

Historically Speaking...

new bern historical society

WINTER, 2017 Quarterly Newsletter

Historical Society *Legends in Concert Series:*

UNDER THE STREETLAMP: *Rockin'Round the Clock* Concert Sunday, May 21, 2017



TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN FEBRUARY BEFORE VALENTINE'S DAY !

UNDER THE STREETLAMP's new Concert *Rockin'Round the Clock* features high energy performers with slick dance moves and singing styles that harken back to an era of sharkskin suits, flashy cars and

martini shakers, starring recent leading cast members of the Tony Award-winning musical *Jersey Boys*. This amazing Concert is filled with great music and fun behind-the-scenes tales, bringing back the classic hits of Frankie Valli, Elvis Presley, Tom Jones, the Beatles, Roy Orbison, Bobby Darin and many others, and magically recreates the time when singers

would gather under a street lamp to sing their favorite songs. Two years ago, the Historical Society presented another UNDER THE STREETLAMP concert: *Let the Good Times Roll* and tickets were SOLD OUT one month before the Concert!

Mark the date! UNDER THE STREETLAMP: *Rockin'Round the Clock* Concert will take place at 7 p.m., Sunday, May 21, 2017, at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. More details soon!

These concert tickets will make great Valentine's Day, Birthday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, ANY Day gifts!



Annual Membership Friendraiser: *Mardi Gras!* Thursday, February 23

The Historical Society's annual Membership Friendraiser will be a ***Mardi Gras!*** party open to members and to those who become a member for the Friendraiser. The *Mardi Gras!* party will be **Thursday, February 23** from 6-8 p.m. at the William B. Blades House, 602 Middle Street, courtesy of owners Mark and Lynne Harakal. The Friendraiser is a great opportunity to socialize with other people who are interested in the history of this town while enjoying elegant hors d'oeuvres

in a beautiful historical home festively decorated for *Mardi Gras!*

Reserve your place with a \$10 donation, free to any member bringing another person who joins the Historical Society for this event. (The *Mardi Gras!* party is free for new members joining the Historical Society for the Friendraiser.) To alleviate lines outside the Blades House on the night of the Friendraiser, we ask that all reservations be prepaid. Please contact the Historical Society office, 638-8558, or online

www.newbernhistorical.org to reserve your place by February 10.

Invitations will be mailed to our membership by the end of January.



THANK YOU! VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

What may have looked like "white space" on the NBHS calendar over the holidays, was, in fact, important behind-the-scenes planning time for the tireless team of **Cheryl Lawrence** and **Gerri Olvaney**, co-chairs for the ABC Sale, our annual indoor yard sale and a major fundraiser. Whether finding donated storage space, scouting deals, or organizing volunteers, Cheryl and Gerri are quietly and competently making it happen months in advance. Cheryl's expertise is spotting quality and pricing; we joke that she could sell sand to a desert. Gerri is the great organizer with a knack for nailing down even the smallest detail. They're ably assisted by **Joe Sullivan** and the rest of the ABC Sale pick-up team (also known as "men in trucks") who cheerfully go out in the coldest rain and stickiest heat to pick up your donated treasures. Many thanks to long time members **Barbara and Woody Woodruff** who provide generous support for this event.

Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

North Carolina Revisited

In October I received at the Historical Society a package containing sixteen photographs sent from an individual residing outside of Boston, Massachusetts. She indicated that the photographs came from New Hampshire and had been acquired either through her late mother-in-law's estate or that possibly she had purchased them in a box lot at an auction. Regardless, she was delighted that they have finally come home to New Bern.

William Garrison Reed, a soldier in Co. D, 44th Massachusetts Regiment, was stationed in New Bern between October 1862 and June 1863. In 1884 he and other veterans revisited sites in Eastern North Carolina including New Bern that they had experienced earlier during the Civil War. Mr. Reed documented his return by photographing the various locations. Towards the end of his life, he gifted a bound album of his photographs to the New Bern Library around 1926. This wonderful collection of photographs can be found in the Kellenberger Room of the New Bern-Craven County Library.

The New Bern Historical Society is pleased and proud to include these sixteen William Garrison Reed photographs in our collection. We are also greatly appreciative of this kind lady from Massachusetts for her thoughtfulness in making the effort to see that these photographs returned home to New Bern.



Painting by Janet Francoeur

50th Anniversary: Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour April 7-8, 2017 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Presented by
new bern historical society
and
New Bern Preservation Foundation

CELEBRATING 50 BEAUTIFUL SPRINGS!

Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8, the **50th Anniversary: Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour**, sponsored by New Bern Historical Society and New Bern Preservation Foundation, will take place. **Our FIRST Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour took place in 1967!** The price of a 1967 tour ticket was \$3 which makes our 2017 tour ticket 50 years later a truly reasonable price at \$18 (\$14 for members).

This year we have homes and gardens in two historic districts as well as many 60's-theme related happenings ongoing throughout the two days. A highlight of the tour will be the Palmer-Tisdale House - celebrating its 250th anniversary and featured as our 2017 Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour 'poster house.'

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED: We are seeking volunteers in many capacities: docents for the homes and gardens in the Downtown Historical District and the Ghent Historical District, ticket sellers, office help, etc. A unique need this year is for items from the 60's decade. There will be a display of these items in the newly relocated Gaston Law Office on the Attmore-Oliver House grounds - hosted by the New Bern Garden Club. Please check your attic and garages for 1960's decade yearbooks, photos, clothes, entertainment programs, posters and more, to loan us for our display. They will be so appreciated and taken care of during their loan to us. **Contact the New Bern Historical Society (638-8558, adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org) or Preservation Foundation (633-6448, info@newbernpf.org) if you can volunteer and/or help with items from the 60's decade.**

Tickets will be available mid-March. If you do not wish member tickets mailed to you, please contact the New Bern Historical Society or Preservation Foundation.

