The Avery Institute is the history of Charleston. There is no way to explain Charleston without exploring the African-American culture and community that defines it, and inspired so much of what makes our city distinctive. And the story of our African-American community cannot be told without telling the story of the Avery Normal Institute.

For generations, the graduates of the Avery transformed our civic and educational landscape. They led; they encouraged; they inspired; they demanded. To be an Avery graduate was to be a leader. To be an Avery graduate was to be a transformational force for good.

This year, we are experiencing many significant milestones, including the 150th anniversary of the Avery Institute and the 30th anniversary of the Avery Research Center, which coincides with Avery’s formal association with the College of Charleston. Avery has long been a part of the fabric of Charleston, and it is now a permanent and vibrant fixture in the beautiful community that is the College of Charleston.

Today, we look to the Avery Research Center to make certain the College of Charleston becomes all that it should be, and to ensure our city has the informed citizens it needs and deserves.

The future the College has charted—of enhanced student access, of cutting-edge research, and of a more inclusive city and state—cannot be accomplished without the resources and the creative energy made available at the Avery Research Center. The future to which Charleston aspirates cannot happen without the enthusiastic and full participation in our history and current resources and the creative energy made available at the Avery Research Center.

The Avery Research Center serves as a space for the preservation of history, engagement with the challenges of today, and a sense of great accomplishments, pride, and hope for the future!
**AVERY ARCHIVES NEWS**

**FINDING AIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:**
http://avery.cofc.edu/archives/collection_list.php

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**FINDING AIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS**

**AVERY ARCHIVES NEWS**

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**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

> "iıyor..."

> South Carolina; the Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association clippings associated with the Holy Royal Arch Masons, Grand Chapter, ...mation of her immediate family members. The majority of the collection contains brief documents relating to Edwards Anderson's life and genealogical information of her immediate family members. The majority of the collection contains administrative documents (minutes, letters, memorandums, mailing lists, event programs) related to the AIAAH&C Executive Committee from 1979–1994.

**FRANK YOUNG PAPERS, 1910–1989 (AMN 1136)**

Frank Albert Young (1905–1990) worked as a journalist, historian, lec-
turer, and activist. Young, frequently referred to as "Maze" (respected
wise elder, Swahili) and "Mwalimu" (dedicated teacher, Swahili) was one
of the last living members of "The Harlem Round Table". He was
the founding member of the Third World Press News Service, Third
World-Federation of African Communications Associations, and Pan-African Communi-
cation Committee. He was also a member of numerous social justice
and grassroots organizations. The majority of this collection includes correspondence (both busi-
ness and personal), as well as newsletters, pamphlets, magazine
and newspaper clippings from social justice, civil rights, grassroots, and
political organizations, some which Young founded or cofounded.
Several organizations document Young's involvement as a journalist/
media representative. The collection also includes documents used by
Young in his instruction to youth, with research materials on African
and African-American histories, with periodicals and newsletters on the anti-
Apartheid movement in South Africa; and documents pertaining to
Young's Native-American heritage (the Leni Lenape tribe). Young
also conducted extensive research on a variety of topics, including
the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania and the Ku Klux Klan.

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**CLEMON HAROLD RICHARDSON, 1910–2001 (AMN 1141)**

Clemon Harold Richardson, Sr. (1925–2003) was a Masonic and com-
munity leader in Charleston, South Carolina. He was the Grand High
Priest of the Robert B. Elliott Chapter #1 for the Holy Royal Arch Ma-
sons of the State of South Carolina. Locally, Richardson was the presi-
dent of the Maryville/Asheyville Neighborhood Association (formerly
the West Ashley Civic Association) from 1954–2000. Richardson also
served as the Charleston County Democratic Party Executive Commit-
tee Pree for the Sr. Andrews Precinct #3.

The collection includes material related to Richardson's involvement
as a Masonic, civic, and political organizer in the Charleston, South
Carolina community. The majority of documents consist of meet-
ing minutes and agendas; correspondence, reports, conference and
session proceedings; certificates and testimonials; and newspaper
clippings associated with the Holy Royal Arch Masons, Grand
Chapters, South Carolina; the Maryville/Asheyville Neighborhood
Association (with its related history of the Town of Maryville); the City of Char-
leston; the South Democratic Party (Charleston County); and legislation, James Clyburn, Floyd Broome, and Robert Ford. A smaller section of
the collection contains various photocopied newspaper articles.

