

## William G. Thomas III

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@wgthomas3

### Academic Leadership

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2005-present  
Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program Fellow, 2019-2020  
Chair, Department of History, 2010-2016  
John and Catherine Angle Chair in the Humanities and Professor of History  
Faculty Fellow, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities  
Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Ethnic Studies, 2016-present

University of Virginia, 1996-2005  
Director, Virginia Center for Digital History, 1998-2005  
Associate Professor of History, Corcoran Department of History, 2004-2005  
Assistant Professor of History, 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

*Out of the Vineyard: The Freedom Suits and The Families That Challenged American Slavery* (under contract with Yale University Press)  
*A Lincoln Dialogue*, by James A. Rawley, University of Nebraska Press, 2015 (editor)  
*The Iron Way: Railroads, The Civil War, and the Making of Modern America* (Yale University Press, 2011)  
"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)

### Major Fellowships and Awards

2016-17 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship  
2017 John T. Hubbell Prize from *Civil War History* (best article published in 2016)  
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 teaching, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
2008 *American Council of Learned Societies*, Digital Innovation Fellow  
2008 *British Association of American Studies*, Visiting Professor in North American Studies, Eccles Centre for American Studies, British Library  
2007 *Newberry Library*, Short-term Fellow  
2007-present *Organization of American Historians* Distinguished Lecturer  
2004 *Mead Honored Faculty*, University of Virginia, teaching award

- 2003 *The James Harvey Robinson Prize*, American Historical Association, with Edward L. Ayers and Anne S. Rubin, for *Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War*
- 2001 *The Lincoln Prize*, 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

- "The Bell Affair: A Documentary Film Reframing American Slavery and Freedom," National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Public Programs Media Production, 2019-2021.
- "O Say Can You See: Early Washington, D.C. Law and Family," National Endowment for the Humanities, 2014-2016.

### Op-Ed Pieces and Essays

- "When Enslaved People Sued Georgetown's Founders for Freedom," *Washington Post*, August 19, 2016.
- "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, Disunion Blog

### Digital Initiatives and Media Productions

Co-Executive Producer: [\*Anna\*](#) (released February 2018)

Project Director:

[\*O Say Can You See: Early Washington, D.C. Law and Family\*](#)  
[\*Railroads and the Making of Modern America\*](#)  
[\*Civil Rights Television News\*](#)

Co-Director:

[\*The History Harvest\*](#)

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

### Selected Boards

National Historical Publications and Records Commission, National Archives and Records Administration, 2013-present  
Board of Fellows, Trinity College, CT, 2016-2019