

Historically Speaking...

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
new bern historical society



Fall, 2013

Ghostwalk 2013 October 24-26

Modern reality TV has nothing on the fascinating ladies of New Bern's past. During **Ghostwalk 2013, *The Haunted Housewives of New Bern***, you will meet many of these spirited women, and the men who shared their lives. Wander the halls of the William Blades house while Mr. and Mrs. Blades and their staff reveal stories of their lives. Listen to tales of intrepid pioneer photographer and adventurer Bayard Wooten, whose specter will appear at her family home.

During Ghostwalk, New Bern's ghosts have an opportunity to return to their old haunts and tell their tales to the living. Sites expecting hauntings include:

- the phantom-filled hangout for kids of all ages Agony Alley;
- Cedar Grove Cemetery;
- Athens and Masonic Theatres;
- historic district homes, churches, and Tryon Palace historical sites.

A complete listing of venues can be found in the centerfold of this issue and on our website.

An annual crowd pleaser, especially for the young at heart is Agony Alley. This year Agony Alley is a light hearted murder mystery in the Attmore-Oliver House. And there will be fun activities



Our always-in-charge butlers (John Leahy, John Baldwin) will oversee your visit with haunted housewives inside the William B. Blades House!

outside, including a magician, "Under the Tent".

As always candlelit Cedar Grove Cemetery will provide plenty of eerie entertainment! If you dare pass under the weeping gates you will meet the cemetery's famous grave diggers who will try to convince you to stay... forever. If you get past them, be on the lookout for the many ghostly characters whose lives shaped our city as

they appear and disappear before your eyes.

New Bern's two historic theatres will open their doors again as well. The Athens will present *Ghostwalk: Hello Dolly!* and *He had it Comin'* will make an appearance at the Masonic Theatre!

Hauntings begin Thursday, October 24, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Expect ghost sightings at the cemetery and entertainment at both theatres and Agony Alley. **An additional thirteen (13) ghost sites are open Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

A special rate of \$13 per ticket is being offered to Society members again this year. For your convenience two tickets will be mailed to you. Ticket pricing for your friends is as follows: \$15 in advance; \$20 days of event; \$10 active military and their dependents, and full time students with current ID; \$5 children ages 3-12; children under 3 years, free.

Ghosts can't get wet so Ghostwalk goes on, rain or shine!!! See you then!

Ghostwalk

Ghosts by Night, Art by Day



Saturday and Sunday - October 26 and 27 are the dates for the third annual Bridgeton RiverFest! Now you can enjoy historic ghosts and their tales of New Bern by night at Ghostwalk, and go to the Bridgeton RiverFest during the day. Browse the works of wonderful artists from near and far at this third annual juried art show. The artists will be joined by food vendors, musicians, so expect lots of fun!

Ghostwalk 2013 FUNDRAISER

Eat Lunch or Dinner
Thursday, October 24

at

MORGAN'S TAVERN & GRILL
and a Donation will be made
to the Historical Society.

Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

If This Old House Could Only Talk...

The future home of the New Bern Historical Society started its long journey about 1790 when Samuel Chapman, a veteran of the Continental Army and later the Clerk of the Craven County Superior Court, built a simple story-and-a-half frame house. Chapman purchased the lot on Broad Street in September, 1790 from Nicholas and Elizabeth Bray of Jones County. In 1803, Chapman's wife Christiana died leaving two children, Nancy and Henry Lee. He later married Catherine Backhouse and they had two children, Caroline Eliza and Samuel Edward Chapman. The elder Samuel Chapman died in March, 1807 and the house eventually passed on to his daughter Caroline Eliza.

In 1834, Caroline Eliza and her husband Henry P. Waring, a New York merchant, sold the house to Isaac Taylor, a prominent and successful New Bern businessman. Although the Taylor family resided on Craven Street, Isaac Taylor also owned a large Craven County plantation named "GlenBurnie." The original Chapman house was majorly renovated to the present structure and was occupied by his daughter Mary, her husband George Sitgreaves Attmore, and eventually seven children. When Isaac Taylor died July 4, 1846, the house was willed to his daughter Mary Taylor Attmore.

