



# Raleigh Register

*Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program*



**Raleigh  
Parks**

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919.996.4772  
[Raleighnc.gov/museums](http://Raleighnc.gov/museums)

## Administrator's Letter

Greetings and Winter Tidings from the Historic Resources and Museum (HRM) Program.

In celebration of Black History Month, this issue of the *Raleigh Register* focuses on Black History throughout the sites within the HRM Program as well as greater Raleigh. Places such as Mordecai, Latta, Pullen, and Chavis serve a critical role in connecting present to past. They are what French historian Pierre Nora termed "sites of memory," places which moor us to the past, while simultaneously shaping our identities and even contemporary culture. Identifying contributions made by African Americans at our sites of memory, even complicated sites of memory such as Mordecai and Latta, plays an essential role in revealing who we are today through the tangled web of the past.

Also, the HRM Program added two new full-time staff members. David Gill joined us as the new program manager at Moore Square and Andrew Boos as the new operations manager at Pullen Park. David began working with us in September and Andrew, who comes to us from North Carolina State Parks, joined us in October. Both are enthusiastic about their new roles and excited to join the HRM family!

Finally, please be sure to check out all the upcoming events and programs throughout the HRM Program at the back of this newsletter, including several tailored specifically for Black History Month. We are excited to offer these experiences highlighting and honoring contributions of African Americans to our community and country. As always, please stay tuned and stay involved!



**Troy Burton**

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## Chair's Letter

Happy Winter!

The fabric of our community is rich with texture in the mix of ages, gender, and ethnicity of Raleighites. The city has several important historic resources that help us better understand the lived experience of African Americans over time. The Pope House Museum, Latta University Historic Park, Oberlin Village, Berry O'Kelly School, John Chavis Memorial Park, NC Freedom Park, and local institutions of higher education (St. Augustine's and Shaw University) provide windows into the lives of Black citizens. Education, skills training, and a deep appreciation of community roots are cornerstones, along with the church and family, of southern culture.

Historic sites and museums must also tell the truth about the ugly history of slavery and mistreatment, hardship, and oppression. It is against this background we come to learn the results of patterns that no longer serve our society. The most important thing that history can teach us is that in one way or another, every decision will affect the future. History can also teach us to not forget what has already happened, because without the knowledge of what has happened previously, it is almost certain that it will happen again.

Visit our local historic sites this season and become familiar with the history of home.



**Esther Hall**

Chair, HRM Advisory Board

# Raleigh's African American History: Knowing and Doing

*Ainsley Powell, Curator of Collections*

In a truly collaborative effort, a collections project located at the John P. "Top" Greene Community Center Archive Room began in earnest in November 2021. Project partners include North Carolina State University's Department of Public History, North Carolina State University's Center for Family and Community Engagement, the South Park - East Raleigh Neighborhood Association, the City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, as well as community stakeholders. Museum professionals Laura Lethers and DeAsia Noble began their work to identify, inventory, and catalogue all objects of material culture collected by the public over the years. Their work will eventually produce a comprehensive materials database to support future interpretive projects for the City of Raleigh and specifically the South Park community.



## Ask A Curator

*Kathryn Neuhart*  
*Curator of Exhibits and Design*

- Q** Where can I learn more about African American history in Raleigh?
- A** Exhibits and Interpretive Signage within the HRM Program are a great resource. Excerpts from HRM exhibits currently on view are included here. Many exhibits are offered virtually; links are included!



## The Mordecai Story: Faith, Family, and Community in Raleigh

Profile – Mittie Ann



**Mittie Ann at the Spring, 1908. Image courtesy of the Capital Area Preservation, Inc.**

While most slaves worked in the fields, domestic workers, such as Mittie Ann, labored in the plantation home and surrounding yard. Mittie Ann would have been an important link between the Mordecais and the slave community. Information obtained while on duty often initiated a "grapevine" that kept the slave community current on news and gossip.

Mordecai Visitor Center  
[raleighnc.gov/places/mordecai-historic-park](http://raleighnc.gov/places/mordecai-historic-park)  
 1 Mimosa Street  
 919-996-4364

Virtual Exhibit: [bit.ly/3H1rxLm](http://bit.ly/3H1rxLm)

## Square Roots: The History of Moore Square

Profile – Calvin E. Lightner

The contributions of Calvin E. Lightner were instrumental in the establishment of Black Main Street. He built the Lightner Office Building at 125 East Hargett Street in 1915, and the Lightner Arcade Hotel at 122 East Hargett Street in 1921. The Arcade Hotel was a social hub for African Americans during the early 20th century. The hotel, which burned in 1970, stood in the location of today's Moore Square Bus Station.

Moore Square Visitor Center  
[raleighnc.gov/mooresquare](http://raleighnc.gov/mooresquare)  
 226 East Martin Street  
 919-996-6486

Virtual Exhibit: [bit.ly/3kjPWSB](http://bit.ly/3kjPWSB)



**Lightner Arcade building, 1921. Photograph courtesy of State Archives of North Carolina**

## ***A Family Story: Images From the Pope House Museum***

*Profile – Dr. Lewyn McCauley*



***Two young girls pose in front of the only private hospital for African Americans in Raleigh, ca. 1930.***

Dr. Lewyn McCauley's Hospital was next door to the Pope family and featured an operating room and x-ray machine. The hospital opened in 1923 and offered services for women and children who preferred not to use the few public facilities open to African Americans.

