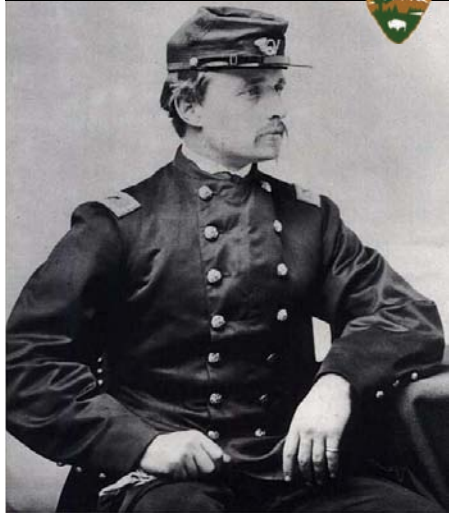


New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Robert Gould Shaw



Colonel Robert Gould Shaw

54th Massachusetts Infantry

Born: Oct. 10, 1837

Died: July 18, 1863

Robert Gould Shaw, son of a prominent Boston abolitionist family, was personally chosen by Massachusetts Governor John Andrew to lead the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, one of the first African American units in the United States during the Civil War. At the Battle of Fort Wagner in South Carolina, Col. Shaw was among the first of the regiment to be killed and was buried with his men on the battlefield.

Image courtesy of the Boston Athenaeum