

Historically Speaking...

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer, 2012



SAVE THE DATE!



The Vienna Boys Choir Concert

Sunday, March 3, 2013

**A Fundraiser
presented by
New Bern Historical Society**

June is **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH!** We mailed membership renewal information mid-May. Please look for that in your mail. Renewing your membership is very important; we could not exist without your **membership support**. Thank you if you have already renewed!

A Life Remembered: Margaret R. Stancil, Generous Benefactor

Margaret Rawls Stancil was a woman who valued her community and spent her life serving it. Her community included New Bern, but was not restricted to it. Born and raised in Pamlico County, traveling the world, she was much more about diminishing divisions than creating them.

Margaret's marriage to Lieutenant Joseph Calvin Stancil, United States Army, was cut short when he died on July 16, 1944 of wounds received in the Battle of Normandy. For the rest of her life, she remained loyal to his memory and to his family.

Margaret was an educator, both professionally and in her leadership in the community. She never sought attention for herself, seeking instead to bring attention to causes that she supported both

with her personal efforts and with her philanthropy. Anyone who knew Margaret knew that she was always gracious, but direct. Things did not need to be complicated. She simply chose to use her resources, both personal and financial, to improve the lives of others.

Generous throughout her life, in her later years Margaret chose to create endowments with the Craven County Community Foundation, a chapter of the North Carolina Community Foundation. One of those endowments is designated for the New Bern Historical Society, specifically for improvements and maintenance of the Attmore-Oliver House and other buildings on the downtown campus. Distributions from that endowment have been enor-

mously helpful and we are grateful. Margaret's beneficiaries also include the Pamlico County Historical Society and many other organizations including hospitals and schools.

Always a leader, Margaret hoped that her gifts would be used wisely and well, and that they would inspire others to give, most especially to contribute to endowments. Having been a generous leader all of her life, through these endowments, Margaret continues to lead. The New Bern Historical Society, like the many other organizations that she continues to benefit, will always honor her memory by being good stewards of her gifts.

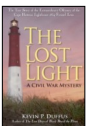
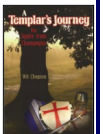


Fantastic Education Programs on the Horizon



Thursday, September 13, our first **2012-13 Lunch & Learn Series** program, **Nelson McDaniel** will speak about one of New Bern's greatest citizens in **William Gaston Defender of Rights**. Gaston, largely responsible for removing official discrimination against Catholics from North Carolina law, won elective office on several occasions although the Constitution of North Carolina seemed to prohibit a Roman Catholic being elected. A very accomplished man, Judge Gaston also wrote our state song *The Old North State*.

NBHS member and author **Chip Chagnon**, will present our **Wednesday, November 7 Lunch and Learn** program exploring Knights Templar in Medieval England, **A Templar's Journey**. You'll hear many unique insights into the spread of early Christianity and medieval life.



For the **Sunday, November 18 Dr. Richard K. Lore series**, **Kevin Duffus** will return with his program entitled **The Lost Light**, the extraordinary odyssey of the Hatteras lens. Kevin has proven to be popular in New Bern so you won't want to miss out on his last exciting offering through the North Carolina Humanities Council. Place to be determined.

Save the date! **Ed Bearss** will return on **Sunday, January 13**. Place to be determined.

All **Lunch and Learn programs** are held at The Chelsea Restaurant, at 11:30 a.m. \$15 member ticket and \$17 non-member ticket include lunch, beverage, dessert and presentation. Seating is limited. Reservations must be prepaid through the Historical Society office.

JOURNAL ARTICLE: Luke Martin, Sr. (by Nelson McDaniel)

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of New Bern, a battle that changed the fate of this town and our state and nation. Many of us have family stories that grew out of that war. For many of us whose families have lived in this area for generations, our ancestral connections are to the Confederate Army. Yet there are also many North Carolina families with connections to the Union Army. Perhaps the closest connection in our state and, undoubtedly, one of the closest in the nation is that of Luke P. Martin, Jr.

