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ENO RIVER ASSOCIATION PUBLISHES FIRST ENO JOURNAL IN TWENTY YEARS

The Association provides platform for People of Color to share their Eno family history.

The Eno River Association announces the revival of their *Eno Journal*, now available for purchase online and thru local retail shops. **Ribbons of Color Along the Eno River: The History of African Americans and People of Color Living on the Eno** contains first- and second-hand stories of those who have long lived in the Eno watershed.

This *Eno Journal* is the culmination of a two decades-long effort by the Association to discover, research, recruit writers, and publish this collection. “We are grateful to the descendants, record keepers, and historians in the Eno River community who preserved these memories and photographs” says Dave Cook, former Eno staffer and veteran volunteer on the project.

Journals have been published by the Eno River Association intermittently since 1973 but have been dormant since 2000. Topics of past journals include Mills on the Eno, Snakes, Rafting, Picnics and Politics, Water Quality, Trees, the Early Quakers, Margaret Nygard, and The Little River.

Music, War, Baptism, Indigenous Beadwork, and local historical figure Fannie Breeze are just a few of the themes of the stories included in **Ribbons of Color**. The journal’s articles are gathered from interviews, first-person narratives, and family lore of a dozen authors ranging from members of the Saponi Nation, historians, and others including notably Dr. Freddie Parker, Charlene Whitted Campbell, Alexandra Sutton Lawrence, Kris Mayfield, and Beverly A. Scarlett.

“In honor of Black History Month, the Association humbly uplifts these 17 stories from within our watershed history, some previously untold. Many of these voices are from marginalized groups or those overlooked by historical records which are predominantly recorded based on whiteness and wealth” reports Eno Executive Director Jessica Sheffield.

For more than 55 years the Eno River Association has worked to conserve and protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the river basin. Since the 1970s, the Association has published journals, calendars, and articles exploring and promoting the Eno’s historic roads, mills, communities, and food ways. The Association’s special events and educational program include guided & interpreted hikes, youth education programs, and the Festival for the Eno.

“To truly live our mission, we must work to overcome the injustices that have been wrought on Eno’s Black and Indigenous communities. Too often conservation work overlooks the needs of communities of color, and creates unequal access to nature. The publication of **Ribbons of Color** and its subsequent volumes is one step in the direction of righting this wrong. We hope the *Eno Journal* platform will be used for years to come, for countless more family histories to be shared” states Sheffield.

The Association is actively seeking submissions for the next volume of Ribbons of Color. Please contact education@enoriver.org to learn more. **Ribbons of Color** retails for \$16. The Association website www.enoriver.org is up to date with information about the Journal.

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Excerpts from **Ribbons of Color Along the Eno River: The History of African Americans and People of Color Living on the Eno**

From *Amanishuck (The Hilly Land, The Piedmont)* by Alexandra Sutton Lawrence

“The Eno River, like all rivers, has a voice. In this land, it spoke to me – telling the stories of my ancestors. Over time, I started to go barefoot. I hadn’t realized it yet, but this was the land claiming me back, even as I slowly began to rediscover pieces of myself inside of it.”

“My indigenous ancestors . . . they left markers on the land for me, markers to call me to the right directions, reminders of the glowing thread of connection that binds us to our homelands, our first lands. This is what it means to have a home; it is to be bound, body and soul, to a land and a history that has bound itself to you.”

From an interview with Mary Scarlett Jones

“We had a lot of home remedies that we used. We used to drink sassafras tea, especially at breakfast, Now, that would give you healthy teeth. And there was something else called spicewood. That would grow around the branches. It would make a red tea. It was supposed to be a blood cleanser, make you feel good. And they said that mint tea was good for a whole lot of things. It was good for gas. I remember they would say that if you had a sprained foot, you could get some clay out of the bottom of a spring and bind your foot up with it. They would make a poultice out of it and spread it on your ankle and then wrap it up with a cloth. They would say that if you had a cut and it would bleed right much, you would put soot on it, soot that come from the chimney or stove or something.”

From *Ms. Eliza Didn't Take No Mess* by Doris Wilson

“She readily found employment as a domestic worker with the Carr family. Mr. Carr owned a supermarket. One day, Eliza asked the Carr family if would be possible for her to work in their store. Before they could answer, she informed them of her opinion. ‘If I am good enough to help raise your children, if I am good enough to clean your house, and if I am good enough to cook for you, I should be good enough to work in the store,’ she exclaimed. They agreed. Eliza was hired to work in the meat department of Carr’s Supermarket.”

Hi-res images available upon request
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About the Eno River Association:

The Eno River Association is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization founded in 1966 with a mission to protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Eno River basin in northern Durham and Orange counties. The Association has protected over 7,400 acres of natural and working lands and has helped create five local, state, and regional nature parks, including Eno River State Park, Oconeechee Mountain State Natural Area, West Point on the Eno City Park, Penny’s Bend Nature Preserve, and Little River Regional Park. The Association continues to acquire land and secure easements, as well as provide stewardship, education programs, and the annual Festival on the Eno to inspire others to prioritize our local, natural resources. More information is available at www.enoriver.org