



Historically Speaking

Quarterly Newsletter 2021

october • november • december



Thank you to our Title Sponsors!



October 28-29-30

This Year's Highlights:

All outdoors

All new historical characters & scripts!

All 13 ghost sites now open all three nights

Same great price as last several years!

Same hours all three nights: 6 - 9:30 pm

Buy tickets online; pick up at will call or at the office.

Tickets will not be mailed.

Your ticket is good for all three nights

Downtown churches serve yummy meals

Special attractions - TapSnap interactive photo booth,
VeriGood Bakery, new storytelling feature, and a
"thrilling" dance performance!



the Skeletons in our Closets

experience everyone's favorite haunting adventure...





Update from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

We're so excited to bring you the 31st annual **Ghostwalk**, our biggest fundraiser - and my personal favorite! It's our signature event because it combines fascinating history, talented local actors, cool locations, and a family fun-filled environment like no other event in town. We've got a great bunch of historical - and yes, even hysterical - spirits ready to share their stories with you. This year will be much more like the **Ghostwalk** of years past, with the ticket good for all three nights and no advance reservation required.

We opted for an all-outdoor format to keep things safe and allow for contingencies. With a series of porches along Haunted Hancock Street, two loops to visit at the Spanish moss-laden Cedar Grove Cemetery, and special attractions at the Attmore-Oliver House, you'll find the event is easier to navigate than in previous years. Unlike previous years, however, you can now see all the historical spirits all three nights - a bonus!

In the past we mailed tickets to all members and asked you to either buy or return them. Although we won't be mailing member tickets this year, we hope that you'll continue to support the event by buying tickets for yourselves or your friends, or making a tax-deductible donation to the Society. Thank you in advance!

There's more than just **Ghostwalk** to look forward to. Don't miss the ABC Sale next week, and check out the insert for all of our exciting events and programs in the upcoming months.



Eat lunch or dinner at **MORGAN'S TAVERN & GRILL** on Thursday, October 28 when our good friends at Morgan's will donate a portion of that day's proceeds to the Society!



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

What in the World Does the Historian Do?

I am the seventh volunteer Historian for the New Bern Historical Society since the position was created in June 1984. I'm often asked "What exactly does the Historian do?" Great question! The job description is both broad and vague, so let me share a sampling of the interesting projects that you will soon be reading about.

- ◇ A recent contact from a writer led to detailed research about New Bern's Hotel Chattawka, also known as the Gaston Hotel, and an influential meeting there of white supremacy leaders in the early days of Jim Crow.
- ◇ A colleague shared that in the process of examining members of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry (the US Colored Troop immortalized by the movie "Glory"), she discovered a black soldier born in New Bern. Further research revealed an extraordinary story involving this courageous man's correspondence with President Abraham Lincoln protesting the disparity in pay between black and white soldiers.
- ◇ In responding to a Massachusetts journalist, I uncovered background information on William Henry Dewey, an African American barber at New Bern's Gaston Hotel in the late 1890's who then moved to Massachusetts. A search of census reports, freedmen's records, old newspapers, and burial records uncovered a fascinating story of this man's accomplishments.

- ◇ A relative of a young soldier from the 23rd Massachusetts contacted us to share a poignant story of two friends; one who died at the Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862, and the other who died of typhoid fever four months later.

In addition, I continue to post stories and photos at least three times a week on our Facebook page, which has over 6500 followers. Our readers' favorite day is Wednesday when we post "What is in the Attic with Jim?" and include a treasure that Curator Jim Hodges has in our vast collections. I also write a monthly article for New Bern Magazine titled "This Month in New Bern History." The story for October is about Gilbert S. Waters, the inventor of the Buggymobile.

I am fortunate to receive research support from many, but particularly want to acknowledge Victor Jones and John Green III from the Kellenberger Room of the Craven County Library. They are incredibly knowledgeable about New Bern history and readily share their expertise.

The position of NBHS Historian is a fascinating one and I am honored to share the stories of people and places from New Bern's history with all of you. If you have a story to share, please contact me at nbhshistorian@gmail.com.



2021—2022 Event Calendar

Watch our website (www.NewBernHistorical.org) for further details on both 2021 and 2022 programs!

