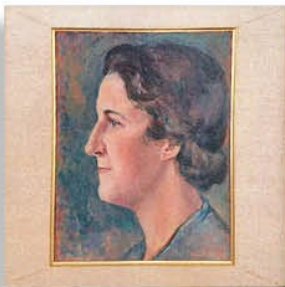


New Bern Historical Society

Founders Tour

The purpose of this publication is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the New Bern Historical Society and to recognize the individuals who were present and participated in the inaugural meeting on April 19, 1923. The information provided is to show in downtown New Bern the houses or locations where these charter members had lived at some point in their lives. Please be advised that these locations are private residences and are not accessible to the public.

THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2023.



Mrs. R. N. Duffy

The minutes from the inaugural meeting indicate that “nineteen persons met at the home of Mrs. Richard N. Duffy (Minnette Chapman Duffy) on Thursday evening, April 19, 1923 for the purpose of organizing a local branch of the State Historical Society. Mrs. Duffy who was largely responsible for starting the movement toward organization, acted as temporary chairman, and the following officers were elected:

President: Mr. R. A. Nunn

Rec. Secretary, Miss Mary Ward

1st Vice President, Mrs. R. N. Duffy

Cor. Sec., Mrs. K. E. Spencer

2nd Vice President, Mrs. John Dunn

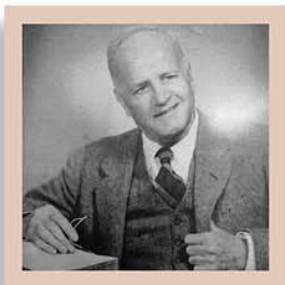
Treasurer: Mrs. Francis S. Duffy”



Jerkins - Duffy House

Although nineteen persons had met for the initial meeting of the New Bern Historical Society, there were an additional twenty individuals who could not be present but had asked to be enrolled.

After an enthusiastic beginning, the Society went inactive during the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing depression years, as well as during the World War II era. Renewed interest in New Bern’s history persevered and the Society was reactivated in the early 1950s. In 1954, the Society



Judge R. A. Nunn

acquired the historic Attmore-Oliver House that remains to this day the anchor for our downtown campus and presence. The acquisition and development of the New Bern Battlefield Park enhanced public awareness and nurtured support for the New Bern Historical Society. Today, the 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization enjoys a membership of over a thousand strong and aggressively pursues, with dedicated leadership and hundreds of volunteers, fulfillment of the mission to “celebrate and promote New Bern and its heritage through events and education”.



Attmore - Oliver House





(1) **Minnette Chapman Duffy / Mrs. R. N. Duffy** / (1882-1951) / 301 Johnson Street
A Tennessee transplant, Minnette Young Chapman married Dr. Richard N. Duffy in 1907 and resided in the Jerkins-Duffy House located at 301 Johnson Street for many years until her death in 1951. A primary force behind the organization of the New Bern Historical Society, Mrs. Duffy chaired the Historic Pageant of 1929 event that generated momentum for the eventual restoration of Tryon Palace in the 1950s. Her home was the site for the New Bern Historical Society's inaugural meeting on April 19, 1923.



(2) **Charles Slover Hollister, Sr.** (1860-1938) / **Mary Cecilia Bryan Hollister** (1868-1959) 614 Craven Street
This marriage represented a union of two very prominent New Bern families that dominated local trade and commerce during the nineteenth century. Their home was located on Graves Street that today is 614 Craven Street. The house was extensively remodeled by local architect Herbert Woodley Simpson in 1912 producing a dramatic Colonial Revival design.



(3) **Rosamond Jordan Hancock Meadows** (1870-1961) / 620 Craven Street
Rosamond Jordan Hancock was the daughter of William Gray Jordan and Matilda Selby Hancock Jordan. Her circa 1890 marriage to Seymour Whiting Hancock, Sr. resulted in the births of five children of which three survived to adulthood. After his death in 1909, Mrs. Hancock purchased in 1913 the Robert Hancock House located at 620 Craven Street. During this time she married New Bern native Edward Hughes Meadows and after his death in 1921, she sold the 620 Craven Street property. Her legacy survives today in that many of her descendants continue to reside in New Bern.



