

Vol 22  
WINTER 2020

# Raleigh Register

Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program



The Tucker House after a winter snow, date unknown.

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[www.raleighnc.gov/museums](http://www.raleighnc.gov/museums)



RALEIGH

Parks,  
Recreation and  
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# Administrator's Letter



**G**reetings! We hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful programs, exhibits, and events taking place throughout the Historic Resources and Museum (HRM) Program. As we approach 2020, this issue

of the Raleigh Register focuses on important centennial dates from the past including 1920, 1820, and 1720.

Of course, the HRM Program is also forward looking. The PRCR Department and the HRM Program are excited to relay that the Latta House and University Site Park master plan process continues to move forward. The park site is within the Oberlin neighborhood located at 1001 Parker Street and comprises the remaining area of Latta University. Founded in 1892 by Reverend M.L. Latta, Latta University was an African American coeducational institution created to educate underprivileged and orphan children in Raleigh's Black community. The draft park master plan is complete and open for public comment. The HRM Advisory Board will review and approve the draft master plan in the coming months before ultimately going to Raleigh City Council for approval.

Project details can be found at:

[raleighnc.gov/parks/content/ParksRec/Articles/Projects/LattaHouseMasterPlan.html](http://raleighnc.gov/parks/content/ParksRec/Articles/Projects/LattaHouseMasterPlan.html)

Also, since our last newsletter, the HRM Program added a new staff member. Allora Spruill joined us as the new Program Manager in the Historic Attractions section. She will be based at Pullen Amusements. Allora looks forward to making a program impact at Historic Attractions as well as across the HRM Program.

As always please stay tuned and stay involved!

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# Chair's Letter



**O**n Fayetteville Street...the newest building is outsized compared to its neighbors and strikes traditionalists as being just the least bit ugly....

*The City's infrastructure needs serious work, but city fathers say they lack the revenue for repairs, much less for improvements....*

*Raleigh is not even close to a consensus on how or where to shelter the homeless....*

*City government says that it would like to plan further ahead, but that the General Assembly....will not grant Raleigh enough authority to make decisions....*

*It is business as usual in the year 1800.<sup>1</sup>*

Raleigh has indeed changed dramatically since our city's origins as a roadhouse. Yet, as we walk the same streets and occupy some of the same buildings and squares that our city's founders did, many of the challenges (and opportunities) that face our community remain much the same as they did more than 200 years ago.

As we reflect on centuries past and turn the page on another new year, here's to hoping we will continue to rise to the occasion.

<sup>1</sup>Lancaster, Marshall (1992). *Raleigh: An Unorthodox History of North Carolina's Capital*.

Fred Belledin  
Chair, HRM Advisory Board

## Follow the HRM Program!

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



RaleighHistory



RaleighHistoryandMuseums



# Ask A Historian

by Douglas Porter, Program Director, Historic Sites

**Q** What's something interesting that happened in Raleigh in 1820 of which I may not be aware?

**A** An important event in Raleigh history happened on April 12, 1820! On this day, Moses and Peggy Mordecai welcomed their first daughter, Ellen, into the world. Ellen Mordecai was remarkable for many reasons, but one of her greatest gifts to future generations was her desire to leave a record of her life and experiences. An accomplished writer and storyteller, Ellen penned a great number of letters and stories, some of which survive today in various archives and collections.

