

# Historically speaking



## Quarterly Newsletter

january  
february  
march

## Update from the Executive Director

by Mickey Miller

### Happy New Year!

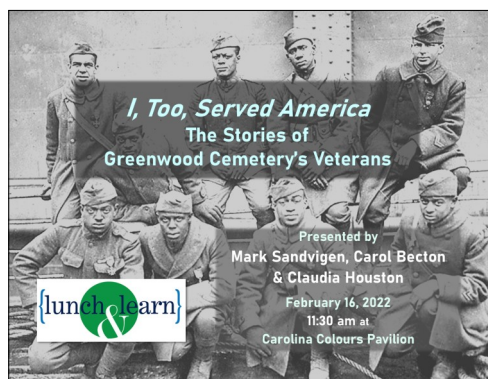
Whether or not you're a resolution maker, I hope 2022 brings you peace and contentment.

As for us here at the Historical Society, we are continuously resolved to maintain an attitude of gratitude. We have much to be grateful for, beginning with our mission. Our job of celebrating the history of this amazing community is a happy one which leaves us feeling fulfilled all year round. We're doubly blessed by our supportive members, strong cadre of committed volunteers, and our hard-working board of directors. Thank you all for helping us bring history to life!

We have an exciting winter lineup of programs, beginning this Sunday with the final encore of Curator Jim's New Bern on the Move. Hurry and make your reservation now for this super popular program -- there are just a few seats left!



February brings a poignant Lunch & Learn program introducing veterans buried in New Bern's historic African American Greenwood Cemetery. What began as a simple grave cleaning effort grew to an inspiring community project to identify and celebrate Black veterans in every major conflict from the Civil War to Desert Storm.



In March we'll bring back the popular Civil War author and speaker Wade Sokolosky. Wade will share a behind-the-scenes look at the herculean effort here to prepare for Sherman's coming during the 1865 Carolinas Campaign.

### You are our heroes!

Heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to the **Annual Fund**. As costs of doing business have grown, the Annual Fund has become more important than ever in helping us to cover operating costs. **There's still time to donate!** Any gift of any size truly does help. We'll be including the names of all **Annual Fund** contributors in our spring newsletter and would love to see your name there.

### Party like it's 1923!

Guess who has a big birthday coming up? The Historical Society will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April 2023! Our Anniversary Committee is already hard at work planning special events to mark this milestone. You can expect a wonderful exhibit at the NC History Center with photos and artifacts from our collection illustrating important historical themes. We'll also have special programs throughout the year and a gala birthday banquet in April 2023. *Stay tuned for more!*

### Help us help you!



Feel good about doing something positive to start out your new year! You know you really want to get organized... pare down... sort out your "stuff." We can help! Our annual **ABC Yard Sale** is coming up in just two months. We would love to have your gently-used furniture, lamps, antiques/collectibles, and outdoor equipment. The **ABC Sale** is an important fundraiser that is known for the upscale quality of items that our members so graciously donate.

Bring your boxes to the office or call to arrange for pickup of larger items. Thank you!

## Historical Society President's Message

by Joe Hunt, President

### A Christmas Reflection

*Early one December morn as I walked along Council Bluffs park, it was not yet sunrise and most homes were still dark. We were approaching the shortest day of the year, which surely meant that Christmas was near.*

*Christmas cards were then being signed, and all agreed that the fall events had gone just fine. About now it appeared that nothing was stirring, not even a mouse, at the lovely old Attmore-Oliver house. The grounds and Battleground Park*

*had been prepared with care, in hopes that a winter break would soon appear. Mickey, Karen, and Sue were working so quick, while our volunteers were nestled in their homes waiting for St. Nick.*

*When out in the hall there arose such a clatter, all sprang from their desks to see what was the matter. What to our wondering eyes should appear but St. Jim Hodges showing with pride, a priceless chrome and silver ewer with the name Taylor inscribed on the side. His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry as this generous gift had surely made him so merry. Quickly he rattled off with no hesitation, the complete genealogy of the family (including middle names, wives and children) in each*

*generation. As his glee shows so highly, there's always excitement and fun at the Historical Society!*

We hope you and your family had a very Merry Christmas. From all of us here at

the Historical Society our best wishes to you for a Happy New Year! Your continued support has been a blessing to us as we move into a new year.