(4) **Lalyce Duffy Buford** (1881-1955) / 620 East Front Street
An Onslow County native, Mrs. Charles Buford spent part of her adult life in Greensboro and Winston-Salem. After arriving in New Bern, she made her home with the James Vernon Blades family until later moving to 620 East Front Street. Both 620 and 622 East Front Street structures were constructed by the Blades Lumber Company circa 1900 to provide rental housing for its workers during that time.



(5) **Emma Mitchell Stevenson Dunn** (1881-1959) / 507 East Front Street
A native and lifelong New Bern resident, she was the daughter of Mark deWolf Stevenson and Harriet King Slover Stevenson. Mrs. Dunn was married to John Guion Dunn and resided at 507 East Front Street for many years. The house was built circa 1903 for Mr. Dunn who was proprietor of a dry goods and clothing store and later became involved in banking.



(6) **Anna Slover Stevenson Bishop** (1876-1948) / 501 East Front Street
Older sister to Emma Mitchell Stevenson Dunn, 'Annie' Slover Stevenson was married to Edward K. Bishop, a successful commission merchant and wholesale lumber and grocer dealer. Their home, the Coor-Bishop House, was built circa 1770-1778 and was completely remodeled in 1904 in the Colonial Revival style. At the time of the remodeling that was overseen by local architect Herbert Woodley Simpson, the house's orientation was changed to face the Neuse River rather than New Street.





(7) Romulus Armistead Nunn (1876-1966) / 210 New Street

A Jones County native, R. A. Nunn was a highly respected lawyer who served as New Bern's city attorney during the early twentieth century and later served as judge of the Craven County Superior Court. Judge Nunn was passionate about local history and was elected as the first president of the New Bern Historical Society in 1923. The Judge and his wife, affectionately called "Miss Pink", and their two daughters resided at 210 New Street. The house constructed in 1903 is in the conservative Colonial Revival architectural style.



(8) Kathleen C. Bryan Duffy (1874-1945) / Southwest corner of Broad and East Front Streets

Enjoying impressive ancestry, Kathleen C. Bryan was the daughter of Judge Henry Ravenscroft Bryan and Mary Biddle Norcott Bryan. In 1899, she married Francis Stringer Duffy who was a prominent local druggist and medicine manufacturer. Their home, located on the southwest corner of Broad and East Front Streets, was constructed circa 1904 but demolished in 1957 to accommodate a service station. Today, four high-end condominiums have been constructed on the site.



(9) Miss Anna Pearce Hanff (1882-1950) / 211 Pollock Street

Anna Pearce Hanff was maternally connected to the Pearce family who lived in the 1840s era house located on the south side of the 200 block of Pollock Street. During the Civil War, the house served as quarters for Company D of the Forty-Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. The house was demolished circa 1960.



(10) Harriet Laura Lane Hyman (1872-1935) / 505 Pollock Street

Member of a prominent Craven County family, Mrs. Hyman was very active in civic affairs and the First Presbyterian Church. Her husband, Thomas Gardner Hyman, was proprietor of Hyman Supply Company with operations in New Bern and Wilmington. She resided at 505 Pollock Street that traditionally is referred to as the Oscar Marks House. However, the house was demolished in the 1960s and replaced with an asphalt parking lot to accommodate a medical building next door.



(11) Alfred D. Ward, Sr. (1859-1940), Miss Mary Pickett Ward (1891-1975) / 509 Pollock Street

Mr. A. D. Ward, Sr. was a Duplin County native and a longtime resident of New Bern where he was a recognized attorney who chaired the Craven County Bar for twenty-five years. In 1890, he married Virginia Farrior, also from Duplin County. Their daughter, Mary Pickett Ward, was the recording secretary for the Historical Society for many years and resided at the family home at 509 Pollock Street for the duration of her life. Today, the Street-Ward House is repurposed as the Aerie Bed & Breakfast.



