

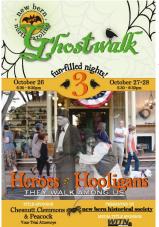
attmore.oliver house

# new bern historical society

We bring history to life!

Historically Speaking... Quarterly Newsletter FALL 2017

Thostwalk 2017: October 26 - 28



New Bern Historical Society presents Ghostwalk 2017: Heroes & Hooligans... They Walk Among Us!

New Bern's history is filled with so many characters and their extraordinary deeds and misdeeds!

Every year during Ghostwalk, New Bern's spirits return to their haunts to tell their tales to the living. This year there will be 13 spirited Ghostwalk sites with ghosts lurking among the living from October 26-28. Be on the lookout for ghosts sharing memories in the downtown Historic District these 3 evenings. Sites

expecting hauntings include: the Attmore-Oliver House; Cedar Grove Cemetery; Athens and Masonic Theatres, Tryon Palace's Commission House and other 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 your ticket.



An annual crowd pleaser happens again inside the Attmore-Oliver House. This year's skit Repeating History features the Dowd relatives in 1953, a time of UFO's, fallout shelters and Civil Defense training. When you're at the Attmore-Oliver House, visit the Veri-Good Bakery under the tent behind the house. Baked treats will be available there 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 gravediggers who will try to persuade you to stay ... beware! If you get past the mortician and his wife, ghostly characters whose lives shaped our city, will appear and



disappear before your eyes as you walk along the path.

As part of your ticket, New Bern's two historic theatres will welcome you inside. New Bern Civic Theatre will offer a preview of their November rock opera AIDA. RiverTowne Players will present a preview of their December production The Christmas Carol-a New Musical.

Ghostwalk spirits emerge Thursday, October 26, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Cedar Grove Cemetery, the Athens and Masonic Theatres and the Attmore-Oliver House with the Veri-Good Bakery. Additional ghost sites along with the Cemetery, theatres, the Attmore-Oliver House and the Veri-Good Bakery will be seen and heard Friday, October 27 and Saturday, October 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.





A special rate of \$13 per ticket is being offered to Historical Society members this year. For your convenience two tickets have been mailed to you! Ticket pricing for your friends and general public is as follows: \$17 in advance; \$22 days of event; \$13 active military and their dependents with ID; \$13 full time students with ID; \$5 children 3 to12 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!



Enjoy a great meal at Morgan's and support the Historical Society! Eat lunch or dinner at MORGAN'S TAVERN & GRILL on Thursday, October 26 and Morgan's will donate a portion of the proceeds from your meal to the Historical Society. Thank you to Morgan's for their generous fund-raising activity!!



#### Fall, 2017

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## **Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges**

Just walking through today's downtown New Bern historical district can give you insight into New Bern's past...

New Bern native Herbert Woodley Simpson was a recognized and prolific architect in Eastern North Carolina from the 1890's through the 1920's. His father John Archibald Simpson was a local builder as well as an undertaker. As was the custom of the day, rather than pursuing an academic architecture degree, Simpson studied under an established Baltimore architect W. Claude Frederick who endorsed him in 1890. Upon returning to New Bern, his first known project was the John R. B. Carraway House, a Queen Anne style structure on Broad Street that was the home to New Bern notables Miss Gertrude Carraway and is currently home to Jon and Mickey Miller. During the first two decades in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Herbert Woodley Simpson is credited with the design of almost every significant structure in New Bern. Although he relocated to Norfolk, Virginia in 1914, he continued to design buildings for North Carolina clients until his death in 1945. His talents were not restricted to a single building type but included commercial, public, religious, and residential.

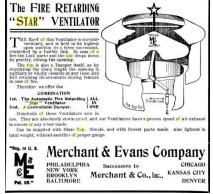
The William B. Blades House located on the corner of Middle and Johnson Streets constructed in 1903 is a well-known example of Simpson's expertise in residential design. Within two blocks of the Blades House are three churches credited to Simpson. Centenary Methodist Church was designed in collaboration with New York architect Charles Granville Jones and was constructed in 1904. The Christian Science Church and the Temple Chester B'nai Sholem are Simpson's sole creations and are located a mere block apart. Details about these structures can be found in Peter Sandbeck's *The Historic Architecture of New Bern and Craven County*.



A few months ago I observed that the three ventilators located on the roof of the Jewish Temple were ornamented with finials in the shape of a star. Initially I thought that this impressive detail could have religious implications befitting a place of worship. Knowing that the Jewish symbol "Star of David" is a hexagram or six pointed star and the fact that the ventilator star is five pointed left me confused why this particular finial design was used.

