

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

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**Robert C. Whisonant** (B.S., Clemson University; PhD, Florida State University) is presently Professor Emeritus of Geology and Research Associate at Radford University. He is author or co-author of over 100 professional publications and has consulted on a number of engineering geology projects. His current research includes developing the connections between geology and American Civil War campaigns and battles. He has studied Virginia's mineral deposits (salt, lead, iron, coal, and niter) and their crucial role in supporting the Confederate war effort. He has analyzed the effects of geology and topography on casualty rates at national battlefields such as Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, and Antietam. His new book, *Arming the Confederacy: How Virginia's Minerals Forged the Rebel War Machine*, was published in March 2015.