



# Historically Speaking...

Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2019

## Ghostwalk 2019—October 24-26

The New Bern Historical Society is excited to present **Ghostwalk 2019 - our 29th year!**

Over the years we have brought *history to life* through this family-friendly event that combines historic spirits, talented local volunteer actors, historic sites, and a fun-filled, creative environment.

The theme this year, ***Spirited Skirts & The Shadows They Cast***

celebrates the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and will feature some of New Bern's most daunting dames...and the men who loved them. Meet spirits at 13 different ghost sites in historic downtown New Bern, including homes, theaters and the Cedar Grove cemetery. Enjoy the ghostly actors who will share their spirited stories in the very locations that their characters lived and visited.

Make the Attmore-Oliver House a must stop location! The house will be open for the hysterical antics of the Dowd Family set in 1969, *Andromeda Strained*. Stop by the very popular VeriGood Bakery, a special



*Welcome to my world!*

fundraiser where our VeriGood volunteers bake scrumptious goodies to sell on all three nights.

We are also delighted to welcome to our Ghostwalk family, Cotten Funeral Home as sponsor of the exciting **TapSnap Photo Booth** located behind the Attmore-Oliver House. Capture your Ghostwalk memories with a photo, then post your picture to social media at the sharing station. All included in your ticket price!

On Thursday, October 24, **Morgan's Tavern & Grill** is generously donating a portion of lunch and dinner proceeds to the Historical Society. What a wonderful way to start your Ghostwalk adventure!

Don't miss the talented actors of the **New Bern Civic Theatre** with a special preview from the *Hunchback of Notre Dame* and the **RiverTowne Players** with their *Ghostly Halloween Skits*.

Check out **Page 4** for more, or visit [www.GhostwalkNewBern.com](http://www.GhostwalkNewBern.com).

*Member tickets have been mailed.*

*Thank you for supporting the Historical Society's largest annual fundraising event!*

*Special thanks to the homeowners who so graciously open their historic homes for this beloved annual tradition.*



Eat lunch or dinner at **MORGAN'S TAVERN & GRILL** on Thursday, October 24 when our good friends at Morgan's will donate a portion of that day's proceeds to the Society.





## Historical Society President's Message...by Joe Hunt

On the morning of August 3rd, I started my walk at 6 am toward South Front Street. As I was coming up Middle Street, I saw a woman get out of a car dressed in a costume, walk up the street and take a right turn on Pollock. When I got to the corner, I saw a group of people in the middle of the street with a camera set up for a photo shoot.

As I approached, the first person that came into view was Cheryl Jukich, then Karen

Bixler, Andy Dunn (husband of Sue Dunn), Bill Hand (the photographer) and Pat Traynor (who just retired from the NBHS office staff) handing out coffee. As it turned out, they were doing a photo shoot for the Ghostwalk poster. The women dressed in different period costumes were Teisha Glover, Wendy Savitz, Cinda Hill, Janice Cox and Sue Dunn—all reflecting the strength and determination of their times. What amazed me was that doing the Ghostwalk photo shoot in August is an indication of the long-range planning that goes into all our events and the dedication of our staff and volunteers to be out at so early in the morning.



Photo by Andrew Dunn

Walking on, I thought about all the successful projects, programs and events NBHS has every year and the staff, the number of volunteers and community support needed to make them happen. Programs like Ghostwalk, Heritage Homes Tour, ABC Sale, Gingerbread House Contest, Lunch & Learn, and Lore Lecture all require a substantial number of volunteers and staff coordination. Also, extremely important, the Battlefield volunteers involved in the maintenance of the park and the generosity of Carl Huddle and his crew from Trader Construction Company with building a 150-foot bridge, those who help maintain the Attmore-Oliver Campus and the *Earth Angels* who bring to life the wonderful gardens on the property.

It takes the dedication of our Executive Director, office staff, the Board of Directors, the various committees and the hundreds of volunteers to make the New Bern Historical Society possible. We are also grateful to you our members who have been a part of our family for many years and those of you who are new to our community, for the continued help to strengthen our mission “to celebrate and promote New Bern and its heritage through events and education. We are truly blessed by all those who give their time and resources to make the NBHS what it is today.



