

attmore.oliver house

circa 1790

new bern historical society

We bring history to life!

Historically Speaking... Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2019

Historical Society's 2019 Heritage Homes Tour April 12-13



William B. Smith House



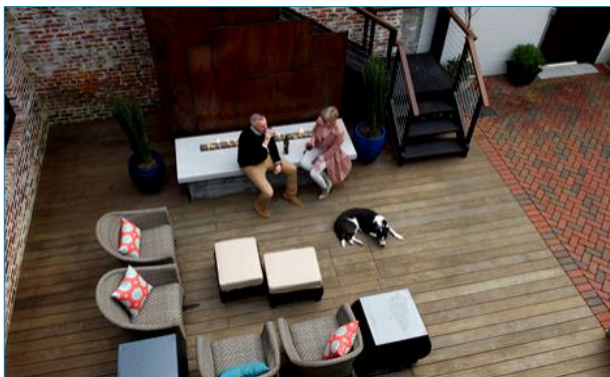
Turnbull House



Jerkins-Richardson House

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. This important fundraiser will showcase some of the finest homes in all five historic neighborhoods: **DeGraffenried, Downtown, Dryborough, Ghent and Riverside.**

The **Heritage Homes Tour** is just one part of an exciting spring weekend that includes the downtown *Juice on the Neuse* events, the *Tryon Palace Heritage Plant Sale and Garden Lovers Weekend*, and the *Craven Arts Council Pottery Show and Art Walk*. Together these events will bring thousands of visitors from across the region into our historic neighborhoods and showcase New Bern's extraordinary beauty, charm, and endurance.



Riggs-Polo House



E.H. Bradbury House

(Interior Site Photos: Norm McCullough)

Our Heritage Homes Tour Steering Committee Members:

Co-Chairs Kathy Morrison, Karen Whitmore: Rachel Anderson, Sue Baldwin, Carol Becton, Karen Bixler, Linda Burke, Hadley Cheris, Susan Cook, Linda Cummings, Cathy Elkins, Kathy Glover, Ron Grieger, Lynne Harakal, Charlene Harvell, Theresa Harrigan, Phyllis Hoffman, Annette Hunt, Cheryl Jukich, Sharon Kenny, Jennifer Knight, Norm McCullough, Sharon Nelson, Cathy O'Brien, Gail Tilley, Patti Urick

With gratitude to our many volunteers working with the Committee

**Jon Miller**

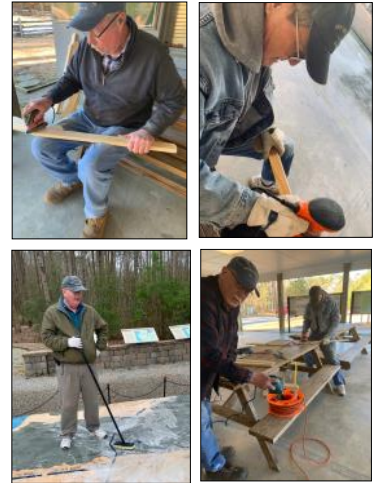
Battlefield Park News...by Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant



I was told once, when facing a monumental task, that "when you have to eat an elephant, take one bite at a time!" That's good advice and that's pretty much what we've been doing at the battlefield. After Hurricane Florence we were left with a pretty big mess: all three buildings damaged, a section of bridge destroyed, and dozens of downed trees. I'm pleased to say we've "eaten" a large chunk of that elephant! We repaired one of our sheds using volunteer labor, we received a new shed that had to be replaced, we've cut up hundreds of feet of downed timber, and have begun work on the damaged bridge. We also received a good bid on the repair of the roof of our Visitor Center, and we hope to be able to return our artifacts back to their display cases by the end of March. A big 'thank you' is due to our volunteers who came out on a regular basis as well as the board members who worked with the insurance adjusters to get everything moving.

We are getting excited about our upcoming "Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day" to be held Saturday, March 23. In years past we focused on children 6-12 years old and we will continue to provide that age group with the same fun activities and experiences as before, but we want to do a better job of providing the adult attendees with interesting displays and historically accurate activities as well. In addition to reenactors from the 5th and 7th NC Regiments, and Pat McCullough's exciting artillery demonstration, we will augment our static displays with some "hands-on" experiences that battlefield volunteer Bill Long will provide with Civil War period woodworking activities, tools and toys. We will also have a real tar-producing fire pit and attendees will have the opportunity to take off their shoe and sock and become a 'Genuine Tarheel!' This event wouldn't happen without the help of many volunteers or the generous support from the Goodman family honoring Harry Goodman. We are also pleased to have Moore's Olde Tyme BBQ back as a sponsor and, new this year, the Country Biscuit and NBHS board member Breck Gibbs' dental practice, Gibbs Dentistry, will also sponsor the lunch provided to attendees.

In years past, the Adventure Day was held on one weekend, and a few weeks later we held Park Day at the battlefield. Park Day is a nation-wide event encouraging the public to get engaged with preserving local battlefield parks such as ours through activities such as picking up trash or raking debris from the redans (fighting positions). This year Park Day nearly coincides with our Adventure Day so rather than hold a separate event a week later, we will ask attendees if they will stay an extra half hour or so and perform those tasks. We will also publicize this event to encourage locals who are not attending Adventure Day to come out for this activity. The first 40 who do will receive a Park Day tee shirt and the gratitude of all of us at the battlefield!

**Claudia Houston**

Did you know?...by Claudia Houston, Historian

As Historian of the New Bern Historical Society, I enjoy researching lives of people who were born or lived in New Bern. There are many famous people who have resided in our small city, but it is illuminating to discover ordinary people who do extraordinary things. This happened recently when the Historical Society as well as Craven County Librarian Victor Jones in New Bern received an inquiry. Victor and I both researched and shared information. You may be as surprised as we were when you read her story.

The woman in question was Sarah Marshall Boone, born Sarah Marshall in New Bern in 1835. She was born into slavery, the daughter of Caleb Marshall and Sarah (Sally) Morgan. On Nov. 25, 1847, at the age of 15, Sarah married James Boone, in New Bern. James was a free African American brick mason and bought Sarah's freedom. They eventually had eight children. Just prior to the Civil War, the family moved to New Haven, Connecticut. James Boone, died Jan. 18, 1876.

Sarah Marshall Boone continued to live in New Haven and on April 26, 1892 she became one of the first African American women in the United States to receive a patent. One of several African American women in the 1890's to submit patents for domestic machinery, Sarah was a seamstress and designed a narrow and curved ironing board that had collapsible legs and a padded cover. The first ironing board patents appeared in the 1860's but these were boards that were designed to be placed on two chairs or a table. The narrow board Sarah designed was the size and fit of a sleeve common to women's dresses at the time and was reversible so that one could iron both sides of the sleeve. It could also be folded and put away in a closet or other place in the home. Sarah's design was quite sophisticated and the precursor to ironing boards in modern times. Sarah Marshall Boone died Oct. 29, 1904 and is buried in a family plot in Evergreen Cemetery, New Haven.



This is not the end of the story as there are many questions regarding Sarah Marshall Boone's early years in New Bern. Some sources say she was born in Mississippi rather than New Bern. Her death certificate indicates her father was James Marshall, not Caleb. Where were Sarah and her parents slaves? When were they freed? Who were the parents of James Boone, Sarah's husband? Victor Jones and I will continue researching until we hopefully find the answers to this puzzle. We are just grateful for the inquiry that led to learning about this extraordinary woman from New Bern.

Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

Something Old is Something New....



One of the benefits of my role as curator at the New Bern Historical Society is sharing with the membership and the public special stories behind the items in our collection. These treasures are most often acquired as donor gifts, but on occasion, when the opportunity arises the Society will acquire through purchase.

Recently, former board member and long time New Bern resident Mrs. Natalie (Nat) Baggett gifted to the Historical Society a beautiful brass chandelier. The fixture is comprised of eight flamingo design branches and a globe base. Originally a gasolier, it had been electrified at some point during its history. Truly a prize, but the story behind it makes it even more special.

Back in the early 1960's, Nat and her husband, Dr. John Baggett, relocated to New Bern. In 1964, Jane Stewart who resided in a large Victorian house on the northeast corner of Pollock and Craven Streets passed away. For many years she was *the* recognized interior designer in New Bern and amassed a large collection of antiques that were stored at her family residence, the Hughes-Stewart House. As she was the last member of her family to live there, the contents were offered to the public at an estate tag sale.

