

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### David William Blight

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### EDUCATION

- 1985 Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, American History (Scholarly Concentration: Nineteenth-Century America; special interest in the Civil War and Reconstruction, African- American history, and American intellectual and cultural history.)
- 1976 M.A., Michigan State University, American History
- 1971 B.A., Michigan State University, History

\* William Pitt Professor of American History, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, 2013-14.

\* Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2012.

\* Honorary degrees from Transylvania University (2011); Bowdoin College (2012; Dominican College (2015); Muhlenberg College (2016).

\* President, Society of American Historians, 2013-14.

\* Biography of Frederick Douglass, optioned for feature film, Sony Pictures, 2014; and for documentary multi-part series on PBS, 2018.

### TEACHING AND EMPLOYMENT RECORD

- 2003-present Yale University, Sterling Professor of American History (appointed 2019); Class of 1954 Professor of American History ('03-'19); Director, the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, McMillan Center for International and Area Studies.
- 1989-2002 Amherst College, Amherst, MA, Class of 1959 Professor of History and Black Studies, appointed 1999; Professor, 1998; Associate Professor, 1992-97; Assistant Professor, 1989-92.
- 1992-93 Senior Fulbright Professor, Amerika Institut, University of Munich, Munich, Germany.
- 1987-89 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Assistant Professor of History and Afro-American Studies.
- 1982-87 North Central College, Naperville, IL, Instructor (1982-85), promoted to Assistant Professor (September, 1985).
- 1979-82 University of Wisconsin-Madison, five semesters as a Teaching Assistant, Department of History.
- 1977-78 Saginaw Valley State College, Saginaw, MI, Instructor in History Department. Afro-American history courses for two semesters.
- 1971-78 Flint Northern High School, Flint, MI. Wide variety of courses in American History and the Social Studies.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

*Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, Simon and Schuster, 2018. Winner of eight book awards: Pulitzer Prize for History; Abraham Lincoln Prize, Bancroft Prize, Parkman Prize of the Society of American Historians; International Association of Biographers best biography of 2018; L.A. Times best biography prize; New England Booksellers best non-fiction book for 2018; William B. Stanton award from the New York Civil Forum; short listed for the Cudhill Prize. \*The book has been optioned by Higher Ground Productions and Netflix for a feature film, screenwriter, Kevin Willmott.

Editor and author of introduction, Robert Penn Warren, *Who Speaks for the Negro* (1965), new edition of classic oral history, Yale University Press, 2014.

Editor and author of introduction, Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855), a new scholarly edition, Yale University Press, 2014.

*American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era*, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011.

- received the Anisfield-Wolf Prize for non-fiction about race and human diversity, 2012, given by the Cleveland Foundation.

*A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Narratives of Emancipation*, Harcourt, 2007.

-received three book awards, including the Connecticut Book Award for Non-Fiction; The Christopher Award; and one of Twenty Books to Remember from 2007 from the New York Public Library.

*Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2001.

-received seven book awards: Bancroft Prize, Abraham Lincoln Prize, Frederick Douglass Prize, and four awards from the Organization of American Historians, including the Merle Curti prizes in intellectual history and social history, the James Rawley Prize for race relations, and the Ellis Hawley Prize for political history.

Co-editor with Robert Harms and Bernard Fraeman, *Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Indian Ocean*, Yale University Press, in progress, 2011.

Editor, *Passages to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory*, Smithsonian Press Books, 2004. Author of two of the articles in the volume.

*Beyond the Battlefield: Race, Memory and the American Civil War*, University of Massachusetts Press, 2002.

Co-author with Mary Beth Norton, Janes Kamensky, Howard Chudacoff, Fred Logeval, Beth Bailey, and Carol Shariff, *A People and a Nation: A History of the United States*, Houghton Mifflin, now in 10th edition, 2008.

*Frederick Douglass's Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee*, Louisiana State University Press, 1989. (Paperback edition published, July, 1991; fourth printing, 2004.)

Editor and author of introduction, "*When This Cruel War is Over*": *The Civil War Letters of Charles Harvey Brewster*, University of Massachusetts Press, 1992.

Editor and author of introduction, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1993; sixth printing, 1997.)

Co-Editor and author of introduction, with Robert Gooding-Williams, a new edition of W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1997. Combines the sensibilities of an historian and a philosopher in presenting this classic text.

Co-Editor with Brooks D. Simpson, *Union and Emancipation: Essays on Politics and Race in the Civil War Era*, Kent State University Press, 1997.

Editor and author of introduction, a reprint, 200th anniversary edition of Caleb Bingham, *The Columbian Orator* (1797), New York University Press, 1997. This is the book of oratory and antislavery readings Frederick Douglass discovered while he was a slave; it has not been in print since 1860.

## Drama

“Stepchild: Frederick Douglass Remembers Abraham Lincoln,” co-author with Peter Almond, received one public reading, fall, 2009, Schomburg Library, New York, NY.

