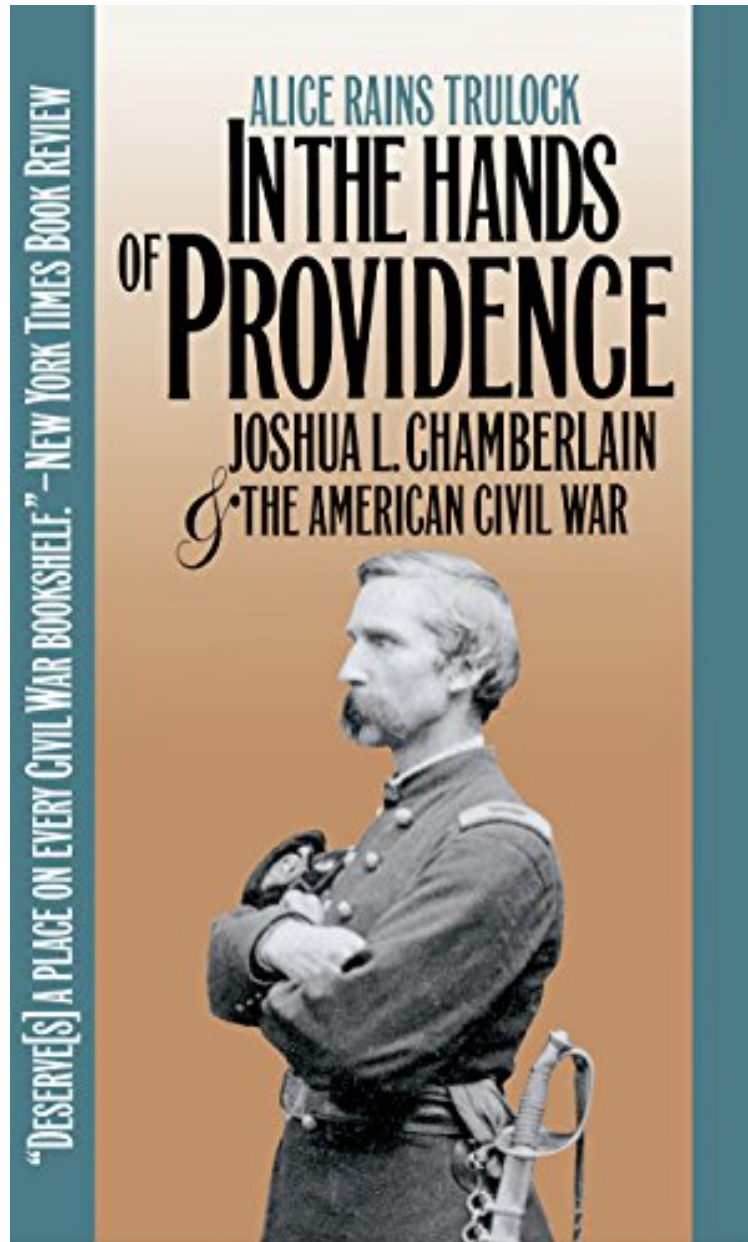


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## In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain and the American Civil War

Alice Rains Trulock

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Alice Rains Trulock : In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain and the American Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Hands of Providence:

## Joshua L. Chamberlain and the American Civil War:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Very well done  
By Uncle Don  
I have been interested in Gen. Chamberlain 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 stationed 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 too much attention to the battle of Five Forks, I do not agree. It was here that as a General Officer Gen. Chamberlain 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 purposes Lee's army was split to the point he could not assemble it all in one place. I have read other books on Gen. Chamberlain 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. Too 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. Chamberlain rest in a well earned peace.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Combined bio and military history  
By Gregory W.  
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 accomplished so much their lives are worth writing about. My favorite parts were the great writings and speeches of Chamberlain himself.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best for a civil war enthusiast  
By Foggyview  
Excellent writing, great research, terrific topic, and it bored me to the point where I could not finish it. I think it was information overload and I could not keep track of all the names, locations, and generals. It may be that a civil war enthusiast would appreciate this book more than someone like me who has a more casual interest.

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.

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 the 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.  
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 s, 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. Deserve's a place on every Civil War bookshelf. ("New York Times Book ")Trulock has done exhaustive research; her prose is relaxed and revealing. (James Robertson, "Richmond Times-Dispatch")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")Trulock's strengths are derived from her meticulous attention to detail and her vivid description. Her account of the surrender of the Confederate Army is among the most moving this reviewer has read. ("Journal of Southern History")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. ("Publishers Weekly")Deserve[s] a place on every Civil War bookshelf. ("New York Times Book ")