

Welcome to Richard A. Noble's

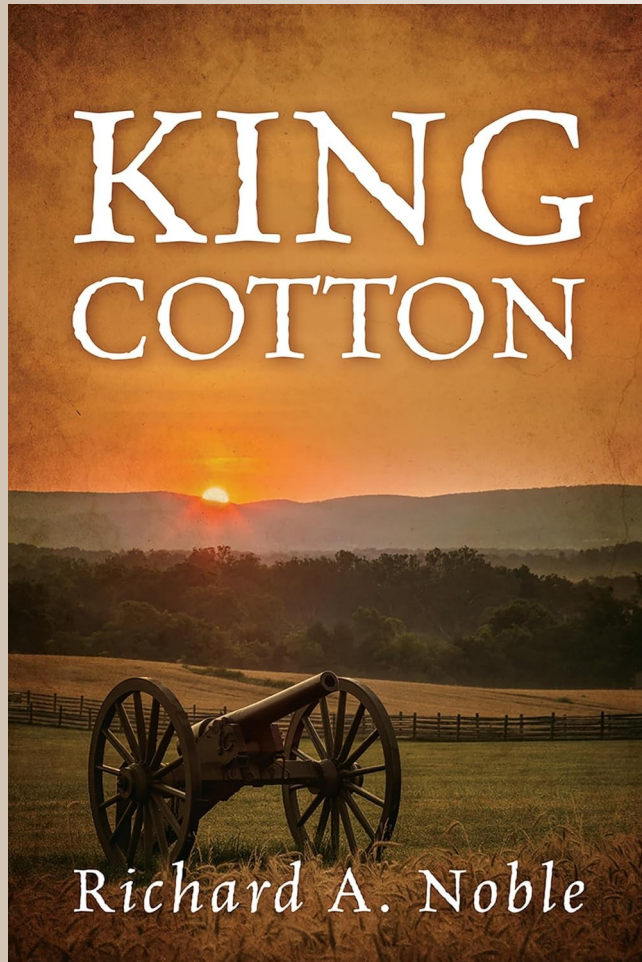
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Richard A. Noble



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Richard Allan “Rick” Noble spent most of his career in publishing, although not as an author. Always a history buff, Rick became interested in the Civil War when he lived in Louisville, Kentucky. Several readers of initial drafts of *King Cotton* suggested that it must have been difficult weaving a story through so many facts, real people, and actual places, dates, and events during that impossibly difficult chapter in America’s past. But Rick found the opposite. He knew the story he wanted to tell, and the events of the period provided a framework upon which to build it.

Some of the real-life characters in the book will be familiar to all – Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Mathew Brady, Harriet Tubman, P.T. Barnum, James Wilkes Booth, Allan Pinkerton, and Mary Surratt, for example. Others less so, such as Kate Warne, Anna Surratt, John Surratt Junior, Chang & Eng Bunker, “Peanut” Burroughs, Rose O’Neal Greenhow, and John Beam. But all existed, as did the songs, guns, and places mentioned herein. The battles and other events (like the recovery of Lee’s Special Order 191 and the visit to New York City by the Russian Navy) also really happened. Readers are encouraged to look things up if in doubt, or curious for more. The internet makes doing so about as easy as it can get.

Our protagonist, John “Jack” Bailey, is entirely fictitious, as are his father, co-workers Elkins and Dawson, and a few other minor characters. The causes of certain true-life happenings in the book are still debated today, such as who shot Lincoln’s hat off outside Soldier’s Cottage a few months before he was assassinated, or how the devastating fire in Columbia, SC really got started. *King Cotton* offers some answers on those fronts, although highly speculative ones that involve Bailey.

To read further, please click the link at left.