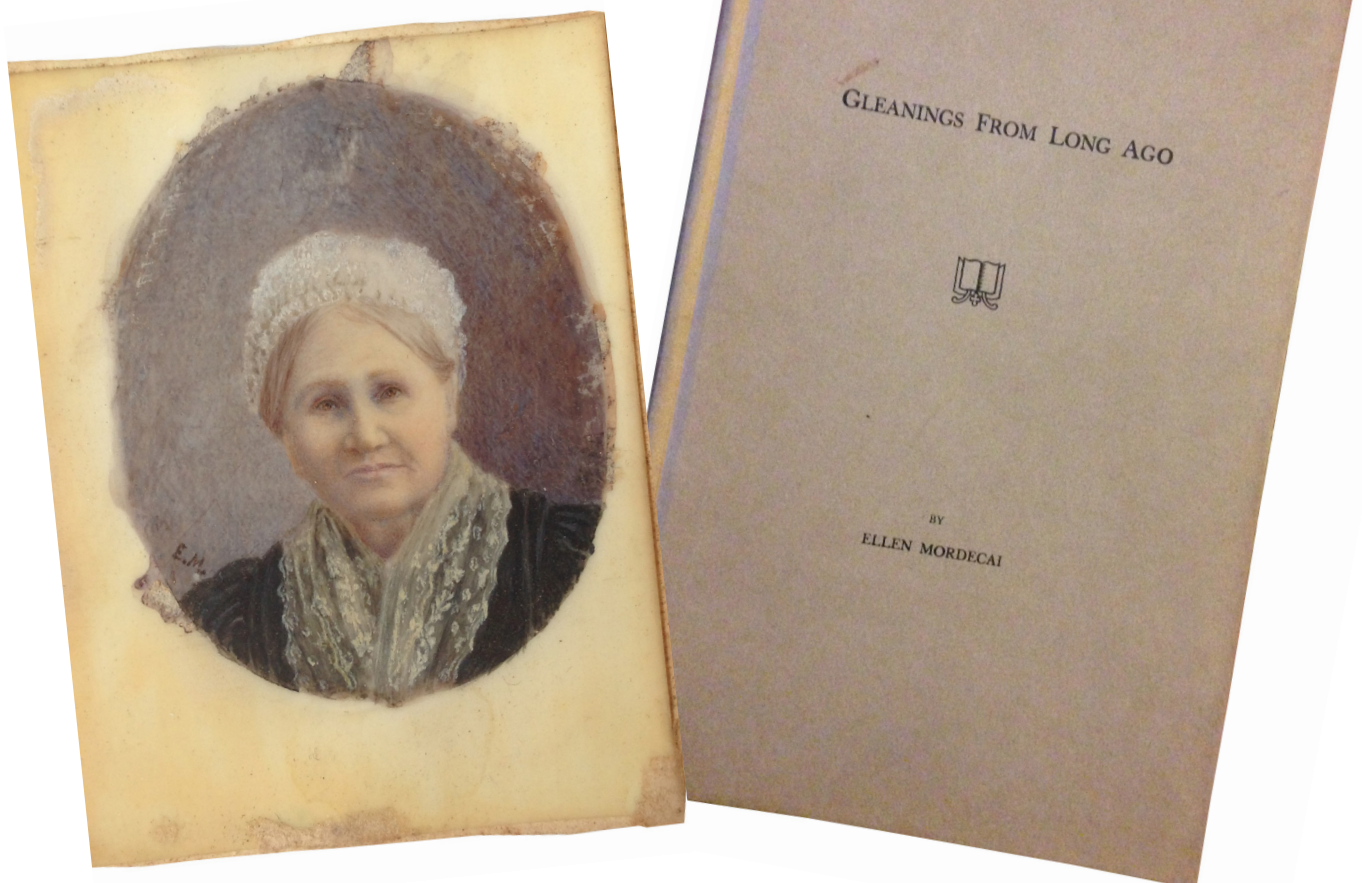
Ellen captured many of these stories in her 'official' memoir, *Gleanings from Long Ago*, compiled in 1906 and published by the family in 1933, years after Ellen's death in February 1916 at the age of 96. Ellen Mordecai grew up in the family home in Raleigh and much of *Gleanings* describes memories, including people and places, from her childhood in the 1820s and 1830s. Ellen's memoir is one of the most valuable resources we have for understanding life on the Mordecai plantation in the antebellum era.

A reprinted edition of *Gleanings from Long Ago* is available in the gift shop at the Mordecai Visitor Center.

**Right:** Ellen Mordecai, c. 1900

**Left:** *Gleanings from Long Ago*, original 1933 edition.

Images courtesy of Capital Area Preservation, Inc.



Your question regarding the history of Raleigh could be answered in the next edition of the Raleigh Register.  
Send questions to: [kathryn.neuhart@raleighnc.gov](mailto:kathryn.neuhart@raleighnc.gov)



# Collection Corner

by Ainsley Powell, HRM Curator of Collections

Every Century is a Foundation for the Next

The items included here are from various collections across the Historic Resources and Museum Program. They all represent markers of their own time, whether it be formal portraits and stem ware, or progressions in medicine.

- 1 Book entitled, *The History of the Amours and Gallantry of Several Noble and Polite Persons at Rome and Syracuse*, 1728



- 2 Medicine tin, 1920



- 4 Portrait of Mary "Jackie" Sumner Blount, 1820



- 5 Serving dish, ca.1820



- 3 Photograph of staff in front of Boylan-Pearce Co. store, ca. 1920



- 6 Wine glass, ca. 1920

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# Friends of COR Museum



## Dan Howe and his excellent service and commitment to the COR Museum.

After many years of dedicated service to the museum, Dan Howe will be leaving the Friends at the end of the year. Dan served as the Assistant Manager for the City of Raleigh from 2004 to 2014. During that time he served on the exploratory group in 2011 considering the future of the Raleigh City Museum. That group ultimately recommended the city taking over management of the museum and the board transitioning into a friends group. Dan joined this group in 2015 and eventually became the Friends of the COR Museum staff in 2017. The museum is forever indebted to Dan for his leadership and guidance during that process as well as his ensuing service to the museum in the following years. This is certainly not goodbye and we know Dan will continue to be a part of the museum's legacy.



Onstage during event held for  
*The Raleigh Underground* exhibit.



Looking groovy for Timewarp 2018!



Prepping staff prior to COR Museum's  
Timewarp 2018 fundraiser.



Attending *From Plantation to Park:*  
*The Story of Dix Hill* Exhibit Opening.

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## Raleigh Roasts

The 3rd Annual Raleigh Roasts is back on Saturday, January 18, 2020. Some of our returning vendors include Counter Culture, Larry's Coffee, Tama Tea, Slingshot Coffee, Yellow Dog, Pine State Coffee, Dilworth Coffee, Benelux Coffee, and Carroll's Kitchen. New vendors this year include Lousy Hunters Doughnuts and Full Bloom Coffee. Last year the event was attended by over 800 people which was up from 460 the previous year! We expect another big turnout! Stay tuned to our Facebook page @CORMuseum for more details and tickets for the event!

