Historically Speaking...

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

new bern historical society

Summer, 2014

At our Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet, the 2014 Awards were presented to these outstanding volunteers...

Executive Director’s Award: Jim Hodges

Newcomer’s Award: Ann Wagner

Education Award: Claudia Houston

Lifetime of Service Award: Nancy Chiles

President’s Award: (not present) Nat Baggett

President’s Award: Jim Morrison

Battlefield Award: Jon Miller

Extended Service Award: Patti Urick

Ambassadorship Award: (not present) Cheryl Lawrence and Lee Purcell

The month of June is MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH!

For members with June renewals, renewal information arrived in your mailbox the end of May. Renewing your membership is so important; we could not exist without membership support.

Thank you if you have already renewed!

The grounds and gardens of the Historical Society Broad Street campus were planted to reflect the time period of the Attmore-Oliver House and the families that occupied it. There is a collection of ‘pass along’ plants and 15 vintage rose varieties along with many other plants. The garden is meant for all seasons, planted and maintained by volunteers!

We’ll especially need volunteers to help with summer watering. Please contact Annette Hunt, 637-7555, if you can give ANY time to volunteer in our gardens. Everyone is welcome to be part of our garden team!
This spring heralded not only an abundance of growth in vegetation at the battlefield but new growth in the park itself. The planning phase of the History Walk project is nearly complete and in the next month or two we will move to the construction of the interpretive panels that will provide visitors, both in guided and non-guided tours, a more complete picture of the drama that played out at the battle of March 14, 1862. Our goal is to have the entire project completed by late fall of this year. Thanks to the generosity of those who gave to the Investment in History campaign, this effort will change the battlefield park from a New Bern curiosity to a true tourist destination.

On Sunday, June 8 at 2:00 p.m. the Historical Society honored the generosity and dedication of Richard and Linda Lore with the naming of the Visitor Center for them. Many people joined us on this occasion as we recognized those who have contributed so much to the development of the New Bern Battlefield Park.

Warmer and dryer weather this spring enabled the battlefield volunteers to finally complete a much anticipated, and needed, ramp extension on the west end of the long bridge funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation. We are proud to say that it now connects the paths leading to Redans 5 and 6. This ramp makes it possible for the John Deere gator to cross the swamp and carry supplies and equipment to construction projects leading to those redans. The engineering of the ramp design was the brainchild of Pete Meyer who also provided the majority of the labor. Now that the ramp is complete, we can begin the trail extensions, two bridges to cross wetlands, and steps to help visitors manage the sometimes slick and steep hills to the redans. One of these bridges will be a project for an Eagle Scout candidate.

We would also like to thank PCS Phosphate in Aurora for providing us with two loads of crushed marl, which we use for our trails, and many thanks also to Trader Construction Company of New Bern for providing us with the transportation of the marl from Aurora to our battlefield. We could not have done it without their help. I would like to also thank some of our guides for leading large tours recently; Steve Shaffer took a group of 19 U.S. Naval Academy alumni and family members, and Pete Meyer led a group of 27 members of the New York Metropolitan Civil War Round Table.

As always, we would welcome any new volunteers who may want to help with routine maintenance and construction projects on Tuesday and Thursday mornings or learn to become a guide. Please contact Jon Miller at 252-626-1362 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to our outgoing Board Member Mark Mangum, who previously served as a Battlefield Adjutant. He has been an asset to the Historical Society and will be missed as a board member by the Board of Directors who wish him all the best.

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.
New Bern Battlefield Park Visitor Center Dedication

On Sunday, June 8, the Visitor Center at the Historical Society’s Battlefield Park was named in honor of Richard K. and Linda C. Lore. Richard “Dick” Lore was a well-loved volunteer whose passion for learning led him to be the Historical Society’s historian until his death in 2007. Greatly missed, he was remembered on Sunday in remarks by Mark Mangum. Mark recounted how Dick and others worked tirelessly toward the vision of a battlefield with accessible trails where the visitor could learn about the significance of the battle of New Bern. It has taken a number of years, but that vision is nearly realized. Jon Miller, the Historical Society’s Battlefield Adjutant, spoke briefly about the progress made to date, including trails and bridges much of which were built by volunteers. Furthering the original vision, by the end of this year interpretive panels will be placed throughout the battlefield telling the story of the March 14, 1862, Battle of New Bern. There will also be interpretive panels in a Gateway Plaza that will set the stage for the actual battle as well as panels at the Visitor Center that will tell the story of the battle’s aftermath including social implications.

