

attmore.oliver house



circa 1790

new bern historical society

We bring history to life!

Historically Speaking... Quarterly Newsletter **Winter 2018**

Historical Society *Legends in Concert* Series: LIVINGSTON TAYLOR in Concert on Thursday, April 12, 2018



TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN MID-JANUARY! These concert tickets will make great Valentine's Day, Birthday, ANY Day gifts!

Famed musician **Livingston Taylor** is the fourth child in a very musical family that includes brother James Taylor, sister

Kate, and brother Hugh. From top-40 hits "I Will Be in Love with You" and "I'll Come Running," to "I Can Dream of You" and "Boatman," the last two recorded by his brother James, Liv's creative output has continued unabated. His 50-year career encompasses performance, songwriting, and teaching. He is equally at home with a range of musical genres—folk, pop, gospel, jazz—and from upbeat storytelling and touching ballads to full orchestra performances. He is a full professor at Berklee

College of Music, where he has taught a Stage Performance course since 1989. Opening for Livingston in New Bern will be local talent, "Lewis n Clark" with Von Lewis and Abbey Clark.

Livingston Taylor was our first *Legend in Concert* in 2010 and he looks forward to returning to New Bern, which holds a special place in the Taylor family heritage. In the late 1700's, great-great-great grandfather Isaac Taylor built the Isaac Taylor House on Craven Street for his family and 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.

Mark the date!

7 p.m., Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. Sponsorships will be available including a pre-concert VIP reception for sponsors and Livingston Taylor in the Isaac Taylor House Garden. More details soon!



Annual Membership Friendraiser: *Mardi Gras!* Tuesday, February 13



The Historical Society's annual Membership **Friendraiser** will again be a **Mardi Gras!** party open to members and to those who become a member for the Friendraiser. The **Mardi Gras!**

party will be **Tuesday, February 13** 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 gather with other Historical Society friends and enjoy deliciously elegant hors d'oeuvres in a beautiful historical home festively decorated for **Mardi Gras!**

Wear a Mardi Gras mask! Wear your beads and bling!

Reserve your place with a \$15 donation, free to any member bringing another

person who joins the Historical Society for this event. The party is also free for new members joining the Society for the Friendraiser. To alleviate lines at the event, we ask that all reservations and new memberships be prepaid. Please contact the Historical Society office, 638-8558, or online www.newbernhistorical.org to reserve your place by February 5.

Invitations will be mailed to our membership in January.

Correction Notice: Please note that the image of Abner Nash presented in the 2017 *Historical Society Journal*, Vol. XXIV, No. 1, page 53 is the property of the NC Museum of History and not Tryon Palace as credited.

We apologize for this unintentional misrepresentation.

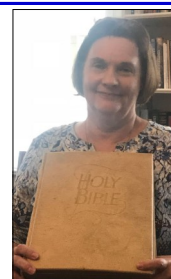


Jim
Hodges



Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

Reunited... A few months ago, a local resident stopped by the Attmore-Oliver House and shared with us a small collection of documents that she had retrieved from storage. Included were newspaper articles, photographs, and a family Bible that had belonged to the Skinner family, who formerly lived on Rhem Avenue. This kind lady told me she had no familial connection with the Skinners. Intrigued, I felt compelled to reunite these mementos with their rightful owners. A newspaper wedding announcement from the mid-1970's indicated that Kathleen Earle Skinner married Preston Gray Shelton from Tarboro. A Historical Society Facebook post featuring Kathy and her fellow majorettes at New Bern High School produced more information. I wrote a letter to Kathleen which resulted in my meeting with Kathleen, her husband, and Claudia Houston. We presented the Skinner family treasures to them. Overwhelmed with joy and appreciation, Kathleen told us the Bible had been a gift from her father to Kathleen, her brother Mark, and her mother in 1964. Her parents are now deceased and most family documents were destroyed in a house fire years ago.



Kathleen
Skinner Shelton

Although this situation somewhat strays from our mission statement of "celebrating and promoting New Bern and its history through events and education," I am extremely proud that the Historical Society was able to facilitate the safe return of these family mementos, making Kathleen Skinner Shelton's life more complete.

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



Jon Miller

We have reached that time of year when nearly all the leaves at the battlefield have fallen, and we can take a break from clearing the trails! Other than filling the never-ending potholes and replacing the occasional rotten trail timber, our active period at the battlefield has moved to a slow crawl. However, we are already leaning forward into projects for 2018 and we can use some additional help from our NBHS membership:

Some time ago we began collecting information to be used on the future battlefield website. Our guides collected weblinks, articles, and images that we wanted to use in the website that would complement the interpretive panels that tell the story of the battle. Thanks to Jeremy LeRay, we now have a website "skeleton" that is ready for us to

load that information onto. I am asking our membership if any of you are willing to help us load this data into the new website. It requires only a modest comfort level using a computer and we can show you how to do that. If you would like to be part of something that will eventually "wow" the public and be a lasting part of NBHS's legacy, please call me at 252-626-1362.

