

# THE LAST LAIRD OF SAPELO

T. M. BROWN

The Last Laird of Sapelo is based on the tragic story of Randolph Spalding, the youngest son of Georgia's most well-known antebellum-era coastal planter and influential political figure, Thomas Spalding. Following his father's death in 1851, Randolph parlays his father's fame and gifted landholdings on Sapelo Island, hobnobbing from Charleston to Savannah to Milledgeville and ultimately failing to thwart Georgia's decision to follow South Carolina into secession by early 1861.

Within weeks after the assault on Fort Sumter, Lincoln's naval blockade threatens the entire southern coast. Colonel Randolph Spalding, now a reluctant commander of militia, faces a storm of life-altering events in the months that follow, imperiling his family's legacy, livelihood, and lands. He ultimately must decide between supposed justice and saving the life of a slave who exacted revenge for the murder and rape of two children on Sapelo Island.

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FICTION / Historical

## AUDIENCE

Southern Atlantic Coast Residents

Older Conservative Readers

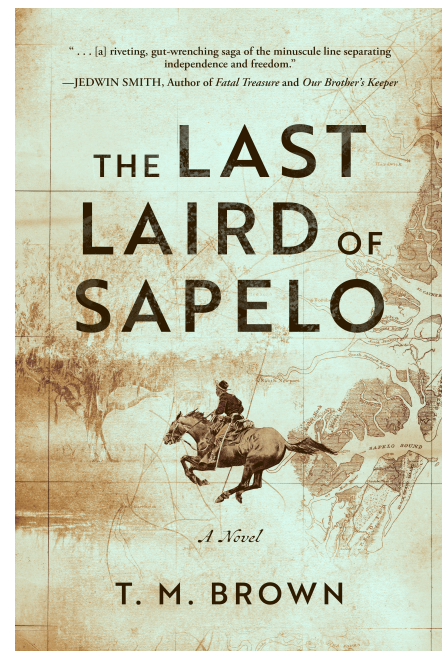
Young Historical Curious Readers

Civil War Historians

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## PRAISE FOR THE LAST LAIRD OF SAPELO

“As Union forces descend on Georgia’s barrier islands during the opening stages of America’s Civil War, the South’s first casualty is its monetary lifeline — its burgeoning cotton empire, Dixie’s “white gold.” Distinguished author T.M. Brown’s historical novel *The Last Laird of Sapelo* spares no punches in this riveting, gut-wrenching saga of the minuscule line separating independence and freedom.”

—Jedwin Smith, Author of *Fatal Treasure* and *Our Brother’s Keeper*

“T.M. Brown raises the bar for Civil War-era historical fiction. Using compelling, well-researched details, Brown writes with confidence and lyricism about neglected parts of the conflict and its impact on the coastal islands of Georgia. Civil War fiction fans need to add this novel to their bookshelves today!”

—George Weinstein, Award-winning Author of the *Hardscrabble Road* series, Executive Director, Atlanta Writers Club, Atlanta Writers Conference Director

“Regardless of the fiction label, this book is based on real people of the 1860s and reads like the author was there. The story of the Spalding family and Sapelo Island is a well-researched and very personal glimpse of 19th-century Georgia and a family caught up in events they cannot avoid. Mike Brown has brought this family and coastal Georgia to life!”

—Steve Quesinberry, Author of *Better Men: Coweta County and the Vietnam War*

“This well-researched, engaging historical fiction brings to life a dramatic and little-known story of America’s bloodiest war. *The Last Laird of Sapelo* illuminates lesser known but crucial events in coastal Georgia and South Carolina through the true story of Colonel Randolph Spalding, a noted Sapelo Island cotton planter...Colonel Spalding’s struggles and sacrifices are vividly depicted as he faces the reality of powerful Union naval forces threatening the coasts of the Carolinas and Georgia, and he is forced to move his family and many slaves inland to safety, ultimately abandoning his beloved island plantation.”

—Karen Stokes, Archivist and Author at South Carolina Historical Society

“In *The Last Laird of Sapelo*, T. M. Brown does a masterful job of telling the historic story of how the Civil War changed forever the Spalding family, their slaves, and the crucial barrier island of Sapelo on which they lived. He shares in detail the bonds between the Spalding family members and their servants without skirting the inhumanity of slavery. The compelling read was extensively researched and provides an interesting account in story form of how the conflict negatively impacted the owners and other inhabitants of Sapelo Island, including Randolph Spalding, who answered the call to defend the cause of the Confederate States even though he didn’t favor Secession. *The Last Laird of Sapelo* provides an important insight into helping us to understand one of the worst times in the history of our country. ”

—Harry J. Deitz Jr., Author of *Covey: A Stone’s Throw from a Coal Mine to the Hall of Fame*, *Our Father’s Journey: A Path Out of Poverty*, and *Journal of a Caregiver: A Story of Love and Devotion*

“I knew nothing of either Randolph Spalding or of Sapelo Island before reading this book. But from the first chapter on, I felt thoroughly immersed in 1860s coastal Georgia as the Spalding family grappled with the challenges of war. Mike Brown’s vivid imagery and his mastery of historical detail deliver a powerful story I am already eager to read a second time.”

—Lawrence W. Reed, President Emeritus, Humphreys Family Senior Fellow and Ron Manners Global, Ambassador for Liberty