

Spring, 2012

Historical News

New Bern Historical Society

Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium and Commemorations

WELCOME SPRING!

- Enjoy the Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour in North Carolina's second oldest city.
- Each ticket is good for both days of Tour, April 13 and April 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Homes and Gardens on Tour may be visited in any order.
- Master gardeners are available at garden sites on Tour.
- The Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour originated in 1976 and is a collaborative event presented by the New Bern Historical Society and the New Bern Preservation Foundation.

150 years ago...

For nearly 6 hours on March 14, 1862, 11,000 Union forces and 4,500 inexperienced and ill-equipped Confederate troops battled for control of New Bern. Eventually the Confederate line broke, and Union troops pushed through forcing a retreat of the Confederate troops.

This fierce battle in the swamps along the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, five miles south of our city, proved a major victory for the Union and led to the ensuing occupation of New Bern for the remainder of the Civil War. The Union's presence required the Confederacy to divert troops to the defense of the railroad that might have otherwise been used in the critical

battles of Virginia, making New Bern's occupation of strategic importance to the North.

The battle and many other aspects of the war as it pertained to North Carolina will be explored in *Thunder in the East, The Civil War in Eastern North Carolina: A Sesquicentennial Symposium* presented by the New Bern Historical Society in partnership with Tryon Palace March 9 and 10. The Symposium begins at an Evening Reception with the Symposium Speakers, Friday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. This Evening Reception is ticketed as part of the Symposium and will be held at the historic Attmore-Oliver House. *Thunder in the East, The Civil War in*

Eastern North Carolina: A Sesquicentennial Symposium, is a tick-



eted educational program Saturday, March 10 with registration at 8:00 a.m., lectures from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., followed by a panel discussion ending at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at Cullman Performance Hall at the North Carolina History Center, and is limited to 200 registrants. (continued, page 2)

2012 Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour

On **April 13 and 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, homeowners will open their doors so the public can visit some of the most beautiful and interesting homes in New Bern's historic district. The **2012 Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour** will provide a behind-the-scenes look at 11 homes and gardens that are important to our town's past and present. Several homeowners will be opening both first and second floors in their homes. Patrons will tour the living quarters of these homes, learning about the original architecture, renovations, and furnishings. In addition to the homes and gardens, many downtown houses of worship will be open for tours.

Among gardens open to the public is the Tryon Palace garden, which should be in full bloom. Tryon Palace's Annual Heritage Plant Sale will also be held on the Tryon Palace grounds during the tour. Spring Homes Tour ticketholders will have the opportunity to purchase a discounted one or two day pass to the Tryon Palace Historic Sites when presenting their Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour ticket at Tryon Palace's ticket desk at the NC History Center.

Stop by The Blades' Veranda Café where you can buy homemade bag lunches to go or to enjoy on the porch of the Blades House. Bag lunches are \$6 each and include a sandwich, chips, and beverage. Coffee, tea, and delicious baked goods will be available throughout the day. The Blades' Veranda Cafe is located on the corner of Middle and Johnson Streets. While at the Café you can purchase seeds and potted herbs provided by the Palace. A hospitality station also will be available to patrons on the grounds of the Attmore-Oliver House, 511 Broad Street.

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 days of the tour, \$13 for active duty military and dependents with ID, \$13 per person for groups of 12 or more and \$13 advance ticket sale for members of the Historical Society or Preservation Foundation. (continued on page 2)



Painting by Janet Francoeur

Civil War Sesquicentennial and Symposium Commemorations *(continued from page 1)*

Renowned Civil War experts will be speaking on the Civil War in Eastern North Carolina and its aftermath:

Ed Bearss, Keynote Speaker, Noted Civil War Historian, *The Civil War in North Carolina*

Richard Sauers, Noted author, *The Burnside Expedition with an Emphasis on New Bern*

Mark Bradley, Noted author, *Reconstruction in North Carolina*

Hari Jones, Curator of the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum, Washington, DC, *US Colored Troops, Glorious March to Liberty: African Descent Soldiers in North*

Carolina

Josh Howard, Research Historian with the Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, *North Carolina Soldiers Killed During the Civil War*

Chris Fonvielle, Associate Professor, History, UNC Wilmington, *Wilmington and the Blockade Runners*

Tickets (which include the Friday night reception and a catered boxed lunch on Saturday) are \$85 and can be purchased at the New Bern Historical Society, 511 Broad Street or online at www.NewBernHistorical.org. For more information call 252-638-8558.

