

Historically Speaking...



new bern historical society

Fall, 2015 Quarterly Newsletter

Ghostwalk October 22-24



New Bern Historical Society presents **un-modern family!** We all have that family member; an uncle, aunt or cousin that everyone remembers fondly (or not so fondly). History is filled with these characters. Ghostwalk 2015, with our theme **un-modern family**, proves that New Bern is no different and that our past is chock-full of lively families that shaped our history!

Every year at Ghostwalk, New Bern's spirits return to their haunts to tell their tales to the living. This year there will be 16 different ghost haunts with spirits lurking among the living from October 22-24. **So be on the lookout for ghosts sharing lots of family memories in the Historic District those evenings.** Sites expecting hauntings include: Agony Alley; Cedar Grove Cemetery; Athens and Masonic Theatres, a Tryon Palace site and downtown Historic District homes, and churches. Some Historic District churches will provide tours and some will sell hauntingly delicious meals. Look for a complete listing of venues in the centerfold of this issue and on our website.



An annual crowd pleaser is **Agony Alley inside the Attmore-Oliver House.** This year Agony Alley highlights Mr. Dowd trying to cope with family at the turn of the 20th century in **Sliced Bread.** When you're at Agony Alley, be sure to visit the **Veri-Good Bakery under the tent behind the Attmore-Oliver House.** Baked treats will be available to purchase **all three nights of Ghostwalk.**

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 persuade you to stay... **beware!**



If you get past the mortician, ghostly characters whose families and lives shaped our city, will appear and disappear before your eyes as you walk among the tombstones.

New Bern's two historic theatres will invite you in as part of your ticket. The Athens Theatre will present a sampling of their musical *Evita...Don't Cry For Me.* The Masonic Theatre will highlight *Pinocchio...Wayward Son.*



Our ghosts will emerge Thursday, October 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Cedar Grove Cemetery, the Athens and Masonic Theatres and Agony Alley with the Veri-Good Bakery.

Additional ghost sites including the cemetery, theatres, Agony Alley and the Veri-Good Bakery will be seen and heard

Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

A special rate of \$14 per ticket is being offered to Society members this year. For your convenience two tickets have been mailed to you! Ticket pricing for your friends is as follows: \$16 in advance; \$22 days of event; \$11 active military and their dependents with ID; \$10 full time students with ID; \$5 children 3 to 12 years old; children under 3 years old are free.



ALL TICKET PRICES INCLUDE NORTH CAROLINA SALES TAX.

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



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.



Enjoy a great meal at Morgan's and support the Historical Society!

Eat lunch or dinner at MORGAN'S TAVERN & GRILL on Wednesday, October 21, and Morgan's will donate a portion of the proceeds from your meal to the Historical Society. We are grateful to Morgan's for this wonderful fund-raising event!!



Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

Adventures with the Airport Kiosk...

Several months ago I spoke with Tom Braaten, Airport Director for Coastal Carolina Regional Airport, about updating the kiosk that the airport has generously allowed the Historical Society to use free of charge for the past ten or so years. He was genuinely supportive of our plans to refresh the exhibit and instructed us to contact his staff when we were ready to install.

Knowing the Battlefield Park History Walk Celebration is scheduled for October 3, 2015, it was obviously important that the initial phase of the exhibit focus on the Battlefield Park. Keep in mind that the kiosk is a free standing four sided structure with glass panels on all sides. Measuring approximately three feet in width, this kiosk has two levels, the first about waist level and the second two feet above the first.



Airport Director Tom Braaten lends a helping hand to Jim Hodges and his Curator Team, gathered around the kiosk.

As always, my curator team consisting of Betty Evans, Jane Dagnon, Jan Beijer, and Claudia Houston (NBHS Research Historian) stepped to the plate and within a month the design had been conceptualized, created, and was installed July 28. Our plan was to keep things simple by presenting just a few unique artifacts that have relevance to the Battle of New Bern. Steve Shaffer, a prior Battlefield Adjutant/ Historical Society Board Member, had discovered plans for a surfboat design that most likely was used by the Burnside Expedition during the events preceding the Battle of New Bern in March, 1862. John Klecker, who shares Steve's passion for Civil War history, expertly crafted a scale model of the surfboat complete with oars which he generously loaned to the Historical Society for display at the airport. This is a dramatic eye-catcher that will undoubtedly attract passersby and invite them to view the exhibit. Other artifacts include a repurposed bayonet, original bricks from Wood's Brickyard, a shrapnel shell, detailed 1862 map of the Battle of New Bern, and a large chip from a tree with an embedded bullet from the battle. The intent is not to overwhelm but tastefully to provide interesting information that encourages the public to visit the New Bern Battlefield Park.



