

Charleston Area Branch of ASALH

Branch Meeting

February 13, 2021 at 1pm EST

Zoom Meeting

Meeting Outline

- Call to Order
- Lift Every Voice and Sing
- Officer's Comments
- Featured Presentation
- Announcements
- Closing Remarks



Membership Ask

- Membership Organization

ASALH is a recognized 501 (c)3 non-profit organization. Our membership is open to dues-paying individuals and organizations who support our mission and vision. We encourage ASALH members to join and form branches to document local history and promote Black life, history and culture in communities across America and abroad. ASALH is incorporated in Washington, DC and is led by a working Executive Council and governed by a Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

ASALH members are encouraged to actively participate in ASALH by supporting the national and local programs, events, publications, and fundraisers (primarily an annual luncheon and annual conference). The membership of ASALH is invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting which is held at the Annual Conference.

<https://asalh.org/members/>

<https://chsasalh.com/join-asalh/>

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Officer's Comments

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHIVES THROUGH THE LENS OF FAMILY HISTORY

AAISHA HAYKAL

MANAGER OF ARCHIVAL SERVICES

GEORGETTE MAYO

PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

ERICA VEAL

PROJECT ARCHIVIST AND INTERPRETATION
SPECIALIST

TAMARA BUTLER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON**

AVERY RESEARCH CENTER FOR
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

OUTLINE

1. ABOUT AVERY RESEARCH CENTER
2. PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY
3. BLACK FAMILY COLLECTIONS AT THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER
4. PERSONAL STORIES
5. WHY THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER IS IMPORTANT
6. QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION



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AVERY RESEARCH CENTER



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THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

The mission of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture is to collect, preserve, and promote the unique history and culture of the African diaspora, with emphasis on Charleston and the South Carolina Lowcountry.

Avery's archival collections, museum exhibitions, and public programming reflect these diverse populations as well as the wider African Diaspora.



DEFINING ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, & MUSEUMS

- A repository of records
- Mission to collect, organize, preserve and provide access to non-current documents

Archives



- A collection of creative and informational sources such as books and other materials selected, organized, and maintained for use in study, research, or leisure

Libraries



- An institution dedicated to preserving and displaying collections of physical artifacts and specimens that have value within a particular context. Exhibits are created to facilitate study and enjoyment of these physical collections.

Museums



More about how to do archival research here <https://libguides.library.cofc.edu/archivalresearch>

Beginning



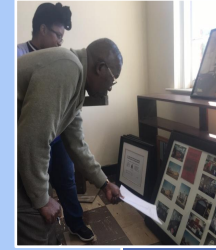
- Opened in 1990
- Dr. Myrtle Glascoe (First Director)
- Early collections:
 - Jenkins Orphanage
 - Esau Jenkins
 - Guy and Candie Carawan
 - Sweetgrass Baskets

Materials



- Textiles
- Manuscripts/Documents
- Paintings
- Newspapers
- Audiovisual (music, oral histories, photograph, and videos)
- Born-digital files
- Artifacts
- Tertiary and Secondary Sources (journals, books, etc.)
- Maps
- Blueprints

Numbers



- Collection date range: 1800-2019
- Bulk collections, 1930-2000
- Collections: 4000 linear feet
- 3 floors
- 7 staff members
- 2 Graduate Assistants
- 2 Student workers

AVERY OVERVIEW







PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Identify Need

- Why are you starting an archive?

Mission and Scope

- What will you be collecting?

Environmental Survey (state of the state)

- Are there other places documenting this?

Collection Survey

- What do you currently have, what condition is in, where is it, who has it?

Weeding

- Discarding what does not fit

Finding Space

- Where will you store it?

Collection Gaps

- What is missing?

Strategy for Documentation

- How are you going to locate these item?

Fill in gaps

- Do the work to fill in gaps

Description

- Describing what you have and creating access points

Access and Outreach

- Who will have access to materials? And how are you letting people know it exists?



