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Raleigh Register

Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program

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RALEIGH Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
parks.raleighnc.gov

Administrator's Letter

Greetings! 2018 has been very busy with many exciting projects and programs.

The COR Museum Friends hosted their annual fundraiser, TimeWarp. The theme this year was the 70s and in addition to being a fun evening, raised almost $20,000 for the core exhibit scheduled for the Museum.

The redevelopment of Moore Square is in full swing. The HRM Program is currently engaged in design and program development for the Moore Square project with an eye toward construction beginning this summer and a scheduled reopening in spring, 2019.

For the collection minded, our curatorial team continues to publish more objects online. The original drawings of the Chavis Carousel are particularly striking. I was surprised to learn the Chavis carousel had more original drawings than Pullen: 375 versus 281.

The drawings as well as other objects in the HRM Collection can be seen here: http://raleighhrm.pastperfectonline.com/archive. Kudos to Ainsley and the whole HRM curatorial team!

Finally we welcomed a new staff member, Amanda Fletcher, to our family. Amanda will serve as the Assistant Director of Moore Square and comes to us with a rare combination of talent, education, and experience, and passion that will serve us well.

We are truly excited about these new challenges and changes and we remain committed to fulfilling our mission to the public. As always please stay tuned and stay involved!

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Chair's Letter

As summer gets into full swing our minds and hopefully our bodies venture outside. The long winter and rainy spring have given way to summer and the Historic Resources and Museums Program offers a variety of activities to enjoy the out-of-doors.

Fletcher Park amphitheater and Pullen Park both offer weekly concerts throughout the summer. These concerts are free and the schedule is posted on the Raleigh Parks webpage. Each Saturday this summer the City of Raleigh Museum offers walking tours of historic downtown Raleigh starting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. Fees apply and advanced registration is strongly suggested.

Mordecai Historic Park offers a sublime outdoor space to enjoy all day everyday. Explore the historic herbs and seasonal vegetables growing in the recreated Ellen Mordecai garden behind the historic house and while there enjoy the flowers, birds and trees in a unique setting. If a summer shower comes along you should consider a weekend trolley ride around historic Raleigh. What a better way to see your city and learn more about its history.

Don't forget to stop by the Latta House and University Site off Oberlin Road and experience one of Raleigh's premier outdoor spaces dedicated to the historic Latta University and the freedmen's settlement of Oberlin in the heart of the city. I hope you can take advantage of these wonderful opportunities to enjoy Raleigh outdoors.

This summer I will end my two-year tenure as chair of the Historic Resources and Museums Advisory Board (HRMAB). I will also rotate off the HRMAB having reached the maximum years of volunteer service on the board. My years of service have been a very rewarding experience and I will continue to find other ways to volunteer my time. I urge everyone reading this to consider being a volunteer with the HRM program. Volunteers are needed at every site and in a variety of positions. The pay is small, the rewards priceless!

Ed Morris
Chair, HRM Advisory Board

Mordecai's Mystery Fruit

by Jessica Streck, Museum Educator

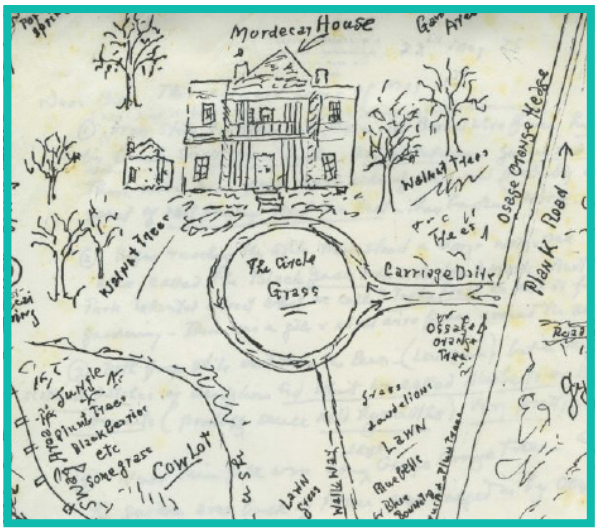
Thud! What is that thing?!?

