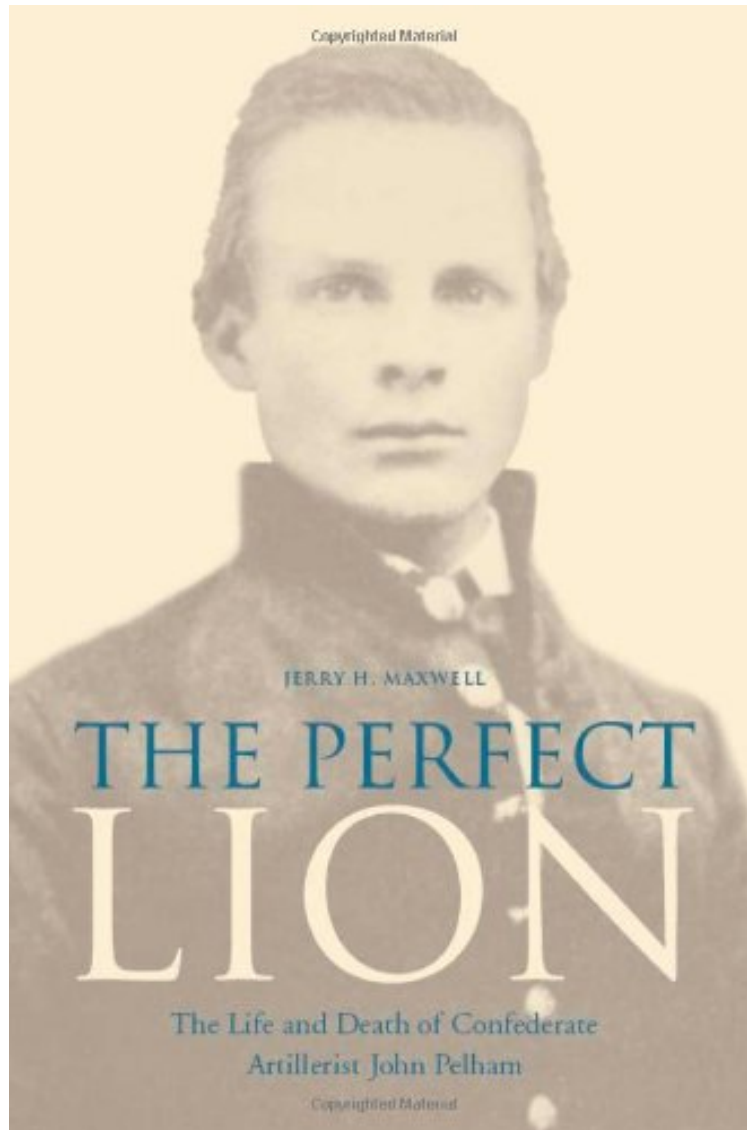


(Download ebook) The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham

The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham

Jerry H. Maxwell

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Jerry H. Maxwell : The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham:

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. History, as it should be told.By kathryn gail ackleyWhen I was seven, I had an older cousin who could juggle, do Yoyo tricks, and tell wonderful scary stories. During long summer

days, he orchestrated many adventures that at first did not sound too inviting to some of us. But we were caught in his enthusiasm and went along for many an exciting ride. In like manner, Mr. Maxwell leads his readers through the major battles of the first years of the Civil War. Unless you are a real history buff, you wouldn't expect this telling to constitute a compelling narrative. Part of what makes his strategy work is that Maxwell knows this subject in his bones. Additionally, he has selected a truly compelling young soldier as his focus. Although John Pelham is a confederate, Maxwell tells his story as a universal American of his age. This is the bicentennial of the beginning of the Civil War. I am sure there will be a plethora of new books on the topic. Many will focus on national issues that precipitated the war. Some will focus on the terrible carnage of that conflict. I am sure many will review major battles and the strategies that informed military actions. Lincoln, Lee, Grant and other major players will grace the covers of hefty tomes. This book is not like any of these. Mr. Maxwell engages the reader in the life of John Pelham as the civil war unfolds. He tells the story of a young Alabaman who proved to be an exceptional soldier and an honorable man. Mr. Maxwell takes you, in great detail into the battles fought between the summer of 1861 and the spring of 1863. While Maxwell does not stint on detail, or ignore the human costs of war, he creates a dramatic narrative that catches both your intellect and your heart. We know that John Pelham will die, and while I read with an eager eye, the detail of each chapter lends itself to a slower read that allows you to savor this life, described so vividly. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent biography written by a man with an appreciation for ...By FlyAWay This is an incredible book! I could not put it down! Pelham was an incredible talent and charismatic leader that other men, even his superiors, were drawn to. This is an excellent biography written by a man with an appreciation for the abilities of young Pelham. Highly recommend!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Nathan L. Hill Outstanding book and well written

The South has made much of J. E. B. Stuart and Stonewall Jackson, but no individual has had a greater elevation to divine status than John Pelham, remembered as the "Gallant Pelham." An Alabama native, Pelham left West Point for service in the Confederacy and distinguished himself as an artillery commander in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Lee is reported to have said of him, "It is glorious to see such courage in one so young!" Blond, blue-eyed, and handsome, Pelham's modest demeanor charmed his contemporaries, and he was famously attractive to women. He was killed in action at the battle of Kelly's Ford in March of 1863, at twenty-four years of age, and reportedly three young women of his acquaintance donned mourning at the loss of the South's "beau ideal."

"At the battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862: 'In an open field, a young captain of twenty-three, with gunners who had been drilling only three weeks, had commanded a battery with a gallant daring that made men ask his name. It was John Pelham.' At Gaines' Mill, June 27, 1862: "'Ensued one of the most gallant and heroic feats of the war' [wrote Stuart.] Captain Pelham, with his single Napoleon, directing fire against two Federal batteries 'with a coolness and intrepidity only equaled by his previous brilliant career.' Pelham it was who cleared the way for Stuart's advance to the White House, Pelham who chased the Marblehead down the Pamunkey, Pelham who challenged the Federals across the Chickahominy, and Pelham who, at Stuart's order, opened from Evelington Heights. 'I feel bound to ask for his promotion,' said Stuart, 'with the remark that in either cavalry or artillery no field grade is too high for his merit and capacity.'" —Douglas Southall Freeman, *Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command*