The following day, **Sunday, March 11**,

there will be a **Memorial Service at the New Bern Battlefield Park at 8:30 a.m.**, commemorating those who fought in the Battle of New Bern. After the service a number of New Bern's Civil War venues will be open to the public including the Attmore-Oliver House Civil War display, New Bern Academy, large living history encampments at the battlefield and New Bern Academy green, and tours of the battlefield. Tryon Palace will also be offering special programming as part of their tour ticket.



Battlefield Park Has a New Cannon



A non-firing replica of a model 1841 six pound field cannon has been donated to the New Bern Historical Society and is now permanently displayed at the New Bern Civil War Battlefield Park. This was the smallest caliber smoothbore cannon used in the early years of the Civil War by both the Union and Confederacy. Several of these cannons were used in the defense of New Bern during the Battle of New Bern in March of 1861.



Linda Lore donated the cannon in memory of her husband Richard K. Lore, former historian of the Historical Society, and in memory of the soldiers who fought in the Battle of New Bern.

Information about the dedication of the cannon will be forthcoming.



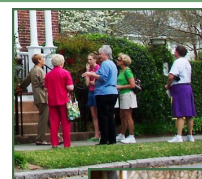
2012 Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour *(continued from page 1)*



Purchase tickets at the New Bern Historical Society, New Bern Preservation Foundation, Carolina Creations, Mitchell Hardware and Harris Teeter New Bern. Tickets are good for both tour days.

Also included in the ticket price is a reception at Carolina Creations on Friday, April 13 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour is a collaborative event presented by the New Bern Historical Society and the New Bern Preservation Foundation. Tickets are sent to members in March. We thank you in advance for your support.



Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour



Young Historians Visit Historical Architecture

On Friday, Nov. 18, teacher Cille Griffith and fifth graders at the Epiphany School joined Buzz Mead for their annual meeting and tour of the New Bern Historic District. Greeting the group were the faithful leaders from past years: Nelson McDaniel, Paul Switzer and Paul White. Mayor Whitford mysteriously 'returned' to life and shared some of the challenges he faced while in office in New Bern.

From Buzz Mead's *Old Goat Club* on Johnson Street, students set out on foot to locate and hear more about historical landmarks on Front, Hancock, Johnson, and New Streets. Prior to the tour, students had benefitted from several months of study using NC Architecture Heritage Education Lessons, photographed and written by Richard Lore, and funded by the Kellenberger Historical Foundation. The students found it fascinating to identify various architectural styles that they had seen in pho-

tos. With the help of their resourceful guides, students were able to relate styles with events and situations in history.

In addition to the sidewalk tours and talks, students were invited into First Presbyterian Church, where Jerry Elliott gave an historical overview of the architecture construction, and J.T. Ellenberger explained the history of the Charles Fisk Organ. He then shared a brief organ recital with the students. From there, the students journeyed to the Fireman's Museum where they embarked on a "scavenger hunt" with clues from long ago.

The day ended with a visit to New Bern's waterfront where the *Ada Mae* stood waiting with none other than Pirate Ben Crooked (aka Ben Bunn)! This friendly pirate shared the history of the famous pirates that sailed the coast of North Carolina. Students opened his treasure box at the end to discover that real treas-

ure is often hidden in good books!

It was a day of discovery, learning, and fun...made possible by volunteers who annually invest time and energy to share New Bern's history with some of our youngest and enthusiastic historians.

'Compare/Contrast' essays were written by the students after their exploratory day in historical New Bern. These essays will be displayed in booklet form during Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour, April 13-14.



Harriett Marks Scholarship

The **Harriett Marks Scholarship** was established 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. It is a one year scholarship (renewable for the next three years based on academic standing) and is presented at our Annual Meeting in May.