Current Airport Kiosk

The purpose of the second phase of the exhibit, installed September 1, is to recognize and highlight local organizations that make available to the public museums and tours. Featured are the New Bern Historical Society's Attmore-Oliver House and Museum, Tryon Palace and the North Carolina History Center, New Bern Firemen's Museum, and the Charlotte Rhone Cultural Center. The design highlights relevant visuals and contact information. The goal is to capture someone's attention and plant a seed. You are invited to visit this airport exhibit and to take advantage of the variety of educational resources that are available in our community.

ANNOUNCING THE JOURNAL OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An updated version of the *Journal of the New Bern Historical Society* will be sent to all members. The newest *Journal* is an annual publication that will be featuring articles researched and submitted by interested members of the Society. The Journal Steering Committee, chaired by Richard McEnally, has spent many hours making sure that there is a good mix of articles about New Bern, eastern North Carolina and some of the people who lived here. *Journal* committee members who worked diligently toward this goal include Lynne Harakal, Jim Hodges, Claudia Houston, John Leys, Ken McCotter, Jon Miller and Ethel Staten. Special thanks to Kathy Morrison for formatting this volume, to Lauren Miranda for her professional proofreading and to Richard McEnally for his determination and leadership skills which led to this publication.

We hope that you enjoy your copy of the *Journal*!



SAVE THE DATE: Ed Bearss returns to New Bern! Topic: Robert E. Lee and His Lieutenant Generals, Sunday, January 10, 2 p.m., Cullman Performance Hall, NC History Center.

Battlefield Park News ...by Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant



The History Walk project is in its final stage of production...

Thanks to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers, we have walls going up, trails being finished, the concrete map receiving its final touches, and signs and information panels ready to be positioned. We are getting very close to seeing our History Walk completed at New Bern Battlefield Park! Flags have been purchased, additional benches put in place, and plant identification signs which were generously provided by the New Bern Garden Club have been ordered. Board member Carl Huddle contributed his expertise and help in providing surveying work, material, and contracting support for this project. As of this writing, we have less than a month remaining before our celebratory event on October 3 and although there is work remaining, we will be ready for it.



A work of art in progress: part of the History Walk to be installed at the Battlefield Park.



We value the support, spirit of volunteerism and hard work that students of Epiphany School of Global Studies give to the Historical Society. On August 20 a group of energetic students from Epiphany School's sixth grade class came out to the Battlefield with teacher Skip Nitardy. They created two new pads for benches out at Redans 5 and 6 that involved soil removal and leveling, laying weed barrier cloth, placing large amounts of marl down and finishing it off with trail timbers. This provides visitors with a weed-free area to rest and to enjoy the view at a distance from the Visitor Center. They also helped to paint some of our wooden directional signs that will help visitors negotiate the trail system.



(Meanwhile, back in the historical gardens at our Broad Street campus, Epiphany School teacher Lexie Muse and her group of eighth grade students raked, weeded, planted, all under the guidance of Historical Society garden coordinator Annette Hunt and her wonderful volunteer master gardeners.)

We are preparing for the **Celebration of History Walk** on **October 3**, with staff and volunteers working on invitations and coordinating with all the groups needed to make this a special event. The Historical Society Public Relations committee and chairperson Kathy Morrison have done a wonderful job planning the publicity, not just for this event but for the battlefield as a whole. Susan Moffat-Thomas was instrumental in working with the Tourism Development Authority to develop a professional brochure promoting Civil War sites in Craven County. This informative brochure highlights our battlefield. Bernard George, Jim Hodges and Claudia Houston have provided assistance with invitation lists and support services needed to pull it all together. We look forward to seeing you all **Saturday, October 3, as we celebrate the History Walk!**

(If you are interested in volunteering at our New Bern Battlefield Park, please contact Battlefield Adjutant Jon Miller, email: jon.miller.newbern@gmail.com, telephone: 626-1362. Or contact our Historical Society office. Volunteers are always appreciated!)

