

attmore.oliver house circa 1790



new bern historical society

We bring history to life!

Historically Speaking... Quarterly Newsletter **Spring 2018**

LIVINGSTON TAYLOR: *Coming Home* Concert



Livingston Taylor never lived in New Bern...so why is this concert referred to as *Coming Home*? To find out, we step back into New Bern's past... In the late 1700's, Livingston's great-great-great grandfather Isaac Taylor built the Isaac Taylor House on Craven Street for his family and also bought the Attmore-Oliver House (now the administrative offices of the Historical Society) on Broad Street in 1834 for his daughter Mary and her family. So the Taylor family heritage is a definite part of New Bern's incredible history.

Now celebrating 50 years of performing, Livingston has a musical knowledge and repertoire including writing songs recorded by brother James Taylor. He is equally at home with a range of musical genres—folk, pop, gospel, jazz—and upbeat storytelling touching ballads. Livingston Taylor was the *first* Historical Society concert in 2010. So this year's concert is truly a homecoming for Liv.



On the other hand, growing up in Vanceboro, talented **Von Lewis**, half of our opening act of **Lewis n Clark**, was a notable part of New Bern Civic Theatre productions for more than 10 years. Von and his talented wife **Abbey Clark** met while performing as Artists in Residence at the Greenbriar Resort and Casino in White Sulphur Springs, WV. They now make New Bern their new home base and will open this concert with their own take on timeless hits from past decades. Described as having a country/jazz fusion style, their chemistry and talent is undeniable. **Lewis n Clark** will hold your attention from the moment they begin their first song.



The concert date is Thursday, April 12, at 7pm. Tickets are available in general and preferred seating sections with member and non-member prices. There are a few remaining **Sponsorship tickets, which include a special pre-concert Sponsor Champagne Reception with Livingston Taylor and Lewis n Clark at the Isaac Taylor Garden, 228 Middle Street.** To purchase tickets, go to the Historical Society office online www.newbernhistorical.org, phone 252-638-8558 or stop in our office, 511 Broad Street in the downtown historical district. It's going to be an amazing concert! You'll want to be there!

Encore!

new bern historical society's
Celebration of Women in New Bern's History



Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Deeds

Meet 5 Exceptional Women from New Bern's Past
Who Will Tell You Their Stories!

ENCORE Presentation April 22, 2018, 3:00pm
Craven County Library on Johnson Street, New Bern

This is a free presentation and reservations are not necessary,
but early arrival is strongly suggested.

THANK YOU!



John Leys

Board member John Leys has generously and graciously donated his time and his talent to the Historical Society for many years as our Historian. John will step down from his Board position but will continue to volunteer, including writing Ghostwalk scripts. We are so appreciative of all that John has contributed as Historian. Welcome to member Claudia Houston as our new Historian.



Jim
Hodges



Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

ABC Sale Reveals Treasures...The old adage that "one person's junk is another person's treasure" has great validity regarding the Society's recent ABC Sale Fundraiser. Event volunteers keep a watchful eye for any object that has any historical connection to New Bern/Craven County and if something surfaces, I am alerted. This year's event produced several items that complemented our collection and were worthy of accessioning:

- A framed black and white aerial photograph of the New Bern Shipyard from the early 1960's. The shipyard owned by V. O. Andrews appears to have been operational from about 1961-1972 and was located on the south side of the Trent River between the railroad bridge and the Union Point bridge.
- A large black and white panoramic photograph depicting a street scene taken by famed New Bern photographer Bayard Wootten. We had the rolled and torn image conservatively repaired and dry mounted on foam board. Further Investigation revealed that the image was taken from the Market House in Fayetteville and not New Bern. This is a beautiful example of Bayard Wootten's artistry circa 1910.
- A pair of framed black and white portrait photographs taken by Wootten-Moulton Studio. The images are of John Mushro Roberts and his wife Mary Elizabeth Jones Roberts. The original oil on canvas portraits are attributed to the artist Jacob Marlin circa 1840-1850. The prominent Roberts' extended family today includes many familiar New Bern names including Guion, Dunn, Ashford, McCotter, Tolson, Mitchell and others.



My sincere appreciation to the individuals who gifted these treasures to the New Bern Historical Society. These photos are now available to view at the Attmore-Oliver House.