We hope you and your friends will join us for this very special 2017 Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour!

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



SAVE THE DATE: Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day for Children at New Bern Battlefield Park, Saturday, April 29, 12 noon — 4 p.m. (new time!). This fun filled event brings history to life like no other. Young folks 6-12 years old will experience life in the Civil War era with the help of uniformed re-enactors. Further details coming soon. Prepaid registration is required and includes a commissary lunch. When complete information is available and advertised, contact the Historical Society, 638-8558 to register.

Remembering devoted New Bern Battlefield Volunteer Guide DuWayne J. Campeau who passed away suddenly December 22, 2016. We will miss DuWayne and are thankful for the many volunteer hours he contributed to the Battlefield. His wife Katherine and his family are in our thoughts. A tribute for DuWayne is being planned to take place at the Battlefield. Details will be announced.

Historical Society President's Message

So... winter in New Bern. As the saying goes, wait a day or maybe even an hour if you don't like the weather. Record breaking cold and picnic weather within a few short days is consistent with our history. My father told me about the time when the Neuse River froze and a car drove from shore to shore. Believable. They probably celebrated the event with an outdoor lunch later in the week.

At the Historical Society, winter is busy with plans for upcoming events like the ABC Sale, Spring Homes and Gardens Tour and May concert. To keep us all going, we can look forward to the *Mardi Gras!* Friendraiser on the evening of February 23. Now, I know that the twenty third is not a mardi but a jeudi, yet it seems close enough for celebration. If costumes are required, I plan to come as a New Bern septuagenarian. I already know the look I want. While this party is a departure from our regular December event, it may come at a time when we all want a lift. Plan to be there and collect your beads.

So many good things are possible only because in this volunteer and donor driven organization, people believe in the mission. Thank you.



Nelson McDaniel
President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

Lunch & Learn... Wednesday, February 8



Carol Becton

During our **Wednesday, February 8 LUNCH**

AND LEARN, Carol Becton will explore the intriguing topic of *The Rhone Sisters, A Force for New Bern*. The dynamic

Rhone sisters (Amy, Carrie, Charlotte and Henrietta) lived and worked in New Bern from the mid-1870's until the middle 1960's. Deeply committed to rebuilding the black community after the Great Fire of 1922, their leadership legacy includes opening the West Street Library for blacks and owning and managing the Rhone Hotel, which was one of only a handful of eastern North Carolina hotels for black travelers. Charlotte Rhone was also the first African American registered nurse in North Carolina.



Charlotte Rhone

Lunch and Learn begins at 11:30 a.m. at The Chelsea Restaurant, 335 Middle Street, in the historical downtown district. Seating is limited and **Pre-paid reservations are required through the Historical Society** by phoning 252-638-8558 or online www.NewBernHistorical.org. Reservations include lunch: \$16 for Historical Society members; \$18 for non-members.

Lunch choices are:

- Chicken Bruschetta with mixed veggies and rice pilaf
- Shrimp and Grits

Our **Wednesday, March 8 LUNCH AND LEARN** topic will be: *Fascinating Glimpses into the History of the New Bern Fire Department*. More details soon!



Saturday, March 4, 2017
7:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Rain or Shine!

Presented by **new bern historical society**

The ABC Sale is located at the Knights of Columbus Building in New Bern, 1125 Pine Tree Drive.

Volunteers needed for ...March 1 and March 2 to help put ABC items on display! Please phone or email the Historical Society if you can help on one of the above dates.

It's the New Year— time to clean up, pare down, and sort out. Make room in your closets. Reclaim that garage for the car. You can do all that AND support the Historical Society by donating your gently-used treasures for our Annual ABC Sale. Now in its 27th year, the ABC Sale is one of New Bern's largest indoor yard sales and a major Historical Society fundraiser. Saturday, March 4 - rain or shine!

The Harriett Marks Scholarship was established by a trust created in 1968 under the terms of the will of Miss Harriett Marks which designates it to be awarded to a senior graduating from New Bern High School. The scholarship award is based on equal weight of scholarship 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 17, 2017**



FOUNDATION 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

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

- Wed., Feb. 8, Lunch & Learn, Presenter: Carol Becton, *The Dynamic Rhone Sisters of New Bern*
- Sat. Feb. 18, Historical Society Board of Directors Retreat
- Thurs., Feb. 23, Historical Society membership *Mardi Gras Friendraiser*
- Sat., Mar. 4, ABC Sale
- Wed., Mar. 8, Lunch & Learn, *History of the New Bern Fire Department*
- Thurs., Mar. 17, Harriett Marks Scholarship application deadline
- Fri.-Sat., Apr. 7-8, Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour
- Fri., Apr. 14, Historical Society Offices Closed (Good Friday)
- Sat., Apr. 29, Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day, New Bern Battlefield Park
- Sun., May TBD, Volunteer Appreciation Social
- Sun., May 21, *Legends in Concert Series* fundraiser: *Under the Streetlamp Rockin'Round the Clock*
- Mon., May 29, Historical Society Offices Closed (Memorial Day)
- June TBD, Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet
- Tues., June 30, June Membership Renewal due
- Tues., July 4, Historical Society Offices Closed (4th of July)

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

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