

Martin Luther King, Jr

Martin Luther King, Jr was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta Georgia to Baptist Minister Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King. They lived on Auburn Avenue, otherwise known as "Sweet Auburn" the bustling 'Black Wall Street.'



King attended Morehouse College at age 15 from 1944 to 1948. In his senior year, King decided to enter the ministry. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951 from the Crozer Theological Seminary. From Crozer, King went to Boston University, where he met his future wife, Coretta Scott. They were married in 1953, and King earned his doctorate in 1955. They had four children.



Black History

King was also a social activist and led the Civil Rights Movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. King was jailed 29 times during this time. He played a major role in the Non-Violence Bus Boycotts in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955. King also made many speeches about the importance of voting rights for Black Americans. He became increasingly concerned with the economic inequality in America and organized the Poor People's Campaign in 1968. A march was planned for the spring of 1968. Interrupting these plans, King was called to Memphis, Tennessee to support the strike of sanitation workers.



On April 4, 1968, King was assassinated by James Earl Ray while standing on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. King was one of many civil rights leaders to be assassinated in this era. His wife, Coretta, continued to be active in the civil rights movement and founded the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Non-Violent Social Change (later renamed The King Center) in Atlanta, Georgia, which became one of the major archives of King's papers.

