

Raleigh Register

Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program



Raleigh
Parks

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Raleighnc.gov/museums

Administrator's Letter

Greetings! As we move into the promise of spring, please enjoy reading about all the wonderful programs, exhibits, and events taking place throughout the Historic Resources and Museum Program. You will notice this edition of the *Raleigh Register* focuses on Valentine's Day and the stories and traditions throughout Raleigh that celebrate this occasion. The HRM team is curating special Valentine's Day events and programs so please take advantage of these opportunities throughout the month. Of course, February is also Black History Month and the HRM team are once again producing events and programs throughout the new year that celebrate the determination and resiliency of the black community in Raleigh.

Readers may also notice we welcomed several new faces to the HRM Program including Kimberly Oliver as the new Assistant Manager at Mordecai Historic Park, Mykey Williams as the new Assistant Manager at Moore Square, as well as Kyla McNeil-Boone as the new Customer Service Manager at Pullen Park. Please join me in welcoming them to the team.

As always, be on the lookout for upcoming event and program announcements as well as other initiatives throughout the HRM Program and remember the words of Frederick Douglass, "if there is no struggle, there is no progress."



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Chair's Letter

Love is in the air! Every year Valentine's Day brings about the hustle and bustle of sweethearts scurrying to find the perfect gift for one another. The gifting of cards, roses and chocolates has continued to be the most popular expressions of affection on Valentine's Day since the celebration of the holiday began.

This year, why not try something different and use Valentine's Day to get out and enjoy the many opportunities inspired by the beauty and awe of history. Stroll by the Tucker House, located in historic Oakwood in Raleigh. The beautiful neo-classic revival style architecture creates a charming destination for many engagement parties, weddings, and events. Next, travel a short distance to Mordecai Historic Park. The Mordecai House, originally built by Joel Lane in 1785 was a wedding gift for his son Henry and wife Polly. You can even walk through the recreated 1840s Ellen Mordecai Garden.

The day of love would not be complete without visiting Pullen Park, the first public park in North Carolina, the fifth oldest operating amusement park in the U.S., and the 16th oldest in the world. Pullen Park is packed with lots of fun activities to do such as renting a pedal boat or riding the carousel. And oh, don't forget to bring along the box of chocolates!



Audrey Morgan
Chair
HRM Advisory Board

Cover Photo:
Did this unnamed man receive a love letter?
Taken at A. Michelow Studio at 114 Fayetteville Street, 1897-1899."

Collections Corner: Hearts Abound!

Ainsley Powell, Curator of Collections



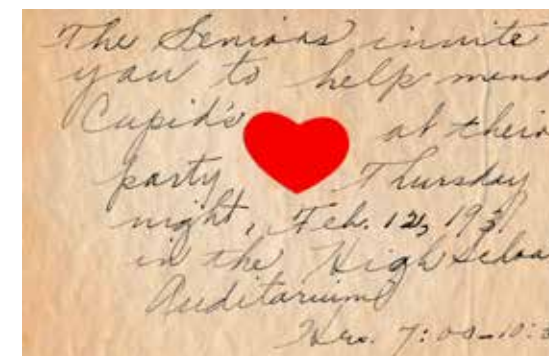
Valentine card, 1930s



Pincushion, date unknown, Courtesy of Capital Area Preservation, Inc.



Valentine card signed by Ruth Pope on back, ca. 1930



Invitation to a party, February 12, 1931



Handkerchief, 20th century

Holiday Express 2023 - Bigger Better Brighter

Scott Mott, Pullen Park Director

The demand for Holiday Express was at an all-time high! With over 23,000 guests in our virtual queue on the date of the ticket sale, we are always striving to bring new ideas to the table to increase our event capacity. With that, we have expanded further into the park than ever before with the creation of the Holiday Highway. These types of expansions help us improve the event and increase capacity. While traditional event décor has always strayed in the direction of Santa Claus, elves, presents, etc., we felt a true representation of HOLIDAY express would be fitting for this space with a similar design aesthetic. We hope this is just the beginning for the Holiday Highway and we can grow the idea even further in seasons to come. Holiday Express represents the culmination of an entire year of hard work for the Pullen Park team and it's also a celebration of the legacy which past park staff members have left for us to steward.

