

attmore.oliver house circa 1790

new bern historical society

We bring history to life!

Historically Speaking... Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2017

50th Anniversary: Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour 1967-2017!

Where were you in 1967?...In 1967, *Cabaret* won the TONY Award for Best Broadway Musical; *I Can't Take my Eyes Off of You* by Frankie Valli and *Respect* by Aretha Franklin were on Billboard's Top 20 List; the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* was top in album sales; Sean Connery as James Bond played at the movies in *You Only Live Twice*; among the Top 20 List for television were *The Carol Burnett Show* and *Mission Impossible*; 33 cents a gallon was the average gasoline price; a young model named Twiggy made mini-length women's clothing popular; the summer of 1967 saw longer hair, beads, beards and caftans begin to emerge ... and...in 1967, we held our first Spring Homes event.

This year we are celebrating our 50th homes and gardens event on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8! To help celebrate this 50th Anniversary, 1960s-themed events and memorabilia will be on display at The City Laundry on Pollock Street which will have live entertainment, including The Bears and The Down East Dulcimers. Downtown restaurants and merchants will offer specials marking this anniversary celebration. (Flyers listing downtown restaurants and merchants participating with specials will be available at each site on the Homes Tour.)

The 2017 Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour provide a behind-the-scenes look at homes and gardens that are important to our town's past and present. Ticket holders will be welcomed into private homes, gardens, and churches in three historic areas: the Downtown district, and the nearby Ghent and DeGraffenried neighborhoods. Students from Craven County schools acting as junior docents will portray people from New Bern's past as they greet visitors to the Attmore-Oliver House, home to the New Bern Historical Society. As an added attraction, Tryon Palace also opens its gardens free to the public and hosts its Heritage Plant Sale during this two-day event. Spring Homes Tour ticket holders will have the opportunity to purchase discounted Tryon Palace admission passes at the NC History Center. In addition to the homes and gardens, many downtown houses of worship will be open for tours.

This year's featured home is the Palmer-Tisdale house, a 250-year old home listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We welcome Epiphany School of Global Studies students back to be docents at our featured poster house. The Palmer-Tisdale's notable history includes serving as the residence for the designer of the first State Seal of North Carolina.

Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$22 day of the tour, \$14 for New Bern Historical Society and New Bern Preservation Foundation members, students, active duty military and their dependents with ID. There is also a special rate of \$15 for groups of 10 or more. Tickets are on sale now and are good for both tour days, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour is a major fundraising event presented by the New Bern Historical Society and the New Bern Preservation Foundation. Special thanks to Phyllis Hoffman for chairing this collaborative event again.

Celebrate Our 50th
1967 - 2017



Painting by Janet Francouer

**Spring Historic Homes
& Gardens Tour**

12 Homes • 5 Gardens

April 7 & 8
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Presented by
New Bern Historical Society
New Bern Preservation Foundation

Sponsor: Rly. Sponsor



New Bern River Region Association of REALTORS®

50th Anniversary

Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour

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



Jon Miller

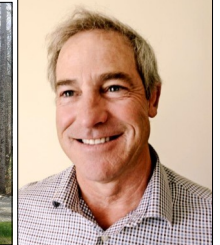
Since my Fall 2016 Newsletter update, we have finished two more projects at the battlefield. One of these involved moving the two large sheds we use to store our tools and the John Deere Gator. Both sheds were clearly visible from the Visitor Center and stuck out on the newly named Birdsong Parade Ground and Living History Area like a sore thumb. Fortunately, Board

Member Carl Huddle came to the rescue with his company Trader

Construction Company. Members of his work crew came out with some

heavy equipment; cleared out some trees on the other side of the trail from

where the sheds were; lifted and moved the sheds to their new location; relocated the old shed's overhang alongside the new location to allow us to store lumber out of the elements; graded and seeded the old shed site; and obtained a new load of marl for us to use on the trails. Now the sheds are tucked nicely into the woods and are not as visible as before, and we have more open space to use in the Living History Area. A big **Thank You to Carl Huddle** from all of us!



Historical Society
Board Member
Carl Huddle



The battlefield guides have also been busy getting ready for Park Day and the Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day. Under Pete Meyer's supervision, the guides cut, sanded, stained, painted, and assembled 50 additional wooden rifles for the children. They also modified our model redan, located at the far end of the Living History Area, to more closely resemble an authentic redan while still keeping it kid-friendly. They placed logs along the top of the redan with two-foot interval firing positions, placed railroad tie "steps" for the smaller children to stand on, and placed marl along the bottom of the trench to keep it less muddy when the children use it in wet weather.

On Saturday, April 1, we will participate in the Civil War Trust's annual Park Day by inviting the public to join us at the battlefield for a quick tour, enjoy a light lunch, and help preserve the battlefield by cleaning out the previous year's debris from the bottom of each redan. This will help ensure they retain their shape in the future. Volunteers can also help by cleaning the interpretive panels located throughout the battlefield. We will have commemorative t-shirts for the first 45 volunteers who show up at 10 a.m. on April 1. NBHS members are invited to bring their children or grandchildren, age 6-12, to the battlefield to participate in the Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day on Saturday, April 29. Children will have the opportunity to participate with Civil War re-enactors in drilling with their wooden rifles, participating in a mock battle, observe artillery firing, learn about period activities from living history displays, and participate in period games that children played in the 1860s. They will also receive a lunch with the event. Cost is \$15 for one child with one adult and \$5 for an additional child. Contact the NBHS office to make a pre-paid reservation for Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day.



Lend A Hand For History!
Park Day, Saturday, April 1, 2017, 10 am

New Bern Battlefield Park

Tours, hot dogs and lend a hand!

Information: 252-638-8558
www.newbernhistorical.org/battlefield



Sponsored by
new bern historical society & Civil War Trust



Harry Goodman
**BATTLEFIELD
Adventure Day**

A DAY FULL OF LEARNING
ACTIVITIES AND LIVING HISTORY
AT NEW BERN BATTLEFIELD PARK

Sat., April 29, 2017
Noon to 4:00pm,
Registration begins at 11:30am.

Boys and Girls
between the ages of 6 and 12
and an adult.

www.newbernhistorical.org

252-638-8558

Writers Needed for the *New Bern Historical Society Historical Journal!*

Interested in local history? You can read about it and write about it!

The Journal of the New Bern Historical Society is seeking authors to write about people, places and events in New Bern and Craven County. If you have an idea for an article we would be happy to discuss it with you, help with reference material and work with you on the write-up. We also have a list of topics that you might want to pursue in your writing. Contact the editor, Richard McEnally, 252-633-9644 or Jim Hodges, Curator, 252-638-8558.



Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges



Thank You, Moses Griffin



Back in early 1980 Ben Parrish, a local accountant and preservationist, was requested by Miss Gertrude Carraway, former Director of Tryon Palace, to rescue a special relic of New Bern's past before the wrecking ball sealed its fate. He was successful in retrieving a unique marble plaque measuring 42 ½ " in length and 24" in height. Weighing in excess of 100 pounds, the plaque was placed in safe storage where it remained for many years. The old school building located at the southwest corner of Hancock and Johnson Streets where it had been originally displayed was not so fortunate and was demolished, being replaced with the Coor-Cook House that was relocated from Craven Street to the site. Preservation efforts although initially hopeful proved to be futile due to the magnitude and expense of the project. This plaque mildly weathered with age is the last tangible connection we have with the Moses Griffin Building and Moses Griffin himself other than his barely legible grave stone in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Moses Griffin (1753-1816) was a native and lifelong resident of Craven County and known as an "eccentric miser." He had minimal formal education, but worked diligently at his mercantile and real estate businesses. A bachelor with few personal friends, he lived very frugally and invested wisely. Upon his death in 1816, Moses Griffin left a sizeable trust for the establishment of a free school for indigent local children, primarily orphaned girls. The estate was managed by five prominent New Bernians who successfully implemented and perpetuated his last will. Griffin's Free School opened in the early 1840's where the students were housed, clothed, fed, and received medical care. The school was closed during the Civil War and eventually became inactive. However, the trustees continued to manage the estate and income was directed to the parochial school and the New Bern Academy. In 1899 the academy became part of the New Bern Graded Schools, the trustees were discharged, and the Griffin estate assets of \$4500 were transferred to the New Bern school system.

With the introduction of the 20th century, the Academy and Bell Buildings were overcrowded and there was an obvious need for an additional facility on Academy Green. The new high school building was constructed in 1904 and enlarged in 1907 with funding derived from the Moses Griffin estate, incredibly some ninety years after his death. In 1909, the building was officially named the Moses Griffin Building and a special memorial plaque in remembrance of Moses Griffin was placed in the front hall. In 1930, the façade was renovated and the marble plaque was removed.

As previously mentioned, Ben Parrish rescued the plaque from the basement of the doomed Moses Griffin Building around 1980 and stored it at his home on Change Street for many years. Although the exact year is somewhat unclear, the plaque was eventually transferred to John Mason, a member of the New Bern High School class of 1954. Keep in mind that the class of 1954 was the last class to graduate from the Moses Griffin Building. Consequently, John and several of his classmates planned to have the plaque installed on the site of the Moses Griffin Building. However, due to some unforeseen obstacles, the plan never materialized. Instead, the Moses Griffin plaque was gifted to the New Bern Historical Society for safekeeping. The Society is very proud to include this unique part of New Bern's history in our collection and to share the story of Moses Griffin.

In Memoriam

Moses Griffin

Died 1806

In grateful remembrance of his
generous provision for the education of
the children of New Bern, NC.

Hunc Semper Meminisse Juvabit

1904-1909

"The man should always be kept fresh in our remembrance."

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.



Palmer-Tisdale House
Painting by Janet Francoeur

(1967-2017) 50th Anniversary:

Downtown Historic District



Palmer-Tisdale House
520 New St., ca. 1767
owners: Barbara Bornemann
& Perry Bosmajian



Stanly-Bishop House
501 New St., ca. 1799
owners: Mark & Lois
Ann Atkinson
residents: Amber Jordan &
Walter Shearer



Mary Louise Turner House
407 Hancock St., ca. 1891
owner: Melinda J. Robinson



Dr. William and Clara Mann House
411 George St., ca. 1920
owner: Christie Decker-Frazier



G. W. Wallace House



Owen G. Dunn Building
3rd floor condo (work in progress)
Corner of Pollock & Craven Sts.,
ca. 1905
owners: John & Maria Cho



Baxters Jewelry Store
323 Pollock St.,
owner: Fine Art at Baxters

Bonus Site

Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour

Azalea Sponsors

Andrew D. Mylander, DMD
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Paul and Lois Switzer
Shannon Corr—NC STA Contracting, Inc.

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Poor Charlie's Flea Market and Antiques
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The Chelsea Restaurant
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Trent River Realty ~ Neuse Realty

Nancy Hollows Real Estate

Thanks to Spring Homes Tour **Spider Lily TITLE SPONSOR:**
NEUSE RIVER REGION ASSOCIATION

Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour



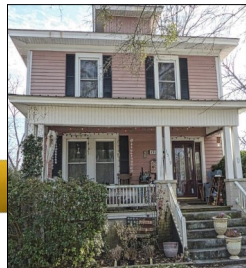
Ghent Historic District



Tolson Rental House
1404 Spencer Ave.,
ca. 1922
owner: Inma Robinson



Lovie Fulcher House
1421 Spencer Ave., ca. 1922
owners: Mary & David Merrell



R. Edward Smith House
1519 Spencer Ave.,
ca. 1917
owners: Pam & Ken Sewell



Meriwether L. Ferguson House
1801 Rhem Ave., ca. 1929
owner: Dana Gerald Burnham

Gardens Only



Tryon Palace Gardens
610 Pollock St.,
owner: NC Department of Natural
and Cultural Resources



Garden Only
508 Metcalf St.,
owners: Jahn & Bethanne
Jacobson

*Celebrate our Spring
Tour 50th Anniversary!
1960s display and
live music at
The City Laundry*



The City Laundry
901 Pollock St., ca. 1950
owners: Kathy and Peter Adolph
managers: Kim Bledsoe
and Austin Vaquilar



*DeGraffenried Park
Historic District*



Joseph E. Slater House
1509 Tryon Rd., ca. 1941
owners: Mark & Suzanne Hartman

50th Anniversary

Lunch and Learn May 10: *Governor Richard Caswell: Founding Father and Revolutionary Hero*



Joe Mobley

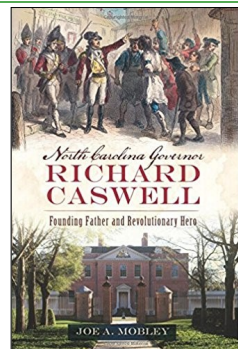
The New Bern Historical Society **Lunch and Learn** program will take place at The Chelsea Restaurant on **Wednesday, May 10** from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Author/ Historian Joe Mobley's presentation will encompass his book ***North Carolina Governor Richard Caswell: Founding Father and Revolutionary Hero***, chronicling the life of a man devoted to the public service of North Carolina and a new nation.

Richard Caswell emerged during the Revolution as a vital leader of the Patriot cause. Though he was a loyal British subject who fought against the backcountry Regulator rebellion, he embraced America's revolutionary fervor. He represented North Carolina at the Continental Congress and bravely commanded troops at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. He supervised the writing of North Carolina's constitution and was elected the Old North State's first governor. After the Revolution, he again served as governor and became a leading spokesman for the ratification of the United States Constitution. We hope you

and your friends join us for this very impressive **Lunch and Learn** with Joe Mobley, author and historian.

Reservations must be prepaid in advance with the New Bern Historical Society office, 252-638-8558. You may also make prepaid reservations through the Historical Society website: www.newbernhistorical.org by selecting the *Tickets* option on the website menu.

Reservations, which include lunch and the presentation, are \$16 for Historical Society members, \$18 for non-members. Lunch entrée choices for the May 10 Lunch and Learn will be: **Beef Shoulder Tenderloin with Cabernet Demi Sauce**, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Veggies and **Chesapeake Chicken with Beurre Blanc Sauce**, Rice Pilaf, Roasted Veggies.



Our VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT shines on these great people....



We transitioned our *Friendraiser* event into a Mardi Gras theme this year and it was extremely successful! Many new members joined the Historical Society as a result of this event! Volunteers **Carole Graham, Cheryl Jukich, Kathy Morrison, Karen Whitmore, and Stacie Lonadier** worked with Historical Society staff several days and nights to transform **Lynne and Mark Harakal's** already beautiful William B. Blades House into a very fun New Orleans Mardi Gras setting. **Karen Norman** and **Patti Urlick** ably aided by **Karen Munroe** did outstanding work in planning, preparing and presenting the superb menu served at our February *Mardi Gras Friendraiser*. Thank you to everyone who

contributed!

Our ABC (Attic, Basement, Closet) indoor yard sale on March 4 proved to be a wonderful fundraiser, too. **Cheryl Lawrence** and **Gerri Olvaney** were the ABC co-chairs again who organized and oversaw the worthwhile event. Thanks also to our generous volunteers who unpacked, set up departments, sold items and worked as cashiers. Kudos to our absolutely wonderful 'Alphabet Crew' (our ABC volunteers who all year long pick up furniture in their trucks and transport items from our on campus storerooms to our storage units): **Joe Corby, Bill Long, Paul Mills, Jon Miller, Gary Staley, Dave Stout, Joe Sullivan, and Walt Teasdale**. You guys are the best!



And around our campus, spring cleaning is going on...**Joe Hunt** and **Jim Hodges** touched up paint on fences at the Attmore-Oliver House. **Joe Hunt** and **Bill Long** trimmed our campus greenery. **Annette Hunt**



heads our team of amazing historical garden volunteers: **Jane Ferree, Marge Foskit, Pat Shankle, and Dottie Webb**.



Applause to our very talented office volunteers who help us weekly (**Sue Jones** volunteers 2 times a week!). They welcome office visitors who tour the Attmore-Oliver House, expertly manage incoming phone calls, sell tickets to our events, routinely help with our mailings, assist with computer work and a million other things: **Carole Graham, Sue Jones, Cheryl Jukich, Paula Quinn** and **Karen Whitmore**. Contact our office adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org, 638-8558 if you are interested in becoming part of our Office Volunteer Team!



new bern historical society

gratefully announces our

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SOCIAL

Save the NEW Date!

Sunday, June 18, 2017

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Attmore-Oliver House

511 Broad Street

New Bern, NC 28560

Thank you to Spring 2017 newsletter photographers:

Nancy Chiles, Andrew Dunn, Annette Hunt, Cheryl Jukich, Jon Miller, Mickey Miller, Kelvin Kestner, Melvin Kestner, and Larry Rosenstrauch.



Historical Society President's Message

One of the remarkable things about our community and about the New Bern Historical Society in particular is the reliance on donors and volunteers for support in all things. The accomplishments at the New Bern Battlefield, the result of over two decades of devotion of time and treasure, are ample testament. The wonderful Mardi Gras party, enjoyed by hundreds, was not the product of caterers and decorators, but of talented volunteers. The Ghost Walk, Spring Homes and Gardens Tour, educational programs like

Lunch and Learn, the Historical Journal, much of the day to day administrative work from mailings to technical assistance, the ABC Sale, our beautiful historical gardens that complement the Attmore-Oliver House are all evidence of the contributions of volunteers, donors and sponsors. The work of a skilled and vigilant Board, guiding resources and assuring stewardship is essential.

There are simply not enough adequate ways to say thank you.

I know that you take pride in these achievements and recognize that they

are an important part of what makes our community a special place to live and visit.



Battlefield Adjutant **Jon Miller**, Executive Director **Mickey Miller** and President of the Board **Nelson McDaniel** at our *Mardi Gras! Fundraiser*

Mardi Gras! Fundraiser...



Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet

Invitations will be mailed in May to our members to attend our June 1 Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet. This year Executive Director Mickey Miller and Annual Meeting Committee members are exploring new ideas for a fundraiser to replace the Silent Auction which has been a part of our Annual Meeting for several years. Please contact Mickey, director@newbernhistorical.org, 638-8558 with your ideas.

May 21 Concert: *Rockin'Round the Clock*

They're returning to the New Bern Convention Center! Sunday, May 21, at 7 p.m., *Under the Streetlamp* will perform an evening of electrifying classic hits, exuding the irresistible rapport of a modern-day Rat Pack quartet. You'll hear show stopping sounds from Motown, Beach Boys, the Beatles, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, old time Rock and Roll, Doo Wop and so many more! Their smooth dance moves will have the audience out of their seats, clapping and moving to the beat! Their 2015 Concert for the New Bern Historical Society sold out and our 2017 Concert ticket sales have been busy in our office. Buy your **Sponsor, Preferred or General concert tickets** now! Tickets can be purchased on our website www.newbernhistorical.org or by contacting our office, 638-8558, 511 Broad Street in the Attmore-Oliver House. The New Bern Convention Center will open at 5 p.m. on May 21 so that patrons can select their seats early and return in time for the Concert to begin.





FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE :
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

CALENDAR

- Sat., Apr. 1, Park Day
- Fri.-Sat., Apr. 7-8, 50th Anniversary Spring Historic Homes & Gardens Tour
- Fri., Apr. 14, Office Closed, (Good Friday)
- Sat., Apr. 29, Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day
- Wed., May 13, Lunch and Learn, Joe Mobley: Gov. Richard Caswell, *The Old North State's First Governor*
- Sun., May 21, Legends in Concert: *Under the Streetlamp Concert*
- Thurs., June 1, Historical Society Membership Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
- Sun., June 18, Volunteer Appreciation Social (new date)
- June 30, Annual Membership Renewal for June renewals
- Tues., July 4, Office Closed, (4th of July Holiday)

Many MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are due June 30. We will be mailing membership renewal information in May. Please look for your renewal in the mail. Renewing your membership is very important. We could not exist without your membership support. Thank you!

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

Title Sponsor—Ghostwalk 2016
Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock P.A. -
Your Trial Attorneys

PLATINUM Ghostwalk Sponsor

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Poor Charlie's Flea Market
& Antiques

Rankin & Fiume, Orthodontics

The Chelsea Restaurant

Trader Construction Co.

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

SAVE THE DATE! Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet, THURSDAY, JUNE 1!