

**Author bio: Quintard Taylor
(October 21, 2010)**

QUINTARD TAYLOR, the Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History at the University of Washington, is the author of *The Forging of A Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1994) and *In Search of the Racial Frontier: African Americans in the America West, 1528-1990* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1998). He and Shirley Ann Wilson Moore are the editors of the anthology, *African American Women Confront the West, 1600-2000* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2003) and he is co-editor with Lawrence B. de Graaf, and Kevin Mulroy of *Seeking El Dorado: African Americans in California* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2001). In 2008 he edited a two volume collection of primary documents titled *From Timbuktu to Katrina: Readings in African American History* (Boston: Thomson Wadsworth Press, 2008). The following year his book, *America-I-Am Black Facts: The Story of a People Through Timelines, 1601-2000*, was released by Tavis Smiley Books. The most recent book, *Dr. Sam: Soldier, Educator, Advocate, Friend, An Autobiography* which Taylor co-authored with the late university administrator and career army officer, was released last month.

Taylor is also the author of over fifty articles. His work on African American Western History, African American, African, Afro-Brazilian, and comparative ethnic history has appeared in the *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *Journal of Negro History*, *Arizona and the West*, *Western Journal of Black Studies*, *Polish-American Studies*, and the *Journal of Ethnic Studies*, among other journals. He is also editor of the Race and Culture Series for the University of Oklahoma Press.

In 2004, Taylor created an online website resource center for African American history now called BlackPast.org (www.blackpast.org). The center which houses over 4,000 pages of information, has links to over 600 other websites, and features contributions by more than 500 scholars from four continents. It is now one of the largest reference centers of its type on the Internet. So far in 2010 more than 2.5 million people from over 100 nations have visited the website.

In October Taylor begin a one year term as President of the Western History Association (WHA) and will preside over the organization during the celebration of its 50th anniversary. The WHA is the fourth largest association of historians in the United States.

Taylor is currently serving on the Board of Trustees of the Idaho Black History Museum in Boise and the HistoryLink Interactive History Project in Seattle. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the multi-year traveling exhibition organized by Radio and Television Personality Tavis Smiley titled

“America-I-Am: The African American Imprint on America.” Taylor is a former member of the Washington State Historical Society and the Governing Council of the American Historical Association and a founding trustee of the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM). He was also a founding board member of the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas. Taylor has taught at universities in Washington, Oregon, California, and Nigeria over his 40 year career in higher education.

For additional information please see the Quintard Taylor websites,

<http://faculty.washington.edu/qtaylor/>

www.blackpast.org

BIOGRAPHY

Taylor Branch

Taylor Branch is an American author and public speaker best known for his landmark narrative history of the civil rights era, *America in the King Years*. The trilogy's first book, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63*, won the Pulitzer Prize and numerous other awards in 1989. Two successive volumes also gained critical and popular success: *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-65*, and *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-1968*. Decades later, all three books remain in demand. Some reviewers have compared the King-era trilogy, which required more than twenty-four years of intensive research, with epic histories such as Shelby Foote's *The Civil War* and Robert Caro's multi-volume biography of Lyndon Johnson.

In 2009, Simon and Schuster published *The Clinton Tapes: Wrestling History with the President*. Far more personal than Branch's previous books, this memoir tells of an unprecedented eight-year project to gather a sitting president's comprehensive oral history on tape. The collaboration is a story in itself, born of mutual concern over the declining quality of raw material for presidential history. At the initiative of President Bill Clinton, Branch suspended work on the King books about once a month to meet secretly in the White House residence, nearly always late at night. There he prompted Clinton to record candid observations for posterity. The book reveals a president up close and unguarded, perceived by an author struggling to balance many roles.

Aside from writing, Taylor Branch speaks before a variety of audiences—colleges, high schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, political and professional groups. He has discussed doctrines of nonviolence with prisoners at San Quentin as well as officers at the National War College. He has presented seminars on civil rights at Oxford University and in sixth-grade classrooms. His 2008 speech at the National Cathedral commemorated the anniversary of Dr. King's last Sunday sermon from that pulpit. In 2009, he gave the Theodore H. White Lecture on the Press and Politics at Harvard.

His musical sidelights have spanned the Atlanta Boy Choir in the 1950s, a high-school folk trio, and a contemporary octet for spirituals. In 2006, he and two friends reconstituted their 1960s college band as the cover group Off Our Rocker, which has recorded and released two CDs in playful tribute to the Beatles.

Sample of book reviews, lectures, media appearances, public commentary, and musical tracks are available on the website, www.taylorbranch.com.

Branch began his career in 1970 as a staff journalist for *The Washington Monthly*, *Harper's*, and *Esquire*. He holds honorary doctoral degrees from seven colleges and universities. Other citations include the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008 and the National Humanities Medal in 1999.

Books: **The Clinton Tapes: Wrestling History with the President** (2009)