Thomas Jonathan Jackson Timeline

1824—January 21, Thomas Jonathan Jackson is born in Clarksburg, Virginia.

1845—Jackson graduates from West Point.
   * He is commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the 3rd U.S. Artillery.

1846—The Mexican War Begins.

1847—Jackson first sees action at Vera Cruz and is cited for gallantry.
   * By the wars end, Jackson holds the rank of brevet major.

1851—Jackson resigns to accept an offer to teach at Virginia Military Institute.
   * He becomes a professor of physics and an instructor in artillery tactics.
   * Jackson is a poor teacher and is nicknamed “Tom Fool” by his students.
   * Jackson becomes known for his eccentric behaviors like making pumping motions with his arms to increase circulation and eating only foods he disliked.

1853—August 4, Jackson marries Elinor Junkin.
1854—October 22, Elinor dies in childbirth.
1855—Jackson starts a Sunday school for free blacks at his Presbyterian Church.
1857—July 16, Jackson marries Mary Anna Morrison.
   * In their short marriage, they have one surviving child, a daughter.

1859—November, Jackson is sent along with VMI cadets to Charlestown, Virginia to provide security during the hanging of John Brown.

1861—April 17, Virginia secedes.
1861—April 21, Jackson is placed in command of the VMI Corps of Cadets ordered to Richmond to serve as drillmasters.
1861—April, Jackson is promoted to brigadier general.
1861—July 21, Jackson’s brigade fights bravely at First Manassas.
   * Jackson earns the nickname “Stonewall.”

1862—May, Jackson’s Valley Campaign begins.
   * With just 17,000 men, Jackson battles three Union armies.
1862—June 15-July 1, Jackson is called to assist Lee during the Seven Days Battles outside of Richmond.
1862—August-December, Jackson participates in the battles of Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, and Fredericksburg.
   * In October, Jackson is given command of the Second Corps, half of the Army of Northern Virginia.

1863—May 2, The Battle of Chancellorsville begins when Jackson leads a surprise attack on the Union right flank.
   * Returning from a scouting mission at about 9:00 P. M., Jackson is mistakenly shot by his own troops.
   * His left arm receives two bullet wounds and has to be amputated.
1863—May 10, After contracting pneumonia, Jackson dies at age 39.