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**ESTHER KAPLAN PINNICK COLLECTION, 1815–2000 (AMN 1138)**

Esther Kaplan Pinnick (1913–2001) is a former patternmaker from New York who retired on Johns Island, South Carolina in the mid-1970s. Pinnick met local historian Elizabeth "Butty" Stringfellow through mutual community educational programs on the island. The women embarked on an ambitious project to write an inclusive history of Johns Island, which is the largest barrier island in South Carolina, along with other South Carolina barrier islands, or Sea Islands. Their goal was to write a "people’s history" of white and African-American island residents, stressing the rich, cultural heritage of the Sea Islands and highlighting Stringfellow’s ancestors in particular, the Andells. While the joint effort was never complet-
ed, Stringfellow eventually authored A Place Called St. John's with historian Layton Wayne Jordan, which was published in 1998.

The majority of the collection contains photocopied documents, notes and interview tran-
scripts created and/or collected in the research of the unfinished collaboration, typescripts, handwritten essays, book drafts, letters, and journal essays, newspaper and magazine articles, oral history transcripts, genealogical
charts, and maps spanning the Native-American origins of the island to the twentieth
century. Included are documents relating to Civil War battles on Johns Island; family histories of both plantation owners and African Americans educated on the Island after the Civil War, including the work of the Freedmen’s Bureau and their teachers; and cassette audio record-
ings of Pinnick and Stringfellow lectures and discussions on Johns Island history.

**LUCILLE ROPER EDWARDS PAPERS, 1942–1989 (AMN 1143)**

Lucille Roper Edwards (1924–) is an elementary schoolteacher who taught second grade in the Miami, Florida area for forty-seven years. Originally from Cordesville, South Carolina, Roper Edwards attended the Berkeley Training School (Monders Corner, 1938), and the Avery Normal Institute (1940–1942). The majority of the collection holds Roper Edwards’s lesson plans written when she was a second grade teacher at Poinciana Park Elementary School in Miami, Florida from 1965–1989. A smaller section contains brief and various docu-
ments and manuscripts created and collected by Roper Edwards relating to her second and third grade family. Also included is her Masters of Education thesis, “A Proposed Plan for Teaching Sci-
cence in the Primary Grades of Bust Public School,” Charleston, South Carolina” (1947).

**VIVIENNE EDWARDS ANDERSON PAPERS, 1920–2002 (AMN 1144)**

Vivienne Edwards Anderson (1914–2006) was an Avery Institute Class of 1933 graduate who was one of the initial members of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAH&C), which was established for the creation of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston. The collection contains brief documents relating to Edwards Anderson’s life and genealogical information of her immediate family members. The majority of the collection contains administrative documents (minutes, letters, memorandums, mailing lists, event programs) related to the AIAAH&C Executive Committee from 1979–1994.

**DEBORAH FREDERICK ANDERSON PAPERS, 1942–1990 (AMN 1145)**

Deborah Frederick Anderson (1916–1989), was an educator, behavioral scientist, and medical
administrator. Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Anderson was a 1935 graduate of Avery
Institute, as well as a graduate of Fisk University and the University of Kentucky, where he
acquired a Doctor of Education degree. During his illustrious career, Anderson was super-
vising principal at W. Gresham Meggett School (James Island, South Carolina); executive
director of Franklin C. Fetter Health, Incorporated (Charleston, South Carolina); clinical
associate professor of psychology at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC); and
director of the Trained and Educated Unit of the United States Department of Health,
Education, and Welfare (HEW), as well as its various divisions pertaining to edu-
cation, mental health and drug abuse. The collection contains biographical documents,
correspondence, reports and training manuals written by Anderson; meeting minutes; book
reviews and essays; and collected materials related to Anderson's personal life and professional
Career. The bulk of this collection are documents (correspondence, reports, training manu-
als, newsletters, and travel expense reports) from Anderson’s involvement as a consultant
to the Office of Education and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA), and its branches from 1973 to 1975.

