



Historically Speaking

Quarterly Newsletter 2020

october • november • december

30th Anniversary Ghostwalk

October 22-24

Safely reimagined - all outdoors at
Cedar Grove Cemetery

**Same great 13 hauntingly spirited tales from New
Bern's past ~ Same great price!**

Advance reservations only for specific date and arrival
time ~ Reduced lines and wait times

Masks & social distancing required!



**We know where ALL of New
Bern's skeletons are buried!**

"Come, let me introduce you to my friends!"



*A rollicking true tale of infatuation ending in
disaster*



Renowned singer Jane Morgan with local
legend Laurence Stith

Introducing.....Ghostwalk, The Movie!
90-minute professional production

**Included in the price of Live Ghostwalk
or may be purchased separately**

Available to watch online Oct 22

**Thanks to our
Title Co-Sponsors**



*"Why, I just adore
that Fabius Maximus
Stanly!"*



Memories of cooking for
Babe Ruth





Message from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

It's not all bad news....

We've long had a goal of putting our best presentations online for everyone to watch from home at their convenience. The cancellation of live programming and a generous grant from the NC Humanities Council gave us the opportunity to do just that. We've produced eleven virtual programs so far, including some of our most popular presentations, with more to come! Check them out - you can find the entire lineup on our website.

My favorite word in the dictionary is balance. The decision to move forward with the annual **Ghostwalk** was not an easy one. We had to weigh the absolute need for safety of the public and our volunteers against our desire to bring some much-needed entertainment to the community - and to celebrate Ghostwalk's 30th anniversary. We feel confident about the balance we've struck with the changes to the event and the safety measures that will be in place.

We're very excited about the addition of **Ghostwalk, The Movie**, which was also made possible by the NC Humanities grant. Wow, producing this video has been a real eye-opener, with early casting, rehearsals, and many evenings of filming months prior to the live event, plus hours of editing and the addition of music and special effects. Videographer **David Brigham**, along with volunteer directors **Nancy Hitchcock** and **Bill Hand**, sound



Videographer David Brigham



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

History of the Baxter Clock

A New Bern milestone was celebrated on July 24, 2020. The Baxter Clock turned 100 years old! When the Baxter family opened their jewelry store on Pollock Street in 1920, owner J. O. Baxter purchased a four-dial post clock from the Seth Thomas Clock Company. The clock was completed and shipped to New Bern in July 1920 and erected the same year on the sidewalk in front of the store. The clock was added to the National Register of Historic Places on July 2, 1973.

On May 5, 1977, a truck backed into the clock and bent the pillar. A company hired to lift the clock to straighten the pillar dropped the clock onto the sidewalk where it shattered. Attempts to repair it failed, but the Baxter family gave ownership of the clock and parts to Swiss Bear with the condition that they raise the funds to restore it to its original condition. The City agreed to take ownership if this was accomplished. Swiss Bear was able to raise the needed \$28,000 and oversaw the restoration project. This was completed and on April 20, 1991, a ceremony took

place and ownership transferred to the City. Though the Baxter family retired from the jewelry business and the building was sold, the Baxter Clock remains a fixture in downtown New Bern. It is the only known clock of its type to have survived in North Carolina.

Everyone loves a good-news story. A much longer article about the Baxter clock on our Facebook page received over 25,000 views!

Tee It Up Forrrrrre History!

About the time you read this, a full field of 80 golfers will be teeing off in our inaugural golf tournament fundraiser at Taberna Country Club. Response to the event has been overwhelming from both players and sponsors. New board member **Walt Teasdale** proposed and managed the entire affair with a small but very hard-working volunteer committee. They pulled out all the stops to make the day super special, from parking ambassadors to the deluxe post-play dinner.

Special thanks to **Walt & Cindy Teasdale** for their strong leadership. And talk about hustle - **Gary &**



Gary & Marilyn Staley

Marilyn Staley hit the streets to find sponsors even while on vacation! And finally, warm thanks to title sponsor **Eastern Carolina Nissan**.

We plan to make this an annual springtime event, so look for more news about our tournament coming in May.



Walt & Cindy Teasdale



Photograph by K. Baxter Baronas



Historical Society President's Message...by Joe Hunt

When the Covid19 sequestering started in March it was interesting for a short time. You could read more, garden, fix things around the house, go for walks at the Battlefield or around the neighborhood, or watch movies. While separation may have been medically necessary, it soon became old. Personal contact is important for our health and well-being and we all need some. Many began to get creative with calling friends, video conferencing and front porch visits.

