

Historically
speaking



Quarterly Newsletter

october
november
december

The countdown continues...

7 months, 15 days

FAMOUS
FIRSTS



OCTOBER
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY 2021/22



This Year's Highlights:

All new historical characters & scripts!

All ghost sites open all three nights

Same hours all three nights: 6 - 9:30 pm

Downtown churches serve yummy meals

Special attractions: TapSnap interactive photo booth included in price, Veri-Good Bakery, special Civic Theatre show, and a "thrilling" dance performance!



Thank you to our Title Sponsors!



Photos: Top left—Morticians Lisa Gunn & Bill Hand.
Lower left—Sara Sirmons, Ceven Bryant & Kathy Martin. Left—Steve Elliot & Cindi Broome



Update from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

We're so excited to bring you the 32nd annual **Ghostwalk**, our biggest fundraiser and my personal favorite! I call it our signature event because it combines fascinating history, talented local actors, cool locations, and a family fun-filled environment like no other event in town.

This year's historical - and yes, often hysterical - spirits are ready to share their stories with you, centering around some of the exciting "firsts" New Bern is known for. First printing press? We've got it! First gas lights? You'll hear about 'em! You're going to love these engaging stories.

Ghostwalk will be almost all outdoors this year, with historical spirits on downtown porches, the Spanish moss-laden Cedar Grove Cemetery, and in the old Firemen's Museum and St. John's Masonic Lodge. Look for special attractions at the Attmore-Oliver House, Civic Theatre, local churches, and a "thrilling" happening at Academy Green. Details and schedule are on our website GhostwalkNewBern.org or NewBernHistorical.org.

In the past we mailed tickets to all members and asked you to either buy or return them. Many members found that confusing so we won't be pre-mailing member tickets this year. We hope that you'll continue to support this important fundraiser by buying tickets for yourselves or your friends, or making a tax-deductible donation to the Society. Thank you in advance!

Welcome to the Team!

It's always hard to lose a staff member, especially with such a small, closely-knit team like ours. In the last newsletter I announced the retirement of Karen Bixler, Assistant to the Director. With our big 100th Anniversary year looming, we were concerned about how we would possibly fill that gap. Our prayers were answered when, among many very qualified applicants, we found the perfect new team member in Anthony Giardino. With his Marine Corps background in operations, administration, and logistics, Anthony brings a logical approach to managing our daily operations. Blessed with great people skills, we've quickly come to learn that nothing fazes this capable young man. Passionate about history, New Bern, and service to the community, Anthony lives with his wife Jackie, three young children, and new puppy in a historic home in DeGraffenried Park. Please come by and wish him an NBHS family-style welcome!



New Operations Manager Anthony Giardino, son Rowan, wife Jackie, son Anthony & daughter Abigail.



Three Stooges in New Bern - Who Knew? by Claudia Houston, Historian

I am continually amazed at the questions I am asked about New Bern history. A recent request involving pictures from the 1950's proved quite challenging. We were contacted by a Mr. Kaufman from California, who had obtained photos of Helen Howard, wife of Moe Howard, the leader of the Three Stooges comedy team. In one photo, Mrs. Howard is standing in front of the Queen Anne Hotel on Broad Street (torn down and replaced by First Citizens Bank) and in another standing in front of an antique store in New Bern. Mr. Kaufmann was sure the reason Helen Howard was in New Bern was because the Three Stooges were performing with the 'Morton Downey Coca Cola Camp Show of 1951' and were on tour, traveling by bus to military camps from New England to Florida and westward to Texas. Mr. Kaufman wanted

to know precisely when and where the tour performed in New Bern.



It turns out that Morton Downey was an extremely popular singer in the 1920's and 30's, known as the "Irish Nightingale." His radio show in the 30's was sponsored by Coca Cola. This Camp Tour involved other performers such as Svelte Yvette, a song stylist, the novelty dance team of Helene and Howard, the Carmen Mastren Orchestra and, yes, the Three Stooges.