Pope House Museum  
[raleighnc.gov/pope-house](http://raleighnc.gov/pope-house)  
 511 South Wilmington Street  
 919-996-2220

Virtual Exhibit: [bit.ly/3kcZ1MQ](https://bit.ly/3kcZ1MQ)

## ***Pullen Park Interpretive Panels***

*Profiles – Percy High and Student Protestors*

During the Jim Crow era, people of different races could not swim together at Pullen Park. On August 6, 1962, a group of African American and white students defied the practice and swam together. City of Raleigh responded by closing the pools at Pullen Park and John Chavis Memorial Park. Within a year, however, Raleigh's City Council voted in favor of integrating the pools at Pullen Park and Chavis Park. This brought an end to 67 years of legal segregation in Raleigh's parks.

Pullen Park  
[raleighnc.gov/places/pullen-park-amusements](http://raleighnc.gov/places/pullen-park-amusements)  
 520 Ashe Ave  
 919-996-6484



***Percy High is seen leaving the Pullen Park pool as City Recreation Director Jimmy Chambers looks on. Photograph courtesy of News and Observer, August 7, 1962***

## Let Us March On: Raleigh's Journey Toward Civil Rights

*Profiles – Elwyna, Joseph Sr., and Joe Jr. Holt*



In 1956 Joseph and Elwyna Holt began the fight to have their son, Joe, admitted into Raleigh's white school system. From the time their application was made public, the Holt family experienced nearly constant abuse. Threatening letters and phone calls became common. Joseph Holt, Sr. faced discrimination at work as his job changed at the North Carolina Equipment Company. Yet, the family continued to fight. Although the Holts were not able to integrate Raleigh schools, they did succeed in teaching their son the value of fighting for one's beliefs and convictions.

COR Museum  
cityofraleighmuseum.org  
220 Fayetteville Street  
919-996-2220

## Women of Change: The Legacy of the 19th Amendment

*Profile – Stormie Forte*

In the 21st century, women are making a huge impact in politics, perhaps the greatest impact since gaining the right to vote in 1920. Almost 100 years after the passage of the 19th amendment, an African American woman was chosen to serve on Raleigh's City Council. Stormie Forte filled a vacant seat in July 2020.

COR Museum  
cityofraleighmuseum.org  
220 Fayetteville Street  
919-996-2220



**Stormie Forte, Raleigh City Council Member.**

# Upcoming Events

## Museums

### *Raleigh Roasts*

**City of Raleigh Museum**

**Saturday, January 22**

**9am-1pm**

Fourth annual *Raleigh Roasts* is back! Warm up from the winter chills by sampling local coffee, tea, chocolate, and pastries at the COR Museum. Local area favorites will be in the museum sharing their favorite brews & treats.

### *African American History Symposium*

**City of Raleigh Museum**

**Saturday and Sunday, February 12 & 13**

The COR Museum will explore Raleigh's black history through presentations and exhibits. Schedule of events will be announced in advance.

### *Yoga in the Museum*

**City of Raleigh Museum**

**Saturdays January-March**

**9:30-10:30am**

The City of Raleigh Museum will offer free yoga classes on Saturdays from January through March! The classes will be taught by instructors from local yoga studios and will be held in the main gallery of the museum. Be sure to bring your own mat & water! Limited capacity.

## Sites

### *Free Friday*

**Mordecai Historic Park**

**Friday, January 21**

Free tours of the Mordecai House, Andrew Johnson's birthplace, St. Mark's Chapel, and the Allen Kitchen. Tours begin on the hour and half hour and are limited to 12 people per tour. The first tour will begin at 10am and the last tour starts at 3pm. First come, first served. Free event, no registration necessary. Call 919-996-4364 for more information.

### *Black History Trolley Tour*

**Mordecai Historic Park**

**Saturday, February 19**

**11am, 12:30pm, and 2pm**

Celebrate Raleigh's Black history on this special trolley tour highlighting the downtown area's African American heritage. The tour route includes historic homes, schools, churches and businesses important to Raleigh's African American history. Tickets are \$10. Call 919-996-4364 for more information.

### *Women's History Trolley Tour*

**Mordecai Historic Park**

**Sunday, March 20**

**12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3pm**

Celebrate the influential women who shaped Raleigh's history and explore their stories throughout Raleigh, from the women at Mordecai House to those who fought for equality during the Civil Rights Movement. The trolley departs from Mordecai Historic Park and lasts approximately one hour. Tickets are \$10. Call 919-996-4364 for tickets and information.

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## Follow Us

Check our social media for the newest additions of upcoming events at all of our sites!



RaleighParks





## Historic Resources and Museum Program

In July 2012, Raleigh City Council created the Historic Resources and Museum Program, hereinafter the HRM Program, with the express purpose of protecting and programming identified cultural, museum, and historic resources within the City of Raleigh.

The HRM Program manages operations and programs at:

- Borden Building and Stone Circle at Fletcher Park
- City of Raleigh Museum
- Fred Fletcher Amphitheater at Fletcher Park
- John Chavis Memorial Park Carousel – Conservation
- Latta University Historic Park
- Moore Square
- Mordecai Historic Park
- Pope House Museum
- Pullen Park Historic Attractions
- Raleigh Trolleys
- Tucker House

Additionally, The HRM Program manages an artifact collection consisting of more than 21,000 fine and decorative material culture objects.

Tucker House  
418 N Person Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

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Permit No. 813

# Raleigh Register

Raleigh Parks | Historic Resources and Museum Program



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