

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

---

**John C. Waugh** is a journalist turned historical reporter. For 17 years (1956 to 1973) he was a staff correspondent and bureau chief on *The Christian Science Monitor*. From 1973 to 1976, he was a media specialist on the staff of Republican Vice President Nelson Rockefeller of New York. For six years, 1983 to 1988, he was press secretary to Democratic U. S. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. Between these stints in the newspaper and political worlds, and since, he has contributed to various magazines and periodicals, including *Civil War History*, *American Heritage*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Columbiad*, *The Washington Post Book World*, *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Boston Herald American*, and *Country Magazine*.

Over the years he has also been a consultant to various establishments and agencies-- National Archives and Records Administration, U. S. Department of Energy, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atlantic Richfield Company, President's Council on Environmental Quality, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and West Virginia Public Radio. In 1972 he won the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award for the best national reporting, for a series on American prisons.

He began writing history—books on the Civil War era in 1989, and has since written and published ten—six full-size narratives and four shorter works. He has also collaborated with two co-authors on a book about how historians work. He believes that covering the past is not unlike covering the present. The only difference is that all his sources are dead. He greatly prefers it that way. It also means he can return to his favorite century, the 19<sup>th</sup>, on a daily basis.

His first book, *The Class of 1846*, won the New York Civil War Round Table's Fletcher Pratt Literary Award for the best non-fiction book on the Civil War published in 1994. His five other major works are *Reelecting Lincoln* (1997), *Surviving the Confederacy* (2002), *On the Brink of Civil War* (2003), *One Man Great Enough* (2007), and *Lincoln and McClellan* (2010). His shorter works include *Sam Bell Maxey and the Confederate Indians*, (1995), *Last Stand in Mobile*, (2001), *Edwin Cole Bears: History's Pied Piper* (2003), and *20 Good Reasons to Study the Civil War* (2004). He has also collaborated with two other historians on *How Historians Work* ((2010) In 2000 he received the Dallas Civil War Round Table's Grady McWhiney Award of Merit for contributions to the scholarship and preservation of Civil War History. He also holds a History Award Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.