The Stoogeum Museum in Ambler, Pennsylvania proved helpful. Their curator knew about the Camp Tour,

Continued on p. 3

but unfortunately did not know the date or place that the tour might have performed in New Bern.

Enter our good friend, Edward Ellis, Havelock historian, author, and former publisher of the *Windsock* (base newspaper at Marine Air Base Cherry Point). He discovered that the only issues of the *Windsock* that were online were those from 1944-1949. He then tracked down the Historian on base who sent him seven issues from 1951. The answer to the puzzle was in the last issue, dated July 14, 1951. Mr. Ellis sent me an e-mail with a "Eureka" message and a copy of a photo from the paper confirming that the Three Stooges had appeared on base with the

Morton Downey Show on July 4, 1951. The Museum completed the final piece of the tour puzzle. They were able to access the now defunct Camp Lejeune base newspaper, the *Globe* on-line and determined that the Morton Downey Tour performed there on July 3, 1951. The tour came to New Bern on July 4 and then traveled south and performed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on July 6. Mystery solved! Almost.

Jim Hodges, our Curator, was able to identify the house in the antique store photo as being the Jones-Jarvis-Hand house at 528 Front Street. This image was taken before Dr. Bill Hand and his family moved in the house circa the mid-1950s (the house has recently been sold). We posted this story on our Facebook page and as of this writing we have had 3,854 people who have viewed that post.

Many thanks to Edward Ellis, the Stoozeum Museum and Lawrence Kaufman for all they shared. Who says history is boring?

If you have a story to share, please contact me at nbhshistorian@gmail.com.

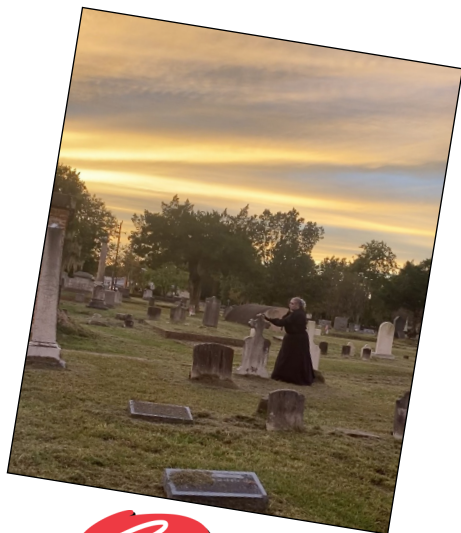


2022 / 2023 Events Calendar

Watch our website (www.NewBernHistorical.org) for further details on both 2022 and 2023 programs!

- October 8 . . . **Living History Day** / Battlefield Park/ Partnering with local reenactors groups to *Bring History to Life*
- October 20-22 . . . **32nd Annual Ghostwalk** / 6 -- 9:30 pm / various downtown locations
- November 5 . . . **Fall ABC Sale** / Battlefield Park / 9am – 2pm/ Curated donations needed!
- November 9 . . . **Lunch & Learn: Eastern North Carolina & the 1918 Influenza Epidemic**, presented by Layne Carpenter / Carolina Colours Pavilion / 11:30am
- December 1-4 . . . **Great Fire Commemoration Events** / See website for details
- December 10 . . . **Signing of North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals** by author Wade Sokolosky / Battlefield Park / 10am – 2pm
- January/February . . . **Civil War Lecture** / Details TBA on website
- January/February . . . **Lunch & Learn** / Details TBA on website
- March 18 . . . **Battlefield Adventure Day** / Battlefield Park
- March 31-April 1 . . . **Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour** / Battlefield Park
- April 21 . . . **Historical Society's 100th Anniversary Exhibit Grand Opening** / NC History Center
- May 12-13 . . . **Heritage Homes Tour** / Downtown New Bern & Riverside Historic Districts
- June 11 . . . **Annual Golf Tournament** / See website for details!
- September 16 . . . **History Quest** / Battlefield Park





Eat lunch or dinner at **MORGAN'S TAVERN & GRILL** on Thursday, October 20. Our good friends at Morgan's will donate a portion of that day's proceeds to the Society!