There is a house located on the southeast corner of Broad and Metcalf Streets that was built in 1910 for Morris Sultan, a clerk for the dry goods firm of Wm. Sultan and Company. Quite accidentally I observed that a

sole ventilator on the roof had a unique yet familiar finial—a star. The Sultan House was not designed by Herbert Woodley Simpson but by a local African-American architect George Eubanks. Research reveals that Morris Sultan was a trustee of Chester B'nai Sholem when the Middle Street lot was purchased in 1894. Sultan continued as a trustee during the time that the Simpson designed Temple was constructed in 1908.



What is the connection between Sultan and Simpson in selecting this five-pointed star finial design for the ventilator at Chester B'Nai Sholem and Sultan's residence? Board member Jim Morrison brought to my attention an advertisement that was published October 5, 1907 in a New York publication introducing the Fire Retarding "Star" Ventilator manufactured by Merchant and Evans Company. This unique product provides an automatic fire-retarding "Star" ventilator, a controllable damper and a five-pointed star finial on the top. Mystery solved!

Take time to walk about the streets of New Bern. It is gratifying what you can observe and learn.

#### 2017 JOURNAL OF THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 2017 issue of the *New Bern Historical Society Journal* will be published in November for mailing to every member of the Historical Society. This is the twenty-fourth year the *Journal* has been published. The Editorial and Production Committee members are Richard Wolcott McEnally, Editor; Bernard George, Jim Hodges, Claudia Houston, John Leys, Jon Miller, and Brenda Stott. Kathy Morrison formatted the articles into Journal form.



Included are articles on a wide variety of topics about New Bern's fascinating history. Claudia Houston brings readers *Part I: History of the New Bern Fire Department.* Jonathan Miller explores the *King Solomon Lodge No. 1* in his article. Jim Hodges, writes about *A Flag Comes Home: Seven Star Secession Flag in the Attmore-Oliver House.* Charles Adams' article is *The Continuing Mystery of John Hawks' Final Resting Place.* Peter J. Meyer, Jr. continues with *Part III of Historic Military Sites in Craven County, Pre- and Post- Civil War Periods.* A *History of St. Mary's Original Free Will Baptist Church* is Steven J. Hill's subject. Historical Journal editor Richard Wolcott McEnally shares *New Bern on Postcards.* Susan Cook tells about the *Judge William Gaston Law Office. Governor Abner Nash: A Biographical Sketch* is composed by Brenda S. Stott. We are indebted to "Woolie" McEnally and his committee for bringing New Bern's stories to life in our 2017 Journal.

Planning is underway for the 2018 issue. Articles dealing with people, places, and events in New Bern and Craven County are solicited.



Bernie Bear, who for years previously resided in the Historical Society offices as our newsletter 'cub reporter,' recently moved to his new 'digs' in the Chamber of Commerce offices on South Front Street. Susan L. Milliron, Member Engagement Manager with New Bern Chamber of Commerce, is shown in photo assuring *Bernie Bear* his membership in the Chamber of Commerce is up to date! We are happy Bernie gr-r-r-reatly loves his new home

and gives it his famous four paws up rating!



Fall, 2017

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



It was almost two years ago that we unveiled our History Walk project at the battlefield as part of the **Investment in History** campaign. The interpretive panels, the concrete map and plaza, and the entire storytelling process has been very well received by the public and we continue to receive many positive comments on cards and social media. But the changes to our landscape also rendered our self-guided tour brochure obsolete. I approached Pat Hart, architect of our History Walk project, for help in designing a new brochure. It quickly became obvious that we needed to include our piece of property along the railroad tracks that was not included in the original project or brochure because of the need to build a long footpath across the

wetlands. The Board of Directors formed a committee to review our requirements and make a recommendation as to how we should proceed. The committee includes Lynne Harakal, Claudia Houston, Carl Huddle, Susan Moffatt-Thomas and myself.

The New Bern Battlefield Park property extends south along the railroad but ends short of what used to be the end of the Thompson Line which was the Confederate breastworks that ran from the railroad to the Neuse River. There is a parcel of land that connects to our property and lies adjacent to the Thompson Line. This property has been vacant for decades and is unsuitable for commercial or residential development. The committee determined that it would be in our best interest to approach the owner to see if we could acquire the property and thereby extend our History Walk along the railroad where a crucial part of the battle was fought. We felt that we should not proceed with the brochure or interpretive panels until the property issue is resolved.

