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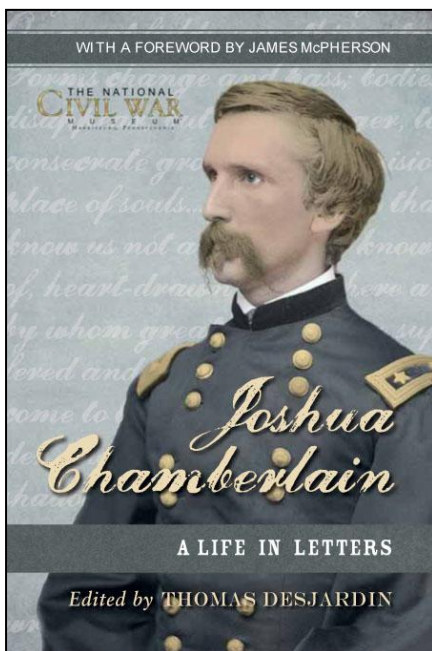
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## Joshua L. Chamberlain

### A Life in Letters

Edited by Thomas Desjardin with a Foreword by James McPherson



*Advance praise for Joshua L. Chamberlain: A Life in Letters:*

“[T]his wonderful collection of his previously unknown and unpublished personal letters will be essential reading for his fans. They reveal more of the inner man than anything to come to print to date, and his letters immediately after the battles at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg will be pored over by scholars. A first-rate contribution to the literature of the war.” —William C. Davis, Professor of History, Virginia Tech University, and author of *Battle of Bull Run* and *Lone Star Rising*

“While soldiers on both sides succumbed to the brutal indifference of military life, ideas shielded Chamberlain’s soul, preventing him from becoming a cold and callous veteran. The exceptional correspondence contained in *Joshua L. Chamberlain—A Life in Letters* brings us down from the hero-worshipping altar of Little Round Top to the ground level of war where the Civil War’s most famous Union

colonel managed to find higher meaning in the daily struggles of trying to survive a bloody Civil War.”  
—Peter S. Carmichael, Robert C. Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies and Director, Civil War Institute

“The Chamberlain uncovered in these pages is no stereotype, but a complex man, whose virtues and failings vastly enrich our portrait of him. With sensitivity and wit, Desjardin offers us a new Chamberlain—perhaps less heroic than the one we know, but ultimately far more human. In the process, he adds much to our understanding not just of the Civil War, but of American life in the Victorian era.”  
—Patrick Rael, Professor of History, Bowdoin College

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain has been a central character in two feature films (*Gettysburg* and *Gods & Generals*), a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (*The Killer Angels*), and an inspiration for Ken Burns's production of the highly acclaimed PBS series *The Civil War*. He first won national fame at the Battle of Gettysburg for his key role in fending off the Confederates at Little Round Top on day two of the battle.

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Now his image can be found on everything from historical art to sculpture, from t-shirts to clocks, from bobble-head dolls to snow globes. Yet despite all this attention, there is still a lot about Chamberlain that most people do not know. His life is a remarkable story of perseverance, tragedy, and triumph.

This new volume brings to public light nearly 300 **never-before-published** letters from Chamberlain's personal correspondence, which were formerly in private hands. It comprises letters sent by or to Chamberlain from his college years in 1852 to his death in 1914. The first 100 letters shed light on Chamberlain's formative years and his courtship with Fannie Adams, which has been the source of much speculation by scholars. The final 200 letters reveal insights into Chamberlain the Union commander and the aftermath of the war. From an insecure young man with a considerable stuttering problem who grew up in a small town in eastern Maine, Joshua Chamberlain rose to become a major general, recipient of the Medal of Honor, Governor of Maine, and President of Bowdoin College, and *Joshua Chamberlain: The Life in Letters* will present a full portrait of this legendary, even mythical, American figure.

Historian and acclaimed author, Thomas Desjardin, puts Chamberlain's words in contemporary and historical context and uses this extraordinary collection of letters to reveal--for the first time--the full and remarkable life of Joshua Chamberlain. Published in conjunction with the National Civil War Museum in Pennsylvania and featuring a foreword by James McPherson, it's a unique portrait of a singular man and a book that readers are sure to find entertaining, moving, and inspiring.

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### About the author

**Tom Desjardin** is Chief Historian for the State of Maine. He holds a Ph.D. in U.S. History and has written several books on the Civil War with an emphasis on Gettysburg. During the 1990s he served as the archivist and historian at Gettysburg National Military Park. He later taught Civil War history at Bowdoin College in Maine where Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Gettysburg hero Joshua Chamberlain was a student, professor and president. His biography of Chamberlain is due out in 2013. Experienced in both television and film, Desjardin served as the historical advisor to Jeff Daniels for his role as Chamberlain in the films *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*. He and his work have been featured on the History Channel, A&E, Discovery, PBS and C-SPAN.

### About the publisher

**Osprey Publishing** is the world's largest publisher of illustrated military history reference. Based in Oxford, England and New York, it has over 1,100 titles in print in 15 series, including "Aces of the Aircraft," "Warrior," "Campaign," and its flagship uniformology series, "Men-at-Arms," which this year will publish its 465th volume. Visit us online at [www.ospreypublishing.com](http://www.ospreypublishing.com).

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