Battlefield guides will also be getting ready for our **2018 Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day**, and sometime after January 4th we will be making about 40 wooden rifles to add to the 60 rifles for Adventure Day we have on hand. If anyone would like to help when we start this project, please let me know. The Adventure Day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 2018. Details will be released as soon as we have confirmed all our reenactors.



Member Horace Mewborn and part of his
Eastern NC Civil War Tour group at Battlefield



Saturday, March 3, 2018
8 a.m. — noon. 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 on February 28 and March 1 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. You can do all that AND support the Historical Society by donating your gently-used treasures for our Annual ABC Sale. The ABC Sale is one of New Bern's largest indoor yard sales, a major Historical Society fundraiser.

Please note — 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.

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 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 23, 2018.** Be sure to check our [Historical Society Facebook page](#) for updates and photos from our **current Marks Scholarship winners** on campus!

Historical Society President's Message

Executive Director Mickey Miller and I scheduled an appearance at the December 12 meeting of the New Bern Board of Aldermen to present information about the New Bern Historical Society. We shared what our Historical Society represents and accomplishes for the city. As an example, we focused on the strong economic impact our major fundraiser and annual event *Ghostwalk* has on the City of New Bern. We thanked the Aldermen for the use of Cedar Grove Cemetery and for the police and other city liaisons in our planning for *Ghostwalk*.

Some of you visited New Bern as tourists, fell in love with our special town and moved here. Events like *Ghostwalk* attract future residents of New Bern. The Historical Society is a visible part of that attraction.

The village atmosphere of downtown New Bern, the many events that we and other organizations provide make this town an exciting and wonderful place to live. Our generous and talented Historical Society volunteers and those who volunteer for other organizations are an important part of the magic that makes New Bern the "Hidden Gem" of North Carolina.



Joe Hunt

President, Board of Directors
New Bern Historical Society

Lunch & Learn in January, February and March!

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



On **Wednesday, Jan. 10**, Dr. Kathy Adolph and Tony Salem, CPA will present **"New Bern's Lebanese Legacy and the Pollock Street Corridor: 1900's to the Present."**

With Tony's background growing up on the Pollock Street Corridor and Kathy's extensive research, they will discuss Lebanese immigration to New Bern, how they impacted economic and community development, and share images of Pollock Street in the 1930's and 1940's. Lunch Entrée choices: Beef Shoulder Tenderloin or Brown Butter Barbecue Chicken.

For **Lunch & Learn Wednesday, Feb. 7**, Bernard George will tell the **"Story of the 35th U.S. Colored Troops."** A daunting military and social experiment, the "African Brigade"—the country's first official major military unit largely made up of escaped slaves and contraband—was formed here in New Bern in May 1863. Learn about the crucial role of these courageous soldiers in helping to shape our region, state and nation. Entrée choices: Baked Salmon with Champagne Dill Sauce or Pork Tenderloin with Blueberry Ginger Glaze.



Bernard George as U.S. Colored Troops reenactor

Lunch & Learn Wednesday, March 14, **"Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Deeds"** will celebrate Women's History Month with a special presentation featuring some of New Bern's lesser-known but tremendously strong and accomplished women from the past. Five costumed historical characters will tell you how, while they considered themselves ordinary women, they left an extraordinary legacy in the areas of education, medicine, women's suffrage, photography and even soldiering. Entrée choices: Chicken Bruschetta or Shrimp & Grits.



THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Did you know that it takes about 400 volunteers to support the Historical Society's annual lineup of programs and events? And thanks to our amazing cadre of those generous people, we were able to add two exciting new programs in 2017! **The Heritage Collection** of jewelry and pottery featuring historical artifacts from the mid-18th century is the brainchild of Curator Jim Hodges, Cheryl Lawrence, Gerri Olvaney, Kathy Morrison, Claudia Houston, and Joyce Basye. Under their creative stewardship, the Society partnered with Hearn's Jewelry's Audrey Corby, Sonia Humphrey of Sonia's Ocean Inspired Jewelry, and local potter Joyce Basye to create beautiful works of art just in time for holiday shopping. The response from the public has been overwhelmingly positive!