Ghostwalk 2022 - Let's Hear it for the Team!



Ghostwalk is a huge team effort which can only happen with the support of hundreds of volunteers, from actors to greeters to ticket sellers. Please join us in thanking the key folks who make this great event possible:

Ghostwalk Steering Committee:

Directors: Bill Hand, Nancy Hitchcock • **Assistant Director:** Heide Lock • **Porch Director:** Cynthia Evans-Robinson • **Guides Director:** Katie Shorter • **Creepers Director:** Lynda Rock • **Script writers:** Lori Favre, Bill Hand, John Leys, Cynthia Evans-Robinson • **Publicity & TapSnap:** Kathy Morrison • **Graphic Artist:** Cheryl Jukich • **Ghostly Greeters/Volunteers:** Laurie Ingram & Terri Hickman • **Homes Coordinators:** Gerri Olvaney & Mary Parrish • **Logistics:** Joe Sullivan & Walt Teasdale • **Tickets:** Gail Tilley • **Church Liaison:** Sue Wyatt • **Veri-Good Bakery:** Karen Whitmore • **Law Enforcement:** Sergeant Monico Hargett • **Chair:** Marissa Moore

Ghostwalk 2022 Actors:

Teisha Glover • Tommy Grzeika • John Baldwin • Benny Thompson • Deborah Robinson • Francine Robinson • John Rock • Rita DeSanno • Lizzie Steinman • Jerry Trenholm • Stephen Schmidt • Dick Peebles • Cindi Broome • Millie Purdue • Stephanie Carpenter • Gale Boulware • Cathy Lane • Alberta Wallace • Sara Sirmons • Kathy Martin • Bill Hand • Lisa Gunn • Sophia Giroir • Steve Elliot • Brianna Johnson • Kim Burdine • Mike Beckman • Karen Mason • Heather Buck • Laura Miller-McLemore • Ceven Bryant • LaDonya Jones • Deanna Stowers

Special thanks to our generous Ghostwalk homeowners - Doug & Jennifer Champion, Ann & Ron Henson, Nancy Bowers, Rick & Kathy Krauss, Mary & Arthur Silver, St. John's Masonic Lodge #3, and the City of New Bern.

We appreciate the support over the past 31 years of community partners: City Manager Foster Hughes, the staff of New Bern Parks & Recreation, and the New Bern Police Department.

Free Cemetery Tours

The nonprofit Earl of Craven Questers will be giving free guided tours of Cedar Grove Cemetery on Ghostwalk Friday, October 21 at 2pm! Check the Questers' Facebook page for more information.



Living History Day

Saturday, October 8 • 8 am to 4 pm
New Bern Battlefield Park

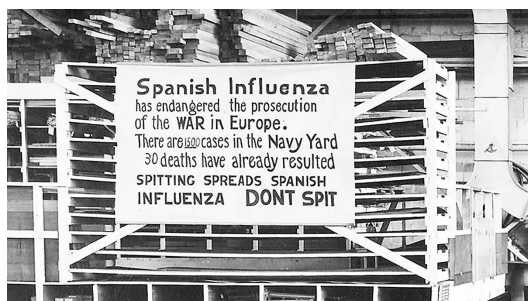
Re-enactors from the 5th and 7th NC Infantry Regiments will set up a full period camp at New Bern Battlefield Park Saturday, Oct. 8. Check our website for schedule of events. Free and open to the public.

ABC Yard Sale

Saturday, November 5 • 9 am to 2 pm
New Bern Battlefield Park

Don't miss this opportunity! Now offered twice a year, all outdoors, and specially curated with high quality furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, lighting, outdoor equipment, and tools. Find that perfect treasure you've been looking for and support this important fundraiser.

Still have donations? Call the office at 252.638.8558.