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**PEGGY CLEMENT—BEND, OR**


**JAMES G. SPADE—PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Four books, Marcus Garvey: Jazz, Reggae, Hip Hop, and the African Diaspora, New Perspec-
The Avery Research Center's displays and exhibitions convey a strong thematic thrust and spatial efficiency that are informed by one of the central themes of the African-American experience: Agency, Activism, and Advocacy. This thematic thrust permeates the museum and resonates throughout the building, showcasing how vitally important it is to the clear understanding of the local landscape (both historically and culturally speaking) and the continuing relevance of the lived experiences of African-descended people.

PART TWO CONTINUES WITH A LOOK AT THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR OF THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER.

Unlike Avery Research Center's ground floor, the second and third floors are more spacious and the ceilings are quite high, as one is accustomed to seeing in Charleston's historic properties such as this. The second floor includes Avery Research Center's archival repository (over 6,000 book and manuscript collections, and material culture); the Changing Gallery, which features temporary exhibits produced and developed by the Avery Research Center from existing collections. Currently featured in the Changing Gallery is "Malcolm X: 50 Years and Counting—The Legacy Continues," an exhibit featuring materials from the James E. Campbell Collection Avery Research Center and from the private collection of Imam Hakim Abdul-All. There are also several hallway displays (Denmark Vesey, Freedom Summer; Philip Simmons; Gullah and Slavery). The Avery Room, which houses the permanent Avery Normal Institute exhibit, “The Spirit That Would Not Die”, is a re-created nineteenth-century social studies classroom serving as a memorial to the Avery Normal Institute in observance of the enormous impact the school had on the education and the development of Black leadership in Charleston, the state of South Carolina, and the nation.

Ascending the Avery Research Center's grand staircase to the second and third level, we make our way to the third floor where the McKinley Washington Auditorium and Cox Gallery are located. The Benjamin F. Cox and Jeanette K. Cox Exhibits Gallery is named in honor of Avery Normal Institute principal Benjamin Cox and his wife, Jeanette, the founder of the Phillips Wheatley Literary and Social Club. Benjamin Cox served as principal from 1915 to 1936. This space was made possible by a donation from his son and philanthropist, Dr. Wendell Cox. Currently on view in the Cox Gallery is the revisited and revised "Sweetgrass: A Legacy of Family and Community." Originally curated by the Avery Research Center staff in 2009, this exhibition features baskets made by various African and African-American artists in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Items featured in the current exhibition include a new collection of baskets donated by the Mid-America Arts Alliance that were featured in the ExhibitsUSA traveling exhibition, "Sweetgrass: An African American Legacy of Family and Community." The exhibition also marks one hundred years of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), thirty years of the Avery Research Center, and the first anniversary of the Denmark Vesey monument installation in Charleston’s Hampton Park. It is imperatively important that the history of African Americans is descriptive and speaks to the centrality of African-descended peoples to the legacy and culture of the region and throughout the world. Activism, agency, and advocacy must continue to be the central theme in combating and confronting the continuous and ongoing efforts to deny people of African descent their basic civil and human rights.

Continue to look inside out and be transformed by a genuine sense of agency, activism, and advocacy—hallmarks of the African American experience in the Americas and other parts of the globe.

The Avery Room, which houses the permanent Avery Collection (Avery Research Center) and from the private collection of Principal Benjamin Cox addressing weekly chapel meeting (circa 1916) in the Avery Institute's auditorium, now the McKinley Washington Auditorium. Top: Current view of the McKinley Washington Auditorium.

Top: Principal Benjamin Cox addressing weekly chapel meeting (circa 1916) in the Avery Institute's auditorium, now the McKinley Washington Auditorium. Bottom: Current view of the McKinley Washington Auditorium.
At last, we have turned indignation into action...

In 1954, the year Avery closed, many believed that a great injustice had been done to the Black community. Considering the long years of the Institute’s history, founded in 1865, and the contributions of its graduates to the local, state, and national community, the audacity of the authorities was incomprehensible. But closed it did!