Katherine Barlow, 2011 Harriett Marks Scholarship winner

The Historical Society is proud of the academic records of our scholarship recipients, and we look forward to providing scholarships to other students who will maintain this tradition. Interested graduating New Bern High School seniors can access the application through the New Bern High School website or by contacting the Historical Society for an application. Completed applications must be submitted to the New Bern Historical Society by **Friday, March 23, 2012.**



The Bear-y Latest News On Civil War Adventure Day by Bernie, our Cub Reporter

Well, kids, I'm back from my hiberna-

2:00 p.m. (check-in begins at 10 a.m.).

- \$12, second child in family;
- \$12, second adult.

tion and ready for a grrr-reat and fun-filled spring!

I'm looking forward to enjoying fun and 'living history' with you during our **Civil War Adventure Day**, complete with Civil War reenactors from the 7th NC regiment.

I hope to see you **Saturday, March 17** for our **Civil War Adventure Day for kids ages 6-12!** (Be sure to mark it on your parents' or grandparents' calendar so an adult comes with you!)

Prepaid reservations through our Historical Society office are required:

- \$40, first child in the family and one adult;

Civil War Adventure Day takes place at the New Bern Civil War Battlefield Park, 10:30am to



Spring Historic Homes



Painting of Foy-Munger House by Janet Francoeur



Foy-Munger House and Garden, 516 Middle St., ca. 1881-1882, owners: Charles and Carolyn Peterson



Hezekiah Styron House, 408 Metcalf St., ca. 1890, owner: Bradley Cummins



Attmore-Oliver House, 511 Broad St., ca. 1790-1800, owner: New Bern Historical Society



Attmore-Oliver House Historical Gardens (rear of 511 Broad Street)



The Baptist Parsonage and Garden, 304 Johnson St., 1884-1885, Owner: Vieve Moeckel

We need bakers!!! During the Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour we will sell bag lunches and baked goods at **The Blades' Veranda Cafe**. If you like to bake, this is a great way to support the New Bern Historical Society and New Bern Preservation Foundation.

If you can help, please call Blades' Veranda Café co-chairs Gerri Oivaney, (252) 638-3119 or Carole Graham (252) 635-4915.

You can also e-mail the Historical Society office

adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org.



Gardens Tour



Mitchell-Hollister House and Garden,
614 Craven St., 1912, owners: Dr. John and Maria Cho



Joseph E. Slater House and Garden,
215 King St., ca. 1916, owners: Ron and Ann Henson



Nicholas W. Jones Rental House and Garden,
215 Change St., ca. 1880-1890, owner: Connie Dugan



George W. Wallace House, Garden and Barbour boat, 410 Metcalf St., ca. 1890-1895, owners: Jackie and Steve Novak



Stevenson House, Garden, and Guest Room over Garage, 213 New St., ca. 1929, owners: Bob and Karen Whitmore



Jesse S. Claypoole House, 411 E. Front St., 1925, owners: Bobby and Suzanne Harrell



Lawrence-Gaskins House, 601 Pollock St., ca. 1880-1890, owner: Jim Hodges



Relax and enjoy refreshments at **The Blades' Veranda Café**, corner of Johnson and Middle Streets! Lunch, beverages and delicious baked goods served on the porch. \$6 Bag Lunches!
Open 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: Great Programs

On **March 14**, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of New Bern, our popular **Lunch and Learn** speaker **Skip Riddle** will be presenting an unusual story about participants in the battle. *The Battle of*



New Bern: Who Would Have Thought That?... a Journey Through Time will explain how two poets, a song writer, two governors, a professor, Tiffany's, three flags and a cannon have links to the battle. Meal choices are Chicken New Bern

with Mushrooms in a sherry cream sauce over pasta or Pork Tenderloin with Marsala Sauce and garlic smashed potatoes.

