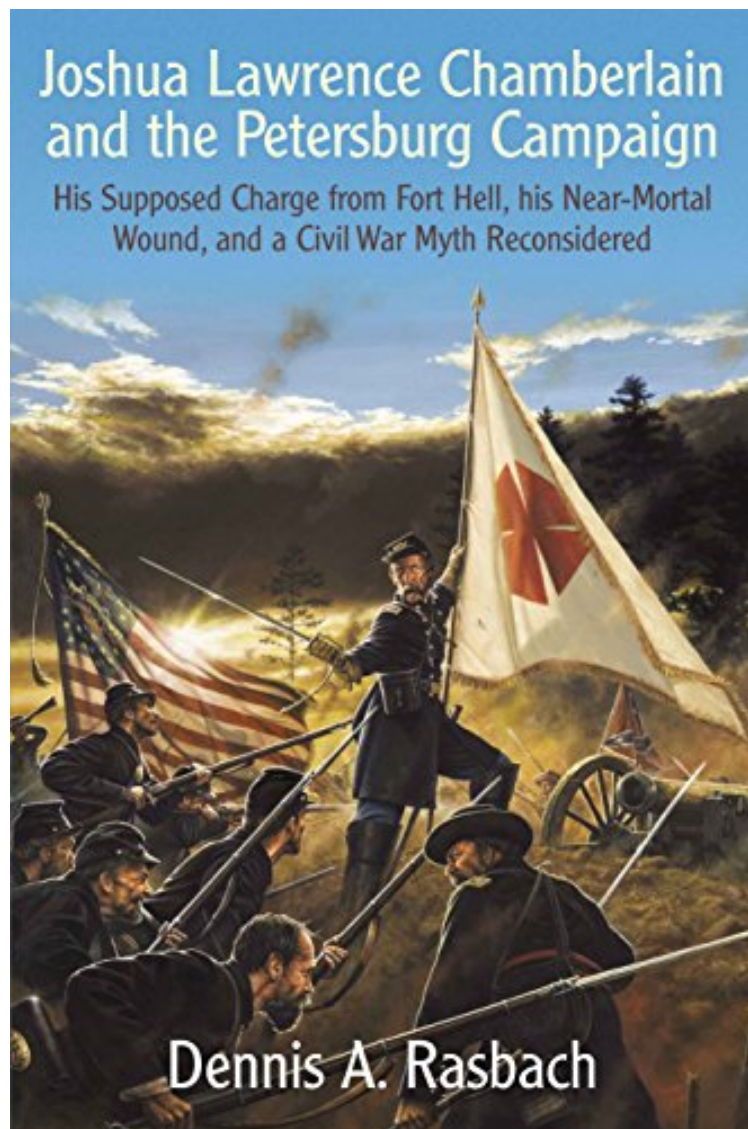


(Read now) Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the Petersburg Campaign: His Supposed Charge from Fort Hell, his Near-Mortal Wound, and a Civil War Myth Reconsidered

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the Petersburg Campaign: His Supposed Charge from Fort Hell, his Near-Mortal Wound, and a Civil War Myth Reconsidered

Dennis A. Rasbach

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Dennis A. Rasbach : Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the Petersburg Campaign: His Supposed Charge from Fort Hell, his Near-Mortal Wound, and a Civil War Myth Reconsidered before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the Petersburg

Campaign: His Supposed Charge from Fort Hell, his Near-Mortal Wound, and a Civil War Myth Reconsidered:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Controversy on direction of chamberlains attack resolvedBy UmbertoInitially confusing . the author recounts his research to show chamberlain attacked Petersburg along the Baxter road from east to west, not up the Jerusalem plank road from south to north as Chamberlain himself write in his memoirs. the book has quite a bit of repetition. He quotes original sources extensively which is interesting. I found it hard during the first few chapters to figure our which path the author was supporting and which he was refuting. I eventually figured it out. the author makes it sound like this was a big controversy and he was the first to resolve it. I'm not sure that's true, but it seems well established now that chamberlain attacked along the baxter road from east to west despite what he wrote in his memoits 50 years later as an old man. I am very interested in the 5th corps and General GK Warren, so this book fits the bill in this regard since chamberlain was in warren's fifth corps. Warren was initially defeated at Petersburg, as was Burnside. if they had succeeded it would have ended the war a year earlier that it was. This led to the year long siege of Petersburg which eventually ended the civil war the following year 1865, but led to the dismissal of General warren for cowardice and incompetence by Grant and Sheridan. Charges that were false and unjustified.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent micro-history that clarifies where Joshua Chamberlain charged the Confederate ...By Roy AgnewExcellent micro-history that clarifies where Joshua Chamberlain charged the Confederate defenses and where he received his near mortal wound. Extremely good historical detective work. This also provides some tactical detail of this assault, the units involved, their location etc. during the initial battle of Petersburg on June 15-18, 1864. For those who want to learn more about the 10 month Petersburg campaign, this is a nice addition to a library. There are not a lot of books on parts of the Petersburg campaign that cover a part of one of Grant's 9 offensives that go into this detail.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good readBy JonChoppy discussion but excellent discussion of this location. A bit hard on Chamberlain who visited years later when the battlefield had been revised. Should not surprise anyone the location was a bit off.

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain had no idea that the failed attack he led at Petersburg on June 18, 1864, that nearly took his life would spark controversy more than a century later. According to his own accounts, penned decades after the event, he led his brigade against the permanent fortifications of the Dimmock Line at Rives' Salient, in an attack that originated from the future site of Union "Fort Hell." His line of battle advanced along the Jerusalem Plank Road through a murderous flank fire from what was soon to become Confederate-held Fort Mahone. According to author Dennis Rasbach's new study, none of this is true. Chamberlain's grievous and presumed fatal wounding, together with his stellar previous service at Little Round Top and elsewhere, resulted in a rare "on the spot" battlefield promotion to brigadier general. He survived, returned to brigade command in 1865, and participated in the surrender of Lee's veterans at Appomattox. His account of the events of June 18, coupled with its perpetuation by historians and other writers, fused his wounding and Rives' Salient in the modern consciousness. This interpretation was given an additional mantle of authority with the erection of a Medal of Honor Recipient's placard near South Crater Road by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on November 8, 2014. Rasbach builds his meticulous case like a detective, adding one piece of primary evidence upon another while matching them to terrain features. Chamberlain was a brave and honest man, argues Rasbach, but he was gravely wounded amidst smoke and confusion, carried off the field, and never had the opportunity to re-study the ground over which he led his men. An overwhelming body of evidence, much of it derived from Chamberlain himself, demonstrates he actually attacked a different part of the Confederate line nearly a mile away. Richly illustrated with photos and more than thirty maps, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the Petersburg Campaign dispels a well-established Civil War myth and sets the historical record straight. It is essential reading for all who would understand the important fighting of June 18, 1864, and Chamberlain's role in it.

From the Back Cover"Rasbach's deeply researched polemic persuasively revises the conventional wisdom regarding the circumstances surrounding Joshua Chamberlain's wounding on June 18, 1864."-- A. Wilson Greene, Pamplin Historical Park, author of The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign