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Raleigh Register

Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program



Photograph featuring Evelyn Pope
in the center, circa 1950s

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Parks,
Recreation and
Cultural Resources
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Administrator's Letter



Greetings! We hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful programs, exhibits, and events taking place throughout the Historic Resources and Museum (HRM) Program and in this issue learning about the importance of food both past and present.

As we look to the future, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department and Historic Resources and Museum Program are excited to announce the Latta House and University Site park master planning process. The site is within the Oberlin neighborhood at 1001 Parker Street and comprises the remaining area of Latta University. Founded in 1892 by Reverend M.L. Latta, the University was an African American coeducational institution created to educate underprivileged and orphaned children. The park master planning process begins in 2019 and will consider future use and programming for the site.

Project details can be found at: raleighnc.gov/parks/content/ParksRec/Articles/Projects/LattaHouseMasterPlan.html



MANUAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

Also, since our last newsletter, the HRM Program added a new staff member. Celeste Purvis joined us as the new Program Manager at Mordecai Historic Park. Celeste looks forward to learning about programs at Mordecai as well as across the HRM Program.

As always please stay tuned and stay involved!

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Chair's Letter



“Old and new make the warp and woof of every moment. There is no thread that is not a twist of these two strands.” -Ralph Waldo Emerson

For many of us, the holiday season revolves around traditions – a favorite Thanksgiving dish, a family decoration, a holiday story or movie, or maybe a gift-giving ritual. They serve as a source of comfort and allow us to connect with one another across generations.

At the same time, our traditions are always evolving in ways both small and large. Whether it is the introduction of a new family member, a change in technology, or a broader cultural shift, our traditions are rarely static.

It is through this continuous backcasting and forecasting that traditions can both anchor and inspire - reminding us of our place in history, shaping our individual and collective present, and providing context as we contemplate our future.

Preserving and carrying forward some of Raleigh's stories and traditions is one of the primary roles of the Historic Resources and Museum (HRM) Program, and HRM hosted several events this past holiday season. Historic holiday traditions were on display during the Historic Lantern Tours at Mordecai Historic Park and the Holiday with the Pope's at Pope House while new traditions like the Holiday Express at Pullen Park and First Night at COR Museum entertained thousands. I'd like to thank both the staff and volunteers that made each of these experiences possible as well as the many visitors that made us part of your family's holiday season.

Fred Belledin,
Chair, HRM Advisory Board

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



[RaleighHistoryandMuseums](#)



[RaleighHistory](#)

Happy Retirement, Marvin!



We would like to recognize and congratulate Marvin Howell, the former Historic Attractions Director, who retired on November 30, 2018 after 33 years with Pullen Park! Staff and former colleagues celebrated Marvin at a 1980's themed retirement party held at the Thomas G. Crowder Woodland Center on November 26. Guests dressed in their favorite '80s attire and enjoyed snacks and music of the era. Coworkers, family, and friends honored Marvin at the event by sharing favorite stories and memories. The Pullen Park Train Station has been renamed 'Howell Station', in dedication to Marvin. We wish Marvin all the best in his retirement!



Marvin pictured in his earlier days at Pullen Park (right), and more recently at his final HRM Program meeting (left).

Ask A Historian

by Douglas Porter, Program Director, Historic Sites

Q

I understand that Moore Square has been a popular gathering spot since its founding in 1792. I'm curious how food may have contributed to its early development as a destination?

A

Moore Square has a longstanding association with food. Of course, today there are multiple restaurants surrounding the square, including several of national and international renown. Yet Moore Square's tradition as a food destination is much deeper, going back to at least the mid-nineteenth century and probably earlier. And it should be no surprise that that downhome North Carolina staple—Barbecue!—was ever present at events in Moore Square, such as "an old-fashioned Whig rally" in 1852. Similarly, in 1868 about 2000 Wake County Republicans, including Governor William Woods Holden, assembled with "Great Enthusiasm" on Moore Square where they enjoyed political speeches and dined on barbecue prepared by "C.M. Farris, Esq., aided by a number of others." Further evidence shows that Barbecue was even cooked on site. In 1908, A. B. Stronach (born in in 1847) reminisced about

the Moore Square of his childhood, recalling "long trenches" on the "Person Street side . . . [where] the big barbecues were prepared—beeves, pigs, and sheep roasted whole; and as here was often whiskey galore."

