

attmore.oliver house

circa 1790

new bern historical society

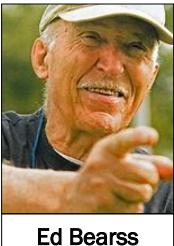
We bring history to life!

Historically Speaking... Quarterly Newsletter Winter 2019



Mickey Miller,
Executive
Director

Happy New Year! As I look back at 2018 I'm amazed at how much we accomplished. A jam-packed calendar of sold-out educational programs, super successful fundraisers, another popular annual Ghostwalk, and so much more. All of that while stewarding five historic properties – and let's not forget the recovery effort after Hurricane Florence which is still continuing. How do we manage to do so much? The answer is YOU. You, our history-loving members supply the energy and enthusiasm for our innovative programs. You, our loyal donors who give so generously to the Annual Fund so that we can repair hurricane damage and spend more time telling New Bern's stories. You, our 400+ volunteers, whose helping hands get the dirty work done, whether it's checking tickets in the pouring rain, hauling downed trees, or mucking out the crawl space. You, our business partners and event sponsors, whose behind-the-scenes financial and in-kind support makes the difference. What an amazing Historical Society family we have! I'm humbled by your generosity, your spirit, and your passion for New Bern's history. I'm honored to be a part of this great organization.



Ed Bearss

The Raising of the Ironclad USS Cairo

Presentation by Renowned Civil War Historian Ed Bearss

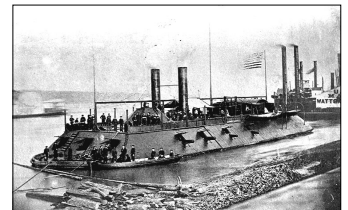
Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, 2 pm

North Carolina History Center, Cullman Performance Hall, 529 South Front Street

Reception following presentation.

\$10 donation to support hurricane repairs at New Bern Civil War Battlefield Park

A real-life treasure hunt story worthy of Indiana Jones, starring nationally renowned historian Ed Bearss. The exciting discovery, salvage, and restoration of the Civil War battleship Cairo - in Ed's words "how not to raise an ironclad" - even features Ed's surprise appearance on a TV game show to fund the operation!



Lunch & Learn in January, February and March!

Lunch & Learn prepaid reservations, which include lunch and presentation at The Chelsea Restaurant, 335 Middle Street, are purchased in advance through the Historical Society, 638-8558 or online www.newbernhistorical.org. Members, \$17; non-members, \$22.

On **Wednesday, Jan. 9**, **John Leys** presents "**The Story of Ghent: Casino, Circus, Trolley, Oh My!**" There's great demand for this **Sold Out** presentation so watch for news of an **encore presentation** later in January!

Lunch and Learn on Wednesday, February 13, presents Angela Thorpe, Acting Director of the NC African Heritage Commission discussing New Bern's rich African American heritage.

Lunch and Learn on Wednesday, March 13, will feature Dr. Robert Ainsley and his presentation "**1st and 2nd NC Provincial Congress.**" Details will be announced soon. **Lunch and Learn programs sell out quickly so make your reservations early.**



John Leys



Clayton Cheek

Welcome to our new Board Member Clayton Cheek: Clayton relocated to New Bern with his family in 2010 to become a partner in The Law Offices of Oliver & Cheek, after practicing law in Elizabeth City for seven years. He received his BA, MBA and JD from Wake Forest University. Clayton is a member of the NC Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and has been recognized by *Super Lawyers*. His focus is in Chapter 11, 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Workouts and Alternatives to Bankruptcy, Business Entities, Contracts and Transactions, Estate and Succession Planning and Estate Administration. In addition to serving on the Historical Society Board, Clayton is the New Bern Rotary Club President-Elect and Chairs the First Presbyterian Church Foundation. He and his wife Jody have three daughters.

Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges



Jim
Hodges

Travel with me to the downtown historical district...At the gates of Tryon Palace on Pollock Street we move north on George Street passing by Cedar Grove Cemetery. Once over the railroad tracks, we enter the Riverside neighborhood and George Street becomes National Avenue. Not too far down the road, the National Cemetery is on our left and we go over a small bridge where National Avenue now becomes Oaks Road. This area of town is often referred to as the Woodrow neighborhood. Oaks Road continues until it abuts North Glenburnie.

