

A man in a light blue t-shirt and jeans stands in a grassy field, looking back over his shoulder. He is holding a book behind his back. In the foreground, a gravestone is visible with a cross symbol and the name 'HENRY D. MARROW JR'. The background is a vast, open field under a cloudy sky.

# BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME

"Mike is a brilliant artist and educator... This is about mending the broken world through the power of story, and making scholarship and art speak to the breach in our common life. I am proud to have Mike as a colleague in those efforts..."

Tim Tyson, author  
BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME

HENRY D. MARROW JR  
NORTH CAROLINA  
PVT US ARMY  
VIETNAM



Mike Wiley Productions offers a rich repertoire of compelling productions for all audiences everywhere, with stories shaped from cultural milestones of a human history. The theatrical telling of *Blood Done Sign My Name*, adapted from the best-selling memoir by Tim Tyson, premiered at Duke University in fall 2008. It is available in an abbreviated student version for grades 8-and-up, and in full-length production for general audiences.



"Daddy and Roger and 'em shot 'em a nigger." Those incendiary words, spoken by ten-year-old Gerald Teel in the spring of 1970 were merely a harbinger of the turmoil smoldering on Oxford, North Carolina's dark horizon.

Henry "Dickie" Marrow, a 23-year-old U.S. Army veteran whose wife was pregnant with their third daughter, had been beaten down and shot to death in the street by Robert Teel, Teel's 18-year-old son Larry, and Roger Oakley, Teel's 21-year-old stepson, for allegedly making a remark to Larry Teel's wife. Despite testimony by two black eyewitnesses, the men were acquitted of the crime by an all-white jury.

Roger Oakley, Teel's stepson, actually confessed to shooting the gun but was never indicted. But it was the Teels' acquittal for their hotheaded hate crime that launched Oxford into a season of violent reprisals.

Well-trained black Vietnam veterans were returning home to find the suffocating smog of Jim Crow still blanketing the south. Men who knew justice could only come when fear overtook complacency. Veterans of a foreign war returned home to Oxford ready to burn it down, if that was what it would take to get full citizenship. There were marches, boycotts and riots. Two huge tobacco warehouses were burned to the ground, setting the night skies aglow for miles around and causing millions of dollars in damage.

"You've got our attention," the Oxford city manager told a group of local blacks in the days after an early round of violence, unwittingly affirming that rioting and firebombs had succeeded where patience and petitions had always failed.

Based on Tim Tyson's award winning memoir -- much like song -- *Blood Done Sign My Name*, is meant to acknowledge America's painful racial history, "that our freedom and dignity, if we still have any, has been paid for in blood, that we have a contract with our ancestors not to let their sacrifices be in vain."

*"They didn't just open the door up and say, 'Y'all come in, integration done come.' Somebody was bruised and kicked and knocked around - you better believe it." - Eddie McCoy*



# MIKE WILEY PRODUCTIONS



(l to r.) Mike Wiley, Eddie McCoy & Tim Tyson, Granville County, NC

"In a matter of minutes, he won undivided attention and taught more history in forty minutes that could be taught in a week...He is doing very important work. In my thirty-one years in education, I cannot remember any performance that matches..."

- Dr. Barry Redmond, Superintendent,  
Newton-Conover City Schools, NC

"It is to Wiley's great credit that he focuses his formidable talents on the story, allowing the audience to clearly understand each character's strengths and foibles...Riveting evening of theatre..."

- News & Observer, Raleigh, NC