Each year since that date, whenever the opportunity was present, Avery Alumni would continue to gripe and cry “shame” among themselves. Some attempts were made to form an organization of some sort to preserve the history and philosophy of this great institution, but the efforts were not sustained. Meanwhile, the decision to move the downtown campus of the Palmer Technical College, which is presently housed on the Avery site, started anew the fear among Avery alumni that all will be lost. What will happen to Avery? Is it safe? Condemnations? Destruction of the buildings? Another school?

At this point, someone entered my life. Almost weekly she cried, “Shame!” What do you think will happen to the buildings now? Charleston Black(s) have such a rich heritage. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if they could acquire that site, restore it to its original state, and use it as an archives (sic) to recover and preserve the Black experience in the local community?”

It sounded like a great idea to me. Then she said, “Maybe you can get something started.” I looked astir and said to myself, “Who, me? I would be fool to get into another activity.” That nagging voice was that of Dr. Margareta Childs, former archivist at the College of Charleston, and now historian for the City of Charleston.

Of course, the more publicity given to the construction of the new Palmer campus, the more my conscience was pricked by the thought of Avery going the way of other Black institutions, i.e. the McClellan-Banks Hospital and Training School. I finally proposed that the Charleston, South Carolina Chapter of LINKS, INC. support the effort to organize community support for obtaining the Avery site and restoring it. It was similar to its original purpose. A group of interested citizens and alumni, after a series of meetings held at Plymouth United Church of Christ (Congregational), organized the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture.

Dr. Margareta Childs

Speech delivered by Mrs. Lucille Whipper date unknown. From the Lucille Whipper Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston.

AVERY

Lives


& Beyond

Mrs. Whipper posed the following question to the Avery Research Center: What needs have you identified as where you need to go? Knowing and having the experience, I’d like to know more about where you think you ought to move from this place...You have to remain relevant.”

Dr. Patricia Williams Lessane, Avery Research Center’s Executive Director, responds:

There are several needs. The most pressing one is to resolve infrastructure issues within the Avery Research Center building. I am happy to report that renovations for improvement are now on the campus schedule. The other issue is the premium of space at the Avery Research Center. We are bursting at the seams with manuscript collections, artifacts, and other material culture, and we need best-practice solutions to address this issue in an efficient, sustainable, twenty-first century way.

We do need to grow the collections, particularly to fill in gaps in certain areas, and we need to be able to process and digitize them so more people have access to the holdings. Our partnership with the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI) and the Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL) has been very productive, and some of the more popular or widely used collections have been digitized, making them more available to a larger audience. The Avery Research Center is evolving and growing, and as such, we need more staff, especially staff who have archival industry acumen and a strong background in African-American history and culture.

Finally, I think we need to expand the work and reach of the museum component. One way to achieve this is by reabsorbing the adjacent property—the original Avery Institute building and site. This property—the original Avery Institute building and site—into a historic home that tells the story of Principal Benjamin Cox, his wife Jeannette Cox, and those of the other principals and the Avery Institute teachers. The property can be outfitted with period furniture and artifacts from the collections, and feature interpreters and docents giving guided tours of the facility as part of the Avery Research Center tour. Acquiring that building as part of our complex would also be tremendous in solving our need for additional space.

Below are excerpts from an interview of Mrs. Whipper conducted by Deborah Wright and Daron Calhoun on March 26, 2015. The entire interview will be available to the public via the Avery Research Center’s Oral History Collection.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THE AVERY INSTITUTE (1865–1954) ON THE CHARLESTON COMMUNITY?
A great impact, because so many graduates and persons who have made a name for themselves (came out of Avery); and during the early struggle, [of] civil rights, [Avery] had visitors like DuBois. [Avery] was...a rich environment beyond the books. Also, early on when I was here we had a course in Black History.

IMPRESSIVE ADDRESS Taught BLACK HISTORY
Well as a child, I received information that I had not had before. Of course, I guess, the influence of having studied it empowered you [sic] as an individual.

WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF THE AVERY INSTITUTE?
Empowering Black people. I think that’s a legacy, the contribution of [Avery] graduates to position of leadership. All over the country you may find some Avery graduates.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER
Basically, I am so pleased that it [Avery Research Center] has survived. That it is functioning. That it has had an impact on the community and it’s always good to see over the years that something has survived and it’s making a meaningful contribution. Additionally, my thought is always to serve this present age.

The Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) was incorporated July 7, 1980. The first president was Lucille Whipper and the first vice-president was Herbert DeCosta. On June 30, 1981 Whipper retired as director of Human Relations at the College of Charleston in order to work full time on the project, going on to become the first and third president of the AIAAHC.

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Honoring Two Sustainers of the Avery Institute Family


On April 18, 2015, we lost one of our dear Avery Research Center friends, Miss Lois Averetta Simms. Miss Simms was the valedictorian of Avery Normal Institute Class of 1937. She went on to graduate from John C. Smith University and earned her MA from Howard University in 1954. She taught in Charleston-area schools and was four times published. Miss Simms was a dedicated early member of the Avery Institute of Educational, Charitable, and Intellectual Pursuits. Throughout 2016, the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club celebrates its centennial. Since its founding by Jeannette Cox in 1918, the organization has continued to present national and internationally known African Americans to the Charleston community for educational, political, social, and intellectual pursuits. Current president Norma Hoffman Davis, daughter of former member Ellen Wiley Hoffman and great-granddaughter-in-law of founder Jeannette Cox, leads the organization’s yearlong celebration. Harriet Cohran serves as chair of the Centennial Committee.

In the words of founder Jeannette Cox, the organization’s history, “It has created a legacy of enculturation, of tradition, of growth. The organization has always been active in the community, acting as a positive influence on the lives of young people.”

Jennette Cox founded the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club.

Emily L. Moore, EdD is the Historian of the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club.

The Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club

One Hundred Years of Blessings: 1916–2016

by Emily L. Moore, EdD

“Feeds much in where angels fear to tread.”

With these opening words in her 1935 history of the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club (PWLSC), founder Jeannette Keel Keox proclaims the challenges of beginning a Colored women’s literary and social club in an era of legalized and normalized racism and sexism in the heart of the Deep South.

Named after Phillis Wheatley (1753–1784), an enslaved woman who was the first person of African descent to publish a book of poetry in the United States, the organization is the oldest African-American women’s club in the city of Charleston. “The Phillis Wheatleys”, as they referred to themselves in the early days, were an organization of educated and professional women with a primary goal of culture and self-improvement.

Begun only fifty years after Emancipation (1866) and four years before the ratification of the 14th Amendment for women’s suffrage, their charter membership of nineteen women believed as Cox wrote: “That mighty leader—Negro teachers in the city schools—was still the substance of things hoped for, and some...thought this might be a splendid little way of beginning that united, homogeneous Negro society which we believed as Cox wrote: “That mighty leader—Negro teachers in the city schools—was still the substance of things hoped for, and some...thought this might be a splendid little way of beginning that united, homogeneous Negro society which we

On early March, Julie Dash traveled to New York City to continue work on Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl (TNGG) documentary, which chronicles the life, work, and social network of culinary chef and African-American gris Verlene Groove

For more information, visit: http://www.aswadiaspora.org.

Avrey Research Center’s Upcoming Highlights

Visit: http://avery.cofc.edu for a full listing of events and programs & LIKE us on Facebook.


Avrey Research Center’s Brown Bag Series begins on Thursday, September 3, 2015 with former Avery Research Center student intern Muhammad Abrhim

In “Celebration of Black Midwives—Films and Panel Presentation”. Saturday, October 10, 2015, 10:00am-3:00pm, McKinley Washington Auditorium

Avery Research Center Commemoration Program and Exhibition Opening with Dr. Benjamin and the Hon. Lucille Whipper. Saturday, October 31, 2015, 3:00pm-5:00pm, McKinley Washington Auditorium and 19th-Century Classroom


For more information, visit: http://www.aswadiaspora.org.

FEATURING DEAN ANTONIO TILLIS, PhD

by Patricia Williams Lessane, PhD

Last Fall, the College of Charleston welcomed Dr. Antonio Tillis as the new Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs. A noted scholar and native of Memphis, Tennessee, Tillis is a mixture of Southern charm and cosmopolitan sensibilities that is underscored by a global approach to scholarship and the intersecting epistemologies of African-American Studies.

