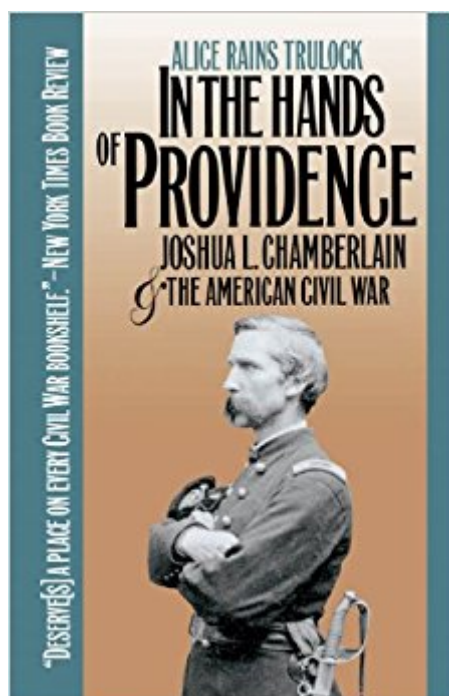


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# In The Hands Of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain And The American Civil War



## Synopsis

Deserve[s] a place on every Civil War bookshelf.--New York Times Book Review "[Trulock] brings her subject alive and escorts him through a brilliant career. One can easily say that the definitive work on Joshua Chamberlain has now been done.--James Robertson, Richmond Times-Dispatch"An example of history as it should be written. The author combines exhaustive research with an engaging prose style to produce a compelling narrative which will interest scholars and Civil War buffs alike.--Journal of Military History"A solid biography. . . . It does full justice to an astonishing life.--Library Journal This remarkable biography traces the life and times of Joshua L. Chamberlain, the professor-turned-soldier who led the Twentieth Maine Regiment to glory at Gettysburg, earned a battlefield promotion to brigadier general from Ulysses S. Grant at Petersburg, and was wounded six times during the course of the Civil War. Chosen to accept the formal Confederate surrender at Appomattox, Chamberlain endeared himself to succeeding generations with his unforgettable salutation of Robert E. Lee's vanquished army. After the war, he went on to serve four terms as governor of his home state of Maine and later became president of Bowdoin College. He wrote prolifically about the war, including *The Passing of the Armies*, a classic account of the final campaign of the Army of the Potomac.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 569 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press (June 22, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807820202

ISBN-13: 978-0807820209

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6.5 x 1.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #714,045 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields > Appomattox](#) #167 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields > Gettysburg](#) #929 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States > Civil War](#)

## Customer Reviews

In 1861 Joshua Chamberlain was an obscure college professor. In 1863 he led the 20th Maine regiment ?/I've lc since I'm not sure regiment is the official title, referred to only as 20th Maine.gs in

the defense of Little Round Top at Gettysburg. In 1865 he commanded a division in the Army of the Potomac with such skill that he was chosen to conduct the surrender ceremonies for since it was surrenner OF southern army the Army of Northern Virginia. Freelance writer Trulock presents a definitive biography of this distinguished citizen and Union officer. Chamberlain emerges from Trulock's pages as an unusually brave man who could think quickly and rationally under extreme stress. He was not a "born soldier," but he eventually became a master of war. Neither his presidency of Bowdoin College nor his four terms as governor of Maine seem to have defined him as did a few minutes at Gettysburg and a few hours in Virginia. In this, Chamberlain was an archetype of the generation that dismembered, then reknit, a country. He died at age 86 in 1914. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Chamberlain's extensive, informative, and often moving letters provided a unifying thread for Ken Burns in his PBS documentary on the Civil War (Video Reviews, LJ 8/91) and for Geoffrey C. Ward in the companion book, *The Civil War* (LJ 9/15/90). Typical of many soldiers in his mixture of patriotic resolve and stoic resignation, Chamberlain proved extraordinary in his observational skills and persistence at recording not just historical events but also his emotional reaction to them. The author fashions this rich material and supporting research into a solid biography that does not concern itself much with the broader context of the events in which Chamberlain was caught up. Although the book can stand on its own, it will be enjoyed more by those with some understanding of Civil War chronology. It does full justice to an astonishing life. Highly recommended.- Charles K. Piehl, Mankato State Univ., Minn. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I have been interested in Gen. Chamberlin for many years now. I have the book he wrote "The Passing of Armies". I paid attention to the coverage of his defense of Little Round Top in the TV Gettysburg. But most importantly when I was station at Ft. Monmouth, NJ I went to Gettysburg and to Little Round Top. Having been a student of our military history and the Civil War after seeing Little Round Top and knowing what went on there I feel strongly that his defense saved the Union Army. The author does a great job in telling about one of the best General Officers this country has ever had. Some folks have said that the author paid to much attention to the battle of Five Forks, I do not agree. It was here that as a General Officer Gen. Chamberlin showed the commander he was. He understood his mission and was not going to let anything stop him from accomplishing it. The result was that for practical purposed Lee's army was split to the point he could not assemble it all in one place. I have read other books on Gen. Chamberlin but none of them compare with this one. The

fact the author continued the story after the end of the war was a great idea. To many times when we read books like this they stop when the action is over, not here. This is the first time I learned what happened to him after the war. I strongly recommend this book to anyone wanting to know about the Civil War. May Gen. Chamberlin rest in a well earned peace.

One of the most enjoyable reads I have had I quite some time. Most people would likely enjoy at least a portion of the book. The story of a great man from the simple parts of life to many of the details of his military service. There are stories of childhood and romance of the 1800s and his early life to details of Civil War military conflicts. The later chapters then read much like a biography of many who have acc ok polished so much their lives are worth writing about. My favorite parts were the great writings and speeches of Chamberlain himself.

This book was extensively researched and is not too scholarly. It really reads like a novel. Alice Rains Turlock did a masterful job of painting a picture of one of our country's greatest heros. I believe that this book would be a great read for any Civil War buff or anyone who would like to get to know the real Joshua L. Chamberlain. The bibliography is well worth the price of the book. General Chamberalin was a man of great faith, deep character and incredible courage. After a General observed Chamberlain in battle, he said; "You have the soul of a lion and the heart of a woman." As it says in Psalm 31.15; "Our times are in His Hands." This was certainly the case for General Chamberlain, he was, as we are "In the Hands of Providence". In closing, all I can say is this book is comprehensive and inspiring. What an honor and privledge to review this wonderful book about a person I greatly admire and respect. Alice Turlock's description of Joshua Chamberlain raises the bar for all of us.

I have read all of Chamberlain's papers and books. This telling of the Chamberlain story is one I give leaders in my schools so that they understand the qualities of an authentic and morally solid leader. You can feel the author, who died after the publication of this book, falling in love with Chamberlain over time. Moving and scholarly work.

Probably just what I brought to the reading of this book, but while the military maneuvers and battle descriptions were first rate, it seemed the author had less interest in the bookends to Chamberlain's life. I finished the book with great respect for the man, who I had previously only associated with one battle.

I adored the intimate view that was given. While the military campaigns got to be very lengthy, I couldn't get enough of the personal view that I was allowed. This helps to show that there were dignified leaders in both sides of the civil war. Perhaps that is what allows us to be one country even today.

A little long but good content.

Joshua Chamberlain was one of the great heroes of the Civil War. A college professor turned soldier who won the Medal of honor for his leadership. at Gettysburg. Trulock's book captures his courage and character.

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