



# Historically Speaking

Quarterly Newsletter 2021

july • august • september

## Celebrate!

### Our 2021 Volunteer Award Winners

The strength of any non-profit organization comes from the time and commitment of its volunteers. Although we were unable to have our Annual Meeting where we present awards, we are still able to honor your volunteer colleagues for their wonderful contributions this year. Join us in congratulating these terrific volunteers - the heartbeat of our great team!



**Ambassadorship Award** is awarded to **Bernard George** (left) who for five years chaired the committee for the African American Signs of History / Heritage Tour. The final product is so important to sharing untold stories of New Bern's history.

**Director's Award** is given to **Marilyn & Gary Staley** (right), for their tireless efforts with Golf Tournament sponsorships, ABC Sale, Ghostwalk, and many other events. This couple never says 'no'!



**Nelson McDaniel** (right) was presented the **Lifetime of Service Award** for his decades of service to the Society. A board member since 1999, his leadership contributions to this organization -- and, indeed, all across New Bern and Craven County -- are immeasurable.



Left to right: Nelson McDaniel, Susan Cook, Clare Gramley

**Battlefield Park Award** is presented to **Clare Gramley** (left) who, through his hard work and commitment, has quickly become an invaluable member of the volunteer Battlefield Guides.

**Susan Cook** (left) receives this year's **Extended Service Award**. An active Society member for many years and board member for the past 13 years, Susan has contributed immensely to nearly all Society activities, particularly educational programs.



**Education Award** is proudly presented to **Nathaniel Glasgow** (above) for his pivotal research in the discovery of the Civil War hospital in downtown New Bern and his contributions to the History Quest and the annual Journal.



**Newcomer's Award** is presented to new members **Bob Dofner & Katie Shorter**.

**Bob** (right) has been a huge force behind the scenes in the success of our past two ABC Sales and Golf Tournaments.

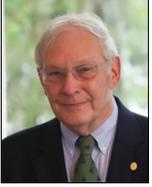
**Katie** (above) has quickly jumped into leadership roles in Ghostwalk and Lantern Tour and is skillfully assisting with website development.



Left: Bob Dofner, right: John Klecker

**President's Award** is presented to **John Klecker** (left) for his excellent work on History Quest and the annual Journal, and his creative graphic support on presentations and other projects.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew



## Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

### The Hollister Collection: Story of Family Pride

After an extended negotiation, the Historical Society acquired in early December 2020 a collection of artifacts primarily relating to the William Hollister family. After reviewing the materials, I am pleased to announce that the historical importance of this acquisition is exceptionally significant.

Even as a young boy some seventy years ago, I was captivated with the stately William Hollister House built in 1841 located on the southeast corner of Broad and George Streets. Although I was aware that the Hugh Swan Family lived there, the true impact of William Hollister and his legacy were not known to me at that time. As the decades slipped by, my interest in this family and its history revealed a story of success and immense family pride.

Born in Lyme, Connecticut in 1777, William Hollister arrived in New Bern in 1800 where he pursued a career as a maritime merchant. After the death in 1994 of Helen Hollister Swan, the last of Hollister's descendants to live in the house, the Hollister House eventually was acquired by the Tryon Palace Foundation until it was sold in 2018 to Bill Cobb and Rachel Hall, a couple from Davidson, North Carolina. Committed to preservation, they embarked on a three-year journey to painstakingly restore the Hollister House to its original glory.

The Hollister Collection we accessioned is comprised of hundreds of original documents dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the middle 20<sup>th</sup> century. The safekeeping of these family treasures can be mostly attributed to Mary Bryan Hollister (1868-1959) whose husband, Charles Slover Hollister (1860-1938), was the grandson of William Hollister (1777-1844). The Hollister Family was connected by marriages to several prominent New Bern families including Isaac Taylor, Slover, Bryan, King, and Moore families. With the assistance of research historians/

genealogists Rose Goode McCullough and Elizabeth Moore, comprehensive family histories were compiled. Mary Bryan Hollister meticulously saved newspaper clippings identifying weddings, birthdays, obituaries, and many social events. Additionally, the collection includes framed portraits, photographs, family Bibles, receipts, financial records, and legal documents.



