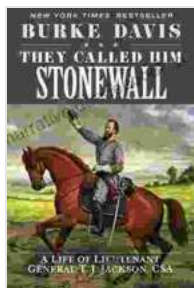


# The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Lieutenant General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson



## They Called Him Stonewall: A Life of Lieutenant General T. J. Jackson, CSA by Burke Davis

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2487 KB  
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Screen Reader : Supported  
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Print length : 490 pages  
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Lieutenant General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, one of the most renowned Confederate generals of the American Civil War.

### **Early Life and Military Career**

Thomas Jonathan Jackson was born on January 21, 1824, in Clarksburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). His early life was marked by challenges and

adversity. He lost both his parents at a young age and was raised by his uncle and aunt in Romney, Virginia. Despite his humble beginnings, Jackson excelled in his studies and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1846.

Jackson served with distinction in the Mexican-American War, earning the brevet rank of major for his gallantry at the Battle of Buena Vista. After the war, he resigned from the army and taught at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, Virginia. However, with the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861, Jackson rejoined the army and pledged his loyalty to the Confederate States of America.

### **The Birth of "Stonewall"**

Jackson's legendary nickname, "Stonewall," was bestowed upon him at the First Battle of Bull Run (also known as the First Battle of Manassas) in July 1861. As Union forces threatened to overrun his position, Brigadier General Bernard Bee rallied his troops with the words, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall!" The name stuck, and Jackson became known throughout the Confederacy as "Stonewall" Jackson.

### **Shenandoah Valley Campaign**

Jackson's military reputation soared during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862. As commander of the Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley, Jackson executed a series of brilliant maneuvers that kept the Union army at bay and prevented them from reinforcing their troops in other theaters of the war. Jackson's lightning-fast movements and aggressive tactics earned him the admiration of his troops and the respect of his adversaries.

## **Second Battle of Bull Run and Battle of Antietam**

In August 1862, Jackson played a key role in the Confederate victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run. His timely arrival on the battlefield with reinforcements helped turn the tide of the battle in favor of the Confederates. Later that year, Jackson fought in the Battle of Antietam, one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Despite being outnumbered, Jackson's troops held their ground against repeated Union assaults.

## **Battle of Fredericksburg and Battle of Chancellorsville**

In December 1862, Jackson led his troops to a decisive victory at the Battle of Fredericksburg. His innovative tactics and masterful use of terrain allowed the Confederates to inflict heavy casualties on the Union forces. In May 1863, Jackson again demonstrated his military brilliance at the Battle of Chancellorsville. His audacious flanking maneuver, known as the "Stonewall Brigade Charge," routed the Union forces and contributed to a significant Confederate victory.

## **Gettysburg and Death**

Jackson's greatest success came at the Battle of Chancellorsville, but it was also the battle that led to his untimely demise. On May 2, 1863, while scouting ahead of his troops, Jackson was accidentally shot by his own men. He died eight days later from pneumonia caused by the wounds. Jackson's death was a devastating blow to the Confederate war effort. His brilliant leadership was irreplaceable, and the Confederacy never fully recovered from his loss.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Lieutenant General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson is considered one of the greatest military commanders in American history. His innovative tactics, aggressive leadership, and unwavering determination made him a formidable opponent on the battlefield. Jackson's legacy extends beyond the Civil War. His military genius is still studied and admired by military strategists today.

Jackson was a deeply religious man who believed that God was on the side of the Confederacy. His faith gave him strength and resilience throughout his military career. After the war, Jackson's body was buried in Lexington, Virginia, where he is still revered as a hero and a symbol of Southern heritage.

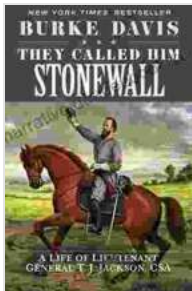
### **Timeline of Key Events**

- **January 21, 1824:** Thomas Jonathan Jackson is born in Clarksburg, Virginia.
- **1846:** Jackson graduates from the United States Military Academy at West Point.
- **1846-1848:** Jackson serves in the Mexican-American War.
- **1861:** Jackson joins the Confederate States Army at the outbreak of the American Civil War.
- **July 21, 1861:** Jackson earns the nickname "Stonewall" at the First Battle of Bull Run.
- **March-June 1862:** Jackson leads the Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

- **August 29-30, 1862:** Jackson plays a key role in the Confederate victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run.
- **September 17, 1862:** Jackson fights in the Battle of Antietam.
- **December 11-15, 1862:** Jackson leads the Confederate forces to victory at the Battle of Fredericksburg.
- **April 30-May 6, 1863:** Jackson leads the Confederate forces to victory at the Battle of Chancellorsville.
- **May 2, 1863:** Jackson is accidentally shot by his own men during the Battle of Chancellorsville.
- **May 10, 1863:** Jackson dies from pneumonia caused by his wounds.

## Additional Resources

- The Stonewall Jackson Foundation



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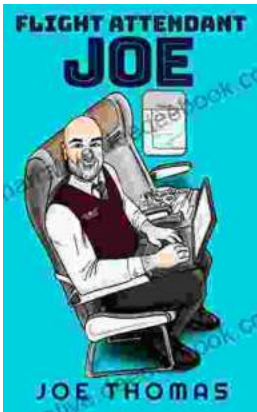
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