## Message from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

Have you noticed a new face in the front office? Karen Bixler joined the staff in July as the Assistant to the Director, responsible

for much of our daily administrative and program management. Karen moved to New Bern from Beaufort, SC in 2017 and began volunteering here shortly thereafter. We quickly appreciated her great people skills and technical savvy, honed over her career as a recreation manager with the City of Fairfax and in real estate development in the DC area. We don't give Karen much free time but when we do, she spends it renovating her historic Riverside home and with her dogs. Please take the time to warmly welcome her to the team!



Karen's partner in the office is Administrative Assistant Sue Dunn, who's been with the Society for ten years.

Those new members will know Sue by her charming British accent.

So how do we accomplish so much with only two part-time front office staffers? **Volunteers!** We absolutely could not manage without our terrific admin volunteers **Paula Quinn, Carole Graham, Karen Whitmore, Cheryl Jukich, and Susan Fuleihan.** We are blessed to have such hard-working folks share their time and talents to make the Historical Society so successful!

### *Journal of the New Bern Historical Society*

#### **Check your mailbox!**

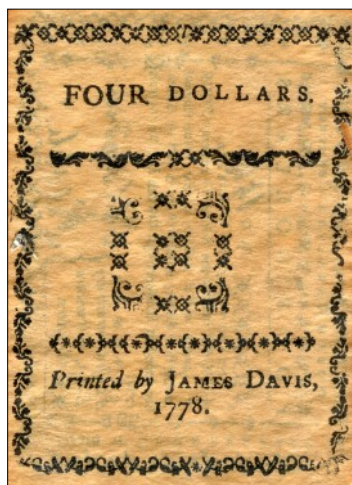
The Society's annual **Historical Journal** will be mailed to members in the upcoming weeks. **Editor Richard Wolcott “Woolie” McEnally** and his Editorial Committee have produced another quality collection of topics for you to enjoy!



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

### THE POWER OF A GIFT

A few months ago I received a telephone call at the Historical Society from a gentleman in Cokeville, Wyoming. His wife had recently died and he was going through her possessions – disposing of some things and making an effort to find appropriate homes for other things. He indicated he had come across an old \$4 currency bill that had been printed in New Bern in 1778 by James Davis. After recovering from a brief euphoric attack, I informed him that the Historical Society would be greatly appreciative of his generosity. A few days later the gift arrived and I immersed myself in the history of James Davis and his life here in New Bern.

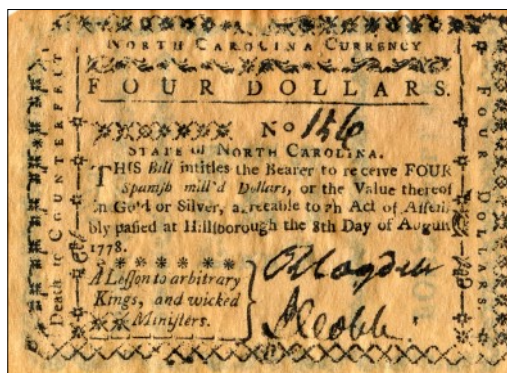


James Davis, recognized as North Carolina's first printer, was born in Virginia in 1721.

After learning the printing trade in Williamsburg he came to North Carolina in 1749 to fill the post of public printer. His shop was originally on Pollock Street in New Bern and later relocated to Broad Street that backed up to his home on East Front Street. Eventually, he owned many properties throughout New Bern and Craven County. Davis served as public printer for North Carolina nearly thirty-three years and printed at least a hundred titles. In August 1751, he began *The North Carolina Gazette*, which was the state's first newspaper.

Being an active and ambitious man, James Davis became a member of the county court, was elected sheriff of Craven County, and in 1755 was appointed postmaster of New Bern. If that wasn't enough, he served as justice of the peace, a member of the Council of Safety, represented New Bern in the Provincial Congresses, was selected as a judge on the Admiralty Court for the Port of Beaufort, and highlighted his political career as a member of the Council of State in 1781.

The bill presented to the Historical Society by the gentleman from Wyoming is indeed a treasure. In the spirit of being thorough, I felt that it was necessary to authenticate the small bill. After consulting with Tom's Coins and Antiques, as well as staff at the library's Kellenberger Room, I learned that the bill was not the



real McCoy. It appears that Tryon Palace back in the nineteen sixties or seventies had reproduced examples of colonial currency to be offered for sale

in the gift shop. Although I was initially disappointed that the bill was not genuine, the experience had its merits. Firstly, a stranger honoring the memory of his wife made the effort to reach out and share with the New Bern Historical Society, and secondly, it created an opportunity for us to reflect on the history of New Bern and one of its illustrious citizens, James Davis.



