

Historically Speaking...

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

new bern historical society



Spring 2014



ABC Sale on Saturday, March 1

Save the Date!

new bern historical society

gratefully announces our

*VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION
SOCIAL*

**Sunday, May 18, 2014
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Attmore-Oliver House
511 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560**



The New Bern Historical Society's 24th annual **ABC (Attic-Basement-Closet) Yard Sale** is **Saturday, March 1, 2014, 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**, at the Knights of Columbus Building, 1125 Pinetree Drive, New Bern.

Dedicated volunteers make this favorite event possible, including Historical Society members, Marines from Cherry Point and Epiphany School students. In particular, Cheryl Lawrence and Gerri Olvaney, co-chairs, spend countless hours organizing every detail of the sale. Volunteers spend the week prior to the sale setting up merchandise. As the doors open at 7:30 a.m. on March 1 value-spotting shoppers are greeted by one of the largest yard sales in eastern NC.

Items available this year include 'lots' of furniture, antiques, collectables, pictures, kitchenware, hardware, toys, jewelry, books, linens, silver, seasonal decorations, sporting equipment, electronics, brass, dishes, and much more. Be there early for the best selection! Admission is free.

Collection for the sale is year round. Please bring your donated items to the Historical Society office. As always, **donations are accepted at the Knights of Columbus building during the week of the sale on Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27 from**

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Friday February 28 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. If needing help with larger items, please call or email the office to make arrangements, 252-638-8558 or adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org.



Proceeds from the ABC Sale benefit the educational programs of the New Bern Historical Society. The Historical Society is a non-profit organization

with a 501 (c) 3 status. Donations qualify as tax deductions to the extent allowed by law.

2014 Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour

On April 11 and 12, 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 2014 Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour will provide a behind-the-scenes look at 17 homes and gardens that are important to our town's past and present. Patrons will tour the living quarters of 11 of these homes, learning about the original architecture, renovations, and furnishings (**For a complete listing of homes and gardens, please see center pages of newsletter.**) In addition to homes and gardens, historic buildings that house a church or synagogue will be open for tours. Included in the ticket price is a reception at Carolina Creations, 317 Pollock Street Friday, April 11 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Among the gardens in the Tour are the Tryon Palace gardens, which should be in full bloom. Palace gardens will be open and free to the public days of Tour as well as Sunday, April 13. The Tryon Palace Annual Heritage Plant Sale will be held on the Daves House lawn, located just inside the Palace gates during the Tour. That weekend, Spring Homes Tour ticket holders have the opportunity to purchase a discounted Tryon Palace One-Day Pass (\$18 for adults, \$8 for youth, grades 1-12) when a Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour ticket is presented at the NC History Center ticket desk, 529 South Front Street, or the Way Station, George and Pollock Streets. The One-Day Pass includes admission to the Governor's Palace, historic homes, and museum galleries.

Purchase a special bag lunch to enjoy in a quaint porch setting at the Blades' Veranda Café on the corner of Middle and Johnson Streets. Bag lunches are an \$8 donation and include a sandwich, beverage and cookie. Coffee, tea, and delicious home-made baked goods will be available throughout the day across the street from the cafe at the Peterson's Porch. (continued on page 2)



Painting by Janet Francoeur

New Bern Battlefield Park News

By Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant



Although the winter season's weather has hampered some of our on-going maintenance and construction efforts, our group of volunteers have made progress in a number of areas. And thanks to the generosity of donors to the Historical Society and the battlefield, we have been using recent acquisitions such as the John Deere gator, the new shed, and the backpack blower. The blower is much easier to carry and manage clearing the substantial trails throughout the battlefield. The gator has made it possible to carry many more loads per day of crushed marl to needed areas than before. And the shed has protected not only the gator but building supplies awaiting use.

In addition to clearing trails, the group has been widening the small railroad tie bridges leading out to redans 2 and 3; cutting and constructing steps into the sloping trail leading to Redan 2; and doing prep work for the renovation of the bridge between Redan 1 and the memorial. We are also ready to begin construction of the ramp on the far side of the long bridge leading to Redans 5 and 6 once the weather permits us to do so. And once warmer (and dryer) weather is here, we will begin paint work on the Visitors Center. All this work would not be possible without the dedication and talents of our group of volunteer guides.



