

Historically
speaking



Quarterly Newsletter

january
february
march

The countdown continues...

4 months, 19 days

Centennial Countdown

As of this writing, we are only four months and 19 days from our 100th Anniversary! A century of community service is a major milestone for any organization, especially a small nonprofit. Although we've spent years thinking about how to celebrate, planning began in earnest in March 2021 when the steering committee first met under the leadership of the Co-chairs, First VP **Kathy Morrison** and Curator **Jim Hodges**. Rounding out the team are Historian **Claudia Houston**, Former NBHS Presidents **Ken McCotter** and **Nelson McDaniel**, and Executive Director **Mickey Miller**.

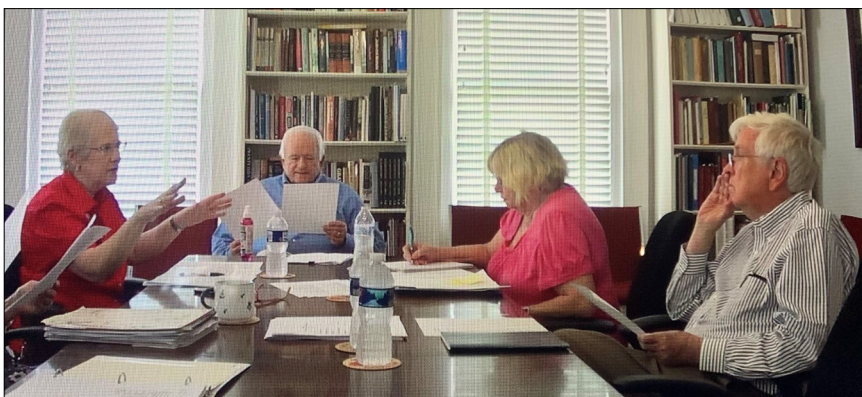
The capstone of the celebration will be our gift to the community—a compelling multi-dimensional exhibit of artifacts, stories, and photos at the NC History Center, produced in partnership with our friends at **Tryon Palace** and with the expertise of **Design Dimension**, a professional exhibit design and fabrication firm from Raleigh. The objective: *to recognize the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future.*

The theme **“Through the Looking Glass; A Journey with the Storytellers,”** recognizes our important role as New Bern's storytellers. We quickly learned that planning a large exhibit is an ambitious project. Two years in a nutshell: countless hours of research.

Reams of pages of drafts. Visits and meetings—lots of meetings. Hundreds of artifacts reviewed. Debates—yes, sometimes even heated. Yet more research. Rewrite after rewrite... you get the idea. We are now at the point where Design Dimension will begin fabrication. The exhibit will open April 21 and run through January 2024. You will love it!

And that's just one element—there's much more. Jim Hodges has developed a Founders' Walking Tour to see the homes of the Historical Society Founders. You'll enjoy programs by acclaimed historians and authors **David Cecelski** and **Peter Sandbeck**. The annual Historical Journal will focus on our past 100 years. The Attmore-Oliver campus will get a new Centennial Tree. And our recurring programs will highlight our century of storytelling. Be sure to watch our emails and newsletters throughout the year for details.

We wouldn't be here without your membership support. Thank you for making our century of service possible!



Above: Anniversary Committee members, L to R: Co-chair Kathy Morrison, Ken McCotter, Historian Claudia Houston, Nelson McDaniel.

Right: Co-chair and Curator Jim Hodges prepares artifacts for display.



“Investment in History 100” - We Salute Your Generosity

Page 2

We are very grateful to our members and friends who contributed to the **100th Anniversary fundraising campaign “IIH-100.”** Their donations will fund the anniversary exhibit, special centennial programs, a “Centennial Tree” on the Attmore-Oliver campus, and more. Please join us in thanking and recognizing the following for their generous donations:

