

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

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**Dr. James K. Bryant, II** most recently was an Associate Professor of History at Shenandoah University where he spent 10 years, serving both as History Department Chair and Executive Director of the university's History and Tourism Center. Prior to his arrival at Shenandoah University, Dr. Bryant had a 9-year connection with the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, National Park Service both as a seasonal interpreter and later as a permanent Park Ranger (Interpretation).

He is the author of *The Chancellorsville Campaign: The Nation's High Water Mark* (2009) and *The Battle of Fredericksburg: We Cannot Escape History* (2010). Dr. Bryant also co-authored (with Dr. Geraldine W. Kiefer) the book chapter "Strategy and Sublimity: A Gallery of Valley Pike Images during the Civil War" in *The Great Valley Road of Virginia* edited by Warren Hofstra and Karl Raitz. This book received the American Pioneer Society's 2010 Allen Noble Prize for best edited book in American Material Culture.

His most recent publication, *The 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry United States Colored Troops: A History and Roster* (2012) centers on a black Union army regiment in the Civil War composed mostly of former slaves from eastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. His focus on these soldiers, their families, and the larger community under slavery provides a glimpse into their transition from slavery to freedom with the Union army becoming an agent for social change.

He is currently writing a book on the Virginia Fall Campaigns of 1863. He continues researching and writing for publication, consulting with organizations, and speaking to public audiences as he searches for his next career opportunity. He currently lives in Stephens City, Virginia, with his wife, Amy, and sons, Jack and Trip.