

Historically
speaking



Quarterly Newsletter

april

may

june

The countdown continues...

Join us as we celebrate 100 years on April 22, 2023



Postcard from the Ernest C. Richardson, III Collection

through the looking glass
A JOURNEY WITH **THE STORYTELLERS**

Historical Society 100th Anniversary Exhibit Public Opening!

Saturday, April 22

What better way to celebrate our birthday than with an extended gift to the community — a free 100th Anniversary exhibit at the North Carolina History Center's Duffy Gallery: "Through the Looking Glass, A Journey with the Storytellers." The engaging, multi-media exhibit will be open to the public from April 22, 2023 into January 2024, Mon-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun noon to 5 pm.

This unique display showcases not just the Historical Society's past 100 years, but this area's rich 300+ years of history. It features images and artifacts from our collection, many of which have been hidden for years in storage.

History will surround you. Look around and you'll meet the key storytellers of New Bern. Look down and you'll follow the hands of a clock. Watch for map projections, Miss Gertrude's New Bern firsts, and videos of times gone by. Look up and you'll see the centerpiece of the exhibit -- a unique ceiling-mounted mobile composed of hundreds of historical postcards. This is unlike any exhibit you've seen before!



Update from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

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Happy Birthday to us!

Gosh, we've been leaning forward for so long that it's hard to believe it's finally here - the Historical Society's 100th Anniversary. Think about it - 100 years of service to this great community. That's a whole lot to be proud of!

We're honored to share it with you, our members and biggest supporters. Put a big star on your calendar for two big events on **Saturday, April 22** - the public opening of our exhibit at the NC History Center and the birthday party we're throwing for you.

Come by the Attmore-Oliver House south lawn from 1-3 pm for birthday cake and light refreshments. No reservations are needed. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the ranks, you all have at least one thing in common -- a deep appreciation for New Bern history. That is what has sustained us over the past 100 years, and - I am confident - will continue to sustain us into the next century.

Meantime, check out all the other great programs we have for you. Don't blink or you'll miss something!

You are invited New Bern Historical Society's 100th Birthday Celebration!

Saturday, April 22
1-3 pm
Attmore-Oliver
House Lawn



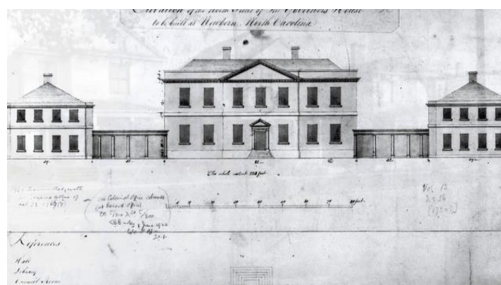
ENCORE!

The Dreamers - The Doers!

Five Women Who Moved a Neighborhood and Rebuilt a Palace

Presented by Lindy Cummings
Wednesday, April 12 • 7 pm
Cullman Hall, NC History Center

When we offered this program as a Lunch & Learn last month, it sold out weeks in advance. Our dynamic speaker, Lindy Cummings, Tryon Palace Research Historian, has graciously agreed to an encore. Don't miss this one!



Lindy will take you back to an era when women went by "Mrs. Husband's name" and could not open a bank account in their own name. Despite these restrictive social mores, five women wielded the power they possessed to make the dream of a rebuilt Tryon Palace a reality.

In partnership with Tryon Palace • Cost \$10

[Reservations strongly recommended.](#)

See website or call 252.638.8558 for reservations

New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

2023 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

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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

2023 Events Calendar

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

- April 15 . . . **DATE CHANGE Battlefield Adventure Day** / Battlefield Park / 12:30-4pm
- April 12 . . . **ENCORE! The Dreamers—The Doers!** By Lindy Cummings **ENCORE** / Cullman Hall, NC History Center / 7pm / in partnership with Tryon Palace
- April 22 . . . **100th Birthday Celebration** / Attmore-Oliver House Lawn / 1-3pm
- April 22 . . . **100th Anniversary Exhibit Public Opening** / FREE / NC History Center
- April 29 . . . **The Poet's Eye: New Bern Through History** / Free program in partnership with Friends of the Library / New Bern Public Library / 2pm
- May 3 . . . **The History of Pepsi** by Bob Stoddard, Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. Historian / Orringer Auditorium / 7pm
- May 12-13 . . . **Heritage Homes Tour** / Historic Downtown New Bern & Riverside Districts / 10am-4pm
- May 20 . . . **Volunteer & New Member Social** / Attmore-Oliver House Lawn / 1-3pm
- June 11 . . . **4th Annual Golf Tournament** / Carolina Colours / Tee off at 12:30pm / See website for details and registration
- June 14 . . . **Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Dinner** / Battlefield Park / 6pm-until
- September 2 . . . **Living History Day** / New Bern Battlefield Park / 8am-4pm
- September 16 . . . **3rd Annual History Quest** / Begins and ends at Battlefield Park / 11am
- October 19-21 . . . **Ghostwalk!** / Downtown New Bern porches & Cedar Grove Cemetery / 6-9pm