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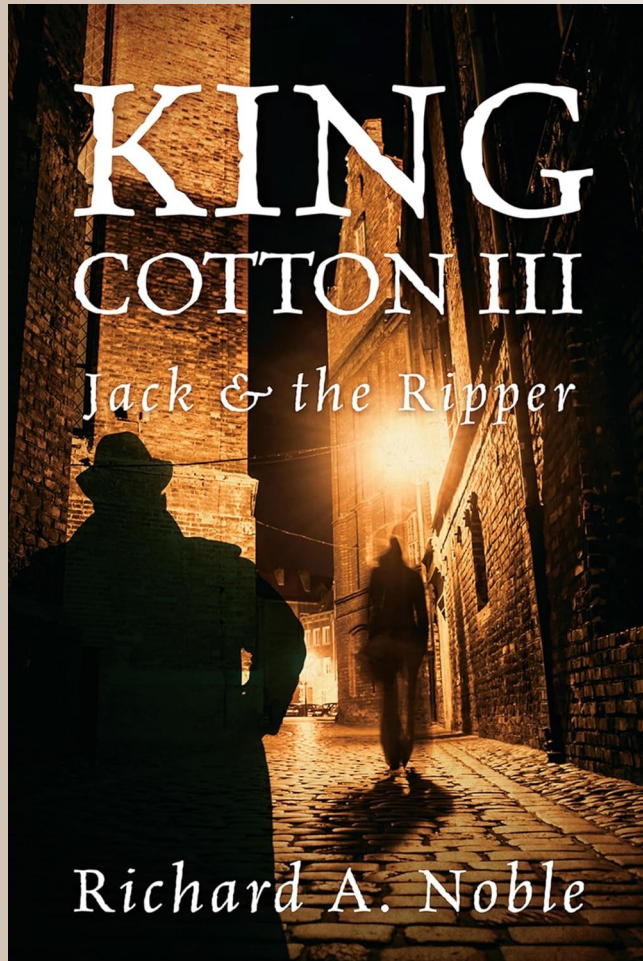
In the spring of 2023, a Kentucky farmer noticed the furrows behind his plow begin to sparkle in the sun. He had just inadvertently unearthed hundreds of Confederate gold coins, the newest from 1863. No one knows how or why they were there. Well, one man does. Cotton trader, photographer, philanderer, and Civil War veteran (having served with dubious distinction on both sides), Jack Bailey is back in *King Cotton II – Kentucky Gold*.

Picking up exactly where *King Cotton* ends, just moments after Lincoln's assassination, Bailey flees Washington justifiably fearing that he'll be implicated. During his ensuing travels he encounters many of the famous characters of the day, such as Jefferson Davis, Wild Bill Hickok, Kit Carson, Frank and Jesse James, and Buffalo Bill Cody. Prior acquaintances, including Allan Pinkerton, Ulysses S. Grant, distiller John Beam, and P.T. Barnum return.

As usual, Bailey's exploits place him at many notable historic events, including the first quick draw gunfight in the old west, herding longhorn up the Old Chisholm Trail, one of the earliest train robberies in America, Black Friday of September 1869, and the Battle of Beecher Island, Colorado. True to form, he finds himself in various boudoirs along the way, entertaining ladies that range from famous actresses to borderline sociopaths. As it was in *King Cotton*, all of the events, timelines, and most of the characters in this sequel are real.

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King Cotton III: Jack & the Ripper is the third entry in the series of historical fiction novels involving the exploits of Jack Bailey, the irresistible scoundrel that charmed his way through the Civil War, helped himself to a share of the Confederate Treasury, distilled bourbon with John Beam (Jim's uncle), helped establish the Old Chisolm Trail, and witnessed some of the earliest gunfights and train robberies in the Old West. A friend to Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Allan Pinkerton, George Armstrong Custer, Calamity Jane, Buffalo Bill Cody, and other famous figures of the era, Bailey is back and as is so often the case, he becomes embroiled in some of the most notable events of the late 1800's.

Jack & the Ripper begins as Bailey reunites with Wild Bill Hickok, now a marshal in Kansas. He later finds himself an unwilling participant in Cuba's Ten Years War for independence, involved in the circus business, consulting on the Treaty of Washington, hosting Queen Victoria and the future King Edward VII at Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, and patrolling the squalid streets of Whitechapel in 1888, hot on the trail of Jack the Ripper. Predictably, our hero never lacks for female companionship along the way, or for the occasional (and inadvertent) confrontation with deadly characters like Frank and Jesse James and John Wesley Hardin.

As it was in the first two books, people, time-lines, and events in *Jack & the Ripper* are depicted accurately, and corroborated with footnotes, photographs, and newspaper accounts. Bailey's role is fictional. Those first two books in the trilogy have been awarded 5 stars by Reader Views and Readers' Favorite® and more than 90% of the reviews on Amazon are also 5 star.