Of course, Moore Square is associated with food in another very important way as well. For years, Moore Square was a primary location for area farmers to sell and exchange goods. During the first half of the 20th century, Moore Square was essentially an extension of City Market where farmers sold produce from the beds of trucks and wagons. However, the tradition predates the founding of City Market in 1913.

For example, following emancipation in 1865 Moore Square was a place where former slaves participated in the local

market. Here, freedpeople, such as Billy and Betsy Holmes, sold homegrown produce. Years later, in the 1930s, Alfred Mordecai recalled that Betsy sold common vegetables and herbs from a stand, while, on the side, she sold folk remedies that locals bought for medicinal purposes.

(Sources: "Barbecue!," Weekly Raleigh Register, Wed. July 7, 1852; "Great Republican Mass Meeting in Raleigh," The Daily Standard, Tuesday, April 21, 1868; "Politics and Politicians of the Past and Present," The Farmer and Mechanic, Tue., Dec. 15, 1908.)

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

BARBECUE !

A SCOTT, GRAHAM AND KERR Barbecue, complimentary to our Delegates to the Whig National Convention, will be given in the Baptist Grove, in this City, on to-day, (Saturday.)

The gathering will be addressed by Messrs. MILLER, HAYWOOD and other gentlemen. The speaking will commence at 12 o'clock, M.

Come up, friends of the City and County, and let us have an old-fashioned Whig rally !

This advertisement to attend the "old-fashioned Whig rally" appeared in the Weekly Raleigh Register in July 1852.

Collection Corner Food: An everyday comfort

by Ainsley Powell, HRM Curator of Collections

The items included here are from various collections across the Historic Resources and Museum Program. They represent the different facets of food no matter the century, including procurement, preparation, and pleasure.



1 Receipts from a Grocer and Seafood store, 1927 and 1928



2 Platter, 1805-1820

3 Plate, 20th century



5 Food mill, circa 1930s

4 Copper pot, possibly for candy making, 20th century

Friends of COR Museum

by Dan Howe, Friends Program Manager



The Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum spent the fall season reaching out at all the public events downtown, such as the World of Bluegrass festival (t-shirts, commemorative photos, and waters for sale), the Raleigh Christmas Parade (hot chocolate, snacks and waters) and First Night (hot chocolate, snacks and waters). All proceeds from these events, in addition to the hugely successful Dark Raleigh Tours in October, will go toward exhibits and programs at the Museum. We welcome Beth Briggs of Armstrong McGuire as a consultant to the Friends in our upcoming Capital Campaign. Beth will help make the campaign successful in bringing an entire new re-design to the Museum in the next couple of years.

This spring the Friends will produce a number of events, including Raleigh Roasts - a celebration of coffee culture in Raleigh, to be held in January and a food event associated with *Al Norte, Al Norte* - an exhibit about the experience of Latino citizens in our community. Later in the spring we will hold a major fundraising event. More to come on that, so stay tuned to the Museum's web site: www.cityofraleighmuseum.org

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



Louise and Melvin Humphrey



Ernest Dollar, Museums Director, with Wanda Cox-Bailey



Dix Conservancy Guest at Exhibit Opening

Be a Friend!

Membership in the Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum gives you special notifications of events at the Museum, discounts and free admission to many events, and keeps you connected to this great resource for the City of Raleigh. To become a Friend, visit this site: <https://cityofraleighmuseum.org/membership/>

Fancy a culinary adventure? Join Raleigh Sister Cities' Hull, UK interest group!

by **Mike Culkin, Kingston upon Hull**
Committee Chair, Raleigh Sister Cities

When you think of England you may not consider it a foodie destination, but you'd be wrong! The United Kingdom (UK), including Raleigh's sister city, Kingston upon Hull, recently burst onto the dining scene to offer all palates a wide range of culinary delights. Once known as the fish and chip capital of the country, Hull was recognized as the UK's 2017 City of Culture, and with the accolade drew visitors from all over the world. During the year-long celebration, this Yorkshire city on the northeast coast of England experienced a reenergized interest in its restaurants and bars, far beyond the fresh fish harvested daily from the North Sea.

Like Raleigh, Kingston upon Hull is the seat of government for the region. As the oldest of Raleigh Sister Cities' (RSC) worldwide



Guy Fawkes Night, photo by Kevin Lord.

connections, there is a rich history of exchanges between the two cities. Over the years, the group has fostered food-focused relationships between businesses such as Raleigh's Trophy Brewing and Hull's Atom Brewing. In 2016 Raleigh hosted a visit by Adrian Fisher, leader of "Rooted in Hull," a group that provides "opportunities for people to learn about food and where it comes from." More recently, RSC Hull sponsored a traditional Yorkshire Sunday Roast at Plates Restaurant in Raleigh, and the Queen's Birthday at Trophy's Maywood Avenue location.

