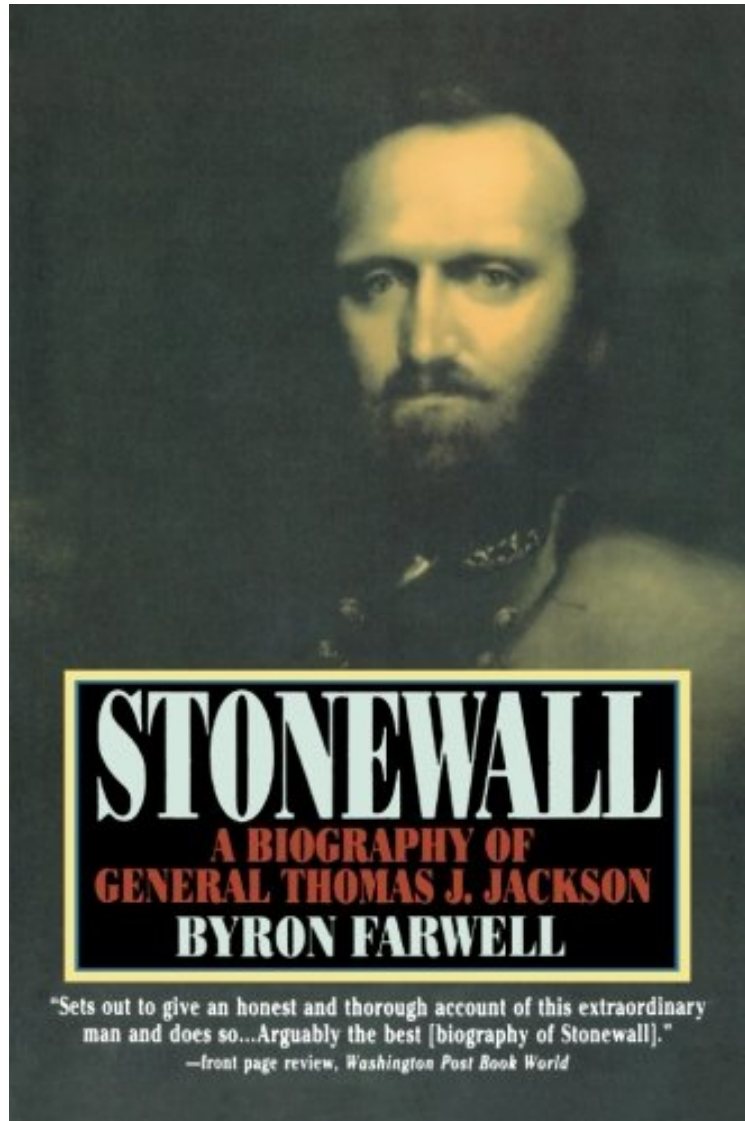


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## Stonewall: A Biography of General Thomas J. Jackson

*Byron Farwell*

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#301581 in Books Byron Farwell 1993-11-17 1993-11-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.30 x 1.10 x 6.10l, 1.74 #File Name: 0393310868576 pages Byron Farwell Civil War Biography | File size: 48.Mb

**Byron Farwell : Stonewall: A Biography of General Thomas J. Jackson** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stonewall: A Biography of General Thomas J. Jackson:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good Information By J. A. Pritchett Other reviewers have said just about all you need to know about this book, so I'll give my rating and a bullet list of my pros and cons  
Pros: Lots of well researched information well written Adequate number of maps  
Cons: Overly critical of the man in an attempt at objectivity  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More on Stonewall By mikeh While it is not what I would call an 'easy read', the book is a good source of information nonetheless.  
0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. Fascinating biography of Gen. Jackson By Stanley R. Schneider Just read this biography of Jackson. First off, the author writes well and holds your interest. I found the presentation of Jackson's life fascinating and downright gripping once the Civil war begins. The story pulled me along to see what happens next, even though I was already familiar with the subject. The portrait Farwell paints of Jackson is of a religious zealot, mostly deaf, rude, unable to get along with subordinates, overly secretive, and frequently sleep deprived. The fact that Jackson was so stunningly successful in spite of (or maybe because) all this is what makes him unique. I was surprised to learn that Jackson, was a more worldly, well rounded person than I had assumed. I never knew that he was stationed for two years in Fort Hamilton New York, had spent three months traveling through Europe on a leave of absence from VMI to broaden himself, married in succession the daughters of the presidents of Washington and then Davidson colleges, and took both his wives to Niagara Falls, New York, on their honeymoons and had a sister who became a devoted unionist after the Civil War started. The book is very well researched and examines many of the myths surrounding Jackson in a very clinical even handed manner. No idol worship here, but the author backs up his viewpoints, by quoting and weighing, sometimes conflicting, original sources. One recurrent theme about Jackson that the author uses, is that a good part of Jackson's success was due to "luck". I believe that luck always favors the resolute, aggressive commander, which describes Jackson. The author believes that Jackson's reputation through the years has remained so high, because he was killed at the acme of his success and was not present for the inevitable decline and defeat of the Confederacy. He states that Jackson probably would not have made a very good Army Commander anyhow, and was best suited for Corps command. I'm not sure I agree with this, Jackson exercised independent command very well in the Valley, at Cedar Mountain, and at Harper's Ferry. William Tecumseh Sherman had many odd traits too, even came close to being cashiered for madness, but became an incomparable Army Commander. I think had Jackson lived, he might have duplicated Sherman's rise. I do have a couple of nits with the book. The maps leave out the troop alignments with the one on Antietam being almost blank, and the one on Harper's Ferry out of place by a couple of hundred pages (did the author or a subject matter expert look at the final galleys?). Also, the author may sometimes be confusing Division Commanders D.R. Jones and J.R. Jones, and it doesn't help when he sometimes uses just "Jones". Still, this is a book to sink your teeth into and it pleasantly takes you along on the life of an extraordinary individual. I highly recommend it. Stanley R. Schneider

"Sets out to give an honest and thorough account of this extraordinary man and does so. . . . Arguably the best [biography of Stonewall]." ?Washington Post Book World The charismatic Confederate general Stonewall Jackson, who began his military career in the Mexican War, earned his great fame in the Civil War in a series of brilliantly fought battles. He was given the name Stonewall at the First Battle of Bull Run, when his brigade faced overwhelming odds but held the line. Byron Farwell's engrossing narrative reveals Stonewall Jackson both as a military genius and as a quirky, dark personality radically different from the storybook version that grew up after Jackson's untimely death at Chancellorsville in 1863.

"[Farwell] gets to the heart of why Jackson is so legitimately fascinating." - Chicago Tribune "An exceptionally balanced view of a very complicated man. . . . Farwell lets Jackson emerge from his own words and actions. As a result, Jackson is no less a great figure of the Civil War, but he is equally an imaginable human being." - Journal of Military History "The finest depiction yet of this shy, enigmatic, and devoutly religious Confederate commander. . . . Mr. Farwell writes with a lucidity and élan that rank him with the likes of Bruce Catton, Shelby Foote, and James McPherson." - Washington Times About the Author During the Second World War, Byron Farwell (1921–1999) served as a captain of engineers attached to the Mediterranean Allied Air Force in the British Eighth Army area.