## Selected Articles and Review Essays

- Foreword for Karolyn Smardz Frost and Veta Smith Tucker, eds., *A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, Resistance, and the Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Borderlands*, Wayne State Univ. Press, 2016.
- “What Was Reconstruction?” *Atlantic*, September 15, 2015.
- “The Reconciler,” essay of remembrance on Rev. Clementa Pinckney in the wake of the Charleston, SC mass murder of June, 2015, *Atlantic*, June 22, 2015.
- “But There Was No Peace”: How the Civil War Ended,” *Atlantic*, April 10, 2015.
- “Last Full Measure of Devotion,” introduction for collection of documents on “Death and Sacrifice in the American Civil War,” Library of America, fall, 2013.
- Review of Allen Guelzo, *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion*, *New York Times*, June 30, 2013.
- “Lincoln, Emancipation, and the Virtue of Necessity,” *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*, Jan. 2013.
- “Will it Rise? September 11 in American Memory,” in Francesc Torres and Clifford Chanin, eds., *Memory Remains: 9/11 Artifacts at Hangar 17*,” pub. by National Geographic for the 9/11 Memorial Museum, September, 2011.
- “In Memory’s Mirror: The Civil War at 150,” *The American Interest*, Aug-Sept., 2011, 28-39.
- “Epilogue: In Search of a Moral Geography of the Atlantic Slave Trade,” in David Eltis and David Richardson, general editors, *The Historical Atlas of the Atlantic Slave Trade*, Yale University Press, 2010, in conjunction with Gilder Lehrman Center, Yale University. This is a lavish atlas with more than 200 maps and illustrations that I originally conceived with Yale Press editors and a team of scholars.
- “Foreword,” in Molly Rogers, *Delia’s Tears: Race, Science, and Photography in the Nineteenth Century*, Yale University Press, in press, 2010.
- “Loving and Hating the ‘Real’ Lincolns in the American South,” in Richard Carwardine and Jay Sexton, eds., *The Global Lincoln*, Oxford University Press, 2011.
- “The Civil War Sesquicentennial: The Goal Should Be an Enlightening Commemoration,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*,” June 5, 2009.
- “The Theft of Lincoln in History, Memory, and Politics,” in Eric Foner, ed., *Our Lincoln*, W. W. Norton, 2008.
- “William Lloyd Garrison at Two Hundred: His Radicalism and His Legacy in Our Own Time,” in James Brewer Stewart, ed., *William Lloyd Garrison at Two Hundred*, Yale University Press, 2008.
- “Frederick Douglass,” 10,000- word essay on Douglass for Paul Finkelman, ed., *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass*, Oxford University Press, 2006.
- “Constitutionalism and the Limits of Character: A Review Essay on Daniel Farber’s *Lincoln’s Constitution*,” *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities*, no 2, vol. 17, summer, 2005.
- “Appomattox in American Memory,” essay for new guidebook, Appomattox National Historic Park, National Park Service, fall, 2001.
- “Up From Melodrama and Wish-Fulfillment: Slavery and Film,” Common-Place, June, 2001, an on-line history journal, [www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org).
- “The Shaw Memorial in the Landscape of Civil War Memory,” in Donald Yacavone, Martin Blatt, and Thomas Brown, eds., *Hope and Glory: Essays on the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts and the Shaw Memorial*, University of Massachusetts Press, 2001.

