

William G. Thomas III
wgt@unl.edu

Employment

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2005-present
Chair, Department of History, 2010-present
John and Catherine Angle Chair in the Humanities and Professor of History
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, Corcoran Department of History, 2001-2004

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

Selected Publications

"A Question of Freedom": The Ordeal of an American Family in the Age of Revolution
(manuscript in progress)
Editor, *A Lincoln Dialogue*, by James A. Rawley, University of Nebraska Press, 2015.
The Iron Way: Railroads, The Civil War, and the Making of Modern America (Yale University Press, 2011).
"Black and on the Border," co-author with Edward L. Ayers and Anne Sarah Rubin, in Gabor Boritt, ed., *Slavery, Resistance, Freedom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).
"The Countryside Transformed: The Eastern Shore of Virginia, the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the Making of a Modern Landscape," with Brooks Barnes and Tom Szuba, *Southern Spaces*. July, 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).
"The Differences Slavery Made: A Close Analysis of Two American Communities," co-author with Edward L. Ayers, *American Historical Review*, December 2003.
Lawyering for the Railroad: Business, Law and Power in the New South (Louisiana State University Press, 1999).

Honors and Awards

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

American Council of Learned Societies, Digital Innovation Fellowship, 2007-2008.
British Association of American Studies, Visiting Professor in North American Studies,
Eccles Centre for American Studies, British Library, 2008-2009
Newberry Library, Short-term Fellowship, 2007-2008
OAH Distinguished Lecturer, 2007-present
Mead Honored Faculty, University of Virginia, 2004-2005 for Rising Up
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

Recent Grants

"O Say Can You See: Early Washington, D.C. Law and Family," National Endowment for
the Humanities, 2014-2016.
"Railroads and the Making of Modern America," Digging into Data Competition, National
Endowment for the Humanities, 2009-2011, co-PI with Richard Healey, University
of Portsmouth.

Op-Ed Pieces and Essays

"The Other End of the Scale: Rethinking the Digital Experience in Higher Education," with
Elizabeth Lorang, *EDUCAUSE Review*, forthcoming September/October 2014.
"My Home, The House of the Dead," *The New York Times*, Sunday Review, September 8,
2013.
"Humanities in the Digital Age," with Alan Liu, *Inside Higher Education*, October 1, 2012
"Been Workin' on the Railroad," *The New York Times*, February 10, 2012, Opinionator

Digital Initiatives

Co-Editor: *The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War*
Series Editor, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia in American History*, Oxford University Press
Project Director:
O Say Can You See: Early Washington, D.C. Law and Family
(<http://earlywashingtondc.org>)
The History Harvest (<http://historyharvest.unl.edu>)
Railroads and the Making of Modern America (<http://railroads.unl.edu>)
Civil Rights Television News (<http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/civilrightstv>)

Selected Boards

National Historical Publications and Records Commission, National Archives and Records
Administration, 2013-present
Executive Committee, 2014-present
Program Committee 2015, American Historical Association