The New Bern Historical Society is incredibly grateful to those who began this project, and in particular to Dick for having a vision at the start, and to Linda for helping see that dream come to fruition.

The late Richard K. Lore shown on the porch of the Attmore-Oliver House doing what he loved, sharing history with students.

Linda C. Lore

Battlefield Adjutant Jon Miller and former Battlefield Adjutant Mark Mangum. Both were speakers at the Dedication.

Linda C. Lore and Nelson McDaniel officially dedicate the Richard K. and Linda C. Lore Visitor Center

The Richard K. Lore and Linda C. Lore Visitor Center at the New Bern Battlefield Park

Historical Society President Nelson McDaniel welcomed guests to the Dedication ceremony.
“Boston Millionaire to Locate Here”

This headline was reported in a New Bern newspaper in May, 1914 to inform its readership that Dr. Earl S. Sloan was planning to build a winter home in the area. Today this announcement would probably not attract much attention, but in 1914 – obviously worthy of note. This is a life journey personifying the American dream where an individual is motivated and possesses natural entrepreneurial and marketing skills as well as keen business savvy that allows the accumulation of great wealth. This is the story of Dr. Earl Sawyer Sloan.

The Andrew Sloan family emigrated from Ireland after the American Revolution and eventually settled in Zanesfield, Ohio. Andrew Sloan was a horse harness maker who had a certain ability with horses which allowed him to pursue this skill and become a self-taught veterinarian. Doc Sloan was also known for his strong-smelling brown formula that was effective in reducing joint pain and inflammation for overworked horses.

Earl Sawyer Sloan, the third of five children, was born September 8, 1848, in Zanesfield, Ohio. It is noted that he did not attend more than the elementary grades, but he did learn to read and write and developed a great appreciation for books. He was apprenticed as a harness maker at the age of fifteen, but in 1871 joined his brother Foreman in St. Louis, Missouri. Earl carried with him a supply of his father’s horse liniment and with Foreman who was engaged in the buying and selling of horses, they peddled the concoction throughout the area. Keep in mind that the period of time after the Civil War to the very early 1900’s marked the heyday of the horse in American life. Therefore, the Sloan liniment was in great demand.

As the story goes, by accident it was discovered that the liniment was beneficial not only for the horses but humans as well – consequently it was advertised as “good for man and beast.” The essential ingredient is chili pepper (capsicum, a topical analgesic) and its external use was once recommended for everything from a stiff neck to bruises, sprains, strains and mosquito bites. The formula was refined and patented about 1885 and the business grew rapidly due to Earl Sloan’s fondness for newspaper advertising. In 1900 Foreman Sloan left the partnership and Earl, who was now married, moved his manufacturing operations to Boston in 1904. The business was incorporated in October, 1904 as “Dr. Earl S. Sloan, Incorporated.” Apparently the title doctor although never formally or academically achieved gave him and his product more credibility and created increased sales. By 1907, sales were reported throughout the United States as well as South America, Australia, Europe and Canada. In 1913 Dr. Sloan sold his company to William R. Warner & Co. Of interest, W. R. Warner & Co. merged into Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical in 1955, which was eventually acquired by Pfizer in 2000.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, it was a practice of wealthy northerners to build substantial residences in North Carolina and other more climate friendly areas to serve as second homes for both winter and summer use. Although Dr. Sloan considered several locations including Asheville and Pinehurst, he eventually selected New Bern where he had several contacts. He acquired 440 acres of land from John W. Stewart and an additional 25 acres from the Craven County Commissioners located on the north side of the Trent River about 2 miles from downtown New Bern. The Stewart property was known as the Colonel Ransom estate, thusly Dr. Sloan called his plantation Ransom Farm. New Bern native Robert F. Smallwood was hired as the architect and local contractor John F. Rhodes was hired to supervise construction. Built in 1914, the Dr. Earl S. Sloan House is a “large and well appointed example of Colonial Revival residential construction with Mediterranean and Tudor Revival influence. The two and a half story brick building has a main block and flanking pavilions under low, hipped slate roofs. The long axis of the home runs parallel to the Trent River. The interior of the house exhibits carefully crafted cypress and hardwood woodwork with chestnut trim and mahogany varnished hardwood veneer doors.” Not too bad for a man who started his career hawking horse liniment door to door.