George Attmore was a successful lawyer and his large family prospered despite Mary Taylor Attmore's untimely death in 1852 at the age of 45. The family remained in the house until George Attmore's death in December 1859. Hannah Taylor Attmore, daughter of Mary and George Attmore, married William Hollister Oliver in 1854 and inherited the house after her father's death. William H. Oliver was a merchant, Mason and a respected community leader. Hannah and William had eight children, sadly three died in infancy.

The political and economic events surrounding the Civil War obviously impacted the normalcy of life for the Attmore-Oliver families. All three of Hannah's brothers enlisted in the Confederate Army, two losing their lives as a result of the conflict. It is unclear if the family continued to live in the house during the Civil War and Union Occupation due to the fact that medical supplies and related artifacts were discovered in an archaeological investigation in the basement in 1962 suggesting that possibly the house was used as a Union hospital. Regardless, the Attmore-Oliver family did not lose their home, they endured reconstruction, and life eventually approached normalcy.

It is noted that in 1880 there were eleven family members residing in the Attmore-Oliver House, clearly indicating an active household. Hannah Attmore-Oliver died in 1881 leaving the house to her four daughters. William H. Oliver continued to live with his family and pursued a full-time career selling insurance. After his death in 1908 the house eventually succeeded to his unmarried daughter, Mary Taylor Oliver. Miss Mary was known as a 'spunky' lady who continued her father's insurance business for many years and also rented rooms in the Attmore-Oliver House to single female teachers possibly 1915-1940. It is worthy to note that one of her long term boarders was Miss Mary Hall Heath who was a much revered first grade school teacher. She was so respected and loved by her students and the community that a special cedar tree was planted in her honor and memory in the Christ Church yard—the Molly Heath Tree.

In failing health, Miss Mary Oliver spent several years in St. Luke's Hospital just down the street from her home and died March 13, 1951. She was blessed in having spent most of her life of 91 years in the Attmore-Oliver House. In her will, Miss Mary left her home to her five nephews---the four Huske brothers in Fayetteville and Henry Constable. Although the Attmore-Oliver House was in severe disrepair, its great potential as a permanent home for the New Bern Historical Society was recognized and pursued with the leadership of Mr. John R. Taylor and Mr. John G. Dunn who drove to Fayetteville and negotiated the purchase of the Broad Street property for the sum of \$30,000. The transaction was completed in 1954. An additional sum of \$30,000 was invested to restore and refurbish the house. Amazingly, the total debt was retired with a 'mortgage burning ceremony' on March 20, 1963. With commitment, passion, and unwavering determination the New Bern Historical Society accomplished its mission of preserving the Attmore-Oliver House. The spirit of stewardship is alive and well.

1950...



2013...



New Bern Battlefield Park News

By Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant



Rolf Maris demonstrates use of the drum in the Civil War.

A group of 15 young men, all students at the Epiphany School of Global Studies and led by teacher Jon Fitzgerald, came to the New Bern Battlefield Park on Thursday, August 22, 2013 as part of their annual "Odyssey Days" program focusing on community service. The students were given a tour of the battlefield, a demonstration of the use of the drum in the Civil War by battlefield guide Rolf Maris who was dressed in a Union soldier's uniform, and spent the rest of the morning constructing wooden benches for use throughout the battlefield. Guide Pete Meyer had previously designed the bench and gathered the materials for the benches, constructed a bench to serve as a model, drew up detailed plans for the students, and pre-cut, pre-drilled, and marked each piece of wood so that the students would have ready-to-be-assembled bench kits. The students were able to finish constructing seven new benches and were very proud of their work; each student signed his name on the bottom of his bench! Pete Meyer really deserves great kudos for his hard work in providing a meaningful day for the students as well as providing much-needed benches for visitors to the battlefield.



Pete Meyer works with students on their bench project.

(If you are interested in volunteering at our New Bern Battlefield Park, please contact Battlefield Adjutant Jon Miller, jagcol@earthlink.net. Or contact our Historical Society office. Our volunteer are always welcome!)



The Historical Society is collecting for our annual ABC (Attic, Basement, Closet) Sale on **March 1, 2014**. We collect all year and accept many categories

of items. Contact our office if you have any questions about what we can accept. Please bring your items to our office at 511 Broad Street. If you need help with larger items, call 638-8558 and we'll arrange for a pick-up.