Platinum

Jim & Kathy Morrison

Gold

Margaret Bagg

The Harold H. Bate Foundation

Silver

Minnette & Peter Boesel

Jim Hodges

Nelson McDaniel

Karen Norman

Melinda Robinson

David & Elizabeth Ward

John & Susie Ward

Bronze

Ken & Pat McCotter

Bill Wilson & Elinor Kelly Wilson

Joe & Annette Hunt

William & Carol Kemp

Jon & Mickey Miller

Rudy & Joanne Ashton

Susan Scioli

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Carol & Bob Mattocks

Linda Staunch

Karen & Bob Whitmore

Walt & Cindy Teasdale

Steve & Jana Tyson

George Brake

Gerri & Bill Olvaney

John Thomas & Susan Moffat Thomas

Mary & Ben Parrish

Joe & Rachel Anderson

Claudia & Bill Houston



The Return of “Grandpa Jerkins” by Jim Hodges, NBHS Curator

It is always a great pleasure for the New Bern Historical Society to receive a family treasure that has been handed down through generations and eventually finds its way back to New Bern. Recently, we were gifted a large framed oil portrait of a gentleman by the name of Alonzo Thomas Jerkins. Although unsigned, associated documentation indicates that the artist was William Garl Browne, Jr., an English born itinerant artist who was active in North Carolina from the 1840s to the early 1880s. Of interest, the portrait of George Sitgreaves Attmore, patriarch of the Attmore-Oliver House and family that is displayed in the Historical Society’s meeting room was also one of William Garl Browne’s products. Although the elaborate frame and Jerkins portrait have survived for at least one hundred sixty years, it is apparent that conservation maintenance is needed and is being addressed. Alonzo Jerkins’ attire is suggestive of mid-nineteenth century America and in the portrait he appears to be forty-five to fifty years of age, which is consistent with his 1807 year of birth.

To qualify for a sophisticated portrait of this caliber, most certainly A.T. Jerkins must have been a man of prominence and means and most worthy of his story being shared. Alonzo’s father, Thomas Jerkins, was a successful shipper, merchant, and builder in New Bern. As

a youth, growing up on today’s 300 block of Johnson Street, Alonzo was described as an “amiable, fun loving, and generous young man”. He was a graduate of the New Bern Academy and pursued further education at the university in Chapel Hill until interrupted by the death of his mother. He returned to New Bern and eventually followed in his father’s footsteps becoming a successful entrepreneur and a very active community and church leader. A.T. Jerkins’ other diversified pursuits included real estate, construction, banking, mutual life insurance, river transportation, turpentine distilleries, and charitable causes.

During the Civil War and the Union occupation of New Bern, Alonzo and his wife Sarah relocated to his farm “Sunnyside” in Alamance County near Graham. After their return to New Bern in 1867, their adopted daughter and only child Nancy Jerkins Dean Flanner passed away that same year at the age of thirty-five. Sarah, Alonzo’s wife, unexpectedly died in 1874. Three years later, he married Susan Carr Hooper who remained with him until his death in 1895.



Alonzo Thomas Jerkins portrait
displayed at the Attmore-Oliver House

Continued on p. 3

2023 Events Calendar

Watch our website (www.NewBernHistorical.org) for further details on the upcoming 2023 programs!

- January 22 . . . **Annual Lore Lecture, Carpetbaggers, Scalawags & Spies: Clandestine Affairs at New Bern 1861-1865**, presented by Eddie Ellis / Orringer Auditorium, Craven Community College / 2pm / Reception following
- January 23 . . . **Lunch & Learn, Encore: Carpetbaggers, Scalawags & Spies: Clandestine Affairs at New Bern 1861-1865**, presented by Author & Historian Eddie Ellis / Carolina Colours Pavilion / 11:30am
- February 15 . . . Black History Month **Lunch & Learn: Forgotten Black Soldiers at the Battle of New Bern**, presented by Claudia Houston / Carolina Colours Pavilion / 11:30am
- March 23-25 . . . **Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour** / 6 - 9pm / Battlefield Park
- April 8 . . . **Battlefield Adventure Day** / Battlefield Park
- April 21 . . . **Historical Society's 100th Anniversary Exhibit opens** / NC History Center
- May 12-13 . . . **Heritage Homes Tour** / Downtown New Bern & Riverside Historic Districts
- June 11 . . . **4th Annual Golf Tournament** / Carolina Colours / *See website for details!*
- September 2 . . . **Living History Day** / 8am - 4pm / New Bern Battlefield Park
- September 16 . . . **3rd Annual History Quest** / Begins and ends at Battlefield Park

Curator, cont.

When William Garl Browne, Jr. was engaged to paint A.T. Jerkins' portrait, he also painted a portrait of Alonzo's wife Sarah. Upon his death in 1895, he willed the two portraits to his granddaughter Eliza Jerkins Flanner Patterson. The portrait of Sarah was bequeathed by Eliza to her son, Donald Patterson. Eliza bequeathed the portrait of Alonzo T. Jerkins to her grandson, Joseph Flanner Patterson, Jr. MD. The portrait by this time was affectionately referred to as "Grandpa Jerkins" and passed on to Dr. Patterson's eldest child, Priscilla Patterson Taylor, who in like fashion transferred the portrait to her eldest child, Eliza Taylor

Blackwell. With the encouragement and endorsement of her mother Priscilla and her aunt, Debbie Patterson Hedges, Eliza has generously gifted the portrait of her great-great-great-great Grandfather Alonzo Thomas Jerkins to the New Bern Historical Society. We are extremely honored and sincerely assure the Patterson Family that the Historical Society accepts the responsibility of stewardship and is proud that "Grandpa Jerkins" has returned to New Bern. Special appreciation to my friend Debbie Patterson Hedges for information shared in this article.