It was spring of 1865, the Civil War was coming to an end, and Union soldiers were guarding the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In this setting, Union Gen. Smith D. Atkins was introduced to Ella Swain, the youngest daughter of University President David L. Swain. A neighbor recalled, "They exchanged eyes and a wooing followed." The wooing led to an engagement and then a mar-

riage that captivated some and angered many. The story of this brave couple is told by **Suzy Barile**, their great-great granddaughter, in *Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle & a Yankee General*. Hear her tell their life and love stories at our **Thursday, May 24 Lunch and Learn**.

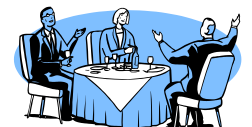


On **Wednesday, September 12**, **Kay Williams**, Executive Direc-



tor of Tryon Palace, will launch our 2012-13 Lunch and Learn series with a program on what you don't know about the women behind the rebuilding of Tryon Palace.

All **Lunch and Learn** programs are held at The Chelsea Restaurant, at 11:30 a.m. Programs include a plated lunch. Please stop by our office at 511 Broad Street or call 638-8558 for reservations. Seating is limited.



ABC Sale on Saturday, March 3

The New Bern Historical Society's 22nd annual **ABC (Attic-Basement-Closet) Sale** is **Saturday, March 3, 2012, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** at the Knights of Columbus Building, 1125 Pine Tree Dr, New Bern. Everything from dishes to dolls to door knobs will be sold at this one-day-only sale. Cheryl Lawrence and Gerri Olvaney, ABC Sale co-chairs, anticipate one of the largest ABC Sales ever, as donations have overflowed our storage units.

Value-spotting shoppers eagerly await this huge annual event. Items will include pictures, furniture, kitchenware, hardware, toys, jewelry, books, linens, silver, seasonal decorations, sporting equipment, electronics, brass, dishes, antiques and much more.

Many shoppers are in line by 7 a.m., but the doors positively do not open until 7:30 a.m. **Admission to the ABC Sale is FREE.**

Proceeds from the ABC Sale benefit the educational programs of the New Bern Historical Society.



WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING ITEMS FOR OUR ABC SALE! BRING THEM TO OUR OFFICE, 511 BROAD STREET! FOR PICK UP OF LARGER ITEMS, CONTACT OUR OFFICE, 638-8558.



Annual Volunteer Appreciation social, Sunday, May 20 at the Attmore-Oliver House

We Celebrate Our Volunteers! Appreciation Social on May 20!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the New Bern Historical Society. Without volunteers we would be unable to offer our programs and events to the community.

In thanks, the New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors invites those of you who have donated your time to the Historical Society during our fiscal

year of July 2011 - June 2012 to attend a **Volunteer Appreciation Social**.

The social will be from **3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 20**, at the Attmore-Oliver House. If you have donated your time and talents to the Historical Society this year, please RSVP your intention to attend the social by

calling the office at 638-8558 or emailing us adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org by Wednesday, May 9.

Thank you so much to **ALL** of our volunteers!



Historical Society President's Message

As we approach the last days of winter, we look forward to the coming months that are so full of activity. The Historical Society's Civil War Symposium, Thunder in the East, will offer a unique opportunity to hear nationally recognized speakers as we approach the 150th anniversary of the Battle of New Bern. The Spring Homes and Gardens Tour, the Civil War Adventure Day, the Lunch and Learns and so many other programs are key to the accomplishment of our mission to educate and

involve people in the commemoration of our history. In the coming weeks, the Board will spend time analyzing and prioritizing the needs for stewarding our properties, both at the in town campus associated with the Attmore-Oliver House and the Battle of New Bern battlefield. There is always much to be done, and we are grateful to all of those people who give of their time and resources. A democracy can thrive only when citizens are informed, including an appre-

ciation of the important decisions of the past. We are proud that we can play a part in encouraging learning from the past in order to make the best decisions for the future.



Nelson McDaniel

President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

Many **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS** are due June 30. We will be mailing membership renewal information in May. Please look for those in your mail. **Renewing your membership is very important.** We could not exist without your membership support. Thank you!

