

John R. Wunder (1945-)



John R. Wunder, a dedicated legal scholar of the U.S. West, Native American, and Great Plains history, served as the 49th President of the Western History Association. His term ran from 2009-2010 and presided over the WHA's 50th Annual Conference at North Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Dr. Wunder held faculty posts at Case Western Reserve University (1974-78), Texas Tech University (1978-84), Clemson University (1984-88), and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (1988-2011). He also held visiting and fellow positions at Lewis and Clark College, Columbia University, the Australian National University, and the University of Mexico, and was the Bicentennial Chair in North American Studies as a Fulbright Professor at the University of Helsinki's Renvall Institute from 1995-1996. He is currently a Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Born in Vinton,

Iowa and raised in nearby Dysart, Dr. Wunder completed a B.A. (1967), M.A. (1970) and J.D. (1970) at the University of Iowa, and Ph.D. in history at the University of Washington (1974).

Dr. Wunder authored or co-authored four monographs, over fifty journal articles or anthology chapters, and countless reviews and miscellaneous essays in Western, Legal, Indigenous and Great Plains history. He edited some fourteen volumes and is series editor for Texas Tech University Press's Plains Histories and the University of Nebraska Press's Law in the American West. His legal expertise was most strongly demonstrated in its application to Native history; the foremost example being "Retained by the People": A History of American Indians and the Bill of Rights (1994). He continues with these themes in ongoing research and writing for a monograph on comparative global indigenous treaties.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wunder received numerous awards and honors for teaching, scholarship, and service, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Organization of Native American Scholars. He has received grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Nebraska Humanities Council, Library of Congress and Carnegie/Knight Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and countless others. Aside from continuing and future scholarship and service, one of Dr. Wunder's most lasting legacies will be the impact he has had upon young scholars. He advised nearly 69 Ph.D. dissertations and M.A. theses during his tenure as a Professor, many of which went on to become award-winning monographs and launch a number of successful academic careers. Still active, with a number of projects in-progress, John currently lives with his wife, Dr. Susan Wunder, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Sources:

John R. Wunder, "Curriculum Vitae," University of Nebraska-Lincoln Archives and Special Collections, Biographical Files, RG/52-01, Box 329.

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