

# BLUE-EYED CHILD OF FORTUNE

The Civil War Letters of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw

EDITED BY NISSIM BERGIN



# Blue Eyed Child Of Fortune

**James Ford Rhodes**



## **Blue Eyed Child Of Fortune:**

**Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune** Robert Gould Shaw, 2011-08-15 On the Boston Common stands one of the great Civil War memorials a magnificent bronze sculpture by Augustus Saint Gaudens It depicts the black soldiers of the Fifty fourth Massachusetts Infantry marching alongside their young white commander Colonel Robert Gould Shaw When the philosopher William James dedicated the memorial in May 1897 he stirred the assembled crowd with these words There they march warm blooded champions of a better day for man There on horseback among them in the very habit as he lived sits the blue eyed child of fortune In this book Shaw speaks for himself with equal eloquence through nearly two hundred letters he wrote to his family and friends during the Civil War The portrait that emerges is of a man more divided and complex though no less heroic than the Shaw depicted in the celebrated film *Glory* The pampered son of wealthy Boston abolitionists Shaw was no abolitionist himself but he was among the first patriots to respond to Lincoln s call for troops after the attack on Fort Sumter After Cedar Mountain and Antietam Shaw knew the carnage of war firsthand Describing nightfall on the Antietam battlefield he wrote the crickets chirped and the frogs croaked just as if nothing unusual had happened all day long and presently the stars came out bright and we lay down among the dead and slept soundly until daylight There were twenty dead bodies within a rod of me When Federal war aims shifted from an emphasis on restoring the Union to the higher goal of emancipation for four million slaves Shaw s mother pressured her son into accepting the command of the North s vanguard black regiment the Fifty fourth Massachusetts A paternalist who never fully reconciled his own prejudices about black inferiority Shaw assumed the command with great reluctance Yet as he trained his recruits in Readville Massachusetts during the early months of 1863 he came to respect their pluck and dedication There is not the least doubt he wrote his mother that we shall leave the state with as good a regiment as any that has marched Despite such expressions of confidence Shaw in fact continued to worry about how well his troops would perform under fire The ultimate test came in South Carolina in July 1863 when the Fifty fourth led a brave but ill fated charge on Fort Wagner at the approach to Charleston Harbor As Shaw waved his sword and urged his men forward an enemy bullet felled him on the fort s parapet A few hours later the Confederates dumped his body into a mass grave with the bodies of twenty of his men Although the assault was a failure from a military standpoint it proved the proposition to which Shaw had reluctantly dedicated himself when he took command of the Fifty fourth that black soldiers could indeed be fighting men By year s end sixty new black regiments were being organized A previous selection of Shaw s correspondence was privately published by his family in 1864 For this volume Russell Duncan has restored many passages omitted from the earlier edition and has provided detailed explanatory notes to the letters In addition he has written a lengthy biographical essay that places the young colonel and his regiment in historical context

[Gone with the Glory](#) Brian Steel Wills, 2011-10-16 From Birth of a Nation to Cold Mountain hundreds of directors actors and screenwriters have used the Civil War to create compelling cinema However each generation of moviemakers has

resolved the tug of war between entertainment value and historical accuracy differently Historian Brian Steel Wills takes readers on a journey through the portrayal of the war in film exploring what Hollywood got right and wrong how the films influenced each other and ultimately how the movies reflect America's changing understandings of the conflict and of the nation

Two Charlestonians at War Barbara L. Bellows, 2018-02-21 Tracing the intersecting lives of a Confederate plantation owner and a free black Union soldier Barbara L Bellows *Two Charlestonians at War* offers a poignant allegory of the fraught interdependent relationship between wartime enemies in the Civil War South Through the eyes of these very different soldiers Bellows brings a remarkable new perspective to the oft told saga of the Civil War Recounted in alternating chapters the lives of Charleston natives born a mile apart Captain Thomas Pinckney and Sergeant Joseph Humphries Barquet illuminate one another's motives for joining the war as well as the experiences that shaped their worldviews Pinckney a rice planter and scion of one of America's founding families joined the Confederacy in hope of reclaiming an idealized agrarian past and Barquet a free man of color and brick mason fought with the Union to claim his rights as an American citizen Their circumstances set the two men on seemingly divergent paths that nonetheless crossed on the embattled coast of South Carolina Born free in 1823 Barquet grew up among Charleston's tight knit community of the colored elite During his twenties he joined the northward exodus of free blacks leaving the city and began his nomadic career as a tireless campaigner for black rights and abolition In 1863 at age forty he enlisted in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry the renowned Glory regiment of northern black men His varied challenges and struggles including his later frustrated attempts to play a role in postwar Republican politics in Illinois provide a panoramic view of the free black experience in nineteenth century America In contrast to the questing Barquet Thomas Pinckney remained deeply connected to the rice fields and maritime forests of South Carolina He greeted the arrival of war by establishing a home guard to protect his family's Santee River plantations that would later integrate into the 4th South Carolina Cavalry After the war Pinckney distanced himself from the racist violence of Reconstruction politics and focused on the daunting task of restoring his ruined plantations with newly freed laborers The two Charlestonians chance encounter on Morris Island where in 1864 Sergeant Barquet stood guard over the captured Captain Pinckney inspired Bellows compelling narrative Her extensive research adds rich detail to our knowledge of the dynamics between whites and free blacks during this tumultuous era *Two Charlestonians at War* gives readers an intimate depiction of the ideological distance that might separate American citizens even as their shared history unites them

