



## JAY JORGENSEN

Jay Jorgensen considers himself a relative “Johnny Come Lately” to the Civil War field. Born and raised in New Jersey, the Cockpit of the Revolution, his passion for history revolved around the American Revolution, with a smattering of interest in the Enlightenment. His belief that the Civil War was boring was hammered home by the ancient professor he had for a Civil War course.

Fortunately, Douglas Southall Freeman came to his rescue. Picking up Freeman’s magisterial four volume *R.E. Lee*, Jay became enthralled with the War Between the States in 1986. Two years later he made his first visit to Gettysburg, a trip he has taken over 150 times since.

He graduated with a B.A. in History from Fairleigh Dickinson University. His juris doctorate was earned from Villanova University School of Law. Jay obtained a M.A. in Military History, with Honors in Civil War History, from American Military University.

The degrees were put to good use from a writing perspective. His *Gettysburg’s Bloody Wheatfield* earned the Bachelder-Coddington Award for best new book on Gettysburg in 2002, and his *The Wheatfield at Gettysburg: A Walking Tour* is a popular guide for tourists. Those books were followed by *Gettysburg’s Leadership Lessons for Lawyers (and Non-Lawyers too!)* in 2005 and *Edward Porter Alexander, Confederate Cannoneer* in 2006.

His latest literary contribution, published in March 2017, is *Top Ten at Gettysburg*, of which he is the editor and co-author. In addition to his published books, Jay has authored nine articles for the *Gettysburg Magazine*. His great-grandfather’s regiment was the subject of the first article he had published, in *Civil War Regiments*, titled “Scouting for Grant: The Fifth Ohio Cavalry Regiment in the Shiloh Campaign.”

Mr. Jorgensen founded the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey in 1990. He served as President of the group for 20 years, and remains the Program Chairman for the organization. In addition to his activities with the Round Table, Jay does book reviews for *Civil War News*. He also gives Civil War and Revolutionary War tours for a national history organization.