- Oct 2 . . . Curated ABC Yard Sale at New Bern Battlefield Park / 9am - 2pm
- Oct 16 . . . Book signing: *The Order Book of Brigadier General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch, Confederate Army* by Steve Shaffer / New Bern Battlefield Park / 10am - 12pm
- Oct 28-30 . . . 31st Annual **Ghostwalk: The Skeletons in our Closets**
- Nov 9 . . . Newcomers Orientation at Attmore-Oliver House
- Nov 14 . . . Richard K. Lore Annual Lecture, *Gentle on My Mind* presented by Rodney Kemp / Orringer Auditorium / 2pm
- Jan 9 . . . Encore! *New Bern on the Move* presented by Jim Hodges / Orringer Auditorium / 2pm
- Feb TBA . . . Special African American History Presentation
- Mar TBA . . . Annual Civil War Lecture to benefit New Bern Battlefield Park
- Mar 12 . . . Curated ABC Yard Sale at New Bern Battlefield Park
- Mar 26 . . . Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day at New Bern Battlefield Park
- Apr 8-9 . . . Heritage Homes Tour in historic downtown New Bern
- Apr 21-May 1 . . . *Honour, The Musical* (partnership event), Orringer Auditorium
- Apr 24 . . . Volunteer Social
- May TBA . . . 3rd Annual Golf Tournament
- May-June TBA . . . Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet



Ghostwalk 2021 - Kudos, Thanks & Applause!

Ghostwalk is a huge team effort which can only happen with the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, from actors to greeters to guides to ticket sellers. Please join us in thanking the key folks who make this great event possible:

Ghostwalk Steering Committee:

Directors: Bill Hand, Nancy Hitchcock • *Cemetery Guides Director:* Katie Shorter • *Script writers:* Lori Favre, Alma Gibbons, Bill Hand, John Leys, Nancy Hitchcock • *Publicity & TapSnap:* Kathy Morrison • *Graphic Artist:* Cheryl Jukich • *Ghostly Greeters/Volunteers:* Cathy O'Brien & Diana Bottone • *Homes Coordinators:* Gerri Olvaney & Mary Parrish • *Logistics:* Joe Sullivan & Walt Teasdale • *Tickets:* Terri Hickman & Laurie Ingram • *Church Liaison:* Sue Wyatt • *VeriGood Bakery:* Karen Whitmore • *Law Enforcement:* Sergeant Monico Hargett • *Assistant Chair:* Karen Bixler • *Chair:* Mickey Miller

Ghostwalk 2021 Actors:

Mike Beckman • Sara Simmons • Edward Jekel • Benny Thompson • Laura Miller-McLemore • Shmonica Wallace • John Rock • Rita DeSanno • Lizzie Steinman • Duffy-Adelle Ward • Stephen Schmidt • Dick Peebles • Cindi Broome • Janice Cox • Heide Lock • Stephanie Carpenter • Melanie Galloway • Mark Ulrey • Cynthia Evans-Robinson • Emilie Friesen • Cammie Armstrong • Francine Robinson • Deborah Robinson • Jon Friesen • Kim Ladenthin • Bill Hand • Lisa Gunn • Bryce Bivens • Steve Elliot • Nicholas Glover • Jim Atchinson • John Stilley

Special thanks to our generous Ghostwalk homeowners - Sarah Afflerbach, Melinda Robinson, Catherine Little, and Robin & James Newton. We appreciate the support over the past 30 years of community partners Foster Hughes, the staff of New Bern Parks & Recreation, and the New Bern Police Department.

ABC Sale

Saturday, October 2 • 9 am to 2 pm
New Bern Battlefield Park

Don't miss the sale next week! Now offered twice a year, all outdoors, and specially curated with high quality furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, outdoor equipment, and tools. Find that perfect treasure you've been looking for and support this important fundraiser.

Still have donations? Call the office at 252.638.8558.



Welcome

TO THE TEAM!

Newcomers Welcome Social

Tuesday, November 9 • 7 to 8 pm
Attmore-Oliver House • 511 Broad Street

If you've joined the Historical Society in the past year, we hope you'll join us at our first Newcomers Social. Meet your fellow new members and enjoy hearing about our operations and programs. Watch your inbox for an invitation soon! RSVPs required.

2021 Annual Richard K. Lore Lecture

Gentle on My Mind

Historical & Humorous Stories about Coastal Carolina

Presented by Rodney Kemp

Sunday, November 14

2 to 4 pm • reception to follow

Orringer Auditorium • Craven Community College



Master storyteller Rodney Kemp will share humorous stories about his life in Coastal Carolina, focusing on people and events that he remembers fondly from his childhood. Described as one of this area's great "fish house liars," Kemp's rollicking stories of the local past will charm and inspire you.

Members: \$10

Non-Members: \$15

ENCORE!