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Oral Histories

Newspapers

Yearbooks

Ephemera

- School Programs
- Commencement Programs
- Tweets/Social Media Posts
- Newspaper articles
- Obituaries

Audiovisual

- Photographs
- Videos



STRATEGIES

01

Start with what you currently have

02

Look for upcoming big events

- Reunion
- Anniversaries
- Founders' Day
- Holidays

03

Do a call out in local news outlets

04

Do life histories with family members



Do

- **Label** people names in photographs and provide the data and location of the occasion
- Approach your collection not as a single unit, but as a clump; **organize like things together** (i.e., by year, by type of material, etc.)
- **Know** what needs to be kept
- Place records in an area that is **low temp, low humidity**, and away from water sources

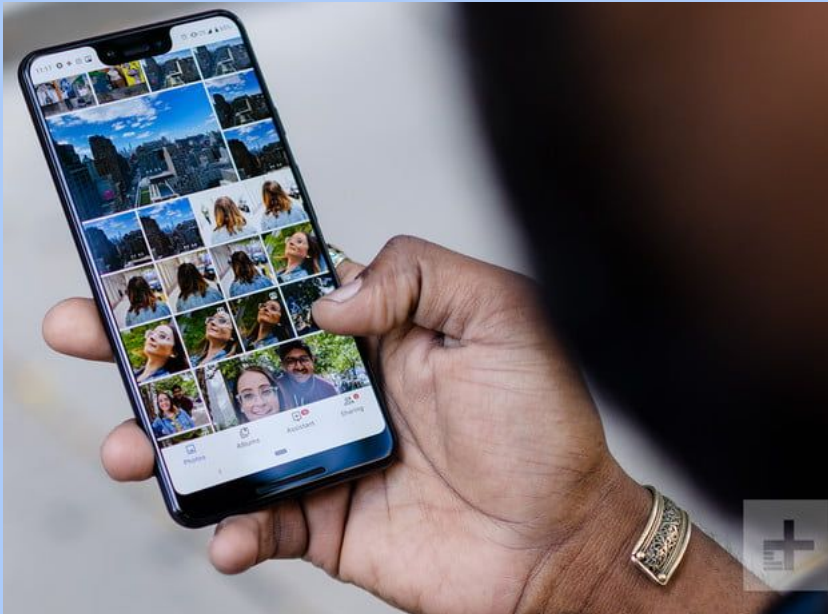


Do not

- **Use pens/markers** to label photographs on the back of the image
- **Laminate** objects for display
 - Instead frame them

TIPS

DIGITAL RECORDS AND DIGITAL PHOTOS



- Download them off the phone or save them to cloud storage
 - Google Drive
 - OneDrive
 - Amazon Photos, etc.
- Selection process
- Label and organize by person, by events, or a combination
- Establish a file naming system

- **“Your Personal Archiving Project: Where Do You Start?”**
<https://blogs.loc.gov/thesignal/2016/05/how-to-begin-a-personal-archiving-project/>
- **“Taking Care of Your Personal Archives”**
<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2010/11/taking-care-of-your-personal-archives/66425/>
- **Personal Archiving:** <https://libguides.lib.msu.edu/personalarchiving>
- **Storycorps:** <https://storycorps.org/participate/>
- **Supply Vendors**
 - Gaylord <https://www.gaylord.com/>
 - University Products <https://www.universityproducts.com/>

RESOURCES

**BLACK FAMILY
COLLECTIONS AT
THE AVERY
RESEARCH CENTER**

Avery Family Collections

- Carr Family Papers (circa 1671-2009)
- Graves Family Papers (1884-2004)
- John L. Dart Family Papers (1844-1947)
- Edward Lawrence Family Papers (1875-1983)
- Lecque Family Papers (1941-1990, 1997)
- Smith-Atkins Family Papers (1877-1981)
- Sterrett-Hodge Family Papers (circa 1841-1950)



Sterrett-Hodge Family Papers



Tom Sterrett, Norma B. Sterrett, Gertrude M. Sterrett Hodge, Mammie Sterrett Dillahunt & Jessie Sterrett



