



WRITING AFRICAN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY:

The Case of William Wells Brown, Kentuckian

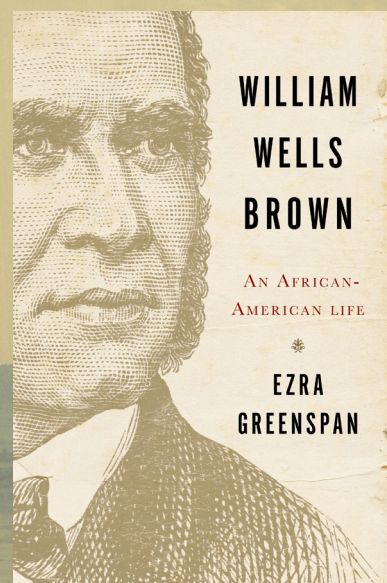
SEPT. 17, 2014 | 4 PM

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William Wells Brown, born into slavery in Kentucky, raised on the Missouri frontier on the farm adjacent to Daniel Boone's, and "rented" out in adolescence to a succession of steamboat captains on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, escaped from his final master at age 19. He quickly learned to read and write, and over a 40 year career reinvented himself as an author, public speaker, multimedia performer, civil rights activist, and medical doctor. His publications included the earliest known African American novel, play, travelogue, and history of the Civil War. Internationally

known in his own time, he disappeared from general sight with the advent of Jim Crow. Ezra Greenspan's new literary and political biography tells the story of one of the most remarkable Americans of his time and, in the process, retells the story of the life and times of 19th century America.



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