We are also excited about what lies ahead for the battlefield as we begin major projects funded by the on-going fundraising campaign. Our primary focus will be on design, development, and construction of a History Walk. The History Walk is a narrative walk that leads visitors through the park and battlefield. Interpretive panels will highlight the troops involved and military movements, place the battle in historical context, and relate the site to other New Bern and regional Civil War and occupied New Bern sites. Elements will include interpretive panels placed near the Visitors Center and within the battlefield trail, and a gateway plaza by the trail entrance to serve as a starting point for both guided and self-guided tours. The period covered by the panels will be New Bern on the eve of war and the particular events leading to the battle, the battle itself, and New Bern under occupation. Interpretive panels will incorporate technology that allows visitors to access additional information to the degree they choose and on topics of their choice.

We have plenty of work ahead of us and always welcome new volunteers who may want to help on maintenance and construction, learn to be a guide or both. **We are out there most Tuesday and Thursday mornings and occasionally other days as well, so if you are interested in volunteering please contact me, Jon Miller, at 252-626-1362 to discuss volunteer opportunities.**

2014 Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour *(continued from page 1)*

\$14 tickets will be mailed in March to members of the New Bern Historical Society and New Bern Preservation Foundation. General public advance tickets are \$16 and can be purchased at the New Bern Historical Society, New Bern Preservation Foundation, Bank of the Arts, Carolina Creations, Harris Teeter of New Bern, Mitchell Hardware, and New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. For credit card orders, call 252-638-8558 or use PayPal at www.newbernhistorical.org. Tickets are \$20 days of tour. Active duty military and dependents with ID may purchase tickets for \$14 at all times. The Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour is a collaborative event presented by the New Bern Historical Society and the New Bern Preservation Foundation. All proceeds of the tour are used to fund revitalization and educational projects of the Preservation Foundation and Historical Society. **Be sure to come to the Tour this year and bring your friends!**



Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour



AS OUR HISTORICAL GARDENS GROW, WE SEEK MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THEM. PLEASE CONTACT ANNETTE HUNT, 637-7555, FOR INFORMATION.



Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

Genealogy is, indeed, fascinating and reveals both the highs and lows of a family history.

Growing up in New Bern, I have always been aware of the Isaac Taylor House on Craven Street. The William Ward Family lived there as far back as I can recall. Today the house serves as an art gallery and venue for special events. In recent years, learning more about Isaac Taylor and his family has been a priority.

Isaac Taylor was born in Scotland in 1762, and, after the death of his parents, he and his brother James sailed to Wilmington, NC, probably in the mid-1780's. With the proceeds from his parents' estate and the sale of their brig, Isaac settled in New Bern, married a local girl, Hannah Justice, in 1792, and began his career as a maritime merchant. Being a savvy businessman and a respected citizen in town, he greatly prospered – accumulating ships, retail stores, warehouses, and a working plantation named Glenburnie.

By 1796, the house on Craven Street was completed and the Taylor Family eventually grew to include six daughters and one son.

Three of the daughters (Janet, Mary, and Louisa) married and three of the daughters (Phoebe, Catherine, and Frances) remained unmarried. More about the son Alexander later.

Isaac Taylor died July 4, 1846, leaving the Craven Street property to his wife Hannah. The inventory of his estate lists "75 slaves, a sizeable plantation, an unusual amount of cash and bonds in various New Bern and New York Banks, and the furnishings of his house on Lot 50 on Craven Street." Taylor's will made provision for his wife and six daughters, but completely left out his son Alexander because Alexander's drinking habits were considered excessive.

When Hannah Taylor died in 1853, she gave her three unmarried daughters lifetime rights to the Craven Street house. It is unclear whether or not the sisters stayed in the house during the Civil War, but it is fact that they were in residence during the summer of 1864.

I greatly respect Isaac Taylor and what he stood for. He was a smart, hardworking man who contributed to the fabric of what New Bern is today. Obviously you can't rewrite history, but let's give Isaac and Hannah's son the benefit of the doubt. Imagine if you had six sisters, you

would probably drink excessively too. Adding insult to injury, I believe he was the youngest of the seven children. Despite Alexander Taylor's alleged shortcomings, he graduated from Princeton where he earned a medical degree.

