

**Michelle Duster, author, journalist, great-granddaughter**

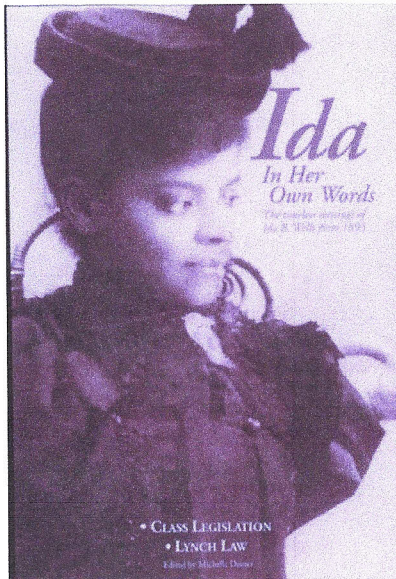
**Ida B. Wells**

**Lecture & Book Signing**

**Herndon Gallery, South Hall, Antioch College, Yellow Springs**

**April 10th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm**

*Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) was born a slave in Holly Springs, Mississippi. She was an anti-lynching crusader, women's rights activist, civil rights pioneer and one of the founders of the NAACP. She traveled extensively across the United States and Europe speaking out against the injustices and extreme violence perpetuated against African Americans in the deep South.*



**Ida From Abroad**

After the office of the Memphis *Free Speech* newspaper was destroyed and a price put on her head, Ida B. Wells became an exile from Memphis, Tennessee in 1892. She went to New York City where she wrote and started speaking to large groups of people about the brutal realities of lynching. She subsequently spent several weeks in the United Kingdom during 1893 speaking about these realities.

In 1894, Ida B. Wells returned to England where she continued to speak about the lawlessness in the United States. Her column, "Ida B. Wells Abroad," for *The Daily Inter Ocean* newspaper and some personal correspondence provides a vivid picture of the challenges, triumphs, alliances and obstacles that Ida B. Wells encountered in her efforts to elicit support from the British to impact change in the United States.

**Ida In Her Own Words**

African Americans were deliberately and systematically eliminated from participating in the preparation and exhibition of the Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) of 1893. This event, which took place in Chicago, Illinois drew tens of thousands of visitors from across the country and world to showcase the innovations and progress of the United States. The fact that an entire group of people who had been free citizens for almost thirty years, and who had made important contributions to the development of the nation were not given representation at such a significant international forum provoked a protest.

A small group of four people contributed to a pamphlet entitled *The Reason Why the Colored American is not in the World's Columbian Exposition*. Thousands of pamphlets were distributed to inform people who attended the fair from all over the world about the injustice that existed in the United States. *Class Legislation*, attributed to Ida B. Wells, and *Lynch Law*, written by Ida B. Wells, were two sections included in the pamphlet. The pieces give a glimpse for today's readers to understand the cruelty and hypocrisy of the country at that time. The generation of African Americans who had hopes that the end of slavery would be the end of their injustice eloquently documented how those hopes had not come to pass.



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