(12) Kate Eula Rhem Spencer (1859-1943) / 701 Broad Street

The daughter of the pioneer truck farmer and turpentine distiller Joseph Lane Rhem and widow of Jones M. Spencer, Mrs. Spencer resided in her later years at the Rhem Family House at 701 Broad Street. The extensive Ghent neighborhood was at one time the Rhem farm, hence the names Spencer and Rhem Avenues.





(13) Sarah Slover Hollister (1865-1924) / 613 Broad Street

Sarah, affectionately called Sadie, was the daughter of William Hollister and Sarah King Slover Hollister and represented a merger of two of New Bern's distinguished families. The family resided in the Hollister House built by her grandfather William Hollister, a very successful maritime merchant who owned fourteen ships during the first half of the nineteenth century. The Federal and Greek Revival styled house has been meticulously restored during the last few years.



(14) Emma Katherine Jones Knowles Firstbrook (1874-1962) / 407 New Street

Mrs. Firstbrook was a native New Bernian and the daughter of James W. and Elizabeth Ellis Jones. She was predeceased by two husbands and eventually lived in an apartment in the John Wright Stanley House at 407 New Street. This was the second location of the Stanley House that served as the New Bern Public Library having been moved from its original Middle Street location in 1932. The Stanley House was subsequently acquired by the Tryon Palace Commission and relocated to its current site on George Street in 1966.



(15) Agnes Gates Foy Pollock (1878-1966) / 509 Middle Street

The daughter of Claudius E. Foy, visible figure in New Bern's financial and political circles, and her namesake mother Agnes Foy. She married Dr. Raymond Pollock and lived in a large house at 509 Middle Street. The raised brick basement was constructed to accommodate Dr. Pollock's medical office. Mrs. Pollock was reared nearby in the Foy-Munger House on the southeast corner of Middle and Johnson Streets.



(16) Mary L. Allen Potter (1866-1951) / 405 Johnson Street

A New Bern native, Mrs. Potter was the daughter of George Allen, a prominent merchant and manufacturer, and Leah Jones Allen. She was married to Dr. William H. Potter of Boston, Massachusetts where she resided until her death in 1951 and is buried in Boston. The Stanley-Allen House located at 405 Johnson Street was previously owned and probably built by John Caruthers Stanly, a prominent "free person of color in New Bern". George Allen purchased the house in 1866 and resided there with his family until 1899.



These two ladies were present for the inaugural meeting, but available information for them is limited.

- **Hassie Eleanor "Lena" Glenn Pratt (1892-1971)** / Born and buried in Rockingham County, North Carolina / Married to Robert Clyde Pratt / New Bern residence unknown / By 1930, she resided in Winston-Salem, NC / No Pratt or Glenn in Cedar Grove Cemetery.
- **Minnie Lee Hart Williams (1892-1981)** / Born and buried in Richmond City, Virginia / Married to Robert Blaney Williams / Possibly resided at 43 East Front Street in 1920s, not confirmed / Hart plot in Cedar Grove Cemetery, relations unconfirmed.

The following individuals were unable to attend the first meeting of the New Bern Historical Society but requested to be enrolled and qualify as charter members:

Mrs. Charles Ives
 Mrs. Royal Turner
 Mrs. J. P. C. Davis
 Mr. D. S. Jones
 Mrs. T. J. Roberts
 Mrs. J. T. Hollister

Mrs. R. B. Nixon
 Mrs. R. E. Whitehurst
 Mrs. T. Z. Uzzell
 Mrs. Sam Dill
 Mrs. H. B. Wadsworth
 Mrs. George Moulton

Mr. Ernest M. Green
 Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Smith
 Mrs. M. M. Millett
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Whitehurst
 Mrs. Beeview Harrell
 Mrs. Ruth Harrell Schroder