

William G. Thomas III
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Education

Ph.D.--University of Virginia, History, 1995
M.A.--University of Virginia, History, 1991
B.A.--Trinity College (Connecticut), History, 1986 with honors in History
Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Virginia, 1982

Recent Employment

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2005-present
Chair, Department of History, 2010-present
John and Catherine Angle Professor in the Humanities (endowed), 2005-present
Professor of History, 2005-present
Faculty Fellow, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities

University of Virginia, 1996-2005
Director, Virginia Center for Digital History, 1998-2005
Associate Professor, Corcoran Department of History, 2004-2005
Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Corcoran Department of History, 2001-2004
Research Assistant Professor, 1998-2001
Teaching with Technology Fellow, 1997-1998
Project Manager, Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, 1996-1997

Awards and Honors

2012 Lincoln Prize Finalist for *The Iron Way: Railroads, the Civil War, and the Making of Modern America*, Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History
2012 New York Book Festival Winner, Best Book in History for *The Iron Way: Railroads, the Civil War, and the Making of Modern America*
British Association of American Studies, Visiting Professor in North American Studies, Eccles Centre for American Studies, British Library, in Residence, London, August 2008 to November 2008
American Council of Learned Societies, Digital Innovation Fellowship, 2008
The James Harvey Robinson Prize, 2003, American Historical Association, with Edward L. Ayers and Anne S. Rubin, for *Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War*
The Lincoln Prize, 2001, Gettysburg College, Lincoln and Soldiers Institute, with Edward L. Ayers and Anne S. Rubin, for *Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War*.

Teaching Awards

2012 Hazel R. McClymont Distinguished Teaching Fellow Award, for outstanding undergraduate teaching, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mead Honored Faculty Teaching Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, for outstanding teaching and mentoring of undergraduate students, 2004-2005, "dream project" for student-produced documentary film, *Rising Up*

Books

"A Question of Freedom" in Early Washington, D.C., manuscript in progress
Editor, *A Lincoln Dialogue*, by James A. Rawley, University of Nebraska Press, forthcoming 2014.

The Iron Way: Railroads, The Civil War, and the Making of Modern America Yale University Press, November 2011.

Lawyering for the Railroad: Business, Law, and Power in the New South, Louisiana State University Press, 1999.

Selected Articles

"What We Think We Will Build and What We Build in Digital Humanities," *Journal of Digital Humanities*, Vol. 1 No. 1, Winter 2011.

"The Promise of Digital History: Interchange," *Journal of American History* (September 2008).

"Black and on the Border," co-author with Edward L. Ayers and Anne Sarah Rubin, in Gabor Boritt, ed., *The African American Soldier in the Civil War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

"Nothing Ought to Astonish Us: Confederate Civilians in the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign," in Gary Gallagher ed. *The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).

"Television News and the Civil Rights Struggle: The Views in Virginia and Mississippi," *Southern Spaces*, November 2004.

"The Differences Slavery Made: A Close Analysis of Two American Communities," co-author with Edward L. Ayers, *American Historical Review*, December 2003.

Current Research Initiatives

"A Question of Freedom" in Post-Revolutionary America--This book is a narrative history of the Queen v. Hepburn case in 1813, the first petition for freedom to come before the Supreme Court, and a landmark case establishing the hearsay rule in American law. This story follows the local histories of three-generations of black and white families, including the Queens, their attorney, Francis Scott Key, Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, and other legal actors in early national Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

The History Harvest--The History Harvest is an innovative new authentic learning initiative. This collaborative, team-oriented, student-centered and community-based project seeks to create a popular movement to democratize and open American history by utilizing digital technologies to share the experiences and artifacts of everyday people and local historical institutions. The project aims to raise visibility and public conversation about history and its meaning, as well as provide a new foundation of publicly available material for historical study, K-12 instruction, and life-long learning. <http://historyharvest.unl.edu>

Recent Grants

"Digging into Data Competition, National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Digital Humanities, "Railroads and the Making of Modern America," 2009-2010
ITLE-4, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs,
"Improving Writing in the History Survey Courses," 2008-2009
American Council of Learned Societies, Digital Innovation Fellowship, 2007-2008

Invited Lectures

"Future Trends in Digital Humanities," Keynote, CIC/Big 10 Symposium, April 2012.
"Railroads, the Civil War, and the Making of Modern America," Michael Colligan Lecture, Miami University, October 2011.
"Teaching with Technology from the Survey to the Seminar," Kent State University OAH Distinguished Lecture, March 2010.
"Digital Histories for the Digital Age: How Do We Teach Writing Now?" EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Keynote, January 2010.
"The Practice of Digital History," The British Library 21st Century Curators' Seminar, London, October 2008.
"Digital Publishing and the Future of Scholarly Communication," The Ohio State University, 2008.
"Rising Up--Fifty Years Later: The South, Virginia, and the Civil Rights Struggle," Alexandria Library Company Lecture in Southern History, March 2007.

Essays

"History Harvests: What Happens When Students Collect and Digitize the People's History?" co-author with Patrick D. Jones and Andrew Witmer, Perspectives on History, January 2013.
"The Humanities in the Digital Age," co-author with Alan Liu, Inside Higher Ed, October 1, 2012.
"Brother Artists: Civil War Photographers and Sketch Artists Take to the Field," The New York Times, co-author with Leslie Working, November 17, 2012.
"Been Workin' on the Railroad," The New York Times, February 10, 2012.

Board Service

National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), 2013-present

Editorial Board, Anvil Academic, 2012-present
Board of Directors, Nebraska Humanities Council, 2009-2010
Board of Editors, Southern Spaces, Emory University, 2002-present
Board of Directors, Center for Liberal Arts, University of Virginia, 1999-2005

Digital Projects for Teaching and Research (Director or Co-Director)

Co-Editor: "The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War"

Co-Editor, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia in American History*, Oxford University Press, 2013-present.

Project Director or Co-Director: "Television News in the Civil Rights Era, 1950-1970"; "The Geography of Slavery in Virginia"; "Race and Place: An African American Community in the Jim Crow South"; "Chesapeake Bay Environmental History: The Eastern Shore of Virginia and the Railroad"; "Railroads and The Making of Modern America"; "The Digital History Project"; "The History Harvest"; "O Say Can You See: Early Washington D.C. Law and Family Project"

Member: American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, Social Science History Association, Southern Historical Association, Society of Civil War Historians

Community Service and Other Interests

Board of Trustees, Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia, Alexandria, Va. 2000-present

Senior Warden and Vestry Member, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2007-2010

Vestry Member, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Charlottesville, Va., 2006-2009

Special Olympics, National U.S. Games, Volunteer, 2010

Down Syndrome Family Association (DSAF) of Nebraska, 2005-present