### New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

#### 2019-2020 Officers

Joe Hunt, President  
Kathy Morrison, First Vice-President  
Egon Lippert, Second Vice-President  
Chris Kelso, Secretary  
Jim Morrison, Treasurer  
Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant  
Claudia Houston, Historian  
Jim Hodges, Curator

#### 2019-2020 Directors

Joe Anderson  
Carol Becton  
Clayton Cheek  
Susan Cook  
Breck Gibbs  
Lynne Harakal  
Carl Huddle  
Cheryl Lawrence  
Ken McCotter  
Nelson McDaniel  
Susan Moffat-Thomas  
Cathy O'Brien  
Gerri Olvaney  
Patti Urick  
Karen Whitmore

#### Administrative Staff

Mickey Miller—Executive Director  
Karen Bixler—Assistant to Director  
Sue Dunn—Admin. Assistant






*Come visit us at the cemetery...  
you'll never want to leave.*





*New lady editor, huh...who does she think  
she is trying to run a newspaper?*

Ghostwalk




**OCTOBER 24 - 25 - 26**  
ghostwalknewbern.com  
252.638.8558





SPIRITED SKIRTS & THE SHADOWS THEY CAST

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Our ghostly poster actors (from left to right) are:  
Sue Dunn; Janice Cox; Wendy Savitz; Cinda Hill  
and Teisha Glover.

This Ghostwalk poster is the combined artistic production of  
Journalist/Photographer Bill Hand and Graphic Designer Cheryl  
Jukich.

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*For a good time, come  
on out to Ghostwalk, y'all!*

Ghostwalk tickets are good for all three nights - but only limited sites are open on Thursday.

Members can buy four tickets at the member rate of \$14. Prices for your non-member friends are \$18 in advance, \$23 on the days of the event.

Be sure to visit the places of worship for delicious Ghostwalk meals and special tours.

Check out the interactive map of all the sites at [www.GhostwalkNewBern.com](http://www.GhostwalkNewBern.com).

## Applause for our Volunteer Ghostwalk Creative & Steering Committees!

Ghostwalk can not take place without the efforts of the creative committee & steering committee, ghostly greeters, actors and hundreds of other volunteers who make it come to life! Planning begins nine months prior, after the creative committee creates the theme and develops the scripts and the steering committee first meets. These committees are responsible for most aspects of Ghostwalk and without their dedication, this major fundraising (and "fun-raising"! ) event could not happen.

This year's committee members: **Matt Arthur**, Scriptwriter; **Lori Favre**, Cemetery Operations Manager/Scriptwriter; **Alma Gibbons**, Scriptwriter; **Bill Hand**, Cemetery Director/Scriptwriter; **Nancy Hitchcock**, Ghost Site Director; **Cheryl Jukich**, Graphics Chair; **John Leys**, Scriptwriter; **Jane Maulucci**, Attmore-Oliver House Director/Scriptwriter; **Jim Morrison**, Ticket Chair; **Kathy Morrison**, Publicity Chair; **Cathy O'Brien & Sharon Nelson**, Volunteer Co-Chairs; **Gerri Olvaney**, Ghost Site Chair; **Gary & Marilyn Staley**, **Joe Sullivan**, **Walt & Cindy Teasdale**, Logistics Co-Chairs; **Karen Whitmore**, VeriGood Bakery Chair; **Sue Wyatt**, Places of Worship Tour & Food Chair, **Lt. "Mac" McInnis**, New Bern Police Department. Kudos to **Sandie Swigart** for mentoring our volunteer chairs.

Special thanks to "Coach" **Pat Traynor** for sharing many years of Ghostwalk experience with all of us!

## November Happenings...you won't want to miss!

### *The Last POW*

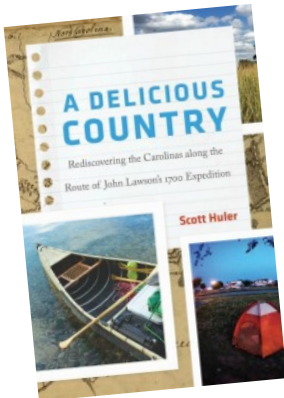
**Special Encore** presentation by **Steve Tyson**

Wednesday, November 6  
6:30 pm at NC History Center  
Cost \$10



***This popular program sold out over a month early last time - reserve your seat now!***

Join natural born storyteller and local history devotee Steve Tyson as he recounts his quest to discover the story of POWs held in New Bern's World War II prisoner of war camp. Fresh off his trip to Germany, Steve will share his rambling journey to answer **'what if he could find one of the POWs from New Bern's Camp Battle?'**



