

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Dr. James K. Bryant, II Most recently Jim Bryant 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. He earned his Bachelor's degree in History Education from Hampton University, a Master's degree in History from the University of Vermont, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Rochester. While at the University of Rochester, Jim was a predoctoral fellow with the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies. Prior to his tenure at Shenandoah University, Jim 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). Jim 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 36th 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.

His next book project is on the Virginia Campaigns in the Fall 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.