

Historically Speaking...

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

new bern historical society



Winter 2014

ABC Sale to be held on Saturday, March 1

This year's A (attic) B (basement) C (closet) Sale will be held Saturday, March 1, 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., rain or shine. The Sale is located at the Knights of Columbus Building, 1125 Pine Tree Drive.



For our newer members, the ABC Sale is a large indoor yard sale where practical, unique, and quality items can be purchased. These items have been donated to the Historical Society for resale by members and non-members alike. This year the donations have been pouring in so we expect a larger than usual sale.

ABC Sale
Volunteers needed
February 26-March 1!
Please phone or email
the Historical Society
office if you can help on
one of the above dates.

While the Historical Society prepares all year for our annual ABC Sale, the three days preceding the Sale are particularly activity filled. Co-chairs, Cheryl Lawrence and Gerri Olvaney, are looking for volunteers to help with set-up. Set-up is a great time to meet others, so please consider donating a few hours and join the fun! In addition to our set-up volunteers we are fortunate to have Marines from Cherry Point volunteer their time to help with the heavy lifting.

During the next few months, please take the opportunity to sort through your things, and bring what you are no longer using to our Historical Society office at 511 Broad St. We accept almost everything other than perishables, clothes, mattresses, car seats, and obsolete electronics. If you need help with larger items, call 638-8558 to arrange for a pick up.

The ABC Sale is the ultimate in recycling. Your discards become someone else's discovery! (And your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.)



Cheers!
Annual Christmas
Party
Held December 12



Celebration of Historical Society 90th Anniversary Marked at Annual Membership Christmas Party

On Thursday, December 12, the New Bern Historical Society commemorated its 90th anniversary with a Christmas Party celebration at the historic Blades House. Two parties were held that evening in order to accommodate as many members as possible.



Patti Urick

Christmas Party chair, Board Member Patti Urick, planned and catered the event. The other members of the Board of Directors helped with registration, bartending and clean-up.

The 2013 Christmas Party was an enjoyable way to begin the holiday season and celebrate the Historical Society's many achievements.



The William B. Blades House





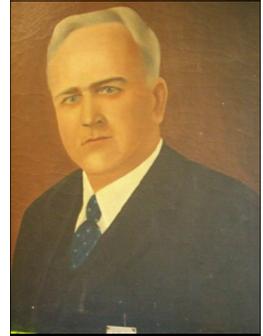
Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

A journal was recently discovered in the Attmore-Oliver House that has valuable historical significance—the original handwritten minutes from the New Bern Historical Society's inaugural organizational meeting on April 19, 1923. In celebration of the Society's 90th anniversary, it is indeed appropriate that we proudly share these minutes with our membership.



Jerkins-Duffy House

“Nineteen persons met at the home of Mrs. Richard N. Duffy on Thursday evening, April nineteenth, nineteen twenty three for the purpose of organizing a local branch of the State historical Society. Mrs. Duffy who was largely responsible for starting the movement toward organization acted as temporary chairman and the following officers were elected: Pres., Mr. R. A. Nunn; First vice pres., Mrs. R. N. Duffy; Second vice pres., Mrs. John Dunn; Recording secretary, Miss Mary Ward; Corresponding secretary, Mrs. K. E. Spencer ; Treasurer, Mrs. Francis S. Duffy.



Mr. R.A. Nunn

Mr. Nunn then took the chair. The aim of the Society as stated by him is ‘the preservation of the wealth of

historic material to be found in New Bern for future generations.’

A committee consisting of Mrs. R. N. Duffy, Mrs. Raymond Pollock and Mrs. T. J. Hyman was appointed to report after inquiry our relation to the state's organization, to frame a constitution or bring to us one already in use in the state and to ascertain the pleasure of the members as to the number of meetings to be held during a year.

Mr. Nunn and Mrs. Charles Hollister were requested to prepare papers to be read at the May meeting on subjects of historic interest to be selected by themselves. A motion was made and carried that at least two typewritten copies of papers be given Society, one for preservation here, one to be sent to headquarters. A suggestion was made that members respond to roll call with some interesting fact.

Mrs. Millianne Potter of Boston, a native New Bernian and a member of the State Society, was present and made some interesting suggestions. The one which caused most discussion dealt with the name of George Street. Mrs. Potter's suggestion was that George Street be extended from river to river. National Avenue Riverside, would then become a part of George. She favored the changing of its name to King George's Road. This matter was placed in the hands of the following committee for consideration: Mrs. Charles Hollister, Miss Mary Ward. She mentioned Oliver Wister's ‘Square Deal’ or ‘Ancient Grudge’ as a book which must bring about better understanding of conditions existing between England and America in the past.

