



# Blanche Ames Ames

(1878-1969)

A graduate of Smith College, with a bachelor's degree in Art History, Blanche Ames had little formal training in drawing and painting, but an enormous natural talent for the visual arts. One of her more enthusiastic projects was developing a system of color reference charts based on varying hues and tones. Working with her brother Adelbert Jr., they established more than 3,000 identifiable colors, and also experimented with 'depth of field' illusions of space in paintings, commonly associated with photographs. Blanche was also an active pioneer in the feminist movement, working not only to get women the right to vote, but the right to career choices and family planning. Her political cartoons on the subject of women's issues were viewed nationwide.

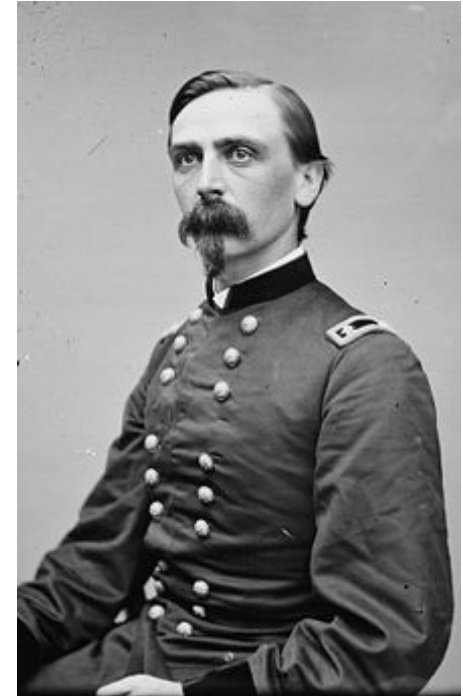


Her interests were varied, including turkey farming, the management of the water flowing through the Borderland property, portraiture, botanical illustrations, and raising her four children. As an elderly woman, she took upon herself the task of defending her father's reputation after she felt it had been sullied by John F. Kennedy in his 'Profiles of Courage', and wrote a well researched and documented life of Adelbert Ames which today is still one of the primary reference sources.

# Gen. Adelbert Ames

*Blanche Ames' Father*  
(1835-1932)

Graduating 5th in his West Point Class of 1861, Adelbert went from classroom to battlefield at the start of the American Civil War. As a lieutenant of artillery in the battle of First Manassas, he received a serious bullet wound in his thigh, but remained in command of this battery. Ames was brevetted the rank of major for his courage, and would eventually be awarded the Medal of Honor. He rose rapidly through the ranks, and was appointed colonel of the 20th Maine on August 20, 1862, leading the regiment at Antietam and Fredericksburg. By war's end a major general of volunteers and also in the regular army, Ames served as provisional Governor, US Senator, and then elected Governor of Mississippi until 1876 when southern politics forced him to resign. Adelbert briefly served again as a brig. General of the volunteers in the Spanish American War.



# Gen. Benj. Franklin Butler

*Blanche Ames' Grandfather*

(1818-1893)

Born in Deerfield, N.H., Benj. F. Butler became a successful trial lawyer and state legislator in Massachusetts, serving also as an officer in the state militia. At the start of the American Civil War, He was the first to respond to President Lincoln's call for troops to defend the capital. Butler secured the free movement of troops in and out of Washington DC, by quelling the Baltimore riots, and was the first major general of volunteers appointed by Lincoln, ranking from May 16, 1861.

In May 1862, Butler was appointed military Governor of Louisiana. Considered by many as an effective administrator, it was nevertheless in New Orleans that Butler's nickname of 'Spoons' and 'Beast' were applied, the latter referring to his infamous 'women's order'. In December, he was removed from New Orleans, and in 1863 given command of the Army of the James. Butler was no match for C.S.A. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard in the Richmond/ Petersburg campaign, however, and spent much of his time 'bottled up' on the Bermuda Hundred peninsula. Butler's last assignment was to capture Fort Fisher in North Carolina, and after a cautious approach and retreat from the fort, was relieved of command by Lt. Gen. Grant. Despite Butler's military failures, his political influence remained intact and impressive, to such an extent that Lincoln was advised to offer him the Vice Presidency for his second term bid, to prevent the opposition from running Butler against him.

In 1868 as a U.S. Congressman, Butler played a significant role in the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. In addition to his successful law practice, in 1882 Benj. F. Butler was elected Governor of Massachusetts, and in 1884 ran unsuccessfully for President of the U.S. as a Greenback party candidate.



# Capt. John Butler

*Blanche Ames' Great-Grandfather*

(1782-1819)

John Butler was raised in New Hampshire. A company commander of dragoons in the War 1812, John suffered a broken left leg that was so badly set as to leave him no longer fit for soldiering. He financed and led a privateering venture against the British until war's end, when he became a trader, sailing to the Caribbean Islands and South America. Eventually Capt. John sailed under *Letters of Marque* issued by Simón Bolívar, '*El Libertador*'. Butler and many of his crew were stricken with yellow fever while refitting on the Island of St. Kitts, where he died, and his ship was seized.

