

2023 Publication Award Winner



Dr. Richard Bruce Winders was born in 1953 in Brookings, South Dakota, to an Air Force family. His parents and two sisters lived in Colorado Springs and St. John's, Newfoundland before his father retired and the family settled in western Kentucky in 1962. Dr. Winders grew up on a small farm located between Mayfield and Paducah, an experience which enhanced his appreciation for the connection between geography and human endeavors. He moved to Fort Worth, Texas, with his future wife, Sharon, after graduating from Murray State University with an undergraduate degree in Geology. Dr. Winders began a ten-year-long career as a public's schoolteacher in 1980 before later entering the graduate program in History at Texas Christian University. In 1996, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas hired him as the first Historian & Curator of the world-famous Alamo, a post he held for twenty-three years before resigning in 2019.

Dr. Winders emerged from TCU with the idea that writers of history need to be relevant as well as readable. This idea is also held by State House Press which is headed by another TCU alumni. Through his published works on the Mexican War and the Texas Revolution, he has become a leading authority on this era of history. His research has convinced him "that all history is connected."

The recipient of numerous awards for writing, Dr. Winders was inducted in the Texas Literary Hall of Fame in 2022.

