

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Dean S. Thomas, today's foremost authority on Civil War small arms ammunition, first visited Gettysburg in 1960. Interest in the Civil War and the collecting of Civil War artifacts began with the start of the Centennial celebration in 1961, when he visited Gettysburg again - and found his first bullet.

A graduate of Haddon Township High School, Westmont, NJ, in 1966, he attended Gettysburg College, then graduated from Glassboro State College in Glassboro, New Jersey, in 1972 with a B.A. in history. During this time he spent five summer seasons as a Licensed Battlefield Guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park. He founded Thomas Publications in 1981 with the authorship of *Ready ... Aim ... Fire!*, followed not long after by *Cannons* and *Civil War Commanders*. *Round Ball to Rimfire* is the result of a lifelong interest in, and study of, Civil War small arms ammunition, and has grown to a multi-volume set. *Part One (1997)* covers Federal rifle musket and smoothbore ammunition, as well as detailed information on the U.S. Ordnance Department, Northern arsenals, patents, designers, and manufacturers. *Part Two (2002)* fully covers Federal breech loading carbine and rifle ammunition, while *Part Three (2003)* is where you will find all you need to know about Federal pistol and revolver ammunition. *Part Four (2010)* relates the Confederate history of small arms ammunition, with additional volumes on the Confederate arsenals and laboratories to immediately follow.

A forty-year resident of Adams County, Dean now lives in Fairfield with his wife Sally, and only a stone's throw away from all the kids and grandchildren - although he doubts his softball pitch could have reached Lauren and John in Gettysburg. He is a re-elected Borough Councilor and enjoys being the Council liaison to the Fairfield Historic Architectural Review Board.