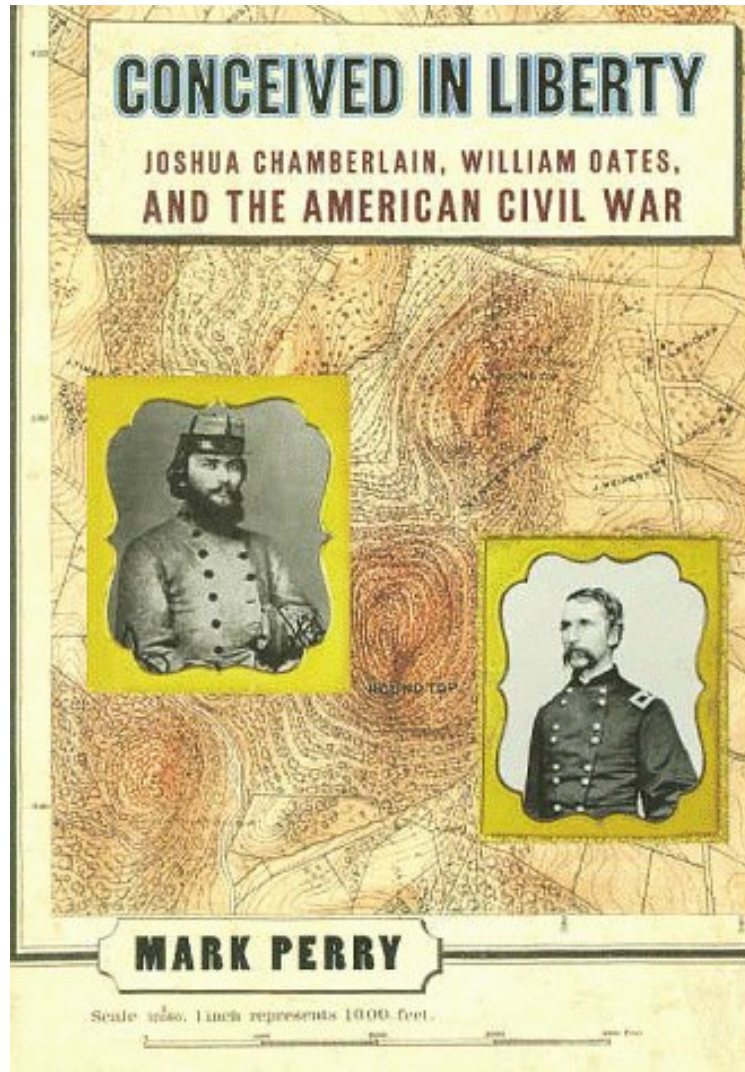


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Conceived in Liberty: Joshua Chamberlin, William Oates, and the American Civil War

Mark Perry

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Mark Perry : Conceived in Liberty: Joshua Chamberlin, William Oates, and the American Civil War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conceived in Liberty: Joshua Chamberlin, William Oates, and the American Civil War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A most informative book ...By Mike Perkins Just an outstanding read! Have always been interested in personalities behind the common soldiers that fought on both sides in the Civil War, in the context of the battles they fought. This book was that and more following the two soldiers into post war

America in their respective roles as winner and loser. A most important book for me. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Conceived in Liberty: Joshua Chamberlain, William Oates, and the American Civil War By Daniel F. Rousseau Excellent in-depth study of two officers, whose actions on one day in their lives, during the fury of face-to-face combat, impacted the outcome of a war. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By M. Bailey Can't believe I missed this book when first published.

In narrating the lives of Joshua Chamberlain and William Oates, Mark Perry's "Conceived in Liberty" opens a window on seventy years of American history, at the center of which is the July 1863 Battle of Little Round Top. This legendary contest decided the Battle of Gettysburg, opened a door to the Northern victory in the Civil War, and sent Chamberlain and Oates on paths to national prominence. Drawing on a vast mine of documents, including letters, wartime journals, and political speeches, Perry brings their fascinating, uncannily parallel stories to life. Joshua Chamberlain, the son of a Maine farmer, first made his name as an academic at Bowdoin College, then as a brilliant military commander, before establishing a remarkably successful career in politics, including several terms as the governor of Maine. William Oates, an Alabama frontiersman of humble origins, was also a farmer's son, and his valiant service during the war became the platform upon which he built a career as a lawyer who helped revitalize the Democratic party in the South. He was elected to both the U.S. Congress and the governorship of Alabama. Chamberlain and Oates stand as forceful symbols of how the nation came to blows, as well as how the nation moved to redefine itself and - in President Abraham Lincoln's words - "bind up the wounds of war." Their story, as eloquently and dramatically told in the pages of "Conceived in Liberty," creates a portrait of American possibility in a tumultuous century.

