



Historically Speaking

Quarterly Newsletter • winter 2019



Performance dates

January 23, 24, 25, 31, February 1 at 7:30pm
& January 26, February 2 at 2pm

Craven Community College's
Orringer Hall

Ticket Prices

Adult: \$15 Student: \$10



Per Erichsen (Richard Dobbs
Spaight & John Stillely (John
Stanly)

New Bern is in for a theatrical treat... **Honour, The Musical**, a creative telling of North Carolina's most notorious affair of honor, the Stanly-Spaight duel. This original full-length musical play brings to the stage the drama and complex lives of political leaders Richard Dobbs Spaight and John Stanly. It also features Spaight's favored slave Sarah,

and freedman Barber Jack, set against a contentious political time in a turbulent young America.

Rehearsals are underway, and rumor has it, the book and lyrics by Bill Hand and music by Simon Spalding are being compared to **Hamilton** (but without the hip-hop beat)!

Please support us in this exciting collaboration of New Bern history and New Bern arts, as we produce another exciting New Bern first.



L-R: Denise Magwood (Sarah Rice),
Dee Murray (Mary Spaight), Shannon
Wetherington (Elizabeth Stanly)

2020 Civil War Presentation

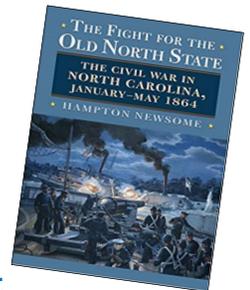
The Fight for the Old North State

Presented by Author Hampton Newsome

Sunday, January 19, 2020
2 - 3:30 pm at North Carolina History Center

Reception and book signing following

You are probably aware of the first Battle of New Berne in 1862 and subsequent Union occupation of the town. But did you know that one of the last successful Confederate offensives centered on a massive resolve to retake New Berne?



To learn more about this chapter of New Bern history, reserve your seat now!

\$10 Donation - Prepaid reservations recommended
All proceeds go to the New Bern Battlefield Park

For Reservations

www.newbernhistorical.org • 252.638.8558



How Did We Get Here from There?

New Bern's Downtown Renaissance

Sunday, February 23 at 2pm
NC History Center
Members: \$10 Non-Members: \$13

Presented by Susan Moffat-Thomas
Retired Executive Director, Swiss Bear
Downtown Development Corp.



Susan will take you on a journey through the WWII decline of downtown, the demolition of its waterfront and the establishment in 1979 of Swiss Bear, Inc., a private non-profit. Swiss Bear, in partnership with the local government, was the catalyst for downtown New Bern's rebirth as a vibrant center of civic and social activity—all this in only 40 years!

For Reservations

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Message from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

Happy New Year to our members and friends!

2020 promises to be an exciting year of change for the Historical Society, with several new programs added to our lineup. Let's start with *Honour, The Musical*, which premieres very soon.

In a world defined by TV, film, and social media, it can be challenging to share history. Let's face it, to many people, history is . . . well . . . *boring*. With *Honour, The Musical*, we're thrilled to be bringing to life one of New Bern's most compelling historical stories through the exciting medium of live musical theater. With the knowledge and wit of writer Bill Hand, the musical chops of Simon Spalding, and a wonderfully talented cast, it's going to be a terrific show! Great civic leaders have stepped up to help produce this New Bern first, including title sponsor CarolinaEast Health System; Craven Community College, which is providing the first-class venue; title media sponsor the New Bern Sun Journal; and the Bate Foundation. Local history, local talent, and local pride – all in one great production!

Check our newsletter and website for more exciting new events - a special presentation on New Bern's downtown renaissance, an additional Lunch & Learn program, and our first-ever golf tournament fundraiser. Who knew celebrating history could be so much fun?



Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

Recently I was contacted by a gentleman, George Allen Ives, Jr., who is a native New Bernian. Although currently residing in Durham, it is obvious that his love for New Bern is unwavering. I remembered the family from the late 1960s – his beautiful wife Gisela and their four equally beautiful blonde haired children. The Ives were a prominent old New Bern family and related to many other families that had been around since New Bern's early days.

The purpose of his telephone call was to determine if the Historical Society had an original copy of Stephen F. Miller's "Recollections of New Bern Fifty Years Ago". Although we do have a photocopy, the prospects of an original would be a most generous gift. A few days later the book arrived.

Published in 1874 by S.D. Pool in Raleigh, the book amazingly is in good condition. The author Stephen F. Miller was born in Jones County in 1805 and moved to New Bern at the age of seventeen to work as a clerk. After two years, he relocated to Georgia, earned a law degree, and enjoyed great success. Due to failing health in his later years, he focused on writing for a variety of newspapers and reviews. His early years in New Bern must have been a profoundly impressionable experience to result in fifty years later putting pen to paper and recounting some three hundred names of residents and more than fifty occupations and topics with attention to every detail. This small book is truly an amazing time capsule that displays everyday life in New Bern in the early 19th century. The book is personalized with Ives family member inscriptions dating 1908 and 1932. Thank you George Allen Ives, Jr. for sharing this unique glimpse into New Bern's past.



