



# Lost Causes

Confederate Demobilization and the Making of Veteran Identity

**BRADLEY R. CLAMPITT**

This groundbreaking analysis of Confederate demobilization examines the state of mind of Confederate soldiers in the immediate aftermath of war. Having survived severe psychological as well as physical trauma, they now faced the unknown as they headed back home in defeat. *Lost Causes* analyzes the interlude between soldier and veteran, suggesting that defeat and demobilization actually reinforced Confederate identity as well as public memory of the war and southern resistance to African American civil rights.

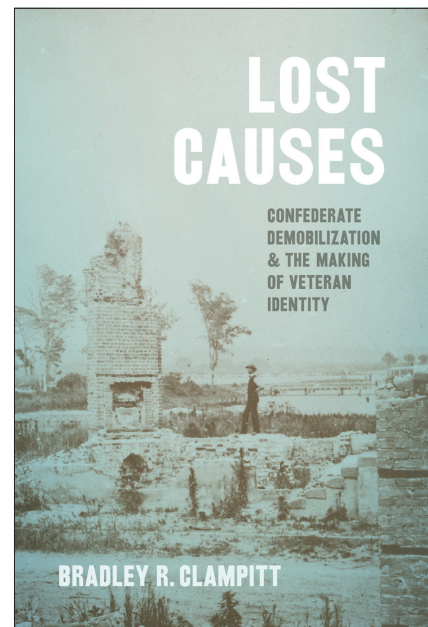
Intense material shortages and images of the war's devastation confronted the defeated soldiers-turned-veterans as they returned home to a revolutionized society. Their thoughts upon homecoming turned to immediate economic survival, a radically altered relationship with freedpeople, and life under Yankee rule—all against the backdrop of fearful uncertainty. Bradley R. Clampitt argues that the experiences of returning soldiers helped establish the ideological underpinnings of the Lost Cause and create an identity based upon shared suffering and sacrifice, a pervasive commitment to white supremacy, and an aversion to Federal rule and all things northern. As *Lost Causes* reveals, most Confederate veterans remained diehard Rebels despite demobilization and the demise of the Confederate States of America.

**BRADLEY R. CLAMPITT** is professor of history at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, and the author of *Occupied Vicksburg* and *The Confederate Heartland: Military and Civilian Morale in the Western Confederacy*.

## Praise for *Lost Causes*:

"At once a study of the ideology of defeat, the personal and institutional processes of demobilization, the complexities of white southern masculinity, and the origins of the Lost Cause, Bradley Clampitt's new book contributes a novel addition to the vast literature on the ways that former Confederates dealt with profound loss and reconstructed their world."—**Andrew F. Lang**, author of *In the Wake of War: Military Occupation, Emancipation, and Civil War America*

"Popular accounts hold that bedraggled rebels returned to their homes in tatters, exhausted by the demands of war and devastated by the reality of defeat. Informed by deep and careful research in a trove of original sources, Clampitt's study usefully complicates this stubbornly enduring image, offering readers the richest, most stimulating analysis to date of Confederate demobilization."—**Brian Matthew Jordan**, author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*



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