

African-Americans and the Civil War

All events are free and open to the public.

- Thursday, February 3
12:00 PM, Speck Auditorium, Rowe Laboratory, MBL

The Strength to Fight

CLIFTON REED

More than 185,000 blacks played a significant role fighting in the Civil War, especially Sergeant William H. Carney of the 54th regiment of Massachusetts. Clifton Reed will demonstrate how their contribution was crucial to the war's final outcome.

The United States was at war (WWII) when Clifton Reed completed high school and enlisted in the then segregated U.S. Army Air Corp. He left the military in 1948 and immediately enrolled in a prelaw program at Lincoln University in Missouri. In 1950 the Korean War interrupted his matriculation at Lincoln. Recalled to the now racially integrated U.S. Air Force, Reed graduated as a single engine jet fighter pilot in September 1952. Throughout the next fifteen years, he received military assignments in Arizona, New York, Newfoundland, Colorado, Okinawa, and Massachusetts. During this period, Reed earned a BS from the University of Maryland and an MS from the University of Massachusetts. After retiring from the U.S. Air Force in 1968, Reed embarked on a career in education—first as a teacher and subsequently as a vocational education administrator.

- Thursday, February 10
12:00 PM, J. Erik Jonsson Center National Academy of Sciences, Woods Hole

The Life and Times of Sgt. E.M. Cunnigen, U.S. Colored Infantry

DONALD CUNNIGEN

In commemoration of African-American participation in the Civil War, this presentation will examine the life of a runaway slave who followed Union troops in Mississippi as "contraband." He enlisted in Company I of the 66th United States Colored Infantry. Although his military service reflected many of the characteristics of former illiterate slaves who were enlistees, it did entail battle experience as well as the mundane responsibilities of day-to-day military duty. This talk will review the different roles of African-American soldiers, the socio-historical context of the Civil War on the lives of Mississippians—black and white, and the post-bellum life of Sgt. Cunnigen, especially his legacy on the life of the speaker.

Woods Hole Black History Month events are sponsored by the Marine Biological Laboratory; National Marine Fisheries Service; U.S. Geological Survey Woods Hole Field Center; Woods Hole Research Center; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Woods Hole Public Library; National Academy of Sciences; and Sea Education Association. For more information, visit the Woods Hole Black History Month Committee website <<http://woodshole.er.usgs.gov/outreach/WBHMC/>> or contact the MBL's Communications Office, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543; (508) 289-7423; comm@mbl.edu.

- Thursday, February 17
7:00 PM, Redfield Auditorium, WHOI

Glory Film Screening

Robert Gould Shaw leads the US Civil War's first all-black volunteer company, fighting prejudices of both his own Union army and the Confederates in this 1989 drama. Starring Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington, and Morgan Freeman.

- Wednesday, February 23
7:00 PM, Woods Hole Public Library

Natasha Trethewey's Poetry: *Native Guard*

Readings and Discussion, led by Jarita Davis, NOAA

In *Native Guard*, Natasha Trethewey tells the terrible story of black men newly freed from slavery who were mustered in 1862 in Louisiana to become the first Union army regiment of black soldiers.

- Thursday, February 24
3:00 PM, Meigs Room, Swope Center, MBL

The Sable Arm: African-American Troops in the Civil War

MICHAEL MCNAUGHT

Michael McNaught was born in Scotland and educated in England. He obtained BA and MA degrees in Modern History from Oxford University, where he specialized in Military History and the Theory of War; he also has an MA from Columbia University. During a 44-year career as an independent school teacher and administrator, he led over 30 student trips to Civil War battlefields. He serves on the boards of the Falmouth Historical Society and the Oyster Pond Environmental Trust, teaches Civil War courses twice a year in the Joy of Learning program at the Falmouth Public Library, and lectures occasionally at Falmouth Academy and Cape Cod Community College.

- Thursday, February 24
4:00 - 7:00 PM, Swope Center, MBL

Harambee

Join us in our annual ethnic potluck feast celebrating everyone of every race! Enjoy multicultural arts, delicious food, and live music featuring **Pan Loco Steel Band**, an authentic, mixed ethnic ensemble consisting of two steel drummers, an electric bass player, and percussionist.

To Woods Hole from the Bourne Bridge:

Cross the Bourne Bridge, travel half way around the rotary, and follow signs to Route 28, Falmouth, and Woods Hole. Continue south on Route 28. At the second rotary on Route 28, travel halfway around, bearing right to continue south to the town of Falmouth. Continue straight at the traffic lights at the intersection of Ter Heun Drive and Route 28. Bear right at the blinking yellow light past the gas station onto Woods Hole Road. Continue over one and a half (1.5) miles to the next traffic light at Oyster Pond Road.

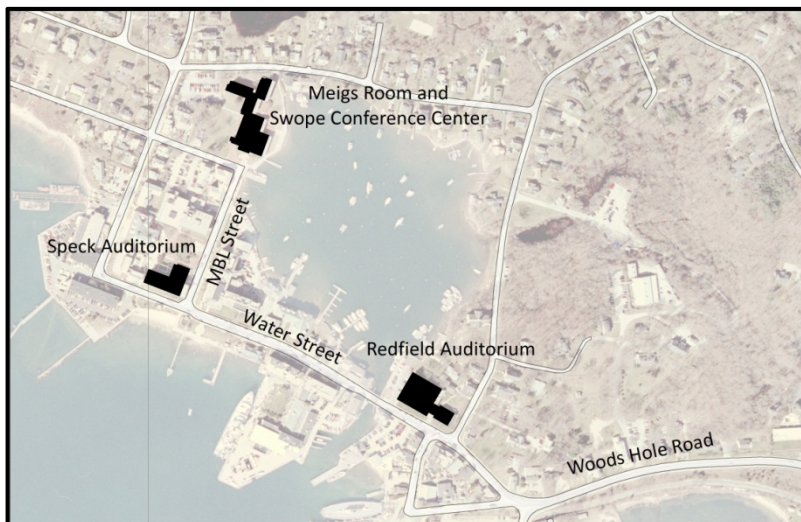
- **To the National Academy of Sciences:**
Turn right onto Oyster Pond Road, and continue three hundred (300) feet to the stop sign. Turn left onto Quissett Avenue. Continue down Quissett Avenue less than half a mile (0.4 miles), and turn right into the **National Academy of Sciences Jonsson Conference Center**. Parking is available in the lot at the end of the driveway.



- **To the Marine Biological Laboratory:**
Continue straight on at the Oyster pond lights for two (2) miles until you reach the village of Woods Hole. Bear right at the Bank of Martha's Vineyard onto Water Street, and travel a quarter-mile (0.25) to MBL Street. Turn right onto MBL Street.

The **Speck Auditorium** in the Rowe Laboratory is immediately on your left as you turn onto MBL Street. **Meigs Room** in the Swope Conference Center is straight ahead at the end of MBL Street.

- **To the WHOI Redfield Auditorium:**
Continue straight on at the Oyster pond lights for two (2) miles until you reach the village of Woods Hole. Bear right at the Bank of Martha's Vineyard onto Water Street, and travel five hundred fifty (550) feet to the Redfield Laboratory on the corner of Water Street and School Street. The **Redfield Auditorium** is accessed in the lobby.



Please note that parking is extremely limited in the village. Meter parking is available during the day. Parking lots are open to the public for evening events.