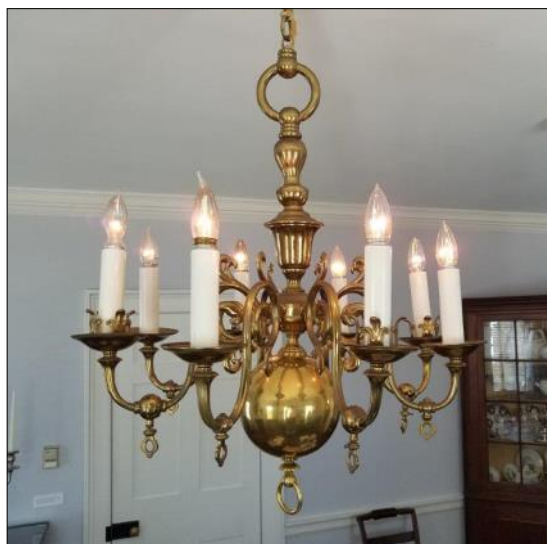
Needing furnishings for her new home, Nat heard of the sale and attended. Upon entering the foyer at the Hughes-Stewart House, she glanced towards the ceiling, spied a beautiful brass chandelier, and bought it on the spot. The rest is history. The Baggetts enjoyed it for fifty plus years and now she generously gifted the chandelier to the Historical Society where it is proudly displayed in our dining room. Thank you dear Nat; we are greatly appreciative.

The dining room, being brightly illuminated with our 'new' old chandelier, sheds light on another recent acquisition. Longtime residents of New Bern have fond recollections of Baxter's Jewelry Store located at 323 Pollock Street with the impressive four-faced Seth Thomas Clock out front. Owned and operated by E.B. Baxter, the store was originally located on the 200 block of Middle Street circa 1892 and relocated to the Pollock Street address in 1920. During the last half of the twentieth century, Baxter's Jewelry Store was New Bern's premier resource for wedding gifts including fine china, crystal, silver, and jewelry. Particularly of note was the wonderful assortment of freestanding glass and hardwood showcases strategically placed in the gallery and complimented by the beautifully crafted display units along the walls. The showcases were manufactured by M.L. Himmel & Son in Baltimore, Maryland most likely in the 1890's.

Benny and Della Baxter were indelible fixtures in the store for many years and even after their deaths, the store remained open and owned by the Baxter Family until 2010. At that time Jim and Gail Bisbee purchased the 323 Pollock Street building and repurposed the tasteful venue as "Fine Art at Baxter's Gallery." After eight years of successful operation the art gallery has closed and the building is once again for sale. Prior to the closing, I approached Jim Bisbee about the purchase of one of the two remaining showcases for the Historical Society. We are thankful the Bisbees were extremely generous in offering the showcase to us for a greatly reduced price.

Today, both the brass chandelier from the Hughes-Stewart House and the display showcase from Baxter's Jewelry Store are in the dining room at the Historical Society's Attmore-Oliver House. The curator team designed exhibits about New Bern's rich history, installing them in the special showcase illuminated by the equally special brass chandelier.

We are very proud of these reflections into our past and invite you to stop by and enjoy.



Writers Sought for the *New Bern Historical Society Historical Journal*

The *Journal of the New Bern Historical Society* is a carefully curated compilation of well-researched articles 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.

Downtown Historic Neighborhood



5
historic neighborhoods

Friday, April 12
Saturday, April 13
10am - 4pm

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information



Ticket / Info
252.638.8558

newbernhistorical.org



Attmore-Oliver House
Garden Party Pavilion (included in your ticket)
Light refreshments, Back Porch Stage Music, Heritage Gardens
511 Broad Street
ca. 1800's
owner: New Bern Historical Society

Dryborough Historic Neighborhood



Charlotte S. Rhone
Cultural Center
608 West Street
ca. 1947
owner: Climbers Club of New Bern



David S. Congdon House
706 Craven Street
ca. 1908
owners: Cheryl & Bill Jukich



Riggs-Polo House
223 Craven Street
ca. 1830-40
owners: Jim & Cindy Polo



William Hollister House
(work in progress)
613 Broad Street
ca. 1840-41
owners: Bill Cobb & Rachel Hall



Jerkins-Richardson House
520 Craven Street
ca. 1848-49
owners: Dr. and Mrs. Tom & Anne Sporn



William B. Smith House
(house and garden)
216 Metcalf Street
ca. 1906
owners: George & Christian Evans



David F. Jarvis House
220 Pollock Street
ca. 1903
owners: Michael & Denise Gleason



Isaac Smith House
607 Johnson Street
ca. 1923-24
owner: Dr. I. Alan Craig



Foy-Munger House
(garden only)
516 Middle Street
ca. 1881-82
owners: Charles & Carolyn Peterson



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

Ghent Historic Neighborhood



John S. Garrett House
1322 Spencer Avenue
ca. 1920
owners: Sarah & Randy Foster



Armstrong-Block House
1701 Rhem Avenue
ca. 1923
owners: Tim Harris & Carlotta Kemper