## Curator's Corner

by Jim Hodges, NBHS Curator

### Jewels in the Crown

Despite the challenges created by the pandemic during the year, the curator department has pressed on and actually realized a very productive 2021. A previous newsletter article focused on the Hollister Collection that was acquired by purchase in December 2020. After several months reviewing the extensive documents and related items, I am pleased to announce that the Hollister Collection has been organized, selectively accessioned/scanned, and for the most part completed.

In addition to that collection, the Historical Society has received numerous assorted gifts that have provenance for New Bern and Craven County. Sharing all of these with you is not within the scope of this article; however, I have included two artifacts that are representative and especially interesting.

### Bleu de Hue Plate

Chinese blue and white porcelain ordered by the Vietnamese dynasties in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries have special designs and marks. The decorations are puzzling because of Chinese, Vietnamese, as well as, Japanese influences. The 8 ½" diameter plate donated by Charles Adams, a veteran antique dealer, who many years ago attended the estate liquidation of a descendent of Capt. William Willis Roberts. It is represented that this plate was acquired by Capt. Roberts when he served under the command of Commodore Matthew Perry's 1854 expedition when the ports of Japan were opened to western trade. After the journey, he returned to New Bern with a collection of this beautiful porcelain ware for his family. He is also recognized for returning with and introducing the spider lily (Lycoris



Radiata) to the southeast United States by way of New Bern.

### Ideal Barber Shop Sign

Recently I was contacted by a member who, during the daunting task of dismantling the contents of her deceased parent's home, found a glass window sign in the basement that had been there for possibly fifty years or longer. I visited the house and found myself in the bowels of the basement. Although dimly lit, I could see that this old sign had merit and New Bern provenance. The ¼ inch thick glass panel measured ~5 feet in width and ~3 1/2 feet in height and had no breaks,



cracks, or chips. The highlights were the hand painted letters spelling "IDEAL BARBER SHOP." The letters are offset with letters in gray paint on one side of the glass and in red paint on the other

(cont. on Pg. 5)

*We bring history to life!*

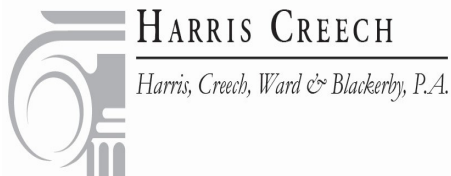




The Historical Society is proud of the relationships we have developed over the years with the local business community and thank them for their continued sponsorship. Please recognize and support our business partners and individuals who generously contribute to the New Bern Historical Society.



**Jim & Kathy Morrison**



**CHARLES K. McCOTTER, JR.**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

## Upcoming Programs & Events



### New Bern on the Move

with Jim Hodges

Craven Community College  
Orringer Auditorium  
January 9 - 2 to 3pm

Everyone's favorite Curator, New Bern native Jim Hodges, returns with an encore of his exciting new program about the history of moving houses in downtown New Bern.



### I Too, Served America The Stories of Greenwood Cemetery's Veterans

by Mark Sandvigen, Carol Becton & Claudia Houston

Carolina Colours Pavilion  
February 16 - 11:30am to 1pm

Through the years, New Bern's Blacks have answered America's call to arms and served honorably in every conflict. Many of those Veterans are buried in historic Greenwood Cemetery. Through a project initiated by the American Legion in partnership with the Historical Society, their history is now being uncovered. Learn about this important project and hear fascinating stories about some of these men, their service, and the times in which they lived.

### Annual Civil War Lecture

with Wade Sokolosky

Craven Community College  
Orringer Auditorium  
March 6 - 2 to 3pm

Join noted Civil War author and retired U.S. Army Colonel, Wade Sokolosky, as he discusses the massive logistics buildup on the North Carolina coast in preparation for General Sherman's arrival. Wade's dynamic and engaging presentation will illuminate little-known facts about the Carolina's Campaign. Proceeds from this presentation directly benefit New Bern Battlefield Park.