Mary Bryan Hollister on her  
eighty-third birthday, Nov. 21, 1952

Charles Slover Hollister, Jr. (1897-1979), the son of C.S. Hollister, Sr. and Mary Bryan Hollister, played a key role in recovering William Hollister's meticulous handwritten account ledgers of his maritime exploits that were discovered in the attic of the Hollister House in 1970. After his death in 1979, the thirty ledgers were gifted under his will to the North Carolina

Department of Archives and History in Raleigh. However, prior to his death, Rose Goode McCullough compiled typed descriptions and selected abstracts from the ledgers which are included in the Hollister Collection.

The proverbial saying "an apple doesn't fall far from the tree" is apparent in that Mary Bryan Marriner McCotter (1921-2006), Mary Bryan Hollister's granddaughter, assumed the tradition and responsibility of keeping the Hollister Collection safe and together.

The Historical Society is humbled and extremely proud to have the privilege to safeguard this important part of New Bern's rich history.



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

In the past month, it has been uplifting to see our community come out from under the dark cloud of COVID. We were happy to bring you new

programs like Lantern Tour, History Quest, and the outdoor mini ABC Sale that brought folks together in a safe environment. With restrictions now lifted, the Historical Society is back in full swing and we are planning a new and exciting year! People are itching to get out and do something fun and informative, so beginning in August, plans are in the works to bring back our most popular programs -- and even some new ones.

The Historical Society is blessed to have the leadership of a very strong, committed Board of Directors. Two of our long-serving directors, Susan Cook and Patti Urick, are stepping down after many years of board service. Patti and her husband Phil have moved to Fuquay Varina, while Susan will remain actively engaged here. We thank them both for their selflessness, hard work, and wonderful team spirit.

We're happy to welcome two new board members, Mary Stallings Parrish and George Evans. Mary is a native New Bernian who has been an active volunteer, most recently



Left, Mary Parrish. Right, George Evans

with the Marks Scholarship Committee. George moved to New Bern in 2017 and quickly became engaged with the AO Campus stewardship team. You can see their full biographies on our website. Welcome aboard, Mary and George!

Thanks again to our volunteers, staff, and especially you, **our** loyal members, for all you did to help the Historical Society thrive during a very tough year!

## Upcoming Programs



### Whispers of the Long Departed The Untold History of Southern Craven County

*presented by Eddie Ellis*

Thursday, August 12 at 6:30 pm  
Cullman Auditorium, NC History Center

Award-winning journalist, author, and historical sleuth Eddie Ellis will both entertain and educate us with the previously undisclosed story of southern Craven County dating from before the 1710 founding of New Bern. With his unique conversational style, the gifted storyteller of *New Bern History 101* will share the highlights of his new book *Whispers of the Long Departed*, the story of Craven County's residents, both black and white, who struggled and triumphed there from the earliest days of America. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Details and reservations at [www.NewBernHistorical.org](http://www.NewBernHistorical.org) ~ or ~ 252.638.8558



### New Bern on the Move

*presented by Curator Jim Hodges*

Wednesday, September 15 from 11:30-1:30  
Carolina Colours Pavilion

New Bern native Jim Hodges is back with another fascinating program about the history of moving houses in downtown New Bern. In this two-hour lunch program, Curator Jim will share how, in the spirit of preservation, structures large and small were carefully relocated to save them from demolition. For the first time, he will present a pictorial history of the challenging journey of fifteen homes that have been spared the wrecking ball to enjoy a new life in a changing environment.

