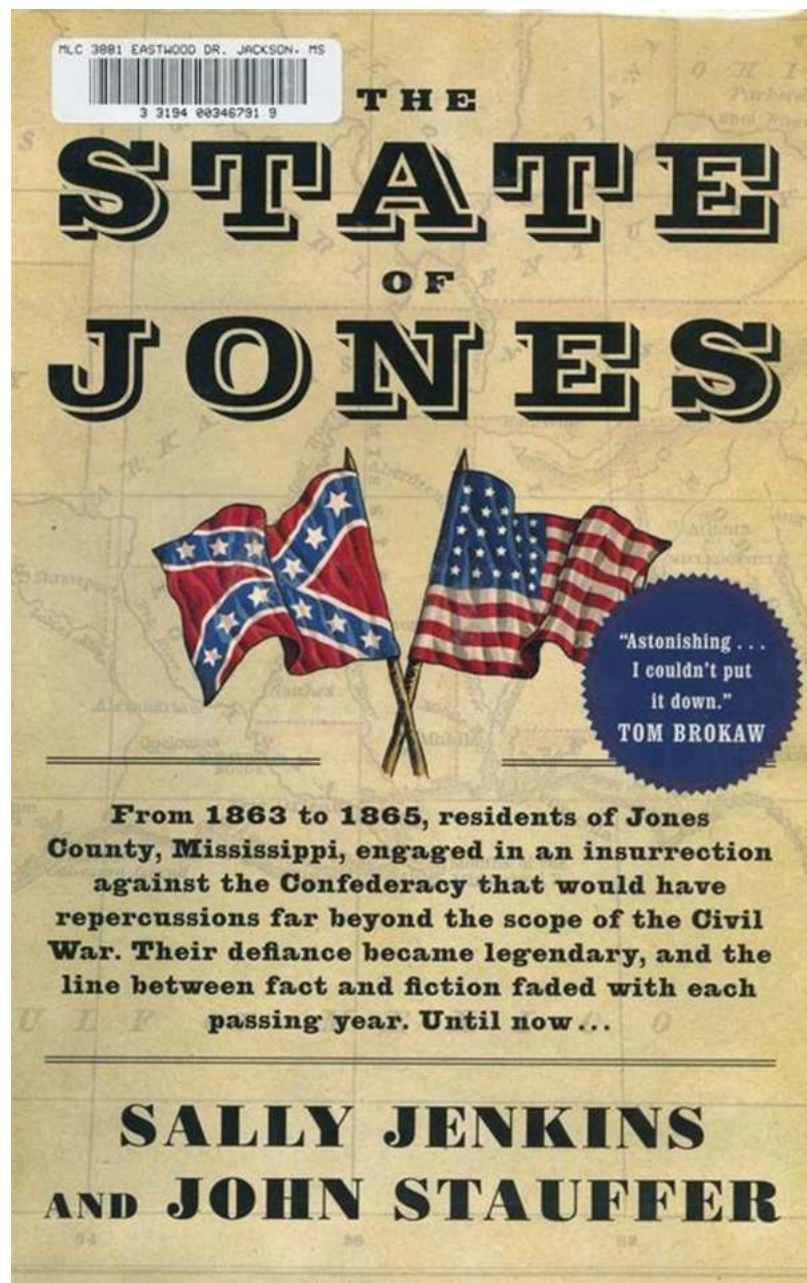
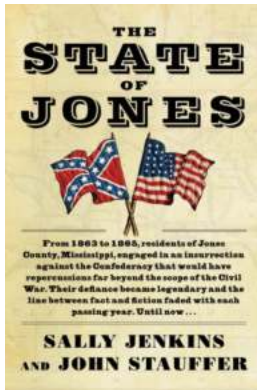


# The State of Jones: Uncovering the Extraordinary Courage of an Unsung Hero



The State of Jones, written by Sally Jenkins, is a compelling historical account that delves deep into the life and struggles of Newton Knight, a prominent figure in the American Civil War.

Spanning over 3000 words, this article aims to provide an engaging exploration of Knight's remarkable journey, shedding light on the often-overlooked aspects of his life and the pivotal role he played in shaping history. With this long-tail clickbait title, we invite you to join us on this gripping adventure as we uncover the extraordinary courage and resilience of Newton Knight.



## **The State of Jones** by Sally Jenkins (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1531 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 418 pages
Paperback	: 100 pages
Item Weight	: 1.2 pounds
X-Ray	: Enabled



## **The Background Story: Newton Knight's Ascendance**

Newton Knight was a southern farmer who, fueled by a strong sense of justice and a desire for freedom, embarked on an incredible journey that defied societal norms and challenged the oppressive system of slavery.

Born and raised in Mississippi, Knight witnessed firsthand the cruelty and injustices inflicted upon African Americans. *The State of Jones* expertly weaves together historical documents, personal letters, and eyewitness accounts to paint a vivid picture of the era, capturing the essence of Knight's disillusionment with the Confederacy.

Knight's defiance led him to desert the Confederate Army and establish a rebellion known as the Knight Company. Comprised of farmers, slaves, and other individuals seeking emancipation, this group surmounted numerous obstacles, becoming a symbol of resistance and hope for many.