From Bascom F. Hodge, Captain AC Commander 890th S.E.F.T.,
1943

ACCESSING AVERY'S DIGITAL COLLECTIONS: THE LOWCOUNTRY DIGITAL LIBRARY

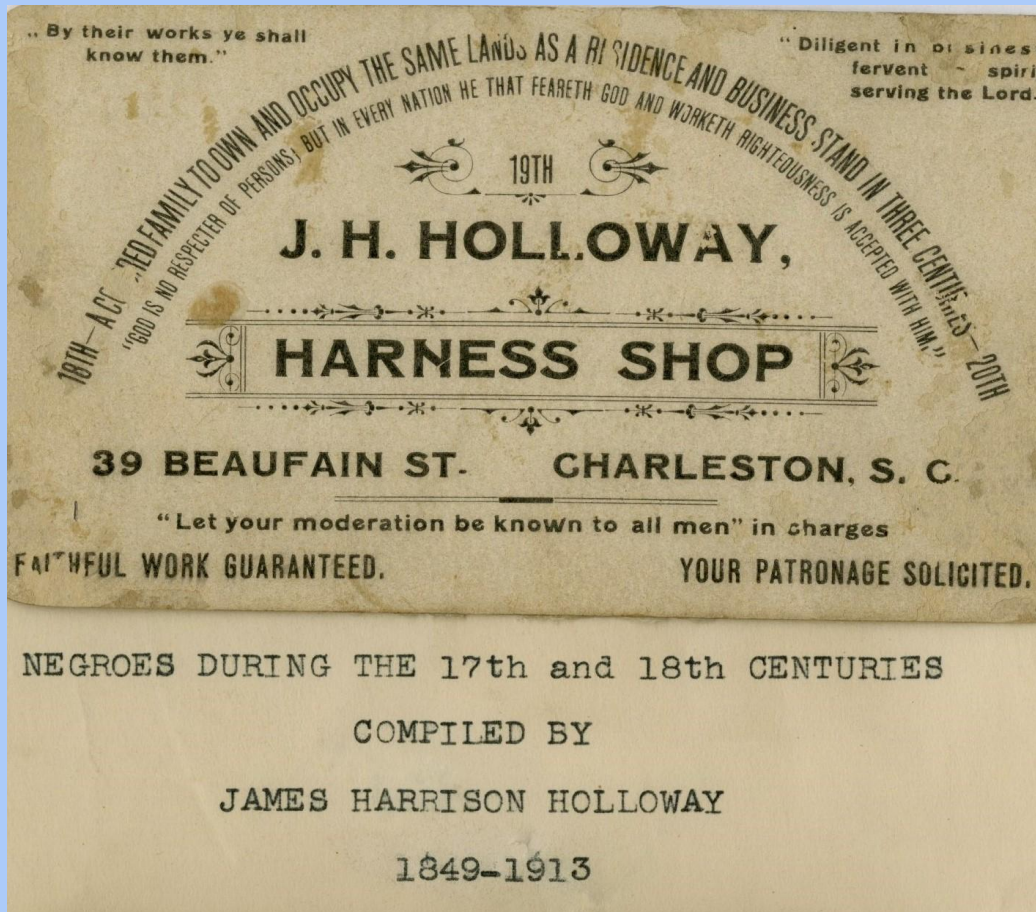


The Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL) at the College of Charleston **digitizes and makes accessible** unique archival resources by working with **cultural heritage institutions**, including the Avery Research

Center, to help digitize, describe, and host digital collections. All items in LCDL are harvested into and fully discoverable within the South Carolina Digital Library and the Digital Public Library of America. LCDL currently serves as the **digital library for over 80,000** records from **seventeen partner institutions** located across the coastal region of South Carolina and in Barbados.