Menu selections and reservations at [www.NewBernHistorical.org](http://www.NewBernHistorical.org) ~ or ~ 252.638.8558

## 2021-2022 Event Calendar

- Jul 21 . . . **Ghostwalk Auditions**
- Aug 12 . . . ***Whispers of the Long Departed***, special presentation by Eddie Ellis
- Sep 15 . . . **Lunch & Learn, *New Bern on the Move*** presented by Jim Hodges
- Oct 2 . . . **Mini-ABC Sale** at New Bern Battlefield Park
- Oct 28-30 . . . **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Ghostwalk: *The Skeletons in our Closets (Say It Hain't So!)***
- Nov 14 . . . **Richard K. Lore Annual Lecture, *Gentle on My Mind*** presented by Rodney Kemp

Watch our website for details to come on the following 2022 programs:

- Jan 9 . . . **Encore! *New Bern on the Move*** presented by Jim Hodges
- Mar date TBA . . . **Annual Civil War Lecture** to benefit New Bern Battlefield Park
- Mar date TBA . . . **Mini ABC Sale** at New Bern Battlefield Park
- Spring date TBA . . . **Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day** at New Bern Battlefield Park
- Apr 8-9 . . . **Heritage Homes Tour** in historic downtown New Bern

# Signs of History: the New African American Heritage Trail

The Historical Society is proud to be part of a very special multi-year project to share important local African American history with the public. In early June, sixteen interpretive panels were installed in the greater Dryborough/Five Points neighborhoods that explain and interpret significant historic events, people and places that pertain to that neighborhood's African American heritage. The project was led by a committee chaired by local historian Bernard George and sponsored by the Historic Dryborough Neighborhood Association, the New Bern Historical Society, the City of New Bern, Swiss Bear, and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

Professor John Hope Franklin, a greatly admired scholar of African American history at Duke University through the second half of the 20th century once remarked that New Bern and Craven and Carteret Counties have, perhaps, the most interesting African American stories in the nation. Yet these stories were systematically suppressed by the revisionist historians of the Jim Crow and segregation eras. In recent years, renewed interest has resulted in research, lectures, books and reenactments that have brought these stories back to life. These signs will continue that interest.

The five-year research and design process has resulted in the creation of the sixteen signs, seen as a strong start in the creation of additional panels telling remarkable stories. The committee is committed to continuing this process. More information about the panels and a map of locations will be posted soon to our website.

## New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

### 2021-2022 Officers & Appointed Positions

- 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

### 2021-2022 Directors

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Joe Anderson    | Ken McCotter        |
| Carol Becton    | Nelson McDaniel     |
| Clayton Cheek   | Susan Moffat-Thomas |
| George Evans    | Cathy O'Brien       |
| Breck Gibbs     | Gerri Olvaney       |
| Lynne Harakal   | Mary Parrish        |
| Cheryl Lawrence | Walt Teasdale       |
|                 | Karen Whitmore      |

### Administrative Staff

- Mickey Miller—Executive Director
- Karen Bixler—Assistant to Director
- Sue Dunn—Admin. Assistant





## Update from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

### Winds of Change

It seems that in today's world, change is the only constant. You can either run from it or stay ahead of it. Well, we're all about embracing it! While circumstances may drive some adjustments to our traditional programming, what won't change is our trademark quality and warm Historical Society family welcome.

With health and safety in mind, this past spring we introduced two new family-oriented outdoor programs, the **Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour** and **History Quest**, which both proved to be big hits. The **Lantern Tour**, a compelling Civil War-era storytelling event featuring costumed actors at Battlefield Park, will

alternate every other spring with the popular **Heritage Homes Tour**.

The inaugural **History Quest**, co-chaired by Historian **Claudia Houston** and First VP **Kathy Morrison**, got rave reviews from both newcomers and long-time residents. Who knew learning could be so much fun?



Cammie Lee and our good friends from Savi's Wine Shop enjoyed History Quest!

**Morrison**, got rave reviews from both newcomers and long-time residents. Who knew learning could be so much fun?

If you missed this family-friendly historical scavenger hunt by car, don't worry -- it will be back next spring!

Let's talk about our beloved **Lunch & Learn** programs. For the past couple years, most of them sold out before they were even publicized, leaving many of you frustrated at not being able to attend. Unfortunately our good friends at The Chelsea are limiting the capacity of their banquet room. In order to accommodate more guests and better parking, a larger venue is needed. We're excited to be bringing you the first lunch program of the year in September at Carolina Colours. This will be an extra long program featuring everyone's favorite Curator, Jim Hodges. Between increased meal prices and Jim's longer program, this one will cost a little more. I promise you, it will be worth it!