In the meantime, Carl Huddle's company, Trader Construction, surveyed the wetland area and provided an estimate for construction of a roughly 150 foot long elevated path that would enable visitors to traverse the wetlands between Redans 1 and 3. The committee agreed that the cost of this project could be mitigated by a combination of solicitation of donated materials, volunteer labor, and an application for grant funding.

If we are successful in acquiring the parcel of land, building the elevated footpath, and completing the interpretive panels and brochure, the New Bern Battlefield Park will be able to show visitors a more comprehensive picture of the battle that defined New Bern from the mid 1860s. I hope to provide you with more information later this year!

Since our Spring Newsletter was published, the battlefield guides designed and built three additional wooden bridges that allow visitors to cross from Redan 3 to Redan 4 by traversing the wetlands. Before



these were built, visitors had to backtrack to the plaza and circle back again in order to make this trip. They did a great job on these bridges and I encourage everyone to make a visit and enjoy our wonderful park!

In addition to the tours that we regularly give, in mid-May the New Bern Police Department hosted a "Coffee With A Cop Day" at our battlefield which was well attended by residents from the James City side of the river.

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





### 2018 Legends in Concert!

In recent years, our New Bern Historical Society fundraiser Legends in Concerts have brought you Sold Out entertainment: UNDER THE STREETLAMP, THE TEXAS TENORS, THE VIENNA BOYS CHOIR, KATHY MATTEA and more. Negotiations are in final stages to bring yet another exciting Legends in Concert to you in Spring, 2018. Historical Society members will be the first to receive advance notice with details for purchasing your membership discounted tickets! Stay tuned!



Annette and Joe Hunt coordinated with Epiphany School to sponsor a Volunteer Day in our historical gardens!

> Margie Foskit and Pat Shankle enjoy our historical gardens on campus where they volunteer. Call our office to join them as a volunteer!









## Thank You to our Creative Volunteer Ghostwalk Steering Committee!

Ghostwalk can not take place without the efforts of site owners, the steering committee, ghostly greeters, actors and 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: Linda Belliard, Volunteer Co-Chair; Bernard George, Community Chair; Bill Hand, Cemetery Director/ Scriptwriter; Stephanie Henderson, Veri-Good Bakery Co-Chair; Nancy Hitchcock, site Ghost Director; Cheryl Jukich, Ghost Site co-chair; Jane Maulucci, Attmore-Oliver House Chair/ Director/ Scriptwriter; Jim Morrison, Ticket Chair; Kathy Morrison, Publicity Chair; Judy Slaughter, Ghost Site co-chair; Gary Staley, Logistics Co-Chair; Marilyn Staley, Logistics Co-Chair; Sue Wyatt, Places of Worship Tour & Food Chair, Sgt. Bowen of New Bern Police Department.

#### Fall, 2017

### Title Sponsor: Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock– Your Trial Attorneys



St. John Masonic Theatre 516 Hancock Street Leased by: RiverTowne Players



Attmore-Oliver House 511 Broad Street Owner: New Bern Historical Society



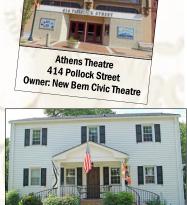
Our Veri-Good Bakery is a special fundraiser that emerges on our Attmore-Oliver House grounds <u>only</u> at <u>Ghostwalk</u>. Volunteers bake scrumptious goodies for the Historical Society to sell to Ghostwalk patrons. The Veri-Good Bakery has been a popular attraction since it began four years ago. Be sure to stop in and treat yourself to something yummy during <u>Ghostwalk</u>!

Lawrence Davis House 532 Queen Street Owners: Lance & Lindy Cummings

**Media Title Sponsor:** 

WITN

Adolphus Franklin House 511 Metcalf Street Owner: Lorelei Schaffhausen



Mitchell House 511 New Street Owners: Brian and Lisa Graber

Charles T. Watson House 516 Pollock Street Owner: Dr. Ruth Cox

We applaud with very special thanks and appreciation our skilled and brilliant Ghostwalk scriptwriters:

Matt Arthur, Alma Gibbons, Bill Hand, John Leys and Jane Maulucci. They have spent their time and talent creating our Ghostwalk scripts for several years. Thank you for all you have given to Ghostwalk!

## We Appreciate Our Ghostwalk 2017 Title, Media and Platinum 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 thanks our **Title Sponsor: Chesnutt, Clemmons and Peacock, P.A.-Your Trial Attorneys**; **Media Sponsor: WITN;** and our **Platinum Sponsors: Chiles Engineering; Jim Hodges; Morgan's Tavern & Grill; Ward and Smith, P.A., Attorneys at Law**. We appreciate your ongoing and generous support!