A Testament to Raleigh's Forbidden Love

Ernest Dollar, HRM Program Director Museums

Rachel (Unaka) Blythe was born in October 1870 into a prominent Cherokee family and moved to Raleigh where she met architect Adolphus Gustavus Bauer. In 1881, Bauer worked on various projects such as the Executive Mansion and UNC's Memorial Hall. In 1891, Adolphus and Rachel were boarders at the same house, which is where they fell in love. Because marriages between whites and Native Americans were illegal in North Carolina, they had a secret ceremony in 1894 but traveled to Washington for their second wedding in June 1895 in hopes this would be valid in their home state. But a supreme court case voided their marriage. Adolphus suffered a tragic carriage accident that left him psychologically scarred made worse by the death of Rachel, two weeks after the birth of their second child, on December 27, 1896.

To honor his beloved wife in Oakwood Cemetery, Bauer, built a headstone topped with a miniature Greek Temple of Diana that embodied Rachel's virtues. The front bears a porcelain plate with an image of Rachel on her wedding day and the inscription:

*"In thy dark eyes splendor
Where the warm light loves to dwell
Weary looks yet tender
Speak their last farewell"*



Blythe's headstone is topped with a miniature Greek Temple of Diana.



A porcelain plate with an image of Rachel (Unaka) Blythe on her wedding day in 1894.

Engaged to Death: A Murder Mystery

Kimberly Oliver, Historic Sites Assistant Manager

This Valentine's Day, you're invited to celebrate love with ... murder? If you're looking for a unique date-night activity, join us this February for an interactive murder mystery at the Tucker House.

Murder mystery events are becoming increasingly popular today, but the idea dates to at least the nineteenth century. Victorians of the late 1800s enjoyed reading detective fiction, playing the parlor game known as "wink murder," and staging imagined murders in private home performances or on stage. Today, performances often involve a cast of characters who stage the crime then mingle with audience members to be interrogated. Audience members serve as the detectives to solve the case. Make no mistake – everyone is a suspect.

We're thrilled to be working once again with local theater and education group Seed Art Share on this performance. If you visited Mordecai Historic Park in years past for a Haunted or Holiday lantern tour, you've seen just how exceptional their talent is! Seed Art Share has created a custom show set right here in 1920s Raleigh and tailored to highlight the Tucker House's own history.

Will the murderer be bride-to-be Hyacinth, trying to escape a marriage she's not sure she wants? Is it disgruntled businessman Carson or scorned sister Jasmine, in an act of revenge? Brush off your detective skills and best 1920s attire and join us to find out!



The Tucker House is a beautiful neo-classic revival style home located in downtown Raleigh in the historic Oakwood Neighborhood.

Take a Spin on the Carousel of Love

Scott Mott, Pullen Park Director

Look for a special announcement regarding the Carousel of Love toward the beginning of the new year. We are working to curate a romantic date night for couples inside our historic Dentzel carousel. Since 1887, lovebirds have traversed the grounds of Pullen Park. Join us to take part in what will hopefully become a new tradition for couples for years to come. Tickets will be limited.



The Pullen Park Carousel is an original carousel built by Gustave A. Dentzel in 1900. Still in active use after more than 120 years, this historic carousel contains 52 hand-carved animals and two chariots, as well as gilded mirrors and painted panels. The carousel is complete with an original band organ made in 1924 by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company.

Upcoming Events

Weekday Tours at the Pope House Museum!

Tuesday, January 2 through Friday, January 5

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Pope House Museum

For Emancipation Day, the Pope House Museum will be open for weekday tours January 2nd through January 5th. Tours are free and walk-ins are welcome. Come learn about one of Raleigh's most prominent Black families and one of North Carolina's first licensed African American doctors!

Storytime with the Popes

Thursday, January 4

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Pope House Museum

Get ready to groove, sing, and learn! Join our storyteller Patty Cake as she weaves imagery and songs to tell the story of black emancipation and determination.