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



Jon Miller

We recently held our annual **Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day**, thanks to the generosity of the Goodman family, Moore's Old Tyme BBQ, reenactors from the 5th and 7th NC Regiments, McCullough's Living History, Reilly's Battery, individual reenactors and individual's displays, Rotary Interact students, Society volunteers and staff.....you get the idea. It takes a lot of help to put this on and each year the kids (and adults) love it! If you didn't bring your kids or grandkids this year you missed out on a great event! Next year, watch for information on this event and sign up. On March 14, the anniversary of the Battle of New Bern, local author Jim White was at the Battlefield Visitor Center to autograph his latest historical work, *New Bern and the Civil War*, which focuses on the three attempts by the Confederacy to re-take the city from Federal control. Read the book to find out how that turned out!

On April 7, we will also be hosting another Park Day, part of a nation-wide program sponsored by the Civil War Trust that encourages the public to visit their local battlefield parks and get their hands dirty by doing some spring cleaning. We will provide a short tour to the volunteers who will also receive commemorative T-shirts. This event is generously sponsored by **Board member Dr. Breck Gibbs**, of Gibbs Dentistry, who will be providing free lunch to all the volunteers.

Thanks to a very generous donation by **member Linda Lore**, the Society was able to acquire a 3-acre, key piece of property adjoining our existing battlefield property. **Board member Carl Huddle** of Trader Construction helped facilitate this acquisition and the deed process is on-going as I write. This new property encompasses a critical point in the battle, and of course we need to tell the public this story. To that end, we have re-engaged **Pat Hart**, architect of our existing History Walk, to develop a self-guided brochure and interpretive panels that will bring the public to a section of the battlefield that had previously been inaccessible. I will write more about this project in future newsletter issues.



Claudia
Houston

Did you know? ...by Claudia Houston, Historian

Are we living in Newbern, Newberne, New Bern, New Berne or Newburn?...New Bern was founded in 1710 by Baron Christoph von Graffenried of Bern, Switzerland and named for the city of his birth. In 1723 the General Assembly enacted that the place be "*Incorporated into a Township, by the Name of Newbern...*" The spelling was different on various maps, newspapers, and official documents. In fact, on June 6, 1891, Henry Gannett, a famous geographer and mapmaker wrote to the City Clerk, William Oliver, with a query. "*Dear Sir, I find great uncertainty in spelling the name of your city. It is spelled Newbern, Newberne, New Bern, New Berne and Newburn. I take the liberty of appealing to you to inform us as fully as possible what the usage is in the official documents of the city.*" Oliver's response was "*...up until 1862 the official name was spelled Newbern and it had been chartered as such.*" He noted that the town had been captured and occupied by Union forces for three years and the post office, the banks, the newspaper and county offices were changed from Newbern to New Berne. In February 1897 the General Assembly of NC established that the "*corporation heretofore existing as the city of Newbern shall hereafter be known and designated as the city of New Bern, and all laws in conflict with the above are hereby repealed.*" So for 121 years we have officially been known as New Bern.

Historical Society President's Message

A new calendar year has started for the New Bern Historical Society and despite the unusually cold and windy weather, we have already had three excellent Lunch & Learn programs and a very successful ABC Sale. Thanks to our many volunteers, publicity committee and staff for making these events so successful. The ABC sale is a logistical production which takes dozens of volunteers to staff and execute over the course of a year. The pick-up crew works year-round to pick-up donations from miles around. Even more volunteers, including Marines and high school Rotary Interact students, are used for unloading, set-up, execution of the sale, and cleanup. The income from this sale helps support other historical programs that do not fund themselves. If you are interested in helping the NBHS with the ABC Sale or any of our other events, we would love to have your time and talents.

We are very grateful to Alice and Gordon Ruckart for their special contribution to the ABC Sale. They generously donated many wonderful antiques including a circa 1815 dresser that prompted a bidding war and sold for a record high. We salute the Ruckarts as they depart New Bern to begin a new chapter in their lives. Our volunteers are not only a blessing to the Society but are the energy that makes New Bern the Hidden Gem of North Carolina.



Joe Hunt

President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

Lunch & Learn in April and May!

