

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY AUGUST 15



John Brown's Fort and Lincoln Hall at Storer College (Boyd B. Stutler Collection)

On August 15, 1906, the Niagara Movement began a five-day meeting on the Storer College campus at Harpers Ferry, during which attendees paid tribute to John Brown and speakers spoke in support of African American civil rights.

CSO: SS.8.23

Investigate the Document: (*Charleston Gazette*, August 8, 1906)

1. What song did participants sing while marching around John Brown's Fort?
2. What did the speaker say about the current president of the United States?

Think Critically: Why was the meeting held at Storer College? What is the 15th amendment?

Charleston Daily Gazette.

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, AUG. 18, 1906.

"EQUALITY OF RACES"

Is the Slogan of Negro Con-
vention at Harper's
Ferry

By Associated Press.

Harpers Ferry, W. Va., Aug. 17. — The second annual meeting of the Niagara Movement, an organization of negroes, whose purpose is to promote equality of the races, today continued its sessions at Storr college, the feature of the proceedings being the tribute to the memory of John Brown, and the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Ossawatomie. At six o'clock this morning members of the movement accompanied by a number of visitors made a pilgrimage to John Brown's fort, which is two miles from here. At the fort an address was made by Richard T. Giltner and the pilgrims marched around the fort in single file singing "John Brown's Body." This afternoon addresses on John Brown were delivered by W. E. D. Dubois and Rev. Revery G. Ransom, of Boston. Ransom declared that God sent John Brown to Harper's Ferry "to become a traitor to the government in order that he might be true to the slave." He discussed the political rights of the negro. "The present occupant of the white house," he said, has been absolutely silent on the question of the enforcement of the fifteenth amendment, while his secretary of war has admitted the violation of the constitution and he has recently in a notable address openly condoned, if not tacitly endorsed it."