## Upscale ABC Yard Sale

New Bern Battlefield Park  
March 12 - 9am to 2pm

An *all outdoor sale* featuring an upscale selection of our best antiques, furniture, collectibles, art and tools/outdoor items. Donations of gently-used, higher-end furniture, antiques, collectibles, artwork, lamps, estate jewelry, tools, and outdoor items are accepted year-round. Please drop off your items at the Historical Society office or call 252.638.8558.

## Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day

New Bern Battlefield Park  
March 26

Battlefield Adventure Day is back for the entire family, filled with learning activities and living history. Young recruits participate in practice drills, Civil War period camp activities, crafts and games. A commissary lunch will be served to all. Call 252.638.8558 for details and reservations.

## Save the Date!



**April 8 & 9**  
**10am - 4pm**

### Not your mother's homes tour!

After nearly three years, the beloved Heritage Homes Tour returns on April 8-9! We have a wonderful lineup of very special homes in the downtown historic district, ranging from 19th century traditional dwellings to adaptive reuse structures and new infill homes.

Want to be a part of the fun? We're looking for volunteers to serve on the committee, guides, and logistics help. Call the office at 252.638.8558 if you can help!



Thank you to our local business sponsors for their continued support!



HOWARD, STALLINGS,  
FROM, ATKINS,  
ANGELL & DAVIS, P.A.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



JIM HODGES, CURATOR  
NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Spring Programs & Events



### Voices in the Cause of Freedom

presented by Nelson McDaniel  
Carolina Colours Pavilion  
April 20 - 11:30am to 1pm

People of New Bern have contributed greatly to the creation and growth of the United States and the vital cause of freedom for 300 years. This fascinating presentation by the ever-popular Nelson McDaniel will highlight some of these major contributors including Abraham Galloway, John Wright Stanly, William Gaston, George Henry White, and Bayard Wootten.

### Volunteer Appreciation & New Member Social

Attmore-Oliver House  
April 24 - 2 to 4pm

*Join the Fun!* If you have volunteered for or sponsored any program or event since last spring or have recently joined the Society, this party is JUST for you! Join us on the beautiful, shady south lawn of the Attmore-Oliver House where you can sip our signature sangria and sample a savory snack. Enjoy live music, door prizes, games and fun!

### Annual Awards Banquet & Membership Meeting

May - June: TBA

Mark your calendar for the Society's Annual Banquet!

It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other members while enjoying entertainment and a delicious dinner, all in a beautiful setting. Celebrate your volunteer colleagues as they receive awards for special service, congratulate the annual Marks Scholarship recipient, and welcome new board members.

## Save the Date

TEE IT UP *fore* HISTORY



### 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

at  
Carolina Colours Golf Club  
**Sunday, May 15, 2022**

Watch our website  
([www.newbernhistorical.org](http://www.newbernhistorical.org)) for registration and sponsorship opportunities!

### 2nd Annual New Bern History Quest

New Bern Battlefield Park  
May 21 - 10am to 4pm

Test your sleuthing skills in this family-friendly outdoor scavenger hunt! Get your family, team, or group together and join the fun. You'll receive clues to a series of quests. Hop in your car and follow the clues to find historical places in and around New Bern that are hidden in plain sight.

## Partner Organization Events

### Mark Twain, Day & Night

Presented by Bill Hand, NC History Theater  
The Cullman Performance Hall  
at the NC History Center  
March 3-6

### Honour, The Musical

Produced by NC History Theater  
Craven Community College  
Orringer Auditorium  
April 21-May 1

(For more information on above performances visit:  
[NCHistoryTheater.org](http://NCHistoryTheater.org))



(Curator cont. from Pg. 2)

side, slightly displaced to create a three dimensional effect. It's apparent that no stencil was used.

I discovered that a 1937 New Bern Directory showed that the barber shop was located at what was then 127 Middle Street and operated by a Clyde Belangia. The shop was located on the 300 block of Middle Street beside the Christ Episcopal Parish House where the parking lot and the rear access to First Citizens Bank currently is. The building is no longer there, but the window sign has survived.

