



Raleigh Register

Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program



**Raleigh
Parks**

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Raleighnc.gov/museums

Administrator's Letter

Hello! In this issue, we explore "This Day in HRM Program History"! We will investigate important anniversary dates occurring throughout our program in the months of April, May, and June. Whether considering the anniversary of the founding of the Raleigh City Museum in April of 1993 or the centennial of the carousel at Pullen Park, there are many important milestones to celebrate throughout our program and we hope you enjoy learning about them in this issue of the *Raleigh Register*. As always, we encourage you to visit our sites and discover some of these hidden gems for yourself. Given the circumstances surrounding the COVID pandemic, we are conducting wellness checks for our visitors and asking everyone to continue to wear masks while at our sites.

Of course, if you choose to stay safe at home, please consider accessing our sites virtually. The best way to get started is to visit our website at raleighnc.gov/museums or follow our social media through Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources @raleighparks or through @CORMuseumFriends. We would love for you to connect with us virtually.

As always, feel free to reach out to me at any time to tell me what you think of our programs or just to chat. I am always interested in ways we can make our programs better and to listen to your feedback.



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Chair's Letter

Nestled among the high-rise buildings of downtown Raleigh is a historical gem. The Pope House Museum, located on South Wilmington Street, is a Raleigh Historic Landmark. Dr. Manassa Pope was one of the earliest graduates of Leonard School of Medicine at Shaw University, and one of the first licensed Black physicians in North Carolina. Built in 1901 by Dr. Pope, the house remained in the Pope family until it became a museum. In February Dr. Pope was recognized by Governor Roy Cooper in his proclamation honoring North Carolina's African American leaders and organizations in health and medicine.

With safety restrictions currently in place, tours of the Pope House are available by appointment only, every Saturday and Sunday. The newest exhibit, *A Family Story: Images of the Pope House Museum* opened in February. This wonderful collection of photographic images from the Pope House Collection, spans more than 100 years of African American life.

All HRM facilities are once again open, following current safety guidelines. The staff continue to work to make resources available virtually, as well. *A Family Story* and six other virtual exhibits from the HRM Program can be viewed on the website.



Clare Bass,
Chair, HRM Advisory Board

Follow Us

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



RaleighParks

Ask A Historian

By Douglas Porter, Program Director,
Historic Sites

Q

Celebrating April as Raleigh History Month makes me wonder about spring days long ago in Raleigh. What's a "spring story" from our city's past that I may not know?

A

Spring weather in North Carolina has always sparked hope and excitement. Yet we expect that days of sun and mild temperatures will probably be offset by "April showers" and a few thunderstorms. These days, we're usually aware of oncoming weather threats. But this has not always been the case. In the past, fast approaching storms could catch people off-guard and wreak havoc in a short amount of time. This happened one spring day in Raleigh 144 years ago. On April 29, 1877 a "Terrible Tornado" ripped through Raleigh, destroying buildings and crops, and seriously injuring several residents. The following Tuesday, *The Observer* reported that the storm came quickly from the southeast around 2:30pm and the damage was done within thirty minutes. The only warning had been "distant thunder and a small cloud." However, according to the newspaper, "On Fayetteville Street . . . the effects of the storm were fearful to behold. . . . The destruction of trees, fences, vegetables and poultry was very heavy in this section. . . . The two chimneys on the Court House came down with a mighty crash. Several windows in the Citizens' Bank building on the third and fourth floors crushed in; the Market House unroofed and the tin covering blown over to the store tops on Exchange Place."

Interestingly, *The Observer* reported damage to several sites associated with the HRM Program. While "the damage at Baptist Grove [Moore Square] was slight," the tornado did significant harm to the Briggs Hardware Building (location of the COR Museum) and the Mordecai property. The article states that the "large Briggs' building . . . was partially unroofed and the tin in large, solid pieces carried as far as the Raleigh National Bank. . . . Towards Mordecai's Grove the storm swept with relentless force, carrying off . . . [a] chimney [and] killing twenty-five chickens [as well as] uprooting two large oaks in the yard of Mrs. Ellen Mordecai. . . . In Mordecai's Grove a large number of trees were blown down—too many to count." *The Observer* even reported that a "large oak fell across the residence of Mr. Stanhope Pullen."

TERRIBLE TORNADO--GREAT DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY IN THE CITY--CAPITOL PARK RUINED--OVER FIVE HUNDRED SHADE TREES TORN UP BY THE ROOTS IN AND AROUND RALEIGH--DAMAGE TO THE CROPS--INCIDENTS.--The most terrific tornado, storm, hurricane, cyclone, waterspout, or whatever else it may be called, passed over the city Sunday afternoon that was ever known in the annals of Raleigh. The memory of the oldest inhabitant furnishes nothing even approximating a parallel to it, though it is stated that twenty-five years ago to a day a hurricane of much smaller force and dimensions from the same source and direction did considerable damage to shade-trees, shrubbery, growing crops and a few buildings injured. The storm came from the south-east and was presaged by distant thunder and a small cloud in that direction at 2:30 o'clock p. m.

