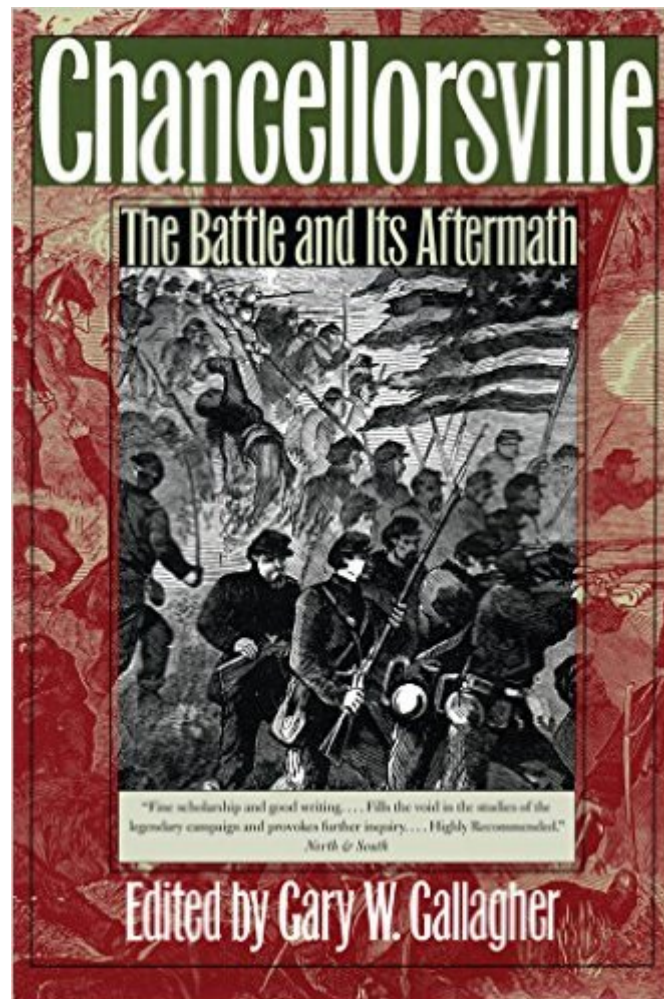


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Chancellorsville: The Battle And Its Aftermath (Military Campaigns Of The Civil War)



Synopsis

A variety of important but lesser-known dimensions of the Chancellorsville campaign of spring 1863 are explored in this collection of eight original essays. Departing from the traditional focus on generalship and tactics, the contributors address the campaign's broad context and implications and revisit specific battlefield episodes that have in the past been poorly understood. Chancellorsville was a remarkable victory for Robert E. Lee's troops, a fact that had enormous psychological importance for both sides, which had met recently at Fredericksburg and would meet again at Gettysburg in just two months. But the achievement, while stunning, came at an enormous cost: more than 13,000 Confederates became casualties, including Stonewall Jackson, who was wounded by friendly fire and died several days later. The topics covered in this volume include the influence of politics on the Union army, the importance of courage among officers, the impact of the war on children, and the state of battlefield medical care. Other essays illuminate the important but overlooked role of Confederate commander Jubal Early, reassess the professionalism of the Union cavalry, investigate the incident of friendly fire that took Stonewall Jackson's life, and analyze the military and political background of Confederate colonel Emory Best's court-martial on charges of abandoning his men. Contributors Keith S. Bohannon, Pennsylvania State University and Greenville, South Carolina Gary W. Gallagher, University of VirginiaA. Wilson Greene, Petersburg, VirginiaJohn J. Hennessy, Fredericksburg, VirginiaRobert K. Krick, Fredericksburg, VirginiaJames Marten, Marquette UniversityCarol Reardon, Pennsylvania State University James I. Robertson Jr., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

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Customer Reviews

Although I haven't read all of this book, the contribution of Robert Krick, entitled "The Smoothbore Volley that Doomed the Confederacy" is such that it alone, at least to me, makes this an invaluable book for students of both Jackson and Chancellorsville. For anyone who has been fascinated with the precise reconstruction of a historical event taking place at a defined place, Krick's writing will prove fascinating. No biography of Jackson that I have encountered, even Robertson's, provides as much detail on the circumstances surrounding this tragic occurrence. As he points out and is generally known, the monument at Chancellorsville which purports to mark the spot where Jackson was shot on that May, 1863 moonless night is incorrectly placed. Read and take this book with you when visiting the area as the map included will prove of great help.

This book of essays provided information on aspects of the battle with which I was not familiar. Greene's account of Stoneman's cavalry raid as a major part of Hooker's plan of attack gave me a different perspective of this much maligned military operation. Krick's essay provided lesser known (to me) info on Jackson's wounding and the site of said wounding which clarified the how's and why's of this tragic accident. How many average CW readers know of Emory Best and the actions of the 23rd GA on Jackson's flank march? These are just several examples of essays that provided more information to my ever expanding knowledge of the period of American history. This book provided background data for me which made a recent tour of Chancellorsville with Prof. Gallagher even more informative and memorable.

One of the best essays on Jackson is within so it is worth the price but... it is so short! Many aspects of the battle are missing but the areas covered are covered well. For a battle covering two fronts and almost 4 days this is a slim volume. But to be honest it is really well written so it is hard to complain but I do so in the hope that another volume will follow and to let you all know of my impression. I want more!

This is an excellent summary of the very complex battle. I wanted to obtain general insight into specific areas of the battle and was not let down. I would recommend this book to anyone that desires an insight into the battle at Chancellorsville.

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