Osage orange fruit.

This is a common question that we get at Mordecai Historic Park (MHP) regarding the otherworldly green brain-like orbs that drop from not one, but two trees on the grounds. It is an Osage orange, produced by the tree of the same name and scientifically known as Maclura pomifera. Interestingly, while the tree is a relative of the mulberry and fig, it is only very distantly related to orange trees.

Recently dated by a professor from NCSU, the Osage orange trees at Mordecai Historic Park have been found to be over 100 years old, and could live for another 100 years! This means the trees lived alongside the Mordecai family in their home before it became a park. At one time, the trees may have been hedgerows used to keep small animals in the yard with their dense growth and sharp thorns, or to mark property lines as depicted on a map drawn from the memory of a family descendant, Dr. Alfred Mordecai, IV.

Today the trees provide shade and drop the fruit that might land on an unlucky passerby, or get tossed around like softballs by visiting school children. On your next visit to the park, be sure to keep an eye out, (and up!) for Mordecai's mysterious Osage orange.



The Mordecai property as it appeared around 1900. Drawn from memory by Dr. Alfred Mordecai, IV.

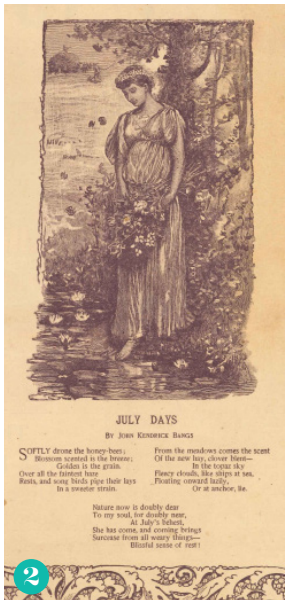
Collection Corner

by Ainsley Powell, HRM Curator of Collections

Seeing the Summer through Objects

The objects included are from the various collections across the Historic Resources and Museum Program. They show a few of the different ways the people of Raleigh experienced and enjoyed summer in the past.

1. Slide transparency of sailing at Lake Wheeler Park, date unknown
2. July Days poem from Ladies' Home Journal, 1892
3. Postcard of Pullen Park showing the swimming pool, date unknown
4. Croquet set, 20th century



Ask A Historian

by Douglas Porter, Program Director, Historic Sites

Q **My understanding is that the Andrew Johnson birthplace has been moved several times. Is this true?**

A Yes! The structure commonly known as the "Andrew Johnson Birthplace" has moved four times in its 200+ year history. The building has served multiple purposes over the decades, acting as both a work and domestic space. Of course, today the Andrew Johnson Birthplace is a historic site visited by thousands of visitors a year.

Here's a brief history refresher: Andrew Johnson was the seventeenth president of the United States. He was born in Raleigh in 1808, but relocated to East Tennessee in his teens and ultimately married and made his home in Greeneville. Though a tailor by trade, Johnson ultimately ascended the ranks of local and state politics in Tennessee. Despite being a white Southerner, Johnson was a staunch Unionist during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln selected Johnson as his running mate in 1864. Johnson took the Oath of Office following Lincoln's assassination at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. in April 1865.

The Andrew Johnson Birthplace was built around the turn of the 19th century. It was originally a dependency building for Casso's Inn which stood off Fayetteville Street just south of the State Capitol. Andrew Johnson's parents both worked for Peter Casso, and tradition holds that the family was living in the loft of the "birthplace" in 1808 when Andrew was born. The building stood on its original foundation for most of the 19th century, and seemingly without celebration.

Sometime after the Civil War, the building was moved to 118 Cabarrus Street, just north of where the Pope House stands today. Here, the structure served as a residence, rented by local families. Records suggests that tenants during this era may have been former slaves or children of former slaves.

