



## THE WASHINGTONS OF WESSYNGTON PLANTATION: THE SEARCH FOR MY ANCESTORS

**A DESCENDANT OF WESSYNGTON SLAVES, JOHN F. BAKER JR. HAS WRITTEN THE MOST ACCESSIBLE AND EXCITING WORK OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY SINCE *ROOTS*.**



11,000 old papers – letters, diaries, photographs, slave bills of sale, court records and the stories and memories of 25 children and grandchildren of former Wessyngton slaves and descendants of Wessyngton plantation owners... Using these loose pieces of history, Baker gives life to 250 years of his family's history on a 15,000 acre Robertson County tobacco plantation, the largest of its time, in America.

After 30 years of intensive research, Baker's *The Washingtons of Wessyngton Plantation: Stories of My Family's Journey to Freedom*, is a groundbreaking work of African-American and American history that gives fresh insight into the institution of slavery and its ongoing legacy today. Baker's new book is an uplifting story of survival and family that honors the memory of our ancestors, their struggles and their achievements.

Join us as Baker, a Springfield, TN native, discusses his book, and how he started tracing his ancestors in seventh grade, when he discovered a family photo in his textbook.

*RSVPs are encouraged, but not required. RSVP online at [scarrittbennett.org/programs/baker.aspx](http://scarrittbennett.org/programs/baker.aspx), call 615.340.7557 or email [aelliott@scarrittbennett.org](mailto:aelliott@scarrittbennett.org).*

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