Dr. Taylor returned to New Bern where he established his medical practice, married Sarah Ann Cole, and eventually had two sons. Sadly, he died in 1859 at the relatively young age of forty-five. He is interred at Cedar Grove Cemetery, not in his father's plot but in the Cole plot next to his wife. His younger son, Isaac M. Taylor, became a medical doctor whose son Alexander had a son, Isaac M. Taylor, who became a medical doctor and whose son, James Taylor, became a celebrated folk singer. Very impressive!

In 1997 Gertrude W. Taylor, mother of singer James Taylor, gifted to the New Bern Historical Society some special Taylor Family keepsakes. Firstly, the medical shingle that Alexander Taylor, M.D. hung on his practice door in New Bern, in the 1840's. Secondly, a pair of shirt studs and cuff links worn by Alexander Taylor, M.D. on his wedding day and gifted to their grandson, Alexander Taylor, by his grandmother, Sarah Cole Taylor. The New Bern Historical Society is very honored and proud to be custodian of these unique treasures celebrating New Bern's rich history.



Medical shingle that Dr. Alexander Taylor hung on his practice door in the 1840's



Pair of shirt studs and cuff links worn by Dr. Alexander Taylor on his wedding day

Curator's Note: Remember that we are all students. Any input regarding fact or additional information is greatly appreciated. If you would like to see the Alexander Taylor Collection, please call our office, 252-638-8558 and a mutually convenient time will be coordinated. Thank you.

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.



Painting of Bryan House and Office by Janet Francoeur

Spring Historic Homes



All Saints Chapel
809 Pollock Street, ca. 1895
owners: Cate and Ross Pfeiffer



Osgood Cottage GARDEN ONLY
807 Pollock Street, owner: Pitt Tyer



The Catherine Anthony House
723 Pollock Street, ca. 1770-1790
owners: Karen and Tom Joseph



Tryon Palace GARDENS ONLY
610 Pollock Street
Owner: NC Dept. Cultural Resources



Bryan House and Office
603-605 Pollock Street,
1803-1806
(office added ca. 1820)
owners: Elinor and Bill Wilson



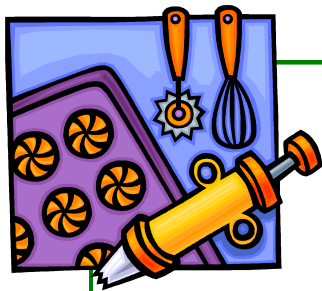
Daniel Shackelford House
607 Pollock Street, ca. 1800-1815
owners: Debbie and Paul Mills



**Euphemla Tinker House
and garden**
419 George Street, ca. 1800-1810
owner: Sylvia Whitford
resident: Jim Stroud



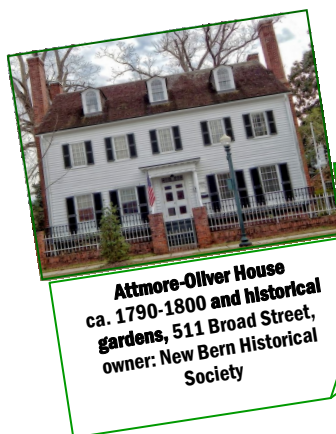
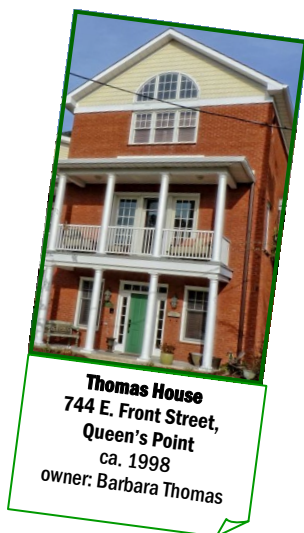
Foy-Munger House
GARDEN ONLY
516 Middle Street,
owners: Charles and Carolyn
Peterson



Bakers needed!!! If you like to bake, this is a wonderful way to support the New Bern Historical Society and New Bern Preservation Foundation. During the Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour we will sell homemade **Baked Goods** at the **Peterson Porch**.