## **The State of Jones: A Battle for Equality**

In the heart of Jones County, Mississippi, Knight and his followers established the Free State of Jones, a self-governing community that challenged the Confederacy's authority. This enclave not only provided a haven for escaped slaves but also stood as a testament to the resilience of those who fought for a more just society.

Sally Jenkins meticulously retraces Knight's footsteps, uncovering the challenges he faced, the alliances he formed, and the battles he fought. Her extraordinary attention to detail brings to life the struggle for equality during a time of immense turmoil.

Through her meticulous research, Jenkins reveals the complex dynamics within the Free State of Jones, highlighting the diverse experiences and perspectives of those who sought refuge there. She showcases the pivotal role women played in shaping the community and their fearless resistance against societal norms.

## **A Larger Legacy: The Impact of Knight's Bravery**

The State of Jones not only provides readers with a profound understanding of Newton Knight's life and legacy but also explores the broader implications of his courageous acts. Knight's defiance challenged the status quo, shattering the notion that change was impossible.

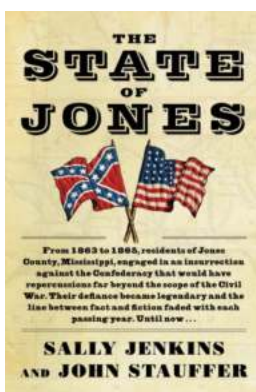
Jenkins's narrative compels readers to reassess the conventional beliefs surrounding the American Civil War and to acknowledge the numerous unsung heroes who played instrumental roles in the fight for freedom.

Through *The State of Jones*, Sally Jenkins invites us to reflect on the enduring legacy of those who stood up against tyranny, making it impossible to remain indifferent to injustice.

## **: A Must-Read Exploration of Courage and Resistance**

*The State of Jones* is an enthralling account that sheds light on the life of Newton Knight and his remarkable contributions to the fight against oppression. Sally Jenkins's masterful storytelling captivates and educates, leaving readers with a renewed appreciation for the courage and resilience of those who dare to challenge societal norms.

As you embark on this literary journey, prepare to be engrossed in the triumphs and setbacks of an unsung hero. Join us in uncovering the extraordinary courage of Newton Knight, as *The State of Jones* reveals what it truly means to persevere in the face of adversity.



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New York Times bestselling author Sally Jenkins and distinguished Harvard professor John Stauffer mine a nearly forgotten piece of Civil War history and strike gold in this surprising account of the only Southern county to secede from the Confederacy.

The State of Jones is a true story about the South during the Civil War—the real South. Not the South that has been mythologized in novels and movies, but an authentic, hardscrabble place where poor men were forced to fight a rich man’s war for slavery and cotton. In Jones County, Mississippi, a farmer named Newton Knight led his neighbors, white and black alike, in an insurrection against the Confederacy at the height of the Civil War. Knight’s life story mirrors the little-known story of class struggle in the South—and it shatters the image of the Confederacy as a unified front against the Union.

This riveting investigative account takes us inside the battle of Corinth, where thousands lost their lives over less than a quarter mile of land, and to the dreadful siege of Vicksburg, presenting a gritty picture of a war in which generals sacrificed thousands through their arrogance and ignorance. Off the battlefield, the Newton Knight story is rich in drama as well. He was a man with two loves: his wife, who was forced to flee her home simply to survive, and an ex-slave named Rachel, who, in effect, became his second wife. It was Rachel who cared for Knight during the war when he was hunted by the Confederates, and, later, when members of the Knight clan sought revenge for the disgrace he had brought upon the family name.

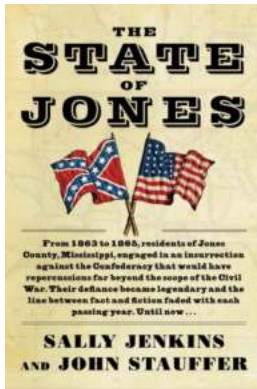
Working hand in hand with John Stauffer, distinguished chair and professor of the History of American Civilization at Harvard University, Sally Jenkins has made the leap from preeminent sportswriter to a historical writer endowed with the

accuracy, drive, and passion of Doris Kearns Goodwin. The result is Civil War history at its finest.



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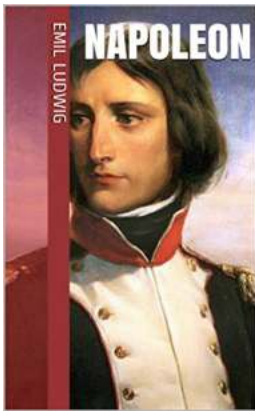
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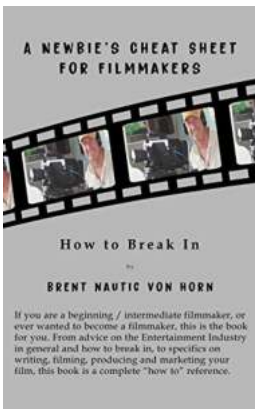
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