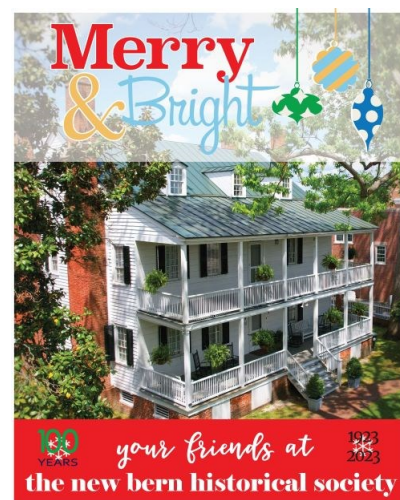
Didn't you just love this year's Christmas card? It generated so many compliments that when it came time to choose a volunteer to highlight this quarter, it was a no-brainer - our uber-talented graphic artist **Cheryl Jukich**.

Since 2017, Cheryl's creative and colorful designs have set the tone for updating our image and establishing our brand. You can see her unique mark on our website, logos, posters, brochures, newsletters, and the 100th anniversary symbol,

among many other products.

We are truly blessed with a wonderful family of volunteers like Cheryl who cheerfully do so much for this great organization. They don't work for pay or praise; they contribute because they love serving the community.

Thank you from our hearts, Cheryl, for sharing your time, imagination and talent!



Card designed by Cheryl Jukich
and produced by Claudia Houston



Update from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

Happy New Year!

2022 saw the return of full programming after the pandemic. Folks were happy to get out and enjoy socializing again; the result was great attendance and positive feedback at last year's programs. The year ended on a somber but inspiring note with the commemoration of the Great Fire of 1922. We were honored to help lead the community-wide effort to mark this event which so impacted our town.

2023 promises to be a very exciting year, as we unveil our exciting lineup of anniversary events and programs. Look for details in this and upcoming newsletters and emails.

*thank
you*

For your Annual Fund Contributions!

Heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to the **Annual Fund**. With inflation increasing the costs of food, venues, building supplies, and other expenses, the Annual Fund is 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 highlighting all contributors in the spring newsletter—we'd would love to see your name there.

Attmore-Oliver House & Heritage Garden

Original gouache painting
by Janet Francoeur

Local artist Janet Francoeur created this stunning 2' x 4' canvas during a recent plein air event. With the generous help of our 100th Anniversary donors, we were fortunate enough to be able to purchase the original. The painting is now on display through January 26 at the Bank of the Arts in their "Thirty Years Later" exhibit featuring Jan and Carol Tokarski; be sure to go see it. It will grace the Historical Society offices in the Attmore-Oliver House afterward. You can purchase a signed and numbered print of the original at the Historical Society for \$50 plus tax. For details, contact Sue or Anthony at 252-638-8558.



Free Partnership Program

The Historical Society is pleased to partner with Craven Community College's Lifetime Learning Center and other local partners to bring you an informative new series on New Bern History from January 11-March 8, 2023. Five programs will be presented on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm in Cullman Performance Hall at the North Carolina History Center, downtown New Bern. The programs are free to the public with no reservation required. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about your community. For further information, contact the Lifetime Learning Center at 252-633-2618 or visit www.CravenCC.edu/LLC.

Program Schedule:

January 11: Early History of New Bern - A Port City - Speaker: John Leys
 January 25: Tryon Palace - History and Restoration - Speaker: Susan Moffat-Thomas
 February 8: New Bern Civil War Battlefield Park - History and Restoration - Speaker: Gene Lock
 February 22: Union Occupation, Establishment of James City - Speaker: Craig Allen
 March 8: Downtown Renaissance - Speaker: Susan Moffat-Thomas





Annual Lore Lecture

Page 5

Presented by Eddie Ellis
Sunday, January 22 • 2 pm
Orringer Auditorium, Craven Community College

Carpetbaggers, Scalawags & Spies: Popular speaker and local historian Eddie Ellis pulls back the curtain to share intriguing stories of behind-the-scenes nefarious activities in Civil War New Bern. You'll meet all sorts of controversial characters, from the businessmen who profited off Burnside's invasion of Craven County, to the secret agents who were protected by the British government.



CHOOSE FROM TWO EVENTS !