Now that you are hopefully oriented, let's go back to that little bridge that connects Oaks Road and National Avenue. This small yet scenic tributary of the Neuse River is called Jack Smith's Creek. My whole life I have wondered who in the world is "Jack Smith." After asking over time numerous individuals without success, I shared my frustration with colleague Jim Morrison who provided me with an answer. Several newspaper articles from the 1877 Newbernian and the 1894 New Bern Daily Journal provided convincing evidence that Jack Smith's Creek is named after John Frink Smith. The time frame is late 18th century to mid-19th century. He was a prominent New Bernian whose town home was located at 506 Craven Street later occupied by the recognized historian Col. John D. Whitford and today known as the Smith-Whitford House. Additionally, he owned a plantation north of New Bern which included Jack Smith's Creek and was accessed by Jack Smith's Road.

So there you have it! Now over at the Lawson's Creek area there is a small island on the Trent River known as Jack's Island. Jack who? Could John Frink Smith's influence contribute to the name of this small plot of semi-marshland or not? Please let me know if you have any clues.

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



Jon Miller

In our Fall Newsletter, I spoke of our heroes at the battlefield, the guides who stepped up their efforts to clean up the massive damage at the park. Sadly, one of those heroes, Ray Cahoon, passed away just a few weeks later on October 19th. His untimely death caught us all by surprise and we still miss him terribly at the battlefield. Our hearts go out to his wife Linda and their family as they also completely lost their home in the flood.

In Loving Memory



Ernest "Ray" Cahoon
October 16, 1944 to October 19, 2018



The debris from the destroyed shed that housed our equipment has been hauled away and a replacement has been purchased for delivery in January. Damage sustained to the smaller shed and the long bridge has been cleaned up by our volunteers and we are awaiting purchase of materials to do the repairs ourselves. The Visitor Center still awaits repairs that will be performed by a contractor. The good news is that the park continues to receive visitors every day. Your generous Annual Fund donations will go a long way to repairing the damage.

On December 18th, the New Bern Historical Society was honored by the New Bern Preservation Foundation for its stewardship of the New Bern Battlefield Park. President Joe Hunt and I accepted the award, consisting of a colorful medallion, on behalf of all the volunteers over the years who labored so hard to create and maintain the nicest park in the city of New Bern. Thanks to all of you who had a hand in this!



KUDOS! The New Bern Preservation Foundation presented 2018 Preservation Awards to 14 recipients from throughout New Bern. The Historical Society was honored with a Stewardship Award for the New Bern Battlefield Park. Curator Jim Hodges was recognized for Advocacy, Research and Education, and an award for Lifetime Achievement went to board member Susan Moffat-Thomas. Join us in congratulating them and all the awardees for their well-deserved recognition!



Jon Miller



Susan Moffat-
Thomas



Jim Hodges

Historical Society President's Message

One of my daily activities is to walk through downtown New Bern in the early morning hours and take in our beautiful town. Our beautiful downtown is the magnet that attracts tourists and new residents to New Bern. Our recovery from Hurricane Florence has begun, we are no longer in the national news, and at a quick glance, things are looking better downtown. Businesses reopened, the Farmers Market opened two weeks after the storm, Swiss Bear and the City were able to pull off MumFest four weeks after the hurricane, and the Historical Society presented Ghostwalk six weeks after the storm. We are moving toward normal operation but there is still a dark cloud over our city. If you walk downtown in the early morning hours the streets are dark. Like many of our neighborhoods, there are few lights in the houses and few cars parked in front of houses. The downtown hotels are still closed or only partially open, the Convention Center is closed until fall, some businesses have moved or are under repair, and numerous residents are displaced to all parts of our county. In a normal year approximately 40% of downtown shoppers are tourists and another 30% are local shoppers from outside the city limits. These percentages mean that there are now significantly fewer shoppers in our town. While our stores have made great strides to recover from the storm, they need more customers to improve their chances of remaining in business. On-line shopping is convenient but all merchants in New Bern and especially those downtown merchants need your business to keep personnel employed and their doors open. So please consider shopping and eating in New Bern but give special consideration to the area from Neuse River to Tryon Palace so we can continue the downtown revival until tourists return next summer. In addition, consider visiting Tryon Palace, the NC History Center, the New Bern Academy, the Attmore-Oliver House and Farmers Market. And come to the many events that happen downtown including the Historical Society's Heritage Homes Tour in April. I'm encouraging you to bring your family and friends to be entertained, to shop and to dine in downtown New Bern. Thank you!