~Celebration of History Walk~

~You Are Invited~

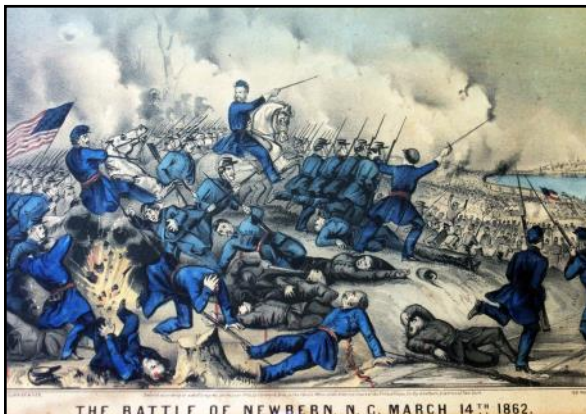
Please join us as we celebrate
the completion of the New Bern Battlefield Park
History Walk

Saturday, October 3, 2015

3:00 p.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

New Bern Battlefield Park

New Bern, NC 28562



THE BATTLE OF NEWBERN, N. C. MARCH 14TH 1862.

Ghostwalk

October 22 October 23 & 24
6:30-9:30 p.m. 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Presented by
new bern historical society
511 Broad St., New Bern, NC 28560
252-638-8558
www.NewBernHistorical.org

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**Title Sponsor: Chesnut, Clemmons & Peacock—
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**Attmore-Wadsworth House
515 Broad Street**



**Old St. Paul's Church
504 Middle Street**



**Pendleton House
815 Pollock Street**



**Marshall Lane House
516 Johnson Street**

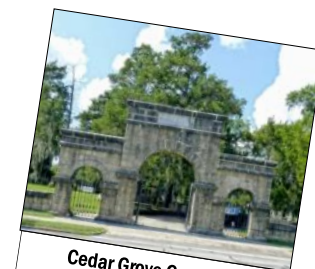
Ghostwalk Poster photograph courtesy of journalist/photographer Bill Hand.



**St. Peter's A.M.E. Zion Church
617 Queen Street**



**Broad Street Christian Church
802 Broad Street**



**Cedar Grove Cemetery
Queen Street**

Thank You to our Creative Volunteer 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; **Sue Baldwin**, Ghost Director; **Linda Burke**, Ghost Site chair; **Bernard George**, Community Chair; **Alma Gibbons**, Scriptwriter; **Carole Graham**, VeriGood Bakery chair; **Bill Hand**, Cemetery Director/ Scriptwriter; **Jane Maulucci**, Agony Alley Scriptwriter/ Chair; **Kathy Morrison**, Publicity Chair; **Becky Preece**, Costume and Staging Chair; **Tom Schaible and Joe Sullivan**, Production Chairs; **Sandie Swigart**, Volunteer Chair; **Ann Wagner**, Ticket Chair; **Sue Wyatt**, Church, Temple/ Tour/ Food Chair.

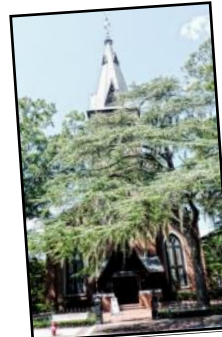
Ghostwalk 2015

Membership Special!

Two tickets, *at a special price of \$14 each*, will be mailed to our membership. We appreciate our members supporting this major fundraising event.



AGONY ALLEY
Located Inside Attmore-Oliver House
511 Broad Street



Christ Episcopal Church
320 Pollock Street



John Homer Hill House
713 Pollock Street



Dixon House
609 Pollock Street



Veri-Good Bakery
Located behind Attmore-Oliver House
511 Broad Street



First Presbyterian Church
400 New Street



The Athens Theatre
414 Pollock Street



St. John Masonic Theatre
516 Hancock Street



Thomas McGinn House
522 Johnson Street

Ghostwalk site photos courtesy of Kelvin Kestner and Melvin Kestner

We Applaud Our Ghostwalk 2015 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., Engineers & Consultants; Ward and Smith, P.A., Attorneys at Law. Thank you for your ongoing generous support!

