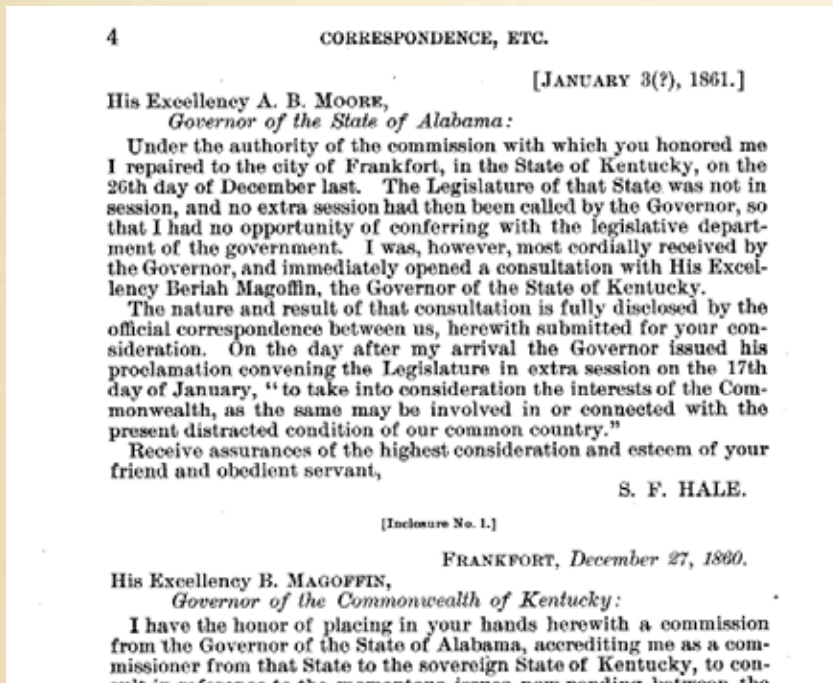


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CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: S.F. HALE AND GOV. BERIAH MAGOFFIN EXCHANGE



Kentucky Historical Society collections

slaveholding culture and hoped to convince the governor that Kentucky citizens needed protection from the federal government and Lincoln. The only way for them to keep their labor and livelihood would be for Kentucky to leave the union and join the other Southern states in what would become the Confederate States of America.

Magoffin, in his public letter, agreed with Hale that Lincoln was "dangerous." However, he argued that instead of secession, the Constitution and remaining in the Union better protected Kentucky slaveholders. It was a classic statement of Kentucky's proslavery loyalty.

Kentucky native S.F. Hale returned to the Commonwealth as a secession commissioner from Alabama to try to get Kentucky to secede in December 1860 as the Southern states debated leaving the Union.

He wrote a persuasive letter to Gov. Beriah Magoffin and explained the threats that Lincoln posed to slavery, including servile insurrection, race war and political and social equality for African Americans.

Hale played on Kentucky's

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. The "Civil War Governors of Kentucky" (CWG-K) is a multi-year documentary-editing project dedicated to publishing documents associated with all five of the state's Civil War governors: the three Union governors, Beriah Magoffin (1859 – 1862), James F. Robinson (1862 – 1863), and Thomas E. Bramlette (1863 – 1867); and the two provisional Confederate governors, George W. Johnson (1861 – 1862) and Richard Hawes (1862 – 1865).

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