- “Southerners Don’t Lie: They Just Remember Big,” in Fitzhugh Brundage, ed., *Where These Memories Grow: History, Memory, and Southern Identity*, University of North Carolina Press, 2000.
- "John Brown: Triumphant Failure," review of film, "John Brown's Holy War," The American Prospect, March 13, 2000.
- "Fifty Years of Freedom: The Memory of Emancipation at the Civil War Semicentennial, 1910-1915," *Slavery and Abolition*, August 2000.
- "Homer With a Camera, Our *Iliad* Without the Aftermath: Ken Burns's Dialogue with Historians," review essay on Robert B. Toplin, *Ken Burns's "The Civil War": Historians Respond*, (Oxford University Press, 1996), Reviews in American History, June, 1997.
- "Quarrel Forgotten or a Revolution Remembered: Reunion, Race, and the Memory of the Civil War, 1875-1913," in Blight and Simpson, eds., *Union and Emancipation: Essays on Politics and Race in the Civil War Era*, Kent State University Press, 1997.
- Participant, as editorial board member and author of a reader's report, in roundtable on Joel Williamson's "Wounds Not Scars: Lynching, National Conscience, and the American Historian," Journal of American History, March, 1997.
- "Analyze the Sounds: Frederick Douglass's Invitation to Modern Historians of Slavery," in Stephan Palmié, ed., *Slave Cultures and Cultures of Slavery*, University of Tennessee Press, 1996.
- "They Knew What Time It Was: African-Americans and the Coming of the Civil War," in Gabor S. Boritt, ed., *Why The Civil War Came*, Oxford University Press, 1996.
- "The Age of Emancipation," chapter on Civil War and Reconstruction Era, 1861-1895, in James and Lois Horton, eds., *A History of the African American People*, Salamander Press, London, 1995, paperback edition, 1997.
- "The Meaning or the Fight: Frederick Douglass and the Memory of the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts," Massachusetts Review, Spring, 1995.
- Essays on Frederick Douglass and David Walker for *The Companion to American Thought*, James Kloppenberg, ed., Basil Blackwell, 1995.
- Essays, "The Civil War" and "Emancipation" for *Encyclopedia of African-American History and Culture*, Jack Salzman and Cornel West, eds., Macmillan & Co., 1995.
- Biographical essay on Paul Herman Buck, American historian and former Provost and Dean, Harvard University, *American National Biography*, John Garraty, ed., 1995.
- "W.E.B. Du Bois and the Struggle for American Historical Memory," *History and Memory in Afro-American Culture*, Genevieve Fabre and Robert O'Meally, eds., Oxford University Press, 1994.
- "Lewis's Du Bois: The Race Man as All Too Human Genius," Massachusetts Review, special issue on W.E.B. Du Bois, Summer, 1994.
- "Nathan I. Huggins, the Art of History, and the Irony of the American Dream," Reviews in American History, Spring, 1994. Reprinted in anthology, Stanley I. Kutler, ed., *American Retrospectives: Historians on Historians*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.
- "The Private Worlds of Frederick Douglass," review essay on William S. McFeely, *Frederick Douglass*, (Norton, 1991), Transition, Winter, 1994.
- "Integrazionismo e Nazionalismo: Due Tradizioni Afroamericane incrociate da Douglass a Malcolm X," in Alessandro Portelli, ed., *Dialogo Su Malcolm X*, Libri Manif, Rome, 1994. Translation of paper delivered as a comparison of Frederick Douglass and Malcolm X as autobiographers, University of Rome, April 28, 1993.
- "What Will Peace Among the Whites Bring? Race and Reunion in the Struggle Over the Memory of the Civil War, 1870-1913," Massachusetts Review, Fall, 1993.
- "No Desperate Hero: Manhood and Freedom in the Civil War Experience of Charles Harvey Brewster," *Divided Houses: Gender and the American Civil War*, Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber, eds., Oxford University Press, 1992.

- "The World the Slave Traders Made: Is There a Post-Revisionism in Slavery Historiography?", review essay on Michael Tadman, *Speculators and Slaves: Masters, Traders, and Slaves in the Old South*, Reviews in American History, March, 1991.
- Biographical essays on Sojourner Truth, Martin Delany, Frederick Douglass, David Walker, John Mercer Langston, and Booker T. Washington for *The Readers' Companion to American History*, Eric Foner and John Garraty, eds., Houghton Mifflin, 1991.
- "Up From 'Twoness': Frederick Douglass and the Meaning of W.E.B. Du Bois's Concept of Double Consciousness," Canadian Review of American Studies, Spring, 1991.
- "For Something Beyond the Battlefield: Frederick Douglass and the Struggle for the Memory of the Civil War," in special issue on historical memory, Journal of American History, March, 1989.
- "The Restoration of Black History: Benjamin Quarles and the Paradox of Race," review essay on Benjamin Quarles, *Black Mosaic: Essays in Afro-American History and Historiography*, Reviews in American History, March, 1989.
- Biographical profile of Frederick Douglass, in *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris, eds., University of North Carolina Press, 1989.
- "Frederick Douglass and the American Apocalypse," Civil War History, December, 1985.
- "In Search of Learning, Liberty, and Self-Definition: James McCune Smith and the Ordeal of the Antebellum Black Intellectual," Afro-Americans in New York Life and History, July, 1985.
- "Perceptions of Southern Intransigence and the Rise of Radical Antislavery Thought, 1816-1830," Journal of the Early Republic, June, 1983.
- "The Martyrdom of Elijah P. Lovejoy," American History Illustrated, November, 1977.
- "The Bull in a China Shop: Charles Sumner," American History Illustrated, April, 1977.

**OP-EDS AND OTHER PUBLIC HISTORY ESSAYS AND INTERVIEWS** in *New York Times*, *Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, *New York Daily News*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Kansas City Star*, *Newark Star Ledger*, and many NPR, and BBC programs.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Approximately sixty book reviews since 1981 in among other journals, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post Book World*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Slate.com*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *American Prospect*, *Democracy*, *New York Newsday*, *Journal of American History*, *Reviews in American History*, *Civil War Book Review.com*, *Slavery and Abolition*, *Southern Cultures*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *The Public Historian*.

### **CURRENT RESEARCH AND WORKS IN PROGRESS**

- *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, Simon and Schuster, forthcoming, October, 2018