



## Ewing, 1864

*ex-Northerner*

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President William Henry Harrison appointed Thomas Ewing (1789-1871) to be the 14th Secretary of the Treasury in 1841 and he was retained by John Tyler after Harrison's death. His term in office began on 4 March 1841. He ended his term in office on 11 September 1841. As a Senator from Ohio from 1831 until 1837, Ewing advocated rechartering the Second Bank of the United States and denounced President Jackson's removal of government deposits.

In 1841, after Congress repealed a law supported by Levi Woodbury, the 13th Secretary of the Treasury, that created an Independent Treasury System, Ewing was called upon to devise a new depository for the government's funds. He introduced several options, including bills for a new national bank. None of his suggestions were adopted and Tyler thwarted his plan for organizing a central bank to replace the Independent Treasury System, maintaining that it was unconstitutional for the Treasury Department to authorize bank branches in the states without their consent. After only six months, along with most of Tyler's cabinet, Ewing resigned in protest against Tyler's opposition to his proposals. Eight years later, in 1849, President Zachary Taylor appointed Ewing to be the first Secretary of the newly created Department of the Interior.

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### **Cutter History:**

*Ewing* was the 320-ton, 135-foot side-wheel steamer *Northerner* that was purchased for use by the Service on 18 April 1864. She was assigned to Beaufort, North Carolina in 1865 and later to Wilmington, Delaware and then Baltimore, Maryland. She was at Key West, Florida in 1872 and returned to Baltimore to be laid up.

She was renamed the *Thomas Ewing* on 19 November 1875 and was then assigned to duty on the Chesapeake Bay. She was turned over to the Marine Hospital Service for quarantine duty and was then sold on 29 April 1895.

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### **Sources:**

Donald Canney. *U.S. Coast Guard and Revenue Cutters, 1790-1935*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1995.

U.S. Coast Guard. *Record of Movements: Vessels of the United States Coast Guard: 1790 - December 31, 1933*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934; 1989 (reprint).

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