

FOLINDATION 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

Website: www.newbernhistorical.org

Email: director@newbernhistorical.org adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org



#### 2017 Legends in Concert!

In recent years, New Bern
Historical Society fundraiser
Legends in Concert have
brought you Sold Out concerts: THE VIENNA
BOYS CHOIR, UNDER THE STREETLAMP.

and THE TEXAS TENORS. Negotiations are now in process to bring another incredible *Legends in Concert* to you in **Spring**, **2017**. Historical Society members will be the *first* to receive advance notice with details for purchasing your tickets! Stay tuned!

#### 2016-2017 CALENDAR

- Saturdays, Apr. through Nov., 2016, Earl of Craven Questers Tour of Cedar Grove Cemetery,
   4 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays, Face to Face: Civil War Sketches and Stories: an exhibit at the New Bern Academy Museum
- Sat.-Sun., Oct. 8-9, Mumfest (postponed because of hurricane; date TBD)
- Thurs., Oct. 13, Lunch & Learn, Heidi Crabtree, Not a Soldier, But a Scoundrel: The Lives and Deaths of George W. Graham
- Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 27-29, Thostwalk: Whispers from the Past...
- Wed., Nov. 2, Birdsong Parade Ground & Living History Area and Dedication
- Sat., Nov. 5, Richard K. Lore Annual Lecture, Dr. David LaVere, PhD, What Happened to the Lost Colony?
- Sun., Nov. 13, Historical Society Fall Volunteer Appreciation Social
- Wed.-Fri., Nov. 23-25, Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- Fri., Mon., Tues., Dec. 23-27, Office closed for Christmas holiday
- Dec. 31, Annual Membership Renewal for December renewals
- Mon., Jan. 2, Office closed for New Year's holiday
- Sun., Jan. 8, Civil War Historian, Ed Bearss Annual Lecture
- Wed., Feb. 8, Lunch & Learn, Speaker, Topic TBA,
- Thursday., Feb. 23, Mardi Gras Membership Friend-Raiser
- Sat., Mar. 4, ABC Sale
- Wed., Mar. 8, Lunch & Learn, Speaker, Topic TBA
- Sat., Mar. (date TBA) Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day
- Fri., Mar. 17, Marks Scholarship Application Deadline for New Bern High School Seniors
- Fri.-Sat., Apr. 7-8, Spring Historic Homes and Garden Tour
- Wed., May 10, Lunch & Learn, Speaker, Topic TBA
- Date TBD, Spring Volunteer Appreciation Social
- Date TBD, Historical Society Membership Annual Meeting and Awards
- June 30, Annual Membership Renewal for June renewals

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

# Title Sponsor—Ghostwalk 2016 Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock P.A. Your Trial Attorneys

#### **PLATINUM Ghostwalk Sponsor**

Creekside Cabinets, Inc. Morgan's Tavern & Grill Robert M. Chiles, P.E. Ward and Smith, P.A.

Andrew Mylander, D.M.D., P.L.L.C.

Daniel E. Potter, Criminal & Family Law

Gregory Poole Marine

Jim Hodges

New Bern Civic Theatre

RiverTowne Players

#### The Insurance Center

### Weyerhaeuser

Advanced Water Systems, Inc./ Kinetico BB&T

Charles K. McCotter, Jr., Attorney at Law Fisher Fuel Markets

**Ghosts of New Bern** 

Harmony House Inn

J. Randal Hunter, Attorney at Law

Kelvin Kestner

Melvin Kestner

Mitchell Hardware

Poor Charlie's Flea Market & Antiques

Rankin & Fiume, Orthodontics

The Chelsea Restaurant Trader Construction Co.



#### New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors 2016-2017 Officers

Nelson McDaniel, President Joe Hunt, 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

#### 2016-2017 Directors

Natalie Baggett Carol Becton

Susan Cook

Breck Gibbs

Bernard George

**Linda Simmons Henry** 

Claudia Houston Carl Huddle

Chris Kelso

Ken McCotter

Susan Moffat-Thomas

Jim Morrison Kathy Morrison

Gerri Olvaney Patti Urick

#### **Administrative Staff**

Mickey Miller—Executive Director Pat Traynor—Assistant to Director Sue Dunn—Admin. Assistant

# Historically Speaking...

# new bern historical society

Fall, 2016 Quarterly Newsletter

# Ghostwalk 2016: October 27 - 29



Tavern

FER

New Bern Historical Society presents Whispers...from the Past!