Leo Sultan House
1504 Spencer Avenue
ca. 1916
owners: Shawn & Nancy Bradley

Poster and Logo Design by Cheryl Jukich. David S. Congdon House artwork by Janet Francoeur.
Tryon Palace Photo: NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
All other exterior Site Photos: Kelvin Kestner and Melvin Kestner

DeGraffenried Park Historic Neighborhood



E.H. Bradbury House
1507 Lucerne Way
ca. 1950
owners: Janine & Ken Sellers



John M. Aberly, Jr. House
1502 Tryon Road
ca. 1940
owners: Michael & Marty Gunhus

Riverside Historic Neighborhood



O.A. Kafer House
1233 National Avenue
ca. 1910
owners: Colleen Adams & Eric Campfield



Turnbull House
1316 National Avenue
ca. 1925
owners: Caitlin & Jeff Wood-Yesline



Allee-Oates House
(work in progress)
1514 National Avenue
ca. 1923
owners: Sarah Risty-Davis & Charles Davis

Garden Party at the Attmore-Oliver House

*Sponsored by the Neuse River
Region Association of REALTORS®*

- **Relax** with light refreshments under the Pavilion, 11am - 3pm both days
- **Enjoy** live music from the Back Porch Stage
- **Visit** with costumed historic characters

Back Porch Stage

at the Attmore-Oliver House
*Sponsored by Zaytoun Law Firm
and Charles K. McCotter, Jr.,
Attorney at Law*

Friday Music:

11am - 1pm Simon Spalding
1pm - 3pm Duzan Duo

Saturday Music:

11am - 1pm Downeast Dulcimers
1pm - 3pm Jim & Kathy Kohler

Garden Party at the Attmore-Oliver House

Heritage Garden with Master Gardeners... Enjoy the **Historical Society's Heritage Garden** based on a century-old historical plant list. **Learn** about historic gardeners and their horticultural secrets.

Lunch with favorite **Food Trucks** at **1202 Pollock St** (corner of Pollock & Queen)

Friday: The Nest & Tasty Jasmine Thai

Saturday: The Nest

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Reservations which include lunch and presentation must be prepaid through the New Bern Historical Society office, 252-638-8558 or through our website: www.newbernhistorical.org. Members, \$17; non-members, \$22. Lunch & Learn programs sell out quickly so reserve early!

May 8: *A Distant Mirror – Craven County and Reflections on the Great War 1917-1920*



Wednesday, May 8, our Historical Society **Lunch and Learn** program at The Chelsea Restaurant, 11:30am to 1pm, will feature **Mark Sandvigen**, life-long student of the Great War, both 'over there' and 'over here.' His interest in the Great War began with his Grandfather who fought during the 100 days leading to Armistice. Mark's explorations and perspective about ***A Distant Mirror; Craven County and Reflections on the Great War 1917-1920***, will provide an illuminating, and sometimes amusing, look at the home and military life of North Carolinians and New Bernians of that era.

Lunch entrée choices for the May 8 Lunch & Learn will be: Low Country Chicken, Sweet Potato Hash, Broccoli with Lemon Butter OR Shrimp and Grits. Dessert: Lemon Layer Cake.



Mark Sandvigen

June 12: *History of Barbour Boats*



Lindy Cummings

On **Wednesday, June 12**, Tryon Palace Research Historian **Lindy Cummings** will present ***The History of Barbour Boats*** for our **Lunch & Learn**, 11:30am to 1pm. From a modest background in Swansboro, master carpenter and shipwright Herbert W. Barbour moved to New Bern and founded a shipyard in 1932 that would eventually employ 1200 workers during World War II. The ingredients of this success story are determination, hard work, and pride. Lindy's presentation will illuminate this important chapter of New Bern history and provide you with a glimpse of the reopened Tryon Palace's Barbour Boats exhibit at the North Carolina History Center.

Lunch entrée choices for the June 12 Lunch and Learn will be: Brown Butter Barbeque Chicken, Gourmet Macaroni and Cheese, Mixed Vegetable Medley OR Salmon Brie Pasta. Dessert: Carrot Cake.



From the Desk of the Executive Director



Mickey Miller,
Executive
Director

The Importance of Heritage Tourism. Did you know that tourism is New Bern's #1 industry? As New Bern Historical Society members, you can take pride in knowing that we are a major driver of heritage tourism in this area. Events like the upcoming **Heritage Homes Tour** and our signature **Ghostwalk** bring nearly 5000 visitors annually into our historic districts – not just to buy event tickets, but to stay in lodging, enjoy our restaurants and support local retailers. We're all concerned with the long-term impact of Hurricane Florence on tourism and particularly on the downtown economy. You can help by encouraging your friends and neighbors to buy tickets for the Heritage Homes Tour, an event that showcases New Bern's history and charm like none other.

