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**Rare Slave Narratives Highlighted by Historian David W. Blight**

Lecture on Blight's Most Recent Book: *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom*

Richmond, Va – Nationally acclaimed historian David W. Blight will speak about his new book, *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom*, at the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar on Saturday, February 9 at 3 p.m. The lecture is FREE to the public and will be held at the Richmond National Battlefield Park Visitor Center operated by the National Park Service, co-sponsor of the event. A book signing at the American Civil War Center Museum Store will follow the presentation.

Dr. Blight, director of Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, prefaces the narratives with each man's life history. Wallace Turnage was a teenage field hand on an Alabama plantation; John Washington an urban slave in Virginia. Though they never met, both men saw opportunity for freedom during the chaos of the Civil War. Both slaves escaped to the North and left remarkable accounts of their flights.

Handed down through family and friends, these narratives tell the gripping story of how these two "ordinary" men survived vicious beatings, humiliation, and isolation to become literate, escape their owners, and eventually reunite their families. Using a wealth of genealogical information, Blight has reconstructed their childhoods as sons of white slaveholders, their service as cooks and camp hands during the Civil War, and their climb to black working-class stability in the North.

Filled with the two men's humor, faith, and joy, *A Slave No More* offers a rich new answer to the question of how four million people moved from slavery to freedom, and tells the previously untold stories of two men who can now take their rightful place in the canon of American history.

Slave narratives, some of the most powerful records of our past, are extremely rare. Only 55 post-Civil War narratives survive; few are first-person accounts by slaves who ran away to free themselves. Now, two newly discovered narratives, and the biographies of the men who wrote them, join that exclusive group with the publication of *A Slave No More*.

The American Civil War Center is open daily, Monday through Sunday, 9am-5pm. For information or to reply please call (804) 780-1865 ext. 25 or email at [info@tredegar.org](mailto:info@tredegar.org).

For information on the Center's upcoming events, contact us at (804) 780-1865 ext. 10 or visit our website at [www.civilwarcenter.com](http://www.civilwarcenter.com).

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**Attached: headshot of Dr. David W. Blight**

**The mission of The American Civil War Center is to tell the whole story of the conflict that still shapes our nation. The Center is located at the Tredegar Iron Works, an 8.3 acre National Historic Landmark site by the James River in Richmond. The 1861 Gun Foundry is home to the 10,000-square-foot flagship exhibit, *In the Cause of Liberty*, the nation's first exhibit to explore the war's causes, course, and legacies from Union, Confederate and African American perspectives. The Center offers History Labs and digital history programming for students K-12, while the Tredegar Institute provides ongoing adult educational opportunities through community dialogues and symposia.**