Lunch & Learn which includes lunch and presentation at The Chelsea Restaurant, 335 Middle Street, **must be prepaid and purchased in advance through the Historical Society**, 638-8558 or online www.newbernhistorical.org. \$18, members; \$20, non-members.



John Wood

On **Wednesday, April 11**, John Wood of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office will present *History Stands Around You: The History of the New Bern Academy*. He will talk about the history and architecture of the well-loved New Bern Academy, including a discussion of the evolutionary changes to the building and an overview of the proposed upcoming exterior restoration. As an architectural historian John has had extensive experience in historic preservation and restoration projects.

Entrée choices: Low Country Pork Tips, garlic smashed potatoes or Salmon Bruschetta, rice pilaf. Both entrees served with brussels sprouts, rolls, coffee/tea, vanilla cake.

On **Wednesday, May 9**, Curator Jim Hodges presents *Then and Now: Our Town's History in Photos*. You will be intrigued by past and current status of more than 20 New Bern landmarks. In some cases, buildings have been carefully renovated and saved in their original condition. Others have been saved and restored or re-purposed. Some have simply been lost. Jim has sorted through the Historical Society's collection of wonderful images to create this visual journey into New Bern's history.

Entrée choices: Beef Tenderloin Shoulder with horseradish barbeque or Rosemary Chicken. Both entrees served with tomato and parmesan risotto, sautéed zucchini and squash, rolls, coffee/tea and chocolate tuxedo cake.



Jim Hodges

The Founders Circle, the Planned Giving Program of the New Bern Historical Society, honors individuals who have committed to support our institution through deferred gifts and have informed us of their intention. Our founders established this organization in 1922, nearly one hundred years ago. Through your bequest or other planned gift, you too can adopt their vision and provide for our battlefield, collections, and programs in future years.

Gifts you can make include: (1) a bequest in your will or living trust, (2) designating the New Bern Historical Society as the beneficiary of a 401K or other retirement plan, or life insurance policy (3) participating in a life income arrangement such as a Charitable Gift Annuity, a Charitable Remainder Trust and a Charitable Lead Trust (4) a Required Minimum Distribution charitable gift directed to an annuity.

Gift options vary so please consult your attorney about your estate and bequest options.

For more information on how you can support the New Bern Historical Society through a planned gift, or to inform us of your commitment, please contact Mickey Miller, Executive Director at 252-638-8558.

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An **encore presentation** of *Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Deeds* will be presented at the **New Bern-Craven County Library** on **Sunday, April 22 at 3pm**. Five local actors will portray **Kady Brownell, Bayard Wooten, Charlotte Rhone, Sarah Dudley Pettey, and Lula Disosway**. They will tell you how, while they considered themselves ordinary women, they left an extraordinary legacy in New Bern.

No reservation is required for this FREE event but early arrival is strongly recommended!





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
 Website: www.newbernhistorical.org

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

The mission of the New Bern Historical Society is to celebrate and promote New Bern and its heritage through events and education. Please continue to join us in this worthy endeavor.

CALENDAR

- Sat., April 7, National Park Day, New Bern Battlefield Park
- Wed., Apr. 11, Lunch & Learn, John Woods, *History Stands Around You*
- Thurs., Apr. 12, *Legends in Concert Series: Livingston Taylor in Concert*
- Sun., Apr. 22, *Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Deeds* (repeat performance, New Bern Public Library)
- Sun., May 6, Volunteer Appreciation Social, Attmore-Oliver House
- Wed., May 9, Lunch & Learn, Jim Hodges, *Then and Now: Our Town's History in Photos*
- Mon., May 28, Historical Society Offices Closed (Memorial Day)
- Tues., June 12, (new date) Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet
- Wed., July 4, Historical Society Offices Closed (4th of July)
- Sun., July 22, (rescheduled date) Ed Bearss, *Had I Been a Civil War Soldier: A Historian Reflects on Medical Conditions from the Civil War to WWII*
- Wed., Aug. 15, Lunch & Learn, Eddie Ellis, *Espionage & Intrigue in Civil War New Bern*
- Thurs.- Sat., Oct. 25-27, *Ghostwalk 2018*

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

Special appreciation for Battlefield support from New Bern businesses: Gibbs Dentistry, Moore's Old Tyme Barbeque, and Trader Construction.

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Historical Society Legends in Concert 2017

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