

Edward L. Ayers

Tucker-Boatwright Professor of the Humanities
University Professor
President Emeritus
University of Richmond

Books

- The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America*
(W. W. Norton, 2017)
- What Caused the Civil War? Reflections on the South and Southern History,*
(W.W. Norton, 2005)
- In the Presence of Mine Enemies: Civil War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863,*
(W.W. Norton, Fall 2003)
- The Oxford Book of the American South: Testimony, Memory, and Fiction,*
edited with Bradley Mittendorf (Oxford University Press, 1997)
- All Over the Map: Rethinking American Regions,* co-editor and co-author, (Johns Hopkins
University Press, 1996)
- The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction* (Oxford University Press, 1992;
15th Anniversary Edition, 2007)
- Vengeance and Justice: Crime and Punishment in the Nineteenth-Century American South*
(Oxford University Press, 1984; paperback edition, 1986)

Awards for Scholarship

- Lincoln Prize for best book on the Civil War era, Gilder Lehrman Institute, 2018
- Avery Craven Prize for most original work on the Civil War, Organization of American Historians,
2018
- Albert J. Beveridge Award, American Historical Association, for the best English-language book
on the history of the Americas since 1492, 2004
- Bancroft Prize for Distinguished Book in American History, Columbia University, 2004
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences, elected to membership, 2001
- E-Lincoln Prize for Best Digital Project on the Era of the American Civil War, Gilder Lehrman
Institute and Gettysburg College, 2001
- Frank L. and Harriet C. Owsley Award for the best book in Southern history, Southern Historical
Association, 1993
- James Rawley Prize, best book on the history of race relations in the United States, Organization of
American Historians, 1992
- National Book Award, Finalist for Nonfiction, 1992
- Pulitzer Prize, Finalist for History, 1992
- J. Willard Hurst Award for Best Book in American Legal History, cowinner for 1984-1985, Law and
Society Association

Awards for Teaching and Service

- National Humanities Medal, awarded by the President of the United States, “for making American
history accessible to all Americans,” 2013
- National Professor of the Year for Research and Doctoral Universities, Carnegie Foundation for the
Advancement of Teaching, and Council for Support and Advancement of Education,
(CASE Award), 2003
- Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal, School of Graduate Studies Award for Outstanding Achievement, Yale
University, 2003
- James Harvey Robinson Prize for Outstanding Aid to Teaching History, American Historical
Association (AHA), 2002
- State Council of Higher Education in Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award, 1991

National Service

President, Organization of American Historians, 2017-8
Chair, Committee on Digital Scholarship, American Historical Association, 2014-15
American Council for Education, executive committee, 2008-12
National Humanities Center, board, 2007-11
National Council for the Humanities, 2000-2004, appointed by the President of the United States to advise the National Endowment for the Humanities

Digital and Broadcast Media

Executive Director, New American History, University of Richmond, incorporating *Bunk*, a digital media network for American history and *American Panorama*, a digital atlas of American history, Digital Scholarship Lab, University of Richmond
Co-host, *BackStory*, a nationally syndicated podcast, Virginia Humanities, 2008-present

Education

BA, University of Tennessee, summa cum laude, American Studies, 1974
PhD, Yale University, American Studies, 1980

Academic and Leadership Positions

President, University of Richmond, 2007-2015
Buckner W. Clay Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, 2001-2007; Hugh P. Kelly Professor, 1993-2007; professor, 1992-1993; associate professor, 1986-1992; assistant professor, 1980-1986
Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto, 1999-2000
John Adams Professor of American Studies, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, 1995

Current Board Service

American Civil War Museum, Richmond, founding chair of board, 2010-present
Robins Foundation, Richmond, 2015-present
Colonial Williamsburg Board of Directors, 2018-present
Gilder Lehrman Institute Board of Directors, 2018-present
The Valentine, Museum of the City of Richmond, 2018-present
Organization of American Historians, Executive Board, 2015-present
Virginia Humanities, 2015-present
Fort Monroe Authority, 2018-2021

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