If you can help with baking, please call Susan Cook, (252) 636-1621. You can also e-mail the Historical Society office: adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org

Gardens Tour



Relax and enjoy Bag Lunches (\$8) at **The Blades' Veranda Café**, and Baked Goods at the **Peterson's Porch**, both at the corner of Johnson and Middle Streets!
Blades Veranda Café open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Peterson's Porch open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Lunch and Learn in March: *(Battle of New Bern) where have all the young men gone ... searching for the fallen*

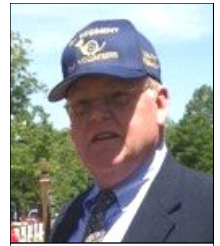
Historian Skip Riddle considers what happened to those who fought and died in the Battle of New Bern, March 14, 1862 at the March **Lunch and Learn** sponsored by New Bern Historical Society. Riddle explains, "We know by default that those who fell fighting for North Carolina were laid to rest beneath the soil of the Great North State, yet, what of the boys of the Federal side?" Skip will explore where these men came to rest, weaving a tale of who is accounted for, who is buried in New Bern's National Cemetery, and who was returned home by regiment. It is a story and journey more intriguing than one would first assume. Skip will even examine how President Lincoln and Sgt. Hayre of the 51st NY are part of the Battle of New Bern's story.

Skip is a member of the New Bern Historical Society, volunteer battlefield guide at the Historical Society's New Bern Battlefield Park, and 'ghost on call' for Ghostwalk. He enjoys public speaking, and has written several articles dealing with the American Revolution and the Civil War.

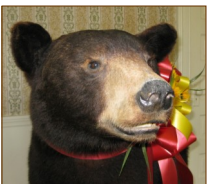
Lunch and Learn is at The Chelsea Restaurant, 11:30 am **Wednesday, March 12, 2014**. Reservations, including lunch, are \$16 for Historical Society members, \$18 for non-members. **Reservations must be paid in advance** with New Bern Historical Society at 252-638-8558. Lunch choices: **Cocoa Salmon** - Cocoa rubbed salmon fillet, Pepsi cream sauce, rice pilaf and seasonal vegetable. **Chicken Bruschetta** - Sautéed chicken breast topped with tomato, basil, garlic and Parmesan over rice pilaf with seasonal vegetable

Have lunch Wednesday, March 12 ...and learn about the fate of those who gave their lives in the Battle of New Bern.

And on **Wednesday, May 7, Lunch and Learn** will feature Stuart 'Skip' Aronson and his presentation on **Blackbeard**.. He is the author of the outdoor drama **Blackbeard, Knight of the Black Flag**.



Skip Riddle



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

Well, kids,
I'm back
from winter
hibernation

and ready for a grrr-reat and fun-filled spring! I hope to see you **Saturday, March 15** for our **Civil War Adventure Day for kids ages 6-12!**

Cannons and Commissary Chow and yes, endorsed by a bear—oh, my! **Civil War Adventure Day** takes place at the New Bern Civil War Battlefield Park, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (check-in begins at 9 a.m.). Remember kids, we're starting and ending one hour earlier than prior years!

I'm looking forward to your enjoying the fun and 'living history' during our **Civil War Adventure Day**, complete with Civil War reenactors from the 5th NC Regiment.

Prepaid reservations through our Historical Society office are required. **In order to have as many as possible of you kids attend, we reduced the cost:**

- **\$20, first child in the family and one adult;**
- **\$5, second child in family;**
- **\$12, second adult.**

Each child must be accompanied by an adult during the event. Contact the Historical Society office, 638-8558, for more details and to register.

Kids, I'm giving my coveted Four Paws Award to **Civil War Adventure Day!** See you there!



Your pal,

Bernie the Bear

('Cub 'Reporter')

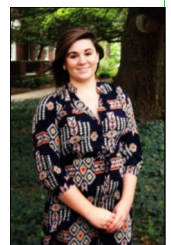


February snow fell **everywhere** as our *Freedom Bearer* discovered....

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 Scholarship is awarded based on both scholarship and need. 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 Membership Meeting in May.

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 21 2014.** If you know New Bern High School graduating seniors, please tell them about the Harriett Marks Scholarship and encourage them to apply!