Lunch & Learn... Wednesday, Sept. 9 and Wednesday, Nov. 11

For our **September 9 Lunch and Learn**, LeRae Umfleet, Assistant Director at Tryon Palace, will enlighten us with intriguing information about *Women on the Homefront During the Civil War*.



LeRae Umfleet

New Bern's story is unique in that time period as the city was occupied for most of the war. The homefront was the battlefield on many occasions; surviving the blockade was difficult. Some women became spies; others, refugees. Women such as Malinda Blalock became soldiers.

Throughout her career in public history, LeRae has worked with a multitude of sites in a variety of capacities. Prior to her position at Tryon Palace, LeRae was the Administrator of the Education and Outreach Branch of the Office of Archives and History for the Department of Cultural Resources.

Lunch and Learn programs are held at 11:30 a.m. at The Chelsea Restaurant in the downtown historical district. All reservations must be prepaid. \$16 for members; \$18 for non-members. Space is limited; contact the Historical Society office 638-8558 to make your reservation!

For the **September 9 Lunch and Learn**, please choose from the following **two entrée choices** when you make your prepaid reservation with the New Bern Historical Society office:

- Baked salmon with champagne dill cream sauce
- Lemon chicken breast

Both entrees served with rice pilaf and seasonal vegetable followed by chocolate tuxedo cake for dessert.

Wednesday, November 11, our **Lunch and Learn** speaker will be **Andrew Dupstadt**, presenting *The Underwriter Expedition*. With this expedition in February 1864, the Confederates sought to challenge Union control of New Bern. Since 1862 the Federals had occupied the coastal town and limited Confederate operations in the region. This speculator naval attack on the USS *Underwriter* was the most daring undertaking of many of the crew of the CSS *Neuse* and proved that, even late in the war, Union control could be challenged. *More detailed information will be emailed to membership in time to make November 11 Lunch and Learn reservations.*



NOTE THESE FUTURE LUNCH AND LEARN DATES (details coming soon!):



- Wednesday, January 13, 2016
- Wednesday, February 10, 2016, Peter Sandbeck, topic TBA
- Thursday, April 14, 2016, Earl of Craven Questers, topic TBA



Volunteers from our Publicity Committee and our Battlefield Guides will be at our **Mumfest booth Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11**. They'll promote our New Bern Battlefield Park and other aspects of the New Bern Historical Society. Ghostwalk tickets will be available for purchase there. Stop by our booth with your friends!

SAVE THE DATE: The 2015 Richard K. Lore Lecture will be presented Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. in the Cullman Performance Hall, NC History Center. Details will be publicized as soon as all arrangements have been finalized.

SAVE THE DATE!
Our 2015 Holiday FRIEND-RAISER will be held Thursday, December 10 at the William Blades House. Plans will be forthcoming!

The Historical Society is collecting for our annual **ABC (Attic, Basement, Closet) Sale** on **March 5, 2016**. We collect all year and accept many categories of items. Contact our office if you have any questions about what we can accept. **If you are interested in volunteering to help with the ABC Sale**, please email us at: adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org or call our office: **252-638-8558** and leave your contact information.



Thanks to our volunteer photographers for this issue: Jan Beijer, Annette Hunt, Claudia Houston, Joe Hunt, Kelvin Kestner, Melvin Kestner, Jon Miller and Kathy Morrison.

Historical Society President's Message

This summer has been one of energy and activity at the New Bern Historical Society, much of it in preparation for Ghost Walk, but, also for the completion of the History Walk at the New Bern Battlefield. This new approach to interpretation, respectful of the site and mindful of the opportunities for education, has been made possible by the tireless efforts of volunteers and the generosity of donors. October 3 will be a great day for the Society and for a greater understanding of these events.

