



Bayonet! Forward: My Civil War Reminiscences

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain

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Bayonet! Forward: My Civil War Reminiscences Details

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Henry Chavez says

I very much enjoyed this compilation of the general's storied service and comments of those most terrible times. It is really well written and in the character of that time. The pieces are ordered in such a way as to provide a progression of the conflict and the aftermath that followed the general. Five stars.

Steven Peterson says

This book, written by Civil War hero Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, is an interesting first person look at his experiences in the war. While some of his passages are self-serving and do not necessarily reflect what actually happened (e.g., his and the 20th Maine's actions at Little Round Top during the battle at Gettysburg), this is a good rendering of one person's account of his experiences.

The book provides a tour of Chamberlain's part in the War, beginning with his engagement at Fredericksburg, through the violence at Gettysburg, to the battle at Petersburg (where he was badly wounded), to White Oak Road and Five Forks (and his dramatic encounters with the fiery Phil Sheridan), to Appomattox. The book concludes with the story of the Army of the Potomac's grand review in Washington D. C. after hostilities had ended.

It is written in the style of the times, which seems somewhat overblown and overstylized today. Nonetheless, it provides one soldier's perspective on the War.

In addition, there are a series of Appendices that flesh out Chamberlain's story (such as his comments at the dedication of the 20th Maine's monument at Gettysburg in 1889, Chamberlain's report on his and the 20th Maine's role at Gettysburg, his rendering of the last salute of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox. The volume ends with a memoriam to Chamberlain upon his death.

All in all, a useful book to gain a sense of the perspective of an important soldier in the Union Army, although flawed to some extent by some self-serving discussion.

Joyce Oliver stahle says

It is great to read the words of someone who was actually there. Chamberlain shares some great insight into the Civil War and when he returned years later to the battlefield.

Michelle says

Chamberlain's firsthand account of several battles in the American Civil War is a little flowery to for my

modern ears, but is otherwise a very interesting read.

rinabeana says

Well, I spent 9 months reading this book, though it tended to be in short spurts with long respites in between. I will admit that parts seemed a bit dry (blow-by-blow descriptions of battles), but I really liked Chamberlain's post-war addresses. He was certainly a man of eloquence! His accounts of Gettysburg and Appomattox alone are worth reading.

Scott says

An interesting book about the recollections of a Union General Who fought at Gettysburg, Petersburg and Appomattox Courthouse. Sometimes it was a little hard to follow when he described the battles. However, his speeches after the Civil War still ring true today and should be read by politicans today.

David says

This was an amazing, engrossing read. I was a fan of Chamberlain from the depiction of him in The Killer Angels and the movie Gettysburg, but to read his account first hand makes me more so. Being a college professor, you knew he could write well, but his writing is never dull or overly intellectual and never inflates his own ego. His descriptions of events come off as honest and humble and completely honorable.

One of the best first-hand accounts of the Civil War I've ever read. This book can also be read by all young adults without too much difficulty who have an interest in Gettysburg or the Civil War. I've read this a few years ago just before reading Alice Trulock Rains' excellent biography "In the Hands of Providence", and this book still sticks in my mind.

Scott Dunham says

An amazing look at the Civil War right from the guy who was there in the thick of it. Why isn't Joshua Chamberlain more well known? This man is an inspiration.

Jessica Jewett says

Fabulous. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain never wrote a bad book.

Mike says

I am not that slow of a reader, just haven't been updating. I am a fan of Chamberlain, and am biased. However if you want to read of both Civil War and post Civil War writings of a great 19th century hero this is your book.

Vanessa says

too detailed on battles. Enjoyed more his written stories after the Civil war and the people he wrote about. A man who God used to do his work. A man with courage, conviction, and ability which God used at the right time to make a big difference.
