This book argues that military education was an important institution in the development of the southern middle class as a regional group and as part of the national middle class in the late antebellum years. It explores class formation, professionalization, and social mobility in the 1840s and 1850s, using these data to define the middle class on a national level, while also identifying regionally specific characteristics of the emerging southern middle class. Green argues that antebellum military education illuminates the emerging southern middle class, a group difficult to locate and differentiate; that it offered social stability or mobility; and that it explicitly linked middle-class stability or mobility to the ongoing national professionalization of teachers. Ultimately, these schools demonstrate that educational opportunity and reform took place in the antebellum South and that schooling aided southerners in social mobility.

Military Education and the Emerging Middle Class in the Old South

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Central Michigan University
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Illustrations

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3. Edward Clarence Shepherd’s 1851 admission letter from the Virginia Military Institute lists precisely the clothing and supplies with which a student should arrive.

4. Edward Clarence Shepherd, Virginia Military Institute Class of 1855, in uniform with stripes and shako.

5. One of a series of drawings of the residents of Virginia Military Institute Barracks Rooms 12 and 14, 2nd stoop, done by Cadet James Waddell in 1855.

6. Graduates Micah Jenkins and Asbury Coward (South Carolina Military Academy, 1854) ran Kings Mountain Military Academy before the Civil War.

7. Quarterly reports such as this one informed families of their son’s ranking in courses, general merit, and conduct.

8. Joseph Chenoweth’s July 1856 grade report illustrates the improvement in both circulars sent to parents and the construction of barracks at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.
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List of Abbreviations

AAS    American Antiquarian Society
ALSMA  American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy
CIT    The Citadel Archives and Museum
Duke   Refers to the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University
Emory  Refers to the Department of Special Collections, Richard Woodruff Library, Emory University
FHS    Francis H. Smith
GMI    Georgia Military Institute
HMA    Hillsboro Military Academy
KMI    Kentucky Military Institute
KMMA   Kings Mountain Military Academy
NCMI   North Carolina Military Institute
NCSA   North Carolina State Archives
SCDAH  South Carolina Division of Archives and History
SCHS   South Carolina Historical Society
SCL    The South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina
SCMA   South Carolina Military Academy
SHC    Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
UNC    University of North Carolina
USMA   United States Military Academy
Vanderbilt Refers to the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University Archives
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List of Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VHS</td>
<td>Virginia Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMI</td>
<td>Virginia Military Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WKU</td>
<td>Western Kentucky University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMI</td>
<td>Western Military Institute</td>
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Illustrations