We are also grateful to those people who have worked to revive the Historical Society Journal and who keep the multitude of Society programs, like Lunch and Learn, strong and mission driven. Thank you to all of those people who choose to make such a difference.



Nelson McDaniel
President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

The Texas Tenors: Our 2016 Concert!



CALENDAR THE DATE! Thursday, February 18!

The Texas Tenors, three time Emmy Award winners for their PBS special *You Should Dream*, will be our 2016 fundraising concert! Discounted tickets go on sale to members the week of November 16. General admission tickets go on sale to the public November 30. Be sure to buy your tickets early and take advantage of your member discount.

The Texas Tenors
<http://thetexastenors.com>

Day Trip to Historic Raleigh Area on Thursday, November 5

Join us on our **Thursday, November 5, Autumn Day Trip** to Mordecai Historic Park and Historic Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh. Our first stop will be at Historic Oakwood Cemetery where the Cemetery's Executive Director Robin Simonton will take our group to several places of interest there. The history of North Carolina is intertwined throughout Oakwood Cemetery. It can be observed in the memorials, the architecture, the people, and the events commemorated.



Then we'll have lunch at 18 Seaboard, located nearby in Raleigh's newly renovated downtown area at the former Seaboard Train Station.

Following lunch we will have a guided tour through Mordecai Historic Park, once the site of the largest plantation in Wake County. The Mordecai House is the oldest house in Raleigh on its original location.



Reservations for this outstanding Day Trip will be \$36 for members; \$40 for non-members. Lunch, tours and carpool included in price. 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. We'll leave from the Historical Society parking lot at 8:45 a.m. There are many areas of interest in Raleigh, so individual carpools decide on their return time from this Day Trip.



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

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adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org

to your email contact list/address book so you won't miss our update emails to you. We have been informed that members could also contact AOL Technical Support (provided as part of AOL service) and request they would like to receive emails from

adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org

CALENDAR

- Saturdays, Apr. through Nov., 2015, **Earl of Craven Questers Tour of Cedar Grove Cemetery, 4 p.m.**
- Saturdays and Sundays, **Face to Face: Civil War Sketches and Stories: an exhibit at the New Bern Academy Museum**
- Mon., Sept. 7, **Office closed for Labor Day**
- Wed., Sept. 9, **Lunch & Learn, LeRae Umfleet**
- Sat., Oct. 3, **History Walk Celebration, New Bern Battlefield Park**
- Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 22-24, **Ghostwalk: un-modern family**
- Thurs., Nov. 5, **Day Trip to Historical Oakwood Cemetery and the Mordecai Historical Grounds and Buildings in Raleigh**
- Wed., Nov. 11, **Lunch & Learn, Andrew Dupstadt**
- Sun., Nov. 15, **Richard K. Lore Annual Lecture, TBA**
- Wed.-Fri., Nov. 25-27, **Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday**
- Thurs., Dec. 10, **Christmas Friend-raiser, the William Blades House**
- Thurs.-Fri., Dec. 24-25, **Office closed for Christmas holiday**
- Dec. 31, **Annual Membership Renewal for December renewals**
- Wed.-Fri., Dec. 30-Jan. 1. **Office closed for New Year's holiday**
- Sun., Jan. 10, **Civil War Historian, Ed Bearss Annual Lecture**
- Wed., Jan. 13, **Lunch & Learn, TBA**
- Wed., Feb. 10, **Lunch & Learn, Topic TBA, Peter Sandbeck**
- Thurs., Feb. 18, **The Texas Tenors, fundraising concert, New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, 7:30 p.m.**
- Sat., Mar. 5, **ABC Sale**
- Sat., Mar. (date TBA) **Harry Goodman Civil War Adventure Day**
- Thurs., Mar. 24, **Marks Scholarship Application Deadline for New Bern High School Seniors**
- Fri.-Sat., Apr. 9-10, **Spring Historic Homes and Garden Tour**
- Thurs., Apr. 14, **Lunch & Learn, Topic TBA, The Earl of Craven Questers**
- Sun., May 1, **Volunteer Appreciation Social**
- Thurs., May 5, **Historical Society Membership Annual Meeting and Awards**
- June 30, **Annual Membership Renewal for June renewals**

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

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