In just a short time, he has distinguished himself as a global thinker and campus maverick, having secured the College of Charleston as the host for the 2015 Association for the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference (ASWAD). As a result of his tenacity and international reputation as a scholar and administrator, the North Campus and the City of North Charleston will host upwards of five hundred national and international scholars this November.

The Avery Research Center has taken the lead on the planning and logistics of local events and venues associated with the conference. We are honored to work with Dean Tillis and the Executive Board of ASWAD!

Dean Tillis is a Latino Americanist and holds a B.S. in Spanish from Vanderbilt University, a M.A. in Spanish Literature from Howard University, and a PhD in Latin American Literature with an Afro-Hispanic emphasis from University of Missouri at Columbia. We are delighted that he is a friend and supporter of the Avery Research Center and a leader on the College of Charleston campus.

TRAVEL NOTES OF A GEECHEE GIRL

by Patricia Williams Lessane, PhD

T
taveling alongside Dash for this cinematic adventure were Avery Research Center’s own Savannah Fremon, Darwin Colltoun, and Dr. Patricia Williams Lessane. Team TNGG was joined in Harlem by filmmakers Juanita Anderson (Wayne State University) and Rachel Watanabe-Barton (Producer Guild of America), who worked with Dash on the vision and plans for the film’s production. Urdu producer Bernard Goyley made sure the shoot ran smoothly each day.

The onscreen interviews were shot at one of Harlem’s newest and most vibrant spots, MIST Harlem, the South African restaurant and cultural salon. While there, TNGG launched the Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign to secure additional funds for the film. You can see a trailer of the film at: travelnotesofageecheegirl.com.

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AVERY'S 19th and 20th Century Leaders in Education

by Jack McCray

The impact of the Avery Institute was greatly influenced by its principals and faculty. The Institute served low country Blacks for 89 years with the five Black principals dominating the school’s history. Graduates have indelible memories of leaders and teachers who formed their views of life as well as preparing them for the pursuit of a livelihood and positive participation in society.

Francis Cardozo, educated in Europe, succeeded his brother Thomas as principal in August of 1865 of a school for Blacks named after abolitionist Lewis Tappan, an original member of the American Missionary Association (AMA) in New York. Francis Cardozo got the ball rolling, finding a permanent home for 1,000 students and 20 faculty members on St. Philip Street. It was on Cardozo’s watch that the school ended up on Bull Street and was named after the Reverend Charles Avery of Pittsburgh. It was dedicated May 7, 1868.

It was Cardozo who decided Avery should be a normal school offering classical education and college preparatory education, thus challenging immediately the belief of white supremacy. Later in 1868, Cardozo resigned to take office as Secretary of State for South Carolina, starting a succession of white principals through 1913. Under one of these principals, Morrison Holmes, Avery gained its reputation as a school with very high standards and as the best school in the AMA system.

The big watershed in the school’s history came with the appointment of Benjamin F. Cox as principal in 1915. It was early in his administration, which lasted until 1936, that Avery converted to an all Black faculty and provided many of the Black teachers soon to take over classrooms in Charleston’s Black public schools. Ten years into Cox’s administration, Avery was incorporated so that it could be upgraded to the college level. Over the entire history of Avery, many teachers came to be loved and admired by students. There were too many to list in total, but several are well-remembered. One of them was Florence Alberta (“Bertie”) Clyde. She turned out a long line of teachers from Avery and was appointed acting principal in 1943. She was an 1891 graduate.

The educational, cultural, religious, and economic footprints of these teachers and principals can still be seen today.


Native Charlestonian Jack McCray (d. 2011) was a journalist and jazz historian. He served on the publication committee for The Bulletin, a publication of The Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture. The entire original article was published in The Bulletin (Winter 2000: Volume 20).

Tony Bell, Membership Chairman

Greetings,

This is a landmark year!

Join the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Avery Institute and the 30th anniversary of the Avery Research Center.