Your donations are important to the success of this sale and are tax deductible as allowed by law. **It's the ultimate in recycling. Your discards will be someone else's discovery!** If you are interested in volunteering to help with the ABC Sale, please email us at adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org or call 252-638-8558 and leave your contact information.



Bernie, Our 'Cub' Reporter

Hi there, kids! It's your old pal **Bernie the Bear** here! Be sure to enjoy all the fun and games of **Ghostwalk's Agony Alley**. There'll be lots of surprises 'Under the Tent' on the Attmore-Oliver House grounds and inside the house itself when **Agony Alley's Mystery Mansion** comes to life! Wow!

You'll have a grrrr-eat time! Bring your parents; **Agony Alley's** for the young-at-heart of all ages! I'm hoping to be a 'spirited' part of **Agony Alley**, too; come to the Attmore-Oliver House and see if you recognize me!


Kids, I definitely give **Agony Alley** my coveted **FOUR PAWS** rating!



Thank You to our Creative Ghostwalk Steering Committee!

Ghostwalk can not take place without the efforts of site owners, the steering committee, docents, ghosts and many other volunteers that make it come to life! Hundreds of volunteers will participate in this year's Ghostwalk! Planning begins 11 months prior to the event when the steering committee first meets. This committee is responsible for most aspects of Ghostwalk and without their dedication, this major fundraising (and "fun-raising") event could not happen. This year's volunteer steering committee: **Matt Arthur**, Scriptwriter; **Ann Bowman**, Ticket Co-Chair; **Linda Cummings**, Volunteer Chair; **Bernard George**, Community Chair; **Alma Gibbons**, Scriptwriter; **Carole Graham**, Ticket Co-Chair; **Bill Hand**, Ghost Director/ Scriptwriter; **Rachel Hand**, Cemetery Director; **Linda Holland**, Agony Alley Chair; **Jane Maulucci**, Agony Alley Scriptwriter; **Kathy Morrison**, Publicity Chair; **Becky Preece**, Costume and Staging Chair; **Cathy O'Brien**, Ghost Site chair; **Tom Schaible**, Production Chair; **Sue Wyatt**, Church/Temple Tour/ Meals Chair.

Ghostwalk
 October 24-26, 2013
 New Bern, North Carolina



The Haunted Housewives of New Bern

Title Sponsor: Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock YOUR TRIAL ATTORNEYS

FOR TICKET INFORMATION:
new bern historical society
 511 Broad St., New Bern, NC 28560
 252-638-8558
 www.NewBernHistorical.org

October 24
 6:30-9:30 p.m.

October 25&26
 5:30-9:30 p.m.

**Title Sponsor: Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock—
Your Trial Attorneys**

Discover our historic ghosts at these sites!



Salter's Store
606 East Front Street



New Bern Academy
Corner of New and Hancock Streets



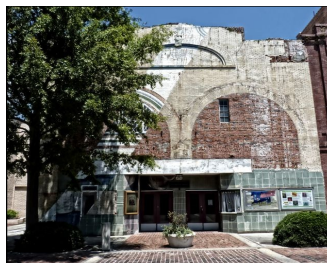
Dawson-Clarke House
519 E. Front Street



Isaac Taylor House
228 Craven Street



St. Cyprian's Church
604 Johnson Street



Athens Theatre
414 Pollock Street

Ghostwalk 2013

Membership Special!

Two tickets, *at a special \$13 each price*, will be mailed to our membership. We appreciate our members supporting this major fundraising event.