## Lunch & Learn... Thursday, Oct. 12: Talkin' Tar Heel

On Thursday, October 12, at our Lunch and Learn. North Carolina State professor Dr. Walt Wolfram examines the unique regional, social, and ethnic dialects of "North Cackalacky." Are you considered a "dingbatter," or outsider, when you visit the Outer Banks? Have you ever noticed a picture in your house hanging a little "sigogglin," or crooked? Do



"buddyrow," or close friend?

North Carolina

Drawing on over two decades of research and 3,000 recorded interviews from every

you enjoy spending time with your

corner of the state, Dr. Walt Wolfram examines the unique regional, social, and ethnic dialects of "North Cackalacky."

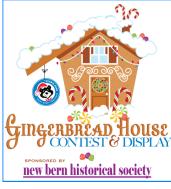
Lunch and Learn programs are held at 11:30 a.m. at The Chelsea Restaurant in the downtown historical district. All reservations must be prepaid. \$18 for members; \$20 for non-members. When you make your prepaid reservation with the New Bern Historical Society office for the October 12 Lunch and Learn, choose from the following two entrée choices :

- Shrimp & Grits •
- Pork Tenderloin with blueberry ginger glaze, . garlic mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Lunch and Learn space is limited; contact the Historical Society office 638-8558 to make your reservation!

## Volunteer Spotlight by Mickey Miller, Executive Director

### It's not about ideas, it's about making them happen



One thing we're never short of at the Historical Society is good ideas. Ideas for projects, for events, for creative branding, for making our programs bigger and better and-and - you get the idea. With a small staff and a full cycle of programs, the challenge is turning those ideas into reality. One day last winter, board member Claudia Houston came back from a trip south bubbling with excitement about Savannah's wonderful gingerbread house contest. After poring over photos of other historic locale's gingerbread house contests, we envisioned visitors pouring into New Bern's downtown historic district to see beautiful handmade gingerbread houses adorning local shop windows. Oh no, not another good idea!

Kathy Morrison and Claudia realized the magnitude of effort it would take to make the vision a reality and quickly drafted a terrific committee of volunteers including gingerbread aficionado Julie Anderson. And thus New Bern's Inaugural Beary Merry Christmas Gingerbread House Contest & Display was born. (Yes, the Society is taking on vet another program - and right after Ghostwalk!) In very short order, the committee researched programs throughout the country and created a contest structure with rules, forms, judging criteria, sponsorships, and even a catchy new logo by Cheryl Jukich.

Details are on our website at www.newbernhistorical.org/gingerbread. The contest is open to all, with prizes for individuals and groups, adults, youth, and professionals. Entry forms are due Nov. 17 and winners will be announced at Beary Merry Christmas Light Up the Season on Nov. 24. The houses will be displayed in merchants' windows in the downtown historic district over the holidays. We are especially excited by the participation of local potters under the leadership of Joyce Basye, who are crafting special pottery gingerbread houses for contest winners and pottery gingerbread ornaments to the first 50 entrants! And for those who aren't confident in their skills, we're even offering a one-hour evening workshop on building a gingerbread house on Nov 2, by local expert Dawn Staats.

Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce Downtown Council's Beary Merry Christmas committee for helping us to bring another great holiday event to New Bern. We are also grateful to our generous anonymous donor and to sponsors at Trent River Realty and Hearne's Jewelers, whose gifts are enabling cash prizes. And my special thanks to the hard-working Gingerbread House Committee who are doing all the heavy lifting - Julie Anderson, Joyce Basye, Carol Becton, Linda Cummings, Ron Grieger, Theresa Harrigan, Claudia Houston, Cheryl Jukich, Paul & Cheryl Merriman, Kathy Morrison, Cathy O'Brien, Dawn Staats, and Francene Taylor. With a volunteer team like this, we will turn what might have been "oh no, not another good idea" into a wonderful new annual holiday treat for all of New Bern to enjoy!



Jim Bunch

The 2017 Richard K. Lore Lecture will be presented Sunday, November 12 at 2 p.m. in the Cullman Performance Hall, NC History Center. Oceanographer and author Jim Bunch will speak on Recovering the M4 Enigma Machine. During WWII the German Navy used cipher machine called Enigma to encipher and decipher messages. The machine was onboard the U-85, one of the U-boats operating off the coast of the Outer Banks, and went down with the ship when it sank in April, 1942. In this



outstanding oral history program, Jim Bunch describes his first-hand efforts in the research, diving,

discovery and recovery of this machine. Join the Historical Society for this free event. Seating is limited so reservations are recommended; please contact the Historical Society, 252-638-8558, for your reservation. Immediately following

the lecture there will be a reception in Mattocks Hall. This lecture is presented by the New Bern Historical Society in partnership with Tryon Palace and made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide non-profit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## **Historical Society President's Message**