**COMBEE** Edda L. Fields-Black, 2024 *COMBEE* is based upon original research and offers the first full account of Tubman's Civil War service and the Combahee River Raid In the process it also offers the story of enslaved families living in bondage and fighting for their freedom and does so using their own distinct and individual voices

*Abolitionist of the Most Dangerous Kind* Todd Mildfelt, David D. Schafer, 2023-10-17 A controversial character largely known as depicted in the movie *Glory* as a Union colonel who led Black soldiers in the Civil War James Montgomery

1814 71 waged a far more personal and radical war against slavery than popular history suggests It is the true story of this militant abolitionist that Todd Mildfelt and David D Schafer tell in *Abolitionist of the Most Dangerous Kind* summoning a life fiercely lived in struggle against the expansion of slavery into the West and during the Civil War This book follows a harrowing path through the turbulent world of the 1850s and 1860s as Montgomery with the fervor of an Old Testament prophet inflicts destructive retribution on Southern slaveholders wherever he finds them crossing paths with notable abolitionists John Brown and Harriet Tubman along the way During the tumultuous years of Bleeding Kansas he became a guerilla chieftain of the antislavery vigilantes known as Jayhawkers When the war broke out in 1861 Montgomery led a regiment of white troops who helped hundreds of enslaved people in Missouri reach freedom in Kansas Drawing on regimental records in the National Archives the authors provide new insights into the experiences of African American men who served in Montgomery s next regiment the Thirty Fourth United States Colored Troops formerly Second South Carolina Infantry Montgomery helped enslaved men and women escape via one of the least explored underground railways in the nation from Arkansas and Missouri through Kansas and Nebraska With support of abolitionists in Massachusetts he spearheaded resistance to the Fugitive Slave Act in Kansas And when war came he led Black soldiers in striking at the very heart of the Confederacy His full story thus illuminates the actions of both militant abolitionists and the enslaved people fighting to destroy the peculiar institution

**Mystic Romances of the Blue and the Grey** Alexander C. Branscom,1883  
History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850 to the Final Restoration of Home Rule at the South in 1877: 1862-1864 James Ford Rhodes,1906 History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850 to the Final Restoration of Home Rule at the South in 1877 James Ford Rhodes,1899 **The Monument to Robert Gould Shaw** ,1897 **History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850 to the McKinley-Bryan Campaign of 1896: 1862-1864** James Ford Rhodes,1920 *History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850* James Ford Rhodes,1904 History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850: 1862-1864 James Ford Rhodes,1906 *Exercises at the Dedication of the Monument to Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry, May 31, 1897* Boston (Mass.). City Council,1897 **The Harvard Graduates' Magazine** William Roscoe Thayer,1898 History of the United States James Ford Rhodes,1899 **Magill's Literary Annual 1993** Frank Northen Magill,1993 Reviews of significant fiction and nonfiction published in 1992 Provides coverage for works that are likely to be of particular interest to the general reader that reflect the publishing trends of a given year and that will stand up to the test of time **Memories and Studies** William James,1911 William James 1842 1910 was an American psychologist and philosopher Topics of his books included psychology religious psychology educational psychology mysticism and pragmatism James played a major role is the transition from 19th century European philosophy to American philosophy James wrote True ideas lead us into useful verbal and conceptual quarters as well as directly up to useful sensible termini They lead to consistency stability and flowing human

intercourse but all true processes must lead to the face of directly verifying sensible experiences somewhere Shortly before his death William James expressed the desire to collect some of his addresses and essays into one volume Topics included are Louis Agassiz Address to the Emerson Centenary in Concord Robert Gould Shaw Francis Boott Thomas Davidson a Knight Errant of the Intellectual Life Herbert Spencers Autobiography Frederick Myers Services to Psychology Final Impressions of a Psychical Researcher On Some Mental Effects of the Earthquake The Energies of Men The Moral Equivalent of War Remarks at the Peace banquet The Social Value of the College Bred The University and the Individual and A Pluralistic Mystic

**Love and a Blue-Eyed Cowboy** Sandra Chastain,2013-02-11 Beloved romance author Sandra Chastain delivers a seductive tale of passion that blazes hotter than the Georgia sun as Fortune smiles on a lonely Hunter Hunky cowboy Hunter Kincaid is bruised broke and brash enough to think that he can win the top prize in a motorcycle scavenger hunt through the backwoods of Georgia What he doesn't count on is being saddled with Fortune Dagosta as a partner After locking horns with the back seat driver Hunter soon hopes to lock lips Can a loner of the open road be a lover with an open heart Fortune has no idea how she'll survive a week on the road with a smartass like Hunter But she needs the money from the race to put a new roof on her halfway house for troubled kids and Hunter's her best shot at first place Despite a few bumps on the way Fortune finds herself lost in Hunter's deep blue eyes Neither expects the attraction to last but Hunter and Fortune have embarked on the ride of their lives Includes a special message from the editor as well as excerpts from these Loveswept titles The Reluctant Countess Wild Rain and Silk on the Skin

**1862-1864** James Ford Rhodes,1899 *Civil War Regiments* ,1994

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