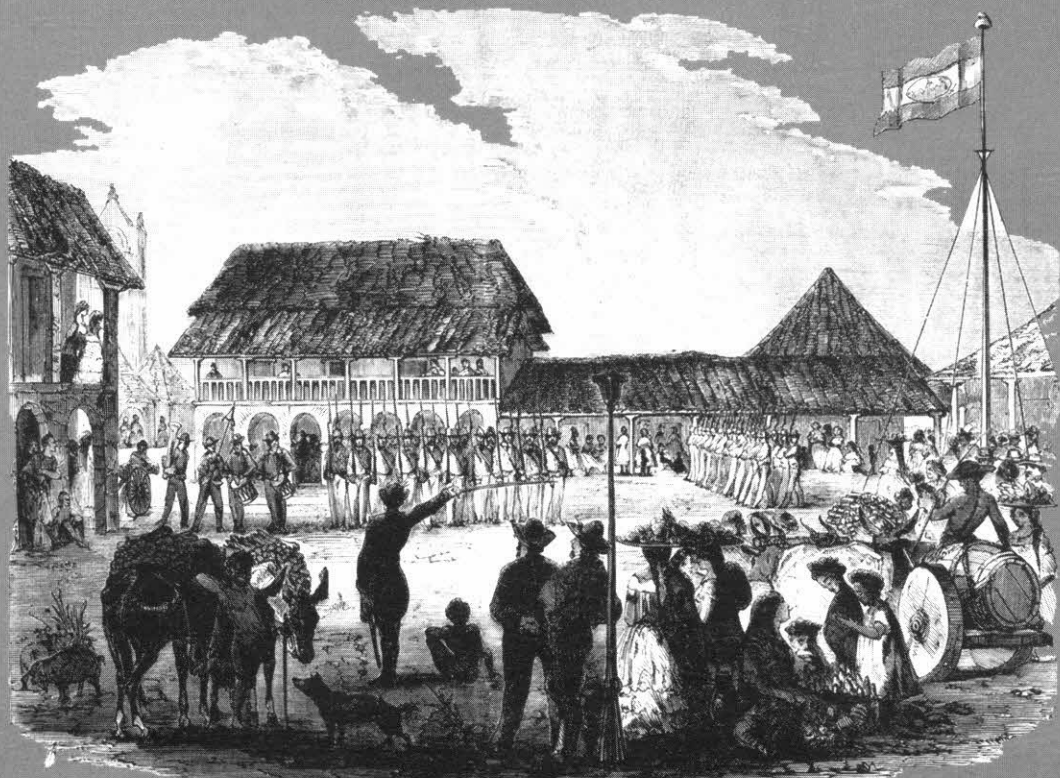


FAVORED OF THE GODS

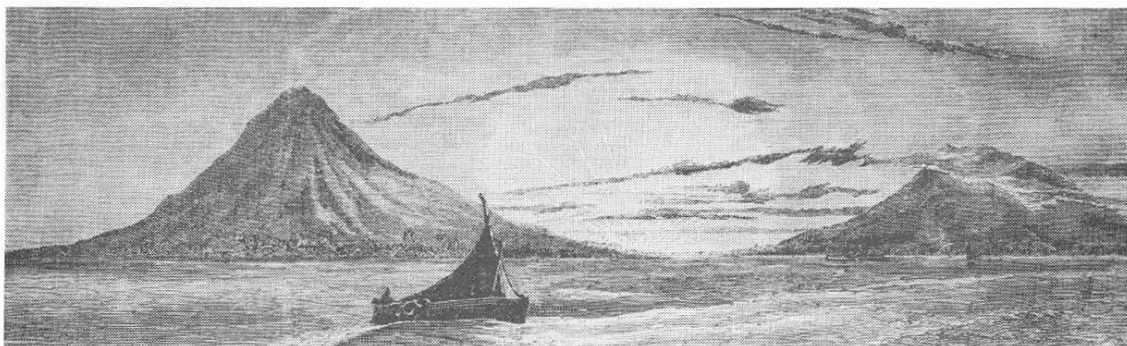


GENERAL WALKER REVIEWING TROOPS ON THE GRAND PLAZA, GRANADA, CAPITAL OF NICARAGUA.

