

Historically Speaking

Quarterly Newsletter 2021

april • may • june

Ready for some outdoor springtime "edu-tainment?"

April 9 & 10, 6-9 pm
at New Bern Battlefield Park

Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour

Historical Society Members \$15
Tickets at www.NewBernHistorical.org



***Intriguing New Bern history, a lovely park setting at dusk,
& talented volunteer actors in one magical evening!***

Enjoy a guided lantern-lit walk along the hallowed trails of Battlefield Park and hear first-hand the moving stories of real characters who found themselves in New Bern in 1862. Not a battlefield tour or a lecture about the war, these are very human and inspiring stories of courage and conviction, largely based on letters, diaries, and contemporaneous accounts.

While you're waiting for your tour, take a look at military camp life portrayed by reenactors from the 26th NC Infantry Regiment. After the tour, enjoy interesting stories and music in the tent. Check out our website for more details and tickets. Space is limited!



Update from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

Thanks to our members and volunteers, we had an excellent Mini **ABC Sale** at Battlefield Park! Your generous donations of nicer used items set this sale apart from just any old yard sale. Sales exceeded our expectations and proved that shoppers look to the Historical Society for upscale finds at a reasonable price.

Special thanks to ABC Committee Chair **Walt Teasdale** who, along with **Bob Dofner**, **Gerri Olvaney**, **Cheryl Lawrence**, and a smaller but hard-working volunteer team, really hustled to pull off a very successful re-tooled sale while keeping everyone safe. The outdoor curated format proved so successful that we'll be doing it again in the fall. In the meantime, we're still collecting gently-used furniture, antiques/collectibles, tools, outdoor items, and artwork. Storage space is very limited so please contact us before bringing over any items. Thank you! *Continued on page 2...*



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

History, Mystery, Clues & Fun!

What are you doing on Saturday, June 5? We hope you, your family, and friends will join us for a day of History, Mystery, Clues & Fun, in our first-ever New Bern Historical Society **History Quest**. Spend the day following clues in the form of puzzles, rhymes, and riddles which will test your sleuthing skills in this family-friendly outdoor event. The *Quest*, headed by Sherlock T. Bear, will begin at 10am at New Bern Battlefield Park and will end there at 4pm.

Hop in your car and follow the clues to historic objects or places "hiding in plain sight". You say you don't know much about history? Don't despair. You may call a friend, Google the answer or even ask someone walking down the street to help. Each team needs a vehicle, smart phone and a pen. Teams that correctly complete all the quests will be eligible for the grand prize and -- of course -- bragging rights! This is the perfect event for families and adult teams alike.

Registration is only \$20 per carload, with a maximum of six per vehicle. Teams may be adults, children or mixed.

Advance Registration is required and space is limited to 50 teams. Think of a good team name and you will be all set once registration opens up on April 15. "Selfies" along the way are encouraged. Check out registration information and updates at <https://newbernhistorical.org/quest/>.

We are still looking for sponsors, so please contact the office at 252.638.8558 if you would like to contribute prizes or financial support. Thank you!



Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

Thank you Dottie Maple

In January the Historical Society received a file box that was presented by a daughter of a couple I had known for many years. Her mother, Dottie Brinson Maple, passed away in November 2012 and her father, Bob Maple, Sr., died at the age of 96 in December 2020. Their children were faced with the daunting challenge of clearing out their parent's home located on Madam Moore Lane. Mary, the daughter who delivered the gift, stated her mother had specifically indicated that at the appropriate time the box be delivered to the New Bern Historical Society. Mary honored her mother's request.

Dottie was a Brinson and although born in Beaufort, she grew up in New Bern and eventually graduated from East Carolina Teacher's College. Mr. Maple was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and graduated from Rutgers University and Duke. His degrees as a research forester took the Maple Family to several locations around the country. He also had an impressive career in the Navy, Naval Reserve, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Maples eventually returned to New Bern and became involved in their community. It is worthy to note that Dottie served on

the Historical Society's Board of Directors from 1998-2010.

I have carefully inventoried the contents of the file box and accessioned the items as the Brinson-Maple Collection. With the exception of three 1940s era newspapers, the collection consists primarily of several hundred photographs and negatives depicting special events, locations, and people.

There is one photograph in particular that caught my eye. The small image circa 1937 is significant in that this is only the second photograph of Miss Mary Taylor Oliver the Historical Society has in its collection. Hopefully, you recall that Miss Mary was the last member of the Attmore-Oliver family to reside in the house that the Historical Society calls home.



Miss Mary Taylor Oliver

What a special gift! Thank you Dottie Maple!

Executive Director's Update, *continued from page 1*

You can look forward to a number of new programs in the upcoming months. We're very excited about sharing the inspiring and moving stories of real Civil War-era characters in next week's **Lantern Tour**. I'm so impressed with the commitment of our event volunteers, particularly the indefatigable Director **Nancy Hitchcock** and her wonderful team of talented actors. They have worked so hard to bring these characters and their poignant stories to life. With a very small committee in these COVID-crazy days, Nancy and Assistant Producer **Katie Shorter** have really stepped up to take on the bulk of the work in creating this new event.