Both the Avery Institute and the Avery Research Center have exciting events planned to highlight the living legacy of the Avery Institute and the ongoing work of the Avery Research Center. Visit both websites for event updates. We have also embarked on a membership drive this year, as it is your collective membership that ensures our continued support of Avery Research Center programs and projects, such as this very publication.

If you have not already, use the enclosed envelope to become an AIAAHC member today—and remember, it is tax deductable!

Avery Institute:
http://www.averyinstitute.us

Avery Research Center:
http://avery.cofc.edu

AVERY INSTITUTE
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

REFLECTIONS

by W. Marvin Dulaney PhD

Since my tenure as Executive Director of the Avery Research Center ended seven years ago, I have often reflected on the meaning of my experience there as well as the impact that the Avery Research Center has had on the Charleston community. Since I teach a graduate course on “public history”, I often use examples from my experiences at Avery Research Center to show students how a public history institution can make a difference by being serious about its mission to collect, preserve, and document the history of African-Americans in the community. In addition, the Avery Research Center has continued to serve as my “Exhibit A” for all of the things that a public history institution has to do to educate its constituencies: collect archives, raise money, develop community outreach and educational programs, sponsor exhibitions and public programs, and serve as an advocate for the preservation of history and culture in the community. During its thirty-year history, as well as when it was a school for African-American children, Avery Research Center has been one of the most important institutions in the community, documenting African-American experiences and providing education about those experiences to its many publics. I am very glad and I feel a sense of fulfillment that I was able to play a small part in developing the Avery Research Center into the institution that it is today.

Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney was Executive Director of the Avery Research Center from 1994–2008. He is currently Chair and Associate Professor, Department of History at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Avery Institute and the 30th anniversary of the Avery Research Center.

Both the Avery Institute and the Avery Research Center have exciting events planned to highlight the living legacy of the Avery Institute and the ongoing work of the Avery Research Center. Visit both websites for event updates. We have also embarked on a membership drive this year, as it is your collective membership that ensures our continued support of Avery Research Center programs and projects, such as this very publication.

If you have not already, use the enclosed envelope to become an AIAAHC member today—and remember, it is tax deductable!

Avery Institute:
http://www.averyinstitute.us

Avery Research Center:
http://avery.cofc.edu

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MESSAGE FROM AVERY RESEARCH CENTER’S FIRST DIRECTOR:

CONGRATULATIONS on the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Avery Nor-
mal Institute and the thirtieth anniversary of the Avery Research Center! Over
the years, the Avery school, with its normal teacher training program and college
preparatory courses, allowed Black youth to prepare for careers in teaching and
other professions such as medicine, dentistry, and law. By the time the school
was closed in the 1950s, Avery graduates were prepared to continue its legacy
of educational excellence and accomplishment as teachers in Charleston public
schools. As the Avery Research Center, with its archives and small museum as an
outgrowth of the interest and creativity of the Avery school’s alumni, the legacy
of educational excellence and accomplishment continues throughout the years.

Dr. Myrtle Glascoe
Executive Director, Avery Research Center (1985–1993)
Tours of the museum galleries are conducted five times a day, Monday through Friday (10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, and 3:30pm) except on College of Charleston holidays and winter break. Group tours of 5 or more and Saturday tours are by appointment only. For more information call 843.953.7609. Admission by donation.

The Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club Reading Room is open to the public year-round, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-5:00pm except on College of Charleston holidays and winter break. To contact the Reading Room call 843.953.7608.

Visit our website for more information: http://avery.cofc.edu

A HISTORICAL CONTEXT...

Established in a turbulent, frightening, and unparalleled era, the Avery Institute became one of South Carolina’s premier educational institutions. Its unprecedented opportunity for instruction seemed magical to a people burdened by the weight of educational proscriptions. Avery’s success was never foreordained; it succeeded despite daunting obstacles, reflecting the deep commitment parents and children had to personal, community, and racial progress. The Avery Alumni Association’s motto, Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum or “no stepping back again”, combines the knowledge of obstacles overcome with a clear vision for the future. Among other things, an Avery education instilled civic pride. So whether the need was for teachers, physicians, entrepreneurs, or civil rights activists, Averyites were ready and we remain in their debt.

Bernard E. Powers PhD