

Table 5.2: Negro History Week: Constructed Timeline

Date	Event
September 9, 1915	Association for the Study of Negro Life and History is founded by Carter G. Woodson in Chicago, with James E. Stamps, A. L. Jackson, and George C. Hall.
October 2, 1915	ASNLH is incorporated in Washington, DC, by Woodson, John A. Bigham, and Jesse E. Moorland.
January 10, 1923	The <i>New York Amsterdam News</i> reports that during the Omega Psi Phi annual meeting in Philadelphia an official of the NAACP emphasized the "urgent necessity for the study of Negro History." A committee that included Woodson is appointed to develop plans over the next year for "fostering the study of Negro History in the schools and colleges of the country" ("Omega Psi," 1923).
1924	Woodson has been promoting black achievements since founding ASNLH, and his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, calls its observance Negro Achievement Week in 1924 ("Daryl Michael Scott for ASALH," n. d.).
February 21, 1925	North Carolina A&T begins observing black history in 1924 and the <i>Norfolk Journal and Guide</i> covers Woodson as the main speaker at its 1925 observance ("Dr. Carter G. Woodson delivers address at A&T College," 1925).
May 13, 1925	The <i>Amsterdam News</i> reports that Woodson gave a stirring speech at Union Baptist Church in Philadelphia to members of Delta Sigma Theta, whose slogan in 1925 was "Invest in Education" ("Delta Sigma Theta sorority notes," 1925).
November 28, 1925	The <i>Pittsburgh Courier</i> endorses the 1926 observance in an editorial ("Negro History Week," 1925). Other newspapers also endorse it.
February 7–13, 1926	First national Negro History Week is established by Woodson and observed in many locations. Black newspapers carry a column by Woodson on black achievements (Woodson, 1926).
February 24, 1926	Woodson's Negro History Week speech is excerpted by the <i>New York Amsterdam News</i> ("Dangerous lies," 1926).
February 27, 1926	Newspapers announce success of the first observance and Woodson's plans to make it an annual event ("Wanted \$20000," 1926).
June 5, 1926	The <i>Journal and Guide</i> supports Woodson's fund-raising goal ("Urgent need for funds," 1926).
January 29, 1927	The <i>Pittsburgh Courier</i> supports having an annual event ("Editorial," 1927).
February 2, 1927	The <i>New York Amsterdam News</i> publishes a Woodson article explaining how to observe history week (Woodson, 1927).
February 6–13, 1927	Woodson acknowledges several newspapers for their support in popularizing Negro History Week: <i>Charlotte Observer</i> , <i>Chicago Daily News</i> , <i>Chicago Defender</i> , <i>Louisville News</i> , <i>New York Times</i> , <i>Norfolk Journal and Guide</i> , <i>Philadelphia Tribune</i> , and <i>Pittsburgh Courier</i> (Woodson, 1927).
History Week, 1928	Woodson attributes success to "warmhearted support of the press," especially from the <i>Norfolk Journal and Guide</i> , <i>Pittsburgh Courier</i> , <i>Philadelphia Tribune</i> (Woodson, 1928).

History Week, 1929	Woodson praises support from several black newspapers (Woodson, 1929).
History Week, 1930	Woodson celebrates the careers of African Americans who have served in Congress ("Negro History Week Celebration," 1930).
1972	Association for the Study of Negro Life and History changes its name to Association for the Study of African American Life and History ("ASALH Timeline," n. d.).
February 10, 1976	President Gerald Ford proclaims February Black History Month ("President Gerald R. Ford's Message," 1976).
Sources: Compiled from ASNLH documents and various sources as indicated above	

a demand that black children be taught Negro history in schools ("UNIA," 1920). Woodson also encouraged his fraternity brothers in Omega Psi Phi to begin an observance, which they did in 1924, calling their project Negro Achievement Week (Scott, 2009–2011). North Carolina A&T College also began observing black achievements as early as 1924, and Woodson spoke there at its second commemoration in 1925, a speech that was reported by the *Norfolk Journal and Guide* ("Dr. Carter G. Woodson Delivers Address," 1925).

In the meantime, Charles H. Wesley, the Howard University history professor and Woodson protégé, was encouraging interest in history in high schools. He summarized his monograph, *Negro History in the School Curriculum*, and delivered a speech on the subject at a teachers' institute in Washington, DC. Wesley complained about an "immense amount of ignorance of the facts of history." The *Amsterdam News* reported the speech ("Want Negro History," 1925) and published an adaptation of the speech that October (Wesley, 1925).

These early activities showed promise, but Woodson decided to broaden the celebration and took it national in 1926, beyond just college campuses. He had sounded out the press in 1925. Responses from newspapers were immediately positive, as they usually were to Woodson's initiatives. The *Pittsburgh Courier* was among the newspapers accepting Woodson's call for recognizing black achievements, with an editorial in November 1925. The editorial credited Woodson with publicizing the past of a race that previously had no publicity agents or chroniclers. Adopting the messenger and his message, the newspaper said, Woodson "comes to us with the plea of one deeply concerned. He asks us record our achievements; to leave behind us a history which shall portray truthfully the life of the group. What could be as worthy a cause?" ("Negro History Week," 1925).