It is not clear how much time Dr. and Mrs. Sloan actually spent at Ransom Farm. He died in 1923 leaving the Craven County property to his widow who sold Ransom Farm in 1928 to the New Bern realty firm of N. E. Mohn and Company. The two principles, N. E. Mohn and C. T. Hellinger, mortgaged the property to U.S. Senator O. F. Glenn of Illinois. In 1933, judgment was made against Mohn and Hellinger and the property transferred to Senator Glenn who renamed it Trent Pines. Senator and Mrs. Glenn intended to use Trent Pines as a winter home; however, their plans never materialized and in 1941 the property was leased to Frederick A. Miles of Craven County who operated the Trent Pines Club from 1942 to 1948. Miles purchased the property in 1948 from the Glens and hired Gerald Colvin (1948-1955) and William (Wimpy) Barwick (1955-1965) to manage the club for him. In 1968 Miles sold the Sloan estate to Robert P. Holding, Jr. (Chairman of First Citizens Bank) who renamed the estate Miles Away. Unfortunately Mr. Holding died in 1979 and the property passed to his son Frank R. Holding who continued the restoration of the house.

This is the extent of my understanding regarding the status of the Dr. Earl S. Sloan estate property. It is my sincere hope that the residence has been carefully restored and is being enjoyed by its owner. The house is recorded on the National Register of Historic Places and is a standing tribute to the success of Dr. Sloan and the vibrant history of New Bern and Craven County.
Looking Back ... by John Leys, Historian

This year the Spring Homes and Garden Tour was fortunate to have the All Saints Chapel open for tours. After researching the site for the guides in the chapel, some interesting facts came to light.

A little before and after the fire of 1871 at Christ Episcopal Church, the surviving West Wing of the Palace had been used as the Memorial Chapel with the other three rooms used as school rooms. In March of 1895 the Christ Church vestry confirmed the sale of the old Palace stable wing. Property on Pollock St. had been given to the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina by the Reverend Edward M. Forbes, rector of Christ Church from 1866-1877. It was decided to build a mission chapel to accommodate those who could not get downtown to church when the weather was bad and streets turned to mud puddles. Funds donated by Margaret D. Nelson paid for the new building as well as the belfry and bell. The All Saints Chapel is of the Gothic Revival style done by workers and carpenters in wood instead of masonry. The chapel was probably completed in late 1895. The pulpit, the pews and baptismal font (originally used at Christ Church) were brought from the Memorial Chapel.

In 1908 a small school building was added in the back. School furniture from the old Palace Memorial Chapel building was used there. That building has since been demolished.

The mission chapel served an area along the Trent River and Lawson’s Creek (lower Pollock St.) known as “Long Wharf”. There were services on Thursday as well as Sunday. A well respected Sunday school teacher and head of the Women’s Auxiliary was Mary Ella Howell and a plaque can be seen in the sidewalk leading to the front door of the chapel memorializing her.

Use of the chapel declined starting in the early 1930’s. Streets were paved, there was a trolley, and more people owned cars. Church goers could get to church more easily than before—no more slogging down mud filled streets on rainy Sundays! The mission branch was no longer needed.

When the chapel was deconsecrated in 1935, the baptismal font went to St. Cyprian’s Church here in New Bern where it is still used today. The altar, pulpit, organ and pews went to the Galilee Mission in Tyrell County close to Lake Phelps. They did not need the bell nor did St. Cyprian’s. The Christ Church vestry decided to send it to a mission in Liberia! After seeing that it was not practical to send the bell to such an exotic place, they found that the Vanceboro chapel needed it, and it remains there today.

Over the years the chapel has been used as a nursery (for both children at one time and later for plants!), a meeting place for Alcoholics Anonymous, a wonderful shop sponsored by the New Bern Historical Society, and now as a very attractive private residence. It is a benefit to New Bern and its history that we have been able to preserve this historic building.

(Many thanks to Marea Foster, David French, Victor Jones at the library and the many others who helped in doing the research!)

The Founders Circle: Historical Society Planned Giving Program

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, the Planned Giving Program of the New Bern Historical Society, has been established to acknowledge the valuable contributions of those who include The New Bern Historical Society in their estate plans, and have informed us of their intentions. The Founders Circle not only salutes the founders’ foresight, it celebrates those who continue their efforts. By including The New Bern Historical Society in your estate plans, you are ensuring that we will be able to build on the strength of our collections and educational programs.