Lunch & Learn

Eastern North Carolina & the 1918 Influenza Epidemic
Presented by Layne Carpenter
Wednesday, November 9
11:30 am
Carolina Colours Pavilion • Catered by The Chelsea

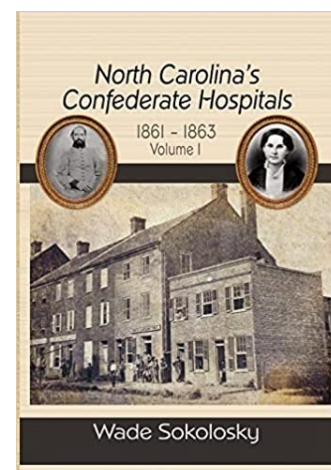
As the Great War came to an end in the fall of 1918, a lethal disease spread across the globe. By the time of its conclusion in March 1919, more people died from what was known as the Spanish Flu than died in the war itself, including an estimated 13,000 North Carolinians. Eastern Carolina Archivist will explore this deadly influenza virus strain and its rampage throughout eastern North Carolina, as well as its impact on society, medical care, and public health.



Book Signing

Saturday, December 10 • 10 am to 2 pm
New Bern Battlefield Park

Come out to New Bern Battlefield Park to meet the author, Wade Sokolosky, and leave with a signed copy of *North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals*—just in time for Christmas! Colonel Wade Sokolosky (Ret.), a native of Beaufort, NC, is a graduate of East Carolina University and a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army. He is one of North Carolina's leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. Wade's new book proudly features a historic New Bern building on the cover.



The Great Fire of 1922

100th Anniversary Commemoration

December 1 thru 4
Various Downtown Locations

It was the most devastating fire in our NC history, destroying hundreds of buildings and leaving more than 3,000 people homeless, largely in the African American community. And it was 100 years ago on December 1st.

Join us as a community in learning about and remembering this tragic event and the effect it had on the people of New Bern. The Great Fire Commemoration will consist of four days of events, to include free presentations, free tours of the Great Fire of '22 exhibit at the Firemen's Museum, a commemorative outdoor vigil, and free trolley tours following the path of the fire.

This Commemorative Weekend is the product of a partnership of organizations who came together to underscore the importance of remembering this historic event, including: The African American Heritage & Cultural Center, City of New Bern, Craven County Tourism and Development Authority, Earl of Craven Questers, New Bern Fireman's Museum, New Bern Historical Society, New Bern Tours, St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, St. Peter's AME Zion Church, Swiss Bear, Tryon Palace, and Uptown Business and Professional Association, Inc.

Starting November 1, registration for these events will be available on our website, www.newbernhistorical.org.



The Historical Society is blessed with a super cadre of volunteers who do much of the heavy lifting for this great organization. While we honor volunteers with awards at our annual member

banquet, that's just never often enough to show our appreciation.

So this quarter we're turning the spotlight on the stalwart Gail Tilley, who has generously donated her extensive talents to the Historical Society for the past five years. There are few programs or efforts that Gail has not been a part of, including Ghostwalk, Homes Tour, Golf Tournament, ABC Sale, and Battlefield Adventure Day. Her dry wit and no-drama approach to business keep us all sane when the pace gets crazy. Thank you, Gail!



*Ghostwalk 22 Ticket Chair
Gail Tilley*

New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

2022-23 Officers & Appointed Positions

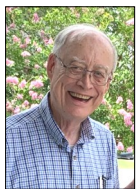
Joe Hunt, President
Kathy Morrison, First Vice-President
Egon Lippert, Second Vice-President
Chris Kelso, Secretary
Jim Morrison, Treasurer
Jon Miller, Battlefield Adjutant
Claudia Houston, Historian
Jim Hodges, Curator

2022-23 Directors

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

Staff

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



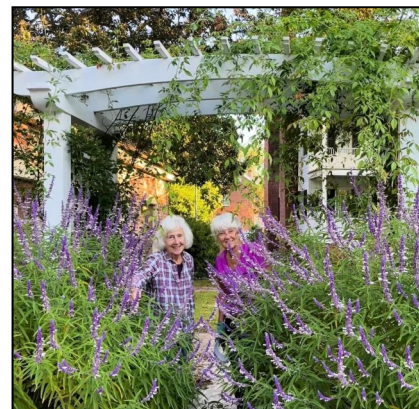
Historical Society President's Message...by Joe Hunt