Mrs. Charles Hollister spoke of some interesting changes in New Bern mentioning particularly the original courthouse site and the old post office. Mrs. A. D. Ward spoke of some interesting facts of North Carolina history published for the first time in England within the past ten years.



Miss Mary Ward

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hollister, Mrs. K. E. Spencer, Mrs. Salyee Buford, Mrs. Rosamonde Meadows, Mrs. Raymond Pollock, Mrs. Millianne Potter, Mrs. R. B. Williams, Mrs. R. C. Pratt, Miss Sadie Hollister, Mrs. R. E. Knowles, Miss Anna Hanff, Mr. A. D. Ward, Mrs. R. N. Duffy, Mrs. Tom Hyman, Mrs. John Dunn, Mrs. E. K. Bishop, Mrs. R. A. Nunn, Miss Mary Ward. Others who could not be present but asked to be enrolled were: Mrs. Charles Ives, Mrs. Royal Turner, Mrs. J. P. O. Davis, Mr. D. E. Jones, Mrs. T. J. Roberts, Mrs. J. T. Hollister, Mrs. R. B. Nixon, Mrs. R. E. Whitehurst, Mrs. T. A. Uzzell, Mrs. Sam Dill, Mrs. H. B. Wadsworth, Mrs. F. S. Duffy, Mrs. George Moulton, Mrs. Ernest Green, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Smith, Mrs. M. M. Millett, Mr and Mrs. Henry Whitehurst, Mrs. Beemer Harrell.”

Historical Society President's Message

The year 2013 has been remarkable for the New Bern Historical Society. In our 90th year since founding, we have continued to honor the history of our area through programs that celebrate all parts of our story. We co-organized a very successful Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour and produced the most successful Ghostwalk in years. We have hosted capacity crowds at Lunch and Learn programs and have had great response to all of our lecture series. We hosted a sold out concert of the Vienna Boys Choir, a successful ABC Sale, Civil War programs, a book release and other gatherings. We have partnered with the Preservation Foundation, the Library, Tryon Palace, the James City Historical Society, UNC Press, the Department of Cultural Resources and other organizations with whom we share a mission.

On the campus, we have made many repairs and improvements to the Attmore- Oliver House, including a fresh coat of paint. Featuring our wonderful exhibits, the house and the mature gardens have never looked as good and are a beehive of activity. At the Battlefield, we have installed

a replica cannon, an educational redan, flag poles and have made trail and bridge improvements. As our funding campaign, *Investment in History*, draws near a close, we can happily report that we have surpassed our announced goal even as contributions continue, offering the opportunity to accomplish great things.



In the coming months, as cash from those campaign pledges is realized, we will continue important improvements at the Attmore-Oliver House. At the Battlefield the many enhancements will proceed rapidly including a History Walk. This latter feature will provide visitors with much greater opportunities for learning, whether they are novices and short time visitors or visitors with a deeper interest. Our donors and sponsors have been generous. We take the stewardship responsibil-

ity seriously.

All of these good things happen because we have superb volunteers and staff. We have a Board that has been visionary in providing for the present and future. Most importantly, we have a membership and sponsors that believe in the importance of telling the story. It is a story that belongs to all and crosses every economic, racial, religious and political line. It is the story of successes and failures, trials, tribulations, and triumphs. It is an interesting story. Thanks to you, we tell it.

Nelson McDaniel
President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society



*Merry Christmas! And a
Happy New Year!!!*



Volunteer!

Here are some reasons why people choose to volunteer their time with the New Bern Historical Society!

Egon Lippert *“Why do I volunteer? Because volunteering at the Historical Society campus is as close to time travel as I will ever come. Looking at the first/original foundation brickwork under the Attmore-Oliver takes you back more than two centuries to the time skilled masons proudly built these walls to last. When peeling back two or three coats of paint on the back wall of the Attmore-Oliver House, there are boards that still seep and smell of sap as if they had been put up yesterday instead of centuries ago. Standing under that huge old pecan tree at the back of the Attmore-Oliver House you can almost picture an earlier resident planting it decades ago to shade the house and provide pecans for the family. Those are just a few of the reasons this campus is so special to me and why I feel privileged to volunteer today to ensure that this historic treasure will be maintained and preserved for the volunteers of tomorrow.”*

Gerri Olvanev *“What is more addicting than chocolate? Volunteering for the New Bern Historical Society! Volunteering is not only meaningful but has renewed my motivation into keeping alive the history of New Bern. Whether it’s helping on the Publicity Committee, co-chair of the ABC Sale in March or selling tickets for various events, it allows me to meet new people and share the experience.”*