Biography of William Walker
By ALEJANDRO BOLAÑOS GEYER

**avored
of the gods**





FAVORED OF THE GODS

ABRIDGED VERSION OF

WILLIAM WALKER

THE GRAY-EYED MAN OF DESTINY

by Alejandro Bolaños Geyer

PRIVATELY PRINTED

Masaya, Nicaragua
2002

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Illustrations

Thirty maps and nearly two hundred illustrations are available from the five-volume original edition.

Favored of the Gods

*I feel not ashamed to say
that I am favored of the gods—
William Walker.*

William Walker, the Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny, “king of the filibusters,” and true representative of manifest-destiny America was the hottest news personality between the Mexican War and the Civil War—for several years one of the most talked of figures in the United States.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1824, Walker was a quiet, modest student until 1849, when the death of his fiancée transformed him into a daring, dauntless, revolutionist and warrior. Up to now, that change has never been explained satisfactorily, for Walker was always a mystery to his friends and contemporaries. This biography, originally published in five volumes—2,028 pages— for the first time advances a logical explanation of Walker’s personality and deeds.

- Book One, *The Crescent City*, a psychobiography, follows Walker during his formative years in Nashville, Philadelphia, Paris, London, Venice, and New Orleans.
- Book Two, *The Californias*, carries the story on through Walker’s crusade against crime in San Francisco, where he instigated the infamous Vigilantes, and through his expedition against Mexico in connection with the Gadsden Purchase, when he “became” President of Lower California and Sonora.
- Book Three, *Nicaragua*, follows him in his expedition to Nicaragua, to build a Caribbean Basin empire for future annexation to the Southern States, up to the moment when he was ready to be sworn in as President of that Central American country.
- Book Four, *War of Liberation*, continues the story from the time he became President of Nicaragua—with the help of six thousand Americans who flocked to his banner—until he was expelled by the Allied forces of the five Central American Republics. His Napoleonic defeat at Rivas was called by renowned French historian Elisée Reclus, “the Marathon of America,” a decisive battle that marked an era in the history of the world.
- Book Five, *Truxillo*, follows Walker on his return to the United States, hailed as a hero, and his subsequent expeditions to Nicaragua until his death by firing squad at Truxillo, Honduras in September, 1860: less than two months before Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States.

The five volumes, based on a probing analysis of Walker's writings and an exhaustive research of primary sources, reveal vital facts of history, symptomatic of the American spirit of that decade, as well as the historical forces that still affect the relationship between the United States and Nicaragua today.

This one-volume edition contains in 220 pages the primary events and deeds narrated in the five volumes. Scholars will find in the original version additional details valuable for a precise study of the period, as well as the primordial forces still informing the human mind.⁴¹

I wish to express my gratitude to those who have contributed with their advice and personal attention, in particular: to professor Steven Blakemore, whose attentive, critical reading of my manuscript improved it immensely; to Jean Wells for her outstanding analysis of Walker's handwriting; to Miss Margaret Lindsley Warden, who generously gave me a copy of her Walker portrait and Walker's letters to John Berrien Lindsley; to Dr. Orlando Icaza for his excellent drawings; to my son-in-law Julio Velázquez for the maps; to my late brother-in-law Thomas Bacott for the photomechanics of the illustrations; to the late Nicaraguan historian Andrés Vega Bolaños, whose sterling example and wise counsel have guided my steps from the beginning; to my friend and preceptor el poeta bibliócrata Mario Cajina-Vega; to Frederic Rosengarten; to John C. Moran; to Tony Falcon; to my brother Enrique; and to my wife, Patricia and our children—Alex, Michael, Amanda, Patrick (constant as his Pentax), Robert, Ricardo and Carla—to whom I owe large debts of love and understanding for their warm support and personal sacrifices.

A. B. G.

Masaya, Nicaragua, May 8, 2002.

1. Alejandro Bolaños-Geyer, *William Walker: The Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny*, 5 vols. (Lake Saint Louis/St. Charles, Missouri: A. Bolaños G., 1988-1991).