Finally, you don't want to miss the **History Quest** coming up in June. Whether you're a native or a newcomer, you're sure to learn all kinds of interesting historical tidbits. It promises to be a lively day of history, mystery, and great family fun!



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

Spring is a time of hope, renewal, growth and optimism for the future. When much of the country has been sequestered, the Historical Society has adapted to the situation with a new attitude of 'how can we move forward under these circumstances rather than being overcome by these difficult times?'

Our staff and volunteers have been active recreating the **ABC Sale**, developing a guided audio tour app for Battlefield Park, planning for another golf tournament, and creating new events like the **Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour** to make history come alive. The Curator and Historian have been working on new acquisitions, doing historical research, and publishing articles. The battlefield

work team is hard at work preparing the park for the Lantern Tour. Our grounds volunteers at the AO House are preparing the gardens for spring and repairing our historic properties.

These positive activities along with the COVID-19 vaccinations have provided hope for our future and faith that spring will lead into a summer when things return to a more normal state. In addition, your generous contributions to the Annual Fund have helped us through a difficult period. We are indebted to you, our volunteers, and staff for keeping us moving forward, adapting and growing. Thank you for your faith in us.

A Lasting Legacy from Linda Lore

We would like to gratefully acknowledge a significant bequest from the Estate of Linda Lore. Mrs. Lore and her deceased husband, Dick, played a notable role in the growth and development of our programs, particularly in the nurturing and completion of the New Bern Battlefield Park. The Visitor Pavilion is named in their honor, and the replica cannon on display was a gift from Linda. Planned gifts will support our mission of telling New Bern's story for years to come, continuing the nearly 100 year history of support by our members. If you have included the New Bern Historical Society in your estate plans, we would sincerely like to know so we can thank you now, and recognize you as a member of our Founders Circle.



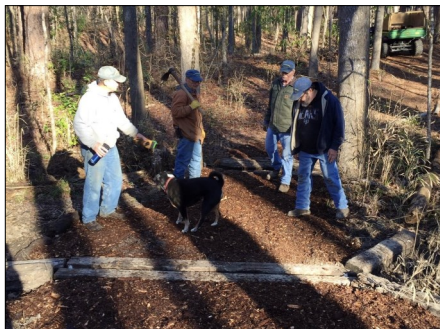
Harry Goodman & Linda Lore



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

The winter and early spring are my favorite seasons at Battlefield Park because the foliage is mostly gone and the underbrush is at its minimum. These conditions allow the best views from the trails across the Confederate fighting positions and towards the swamp which the Federals crossed in their attack. That and the relative absence of snakes! It's also the most pleasant time to do any hard labor before the heat of summer kicks in.

This picture shows one of our latest projects to make using the trails a bit more pleasant. The trail past Redan 1 along the railroad traverses a ravine that floods periodically but does not quite require an elevated footpath. With several loads of dirt and woodchips plus some canal engineering using old railroad ties, we were able to divert the ravine water downstream to the swamp. A big thanks to volunteers **Gene Lock, Clare Gramley, John**



Wright, Don Ingraham and Bill Long for their work on this. Also a big thanks to the Board of Directors for the John Deere Gator that enables us to do projects like this.

This project is located about 1/2 mile from the Visitor Center and there would be no other way of transporting all that material to the site.

The Battlefield Park Volunteers have also been busy preparing the park for the upcoming **Lantern**

Tour on 9-10 April. This event is a first for the Park and New Bern Historical Society, and we are excited to partner with the **26th NC Regimental Reenactors** to help with this event. They will be camping and training at the Park during the weekend of 9-10 April, so you can come out and watch them drill and fire on Saturday, and they'll provide a living history display during the **Lantern Tour**. Look for more information on this event in your emails from the Society.





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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 who generously contribute to the New Bern Historical Society.



Sponsorship Opportunities

You can help us

Tee It Up Fore History!

Second Annual
Golf Tournament
at Taberna Country Club
May 8, 2021

Support this fun event by becoming a Sponsor!

For Sponsorship Information,
please visit www.NewBernHistorical.org
or call 252.638.8558



Upcoming Events

- April 9 & 10 . . . **Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour** storytelling event & fundraiser
- April 10 . . . **Park Day and 26th NC Infantry Regiment Reenactors at Battlefield Park**
- May 8 . . . **2nd Annual Tee It Up Fore History Golf Tournament** fundraiser
- June 5 . . . **History Quest! Scavenger Hunt** with history, mystery, clues & fun!
- Late summer date TBD . . . **Lunch & Learn** kicks off again with *New Bern On The Move*, an exciting new pictorial presentation by Curator Jim Hodges
- Fall date TBD . . . **Curated Outdoor Mini ABC Sale**
- Ongoing . . . **Virtual Programs** including *Voices in the Cause of Freedom* by Nelson McDaniel