.com The popularity of Michael Shaara's wonderful Civil War novel *The Killer Angels* left many readers hungry for more information about its real-life protagonist, Joshua Chamberlain, who bravely led the 20th Maine in holding the Union's extreme left flank at Little Round Top on the second day of Gettysburg. This dual biography introduces a new figure, nearly as compelling: William Oates, the man who commanded the Alabama troops opposing Chamberlain's bluecoats. Their parallel lives, captured on these pages, reveal the country's 19th-century sectionalism and allow Perry to write a chronicle of the Civil War and its aftermath through the prism of two engaging personalities. Chamberlain's story is fairly well known. He was a Bowdoin College professor who left his post to serve in the army, fought well, and went on to a successful postwar political career as the governor of Maine. Oates, like Chamberlain, was the son of a farmer who got caught up in his nation's defining conflict, and then helped it inch along to recovery years later as a pragmatic governor and member of Congress. Perry refuses to canonize either--Chamberlain was an overbearing husband and Oates stuffed ballot boxes--yet his treatment of these two admirable but flawed men provides a refreshing new way to read about the Civil War. --John J. Miller From *Library Journal* Perry's (*A Fire in Zion*, LJ 8/94) latest work presents the life and times of two men who met in battle at Little Round Top on Gettysburg's second day. Perry offers a compelling look at the lives of those officers?how they differed (U.S. officer Chamberlain was a romantic; C.S.A officer Oates was a pragmatist) and how they were similar: contrary to the impression left by Michael Shaara's *Killer Angels* (LJ 9/1/74) and the movie *Gettysburg*, neither Oates nor Chamberlain had much use for the idea of black suffrage. While the section relating to the war is somewhat weak, the account of the two officers' pre- and postwar careers is strong and gripping. That, and a look at the prevalent trends of the time that shaped Oates and Chamberlain, makes this a worthwhile purchase and enjoyable reading for Civil War buffs. Recommended for all public libraries.?Robert A. Curtis, Taylor Memorial P.L., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Kirkus* sFocusing on two Civil War heroes who commanded opposing regiments at Gettysburg, this dual biography forges an expansive, dramatic, highly readable history of the generation that came of age during that fateful conflict. Perry, who writes about history and military and foreign affairs (*A Fire in Zion: How the Israelis and the Palestinians Made Peace*, 1994, etc.), chooses his subjects well. Chamberlain, a devout and introspective Maine college professor, and Oates, a brawling Alabama roustabout, waged the battle for Little Round Top--`the single most important struggle of the single most important battle of America's most important and bloodiest war." Despite obvious differences in character, remarkable similarities mark the separate paths that crossed briefly at Gettysburg. Both were self-made men forced by family hardship to provide their own educations; both rode their war records to political office, serving as governors of their respective states; both failed to achieve their highest political ambitions--to serve in the US Senate. The experience of Oates, especially, illustrates the fluctuating fortunes of each side during the long conflict. He fought in nearly every prominent battle of the eastern campaign, from the highs of Stonewall Jackson's stunning Shenandoah Valley victories to the fateful Gettysburg defeat, where his failure to capture Little Round Top is posited as the war's turning point. Perry examines deeply the prevailing trends that shaped the politics of Oates and Chamberlain before the war (a survey that describes the rise of charismatic religion, the beginning of abolitionism, the antebellum movements for women's rights and temperance) and the politics of Reconstruction, which both men helped shape after it. Just when historical sideroads and blow-by-blow battle depictions threaten to swamp readers, Perry veers back to Oates and Chamberlain, the twin Everymen of his satisfying, wide-lens perspective on

history. (16 bw photos not seen) (History Book Club main selection; author tour) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.