Kayla Toler,
2013 Marks
Scholarship
winner

Historical Society President's Message

I am happy to report that the New Bern Historical Society ***Investment in History*** campaign has exceeded its initial goal of \$393,000 and, at present, has received gifts and pledges of over \$450,000. The exceptional generosity and confidence that these commitments represent allow us to move forward with our initial list of projects and an additional small list that we had tabled for a future campaign. We owe great gratitude to the campaign chairs, Natalie Baggett and Jim Morrison, to the New Bern Historical Society Board and, most especially, to our donors. We will eagerly give you progress reports as projects are achieved at the in town campus and at the Battlefield. Indeed, a number of projects have already been achieved

as gifts have been received. One project in which many people have expressed interest, the Battlefield History Walk, will be achieved over the coming year. While there are, of course, many physical elements of this project, the term "walk" refers to the visitor experience. The Battlefield represents an important trust and offers the opportunity to tell a fascinating story about the Battle of New Bern, its context and the results. We have dedicated volunteer guides, but, since many visitors come unscheduled, this walk will provide the opportunity for a full appreciation, even when a visitor is self guided. Our goal is to enhance each visit while intruding minimally on the site. It's an exciting project. In coming months, we will keep you informed. Good things happen when good people make

them happen. We are grateful to our donors and volunteers.

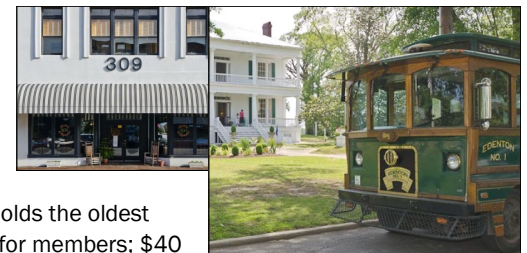


Nelson McDaniel
President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

Day Trips Planned for March and April! Make your Reservations Now!

Historic Edenton, Thursday, March 27

Upon arriving, we will take a trolley tour through historic Edenton, followed by lunch at 309 Bistro and Spirits. After lunch we will continue our tour of Historic Edenton by visiting Chowan County Courthouse, 1767, (thought to be designed by John Hawks, architect of Tryon Palace) and the Iredell House, 1827, first owned by James Iredell one of the first Justices in the US Supreme Court appointed by George Washington in 1790. We will also visit the Barker House, 1782, and St Paul's Church, 1736, which holds the oldest Episcopalian charter in NC and is the second oldest church building in the state. \$35 for members; \$40 for non-members. This Day Trip is limited to 20 people.



Witherspoon Rose Culture, Durham, NC, Tuesday, May 20

Our first stop will be Carolina 1663 a farm to table restaurant located near our final destination, Witherspoon Rose Culture. Witherspoon is a premiere rose grower located in Durham. We will be given a tour of their garden of over 2000 rose plants while learning about timely rose bed preparation, planting and general rose care. Afterward there will be time to visit their garden shop. \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members.





FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE :

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

CALENDAR

- Sat., Mar. 1, ABC Sale
- Wed., Mar. 12, Lunch and Learn, Skip Riddle
- Sat., Mar. 15, Civil War Adventure Day and Living History at the Battlefield
- Sat., Mar. 15, Civil War Exhibit at New Bern Academy opens
- Fri., Mar. 21, Harriett Marks Scholarship application deadline
- Thurs., March 27, Edenton Day Trip
- Fri.-Sat., Apr. 11-12, Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour
- Fri., Apr. 18, Office Closed (Good Friday)
- Thurs., May 1, Historical Society Membership Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
- Wed., May 7, Lunch and Learn, Stuart 'Skip' Aronson
- Sun., May 18, Volunteer Appreciation Social
- Tues., May 20, Witherspoon Rose Culture Day Trip
- June, Annual Membership Renewal

"One winter morning he woke up and looked out the window. Snow had fallen during the night. It covered everything as far as he could see." — Ezra Jack Keats, *The Snowy Day*



Attmore-Oliver House,
February, 2014

SAVE THE DATE! Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet, Thursday, May 1

**Title Sponsor
Ghostwalk 2013**

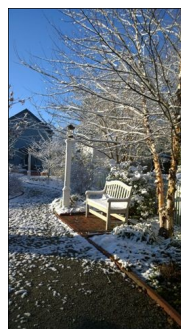
Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock-Your Trial Attorneys

PLATINUM Ghostwalk Sponsor

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Ghosts of New Bern
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Mitchell Hardware
Moore's Barbecue
PotashCorp-Aurora
The Aerie Bed & Breakfast
The Chelsea Restaurant
The Insurance Center
Well Fargo Bank
Trader Construction Co.
Wells Fargo Bank



Our Historical
Gardens,
February, 2014

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

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(newsletter photo credits: Thank you to Annette Hunt, Joe Hunt, Kelvin Kestner, Melvin Kestner, Jon Miller, Kathy Morrison)