

[PDF] In The Hands Of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain And The American Civil War

Alice Rains Trulock - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: In the Hands of Providence: J

Author: Alice Rains Trulock

Released: 1992-06-22

Language:

Pages: 592

ISBN: 0807820202

ISBN13: 978-0807820209

ASIN: 0807820202

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly In 1861 Joshua Chamberlain was an obscure college professor. In 1863 he led the 20th Maine regiment 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.

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From Library Journal 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.*

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