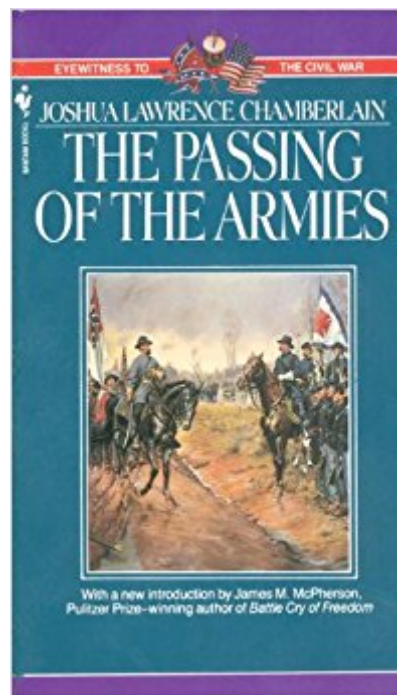




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The Passing Of Armies: An Account Of The Final Campaign Of The Army Of The Potomac



Synopsis

A member of the Fifth Corps recounts the dramatic final acts of the Civil War, describing Sheridan's rise, Warren's fall, and the slow, inexorable stalking of Lee's forces across the battle-scarred countryside.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is one of the finest accounts of a campaign penned by a Federal soldier....A stellar work of Civil War history -- a classic." -- The Civil War in Books. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain (1828-1914) was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions at the battle of Gettysburg, where he commanded the 20th Maine. A professor at Bowdoin College, Chamberlain volunteered for service in the Union army in 1862 but declined the colonelcy of a regiment, "preferring to start a little lower and learn the business first." Chamberlain also took part in many other important battles, including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Petersburg, during which he received his fourth serious wound of the war. He later took part in the Appomattox Campaign, and commanded the troops that formally accepted the surrender of the Confederate army. Following his military service, he served as governor of Maine and president of Bowdoin College.

Many know Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain as the hero of Gettysburg from the Shaara novels and

the Turner movies. He fixed bayonets and not only held the flank on Little Round Top but initiated a rebel surrender without any ammunition. Here we learn the rest of the story in the man's own words. Despite being shot several times in the war and having mounts shot out from under him, Chamberlain lived a fruitful life until 1915, dancing on the graves of his friends and foes. After Gettysburg, Chamberlain went on to lead the battles throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Grant selected him to play a key role in managing the logistics and pagantry surrounding Lee's capitulation. After the war, Chamberlain returned to tiny Bowdoin College in Maine, where he had been a professor of obscure languages and literature. Eventually he became president of the college, then his fortunes turned black, as he entered politics. He did serve several terms as governor with distinction. Chamberlain writes with the flair of his times. Speech and writing were gentlemanly, flowing with description, and in no hurry to get to the point, as all had plenty of time for enjoyable distractions. I wish more would write in this style. An interesting episode concerns the news of the untimely death of Lincoln reaching the army. Chamberlain and the other officers got the reports and assumed the next step would be a march to Washington to install Grant as President under martial law. Fortunately this constitutional crisis was avoided and Grant had to wait a few years. At the time of Lincoln's assassination, all the confederate forces had surrendered and the war was essentially over. In fact, Lincoln and his son had already taken a tour of Richmond. However upon news of the assassination, all forces returned to a level of higher awareness and the easy collegiality with the neighboring rebels was put on hold. For reasons that are lost to history, or at least to me, one of Chamberlain's superiors was still fighting a battlefield demotion many years after the war. Chamberlain tries to show in this book that the man was in the right, as his orders were complicated and contradictory. I don't see the point in this but apparently it made an old man happy to set the record straight. Chamberlain also takes Grant to task on a few factual errors in his memoirs, and gives him a low grade in an evaluation of his technical skills in planning battles. I don't think that matters much either at this point. Grant was the only Union general who would fight, pursue, march all night, and fight again. All in all, a delightful read from the last soldier. His style is fabulous, and it is great to see a civilian advance in the army by his leadership and strategic skills.

Before Ironman America's super hero was a teacher from Maine named Joshua Chamberlain. His account of one of the last battles of the Civil war where he is wounded (again) is non-stop action. His heroism is of such a high caliber that he receives a standing ovation when he leaves the field...from both armies

I had enjoyed this man's biography so much, that I bought this book. He was the Union officer who received the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox. The last chapter was the best for me. It was a hard read, but interesting for understanding some of the battle strategies. I plan to donate the book to our local historical society. I recommend doing a web search of him before you read, to better understand his roll in the civil war.

It's one thing to watch the movie Gettysburg, or Ken Burns documentary. But to read one man's account, as it happened, and hear his words from the time is amazing. This book is a must-read for anyone who enjoys reading about the civil war. It basically starts after The Wilderness and ends at Appomattox. And General Chamberlain uses vivid wording throughout this book. It is amazing.

Good Read. To read about history in their own words is priceless and this gentleman was one of the best and a true American.

I enjoyed having something to read, other than the reports that came in on a daily basis of what was happening in Afghanistan, where I was serving at the time of the book's arrival. Thank you for your prompt service. I love it! Thank you again.

First person rendition of a very intelligent, forgiving patriot human american after a massive killing of many of our citizens by a christian renegade uprising to defend and protect slavery.

a great companion to bayonet forward

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