The New Bern Historical Society offers many planned giving opportunities. Gifts you make can include:

- a bequest in your will or living trust
- designating the New Bern Historical Society as the beneficiary of a 401K or other retirement plan or life insurance policy
- establishing or adding to an endowment
- participating in a life income arrangement such as a Charitable Remainder Trust, or a Charitable Lead Trust

Options vary, so please consult with your financial advisor. Please let us know if you decide to include us in your plans. For more information, contact Historical Society Executive Director, Lynne Harakal: email, lynne@newbernhistorical.org, phone, 252-638-8558.
Leap into History on Facebook....by Claudia Houston, Social Media Editor

Did you know that the New Bern Historical Society has a Facebook page? We now have 559 friends who “like” our page and receive our posts. So how do we decide what to post? Most posts are connected to educational and historical events. In March, for the Battle of New Bern, we ran several posts from a 1937 Sun Journal interview with Mrs. L.S. Wood, born Sarah Harvey, who was 11 years old at the time of the battle. It was a fascinating glimpse of history provided by Jim Hodges, our wonderful curator.

Sometimes we respond to queries. One request was to post a photo of the Secession Flag that hangs in the Attmore-Oliver House. When I approached Jim about the flag, he dug out an old scrapbook with a priceless photo of the flag hanging from a clothesline in Gertrude Carraway’s yard! We did several posts about the flag. A press release was written from the posts and when the Sun Journal received it Jim Hodges and I were interviewed and an article was published with the information we provided. It was great publicity for the Historical Society and it started from a fan’s question.

Every Wednesday we have a popular post called “What’s in the Attic with Jim?”, with Jim providing treasures from our collection to be posted. One post that engendered a large response was a 1971 photo of the McClellan’s building which was located at the southwest corner of Middle and Pollock Streets until it was demolished in 2006. I asked if anyone had stories about the building, and they poured in! Stories ranged from couples meeting there and then marrying, to discovering that McSorley’s Boot Shop was located there prior to McClellan’s being built.

When we want a post to reach a lot more people, we “boost” it. For a very low price, we can target an audience by gender, age, interests, etc. In April we boosted a post about All Saints Chapel, which was on the Homes Tour, and reached an additional 2,138 people. In October, 2013 we “boosted” a Ghostwalk post that reached 5,516 people. Remember, these are not random people, but people we target because we think they have an interest in us.

So who are our fans? 72% are women. 308 live in New Bern, with most others in surrounding towns. We do have fans from out of state and even Brazil and Singapore! That is the power of Facebook. If someone likes a post and finds it interesting, they share it. If their friends share it too the post can make its way around the world.

If you are on Facebook, please Search for us, or you can link to our page by clicking the Facebook icon on our website, www.newbernhistorical.org. Please friend us by clicking the “Like” button, and to continue receiving our posts, click “Following”. We hope you “Like” us on Facebook and help us grow to reach as many people as possible.

Restoration of Bell Tower at Saint John Missionary Baptist Church

Saint John Missionary Baptist Church, founded in 1865, is one of New Bern’s most interesting historic churches. Founded at the end of the Civil War, this church includes among its past pastors Luke Martin Sr. who fought with the 35th US Colored Troops during the war before returning to New Bern and, eventually pastoring Saint John. Many people will recognize the Martin name because of his son, Luke Martin Jr. who was honored by the Historical Society three years ago. He is one of only two known children of Civil War veterans alive today in North Carolina. Celebrating his 97th birthday in July, Mr. Martin still goes to work every day.

The first sanctuary, Slabs Chapel, was so named because it was built from slabs of wood and had no windows. Today’s church is a handsome brick building. Saint John was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. Currently the church is undergoing restoration of the bell tower, a $60,000 project. John Pierce, Senior Pastor, has said that Saint John welcomes all gifts to this preservation project. Pass by on Walt Bellamy Drive and watch the progress. Completion of this project will be a great birthday gift for Luke Martin, one of New Bern’s rare treasures. Mr. Martin, a master mason who contributed greatly to the restoration of Tryon Palace, says that he is a little old to do “heavy work”, so he is leaving this job to others, though he would love to be up there.
Summer has arrived and the livin’ is easy, or at least easier. Exciting things are still happening at the Historical Society. We had a wonderful afternoon on June 8 at the Battlefield when we dedicated the Visitor Center to Dick and Linda Lore. Their contributions to their adopted home town are legend. It is wonderful to be able to express a little gratitude. It was also the occasion to unveil plaques that recognize donors and volunteers. We hope that we have the names right. If you see a mistake, let us know. We’ll make it good.

