

Walter W. Woodward Biographical Information

Walter W. Woodward is the state historian of Connecticut and an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Connecticut. He is the fifth person to hold the position of state historian, which was created in the 1930s in preparation for Connecticut's 300th Anniversary. Woodward is a scholar of early American and Atlantic world history, specializing in New England and Connecticut. He has written numerous articles on subjects ranging from witchcraft in Connecticut, to the use of music by missionaries on the colonial frontier. His book *Prospero's America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy and the Creation of New England Culture 1606-1676* was published by the University of North Carolina press this year.

Woodward received his Ph.D. with Distinction from the University of Connecticut in 2001. He obtained his Master's Degree in history from Cleveland State University, and his BA in English from the University of Florida. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, the Huntington Library in San Marino California, the Yale Center for Religion in American Life, and the John Carter Brown Library in Providence. He is a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Science, a fellow of the American Antiquarian Society, and an elected member of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He has received awards for teaching, and been saluted by the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies as an advocate for social studies education. Prior to joining the University of Connecticut, Woodward was on the faculty of History at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Woodward serves on the boards of the Connecticut Humanities Council, the Connecticut Historical Society, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (ex officio), the Connecticut Museum of Natural History, the Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission, the State Historical Records Advisory Board, the editorial boards

of the journal *Connecticut History* and the magazine *Connecticut Explored*, and a number of other civic and cultural institutions.

Before becoming a historian, Woodward had successful careers in both the music and the advertising industries. He was the composer of two hit country songs “Marty Gray” and “It Could ‘A Been Me” in the 1970s, as well as music for film and television, for which he won two Emmy awards, and two special achievement awards from SESAC. His advertising creativity won him 8 coveted Clio Awards, and in 1980 he was Cleveland’s Advertising Person of the Year.

He lives in Manchester, Connecticut, with his wife Irene, a veterinarian. He has four children and two grandchildren.