It's official — The Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour is here to stay!



Over 700 people visited the Battlefield Park on the evenings of March 23-25 to hear the heart wrenching tales of the Kinston Hanging, the adventures of Elizabeth Carraway, the bravery of the "Boy Colonel", and other stories of strength, courage, and sadness. The program culminated with stirring accounts from the Underground Railroad and soulful music by the Craven

Community Gospel Choir. The feedback? Overwhelmingly positive! This is the Historical Society's storytelling at its best. The consensus? We will bring the Lantern Tour back again next spring.



Hats off to the talent!

A program like this is only possible with the time and talent of many selfless volunteers who made it happen.

Script writer-in-chief Lori Favre • **Researcher** Claudia Houston • **Actors:** Jim Atchinson, Mike Beckman, Gale Boulware, Cindi Broome, John Bruno, Stephanie Carpenter, Nelda Coats, Michelle Denman, Rita DeSanno, Tommy Grzeika, Lisa Gunn, Brianna Johnson, Cathy Lane, Shay McDonald, Rachel McGuire, Laura Miller-McLemore, Dick Peebles, John Rock, Stephen Schmidt & Jerry Trenholm • **Special talent:** Bonita Simmons and the Craven Community College Gospel Choir • Mark Trail and reenactors from the 5th & 7th NC Regiments • Sharon Bryant and the 35th US Colored Troops •

Kudos to the dozens of volunteer guides, wranglers, parking attendants, photographers, logistics helpers, ticket-takers, greeters, and battlefield guides.



We are grateful to **Title Sponsor Trader Construction** and the many generous sponsors who made the event possible.

And finally, a heart-felt thank you to our wonderful **Director** Nancy Hitchcock, **Assistant Director** Heide Lock, **Guides Directors** Katie Shorter and Holly Prafke, and **Event Co-chair** Terri Hickman.



2023 Heritage Homes Tour

May 12-13 • 10 am - 4 pm

A Feast for the Senses!

Join us for an unforgettable 2023 Heritage Homes Tour in the Downtown and Riverside Historic Districts. We delight in showing a range of livable family homes from tiny and charming to glorious, including the iconic William B. Blades House, which is this year's poster house. There are even two restorations in progress that will engage your imagination. New Bern is not Colonial Williamsburg! We enjoy a rich diversity of architecture that illustrates our town's amazing three centuries of history.

The Homes Tour Committee, led by co-chairs **Cathy O'Brien** and **Sharon Nelson**, are working hard to add creative floral arrangements by local florists, live music, gardens in bloom, artists at work, and historical churches open for tour. Truly, this will be a feast for the senses! When you need a break, stop by the Attmore-Oliver south lawn and enjoy a light snack and a sip at the 1920's themed garden party.

We are thrilled to be partnering with the **NC Plein Air Art Festival in New Bern**, with the talented plein air artists from across the country painting historical homes in our footprint during the tour. Watch for more details.

This is an important Historical Society fundraiser, so please come out and support!

Special thanks to New Bern treasure Janet Francoeur for once again furnishing the lovely poster art.

Thank you to our loyal and generous Title Sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible!

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NEW DATE DUE TO RAIN!

Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day

Saturday, April 15 • 1 - 4 pm

New Bern Battlefield Park • 12:30 pm registration for children

Not just for kids anymore -- great family fun for all ages.