Stewarding the wonderful gifts from the Investment in History campaign, we will replace the roof on the Attmore-Oliver House beginning in mid summer. Following the advice of preservationists, we will use a metal roof, appropriate for a large part of the house history and more durable. Watch the progress. We will also be replacing some HVAC on the property, moving to more efficient systems.

At the Battlefield, we anticipate that the History Walk will be in place by the end of the year. These interpretive panels along the trails will be supplemented by panels at the Gateway Plaza area as well as at the Lore Visitor Center. These additional panels will place the Battle and its significance in context, including the dramatic ramifications for our area, the state and the nation. The plaza, which will be accessible to those people who might find the trails physically challenging, will give all visitors an overview. Surrounding the parade ground will be panels that are of particular interest to children and families. What a difference this History Walk will make for our visitors. Additionally, the New Bern Garden Club is preparing and donating panels that will identify some of the beautiful plants and trees along the trails. As always, I thank our members, donors and volunteers. Good things happen only when good people make them happen. Enjoy the summer and sip on tea or whatever else wets your whistle.

Nelson McDaniel
President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

2014 Marks Scholarship Winner

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 financial need. The Trust which funds this Scholarship designates that it be awarded to a senior graduating from New Bern High School. It is a one year scholarship (renewable for the next three years based on academic standing) and is presented at our Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet in May. Amber Herman, the 2014 Harriett Marks Scholarship winner, in accepting her award in May, said: “I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to attending East Carolina University beginning this fall to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in nursing. In doing so I will become the first person in my family to achieve my goal and graduate from a four year university. I intend to continue my education at ECU through Graduate School in order to become a Nurse Practitioner and return to New Bern to begin my career.”

Our current Marks Scholars will be back on campus for the 2014-2015 academic year: East Carolina University freshman Amber Herman, UNC-Wilmington sophomore Kayla Toler, UNC-Charlotte junior Caitlyn Bodo and Appalachian State University senior Katherine Barlow. The Historical Society is proud of its relationship with these outstanding students through the Harriet Marks Scholarship.

News from Previous Harriett Marks Scholarship Winners...

Dr. Eric Golike, 2005 Marks Scholarship Winner, was the guest speaker at our 2014 Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet. Members were impressed as he spoke of the positive effect that winning the Marks Scholarship made in his life. Dr. Golike has volunteered in El Salvador for Engineers without Borders, worked in water rescue operations as an EMT, is a triathlete and a May, 2014 graduate of the UNC School of Medicine.

Katherine Barlow, 2011 Marks Scholarship winner, recently finished her junior year and her first year of nursing school at Appalachian State. Katherine is one of ten chosen from 140 highly qualified applicants to participate in a 10-week student externship program at Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters in Norfolk, VA. She will be working on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Katherine will graduate in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Bernie, the office Bear and ’cub reporter,’ is having a g-r-r-reat visit with bear-y close relatives in the mountains. Bernie said to wave to him if you’re in the mountains this summer. He’ll be the one wearing a fur coat…He’ll return in the Fall Newsletter with his regular column.
New Bern Historical Society

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

CALENDAR
• Fri., July 4, July 4th Holiday, office closed
• Tues., July 17, Board of Directors meeting
• Thurs., Aug. 7, Ghostwalk ‘ghost’ auditions
• Tues., Aug 19, Board of Directors meeting
• Mon., Sept. 1, Labor Day Holiday, office closed
• Tues., Sept 16, Board of Directors meeting
• Thurs., Fri., Sat., Oct. 23-25, Ghostwalk 2014

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST,
MON.-THURS., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.;
FRID., 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Our May Day Trip took us to Witherspoon Rose Culture in Durham! After lunch in Chapel Hill at Carolina 1663 Restaurant, we met David Pike, Co-CEO of Witherspoon, under a cool, shady awning at Witherspoon where he gave an overview of ‘rose culture.’ We ambled through paths lined with over 200 varieties of roses, as David told fascinating background stories about the roses. (Our Autumn Day Trip will be announced in August!)

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(newsletter photo credits: Thanks to Katherine Barlow, Jan Beijer, Karen Dodd, Andrew Dunn, Amber Herman, Claudia Houston, Annette Hunt, Joe Hunt, Kelvin Kestner, Melvin Kestner, Jon Miller, Jim Morrison, Kathy Morrison)