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

Just a couple of weeks ago we had the pleasure of dedicating the planting of a new live oak tree in honor of one of our volunteers, **Ray Cahoon**, who had passed away shortly after Hurricane Florence. Ray's wife **Linda** and about 35 family and friends were on hand to see the plaque honoring Ray at the base of the tree. Linda was also presented with a hand-carved wooden dough bowl created by battlefield volunteer **Bill Long**.

The volunteer crew has been hard at work this fall clearing away views toward the swamp at Redan 5 and the view towards the railroad culvert at Redan 2. These views are located at stops during tours and give visitors a better look at key parts of the battle. The work was made much easier with



the generous donation by volunteer **Don Ingraham** of a new chain saw.

A big thank-you also is due to **Earl Temple** of **A-1 Tree, Inc.** for his help in getting down a tree that we had cut down that got hung up in a nearby tree. He volunteered his services

rather than charging us as he enjoys coming to the park and seeing what we've done out there. His company has also donated quite a bit of mulch that we use for our trails. Thank you, Earl.

Happy New Year to all!



Historical Society President's Message

2019 has been a very good year for the New Bern Historical Society and we have many things to be thankful for. Our programs, events and membership continue to grow.

Ghostwalk, Homes Tour, Lunch & Learns, lectures, and the Gingerbread House Contest have attracted not only members, but area residents and even out-of-town visitors. I want to express my appreciation to the board of directors, our executive director, office staff, the many volunteers, members and, yes, even the **weather**. Your volunteer efforts, ideas and financial support, make possible our programs, the upkeep of the 511 Broad Street campus and Battlefield Park. A special thanks to those who contributed to our Annual Fund – we could not keep New Bern's heritage alive without your donations. Finally, if you are not volunteering with us, I encourage you to give it consideration. It's a great way to make new friends and contribute to this wonderful community -- and we have great fun at everything we do.

We hope 2020 will be a blessing to you and your family.

Golf Tournament SAVE *the* DATE

May 9, 2020 at Taberna Country Club

Registration 10:30 • Tee off at noon

Superball format • No handicaps

Prizes, raffles, gift baskets

Followed by fabulous dinner at Taberna Country Club!



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

Annual ABC Sale
Saturday, March 7, 2020
8 am — Noon

The **ABC Sale** is held at the Knights of Columbus Building, 1125 Pine Tree Drive in New Bern. It's the New Year – time to clean up, pare down, and sort out. Make room in your closets. You can do all that AND support the Historical Society by donating your **gently-used** treasures for our **Annual ABC Sale**. This is one of New Bern's largest indoor yard sales and a major Historical Society fundraiser.

Our talented ABC co-chairs specialize in selling unique items like boats, cars, and estate items like jewelry and antiques, which are sold offline year-round and are a wonderful source of revenue for the Historical Society. Volunteers needed on March 5 & 6 to help put **ABC** items on display! Please phone or email the Historical Society if you can help.

New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

2019-2020 Officers

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

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 Susan Cook
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 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

2019 Gingerbread House Contest

Over 30 total gingerbread houses representing all categories were submitted! This heart-warming community event could not have happened without the support of the many sponsors, contestants, judges and committee. Thank you for all your hard work!



Carol More—Nancy Chiles Heritage Award winner

The 1st Place Winners:

Youth — Redford Kids
 Family — The Canady Quintet
 Adult — Meg Mooney
 Professional — LCC Gingerbread Bakers Team 3
 Nancy Chiles Heritage Awards Winners —
 Carol More & Dawn Freeman
 People's Choice Award — Promise Place/Candice Parker

The Harriett Marks Scholarship Applications are now being accepted

This scholarship is awarded to a **senior graduating from New Bern High School** and is based on academics and financial need. Completed scholarship applications (available on New Bern High School and Historical Society websites) must be returned to the New Bern Historical Society by **Friday, March 27, 2020**. Check our Facebook page for updates.



Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
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www.newbernhistorical.org
 Mickey Miller / director@newbernhistorical.org
 Admin Staff / 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



Premier Sponsor Heritage Homes Tour



Title Sponsor 2019 Ghostwalk



Zaytoun Ballew & Taylor and Charles K. McCotter, Jr., Attorney at Law

The Bate Foundation

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Leave *YOUR* Legacy in New Bern through Planned Giving

You may have faithfully saved for retirement in your IRA, putting money there and enjoying the tax savings at the time. That changes when you reach retirement and begin withdrawing funds because you then begin paying taxes on the amount you withdraw from your IRA. Once you reach 70½ you encounter the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) which generally mandates withdrawing a portion of your IRA each year. One option you have then is to give an amount from your IRA directly to the New Bern Historical Society or another qualified charitable organization without having to pay income taxes on the gift. And, doing so counts toward your required minimum distribution. It reduces your taxable income, which may have other tax benefits.

If you would like to discuss this option to minimize taxable income while *Investing in History* with us contact Mickey Miller at 638-8558.