New Bern's history is filled with so many characters who will tell you of their extraordinary adventures and their *Whispers...from the Past.* 

Every year during Ghostwalk, New Bern's spirits return to their haunts to tell their tales to the living. This year there will be lots of different ghost places with spirits



lurking among the living from October 27-29. Be on the lookout for ghosts sharing memories in the downtown Historic District those evenings. Sites expecting hauntings include: the Attmore-Oliver House; Cedar Grove Cemetery; Athens and Masonic Theatres, Tryon Palace front gate area and 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 our website.

An annual crowd pleaser happens again **inside the Attmore-Oliver House.** This year's skit *Ham Radio* features the Dowd relatives with their own radio show. When you're at the Attmore-Oliver House, be sure to 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 among those tombstones.

New Bern's two historic theatres will invite you in as part of your ticket. The Athens Theatre will present a sampling of their musical *Mary Poppins* along with *Thriller*. The Masonic Theatre will highlight *James and the Giant Peach JR*.



Ghostwalk spirits emerge Thursday, October 27, 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 28 and Saturday, October 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.



A special rate of \$14 per ticket is being offered to 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; \$12 active military and their dependents with ID; \$12 full time students with ID; \$5 children 3 to 12 years old; children under 3 years old are free.

ALL TICKET PRICES INCLUDE NORTH CAROLINA SALES TAX.

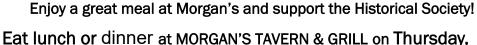
All Ghostwalk sites have INDOOR ghosts (except for Cemetery and Tryon Palace)...

Ghosts can't get wet so Ghostwalk goes on rain or shine!!! See you then!









October 27 and Morgan's will donate a portion of the proceeds from your meal to the Historical Society. We are grateful to Morgan's for this wonderful fund-raising event!!



Fall, 2016 Page



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

#### Thank You Audrey Mellevold!

Recently Kathy Morrison, Historical Society board member and Publicity Committee Chair, shared an article with me provided by nonprofit.org. The author, Lori Jacobwith, explores the concept of a "mission moment" as being a "tiny, powerful" example of how an organization impacts a community. Mission moments are real life experiences by individuals that can be easily shared because they are "short and inspiring." These positive comments enhance an organization's credibility and influence.

A heartwarming example of a "mission moment" for the Historical Society occurred in late June of this year when I was



Audrey Mellevold, Harry Goodman and Shirley Goodman.

contacted by Mr. Brooke Baines, an accountant from Laurinburg, NC, and the executor for the estate of Audrey Booth Mellevold. Although I never had the pleasure of knowing this lady, it appears that Audrey Mellevold and her husband John resided in New Bern back in the 1980's and 1990's. I am not aware as to when they actually retired here nor when they relocated to Laurinburg. What I do know is that she was a member of the New Bern Historical Society and a very active volunteer. Her husband predeceased her and Audrey died June 13, 2016. This lady thought so much of the Historical Society that per her will, she left the Society a few treasures. On July 27, Mr. Baines and his wife traveled to New Bern and after signing the appropriate documents, released the items to us. The collection includes a child's tea set; a 6 leg, drop leaf sewing table, pre-Civil War; a French Limoges punch bowl and ladle; two oil paintings circa 1920; a tilt-top mahogany Civil War era card

table; and several old New Bern newspapers.

These gifts represent a sincere and genuine demonstration of confidence and regard from Audrey Mellevold to the New Bern Historical Society of which we proudly recognize and accept.

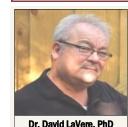
Thank you, Audrey Mellevold!