Yesterday afternoon I went to a Historical Society board meeting and listened to all the wonderful things going on at the Society this fall and winter. We heard about the latest edition of the Journal (which you'll be receiving soon), the Historical Society 100th Anniversary exhibit, Living History Day, Ghostwalk, the ABC Sale, upcoming Lunch and Learn, and plans for the New Bern Great Fire 100th Commemoration. It's exciting to belong to an organization that has so many positive things in the works.

Our success is due to our active Board of Directors, Director Mickey Miller, Programs Director Marissa Moore, new Operations Manager Anthony Giardino, Administrative Assistant Sue Dunn, Curator Jim Hodges, Historian Claudia Houston, Battlefield Adjutant Jon Miller, and our army of resolute

volunteers who lend their talents to this great organization.

If you are new to New Bern or are looking for something to do with your time, consider volunteering at the Historical Society where we have opportunities from office support, gardening, grounds support, acting, script writing, event coordination, event support, historical research, and support at New Bern Battlefield Park. Volunteering at the Society is not only rewarding but fun and provides an opportunity to meet new people.



Volunteers Marge Foskit & Linda Stout



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

Busy at the Battlefield!

We've had some interesting tour groups this summer visiting the Battlefield Park, ranging from a group of children from the Childcare Network (pictured) to a motorcycle pastor's club, to the **Noon Rotary Club of New Bern**. While we experience many visitors on a daily basis, it is always fun to lead a group through the history that lies within our park. The Rotary group, by the way, are the ones who donated the three flagpoles at the entrance to the park!

Our volunteers have been hard at work doing routine maintenance, but we had a chance to do something fun in August. I learned how to use a computer-controlled router to carve out 13 wooden directional signs, and everyone else jumped in to paint and sand them, attach the signs to a 4x4 post, and dig the holes to set them where they needed to be. They look great and are helpful in guiding our visitors at the many trail junctions throughout the park.

Pictured: Tour group of children from Childcare Network.



We are getting ready for our next event at the park... Living History Day on Saturday, October 8th. This free event will be led by park volunteer **Mark Trail** with reenactors from a number of groups coming together with the 7th NC. It will be an opportunity to see how soldiers and some of their family members lived while on the move and will include about 30-35 reenactors, both Union and Confederate, a firing demonstration with muskets and cannon, a large display of period weapons, a cooking demonstration, and a field hospital display. There will also be some short skits that recreate events that would have occurred during that time. Mark your calendars and come out to the park!



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

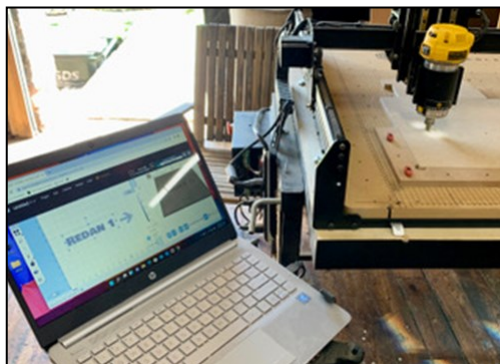


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100
YEARS

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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!

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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!

The New Bern Historical Society has been proudly telling the story of New Bern's history since our founding in 1923. Today we remain as committed as ever to this vital mission, through storytelling events, publications, educational programs, archives, scholarship, and social media.

As we fast approach our 100th year of nonprofit service, we ask that you please consider joining our "Founders Circle," the Planned Giving Program of the New Bern Historical Society. The Founders Circle honors those who have committed to support our institution through deferred gifts and who have informed us of their intentions. Through your bequest or other planned gift, you too can adopt their vision and provide for our battlefield, our collections, and our programs in future years.

Please call Mickey Miller if you have any questions about options for planned giving.

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