Lunch & Learn

Carpetbaggers, Scalawags & Spies: Clandestine Affairs at New Bern, 1861-1865

Presented by Eddie Ellis

Monday, January 23 • 11:30 am • Carolina Colours Pavilion • Catered by The Chelsea

Lunch & Learn

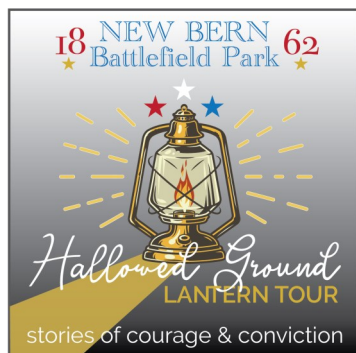
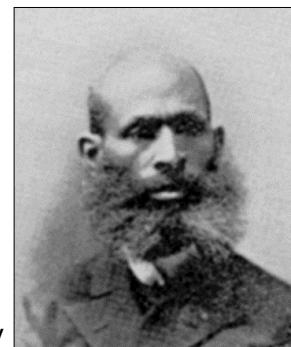
Forgotten Black Soldiers at the Battle of New Bern

Presented by Claudia Houston

Wednesday, February 15 • 11:30 am

Carolina Colours Pavilion • Catered by The Chelsea

The question was asked many times over the years-did Black soldiers fight at the Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862? How could they if the formation of the US Colored Troops did not take place until 1863? Claudia has done extensive research regarding Blacks who joined Union ranks prior to the formation of the USCT and in particular will focus on the story of William Henry Johnson an "independent man" and his connection with New Bern history.



Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour

Thursday-Saturday, March 23-25 • 6 to 9 pm • New Bern Battlefield Park

Our newest storytelling event returns! This tour takes you on a 60-minute guided, lantern-lit walk through the wooded battlefield trails, where spirits of real characters from New Bern's past will tell you their very human and inspiring stories of courage and conviction. Not a program about the war or a battlefield tour, these are poignant stories of civilians, soldiers, and the formerly-enslaved who found themselves in a country at war. Tickets on sale February 10.

Annual Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day

Saturday, April 8 • New Bern Battlefield Park

Enjoy this annual springtime event for the entire family at the New Bern Battlefield Park. A day with the Civil War reenactors full of learning activities, period games and living history, The event is open to guests of all ages, with special activities for children 6-12 years old.





Keeping Our Story Alive by Claudia Houston, NBHS Historian

The year 2023 will be one of celebration as we continue to tell stories of our past in myriad ways.

New Bern Magazine will publish our monthly stories regarding people and places in New Bern History. You can also check out these pieces on our website under "This Month in New Bern History." We will continue to post stories, events, photos and videos on our Facebook and Instagram pages at least two to three times per week. We're fortunate to have an avid social media audience, with 7500 Facebook followers and 1800 on Instagram. During the last three months of 2022 our posts reached over 23,000 people! While not everyone uses social media, those who do enjoy old photos, stories and videos that connect them to our city and our rich past.

Our interesting and well attended Lunch & Learns, Civil War and Lore Lectures, and other presentations will continue to inform and educate. We're so fortunate to have great relationships with historians, authors, and speakers like Eddie Ellis and Wade Sokolosky to help us bring local history to life.

So, what do we have planned for 2023?

Our most exciting event will be on April 21, 2023, when we celebrate our 100th Anniversary with the opening of an exhibit at the Duffy Gallery of the North Carolina History Center. "Through the Looking Glass: A Journey with the Storytellers" will be an unforgettable exhibit filled with stories of people and places that not only tell the story of the New Bern Historical Society, but also that of the city we love. We hope this exhibit will excite and delight you and that you will visit it many times between April and December.

The NBHS annual Historical Journal committee is already hard at work producing a special Journal that will also highlight the 100-year history of our organization with in-depth articles.

Our 100th year will be special, so please join us to celebrate the past and future discoveries via lectures, articles, and events. You will not be disappointed.

New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

2022-23 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

2022-23 Directors

Joe Anderson	Cathy O'Brien
Carol Becton	Gerri Olvaney
Clayton Cheek	Mary Parrish
George Evans	Chris Richey
Lynne Harakal	Walt Teasdale
Cheryl Lawrence	Karen Whitmore
Ken McCotter	Mike Williams
Nelson McDaniel	

Staff

Mickey Miller—Executive Director
Marissa Moore—Programs Director
Anthony Giardino—Operations Manager
Sue Dunn—Admin. Assistant

Harriett Marks Scholarship and the John R. & Alice Land Taylor Scholarship

The Marks Scholarship was established in a trust for the estate of Miss Harriett Marks as a memorial to the O. Marks family. The Taylor Scholarship complements and supplements the Marks Scholarship. It was created in 2015 by J. M. Hodges, Jr. to honor the memory of his grandparents. These scholarships are awarded annually based on both scholarship and financial need.