Luke Martin's father, Luke P. Martin, Sr. was one of the first formerly enslaved black men to enlist in the African Brigade, eventually the 35th United States Colored Troops. In January of 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Shortly

after, in the spring of that year, Luke P. Martin, Sr. escaped from his slaveholder's plantation near Plymouth, N.C. and braved swamps and rivers to reach freedom in New Bern. Here, on May 22, 1863, he enlisted in the North Carolina Colored Infantry led by Colonel James C. Beecher, brother of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* author, Harriet Beecher Stowe. In service at the Battle of Olustee, Florida in February of 1864, Luke Martin was wounded.

After the war, Mr. Martin settled in New Bern and married. He helped establish St. John Missionary Baptist Church and served as its pastor. He built a home (the same one in which Luke P. Martin, Jr. lives today) and had two children by his first wife. After her death he married Miss Abbie Pender of Brices Creek in 1905 and five children were born to that un-

ion, the youngest being Luke P. Martin, Jr.

Luke P. Martin, Sr. died when his son, Luke, was only three years old, and young Luke was raised by his remarkable mother. For his whole life he has been a contributor to the community, serving St. John Missionary Baptist Church and many other causes. Mr. Martin has been a master mason whose work can be seen around the area and the country including at the restored and reconstructed Tryon Palace. Stories abound of his uncompromising search for perfection in this field.

Mr. Martin has often been heard to say, "I'm blessed and I have had a good life. Life owes me nothing and my days have been good." For a man who, at 95, still goes to work every day, it is not surprising that his favorite song is "I Won't

Complain."

At the spring annual meeting, the New Bern Historical Society was pleased to honor Mr. Martin for his remarkable and moving connection to the Civil War, but, also, for his own contributions to our community. He was also the guest of honor at the Civil War Veterans Day Ceremony during which wreaths were laid at the three cemeteries in New Bern where veterans of that war are laid to rest, Cedar Grove, Greenwood and National.

Mr. Martin is one of New Bern and North Carolina's most important treasures and we wish him many more happy years. When asked how long he plans to continue working he responded,

"I'm contracted to 100, and after that we'll just see." What a remarkable man.

During our Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet, the 2012 Awards were presented to these outstanding volunteers...



Executive Director's Award: **Joe Hunt, Egon Lippert and Steve O'Brien**



Nelson McDaniel presents President's Award: **Carole Graham and Gerri Olvaney**



Lynne Harakal presents Extended Service Award to **Nancy Chiles**



Lifetime of Service Award: **Betty Paramore** (pictured here with husband Walter)



Education Award: **John Leys and Nancy Richards**



Battlefield Award: **Mark Mangum**



Ambassadorship Award: **Kelvin Kestner and Melvin Kestner**



Newcomer's Award: **Jon Miller**



Harriett Marks Scholarship winner: **Caitlyn Bodo**

Historical Society President's Message

Summer comes to New Bern and, though the tropical heat comes with it, we are even more aware of the importance of the water. Today, we think primarily of its value to us as a source for recreation. Yet for most of New Bern's history, it was a primary connection to the rest of the world, including other important

cities on the American coast. In that world, New Bern was fairly cosmopolitan, a fact that contributed to her elegant architectural heritage.

Summer has arrived and we are grateful for our rivers and ocean. As people who love history, we have many reasons to be grateful for our relationship to this natural world.

Many years ago, our area was called "the land of enchanting waters". It's as true today as ever.

Thank you for loving this town and contributing to it.



Nelson McDaniel

President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

Congratulations to our **Harriett Marks Scholar, Jordan Best,**
2012 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill!

Our current **Marks Scholars** will return to their campuses for the 2012-2013 college academic year: UNC-Charlotte freshman **Caitlyn Bodo**, Appalachian State University sophomore **Katherine Barlow**, Barton College junior **Holly Lafond** and UNC-Chapel Hill senior **Thomas Bodo**.

The Historical Society is proud of its relationship with these excellent students through the Harriet Marks Scholarship.

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

Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock, P.A. (Title Sponsor Ghostwalk 2011)

PLATINUM Ghostwalk Sponsor

Maola Milk and Ice Cream Co.

Ward and Smith, PA Attorneys at Law

GOLD Ghostwalk Sponsor

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Hampton Inn

Kinetico Water Systems

Andrew Mylander, DMD PLLC

New Bern Civic Theatre

RiverTowne Players

Trader Construction

Weyerhaeuser Company

SILVER Ghostwalk Sponsor

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BridgePointe Hotel & Marina

BSH Home Appliances Corp.