Emancipation Day Trolley Tours

Friday, January 5 and Saturday, January 6

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

John P. "Top" Greene Community Center

Back by popular demand, author and local historian Carmen Wimberly Cauthen will be doing her Trolley tour of Historic Black Neighborhoods for Emancipation Day! Join Cauthen to explore some of Raleigh's Historic Black Neighborhoods! Tickets are available on raleighnc.gov/reclink

Slavery to Freedom: 35th US Colored Infantry Regiment Encampment

Saturday, January 6

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

John P. "Top" Greene Community Center

The mission of the 35th USCT reenactors based out of Tryon Palace in New Bern, NC, is to educate people on the larger role that African Americans played during the Civil War. Travel back in time to see the 35th USCT as they tell stories of real-life Black soldiers and their lives in the camp and the front lines.

Watch Night with Mary D. Williams

Saturday, January 6

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

City of Raleigh Museum

The Pope House Museum will be hosting Watch Night with Mary D. Williams and the Martin Luther King Jr. All Children's Choir at COR Museum. Williams a renowned singer, historian, and educator will educate, edify, and electrify listeners with music of the past. These performances will include songs about hardship, self-determination, and emancipation. Tickets are available on raleighnc.gov/reclink

Free Friday

Friday, January 26

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Mordecai Historic Park

Take a free tour of Mordecai Historic Park on this special Friday. Tours start every 30 minutes throughout the day and include the Mordecai House, Andrew Johnson's Birthplace, St. Mark's Chapel, and the Allen Kitchen.

Black History Month at the Pope House

Mondays – Fridays, February

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pope House Museum

Come learn about one of Raleigh's most prominent Black families and one of North Carolina's first African American licensed doctors! Tours will be offered to groups 3-25.

Engaged to Death: A Murder Mystery

Saturday, February 9 and Sunday, February 10

5 p.m. and 8 p.m. each night

Tucker House

You're invited for an evening of killer entertainment at the Tucker House! Dress in your best 1920s attire and join our cast of characters to figure out whodunnit. This program is presented in partnership with Seed Art Share. Tickets are available on raleighnc.gov/reclink

Upcoming Events

Vibrant Valentine's

Tuesday, February 13

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

City of Raleigh Museum

Get vibrant with your valentine with a guided painting class and refreshments! For more information, visit cityofraleighmuseum.org

Black History Trolley Tour

Saturday, February 24 and Sunday, February 25

1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Historic Raleigh Trolley

Celebrate Black History Month on this special trolley tour highlighting Raleigh's African American heritage! This edition of the popular tour will focus on Oberlin Village and its generations of history, and will include a visit to the Historic Turner House and Oberlin Cemetery. Tickets are \$12 each.

PBS Rootle Event

Saturday, March 9

10 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Moore Square

Join us as we play, explore, and share free hands-on activities, games, demonstrations with community partners, PBS KIDS educational resources and more. Each stop of the Rootle Roadster Tour will feature learning experiences through purposeful play that families can enjoy together.

Beyond the Book

Saturday, March 16

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Borden Building and Fletcher Park

Beyond The Book Children's Book & Art Festival is a free outdoor family celebration of community, creativity, and storytelling. Join us for workshops, performances, and art that will spark your imagination to experience children's literature and art in a whole new way!

Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 23

Mordecai Historic Park

Mordecai's annual egg hunt is back! Join us for hunts for age groups 0-4, 5-9, and 10+. Come before and stay after for crafts, games, and more. This is a free event and registration is not required.

Raleigh Roasts

Saturday, March 23

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Moore Square

Join the City of Raleigh Museum for our annual Raleigh Roasts event and check out some of Raleigh's best local coffee roasters! For more information, visit cityofraleighmuseum.org

Diamond Days Exhibit Opening

Thursday, March 28

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

City of Raleigh Museum

Come to the museum and learn more about the history of baseball in Raleigh with our newest exhibit! For more information, visit cityofraleighmuseum.org

Follow Us

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



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
- John P. "Top" Greene Community Center
- 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 27,000 fine and decorative material culture objects.

Tucker House
418 N Person Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

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Raleigh Register

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