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JOURNAL OF THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE SCHOOLS ON ACADEMY GREEN

J. M. Hodges, Jr.

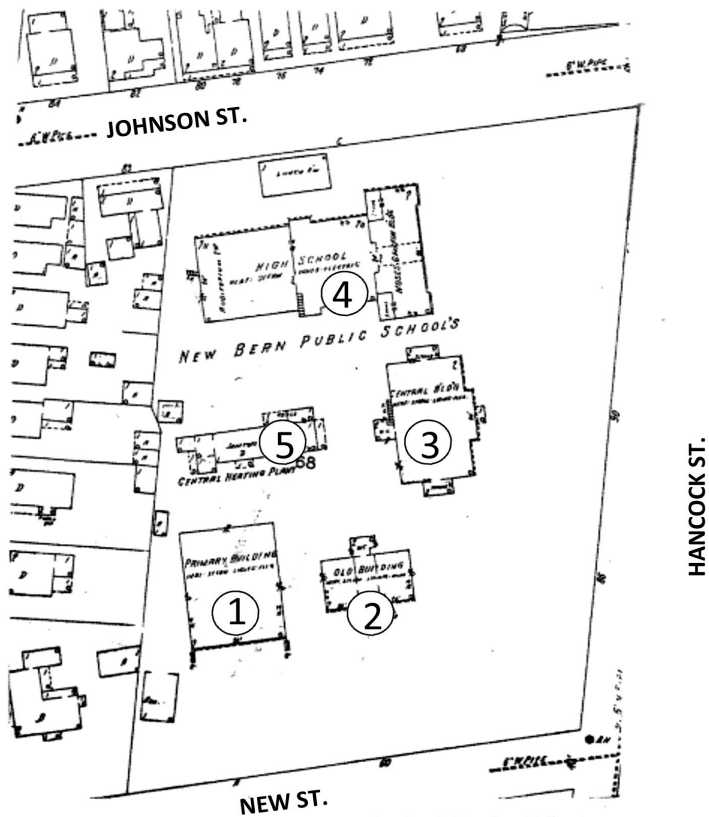
In the 1950s the schools on Academy Green consisted of seven structures: the Primary Building, the lunch room/band room, the Academy Building, the Bell Building, the Moses Griffin Building, the high school lunch room, and the Central Heating Plant, including the maintenance supervisor's residence. Sadly, only two of these have survived: the Academy Building and the Bell Building.

One objective of this article is to provide some information about these buildings. However, the primary mission is to highlight the journey of the New Bern Academy by recognizing the major players, contributing factors, and events that shaped its history

The common land bordered by New, Johnson, and Hancock Streets has major importance in the history of New Bern as this was the site where the first school established by law in North Carolina was completed in 1766. Previously, private tutors were afforded to children of the wealthy, but no formal schools existed for the average child. New Bern's population in 1765 was approximately 500 inhabitants, representing a significant increase from twenty-five years earlier.

The colonial legislature ratified a bill on March 9, 1764, to provide for the building of a schoolhouse in New Bern and residence within the schoolhouse for a schoolmaster. Additionally, a board of trustees was named to establish policies regarding the school and to hire and dismiss schoolmasters. The 1764 act was later amended to require that any schoolmaster hired be affiliated with the Church of England.

The original wooden school building measured 45 feet in length and 30 feet in width and was financed by a special tax on "spiritous liquors." The funds generated also provided for the education of "ten poor children," although no more than five were admitted at any one time. The school operated on a tuition basis and was not "public" in the sense that it was not open to all free-of-charge.



UNC - North Carolina Collection
 Plan of the New Bern Public Schools from the insurance maps of New Bern, published by the Sanborn Map Company, January, 1931. Sheet 23.

1. Primary Building
2. Academy Building
3. Bell Building
4. Moses Griffin Building
5. Central Heating Plant

Reverend James Reed, rector of Christ Church, was a major promoter of the school, which was viewed as an affiliate of the church. In 1765, Thomas Tomlinson, a member of the Church of England, became the first schoolmaster, a capacity he continued in until 1772 when he was forced to resign due to a situation regarding his suspension of the unruly children of

two of the school's trustees. The school further suffered in 1773 from loss of income when the tax on liquor included in the 1766 act expired. Uncertainty during the Revolutionary War years resulted in further instability of the school.

In 1784 the North Carolina legislature completely reorganized the institution and changed some of its major policies. For the first time, the school was officially referred to as the New Bern Academy. The trustees became a "self-perpetuating" board in the sense that no public elections were required when replacing a trustee. Additionally, education for ten poor children was not required, a formal relationship with the Church of England was not continued, and the schoolmaster was no longer required to be Episcopalian. Despite these imposed limitations, the New Bern Academy was enjoying high enrollment in the late eighteenth century.

In 1793 Thomas Pitt Irving was appointed schoolmaster by the trustees and successfully guided the school for twenty years. Irving eventually became rector of Christ Episcopal Church and was also greatly involved with the Masonic lodge.

Although the New Bern Academy was spared by the fire of 1791 that consumed a third of the buildings in New Bern, in 1795 it was destroyed by fire. Irving's classes were then moved to the Governor's House (Tryon Palace). Speculation is that classes had been conducted at the Governor's House prior to the 1795 fire. Regardless, classes continued at the Governor's House until it burned in 1798. Evidence suggests that afterward classes were convened in the East Wing and the West Wing of the Palace.