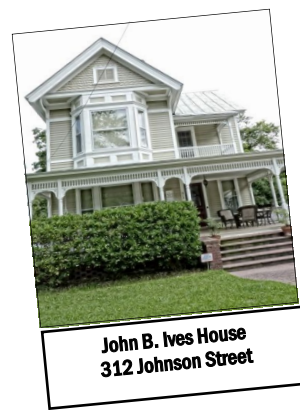




Coor-Gaston House
421 Craven Street



Charles L. Ives House
308 Johnson Street



John B. Ives House
312 Johnson Street



Charles Slover House
201 Johnson Street



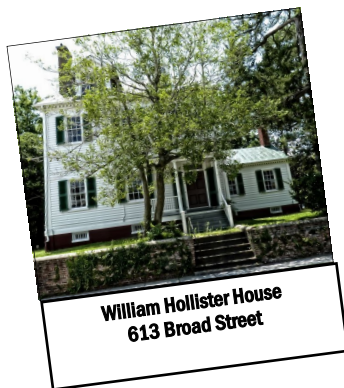
Agony Alley
(In back of 511 Broad Street)



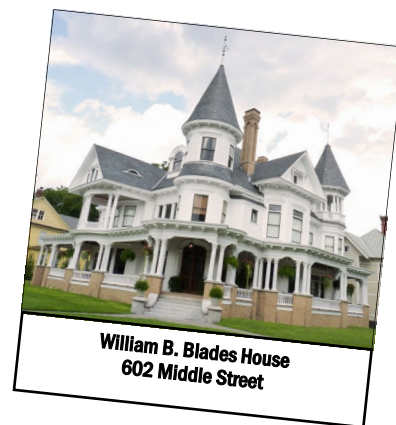
Earl of Craven Lodge
225 Broad Street



New Bern Historic Masonic Theatre
516 Hancock Street



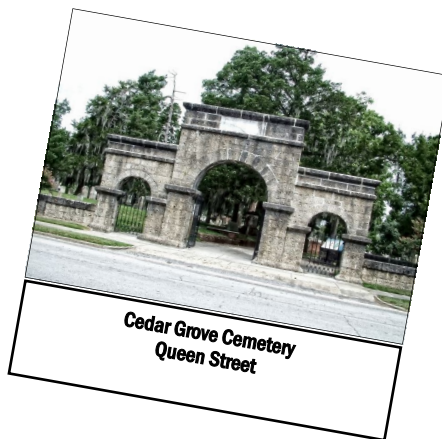
William Hollister House
613 Broad Street



William B. Blades House
602 Middle Street



Judge Gaston Law Office
301 Craven Street



Cedar Grove Cemetery
Queen Street



Ghostwalk
2013 poster,
suitable for
framing, can
be purchased

for \$5 in our office! It's
the perfect gift !

Announcing our next Lunch & Learn...by our Historian John Leys



John Leys

John Leys, Historian for the New Bern Historical Society, is our new education programs coordinator, and in that role is coordinating the 'learn' part of Lunch & Learn. He is working with another volunteer, Linda Stout, who is organizing and coordinating the 'lunch' part.

For the November program, John thought of Thanksgiving and the quest for freedom, often religious freedom, associated with our earliest settlers. With that in mind, the **Wednesday, November 13 Lunch and Learn, featuring Victor T. Jones, Jr.**, local historian and genealogist, will be **Early Religions in Colonial New Bern and Craven County**, a program featuring the early Huguenots, Quakers and other sects in our area.



Victor T. Jones, Jr.

Victor is well-known to anyone who has visited the Kellenberger Research Room at the New Bern Public Library, where he is Department Head. He is also President of the North Carolina Genealogical Society.

Lunch and Learn November 13 entrée choices are: Southern Barbecued Shrimp and Grits (shrimp sautéed with apple smoked bacon, tomatoes and scallions over creamy grits with brown butter barbecue sauce); and, Chicken Salad (house blend of chicken, mayonnaise, onions, celery and seasonings over mixed greens and cucumbers served with fresh fruit and a slice of fruit bread.)

Lunch and Learn programs are held at The Chelsea Restaurant. PREPAID reservations only. \$15 for members; \$17, non-members. Space is limited; contact the Historical Society office 638-8558!



SEEKING OFFICE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ATT-MORE-OLIVER HOUSE!

If you are interested in volunteering in our Historical Society office for three hours one morning or afternoon each week, please contact our office, 638-8558.

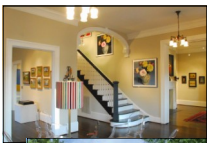


New Signage Highlights our Historical Society Gardens!

Throughout our property you'll find visible and easy-to-read signage welcoming visitors. There are directional signs as well as markers for our beautiful historical gardens, enhancing the visitation experience. (We welcome new garden volunteers. Please contact our office, 638-8558 or email: adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org if you would like to help in our gardens. We appreciate our wonderful garden volunteers!)