Interest in the structure's association with Andrew Johnson arose in the 1880s. Around this time, the Colonial Dames acquired the building and subsequently deeded it to the City of Raleigh. The City, in turn, relocated the building to Pullen Park in the early twentieth century. Not satisfied with its proximity near the train track, the City moved the building to another location at Pullen Park in 1937, where it remained for several more decades.

However, in the early 1970s, preservationists engaged in an effort to once again relocate the Andrew Johnson Birthplace, this time to the recently established "Mordecai Square." The initiative gained support as it aligned with the Mordecai Square's mission to save endangered structures while also establishing a museum village to help interpret Raleigh's past. The move to Mordecai Historic Park occurred in 1975.

1 A late 19th century photo of the Andrew Johnson Birthplace at its Cabarrus Street location.

2 An early 20th century photo of the Andrew Johnson Birthplace at Pullen Park.

3 The Andrew Johnson Birthplace today at Mordecai Historic Park.

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

Friends of COR Museum

by Dan Howe

FRIENDS OF CORmuseum city of raleigh museum

Time Warp 2018

Time Warp 2018 was a great success this past April, as we time-traveled back to the 1970's in a roomful of tie-dye, afros and polyester suits. MC Grady Bussey helped us get our boogie on with a Soul Train Line Dance under the disco ball with music provided by DJ Shane Pierce. Members also were able to partake of great food and drink from local restaurants, brewers and distillers. If you missed it stay tuned for next year! You never know where Time Warp will take you.

CityLAB

This summer we will be re-christening the project we've been calling CityLAB with a new name, which is still TBD. If you have a great idea, let's hear it! This million-dollar exhibit will be rolling from a master planning project into a fundraising campaign to support the COR Museum's first major permanent exhibition since becoming part of the Historic Resources and Museums Program in 2012. The new exhibit will tell the story of big decisions and people who helped create our city, how a complex dance of systems and networks supports the day-to-day life we live here, and how big thinking today will alter the future of this place we call home. It will be an exhibit both celebrating our great city and considering the future.

Cameron Village Underground

This summer a special exhibit will celebrate what once was one of the premier music venues in the Southeast. Great bands that went on to become rock-and-roll icons played the Underground. A remarkable collection of photographs and other artifacts will be on display. There will be special events for Friends of the COR Museum.

History of the Dorothea Dix Hospital Campus

This fall get ready for another unique exhibit celebrating the history of the Dorothea Dix Hospital from its 150 years as the Spring Hill Plantation, to its 150 years of being a landmark therapeutic environment to treat mental illness, to its current incarnation as a signature destination park. Again, Friends of the COR Museum will get special event invitations and sneak preview opportunities.

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/

Raleigh Sister Cities: Connecting Raleigh Globally

by Marjorie KN Salzman, RSC Board Member

Xiangyang, China, became Raleigh's fourth sister city in 2008. Located in China's central Hubei province, Xiangyang was built during the Western Han Dynasty (206 BCE-25 CE), It was once two ancient cities: Fancheng and Ziangzhou, divided by the Han River. During the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties, the city wall was encrusted with golden tiles and colored glazes emitting a brilliant and imposing reflection in the surrounding moat. Remnants of that wall remain offering a glimpse to the splendor of its rich history. Modern Xiangyang is a transportation center between north and south China and an economic hub driven by textile, chemical and electronic manufacturing. Its current urban population exceeds 5 million.

Education, cultural and business exchanges define the Raleigh-Xiangyang partnership. In March 2018, a delegation composed of students from Torchlight Academy, their parents, a representative from the NC-China Business Association and several RSC Board members traveled to Xiangyang. They visited Torchlight Academy's Sister School, Xiangyang School #39 where the Chinese students prepared several activities for the Raleigh students. Dr. Christina Ding, an RSC Board member, delivered a speech on gifted education and math competitiveness. The delegation toured the Xiangyang Museum where the future City of Oaks statue will be erected. They attended a performance by the Xiangyang Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, whose earlier visit to Raleigh in August 2017 included a joint performance with the Triangle Youth Philharmonic. With its economic development focus, the Xiangyang Committee visited several factories and medical and health-related businesses. Dr. Tom Jeffries, President of RSC, accompanied the delegation which also traveled to Shanghai, Beijing and several other Chinese cities.