ABC Sale Success. Props to all who helped to make our recent **ABC Indoor Yard Sale** a huge success! ABC Sale Chairs **Cheryl Lawrence**, **Gerri Oivaney** and **Walt Teasdale** did a great job with the myriad details that go into this important fundraiser. A team of over 60 volunteers came together to pick up, sort, clean, display, and sell in a very short time. I was so impressed to see that many of our newest Society members answered the call to volunteer. Donations of used items were very strong – thanks again to you, our supportive membership! Yard-sale aficionados remarked that the Historical Society has a great reputation for high-quality items not normally found at most sales. As with everything we do, our success is built on teamwork – and what a wonderful team we have!



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

Historical Society President's Message

The Historical Society has come a long way with popular events: Ghostwalk, Concerts, Heritage Homes Tour, Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day, Lunch and Learn lecture series, a Gingerbread House Contest and ABC Sale. Our growing membership numbers over 900. Hundreds of volunteers support our events. Improvements in the Society's visibility have been the goal of Executive Directors including Joanne Ashton, Newsom Williams, Lynne Harakal and Mickey Miller, along with many

dedicated and talented board members. Nelson McDaniel's leadership as Board President led us through the Investment in History campaign which provided funds to improve Battlefield Park and invest in infrastructure improvements at the Attmore-Oliver House Campus. Most recently, your generous Annual Fund contributions have allowed us to focus even more on quality educational programs.

It's easy to sit back and rest on these accomplishments but we all know things change over time. The wise leader plans for the future when things are going well

and updates their plan yearly to adjust to changing conditions. With that in mind, we will be embarking on a strategic planning process to develop a long-range plan that looks at what we do. We will identify areas that can be improved and decide if there are other goals, objectives, and programs to consider. That way, we'll ensure that our planning is proactive rather than reactive, and systemic rather than situational. I look forward to telling you more about it as the process unfolds.



Joe Hunt
President,
Board of Directors
Historical Society

Volunteer and New Member Social, Sunday, May 5



GROW your own CONFEDERATE ROSE!

Our garden guru Annette Hunt tells us there are Confederate Rose cuttings available to NBHS members! Cuttings will be located on the back lawn of the Attmore-Oliver House at the Garden Shed. Limited supply, come by early to get yours.



LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ATTMORE-OLIVER HOUSE & GARDENS AND NEW BERN BATTLEFIELD PARK.

...AND LET US SAY "THANK YOU!" TODAY!

Making your estate plan can be troubling but it's also the way to make sure things get done the right way when you are no longer here to guide them. Family, mementos with personal value, and organizations or missions that have been important to you need your thoughts and guidance because you are writing that last chapter of your history. We've all seen the bumper sticker on the big recreation vehicle that says: "I'm driving my kids' inheritance." Even that is an "estate plan" and it's obviously being communicated to that person's family, but perhaps not in the best way.

So, how can you do better? Take time to visit an estate planner, accountant, or attorney who specializes in helping you assess what will happen when you die and will help you change that into what you want to have happen. Family, mementos, organizations—change that last chapter of your history. If New Bern has had an impact on your life, we hope you will consider including the New Bern Historical Society in those plans. We are approaching 100 years of celebrating New Bern and its heritage through events and education and we look forward to 100 more.

We have established a "Founders Circle" for individuals who have made plans to include us in their estate, and we are fortunate to be able to *Thank Those Individuals Now*. If you have any questions about our Founders Circle or our endowment fund options, or if you wish to tell us we are already in your plans, please call Historical Society Executive Director Mickey Miller.

Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet, Thursday, May 23

Invitations will be mailed to our membership in May to attend our **May 23 Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet**. It will be held at the New Bern Golf and Country Club. Save the date for this wonderful event! Details TBA!



Most **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!

CALENDAR

- Sat., Mar. 23, **Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day**, New Bern Battlefield Park, 12noon-4pm
- Sat., Mar. 23, **Park Day**, New Bern Battlefield Park, 4pm
- Fri., Mar. 29, **Harriett Marks Scholarship application deadline**
- Fri.-Sat., Apr. 12-13, **Historical Society Heritage Homes Tour**, 10am-4pm
- Fri., Apr. 19, Historical Society offices closed (Good Friday)
- Sun., May 5, **Appreciation Social for Volunteers and New Members**, 2pm-4pm
- 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)
- Wed., June 12, **Lunch & Learn**, Lindy Cummings, *Barbour Boats*
- Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 24-26, *Ghostwalk* 2019

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

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