#### Our 2016 JOURNAL OF THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 2016 issue of the *New Bern Historical Society Journal* will be published soon. This is the twenty-third year the *Journal* has been published. There are articles on a wide variety of topics regarding New Bern's history. Jim Hodges, the Society's Curator, leads off with an article on the history of public education in New Bern, with special focus on Academy Green. Two articles deal with Civil War topics, one on Union fortifications in the area and another on Confederate battle flags. Business matters are addressed in articles on New Bern's guano industry and Jewish-



owned businesses beyond Middle Street. Other articles discuss New Bern in maps, deal with the restored Crockett-Miller slave quarters, and profile the Revolutionary War hero John Daves. Kathy Morrison formatted these articles into Journal form. Planning is underway for the 2017 issue, and articles dealing with people, places, and events in New Bern and Craven County are solicited.



The 2016 Richard K. Lore Lecture will be presented Saturday, November 5 at 2 p.m. in the Cullman Performance Hall, NC History Center. Dr. David LaVere, PhD., will speak on What Happened to the Lost Colony? Join the Historical Society for this free event. No tickets or reservations are necessary. 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.



10 years in the making, the 'NEW' **New Bern Firemen's Museum** is now open in the 1928 New Bern Fire Department Central Fire Station, 420 Broad Street. They need adults to volunteer as staff assistants/ guides and office assistants to work in record keeping and mailings. If you would like to volunteer, **contact Nancy Mansfield**, 252-626-1586 **or David Finn**, 252-658-0172.



SAVE THE DATE: Ed Bearss returns to New Bern, Sunday, January 8, 2 p.m., Cullman Performance Hall, NC History Center. Topic TBA.



Fall, 2016 Page 7

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

This summer has been one of energy and activity at the New Bern Historical Society, Summertime may be when the living is easy, but it hasn't been that easy at the Historical Society. Preparations for the arrival of the William Gaston office and its move have required much of many. The reorganization and rehabilitation of office space in the first floor of the Attmore Oliver House will bring greater efficiency. The preparations for an extensive and impressive array of Fall activities have been intense. Now the pace picks up.

Our Ghostwalk is at full throttle. Lunch and Learn has a remarkable schedule. We look forward to a November occasion at the Battlefield when we will express our gratitude to the Birdsongs for their extraordinary gift.

These things are happening because of the hard work and enthusiasm of a dedicated membership.



Nelson McDaniel
President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society



#### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT FRIEND-RAISER!

Our *Mardi Gra*s theme Membership FRIENDRAISER will be held <u>Thursday</u>, <u>February 23</u> at the William B. Blades House. More information coming your way SOON!



## Coor-Gaston Dependency aka Judge Gaston Law Office on the move!



In the wee hours on September 17, early risers witnessed a spectacle that hasn't been seen in New Bern in the last twelve years. The Coor-Gaston Dependency, traditionally known as the Judge William Gaston Law Office, was moved from its third location on Craven Street to its new – and hopefully permanent – home on the Attmore-Oliver campus. The owners of the building, the New Bern Garden Club, are busy repairing and landscaping the historic building. Upon completion, the Judge Gaston Law Office will be open to the public.

## Leave YOUR legacy in New Bern through Planned Giving



The New Bern Historical Society has been celebrating and preserving New Bern's rich history for 93 years. Through your bequest or other planned gift, you can ensure that our wonderful city's historic treasures will continue to inspire future generations.

We offer many planned giving opportunities that can help you align your charitable giving goals with your financial planning objectives. If you wish to make a planned gift, we urge you to consult your financial advisor or estate-planning professional to discuss your options. Please contact us if you would like to hear more about how you can leave your legacy through the New Bern Historical Society. Call 252-638-8558 or email Executive Director Mickey Miller, director@NewBernHistorical.org.

Fall, 2016 Page 6

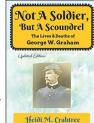
# Lunch & Learn... Wednesday, Oct. 13



Heidi Crahtree

For our October 13 Lunch and Learn, author Heidi Crabtree, will relate the intriguing story about Capt. George W. Graham who arrived in New Bern following the March 1862 Battle of New Bern. Heidi's intriguing presentation will be based on her book *Not a Soldier* 

but a Scoundrel; the Lives and Deaths of George W. Graham.



**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. \$16 for members; \$18 for non-members. Space is limited; **contact the Historical Society office** 638-8558 to make your reservation!