"Terrible Tornado" in *The Observer* on May 1, 1877.

Collection Corner: *Raleigh's History*

By Ainsley Powell, HRM Curator of Collections

The items included here are from various collections across the HRM Program. Each are everyday items once used by Raleigh residents, and are notable now because of the history they tell.



Honorary membership for R.S. Tucker,
April 6, 1870



Mary Elizabeth Hospital pin,
1914



Calendar, May 1913



City flag commissioned by Board of Alderman,
June 1899



Program, June 19, 1965



License plate, May 1918

Carousel Centennial Celebration

The Dentzel Carousel celebrated its 100th anniversary in Pullen Park on March 28! This attraction was built in 1911 by Gustav Dentzel of Germantown, PA, and was originally located at nearby Bloomsbury Park. Join us for a month of themed weekly programs to celebrate!

Raleigh History Month April Events

Adopt a Carousel Animal

Entire month of April

After riding the historic Dentzel Carousel, enter into a drawing to be able to name and "adopt" an animal on the carousel!



Design a New Carousel Animal

Entire month of April

Pullen Park is looking to add a new animal to the carousel! Enter your animal design to be considered for when we look into purchasing our next animal.



HRM Merchandise Sale

Entire month of April

Purchase a unique souvenir to celebrate Raleigh History Month!



Virtual Exhibits

The HRM Program is proud to extend exhibits to reach our audience, digitally. You can now explore Raleigh's rich and diverse history from the comfort of anywhere by visiting raleighnc.gov/SupportPages/virtual-museum-exhibits

Mordecai Tours

Tuesday-Sunday

Explore Mordecai Historic Park with a walking tour of the house and grounds!



Please visit raleighnc.gov/history-month , for full program information

COR Museum Exhibits

Tuesday-Sunday

Visit the City of Raleigh Museum to learn about the history and culture of Raleigh. Through a variety of exhibits, you will learn about Raleigh's history, present, and envision its future.



Pope House Tours

Saturday and Sunday

Home of Dr. Manassa Pope, The Pope House Museum offers a glimpse into the life of one of Raleigh's most intriguing citizens and African American history in the early 20th century.



Rediscovering Dr. Pope's Neighborhood

Every Sunday 2pm

From Stronachs Alley to Shaw University, rediscover the rich history of the community that once surrounded the Pope House.

Painting in the Park

Mondays in April

Wine and Design will be offering painting classes at Pullen Park to paint pictures of carousel animals!

wineanddesign.com/calendar/raleigh-nc



ART BUZZ KIDS

Mondays in April

Wine and Design will be offering kids painting classes to paint carousel animals!

wineanddesign.com/calendar/raleigh-nc

Pullen History Days

Tuesdays in April

Learn about the rich history behind Pullen Park! Virtual history tours are also available online via tinyurl.com/6k72n2vw.

Wurlitzer Wednesdays

Wednesdays in April

Wurlitzer demonstrations and history talks! You can even make your own Wurlitzer reel at our craft station by the carousel!



Please visit raleighnc.gov/history-month , for full program information

Historic Raleigh Trolley Tour

Thursday - Friday in April

Hop on the Historic Raleigh Trolley for an hour-long tour of Downtown Raleigh!



Lunchtime Lecture Series

Fridays in April (except Good Friday)

Grab a bite and learn a bit! Join us for the Raleigh History Month Lunchtime Lecture Series at Moore Square. Fridays in April!

Downtown Raleigh Walking Tour

Saturdays

From Raleigh's origins to present day, the downtown Raleigh walking tour will cover the importance of Raleigh's history to North Carolina and the region.

Pullen Roaring 20s Day

Saturday, April 11th

Go back in time like it's the 1920s! Come dressed in your best 1920's apparel and enjoy a variety of themed activities.

Civil War Trolley

Sunday, April 11th

Take a trip back in time and learn about the Civil War in Raleigh aboard the Historic Raleigh Trolley.

A Community's Legacy: African American History Walking Tour

Saturday, April 10th

A guided tour through the rich African American history of downtown Raleigh.

Raleigh and the End of the Civil War Walking Tour

Saturday, April 17th

Retreating Confederate soldiers, freed slaves, and an invading Union army all made Raleigh a city balancing on the edge of destruction and salvation in the final days of America's bloody Civil War. Explore this rapidly changing world of 1865 through a special walking tour of Downtown Raleigh.



A Community's Legacy: African American History Walking Tour

Saturday, April 24th

A guided tour through the rich African American history of downtown Raleigh.



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
- 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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