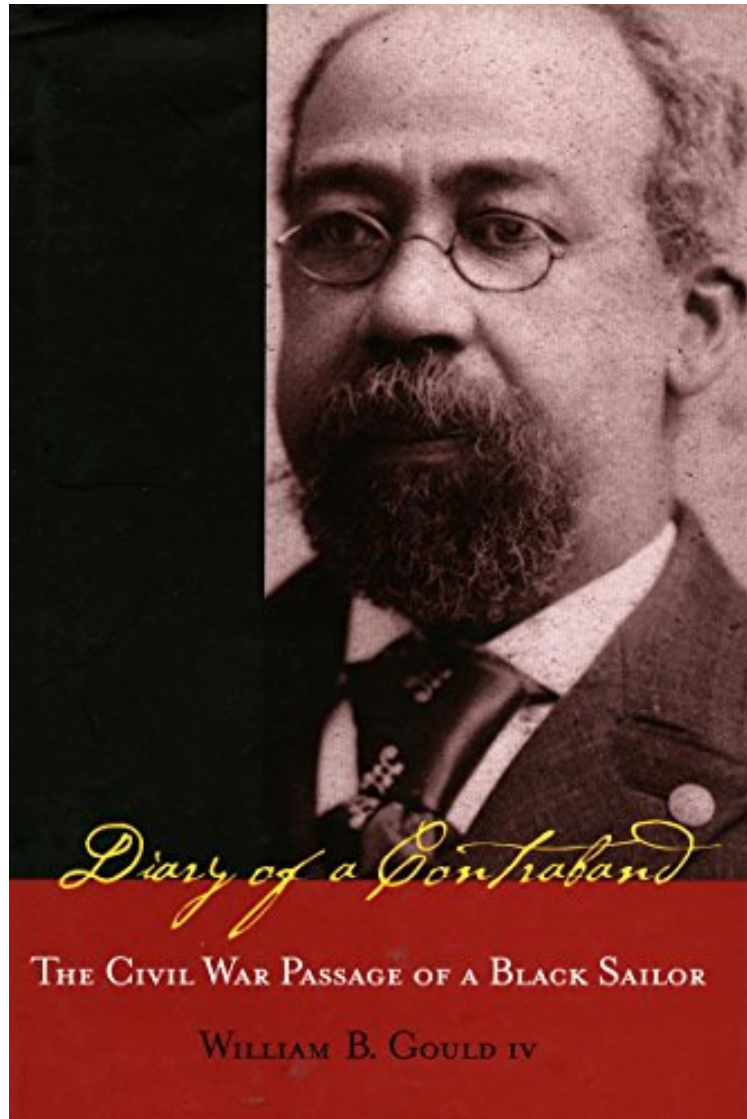


(Read now) *Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor*

Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor

William Benjamin Gould

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1156581 in Books Stanford University Press 2002-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .90 x 6.13l, 1.23 #File Name: 0804747083400 pages | File size: 78.Mb

William Benjamin Gould : Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor*:

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Remarkable!By SuzanneThis scholarly study paints a portrait of an unsung patriot and black American patriarch. How many Americans escaped slavery, survived Civil War Naval duty and then raised sons who all fought in U.S. wars themselves?The author, a Stanford law professor, is pretty accomplished himself: the first black man to head the National Labor Relations Board under President Clinton. Bill

Gould has written a clear and sweet study of his great-grandfather. After taking in the panoramic sweep of this inspirational life, we are left to mull over the mystery of it. Who taught young William Gould to read and write well enough to produce a Civil War diary aboard a Union warship?

The heart of this book is the remarkable Civil War diary of the author's great-grandfather, William Benjamin Gould, an escaped slave who served in the United States Navy from 1862 until the end of the war. The diary vividly records Gould's activity as part of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron off the coast of North Carolina and Virginia; his visits to New York and Boston; the pursuit to Nova Scotia of a hijacked Confederate cruiser; and service in European waters pursuing Confederate ships constructed in Great Britain and France. Gould's diary is one of only three known diaries of African American sailors in the Civil War. It is distinguished not only by its details and eloquent tone (often deliberately understated and sardonic), but also by its reflections on war, on race, on race relations in the Navy, and on what African Americans might expect after the war. The book includes introductory chapters that establish the context of the diary narrative, an annotated version of the diary, a brief account of Gould's life in Massachusetts after the war, and William B. Gould IV's thoughts about the legacy of his great-grandfather and his own journey of discovery in learning about this remarkable man.

From Library Journal Early in the Civil War, slave William Benjamin Gould fled by boat to Union-held territory and gained the status of "contraband of war." Joining the U.S. Navy, he helped win the conflict, ensuring his permanent emancipation. As he had learned to read and write while still in slavery, Gould kept a daily record of his experiences as a newly free man. Some 140 years later, his great-grandson, a former chair of the National Labor Relations Board and a Stanford Law professor, has published his ancestor's journal, providing modern readers with vivid insight into the life and thought of a man who overcame the degradations of slavery, actively sought his own freedom and fought to make it permanent, and in the end forged a new life as a full citizen. Gould IV provides extensive background material through his introduction, epilog, and copious notes to accompany the sometimes brief entries in the diary. An unusual work, one of only three wartime diaries kept by black sailors, it is recommended for larger public and academic libraries, even those who already own the *Diary of Charles B. Fisher*, edited by Paul E. Sluby Sr. and Stanton L. Wormley. Theresa R. McDevitt, *Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania Lib.* Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Diary of a Contraband offers a fascinating picture of everyday life for sailors and civilians in the 1860s. It also provides tantalizing details of antebellum Wilmington that have seldom made their way into written history." (*Willmington Star-News*) "In all, the book is a valuable addition to the continuously growing literature on both the Civil War at sea and the history of race in America." (*International Journal of Maritime History*) "[Diary of a Contraband provides] modern readers with vivid insight into the life and thought of a man who overcame the degradations of slavery, actively sought his own freedom and fought to make it permanent, and in the end forged a new life as a full citizen An unusual work, [it is] one of only three wartime diaries kept by black sailors." (*Library Journal*) "We can thank both Goulds for *Diary of a Contraband*. It is a significant contribution to both Civil War and African American literature." (*Sea History*) From the Inside Flap The heart of this book is the remarkable Civil War diary of the author's great-grandfather, William Benjamin Gould, an escaped slave who served in the United States Navy from 1862 until the end of the war. The diary vividly records Gould's activity as part of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron off the coast of North Carolina and Virginia; his visits to New York and Boston; the pursuit to Nova Scotia of a hijacked Confederate cruiser; and service in European waters pursuing Confederate ships constructed in Great Britain and France. Gould's diary is one of only three known diaries of African American sailors in the Civil War. It is distinguished not only by its details and eloquent tone (often deliberately understated and sardonic), but also by its reflections on war, on race, on race relations in the Navy, and on what African Americans might expect after the war. The book includes introductory chapters that establish the context of the diary narrative, an annotated version of the diary, a brief account of Gould's life in Massachusetts after the war, and William B. Gould IV's thoughts about the legacy of his great-grandfather and his own journey of discovery in learning about this remarkable man.