

WILTON LIBRARY



## NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Visiting Author David Blight at Wilton Library on Feb. 7

Wilton, CT – Historian, scholar and author David W. Blight visits Wilton Library on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. to discuss his latest book, *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Narratives of Emancipation*. The book combines two newly discovered slave narratives in a volume that recovers the lives of their authors, John Washington (1838 – 1918), and Wallace Turnage (1846 - 1916), as well as provides an incisive history of the story of emancipation. Mr. Blight, a Yale University American History professor, is considered to be one of the nation’s leading authorities on the U.S. Civil War and its legacies. He serves as director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition at Yale.

*Publisher’s Weekly* said of *A Slave No More*, “Three fascinating works are packaged here: two unpolished manuscripts by former slaves Wallace Turnage (1846-1916) and John Washington (1838-1918), and an illuminating analysis of them by award-winning historian Blight...These powerful memoirs reveal poignant, heroic, painful and inspiring lives.” *The New York Times*’s William Grimes wrote, “Two remarkable lives, previously lost, emerge with startling clarity, largely through the words of the principal actors themselves...Washington and Turnage...offer a precious commodity.”

Before coming to Yale, Mr. Blight was at Amherst College, where he taught for 13 years. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin- Madison and did his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University. He taught at Harvard and at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. He taught for seven years in a public high school

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Wilton Library/2

in his hometown of Flint, Michigan before his university career. He was awarded a Bancroft Prize, a Lincoln Prize, and a Frederick Douglass Prize for his previous writings. During the 2006-07 Yale academic year, he was a fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars, New York Public Library.

Books provided by Wilton Open Book Shop will be available for purchase and signing following the talk. There is no charge for the Visiting Author events. Advance registration is recommended. To register, visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org/events](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org/events) or call (203) 762-3950. Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center.

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