Lee Purcell *“Two years ago my wife and I relocated to New Bern from New Jersey, where we had a Revolutionary War historical site virtually a meadow away from our back yard. We left New Jersey with fond memories of years of volunteer work maintaining the farmhouse and barn, combating vines in the gardens and fields, and working with committed volunteers who enjoyed keeping history alive for generations to come. How lucky we are to have discovered similar volunteers with a common purpose, to develop, preserve, and tell the story of New Bern’s special history to new generations. The New Bern Historical Society is a very large part of the fabric of this city, and we volunteers are fortunate to have this special cause that brings us together and focuses our energies each day.”*

Paul and Cheryl Merriman *“New Bern has many, many great opportunities for volunteerism. As retirees we value the chance to contribute to our adopted city. Why choose the Historical Society? There was one battle of New Bern. The society has preserved and enhanced the battlefield and brings the battle to residents and visitors, young and old. The Attmore-Oliver House is a truly historic building that is used daily. It is wonderful to see structures like this that are used, not just preserved. The Lunch and Learn programs bring a great assortment of people and viewpoints, all grounded in history, to our city. Ghost-walk? A state-wide crowd joins our local apparitions, fresh from their resting places in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Christmas brings a lot of functions to our historic city. Having a chance to spend an afternoon in the Blades House.... wow. Top shelf. Ever hear Nelson McDaniel talk about our history and our people? What a treat. There is more. However, none of this would be possible, or fun, without the folks that staff the office and the other, like-minded, volunteers. A universally cheerful group that truly likes what they are involved in.”*

Carole Graham *“When I came to New Bern it was because of the location and size of the city, and the perfect climate. I joined the Historical Society to learn more about the history and culture of this area. I continue to be a volunteer because of the people.”*



A PICTURE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS: Volunteers Steve O'Brien, Egon Lippert, Joe Hunt and Brad Ferreira built a much-needed, handsomely crafted set of shelves for our kitchen.

To volunteer for the Historical Society, please call 638-8558 or email adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org. We hope you join our family of volunteers!



New Bern Battlefield Park News

By Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant

The New Bern Battlefield Park had a busy fall season which included many group and individual tours. Several groups of Marines from MCAS Cherry Point came to visit and one group was treated to a sighting of one of our no-shoulder friends, a rather large copperhead snake seen on the waters edge of the swamp. The Newcomers' Alumni Group also paid a visit, but thankfully their visit was snake-free. Visitors are encouraged to stay on our trails to avoid any unintentional encounters with local wildlife!

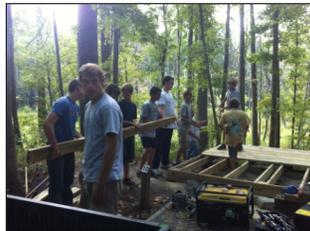
The battlefield also benefited from an Eagle Scout project by scout Kortlyn Templin from Troop 132 who guided the efforts of other scouts and adults in building a ten-foot by ten-foot overlook platform. This platform is now providing visitors with a better view of the swamp that Union forces waded through in order to attack the Confederate New Bern defenders during the March 14, 1862 Battle of New Bern.

Girl Scouts from the New Bern area converged at the New Bern Battlefield Park on Saturday, December 7th to work on a merit badge called 'Playing the Past'. The visit was sponsored by Troop 1420 and was organized by Amy Brown, Unit Service Coordinator for Craven and Pamlico County Girl Scout troops, with the help of Battlefield Guide Lee Purcell and Adjutant Jon Miller. The participating New Bern scouts came from Troops 184, 560, 696, 863, 1328 and 1742. To earn the merit badge, scouts learned about the Civil War era including toys of the period and how to make dolls, how to prepare a meal over an open fire, and the role women played during the war. They also observed how to load and fire a Civil War cannon which was demonstrated by re-enactors from Reilly's Battery of the 10th NC State Troops, Company D. The re-enactors wore period costumes and helped the scouts in many of their activities. Battlefield Guide Lee Purcell provided interesting stories of women connected to the battle fought at New Bern. The scouts also enjoyed guided tours of the battlefield.

The Historical Society always welcomes volunteers to help with battlefield clean-up and maintenance on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, as well as anyone interested in volunteering as a guide for tour groups. Please contact Battlefield Adjutant, Jon Miller, 252-626-1362 to discuss volunteer opportunities.



Marines from MCAS Cherry Point



Eagle Scout project in action!!!



Girl Scouts with re-enactors learning how cannons were loaded and fired during the Civil War.

Civil War Adventure Day for Children

SAVE THE DATE!