Joe Hunt
President,
Board of Directors
Historical Society

Board of Directors

2018-2020 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

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Clayton Cheek
Susan Cook
Breck Gibbs
Lynne Harakal
Carl Huddle
Cheryl Lawrence
John Robert Mattocks
Ken McCotter
Nelson McDaniel
Susan Moffat-Thomas
Gerri Olvaney
Patti Urlick
Karen Whitmore

Emeritus

Mary Bullock
Nancy Chiles
Karen Norman

Administrative Staff

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

new bern's
Heritage Homes

Friday-Saturday, April 12–13, 2019

1967 @ 2019

Celebrating 52 Beautiful Springtimes in New Bern

Hurricane Florence dealt our community a blow, but New Bern's history is a story of great strength and resilience. And that's worth celebrating! The New Bern Historical Society will celebrate our remarkable community with a very special **Heritage Homes Tour** on April 12-13, 2019. The tour will showcase some of the finest homes in all five historic neighborhoods: Downtown, Ghent, Riverside, Dryborough, and DeGraffenreid. There will be an exciting Garden Party with live music and more! Information coming very soon. Tickets for sale in March.

ABC Indoor Yard Sale: Saturday, March 9, 2019, 8 a.m.— noon.

The ABC (Attic, Basement, Closet) 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**. The ABC Sale is one of New Bern's largest indoor yard sales, 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. **We cannot accept any items that were in any flood or any water even though items are dry now.** Volunteers needed on March 5 and 6 to help put ABC items on display! Please phone or email the Historical Society if you can help on one of the above dates.



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

Now accepting Scholarship applications! 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 29, 2019.** Check our Historical Society **Facebook** page for updates and photos from our **current** Marks Scholarship winners on campus, freshman Kayla Grace RuthAnne Hardee, sophomore Gretchen Deters, junior Caroline Vieregge and senior Stacy Partin!



The mission of the New Bern Historical Society is to celebrate and promote New Bern and its heritage through events and education.

CALENDAR

- Wed., Jan. 9, Lunch & Learn, John Leys, *The Story of Ghent: Casino, Circus, Trolley, Oh My!* SOLD OUT
- Sun., Jan. 13, Ed Bearss, *The Raising of the USS Cairo*
- Wed., Feb. 13, Lunch & Learn, Angela Thorpe, Acting Director NC African American Heritage Commission
- DATE TBA, Historical Society membership *Mardi Gras Friendraiser*
- Sat., Mar. 9, ABC Sale
- Wed., Mar. 13, Lunch & Learn, Dr. Robert Ainsley, *1st and 2nd NC Provincial Congresses*
- Sat., Mar. 23, Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day, New Bern Battlefield Park
- Fri., Mar. 29, Harriett Marks Scholarship application deadline
- Fri.-Sat., Apr. 12-13, Historical Society Heritage Homes Tour
- Sun., May 5, Appreciation Social for Volunteers and New Members
- Wed., May 8, Lunch & Learn, Mark Sandvigen, *World War I*
- Thurs., May 23, Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet
- Mon., May 27, Historical Society Offices Closed (Memorial Day)
- DATE TBD, Lunch & Learn, Lindy Cummings, *Barbour Boats*

OFFICE LOCATION:
Attmore-Oliver House
511 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

Phone: 252-638-8558
Website: www.newbernhistorical.org
director@newbernhistorical.org
adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org

OFFICE HOURS FOR THE PUBLIC:
Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Annual Membership Friendraiser: *Mardi Gras!*
We are finalizing plans for our annual Friendraiser. Look for exciting changes!
Think of folks you want to invite to become new members!
Detailed information will be announced soon.

We ask your support of our BUSINESS PARTNERS below who generously support the New Bern Historical Society.

Title Co-Sponsors—*Ghostwalk* 2018:

***CarolinaEast Health System**

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Media Title Sponsor—Ghostwalk 2018
WITN

PLATINUM Ghostwalk 2018 Sponsors

Jim Hodges

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