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Kenneth Morris Insurance

Gregory Poole Marine

PotashCorp - Aurora

Todd H. Rankin, DDS, PA, Orthodontics

Wells Fargo

Todd H. Rankin, DDS, PA, Orthodontics

A. G. Salem & Associates, PLLC

Trader Construction Co.

Wells Fargo Bank

Athens of the South Productions

Jim Congleton, DDS, MS

William L. Hand, III, DDS

Medicap Pharmacy

Moore's Barbeque

Morgan's Tavern & Grill

New Bern Civic Theatre

New Bern Sun Journal

Public Radio East

RiverTowne Players

Stubbs & Perdue, PA

The Historical Society gratefully acknowledges **MORGAN'S TAVERN & GRILL** for their generous fundraiser during Ghostwalk 2011!

New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors (through June 30, 2012)

2011-2012 Officers

Nelson McDaniel, President
Dell Ipock, First Vice-President
Mary Bullock, Second Vice-President
Nancy Chiles, Secretary
John Robert Mattocks, Treasurer
Mark Mangum, Civil War Adjutant
John Leys, Historian
Nancy Richards, Curator

2011-2012 Directors

Natalie Baggett
Carol Becton
Susan Cook
Bernard George
Linda Simmons Henry
Jim Hodges, Jr., DDS
Joe Hunt
Egon Lippert
Karen Norman
Ken McCotter
Susan Moffat-Thomas
Kathy Morrison
Bettye Paramore
Steve Shaffer
Patti Urick

Administrative Staff

Lynne Harakal—Executive Director
Pat Traynor—Assistant to the Director
June Dunleavy—Admin. Assistant

(newsletter photo credits: Thank you to Annette Hunt, Joe Hunt, Kelvin Kestner, Melvin Kestner, Egon Lippert, Jon Miller, Jm Morrison, Kathy Morrison, and Steve Shaffer)

New Bern Civic Theatre presents *Little Women*, July 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and *Rent*, August 10, 11, 17, 18. Phone New Bern Civic Theatre, 634-9057 for more information.

RiverTowne Players presents *Cabaret* July 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29. Phone RiverTowne Players, 634-7877 for more information.

Athens of the South Productions presents their new comedy mystery dinner theatre July 6, 7, 13, 14. For more information, go online athensmysterydiners.yolasite.com



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

Email:

lynne@newbernhistorical.org

adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org

Website: www.newbernhistorical.org

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

JULY AND AUGUST, 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.,
MONDAY—THURSDAY,
CLOSED FRIDAYS

CALENDAR

- Wed., July 4-Thurs., July 5, Fourth of July holidays (*office closed*)
- Thurs., Aug. 23, Ghostwalk 'ghost' auditions
- Mon., Sept. 3, Labor Day holiday (*office closed*)
- Thurs., Sept. 13, Lunch and Learn, Nelson McDaniel, *Judge William Gaston*
- Thurs., Fri., Sat., Oct. 25, 26, 27 Ghostwalk 2012, *Spirited Through Time*
- Wed., Nov. 7, Lunch and Learn, Chip Chagnon, *The Knights Templar*
- Sun., Nov. 18, Dr. Richard K. Lore Series, Kevin Duffus, *The Lost Light*
- Wed., Nov. 21-Fri., Nov. 23 Thanksgiving holidays (*office closed*)
- Mon., Dec. 24-Wed., Dec. 26 Christmas holidays (*office closed*)
- Sun., Jan. 13, Ed Bearss
- Sun., Mar. 3, The Vienna Boys Choir, a fundraiser concert

Coming October 25, 26, 27!

Ghostwalk 2012

SPIRITED THROUGH TIME

(Auditions for 'actors/ghosts' will be held August 23, 7 p.m. Please contact the Historical Society if you are interested in auditioning.)



Our Photo Album

...When in the Course of human events...

2012 Spring Historic
Homes & Gardens Tour



Battlefield Cannon
Dedication



... We hold these truths to be self-evident...

Sesquicentennial
Encampment



Volunteer Appreciation Social



Civil War Adventure
Day for Kids



...Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...

Civil War Veterans Recognition Day
Honoring All Who Served