In addition, many businesses were dramatically affected by the lack of customers, including non-profits which depend on events for their income. Just as stores and restaurants

have adapted, the Historical Society has responded by modifying Ghostwalk to include an equivalent number of acts, but controlling the locations, and providing virtual programs online to keep history alive. These changes were only possible with the talent of our many volunteers.

We have relearned a lesson as a country that when faced with a situation that impacts your life or business, you need to be resourceful and develop new ways to respond. There will be some positive changes to come from this chapter in history if you look for them and adapt to the situation. Thank you, our loyal members, for your patience and membership support as we work through these challenges.



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

"Send in the Marines!" That was our battle cry at the battlefield this summer. On July 10, thirteen Marines from the 2d LAAD

Battalion (air defense unit) led by Lieutenant Chris Burkard came out to our park and by the end of the day had dug a drainage ditch the length of our entrance road - about 125 yards long - that was long overdue. The road was poorly graded and when it rained, water had nowhere to go except to pool on the road, leading to many potholes.

Marines spend a day off digging a ditch to help the community



Article & Photo by Charlie Hall, Sun Journal

Together with our volunteers, they completed the project and enjoyed a cookout at the Visitor Center. That drainage ditch now comes in handy because....

.....on September 16, Tripp Brothers Construction came out and shaped the road so that rain will more readily drain off the surface and into the drainage ditch where it belongs. Once it had been graded, they dumped gravel on the surface and compacted it with the roller. This project will make driving into the park a more pleasant experience. At the end of the day, it is still an unpaved road and most likely will require some pothole maintenance, which is okay because....

.....we welcomed a new battlefield volunteer this summer, **Clare Gramley**, who along with his wife Paula, came to New Bern from Illinois. We are happy to have him and have introduced him to the joys of clearing fallen trees, replacing trail timbers and of course filling potholes!

The park continues to see an increasing number of visitors and we gave a larger number of guided tours this summer. If there are any members out there who don't mind getting their hands dirty, contact me about volunteering at the battlefield.



Thanks, Kudos & Applause!

Like everything we do, **Ghostwalk** is a team sport and, particularly with the extra challenges this year, our talented and creative leadership brought their 'A' Game and more! **Special thanks to:**

Researchers & Scriptwriters: **Bill Hand, Matt Arthur, Lori Favre** (ghostwriting for **Nelson McDaniel**), **Joe Anderson & John Leys**. Directors: **Nancy Hitchcock & Bill Hand**. Cemetery Operations Manager: **Lori Favre**. Volunteer Co-Chairs: **Cathy O'Brien & Sharon Nelson**. Publicity Chair: **Kathy Morrison**. Graphics Designer: **Cheryl Jukich**. Logistics co-chairs: **Gary & Marilyn Staley, Joe Sullivan, Walt & Cindy Teasdale**. Safety Czar: **Chris Kelso**.

Special thanks to community partners **Foster Hughes** and the staff of **New Bern Parks & Recreation**, and to the **New Bern Police Department** for their support!



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The Historical Society is proud of the relationships we have developed over the years with the local business community and thank them for their continued sponsorship of our events. Please recognize and support our business partners who generously contribute to the New Bern Historical Society.



The Law Offices of Oliver & Cheek
Robert Chiles Engineering
Lois & Paul Switzer
New Bern Web Design

Jim Hodges
International Paper
Maggie Bagg

Stubbs & Perdue, P.A.
Zaytoun Ballew & Taylor and
Charles K. McCotter, Jr.,
Attorney at Law

Virtual Gingerbread House Contest & Display

Like many events in 2020, this year's 4th annual Gingerbread House Contest & Display will be different. We're going virtual! The contest will be simpler and will all be online. But the most important part -- working together with friends and family, enjoying the season, THAT will be exactly the same!

There are no fees, no forms, no categories. Just the desire to be creative and delight in the season. All the entries will be displayed on our Facebook page. There will be two prizes, one determined by popular vote and one selected by our judges.

Visit www.GingerbreadNewBern.com or stop by the office for contest rules – there are only TWO. Entries are due by **December 12.**



Take the Gingerbread Class!

Want more confidence in your efforts? Make sure your house stays together and stands up! Take the 1.5 hour in-class training, **Intro to Gingerbread House Construction**, hosted by our partners at Craven Community College on November 14. For info and registration, visit <https://cravencc.edu/aep/kitchen-cuisine/#ginger>.

Enhance your Ghostwalk weekend!

Take a free daytime **Cedar Grove Cemetery Tour** presented by our nonprofit partners, the **Earl of Craven Questers**. October 23 & 24 at 2pm.
See our website for details.

Visit **MumFeast** downtown and support our local restaurants and merchants.