For 2019, Raleigh Sister Cities' Hull group has planned a number of gastronomic and cultural adventures, culminating in a summer trip to England that will no doubt involve tasty food and drink.

Team Hull encourages you to get involved and check out their upcoming events online via facebook and on the RSC website: www.raleighsistercities.org

Cheers!

Is A Yam A Yam?

by **Josh Ingersoll**
Historic Sites Director

What would you say if I told you that you have probably never had a true "yam" in your life? I'm sure this may come as a bit of surprise to some of you, but the truth is that in general what we here in North Carolina think of as yams are almost always sweet potatoes. Actual yams are almost nonexistent outside of Africa and Asia.

The sweet potato has been grown in the Americas for thousands of years as a domesticated vegetable of the Incans and earlier indigenous peoples. When Europeans arrived in the late 1400s,

they brought the sweet potato back with them where it became a delicacy. By the time America declared independence from Britain, the white sweet potato was a widely grown crop and staple of Southern diets.

In the 1930s, Louisiana farmers wanted to introduce a different variety of sweet potato with an orange flesh that looked markedly different from the widely available white

sweet potato. They called the new variety "yams" since they resembled the African yam. The name stuck.

Today, almost all sweet potatoes grown in NC are of the orange flesh variety, and whether you call them sweet potatoes or yams, they are all the same vegetable. Of course sweet potatoes aren't actually potatoes either, but that's an article for another day.



Upcoming Events

Museums

Historic Fayetteville Street 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 5, 12, 19; February 2, 16

The City of Raleigh Museum will offer free yoga classes on Saturdays in January! 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!

Al Norte Al Norte:

Latino Life in North Carolina

City of Raleigh Museum

January 4 // 6pm-9pm

These photographs of Latino North Carolinians working, worshipping and celebrating are highlighted in an exhibit titled *Al Norte al Norte: Latino Life in North Carolina*. This bilingual exhibit, on loan from the North Carolina Museum of History, showcases 51 compelling images by José Galvez, Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist. From business owners and farm laborers to grandparents and kindergarten graduates, the photographs capture the daily life of Latino North Carolinians.

Raleigh Roasts

City of Raleigh Museum

January 26 // 9am-12pm

Second 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.

Admission \$5

Black History Symposium

City of Raleigh Museum

February 2 // 9am-12pm

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

Celebration of Latino Food

City of Raleigh Museum

Coming in February!

The Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum will host an evening celebrating Latin food and culture in Raleigh as part of the *Al Norte Al Norte* exhibit. Stay tuned for more information regarding ticket sales.

Sites

Mordecai Free Friday

Mordecai Historic Park

January 18 // 1pm-3pm

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 Allen Kitchen. Tours begin on the hour and half hour and are limited to 20 persons per tour. The first tour will begin at 10 a.m., and the last tour starts at 3 p.m. Free tours are offered only twice a year, so don't miss out! First come, first served. Free event, no registration necessary.

Raleigh Trolley Tour on Trolleys

Mordecai Historic Park

January 20 // 1pm-3pm

Have you ever wondered why are there trolleys rolling around downtown Raleigh? Well, back in 1886, Raleigh started its

first four-mile trolley system powered by mules. While it doesn't use mules anymore, the Raleigh Trolley continues its proud journey of transporting folks around downtown today. If you've ever been curious about the history of the bright red trolleys you see rolling around downtown, join us for this dive into local trolley history. We will visit some of the original tracks, see the old powerhouse, and learn about Raleigh's most unique form of transportation on this tour. The trolley departs from Mordecai Historic Park and lasts approximately one hour. Tickets are \$10. Call 919-996-4364 for tickets and information.

Raleigh Trolley Celebrates

Black History Month

Mordecai Historic Park

February 20 // 1pm-3pm

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.

Raleigh Women's

History Trolley Tour

Mordecai Historic Park

March 24 // 1pm-3pm

Come board the Historic Raleigh Trolley for a special Women's History Month tour! 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.

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
- Fred Fletcher Amphitheater at Fletcher Park
- City of Raleigh Museum
- 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 18,000 fine and decorative material culture objects.

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Raleigh Register

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