Another change driven by the pandemic and rising prices is the decision to continue the outdoor curated **ABC Sale** at Battlefield Park. Thanks to your generous donations, our spring fundraiser was so successful that we'll repeat the smaller, more selective format in early October, focusing on furniture, antiques, and higher-end items.

We truly appreciate your donations of gently used items in these categories - furniture, antiques/collectibles, estate jewelry, artwork, and tools/outdoor items. Please call the office if you're not sure about your donations or if you need a pick-up for larger items. Thank you!

As always, I welcome your thoughts, feedback and suggestions. Thank you for your loyalty as we together worked our way through a challenging fifteen months.



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

### A Team of Teams

In spite of the extraordinary rain we've seen in the last few months, the volunteers at the Battlefield Park have kept up the pace in keeping things ship-shape. Six students from the **Epiphany School of Global Studies** also pitched in to help as part of their annual Service Day program. They spent the day scraping, cleaning and painting two sets of barrier gates that had rusted over the last decade. Shown in the picture are three of the students applying the finishing touches to the new coat of green paint. They now look great!



They say necessity is the mother of invention. Over the years, the area of swamp traversed by the Trader Construction Bridge has been plagued by trash making its way downstream from the James City side of the railroad tracks. Trash then floats where the wind will take it, often making it very difficult for us to reach it. Volunteer **John Wright** came up with the idea of placing a skim board across the surface of the stream, anchored by steel cable and rebar posts. Shown in the

picture are John and **Rod Rhodes** setting the board in place with **Gene Locke** and **Bill Long** supervising their work. Two days later we checked the board and were "rewarded" with plastic bottles that could easily be retrieved with a fishing net. Success!

Keeping the park safe and looking nice requires large amounts of material. And during the pandemic the Society

had to work extra hard to raise funds to keep things afloat and we are mindful of spending only what we truly need. We were very fortunate to have two members step up with timely donations that will keep our trails looking beautiful for a long time to come. Former Board member **Carl Huddle** and his **Trader**



**Construction Company** provided a massive load of washed reject material from the Aurora Phosphate Mine that we use to replenish the trails. And Society member and recently joined Battlefield Park volunteer **Alan Craig** generously covered the cost of a pallet load of trail timbers that we use to keep all that material from washing away. We are very grateful to both of them for their contributions.



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Summer Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10am - 4pm  
Fridays 10am - 1pm

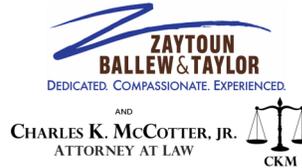
The Historical Society is proud of the relationships we have developed over the years with the local business community and thank them for their continued sponsorship of our events. Please recognize and support our business partners who generously contribute to the New Bern Historical Society.



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The Founders Circle was formed as a lasting thank you to all of those who have contributed to the New Bern Historical Society's endowment or

who have made plans to do so in the future. Membership in the Founders Circle is available to individuals who have provided for our endowment, for example, by:

- Naming the New Bern Historical Society as a beneficiary in a will or trust agreement
- Giving to a life-income program by creating a charitable gift annuity
- Establishing a charitable remainder trust or a charitable lead trust
- Naming the New Bern Historical Society as a beneficiary or owner of a life insurance policy

Founders Circle membership is in perpetuity. Please call Mickey Miller, Executive Director, with any questions or to discuss any plans you may have already made. Your plan information is treated with strict confidentiality.

## 2021 Harriett Marks Scholarship Winner

The New Bern Historical Society is pleased to announce its 2021 Harriet Marks Scholarship has been awarded to Sarahann Bu. She has demonstrated academic excellence by her rank in class and by taking honors, Advanced Placement, and college courses at New Bern High School. Sarahann will attend UNC Chapel Hill in the fall where she will pursue studies in the medical field.



Mary Parrish, Scholarship Committee Member & Sarahann Bu

She has been involved in a number of school and community activities such as Project Unify, National Honor Society, HOSA (future Health Professionals) and CAPAY (Coalition for Asian Pacific & American Youth).