



## 2015 Historic Anniversaries

The Avery Research Center will feature exhibits and displays throughout the year commemorating many of these anniversaries.

- OFFICIAL END OF THE CIVIL WAR  
(SESQUICENTENNIAL, APRIL 9, 1865)
- ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
(SESQUICENTENNIAL, APRIL 15, 1865)
- OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF RECONSTRUCTION  
(SESQUICENTENNIAL, DECEMBER 13, 1865)

***New president Andrew Johnson signs the official order to establish the Joint Committee on Reconstruction. The goal of Reconstruction was to rebuild the destroyed South and work towards the establishment of full political and civil equality for Black people.***

- AVERY NORMAL INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED (SESQUICENTENNIAL, 1865)

***The Avery Normal Institute, founded by the American Missionary Association, was the first accredited secondary school for African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina. In the early 1880s, Avery served as the only educational institution in Charleston that prepared "promising" Black students for college, playing a role in the developing and expanding the professional/leadership class of Black Charlestonians. Avery students became doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and teachers, participating in a movement of upward mobility not only of the Black elite, but also of the formerly enslaved and working-class Black constituency. The developing aspirations of Black Charlestonians during this time were heavily influenced by the ideals set forth by the Northern missionaries, placing a good deal of importance on the notion of progress. By 1900, enrollment had reached nearly 500. In 1947, the institute became a public city school. Struggling financially, the Avery Institute closed its doors in 1954.***

- **THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY ESTABLISHED (CENTENNIAL, SEPTEMBER 1915)**

***Dr. Carter G. Woodson and others founded the organization in Chicago, Illinois, initially calling it the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). It was renamed the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) in 1973 (now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History). ASALH is dedicated to promoting, researching, preserving, interpreting, and disseminating information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.***

- **ASSASSINATION OF MALCOLM X (50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, FEBRUARY 21, 1965)**

***A visible proponent of Black Nationalism/Black Power, Malcolm X was an uncompromising critic of American politics, and the passive approach/methodology of the Civil Rights Movement. Malcolm X insisted that the struggle for justice and equality being waged by African Americans was larger and more complex than American civil rights, and that the fight should be one for human rights, addressed in a global arena. Malcolm X helped define the Black Power Movement in pivotal ways, inspiring young activists and organizations including Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).***

- **“BLOODY SUNDAY” (50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, MARCH 7, 1965)**

***The march was part of the Selma Voting Rights Movement. Activists publicized the 54-mile march along the US Highway 80 from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama, state capital. The goal was to emphasize African Americans’ desire to exercise their constitutional right to vote and defy segregationists’ repression. This march occurred March 7, 1965. James Bevel, Amelia Boynton, and others were the organizers. This march gained the nickname “Bloody Sunday” after Alabama state troopers and county posse attacked the six hundred unarmed marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Boynton was one of those beaten unconscious; a picture of her lying wounded on the bridge was published and televised around the world, lending national and global support for two subsequent march attempt, the third being successful.***

- **VOTING RIGHTS ACT (50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, AUGUST 6, 1965)**

***This landmark federal act assured and protected equal voting rights for all citizens in the United States. The Selma Marches earlier in the year were a significant reason for the act’s passage.***

- **AVERY RESEARCH CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ESTABLISHED (30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, 1985)**

***In 1985, the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture was established as part of the academic program of the College of Charleston's library system. Spearheaded by the Honorable Lucille Whipper, Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) founded the Avery Research Center on the historic site of the Avery Normal Institute as a museum, archival repository, and center for public programming. The archives contain over six thousand primary and secondary sources, including over two hundred manuscript collections; over six thousand printed items ranging from standard texts, rare books, pamphlets, and journals; a wealth of photographs; reels of microfilm; audio and visual recordings; clippings; and artifacts/material culture related to Africa, slavery, Gullah Geechee culture and civil rights. The Avery Research Center hosts public programming and educational outreach events, such as tours, lectures, symposia, and film screenings, and the museum showcases permanent and changing exhibits,***

***Visit our website: <http://avery.cofc.edu>  
and the Avery Research Center Facebook page.***