To honor Nelson McDaniel for his work as Chairman of New Bern's 300th Committee, a scholarship was established in his name. Last year a local teacher was selected to travel to China. For the next two years and hopefully well beyond, a Craven County teacher will be selected to travel and study abroad with all expenses paid by the **Nelson McDaniel Scholarship** through the Center for International Understanding. Given Nelson's love for learning and travel, this is a wonderful and fitting way to honor him. **If interested in donating to the scholarship fund please send your check written to: CIU Council, Attention Cindy Defoor, 100 East Six Forks Road, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27609. Please indicate that the donation is for The Nelson McDaniel Scholarship.**

Please support our **BUSINESS MEMBERS**
who generously support New Bern Historical Society.

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Maola Milk and Ice Cream Co.

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GOLD Ghostwalk Sponsor

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RiverTowne Players

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Todd H. Rankin, DDS, PA, Orthodontics

A. G. Salem & Associates, PLLC

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Athens of the South Productions

Jim Congleton, DDS, MS

William L. Hand, III, DDS

Medicap Pharmacy

Moore's Barbeque

Morgan's Tavern & GrillNew

Bern Civic Theatre

New Bern Sun Journal

Public Radio East

RiverTowne Players

Stubbs & Perdue, PA



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(newsletter photo credits: Annette Hunt, Kelvin Kestner, Melvin Kestner, Steve Shaffer)



FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

OFFICE LOCATION:

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

- Sat., Mar. 3, **ABC Sale**
- Fri., Mar. 9, **Meet and Greet the Symposium Speakers**
- Sat., Mar. 10, **Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium** in partnership with Tryon Palace
- Sun., Mar. 11, **Battle of New Bern** Memorial Service
- Sun., Mar. 11, **Civil War** venues open for public to tour
- Wed., Mar. 14, **Lunch & Learn**, Skip Riddle, *The Battle of New Bern: Who Would Have Thought That?...A Journey Through Time*
- Wed., Mar. 14, **150th Anniversary of Battle of New Bern**, Battlefield Park tours
- Sat., Mar. 17, **Civil War Adventure Day**
- Fri., Apr. 6, Office Closed (Easter Holiday)
- **Fri.-Sat., Apr. 13-14, Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour**
- Thurs., May 3, **Day Trip** to Duke Chapel and UNC-Chapel Hill Gardens
- Thurs., May 10, **Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet**
- Thurs., May 20, **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Social**
- Wed., May 24, **Lunch & Learn**, Suzy Barile, *Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle & a Yankee General*
- Wed., Sept. 12, **Lunch & Learn**, Kay Williams, (title TBD)

Please Support Local Theatre Groups that Support the Historical Society:

Athens of the South: *Murder in 3-D*; New Bern Civic Theatre: *Driving Miss Daisy*; RiverTowne Players: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Day Trip to Duke Chapel and UNC-Chapel Hill Gardens!



Thursday, May 3, Day Trip-ers will travel to Duke Chapel in Durham where we will have a docent-guided tour. From Duke Chapel we will head to *A Southern Season* and a scrumptious lunch awaiting us in their Weathervane restaurant. Then we move on to UNC-Chapel Hill to have a docent-guided tour of the



North Carolina Botanical Gardens.

Please arrive at the Historical Society office at 7:30 a.m. to check-in. Each carpool will decide on the return time as our Day Trip-ers may have other places of interest to visit. This Day Trip will be \$35 per person which includes parking, docent-guided tours, lunch at the Weathervane Restaurant, and a gasoline stipend for drivers. Details about lunch choices, etc. will be available soon. Contact the Historical Society office, 252-638-8558, to make your reservation NOW for this Day Trip!

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.

Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet, Thursday, May 10

The New Bern Historical Society's Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet will be held **Thursday, May 10**, at the New Bern Golf and Country Club. Invitations will be sent in April. Please RSVP no later than May 1.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour that includes **hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and a silent auction**. After the social hour, dinner will be served at 7 p.m. followed by a business meeting and presentation of the 2012 Marks Scholarship and other Historical Society awards.



The Annual Meeting is a wonderful way to conclude the year's activities with your friends at the Historical Society.

Be sure to **SAVE THE DATE** on your calendar: **Thursday, May 10!**