Exploring Digital Collections: Family History on the Lowcountry Digital Library

Holloway Family Scrapbook:

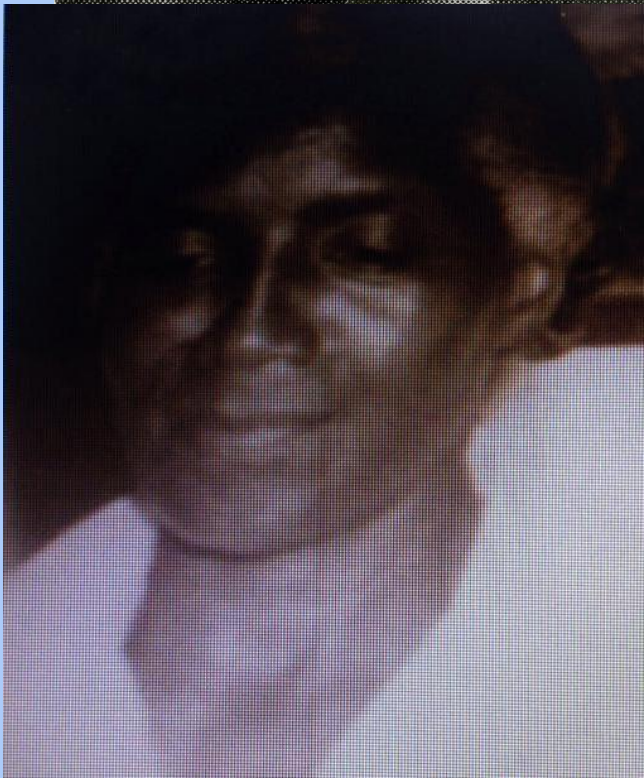




Personal Stories



KEGLER FAMILY



BOSSETTE FAMILY







FAMILYSEARCH.ORG
ANCESTRY.COM
NEWSPAPERS.COM



**WHY THE AVERY
RESEARCH
CENTER IS
IMPORTANT**

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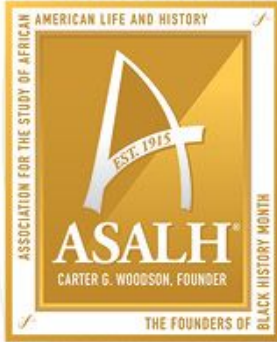
Thank you.

averyresearchcenter@cofc.edu

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Announcements

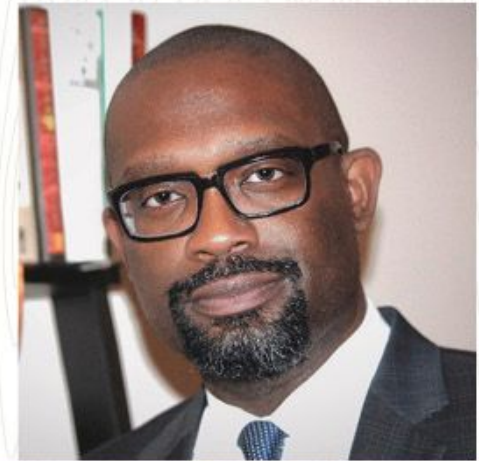
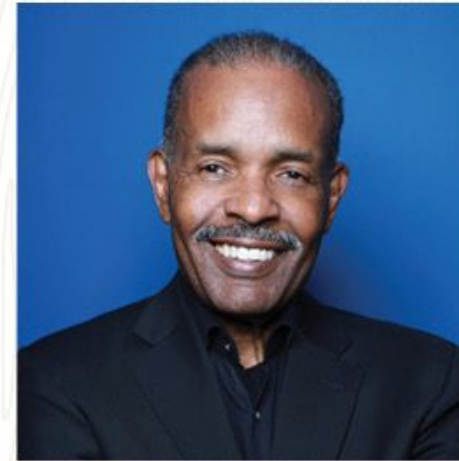
Closing Remarks



THE 2021 BLACK HISTORY MONTH VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

Marquee Event: A Conversation with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham

Saturday, February 20, 2021, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST



REGISTER AT WWW.ASALH.ORG/FESTIVAL

2021 BLACK HISTORY THEME **THE BLACK FAMILY: REPRESENTATION, IDENTITY, AND DIVERSITY**

<https://asalh.org/calendar/marquee/>

ASALH Branch with the most Marquee Event attendees are gifted a copy of
The Black Church: We Have Come This Far by Faith