Mary Parrish presenting 2022 scholarship to Lauren Heath

Both scholarships are awarded to a senior graduating from New Bern High School and contribute to the tuition, board or lodging at an accredited college, university, or other institution of higher learning. They are renewable for three succeeding years if academic standards are maintained. We are very proud of the academic records of our scholarship recipients over the years, and we look forward to contributing to more students who will maintain this tradition.

Scholarship applications are available on the New Bern Historical Society website: www.newbernhistorical.org/scholarships and on the New Bern High School website.

**The 2023 scholarship application deadline is
Friday, March 24, 2023.**



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

The Historical Society had a good year in 2022 under the leadership of Mickey Miller and our board of directors. We continue to perform well despite the financial pressures and uncertainty facing everyone. One of the things we enjoy most about our work is being able to get to know our members and guests at our programs. You all are great ambassadors for the Historical Society — with your help we are now over 1200 members strong.

We are looking forward to 2023 and the Historical Society's 100th Anniversary. The anniversary committee is hard at work preparing for the exhibit which will open in April and other activities throughout the year. Thank you to the donors who are generously supporting all of the anniversary activities. Their generous giving surpassed all our expectations.

We were sorry to lose Breck Gibbs from our board of directors last fall. After six years of leadership, Breck

stepped down to spend more time with his family. As a New Bern native and young professional, he brought a fresh perspective that was always welcome and will be sorely missed.



Chris Richey

I'd like to welcome new board member Christopher Richey to the team. A local financial planner, Chris founded Nautilus Wealth Management in 2008. He is also involved with First Presbyterian Church, Swiss Bear, and the Epiphany School of Global Studies.

Chris' leadership and strong financial background will be a great benefit to the Historical Society.

We wish everyone a wonderful 2023 and hope you learn more about our rich history and the blessings of living in New Bern. If you have any spare time or want to meet more people, consider volunteering at the Historical Society this year.



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

In the spring newsletter I mentioned we were planning to construct an elevated viewing platform at the far end of our property near the railroad tracks and across from the Thompson Line, the main Confederate defensive position. As shown in the picture, we are nearing completion and - weather permitting - will have the stairs finished before the end of December. The next step will be an interpretive panel explaining the significance of this location.

A huge shout-out to **Pamlico Tree Care**, owned by **Jonathan Mitchell**, who recently donated over \$1700 in labor to cut down five very large pine trees that threatened to fall on Park bridges, panels and sheds. His crew of six: **Gregory, Ronnie, Luis, Kevin, Ryan & Tony** made short work of a project too dangerous for our volunteers to attempt.

In December we gave guided tours to two school groups: Air Force JROTC students from West Craven High School and 10th graders from Living Water Christian School in Jacksonville. Both groups had previously studied the Civil War and came prepared to ask questions about the battle fought on our property over 150 years ago. Wintertime is the best time to tour the park because with all the leaves down it is much

easier to see and appreciate the terrain on which the battle took place. I highly encourage our new NBHS members to put on a jacket and take a self-guided tour or call us and schedule a guided tour!



Volunteers Gene Lock, Rod Rhodes, Scott Herman & John Wright



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.oncell.com.



100
YEARS

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Mickey Miller / director@newbernhistorical.org
Marissa Moore / programs@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. Please recognize and support our business partners and individuals who generously contribute to the New Bern Historical Society. We look forward to partnering with new community leaders in the future!

Neuse River Region Association of REALTORS®



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JIM HODGES, CURATOR
NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE NEW BERN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ATTMORE-OLIVER
HOUSE & GARDENS AND NEW BERN
BATTLEFIELD PARK.

...AND LET US SAY "THANK YOU!"
TODAY!

As we begin to celebrate our 100th anniversary we continue to recognize those 19 individuals, who in 1923 began this journey to tell the stories of New Bern. While we have expanded from their meetings in living rooms and restaurants, to the Attmore-Oliver House

and campus, Battlefield Park, and over 1200 members, we have never lost sight of that original intent.

Our Founders Circle celebrates those who have supported the Society with planned gifts to continue our path toward a second 100 years. Bequests, charitable trusts, or annuity gifts will allow us to continue to tell these old and new stories to future generations. If you would consider, or have already included us in your plans, please contact Mickey Miller, Executive Director, so we may include you as a member of the Founders Circle. Director@newbernhistorical.org or 252-638-8558.

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