New Bern on the Move

Presented by Curator Jim Hodges

Sunday, January 9 • 2 to 4 pm

Orringer Auditorium • Craven Community College

Don't miss this reprise of Curator Jim's sold-out lunch program! With his folksy delivery and intimate knowledge of New Bern's past, he'll present a dynamic pictorial history of the journey of 15 homes that have been spared the wrecking ball to enjoy new life in a new location.

Members: \$10

Non-Members: \$15





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

This morning in preparing for my morning walk I looked at the weather. The temperature was 62 degrees and the humidity had finally dropped. What a wonderful improvement over the steamy mornings of July and August. The cooler temperature was a taste of fall and a reminder that the Historical Society's fall and winter schedule has been set. We started out with a hit, with Jim Hodges' popular Lunch & Learn program. The fall ABC Sale is just a week away, and planning for Ghostwalk and other fall events is nearly complete.

If you are like Annette and me, after being cooped up for over a year we're looking for fun things to do. We love the annual Ghostwalk and go every year because the theme and skits are different every time. And we just love to see all the happy families out downtown

enjoying themselves. Ghostwalk will be all outside this year so it should be a safe, too.

We work hard to be good stewards of our campus and Battlefield Park. If you are interested in the restoration of older homes, come to the Historical Society campus look at the exterior of the Roberts House on Pollock Street, which is used by the Aerie B&B, and the Ward House which is in the center of the property. Both houses have received major work on the siding and windows this year and look much better.

Thanks to our volunteer campus maintenance team for working so hard to keep up all our properties. We are also indebted to the many who have made contributions in the past to the Investment in History Campaign, which has made much of this work possible.



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

The Wrecking Crew

Our Battlefield Park continues to see large numbers of visitors and increased recognition. This summer we had our normal share of guided tours, but we also had an interesting visit by a group of senior Israeli Defense Force officers. When the tour was over, I learned that the senior officer was a two star general who commands the 98th Division, an airborne/special forces unit. He and his staff came by to see our battlefield and learn more about our nation's War Between The States. We were also pleased to see we had been listed as one of the top ten Civil War sites in Eastern North Carolina in a recent Sun Journal article by Todd Wetherington.

Unfortunately, we've also been plagued by a thief who regularly steals entire large rolls of paper towels from the men's room. We have had to leave the container empty for the time being until we find a solution to the thefts. The police, although notified, can't provide around-the-clock surveillance of the Visitor Center. We're grateful that they do come by frequently and patrol the area both day and night.

On the bright side, we now have two new volunteers since **Alan Craig** joined us earlier this summer. We are happy to have **Roger Brown** and **Mark Trail** working along with the rest of us. The City of New Bern's Electric Department, led by **Justin Garris**, provided us with a truck-load of wood chips for the trails, and our

new volunteers had the opportunity to shovel and spread them out over a mile's worth of trails in the heat!

Along with our more seasoned veterans, the newbies were also instrumental in tearing down the rotten decking of a footbridge, reinforcing the structural frame, and laying down a new surface. This took an average of five volunteers for five days of work for a total of about 75 hours of hard work. The bridge looks like new again!

The wrecking crew is, from left, Alan Craig, Rod Rhodes, John Wright, Gene Lock & Mark Trail.



Pictured with the finished bridge are (L to R) Mark Trail, Clare Gramley, Alan Craig, Lee Purcell & John Wright.

Free Cemetery Tours

Our partners with the nonprofit Earl of Craven Questers will be giving free guided tours of Cedar Grove Cemetery during **Ghostwalk** weekend! Check the Questers' Facebook page for more information.



511 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

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www.newbernhistorical.org

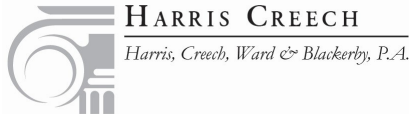
Mickey Miller / director@newbernhistorical.org
Admin Staff / adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

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 and individuals who generously contribute to the New Bern Historical Society.



Jim & Kathy Morrison



CHARLES K. McCOTTER, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW



JIM HODGES, CURATOR
NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



future generations the wealth of historical material found in New Bern." We have been telling the story of New Bern's history since its founding and remain committed to this vital part of our mission, through events, publications, educational programs, and social media.

We are fast approaching our 100th year, and in that spirit and the spirit of those founding members please

consider joining our "Founders Circle," the Planned Giving Program of the New Bern Historical Society. The Founders Circle honors those who have committed to support our institution through deferred gifts and who have informed us of their intentions. Through your bequest or other planned gift, you too can adopt their vision and provide for our battlefield, our collections, and our programs in future years.

Please call Mickey Miller if you have any questions about options for planned giving.

We cannot render tax or legal advice. Please consult your professional financial advisor before making a charitable gift.