Autumn Day Trip: Bayard Wootten Exhibit at Gallery C!



Join us on our **Friday, September 27**, Autumn Day Trip to Gallery C, a 4000 square foot gallery within the historic Russ-Edwards House located in the historic Blount Street Commons neighborhood of Raleigh! Gallery C has an exhibit of Bayard Wootten



original silver gelatin photographs from the 1930's. Our personal guide through the exhibit will be Gallery C's Director. Free parking for the exhibit is provided to our group by Gallery C.

Prior to touring Gallery C we will have lunch at Pie Bird, located around the corner from the gallery. Pie Bird specializes in sweet and savory pies.

Lunch will be either Tomato Pie or Quiche of the Day, and one side. Following the exhibit you will be able to explore more of Raleigh and Cameron Village is nearby. **This Day Trip is \$27 per person and limited to 20 persons. Call our office to make your reservations!**



To keep the price of our day trips as reasonable as possible, we carpool. Drivers are offered a gas stipend of \$5 per passenger, which is given at check-in on the day of the trip. There are many areas of interest in Raleigh, so individual carpools decide on their return time from this Day Trip.

GHOSTWALK TEE-SHIRTS!

Burgundy color, preshrunk 100% cotton!

Adult sizes:

\$16. S, M, L, XL

\$17.50 sizes XXL, XXXL

Get your tee-shirt at the Historical Society office.

Ghostwalk 2013



new bern historical society
New Bern, North Carolina

Printed on tee shirt
Front, upper left
chest (no pocket)

(Printed on tee shirt
Back)

Historical Society President's Message

Over the last two years, the Board of the New Bern Historical Society has undertaken a thorough and serious review of all aspects of our programs and operations in order to assure that our mission is accomplished most efficiently and effectively. Meetings and retreats have been focused on serious evaluation in order to assure that the mission is accomplished today and is assured for the future.

Our mission is one of education about the history of this wonderful town and the surrounding area. Our programs are well attended and are helpful to new and long term residents, as well as visitors, as we all seek to understand the unusual, sometimes unique, contributions that this town has provided to our state and nation's history.

While our mission is education, it is accomplished through the help of two sites that we own and steward. The one site is the downtown campus between Broad and Pollock Streets which includes buildings and a beautiful garden. The other is the New Bern Battlefield Park, thirty-one acres of the site where the March 14, 1862 Battle of New Bern occurred.

Stewarding these properties respectfully and efficiently is important. Many of our discussions over the last two years have dealt with questions associated with this responsibility. These discussions led to deci-

sions. We decided to make use of the signature Attmore-Oliver House as both a museum and offices for our operations. That decision allowed us to lease the Roberts House which faces Pollock Street and, after renovations, The Aerie Bed and Breakfast took occupancy of that house with a long term lease. The Aerie also participated in the cost of renovations.

In addition to the above cited houses, there are two more buildings on the property. The Ward House, gifted by Leah Ward many years ago, is leased to professionals. The Haslen House, offices of the New Bern Preservation Foundation, belongs to that Foundation, but it resides on NBHS property which is leased for one dollar a year. Of course, the downtown campus also includes a beautiful garden that was planted and is maintained by extraordinary volunteers.

The decision to include our offices within the Attmore-Oliver House necessitated other decisions. Leasing the Roberts House would provide revenue and relieve our operating budget of utility costs associated with that house, yet proper stewardship of the Attmore-Oliver House required that we assess short term and long term needs. The collections in the house were examined professionally and evaluated. Things that had no relationship to the house or the history of New Bern, nor played an important role in the educa-

tion mission were deaccessioned. Proceeds from their sale were placed in a designated fund to be used uniquely for the conservation of those things that were kept.

Repairs and improvements to the house were undertaken by both professionals and loyal volunteers and much has been done. Wonderful donations of financial support, time and in kind gifts have accomplished much, though much remains to be done. Work has progressed only as funds were available, no debt having been incurred.