The popular Civil War Adventure Day for children is Saturday, March 15, 2014 at the New Bern Battlefield Park. It is held annually in March to commemorate the Battle of New Bern which occurred March 14, 1862. The event is for children 6 -12 years old. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with activities from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



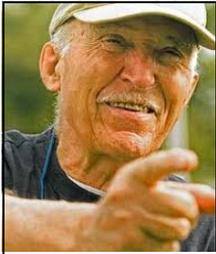
Young recruits and their parents will be greeted by re-enactors from the 5th NC regiment and Reilly's Battery of the 10th NC. The newly "enlisted" recruits can choose to participate in practice drills or Civil War period camp activities and crafts. Children participating in drills will be assigned to a Union or Confederate company, and issued a proper hat and wooden rifle that they will take home. An encampment with expanded living history presentations will also be set up at the battlefield.

Historical Society battlefield guides will provide an informative and entertaining walking tour of the battlefield. A commissary lunch of Brunswick stew, hush puppies and sweet tea, provided by

Moore's Barbecue, will be served to each young recruit and his or her parent. After lunch, the day's activities will conclude with a battle re-enactment that includes the children.

In order to make this activity accessible to as many families as possible, we have reduced the cost to \$20 for one child and one adult. Each additional child in a family is \$5 and each additional adult in the family is \$10. Registration is limited to 80 children. For more information or tickets:

New Bern Historical Society - 252.638.8558 - www.newbernhistorical.org



Leading Civil War Historian Ed Bearss on

“Lincoln and His Generals: Their Relationships and Issues”

Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 2 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Ministry Center

Donation \$10 for Battlefield
reserve by calling

New Bern Historical Society 638-8558

Presented by

New Bern Civil War Roundtable

and

new bern historical society



Lincoln and his generals, October 1862 after Antietam. Matthew Brady photo

SAVE THE DATE!

The Spring Historic Homes and Garden Tour

April 11-12, 2014

10 a.m-4 p.m.

Member Tickets \$14

Volunteer Tickets \$10

Non-Member Advance Tickets \$16

Day of Tour Tickets \$20



SAVE THE DATE!



Presented by
new bern historical society
www.newbernhistorical.org 252-638-8558
and
New Bern Preservation Foundation
www.newbernpf.org 252-633-6448

The Harriett Marks Scholarship was established by a trust estate which was created in 1968 under the terms of the will of Miss Harriett Marks as a memorial to the O. Marks family. The Trust which funds this Scholarship designates that it be awarded to a senior graduating from New Bern High School and that the scholarship contribute to the tuition, board or lodging for the purpose of obtaining higher education at an accredited college, university or other institution of higher learning. The scholarship program has been most successful. We are very proud of the academic records of our scholarship recipients over the years, and we look forward to contributing to more students who will maintain this tradition. The scholarship is awarded based on equal weight of scholarship and financial need. Please encourage New Bern High School seniors that you know would qualify to apply. **Scholarship applications (available on the New Bern High School website and on the Historical Society website) must be returned to the New Bern Historical Society *by Friday, March 21, 2014.***





We would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who made Ghostwalk a success: the volunteer steering committee who contributed countless hours of time, thank you for your dedication; the dozens of actors who donate their talent; volunteers who sell tickets and act as docents; site owners (homeowners, businesses, non-profits, the city of New Bern and Tryon Palace) who provide venues; site chairs who coordinate venue volunteers; theatres troupes that provide fabulous entertainment; and, houses of worship that open their doors for tours and provide food for patrons to purchase.

Thank you for all you do!!!!



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:
lynne@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



- Mon., Dec. 23, Reduced Office Hours
- Tues.-Thurs., Dec. 24-26, Office Closed (Christmas Holiday)
- Fri., Dec. 27 and Mon., Dec. 30, Reduced Office Hours
- Tues.-Wed., Dec. 31-Jan. 1, Office Closed (New Year's Holiday)
- December Membership Renewal
- Sun., Jan. 12, **Ed Bearss Presentation, Lincoln and His Generals: Their Relationships and Issues**
- Mon., January 20, Office Closed (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday)
- Wed., Feb 12, **Lunch & Learn , TBA**
- Sat., Mar. 1, **ABC Sale**
- Sat., Mar. 15, **Civil War Adventure Day**
- Fri., Mar. 21, **Harriett Marks Scholarship application deadline**
- Fri., Mar. 29, Office Closed (Good Friday)
- Fri.-Sat., Apr. 11-12, **Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour**
- May, TBA, **Historical Society Membership Annual Meeting**
- Sun., May 18, **Volunteer Appreciation Social**
- June Membership Renewal

Title Sponsor Ghostwalk 2013

Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock-Your Trial Attorneys

PLATINUM Ghostwalk Sponsor

Morgan's Tavern & Grill
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PotashCorp-Aurora

The Aerie Bed & Breakfast
The Chelsea Restaurant
The Insurance Center
Well Fargo Bank
Trader Construction Co.
Wells Fargo Bank



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

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Jim Hodges, Curator

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(newsletter photo credits: Thank you to Kelvin Kestner, Melvin Kestner, Jon Miller)