### 2019 Annual Richard K. Lore Lecture

#### ***Retracing John Lawson's Voyage of Discovery***

**Presented by Scott Huler**

Author of *A Delicious Country: Rediscovering the Carolinas Along the Route of John Lawson's 1700 Expedition*

**Sunday, November 17 - 2 to 4 pm at NC History Center**

*Cost \$10 - Reception and book signing following the program*

In 1700, young Londoner John Lawson set off on a journey to explore the mysterious Carolina back-country. 314 years later, MIT Knight Science Journalism Fellow Scott Huler faithfully retraced Lawson's route, recounting his journey through blog posts and Twitter feed. Combining a traveler's curiosity, a naturalist's keen observation, and a writer's wit, he finds surprising parallels between Lawson's time and our own.

### **Gingerbread House Contest & Display**

This year's theme:

***Historic New Bern Christmas***



entrants will also receive a hand-crafted pottery ornament made by local potters.

Visit **[www.GingerbreadNewBern.com](http://www.GingerbreadNewBern.com)** or stop by the office for contest rules and entry form. Entry and fee are due by **November 11**.

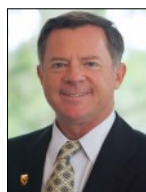
### **Take the Gingerbread Class!**

We're bringing the smiles back downtown again this year with the 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Display!

Whether novice or pro, family or individual - everyone is invited to enter! All houses will be displayed in downtown business windows during the holidays. Cash prizes and gift cards will be awarded. The first 50

Always wanted to try making a house? Take the 1.5 hour beginners gingerbread house workshop hosted by our partners at Craven Community College on October 7 or October 16. For info and registration, visit **<https://cravencc.edu/aep/kitchen-cuisine/#ginger>**.





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

What's new at the battlefield, you ask? A brand spankin' new 150 foot long bridge over the wetlands leading from the main trail to the new property we recently acquired, that's what! In previous articles I had written about how the new property played a key role in the battle but that because of the difficulty in traversing the wetlands, it was difficult for visitors to access. We now have a world class footbridge thanks to the efforts of **Board Member Carl Huddle** and his company, **Trader Construction**. This very generous contribution of design, labor and material to the Society adds immensely to the appeal and navigability of the Battlefield Park.



So what now? Now we can proceed with another project I had previously discussed with our readers, that of the development of interpretive panels to be placed toward and within the new property. The creation of these panels had been put on hold for two reasons: one, there was no good means for visitors to traverse the wetlands and two, a lack of funding. The donation of the bridge by Trader Construction Company allows the Society to move forward with this phase of battlefield development. Architect Pat Hart, who developed our existing panels, will now be free to move

forward on telling the story of this newly accessible piece of property. Stay tuned for more on this in the newsletter.

The battlefield has also benefited in a big way from a generous donation by **A-1 Tree**, owned by **Earl Temple**, in the form of a veritable mountain of wood chips. Our volunteers have been busy moving large amounts of these chips to cover a good portion of the park's trails that had previously simply been cleared of underbrush. The beauty of the chips is that it provides a soft, durable path for walkers, and helps prevent erosion and the re-growth of weeds and brush.



If you haven't been out to the battlefield lately, please take advantage of this fantastic cool, sunny weather we're having and see how these two new projects have enhanced the look and usability of our beautiful Battlefield Park.

**If you are interested in volunteering at our New Bern Battlefield Park, please contact Battlefield Adjutant Jon Miller, email: [jon.miller.newbern@gmail.com](mailto:jon.miller.newbern@gmail.com), telephone: 252.626.1362. Or contact our Historical Society office. Volunteers are always welcome!**

## Leave *YOUR* legacy in New Bern through Planned Giving

The Historical Society recently concluded the sale of the "**Birdsong House**" at 622 New Street, New Bern. This property was generously gifted to the Society in 2015 by **Robert and Shirley Birdsong**, with the assistance of **Susan Moffat-Thomas** on our Board of Directors. The Birdsongs live in Yorktown, VA but had restored the historic house and were frequently here to enjoy New Bern.