While many things remain to be done, the campus, including the Attmore-Oliver House, looks wonderful today. In the house, three rooms function as offices. One room serves as a Board and meeting room. Three rooms and the hallways serve museum functions, including displaying our remarkable Civil War collection. Our former Board member and curator, Nancy Richards, provided thousands of hours of expertise and leadership to accomplish this goal, as did many others.

At the battlefield, a line of credit that provided funds for completion of the pavilion has been repaid. Generous donations have assured continuing improvements such as a replica cannon, teaching redan, flagpoles

and so many other things. Dedicated volunteers and generous donors have made these improvements possible, enhancing the contributions of over fifteen years of dedication to this site by early donors and volunteers.

At both the campus and the battlefield, so much has been done, yet much remains to be done. In a prioritized and responsible plan established by the Board, work will continue, thanks to the gifts of donors and volunteers. I want to express my appreciation to all volunteers and donors. I am especially grateful to the Board for the many hours of discussion, the well considered decisions and the generosity of time and resources that have put us on the path of the best stewardship and solid fiscal planning for the future. Thank you, and let the good work continue.



Nelson McDaniel
President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

We Applaud Our Ghostwalk Sponsors

Our sponsors are vital to Ghostwalk's success! The New Bern Historical Society is extremely grateful to every sponsor for their commitment to Ghostwalk which is enjoyed by so many people in our community! Because of your support and volunteer efforts we are able to offer this ticketed event at a price that continues to be affordable! In particular the Historical Society would like to thank our **Title Sponsor: Chesnutt, Clemmons and Peacock, P.A.-Your Trial Attorneys** and our Platinum Sponsors: Morgan's Tavern & Grill; Robert M. Chiles, P.E.; Ward and Smith, P.A., Attorneys at Law. Thank you for your ongoing generous support!



FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

OFFICE LOCATION:
Attmore-Oliver House
511 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560


OFFICE HOURS FOR PUBLIC:
Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: 252-638-8558
Fax: 252-638-5773
Website: www.newbernhistorical.org

Email:
lyne@newbernhistorical.org
adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org

The mission of the New Bern Historical Society is to celebrate and promote New Bern and its heritage through events and education. Please continue to join us in this worthy endeavor.

CALENDAR

- Saturdays through November 23, **Earl of Craven Questers Tour of Cedar Grove Cemetery**, 4 pm.
- Tues., Sept. 17 **Board of Directors** meeting
- Fri., Sept. 27, **Day Trip: Bayard Wootten Exhibit, Gallery C**
- Tues., Oct. 15, **Board of Directors** meeting
- Thurs., Oct. 24, **Ghostwalk Fundraiser, Morgan's Tavern & Grill**
- Thurs.- Sat, Oct. 24-26, **Ghostwalk 2013: The Haunted Housewives of New Bern**
- Wed., Nov. 13, **Lunch & Learn, Victor T. Jones, Jr., Early Religions in Colonial New Bern and Craven County**
- Tues., Nov. 19, **Board of Directors** meeting
- Wed.- Fri., Nov. 27-29, **Thanksgiving holidays**—office closed
- Tues.- Thurs., Dec. 24-26, **Christmas Holidays**—office Closed
- Mon., Dec. 23, Fri., Dec. 27, Mon., Dec. 30—reduced office hours (Holiday Schedule)
- Tues.,-Wed., Dec. 31-Jan. 1,  **New Year's Holidays**-Office Closed
- TBA—**HOLIDAY FRIEND-RAISER**
- Fri., March 21, **Harriett Marks Scholarship Application deadline**
- Sun., May 18, **Volunteer Appreciation Social**



Title Sponsor Ghostwalk 2013 Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock-Your Trial Attorneys

PLATINUM Ghostwalk Sponsor
Morgan's Tavern & Grill
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McCotter Ashton, P.A.
Mitchell Hardware
Moore's Barbecue
PotashCorp-Aurora
The Aerie Bed & Breakfast
The Chelsea Restaurant
The Insurance Center
Well Fargo Bank
Trader Construction Co.
Wells Fargo Bank



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(newsletter photo credits: Thank you to Jan Beijer, Kelvin Kestner, Melvin Kestner, Kathy Morrison, Steve Shaffer)

**We ask that you support our BUSINESS MEMBERS
who generously support New Bern Historical Society.**