Come out to the lovely Battlefield Park for a day full of learning activities and living history! Guests will be greeted by re-enactors from the 5th and 7th North Carolina Regiments and the 35th US Colored Troops. The newly enlisted recruits participate in practice drills, Civil War period camp activities, crafts, and games. Adults will enjoy the demonstrations and displays of Civil War era medicines, tools, games, Morse code, the Bookmobile, and more. The day's activities will conclude with a delicious apple crisp made by the new recruits, and an exciting mock battle reenactment that includes the children.

Lunch is not included. Cost is \$5 per person.

Advance reservations requested for an accurate headcount.

Volunteer & New Member Social

Saturday, May 20 • 1 - 3 pm • Attmore-Oliver House Lawn & Gardens

Another party, you say? That's just how we roll!

This event is all about YOU! We want to give a BIG thank you to our valued volunteers and new members. If you've volunteered in any capacity this past year, or if you are a new member since May 2022, we will host you here for light refreshments, music, and friendship. No reservation required.





FROM GLORIOUS TO TINY, AND EVERYTHING
IN BETWEEN, THE HERITAGE HOMES TOUR
IS A FEAST FOR THE SENSES...

along with artists a garden party music

Artwork by Janet Francoeur
Graphics design by Cheryl Jukich

THE DOSTER HOUSE



William B. Blades House
602 Middle Street • ca. 1903
owners: Mark & Lynne Harakal



Justice House
221 East Front Street • ca. 1842
owner: Ashley Norman



Dr. William L. Hand House
Garden Only
212 Johnson Street • ca. 1910
owners: Simon & Tessa O'Regan



Pepsi Rental House
611 Hancock Street • ca. 1900
owners: James & Robin Newton



Benjamin Ellis House
215 Pollock Street • ca. 1853
owners: Gretchen & Tracy Du Peza



Forbes House
717 Pollock Street • ca. 1760-1770
owners: Victor Robinson & James Cline



All Saints Chapel
809 Pollock Street • ca. 1895
owners: Ross & Cate Pfeiffer



Griffin-Crabtree House
404 Avenue A • ca. 1906
owner: Tim Thompson



Griffin-Crabtree-Duncan House
406 Avenue A • ca. 1907
owners: Marc & Beth Dabagian



William Dunn House
1404 National Avenue • ca. 1908
owners: Sam Holt & Debbie Rutledge



A. M. Baker House
302 Avenue A • ca. 1897
owners: LtCol & Mrs. M. Halton, USMC



Aberly Rental House
1309 North Pastuer • ca. 1914
owner: Cindy Dameron



The Research Continues! by Claudia Houston, NBHS Historian

In this quarter, particularly February, I added three different speaking engagements to my busy research and writing schedule. I was honored to present a Lunch and Learn program for Black History month concerning the story of William Henry Johnson, a Black man who fought for the Union Army at the Battle of New Bern. He was considered an "independent man" and fought at First Bull Run with the 2nd Connecticut Infantry, and later with the 8th Connecticut Infantry as part of the Burnside Expedition. While he will not be found on any official military record, we do have evidence of his military service. He was a war correspondent for the *Pine and Palm*, an abolitionist newspaper, and the letters he wrote while in military service document his presence at Roanoke Island and his participation in military operations once the Union troops landed in New Bern. His story confirms what we only had suspected before—that Blacks were present here as soldiers during the Battle of New Bern and this was before the organization of the US

Colored Troops. We are also sure there were Blacks present on many of the naval ships that were part of the Burnside expedition. There is a lot more research to do!



Above: Skip Riddle, Claudia Houston, and Bernard George at the Black History Month Lunch & Learn, February 2023.

I also spoke at the George Washington Birthday luncheon sponsored by the SAR, DAR, and Masonic Lodge. My program, George Washington - Spymaster, was not focused on New Bern, but rather on the ways Washington used spy tactics during the American Revolution. Finally, the month concluded with a presentation at MCAS Cherry Point as part of a diversity program celebrating Black History month in which I spoke about several of the Veterans buried at Greenwood Cemetery. These were diverse audiences and I appreciated how attentive and interested everyone seemed to be. I discovered from this experience that I enjoy writing and researching more than speaking, so I am going to take a break from presentations for a bit!

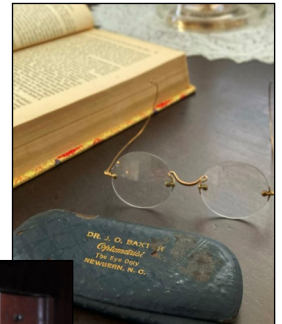
Please hop on over to our Facebook page, particularly on Wednesday, for our "What is in the Attic with Jim" posts. On this day, we feature something from one of the collections that Curator Jim Hodges maintains.

Visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/NewBernHistoricalSociety/#> and see if you can determine what has changed.



Tune in weekly for a new featured item from our collection!



4th Annual Tee It Up **FORE!** History Golf Tournament

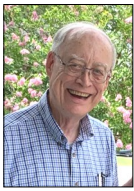
Sunday, June 11 • 12:30 pm • Carolina Colours Golf Club

Sign up now as teams fill quickly!

Enjoy a great day of golf, a delicious dinner and support the New Bern Historical Society all at the same time! Registration opens at 11am with a shotgun start at 12:30pm. Lunch available for purchase from 11am. Play includes cart, range balls, goodie bag. Compete for great prizes for 1st and 2nd place Men's, Women's, and Couples' teams, and four Hole-in-One prizes! Following the tournament will be a cocktail hour followed by a fabulous surf & turf dinner created by Chef Jonathan, and ending with a finale of awards, first class raffle baskets, and a silent auction.

Not a golfer? You can still help! The golf tournament has become a very important fundraiser, so please consider becoming a sponsor. Contact Marissa or Anthony at 252.638.8558 for more.





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

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This morning we went to the New Bern Farmers Market, which is one of our normal Saturday activities. As we left the Market, we met a woman from Ohio who was visiting New Bern for first time. She shared her excitement on finding a charming town like ours and could not talking about how special it is. As you might expect we poured gasoline on her fire and started telling about the wonders of New Bern and that we felt the same when we moved here twenty plus years ago. Then we suggested that she and her husband consider moving to New Bern and looking for a house. This is not the first time that we have met someone visiting here who had the same reaction.



We live in a very special place which is beautiful, rich with history, and blessed with many people who love our town and country. If you have just moved to New

Bern or have been here a short time and have not gotten involved, I suggest you go out and volunteer in one of the many things going on in this area. It's a wonderful way to contribute to our community, meet new friends, add a sense of purpose to life, and be a part of this special community.

You've taken a great first step by joining the New Bern Historical Society! We invite you to take it to the next level and become involved in one of our many volunteer opportunities. Annette and I did the same twenty years ago when we moved to New Bern and knew only one other person, but through the New Bern Historical Society and the friendly people in our town, that has all changed now.



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

Our battlefield park volunteers have been busy over the winter months, prepping the trails for the spring tourist traffic as well as getting ready for another **Harry Goodman**

Battlefield Adventure Day. Everyone pitched in to make over sixty wooden rifles. This involved drawing the stencils, cutting them out, sanding them, staining them, painting and adding the barrels. With our current stock we now have 100 rifles ready for this year's "troops" that will learn how to march and make military formations. When outfitted with their blue or gray hat of choice, the kids have a great time learning from our reenactors who show them cavalry drills, cannon loading and firing, and what camp life was like during the Civil War. Our park will be filled with many displays and activities for everyone to enjoy. We hope many of our new members will join us on Saturday, April 15th for this family-friendly event.



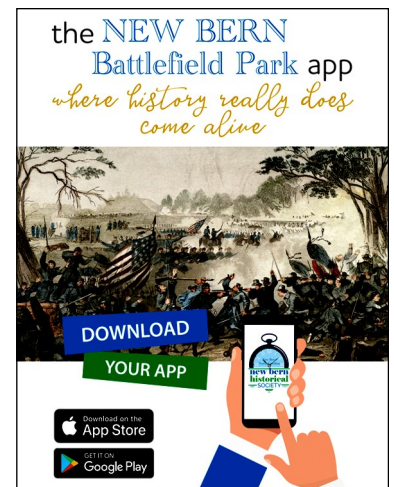
Volunteers Gene Lock, Rod Rhodes & John Wright working on rifles.

Last month the battlefield hosted the **Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour** March 23-25th. Our volunteers ensured the trails were in great shape and that all the reenactor stations were ready for this event. As this event takes place in the evening, we had to

make sure that there were no trip hazards and that the trails are well-lit for everyone.



John Wright with trash he "fished" out of Bullen Branch with his waders and net!



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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New Bern, NC 28560

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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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