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**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

Special edition features inside

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# Empowering

## An untold story to inspire generations

BY CARI HACHMANN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kimberly Sower Moreland spent a better part of last year sifting through old newspapers and online catalogs, public archives and private family photo albums to collect more than 200 vintage photographs for her first book published this January, "African Americans of Portland."

As a former urban city planner and researcher, it was Moreland's goal to show readers the unique history and experiences of black people in Portland using one of time's most accessible mediums, the camera lens.

"Knowing the history is empowering for African Americans," she said. "We have accomplished quite a bit, and the true story about African Americans in Portland and in Oregon hasn't been told."

"Our African American history is so different from the rest of the country," said Moreland, who grew up in Cleveland, Ohio but became a resident of Portland in 1987.

Her book follows the journey of Oregon's black pioneers from the first black of record to set foot in Tillamook in 1788, Marcus Lopus, an African from Cape Verde Islands traveling as a cabin boy aboard Capt. Robert Gray's ship, to the small, yet determined population of African Americans who began to settle and prosper in Portland against a backdrop of hostile state exclusion laws.

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## All Aboard! Exhibit at History Museum

"All Aboard! Railroading and Portland's Black Community," is a new exhibit at the Oregon History Museum featuring old photographs, many of which are featured in Kimberly Sower Moreland's new book, "African Americans of Portland."

The railroad was a major employer and contributor of Portland's black community that emerged around Union Station in the late 19th century and continue through the mid

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PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kimberly Sower Moreland sifted through hundreds of documents and photographs to create a new book on the unique history of Portland's black community. Proceeds from the publication, African Americans of Portland, will go to the group Oregon Black Pioneers to help establish the state's first African-American museum.