The steamy days of August are over and the temperature and humidity have started to improve. The lights in the Attmore-Oliver house, which is getting a new look, are on into the evening and the lights in the director's office are burning well after dark. During the day visits to the Attmore-Oliver House have increased from our many volunteers, the office staff is very busy, the garden ladies are grooming the grounds and the yard crew is painting the fences and repairing any step that looks suspect. Meetings are under way and writers are busy preparing scripts. Actors are learning scripts for their events, oil lanterns are being cleaned and candle globes are being washed. All the activity can only mean one thing, preparation for The New Historical Society's **Ghostwalk** is well under way!

Ghostwalk is a favorite way for many to see New Bern at night, to learn some history and to be entertained by ghosts of the past. Ghostwalk is one of my favorite events. It is completely different each year with new scripts, different locations and great actors who volunteer for this production. In addition to the nine home locations, there is the Cedar Grove Cemetery with five events, theatrical

performances at two locations and the Attmore-Oliver House which includes the Veri-Good Bakery. There are many churches in the Historic District that open their doors to the spectators and serve food for a reasonable price. This event involves many in the downtown Historic District. It is so amazing to see all the ticket holders at the many ghost sites, talking to friends, neighbors, residents and there are many out-of-town visitors. Young people who attend this event add their air of excitement. As for us we have been at Ghostwalk every year since we moved to New Bern so buy your tickets

and join us for an outstanding weekend. This is three nights of a great time for the price of one ticket!



Joe Hunt

President, Board of Directors New Bern Historical Society



We are pleased to welcome **Joe Anderson** to the Board of Directors. Joe and his wife Rachel moved to New Bern in 2008 from Pomona, NY after his retirement from Verizon Communications. Joe obviously likes to stay busy – in addition to serving on the Historical Society's Marks Scholarship committee, he is also a commissioner on the Historic Preservation Commission and on the Housing Authority Board. He volunteers with the Twin Rivers Lions Club and serves as a historic interpreter at Tryon Palace. Welcome aboard, Joe!

## Leave *YOUR* legacy in New Bern through Planned Giving

The founders of the New Bern Historical Society sought to "preserve for future generations, the wealth of historical material found in New Bern." Through your bequest or other planned gift, you can ensure that the historic treasures of New Bern will be there to inspire future generations.

The **Founders Circle** was established to acknowledge the valuable contributions of those who include the New Bern Historical Society in their estate plans. The Founders Circle not only salutes the founders' foresight, it celebrates those who continue their efforts.

If you want to build charitable giving into your estate plan, achieve tax advantages, and leave a growing legacy for generations to come, consider joining the New Bern Historical Society Founders Circle. A Society representative, along with your financial and/ or legal advisors, can help guide decision-making in this most thoughtful area of charitable giving. Please contact Mickey Miller, Historical Society Executive Director, at 252.638.8558 for more information.



The Historical Society is collecting for our annual **ABC Sale** (Attic, Basement, Closet) to be held on **March 3, 2018.** We collect all year and accept many categories of items.



If you are interested in volunteering to help with the ABC Sale, please email us at: <u>adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org</u> or call our office: 252-638-8558 with your contact information.

#### New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors (effective July 1)

### 2017-2018 Officers

Joe Hunt, President Kathy Morrison, First Vice-President Egon Lippert, Second Vice-President Nancy Chiles, Secretary John Robert Mattocks, Treasurer Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant John Leys, Historian Jim Hodges, Curator

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Administrative Staff Mickey Miller–Executive Director Pat Traynor–Assistant to Director Sue Dunn–Admin. Assistant





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

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.

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

Title Sponsor–Ghostwalk 2017 Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock-**Your Trial Attorneys** 

## Media Title Sponsor–Ghostwalk 2017 WITN

### Platinum Ghostwalk Sponsor

Chiles Engineering Jim Hodges Morgan's Tavern & Grill Ward and Smith, P.A.

#### Historical Society Legends in Concert 2017

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### **Gold Ghostwalk Sponsor**

Andrew Mylander, D.M.D., P.L.L.C. Daniel E. Potter, Criminal & Family Law **International Paper New Bern Civic Theatre RiverTowne Players The Insurance Center Trader Construction** Weverhaeuser Zaytoun Law Firm and Charles K. McCotter, Attorney at Law

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The Chelsea Restaurant The Law Offices of Oliver & Cheek, P.L.L.C.

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