For the **October 13 Lunch and Learn,** choose from the following **two entrée choices** when you make your prepaid reservation with the New Bern Historical Society office:

- Baked salmon with champagne dill cream sauce
- Pork tenderloin with blueberry lemon ginger sauce

# **Volunteer Spotlight on our Office Volunteers**

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. ~Anne Frank

If volunteers are the glue that holds a community together, then the Society's super office volunteers are SUPER GLUE! If you've ever come into the office during the days leading up to an event, you know how chaotic it can be – phones ringing, tourists visiting, committees meeting, and tickets flying out the door. We are blessed to have a committed and highly-talented team to help Pat and Sue with myriad daily challenges. The week begins with Carole Graham, a rock-steady veteran of 10 years who is also co-chairing the Veri-Good bakery during this year's Ghostwalk with her co-chair Karen Whitmore, recipient of the 2016 Newcomers Award, whose terrific sense of humor keeps everyone in the office upbeat. Paula Quinn's several years of experience with the Society is apparent as she confidently handles the most obscure questions about the Attmore-Oliver House. Veteran Sue Jones who generously comes in two days a week cheerfully tackles even the most mundane tasks and always looks for additional work. Lauren Miranda happily lends a hand after finishing her work at the Preservation Foundation.

Earlier this summer we were delighted to add two new members to the volunteer family: Thea Grace Morgan and Cheryl Jukich. Thea's IT experience and marketing background have already proven invaluable. Cheryl, with her talents as a free-lance graphic artist, is creatively bringing our membership email formats and online videos to a new level of interest for members. Although we hate to lose her as a volunteer, we're thrilled that the warm-hearted Charlene Harvell has found employment just down the street with Swiss Bear. And finally, a fond farewell to longtime veteran Ann Wagner as she moves to the Raleigh area to be closer to family. Ann, we wish you well and hope you'll regularly return to visit us. We could not possibly continue to produce quality events and historical programs without the help of our family of dedicated volunteers. Many thanks!

#### **SAVE YOUR PHOTOS SCANNING EVENT RECENTLY HELD**



The Attmore-Oliver House was the site of action on Saturday, September 17. Not only was the Coor-Gaston dependency moved to the campus early in the morning, but the Historical Society held a free community service program "Your Family, Your City, Your History" as part of "Save Your Photos" month. Board Member Claudia Houston spoke with attendees about organizing prints and digital photos, the need to convert old media to digital files, and what to look for in a cloud service. Each participant brought up to 10 photos or ephemera to be scanned for free, and their photos were saved to a disc as well as being uploaded into a free cloud account. Several participants brought photos of New Bern and gave us permission to use them for educational purposes or donated them to our photo collection. There was much sharing and discussion among participants about their photos. Thank you to our great volunteers: Jim Hodges, our Curator, who was on hand to lend his expertise in identifying several places in New Bern, to Kathy Morrison who was instrumental in the publicity and organization of the event, to Jim Morrison for leading the scanning effort, to volunteer Thea Grace Morgan for her automation expertise, and

to **Meagan House** for helping out everywhere. We scanned about 125 photos and added 50 photos that we may use for educational purposes. We would all like to do this again!

The Historical Society is collecting for our annual **ABC** (Attic, Basement, Closet) **Sale** on **March 5, 2016.** We collect all year and accept many categories of items. Contact our office if you have any questions about what we can accept. **If you are interested in volunteering to help with the ABC Sale**, please email us at: <a href="mailto:adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org">adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org</a> or call our office: **252-638-8558** and leave your contact information.



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

Fall, 2016 Page

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





Since the Spring Newsletter update, our volunteers have been busy getting ready for the next phase of the Battlefield Park development. Some years ago, the Society purchased a parcel of land alongside the railroad that is several hundred yards south of Redan 1. This parcel overlooks the Thompson Line and is located where the tide of the battle turned. It has long been desired to enable visitors to walk to this point and see where this action took place 150 years ago. To get there, however, requires access across two adjoining properties, and Board member Ken McCotter has been working with the property owners to obtain this access. In the meantime, our volunteers, along with some assistance from a group of Epiphany students, cut a trail through the woods within our property parallel to the railroad tracks leading up to that point. Before we can finish this work, we will need to acquire permitting and

funding to build two lengthy footbridges across wetlands to bring visitors to the new trail.