Over the past 10 years, the Xiangyang Committee has hosted two US-China Business conferences in Raleigh. They also partnered with Asheville and its Sister City Osogbo, Nigeria as part of a Sister Cities International-funded Sino-African Initiative to build public health centers in Osogbo. For this effort they were awarded the SCI-US-China Sister Cities Award in the "most innovative" category.

For more information, contact Xiangyang City Committee chair James Montague: xiangyang@raleighsistercities.org

Raleigh Sister Cities fosters opportunities for business, cultural, educational and civic experiences through citizen exchanges and collaboration. It is a nonprofit, volunteer organization. Since 1986, RSC has been connecting Raleigh and its citizens with five cities around the world. To learn more, visit www.raleighsistercities.org or www.facebook.com/RaleighSisterCities

Follow the HRM Program!

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

@RaleighHistory

RaleighHistoryandMuseums

Upcoming Events

Museums

July 2018

Raleigh Walking Tour
City of Raleigh Museum
July 7, 14, 21, & 28

The City of Raleigh Museum will offer downtown walking tours every Saturday at 2pm. Tours will begin at the museum, travel around downtown viewing historic landmarks & 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
July 7

Join us for Yoga in the City of Raleigh Museum on July 7th! Ashtanga Yoga School of Raleigh will be leading FREE classes every first Saturday this summer at 11:30am. Classes are limited, so register early! Please bring your own mat & water.
Register at: https://reclink.raleighnc.gov/ Barcode: 228947

The Underground: Photographs of Raleigh's Music Scene 1976-85
City of Raleigh Museum
July 14

The COR Museum will be opening an exhibit on the various clubs and performers who played at beneath Cameron Village. The Underground exhibit is based on the documentary photographs of local photographer Chris Seward. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Seward took thousands of images of the music scene in these clubs. The Underground will exhibit many of these along with show fliers, artifacts, and videos from the heyday of Raleigh's alternative music scene. The Underground will open on July 14 and be on display through December 2018.

August 2018

Yoga In The Museum
City of Raleigh Museum
August 4

Join us for the last Yoga in the COR Museum for the summer on August 4th! Ashtanga Yoga School of Raleigh will be leading FREE classes every first Saturday this summer at 11:30am. Classes are limited, so register early! Please bring your own mat and water. Register at: https://reclink.raleighnc.gov/ Barcode: 228948

Sites

Sacred Harp Shape Note Singing
Mordecai Historic Park
July 28, August 25, September 22

Shape note singers meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at the historic Mordecai Chapel from 1:50-3:50 p.m. They are keeping alive this unique historical a cappella singing tradition! Come join and listen to the songs of history. This is a free event.

Free Friday
Mordecai Historic Park
August 17

Come explore Mordecai on Free Friday! Free house and ground tours will be given at Mordecai Historic Park. The tours will be leaving every 30 minutes starting at 10 am and continuing until 3pm.

Attractions

Summer Concert Series
Fred Fletcher Park // 6pm–8pm
July 1, July 15 and July 29

Pullen Park // 7pm–9pm
July 10, July 24

Pullen Park and Fred Fletcher Park will be hosting some of the area's local talent this summer for your enjoyment. Come on by for familiar classics as well as original music performed by these talented artists. Pullen Place Café will have food available for purchase while food trucks will be present at the Fletcher Park shows. Be on the lookout on Twitter - @RaleighParks and the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Facebook page for details on the specific acts as they are confirmed. These are free events.

Spend your summer with us by visiting one of our sites, attractions, or museums!

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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