The proceeds of the sale were invested in our Endowment accounts (Battlefield, Operating Expense, and Unrestricted) proportionately. Gifts like this, whether as part of an estate, during a lifetime, or through a trust or foundation, strengthen the Society and help insure we will be active in New Bern and, with your help, making Investments in History for many years to come. We will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2023, and believe a strong funding base, adequate reserves, and prudent oversight of our operations and investments will take us to another 100 years.

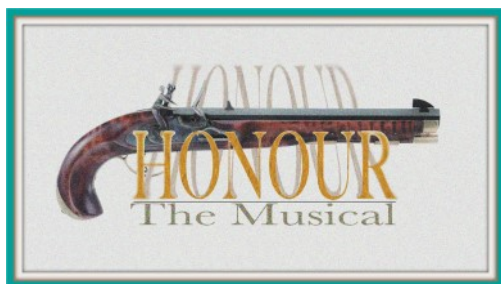
If you have thought about including the New Bern Historical Society in your estate plan, or perhaps in your current required minimum distributions, **you can make a difference!** We have established endowment funds that can direct your gifts as you prefer. If you have any questions please call Mickey Miller to start a discussion, and then consult your own tax or legal advisors about plans best suited to your own situation. Don't wait - we want to be able to **Thank You Now** for assuring the long celebration of New Bern's history.



## New Bern Historical Society

*in partnership with*

CarolinaEast Health System, The New Bern Sun Journal & Craven Community College  
*presents*



### ***Honour, The Musical***

An original historical musical play by author, journalist, and playwright  
**Bill Hand** with original music by **Simon Spalding**

Performance dates Jan 23 - Feb 2, 2020  
at Craven Community College's Orringer Auditorium

Tickets on sale November 1 at the office, at [www.HonourTheMusical.com](http://www.HonourTheMusical.com)  
and at Bank of the Arts.

The historic Stanly-Spaight duel will be brought to life through original dialogue and music, as the full-length play sweeps you from the signing of the Constitution to the dispute that would lead these bitter rivals to a fight to the death on the field of honor.

### 2019-2020 Event Calendar

- Mon, Oct 7 & Wed, Oct 16: **Gingerbread House Class** at Craven Community College
- Thu, Oct 24: **Morgan's Tavern & Grill Proceeds Fundraiser for Ghostwalk**
- Thu-Sat, Oct 24-26: **29th Annual Ghostwalk: Spirited Skirts & The Shadows They Cast**
- Mon, Oct 28: **Office closed to public**
- Wed, Nov 6: **SPECIAL ENCORE - Steve Tyson, The Last POW** at NC History Center
- Mon, Nov 11: **Gingerbread House Contest entry forms due**
- Mon, Nov 11: **Office Closed for Veterans Day**
- Fri, Nov 16: **Gingerbread House Contest houses due**
- Sun, Nov 17: **Richard K. Lore Annual Lecture, Scott Huler, The Lawson Trek** at NC History Center
- Thu-Fri, Nov 28-29: **Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday**
- Wed, Dec 11: **Lunch & Learn, Carol Becton, The Great Fire**
- Tue-Thu, Dec 24-26: **Office closed for Christmas holiday**
- Tue, Jan 1: **Office closed for New Year's holiday**
- Sun, Jan 19: **Civil War Lecture, Hampton Newsome, The Fight for the Old North State** at NC History Center
- Thu-Sun, Jan 23-26 / Fri-Sun, Jan 31-Feb 2: **Honour, The Musical** at Orringer Auditorium
- Sat, Mar 7: **ABC Sale** at Knights of Columbus Hall

## Historical Society's Annual ABC Sale

### Feel good about doing good!

The Annual **ABC Sale** (Attic, Basement, Closet) will be held on March 7, 2020. Our sale is well-known for a wide selection of higher-end, gently used items. We collect donated items throughout the year (please check our website for list of items we no longer accept). Bring your boxed donations to the Historical Society during office hours. A tax receipt will be provided. Need help with furniture or larger items? Call our office at 252.638.8558.



clean up...pare down...sort out



**Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm**

**511 Broad Street  
New Bern, North Carolina 28560**

**252.638.8558  
newbernhistorical.org**

**Mickey Miller / [director@newbernhistorical.org](mailto:director@newbernhistorical.org)  
Admin Staff / [adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org](mailto:adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org)**

The Historical Society is proud of the relationships we have developed over the years with the local business community and thank them for their continued sponsorship of our events. We ask you to support our business partners who generously contribute to the New Bern Historical Society.

**Title Sponsor - Honour, The Musical &  
Spectral Sponsor - 2019 Ghostwalk**



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