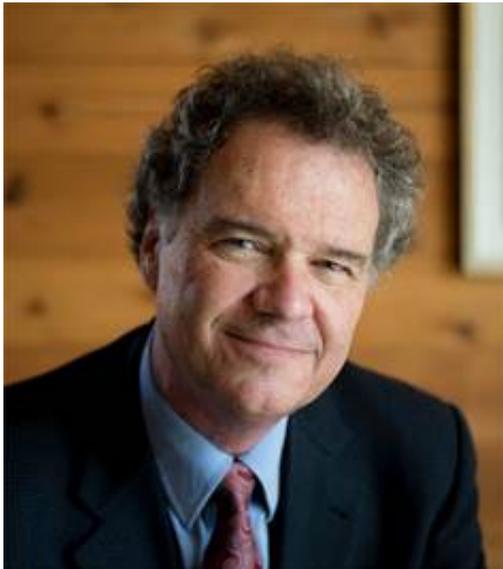


Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
P.O. Box 1776
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1776
www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

Historians Edward L. Ayers and Walter B. Edgar Elected Trustees of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



Edward L. Ayers, Walter Edgar

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Sept. 4, 2018) – The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation board of trustees has elected historians Edward L. Ayers and Walter B. Edgar to serve as trustees of the Foundation.

Ayers is an author and the Tucker-Boatwright professor of the humanities and president emeritus at the University of Richmond. He received the National Humanities Medal in 2012 for his work to make American history more accessible, and he cohosts the syndicated public radio history show and podcast “BackStory.”

Edgar founded the public history program at the University of South Carolina, where he is distinguished professor of history emeritus and Claude Henry Neuffer professor of southern studies emeritus. He is the author of books including “Partisans and Redcoats” and he hosts “Walter Edgar’s Journal” and “South Carolina from A to Z” on South Carolina Public Radio.

“Colonial Williamsburg’s mission to share the events and ideas of our nation’s founding is as critical as ever,” said Henry C. Wolf, chairman of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation board of trustees. “Ed and Walter are not only among the nation’s most respected historians, they are

two of its leading advocates for the relevance and accessibility of public history. We deeply value the insight they will contribute as members of the board.”

Charleston newspaper *The Post and Courier* wrote that Edgar has “promoted the audacious notion that women, Native Americans, African-Americans, Upstate mill workers and woodsmen ought to have as significant a place in the great mosaic of the state’s history as the powder-wigged Lords Proprietors, Revolutionary War heroes and Civil War generals.”

“Through innovative programming and outreach, Colonial Williamsburg strives to engage ever-wider audiences with our shared American story,” said Mitchell B. Reiss, president and CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. “In addition to their scholarship, Ed and Walter have leveraged media and technology to share their passion for history far beyond the classroom, and we value their guidance as we expand the reach of our core educational mission.”

Ayers is the 2018 recipient of the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize for his book *The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America*, honoring a work that enhances the general public’s understanding of the Civil War era. He served from 2001-2007 as Buckner W. Clay dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia and as a member of the faculty beginning in 1986. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee and his doctorate from Yale University, both in American Studies. He served as president of the Organization of American Historians and as a member of the National Council for the Humanities. He is a founding member of the board of the American Civil War Museum and serves on the boards of Virginia Humanities and the Fort Monroe Authority.

“Public history allows us to experience the past and develop a better understanding of ourselves, one another and our shared story,” Ayers said. “Technology is a valuable tool in that journey, yet only at a site like Colonial Williamsburg can we learn firsthand from the men and women who founded the nation. I look forward to supporting the foundation’s work as it evolves to inspire the next generation of history enthusiasts.”

Edgar served as a captain in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971, including deployment to Vietnam. He retired in 1995 as a colonel in the Army Reserve. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Davidson College and his Master of Arts degree and doctorate from the University of South Carolina. He served as George Washington Distinguished Professor of History for the Society of the Cincinnati from 1999-2012, and is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Carolina African-American Heritage Association. He was named 2008 College Educator of the Year in South Carolina by the Sons of the American Revolution, and received the Founder’s Medal from the National Society of the Daughters of American Revolution for contributions to American history and education.

“American History is a treasure that we are still uncovering every day, in particular less well-known aspects of centuries past,” Edgar said. “Colonial Williamsburg is at the forefront of researching and interpreting history to capture its relevance in today’s world, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to play a part in its critical work.”

The other members of the Colonial Williamsburg board of trustees are Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr., cofounder and co-CEO of The St. James Group; Frank Batten Jr., chairman, president and CEO of Landmark Media Enterprises LLC and Dominion Enterprises; Catharine O’Neill Broderick, former trustee, Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Mark A. Coblitz, senior vice president, retired, Comcast Corp.; Thomas F. Farrell II, chairman, president and CEO, Dominion Energy Inc.;

Carly Fiorina, former chair and CEO, Hewlett-Packard; Conrad M. Hall, president and CEO, retired, Dominion Enterprises; Antonia Hernández, president and CEO, California Community Foundation; Jo Ann Jenkins, CEO, AARP; Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, U.S. Supreme Court; Mark J. Kington, managing member, Kington Management LLC; John A. Luke Jr., chairman, WestRock Company; Leslie A. Miller, principal, Leslie A. Miller Esq., LLC; Cynthia H. Milligan, dean emeritus, University of Nebraska, and president, Wood Stieper Capital Group; Joseph W. Montgomery, managing director, the Optimal Service Group of Wells Fargo Advisors; Thurston R. Moore, special counsel, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP; Thomas K. Norment Jr., Virginia state senator and counsel, Kaufman & Canoles; Reiss; Gerald L. Shaheen, retired group president, Caterpillar, Inc.; Joseph Christopher Simmons, managing partner, retired, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP; Sheldon M. Stone, principal and portfolio manager, Oaktree Capital Management, L.P.; and Y. Ping Sun, university representative, Rice University.

Media contact: Joe Straw
757-220-7287
jstraw@cwf.org

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes nearly 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

– CWF –