Our volunteer guides have also started an additional project. This is a new trail that links Redan 3 with Redan 4. Presently, visitors need to walk back to the plaza (towards the Visitor Center) and go back out again to go from one redan to the other, while a new trail would link them directly. While the trail has been cut, we also need to acquire permitting to build two or three small footbridges across wetlands. When this project is complete, it will save visitors a substantial amount of walking.

Work on the battlefield website is also moving along nicely. Charlene Harvell continues to build the database of names of all the soldiers who were present at the battle. Intern Crystal Johnson has been working with Jeremy LeRay to design the website and has already formed a framework that will provide the "bones" upon which a great deal of additional information can be placed. Architect Pat Hart has also agreed to be part of this project and has already provided suggestions to make the website better.

One additional project has been the formation of a committee to look into additional monuments at the battlefield. At present, the only monument is for the 26th NC Regiment, which manned the redans located on our property. I will keep the membership advised on the results of our committee's discussions before we move forward. Finally, I want to publicly say a fond farewell to one of our hardest working, longtime volunteers, Rich Myers. Rich and his wife Candace have moved from the area to Texas to be closer to family. We will miss them and their dog 'Petey,' the original battlefield mascot!



"Petey"

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

# ~Birdsong Parade Ground & Living History Area Dedication ~

#### ~You Are Invited ~

Please join us as we celebrate the Dedication of the Robert W. and Shirley B. Birdsong Parade Ground & Living History Area and thank the Birdsongs for their generous donation of the Henderson-Dunn-Birdsong House to the Historical Society

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

12 noon ~ 1:00 p.m. Light Refreshments

New Bern Battlefield Park 300 Battlefield Trail New Bern, NC 28562

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.

Page 4 Fall, 2016



Ghostwalk poster photograph courtesy of journalist/ photographer Bill Hand. Ghostwalk poster actors: Thomas Green and Victoria Trahan. Thanks also to John and Sue Baldwin who creatively 'staged' our mysterious floating ghost.





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















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

Ghostwalk can not take place without the efforts of site owners, the steering committee, docents, ghosts and many 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: Sue Baldwin, Ghost Director; Linda Belliard, Volunteer Co-Chair; Linda Burke, Ghost Site chair; Bernard George, Community Chair; Carole Graham, Veri-Good Bakery Co-Chair; Bill Hand, Cemetery Director/ Scriptwriter; Jane Maulucci, Attmore-Oliver House Scriptwriter/ Chair; Kathy Morrison, Publicity Chair; Gary Staley, Logistics Co-Chair; Marilyn Staley, Logistics Co-Chair; Joe Sullivan, Logistics Co-Chair; Sandie Swigart, Volunteer Co-Chair; Phyllis Hoffman, Ticket Chair; Karen Whitmore, Veri-Good Bakery Co-Chair; Sue Wyatt, Places of Worship Tour & Food Chair. Alma Gibbons, Scriptwriter; Joe Hunt, Logistics; John Leys, Script Historian also contributed significantly to our Ghostwalk planning.

Fall, 2015

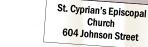
# Ghostwalk 2016 **Membership** Special!

Two tickets, at a special *price of \$14 each ,* were mailed to our membership. We appreciate our members supporting this major fundraising event.



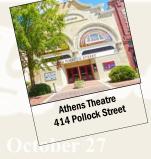


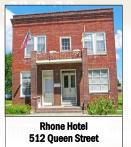
516 Hancock Street

















**Veri-Good Bakery** Located *behind* Attmore







The Veri-Good Bakery.. behind the Attmore-Oliver House has... **DOG-GONE** YUMMY TREATS





Ghostwalk site photos courtesy of Kelvin Kestner and Melvin Kestner

#### **We Applaud Our Ghostwalk 2016 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 and our Platinum Sponsors: Creekside Cabinets, Inc.; Morgan's Tavern & Grill; Robert M. Chiles, P.E., Engineers & Consultants; Ward and Smith, P.A., Attorneys at Law. We greatly appreciate your ongoing and generous support!