ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

John Cashon's family moved to the Dukedom, Kentucky area in the Jackson Purchase of Kentucky and Tennessee in 1824 after his fifth-great-grandfather David Cashon received a Revolutionary War Land Grant for his service as a minuteman in Chesterfield, Virginia, while serving under General Lafayette before and during the Siege of Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. John's family then moved to Feliciana, Kentucky, in 1847; his second-great-grandfather Jerome Washington Cashon was thirteen years old when the Civil War began. He lived within a mile of Camp Beauregard, used by the Confederate army early in the war.

John also had a family member who fought in the war. His second-great grandfather Ephraim Davenport Osburn was a Confederate soldier from Canton, Kentucky, in the Eighth Kentucky Infantry, Company B, which later became the Eighth Kentucky Mounted Infantry under the command of General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

John went to high school at Paducah Tilghman, named after Augusta Tilghman, the wife of Confederate brigadier general Lloyd Tilghman. He received his bachelor's degree in history at Murray State University. Because his father was a great storyteller, it sparked his interests in local history. This played a prominent role in why it was important for him to begin writing histories.