



The Twentieth Maine

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The fascinating story of Joshua Chamberlain and his volunteer regiment, the Twentieth Maine, is reprinted with a new foreword by Civil War historian and UCLA professor Joan Waugh. Pullen's classic and highly acclaimed book tells how Chamberlain and his men fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville on their way to the pivotal battle of Gettysburg. There, on July 2, 1863, at Little Round Top, they heroically saved the left flank of the Union battle line. The Twentieth Maine's remarkable story ends with the surrender of Lee's troops at Appomattox. Considered by Civil War historians to be one of the best regimental histories ever written, this beloved standard of American history is now available in a new Stackpole edition. Includes maps, photographs, and drawings from the original edition.

The Twentieth Maine Details

Date : Published November 1957 by J. B. Lippincott Company (first published 1957)

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Author : John J. Pullen

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From Reader Review The Twentieth Maine for online ebook

Bryan Stinehour says

A bit of a dry read (listen), however was still very entertaining and educational. I learned a ton I never knew about the 20th maine and the civil war. Definitely worth a read if you have interest in the subject

Naomi says

Solid history, with equal parts cultural history and great man approaches. Needs an update in the racial language department, especially since Pullen very carefully includes issues of racism and documents the history of the African American units that the 20th of Maine fought alongside. Originally published in 1957, reissued in 1980, still good work.

Clyde says

A heroic and bloody story. Joshua Chamberlain and the men of the 20 Main were a true heroes. They did nothing less than save the Union at Little Round Top.

Tony says

A very good read. After the battle of Gettysburg, I sort of thought, "Well, I guess that was the good part." I was wrong. Gettysburg is *a* climax, but not *the* climax of the book. These guys were in the thick of it in battles from Antietam to Appomattox. The portrayal of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain is both human and larger-than-life.

The tone of a history written in the 1950's, when memories of a major war were still fresh, seems a little dated and even quaint to modern eyes - now we fight wars with smarter bombs and lower stakes - but if you can stomach the hero worship and the now awkward, now overblown prose, Pullen's story comes through as an ode to mortal men facing unspeakable times. It is a 19th-century Band of Brothers.

Sue says

Having read many books about the Civil War, I knew the story of the valiant actions of Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine at the Battle of Gettysburg. However, I had no idea of the regiment's contributions in many other battles during the war and that there were four Medal of Honor winners from the 20th, including Chamberlain, a 33-year-old professor from Bowdoin College with absolutely no military experience.

Published by John J. Pullen in 1957, this beautifully written account of a raw volunteer regiment coming of age and evolving into a veteran fighting unit truly holds the reader spellbound. Through his wonderful narrative skill and by drawing on the actual writings of both officers and enlisted men, the author brings his

readers along on the marches and battles of the 20th Maine, enabling us to feel the fatigue, hunger, thirst, pain, sorrow, and, on rare occasions, joy experienced by the men of the 20th.

I would recommend this book to anyone as an enjoyable read and think it should be required reading for any student of American history and the Civil War.

Hotspur says

I just finished the 20th Maine by John Pullen, as an Audiobook from the Fairfax County Public Library system. The 20th, for those of you who have no appreciation of history, held the extreme left of the Union line on the crucial second day of the Battle of Gettysburg-- and by doing so, likely saved the Army of the Potomac from being rolled up and defeated. By extension, likely the little action on Little Round Top saved the Union that day (it's arguable, I know, but a case could be made for it). Pullen's book takes the 20th Maine from its inception as a group of highly irregular volunteers, through a series of engagements and commanders, to finally stand in salute to the Army of Northern Virginia as the armies passed into history at Appomattox. Pullen's style is informal for a historian writing in this time period (the 1950s), but nonetheless factual and relying on primary sources, regimental histories and biographies.

If you have any appreciation for American Civil War history, you'll have heard of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, the remarkable commander of the 20th Maine from Chancellorsville to when he got promoted to Brigadier command during the Wilderness campaign. Pullen shares my admiration for this classic American warrior, and in some respects THE TWENTIETH MAINE is a story not just of the regiment but also of Chamberlain, as Pullen continues to relate his story after Chamberlain was promoted to command of Brigade and Divisional level.

The audio recording, by Blackstone audio books, is read by Barrett Whitener. I have heard Mr. Whitener read other history books (Undaunted Courage comes to mind) and he has a superb voice made for narration-- rather like the narrator of the Ken Burns Civil War series, David McCullough.

In summary: 20th Maine is an excellent read, filling in the gaps for this famous regiment's exploits before and after the famous engagement on Little Round Top, something any schoolchild SHOULD know, but sadly may not these days. I recommend it.

Lori-Suzanne Dell says

Well written, well researched, very detailed. The 20th Maine Regiment of Infantry Volunteers, of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 5th Corps, of the Army of the Potomac in the Union, was decisive at the Gettysburg battle for Little Round Top. They saved the Union from certain defeat. This book will give you full insight as to what life, as a civil war soldier, was like in the Union Army.

Matthew Perry says

Will always be THE definitive biography of the 20th Maine. Fantastic read

Robbi Portela says

Great book! Well written!

Curtis J. Correll says

This is an amazing story about an amazing group of men. The Twentieth Maine was involved in some of the pivotal battles of the Civil War. This book tells a cohesive story about a regiment that grew into a famous fighting unit during the war. It also relates the story with an engaging and sometimes poetic flair.

There are some tendencies by the author to paint the regiment as always being the best fighters and never losing in a battle that was their fault. (I know from some other books that even this great regiment had days where they didn't get the best of the Confederates.) Outside of that one slight criticism, I think you will enjoy this book.

Lynn says

Not being a war buff, I had trouble understanding some of the details of battles and troop movements, but overall, the information was well researched and told like a story. Drama, humor, descriptive scenes, and the narrator's voice made for a good read, I mean, listen!

Having been to Gettysburg and having stood on Little Round Top, I particularly appreciated that section. And, being a Mainer, I cheered for the regiment and their leader, Joshua Chamberlain!

Roger Henley says

This book was excellent. I read it so fast. Each event was different and while reading it. It was as if I was there with the Twentieth Maine while they were in action.

Jim Galford says

I have always found the events of Gettysburg and, especially, Joshua Chamberlain to be intriguing. He was a true hero, rising above others in the battle, yet a man of letters. This is an excellent telling of the story.

Jeff says

Some funny stories, pretty straight forward regimental history. Of course, there's a lot about JLC, but a lot of

other members are profiled.

Tom Powell says

Follow a brave, tough and dedicated Union Regiment through the Civil War...

An excellent narrative of the triumphs and heartbreaks of a group of dedicated soldiers. The book is very well researched and written. It added significantly to my understanding of this important period in history.