## Become a Friend!

The City of Raleigh Museum depends on the support of the community through annual memberships. One hundred percent of your membership goes towards museum programs and exhibitions. Through your generosity, we can continue our role as the only organization committed to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of Raleigh's past, present, and future. For more information, go to [cityofraleighmuseum.org](http://cityofraleighmuseum.org)



# Upcoming Events

## Sites

### ***Mordecai Free Friday***

Mordecai Historic Park

**January 18**

**10am-4pm**

Mordecai Historic Park will offer free tours throughout the day on this special Friday! Tours include the Mordecai House, Andrew Johnson birthplace, St. Mark's Chapel, and the Allen Kitchen. Tours begin on the hour and half hour and are limited to 20 people per tour. The first tour will begin at 10am and the last tour starts at 3pm. Free tours are offered only twice a year, so don't miss out! First come, first served. Free event, no registration necessary.

### ***Historic Raleigh Trolley Celebrates***

#### ***Black History Month***

Mordecai Historic Park

**February 22**

**1pm-4pm**

Celebrate Black History Month on this special trolley tour around Raleigh highlighting the downtown area's African American heritage. Tour route includes historic homes, schools, churches, and business areas important to Raleigh's African American heritage. The trolley departs from Mordecai Historic Park and lasts approximately one hour. Tickets are \$10. Call 919-996-4364 for tickets and information.

### ***Flannels & Frost***

Moore Square

**February 22**

**2pm-6pm**

Join Moore Square and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance for a celebration of winter!

### ***Soulful Sunday***

Moore Square

**March 15**

**2pm-6pm**

A celebration of gospel, soul and R&B in the heart of downtown.

### ***Spring Has Sprung***

Borden Building

**March 21**

**1pm-3pm**

Please join us at the Borden Building in celebrating the start of spring with a focus on a more eco-friendly 2020! This program will have hands-on activities featuring a recycling art activity with Anna Podris and Keith Norval's Paintings, coffee with Larry's Coffee, tips from Master Gardeners, and interactive displays on beekeeping, pollination, native plants, home gardening, efficiency, composting, zero waste living, garden tours, and much more. This event is free and all ages are welcome!



Spring Has Sprung, 2019

### ***Brunch Market***

Moore Square

**March 29**

**12pm-4pm**

A very special edition of the "Raleigh Night Market" is coming to Moore Square. With a wide variety of vendors, food options and entertainment there will be something for everyone!

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## Museums

### ***Raleigh Walking Tour***

City of Raleigh Museum

**Every Saturday 2pm**

The City of Raleigh Museum offers downtown walking tours every Saturday at 2pm. Tours will begin at the museum, travel around downtown viewing historic landmarks and sites, and end back at the museum. The tours will last approximately one hour. Rates: Adults \$10; Youth 7-17 \$4; Children 6 & Under Free

### ***Yoga in the Museum***

City of Raleigh Museum

**January 4, 11, 25**

**February 1, 15, 22, 29**

**11:30am-12:30pm**

The City of Raleigh museum will offer free yoga classes on many Saturdays! 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!

### ***Raleigh Roasts***

City of Raleigh Museum

**January 18**

**10am-1pm**

The Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum are excited to announce that the third 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. Advance tickets will be available via [cityofraleighmuseum.org](http://cityofraleighmuseum.org).

### ***Black History Symposium***

City of Raleigh Museum

**February 8**

**1pm-3pm**

The City of Raleigh Museum will explore Raleigh's black history through presentations and exhibits. Join museum Director Ernest Dollar to explore the life and legacy of John Hunter. The story will uncover 250 years of one family's history from slavery to success. Admission is free.

### ***Celebration of Women in Food***

City of Raleigh Museum

**Coming in March**

In celebration of Women's history month, the Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum will honor local women chefs and their contribution to Raleigh. More information to come soon!

## Raleigh Sister Cities

### ***German Movie Night***

Mordecai Historic Park Visitor Center

**Thursday, February 13**

**6:30pm-8:30pm**

### ***Mardi Gras and Fasching***

Mordecai Historic Park Visitor Center

**Tuesday, February 25**

**6pm-8pm**

Join Compiègne and Rostock Committees for a celebration before Lent, including a crepe dinner and a prize for the most fanciful mask! You can check out our website for more details.

### ***German Movie Night***

Mordecai Historic Park Visitor Center

**Thursday, March 12**

**6:30pm-8:30pm**

For more information, email [info@raleighsistercities.org](mailto:info@raleighsistercities.org), call 919-996-4372, or visit [raleighsistercities.org](http://raleighsistercities.org) or [Facebook.com/RaleighSisterCities](https://Facebook.com/RaleighSisterCities).

All Raleigh residents are invited to become involved. To learn more, visit: [raleighsistercities.org](http://raleighsistercities.org)

## 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 Historic Attractions
- The Latta House and University Site
- 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.

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# Raleigh Register

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