bent on equal rights for all and willing to put his life on the line for democracy. Six thousand people attended his 1870 funeral in Wilmington. Even so, he was a forgotten figure of 8 people found the following review helpful. The Fire of Freedom, by Dr. David Cecelski By Al McSurely, Civil Rights Lawyer Prof. Cecelski has unearthed a consciously buried African American leader, Abraham Galloway. In Galloway's short life--he died at 33 --he not only organized and led the first Black U.S. Army Regiment in North Carolina of over 5,000 liberated slaves, but also helped build the Equal Rights Leagues (a forerunner to the NAACP), the bi-Racial Republican Party ( a forerunner to the new Democratic Party here) and put together the first comprehensive program for Reconstruction in North Carolina. Galloway gave up his job as a U. s. Army spy behind the lines in the tidewater area, to become the organizer and commander of the first Black U.S. Army Regiment of liberated slaves alone. After his troops helped put down the traitorous slave holder's rebellion in North Carolina, Galloway donned a suit and rode up to Raleigh to fight for and pass the most progressive State Constitution in the South in 1868. Expose yourself and your kids to both the white Abraham [Lincoln] in the new film, AND the black Abraham [Galloway]. Both Abrahams' courageous actions set high standards for all of us who believe in democracy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A compelling and intriguing story of a forgotten black hero By Vintage\_Red Incredibly well researched book about a great American forgotten to time. Abraham Galloway led an almost unreal life after escaping slavery. From slave to spy to revolutionary to law maker, his story is compelling. Cecelski does a terrific job with tricky research during a time and place that black history was not as well preserved. His thorough look at Galloway's life from his time in slavery to his untimely, and slightly mysterious death, prove to be an important read for any historian especially those interested in civil war and black history. Highly recommend.

Abraham H. Galloway (1837-1870) was a fiery young slave rebel, radical abolitionist, and Union spy who rose out of bondage to become one of the most significant and stirring black leaders in the South during the Civil War. Throughout his brief, mercurial life, Galloway fought against slavery and injustice. He risked his life behind enemy lines, recruited black soldiers for the North, and fought racism in the Union army's ranks. He also stood at the forefront of an African American political movement that flourished in the Union-occupied parts of North Carolina, even leading a historic delegation of black southerners to the White House to meet with President Lincoln and to demand the full rights of citizenship. He later became one of the first black men elected to the North Carolina legislature. Long hidden from history, Galloway's story reveals a war unfamiliar to most of us. As David Cecelski writes, "Galloway's Civil War was a slave insurgency, a war of liberation that was the culmination of generations of perseverance and faith." This riveting portrait illuminates Galloway's life and deepens our insight into the Civil War and Reconstruction as experienced by African Americans in the South.

Much more than a biography. . . . The Fire of Freedom makes an important contribution to Civil War scholarship. . . [and] merits a place on the bookshelves of professional scholars, local history enthusiasts, and Civil War buffs because its author takes a good story and makes it matter. Cecelski joins a clear presentation. . . with deep and broad research as well as a gift for infusing historical moments with humanity and tension.--South Carolina Historical Magazine Cecelski has restored Galloway to his rightful place in the historiography. . . . [He] has done a remarkable job of tracing his subject's multifarious contribution to the cause of black freedom and equality.--American Historical Cecelski's marvelous story of a North Carolina slave who transcended his bondage with flair provides a meaningful way to commemorate the sesquicentennial Civil War anniversaries.--Publishers Weekly Cecelski succeeds both at revealing the independent origins and diversity of black political thought in North Carolina during the Civil War and Reconstruction and at recovering Galloway from the dustbin of history.--Journal of the Civil War Era A masterpiece of research.--The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society Demonstrates the ways slaves claimed the war as their own,

not as a war to save the Union as it was, but as a war to save a different kind of Union, one committed to the principles of freedom that included both blacks and whites.--Civil War Book [Highly recommended] for its examination of Galloway as well as the racial climate of the Civil War.--West Virginia HistoryA riveting portrait of a real-life African-American icon.--Kam WilliamsBeautifully crafted, exhaustively researched and well-argued. . . . Cecelski provides a clear window into the emancipation process.--John David Smith, UNC-Charlotte, in the Charlotte ObserverAll libraries should purchase this well-written work. . . . Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.--ChoiceBeautifully crafted, exhaustively researched and well-argued. . . . Cecelski provides a clear window into the emancipation process.--Raleigh News ObserverWe are indebted to Cecelski for challenging long-standing analytical frameworks and reconfiguring assumptions about African American participation in the Civil War.--Journal of American HistoryDavid S. Cecelski's biography of Abraham H. Galloway, an African American leader in the Civil War era, is a masterpiece of research.--John Cimprich, author of Fort Pillow, a Civil War Massacre, and Public MemoryThis portrait of an important American will appeal to those with an interest in African American political history during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras as well as those with an interest in North Carolina history.--Library JournalDr. Cecelski shares the story of Abraham Galloway, an important African American leader in the Civil War.--CarolinaCoastOnline.comA book that will be important to people who like to read about the Civil War and those interested in the struggle for Civil Rights.--D. G. Martin, The Mountaineer[A] thrilling biography.--Jim Downs, Huffington Post A vividly written and well researched narrative of the life of a largely overlooked but major black leader in the Civil War and Reconstruction. It is true that slaves earned their freedom by fighting in the Union forces, sometimes under horrendously discriminatory circumstances. Cecelski provides additional force to the view that slaves militantly exercised agency in defense of their rights as the price of their participation. Galloway was an important voice for their insistence on a war for their liberation and not just to save the Union.--Mary Frances Berry, Geraldine R. Segal Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania, and past chair of the United States Commission on Civil RightsAn excellent work of scholarship by a top flight historian. I am deeply impressed by the detective work that went into discovering Galloway's story.--Edward E. Baptist, Cornell UniversityAbout the AuthorHistorian David S. Cecelski is author of *The Waterman's Song: Slavery and Freedom in Maritime North Carolina* and co-editor (with Timothy B. Tyson) of *Democracy Betrayed: The Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and Its Legacy*.