The first annual **Gingerbread House Contest** saw 31 amazing gingerbread houses displayed in a dozen downtown merchants' windows, attracting thousands of downtown visitors. In addition to the Gingerbread Committee, which was highlighted in the fall newsletter, we were thrilled to have a crew of volunteer decorators highlight gingerbread houses in shop windows. Cheerfully juggling many moving parts were Cathy Elkins, Bob & Carolyn Scott, John & Julie Cox, Dianne Koonce, Cammie Armstrong, Carole McHale, Michelle Leonard, Mary Lou Snyder, Gerri Olvaney and Susan Cook, under the leadership of Paul & Cheryl Merriman, Theresa Harrigan and Ron Grieger. We could not have been happier with the success of this inaugural contest and welcome even more 'ginger-y' volunteers in 2018!

When it comes to Holiday decorating, we thank **Nancy Chiles** for once again transforming our historical Attmore-Oliver House front porch into a greenery-bedecked entryway in December. Nancy has added her Christmas spirit and artistic touch to our décor for years!

New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

2017-2018 Officers

Joe Hunt, President
Kathy Morrison, 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

2017-2018 Directors

Joe Anderson
Carol Becton
Susan Cook
Bernard George
Breck Gibbs
Lynne Harakal
Claudia Houston
Carl Huddle
Chris Kelso
Ken McCotter
Nelson McDaniel
Susan Moffat-Thomas
Jim Morrison
Gerri Olvaney
Patti Urlick

Administrative Staff

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



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

- Sun., Jan. 7, Ed Bearss, *Had I Been a Civil War Soldier: A Historian Reflects on Medical Conditions from the Civil War to WWII*
- Wed., Jan. 10, Lunch & Learn, Kathy Adolph and Tony Salem, *New Bern's Lebanese Legacy and the Pollock Street Corridor: 1900's to the Present*
- Sat., Jan. 27, Historical Society Board of Directors Retreat
- Wed., Feb. 7, Lunch & Learn, Bernard George, *The Story of the 35th U. S. Colored Troops*
- Tues., Feb. 13, Historical Society membership *Mardi Gras Friendraiser*
- Sat., Mar. 3, ABC Sale
- Wed., Mar. 14, Lunch & Learn, *Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Deeds*
- Thurs., Mar. 23, Harriett Marks Scholarship application deadline
- Fri., Mar. 30, Historical Society Offices Closed (Good Friday)
- Sat., Mar. 31 (tentative date), Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure 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., May 6, Volunteer Appreciation Social
- Wed., May 9, Lunch & Learn, Jim Hodges and Claudia Houston, *Now and Then*
- Thurs., May 17, Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet
- Mon., May 28, Historical Society Offices Closed (Memorial Day)

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

Title Sponsor—Ghostwalk 2017
Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock-
Your Trial Attorneys

Media Title Sponsor—Ghostwalk 2017
WITN

Platinum Ghostwalk Sponsor

Chiles Engineering
Jim Hodges
Morgan's Tavern & Grill
Ward and Smith, P.A.

Historical Society Legends In Concert 2017

Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock: Attorneys (Title Sponsor)
Chiles Engineering (Diamond Sponsor)
Robinson and Stith Insurance (Diamond Sponsor)
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel New Bern Riverfront
(Hospitality Sponsor)
Cella Ford (Platinum Sponsor)



Gold Ghostwalk Sponsor

Andrew Mylander, D.M.D., P.L.L.C.
Daniel E. Potter, Criminal & Family Law
International Paper
New Bern Civic Theatre
RiverTowne Players
The Insurance Center
Trader Construction
Weyerhaeuser
Zaytoun Law Firm and Charles K. McCotter, Attorney at Law

Silver Ghostwalk Sponsor

BB&T
Creekside Cabinets, Inc.
Gregory Poole Marine
Ghosts of New Bern Walking Tours
Harmony House Inn Bed & Breakfast
Kelvin Kestner
Melvin Kestner
Mitchell Hardware
Rankin & Fiume, Orthodontics
The Chelsea Restaurant
The Law Offices of Oliver & Cheek, P.L.L.C.

Spider Lily Title Sponsor



NEUSE RIVER REGION ASSOCIATION
Keller-Williams Realty
C-21 Zaytoun-Raines ~ Coldwell Banker Willis-Smith
Trent River Realty ~ Neuse Realty
Nancy Hollows Real Estate

50th Anniversary: Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour—2017

Azalea Sponsors

Andrew D. Mylander, DMD
Ayers and Haidt, Attorneys-at-law
Paul and Lois Switzer
Shannon Corr—NC STA Contracting, Inc.