With help from Register's Glass the sign was sized down. Wayne Register commented that the glass edge color suggests a 1920s manufacture date. The Ideal Barber Shop most likely predates the 1937 directory listing by a few years, but even using 1937 as the date of origin, this beautiful hand painted sign has managed to weather the test of time for 84 years -- truly amazing. Thank you Diane Latham Sanwick for this unique glimpse into New Bern's past.

## Battlefield Park News

by Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant

### Blazing New Trails

For those of you who have not been to Battlefield Park recently, we are happy to announce we have opened a new trail that starts shortly after you cross the long Trader bridge going towards Redan 1. As you climb the slope towards the redan, you will notice an opening in the woods to your right. Although we have not finished laying wood chips along the trail's entire length, you can still walk this loop which follows the swamp to your right. You will have finished this new trail segment when you reach the terminus of our first

trail that runs along the railroad tracks from Redan 1 to the Thompson Line. Pictured below is **Gene Lock** on the chainsaw with **John Wright** behind him.

They are clearing a large stump in the new trail.



Also pictured below is an enormous pile of wood chips just delivered to the park



by Pamlico Tree Care. These pecan chips came from the tree behind the AO House

that needed to be removed due to disease. So it was a win-win for the Historical Society!

This last picture shows **Lee Purcell**, **John Wright** and **Rod Rhodes** standing in the area where we will have a new observation platform constructed. This area is at the end of the trail mentioned



above, where the two trails join one another and provide a view of the Thompson Line across the tracks and the scene of a great deal of intense fighting during the battle on 14 March 1862. This may be an Eagle Scout project; we are waiting to hear if the project is approved by the Scout Council. Stay tuned for an update in our next newsletter!

*We bring history to life!*

the **NEW BERN**  
**Battlefield Park** app  
*where history really does  
come alive*



DOWNLOAD

YOUR APP

Download on the  
App Store

GET IT ON  
Google Play

The **free** New Bern Battlefield Park audio tour app is the perfect partner for your visits to the site of the 1862 Battle of New Bern! Our GPS-enabled self-guided tour allows you to fully immerse yourself in the battle with exciting sights and sounds!

Before your visit to Battlefield Park, simply scan this QR code on your smartphone to download the app.



Want to enjoy the entire audio tour on your computer from home? Go to

[www.newbern.onscell.com](http://www.newbern.onscell.com).

Guided tours of Battlefield Park are also available by appointment.

Cost is \$5 per person for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Call the office at 252.638.8558 to book your tour.

**New Bern Battlefield Park**  
**300 Battlefield Trail**  
**New Bern, NC 28562**



511 Broad Street  
New Bern, NC 28560

252.638.8558  
www.newbernhistorical.org

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

*We may take our history seriously, but we don't take ourselves seriously!*



From Left: Jim Hodges & Apollo (the old dog & the new); Jim sharing AO House memories with Miss Mary; Board Members Egon Lippert, Chris Kelso & Jon Miller with Claudia Houston & Kathy Morrison celebrating another amazing year; and, last but not least, our own Christmas angels - Sue Dunn, Admin Assistant & Susan Fuleihan, a very special volunteer!

## The Harriett Marks Scholarship

The Marks Scholarship was established by a trust estate which was created in 1968 under the terms of the will of Miss Harriett Marks as a memorial to the O. Marks family. It is awarded annually based on both scholarship and need. The Scholarship contributes to the tuition, board or lodging of a senior graduating from New Bern High School for the purpose of obtaining higher education at an accredited college, university or other institution of higher learning. Renewable for three succeeding years as long as academic standards are maintained, the scholarship provides financial assistance to a deserving senior based on scholarship, service to community and school.



Mary Parrish, Committee Member and Sarahann Bu, 2021 recipient

### Applications are now being accepted!

Complete applications will be available on New Bern High School and Historical Society websites on January 14 and must be returned to the New Bern Historical Society by **Friday, March 25, 2022**. Check our Facebook page for updates.

*We bring history to life!*

### 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

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

#### Staff

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