In 1801 the General Assembly enacted a law authorizing the trustees to conduct a lottery to raise money to construct a new academy school. A brick building was constructed on the Academy Green between 1806 and 1809, and classes were reconvened in this new academy school in 1810. The architect and primary contractors who most likely participated were William Nichols, James Coor, and John Dewey. Fortunately, this structure survives today.

In 1812 a law was passed that required trustees to be publicly elected and not appointed by existing members. In that same year, a notice was given that a school for females would be conducted at the New Bern Academy.

After Irving's departure in August 1813, the New Bern Academy experienced periods of prosperity and, more notably, decline, as witnessed by the high turnover of schoolmasters and teachers. It seems that financial stability was always elusive because tuition expense kept many students from attending and inadequate teacher salaries were a recurring problem. During the evolutionary years prior to the Civil War, the cast of players involved in the New Bern Academy was indeed impressive and included Alonzo Attmore, J. O. Freeman, Nathan Tisdale, Edward Hughes, William Hawks, and William Doherty.

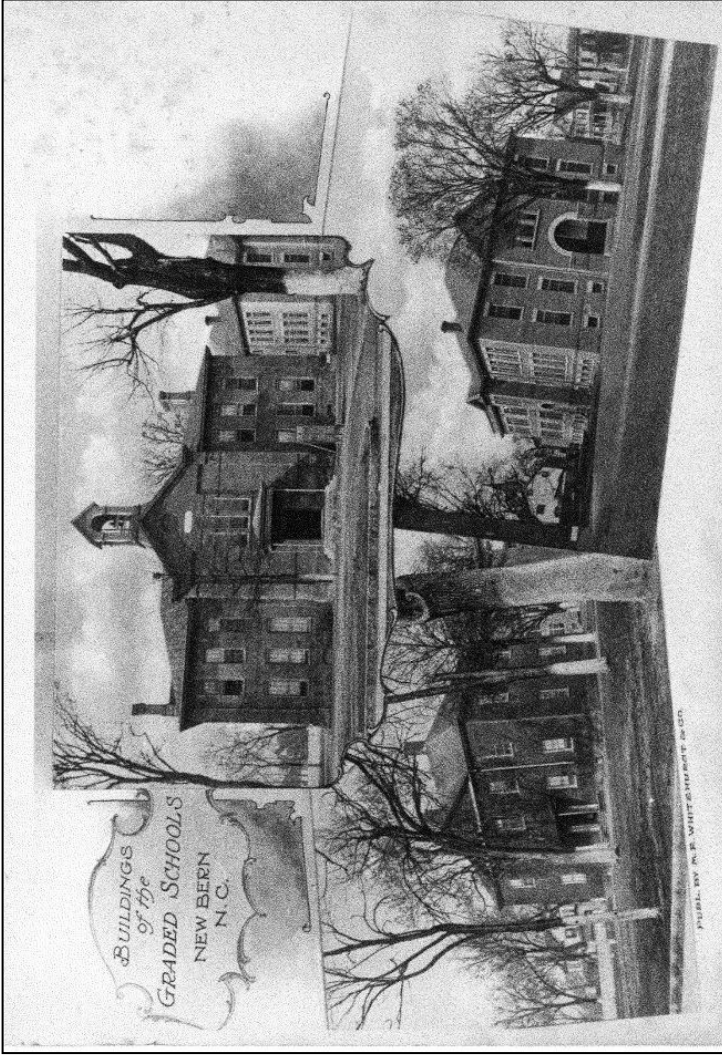
After the Battle of New Bern, March 14, 1862, New Bern was under Union occupation for the duration of the Civil War. As the Confederate troops fled, so too did the bulk of the civilian population. It is estimated that only about 200 of a population of seven or eight thousand remained in their homes. The New Bern Academy and other suitable structures were used as hospitals. The brick schoolhouse on the Academy Green was repurposed as the Academy Green Hospital, eventually being incorporated as part of Foster General Hospital. During its three years as a hospital, the academy building was never modified or enlarged. Although there are claims that the building was used as a school for blacks during the waning days of the Civil War, no documented evidence supports this usage.

While there were efforts to resurrect the New Bern Academy as early as August 1865, a General Assembly mandate of January 25, 1866, called for the reorganization of both the city government and the New Bern Academy. Financial assistance was provided by the Peabody Education Fund that was endowed by George Peabody of Massachusetts for the promotion of education in the southern states. Schools that benefited from the fund were not allowed to charge tuition. Despite this restriction, the New Bern Academy's success was evidenced by an astounding increase in attendance of almost 300 percent in one year (1870-1871). In 1871, the New Bern Academy, which originally operated as a private corporation, was taken control of by an act of the legislature, thereby making the academy a public institution. During this period of reconstruction, the academy also benefited from the guidance and talents of William J. Clarke, his wife Mary Bayard Devereaux Clarke, and their son William Edward Clarke.

Ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870, declaring that “race could be no bar to voting rights,” resulted in the election of four blacks to the New Bern Academy board of trustees. In June 1874, these same four blacks collectively resigned from the board, indicating a restoration of the antebellum self-perpetuating order for the academy. In February 1875, a mandate by the General Assembly that the New Bern Academy be better regulated resulted in an overhaul of the board of trustees. Severe financial difficulties were apparent, especially after receiving notice in August 1876 that support from the Peabody Fund had been terminated.

Educational methodology was an evolving process. In the first half of the nineteenth century, the Lancasterian System was utilized, whereby elementary school-age students were divided into classes based on achievement rather than age. Motivation was the driving force to earn a higher reward. The graded school concept that was introduced in 1822 represented a very different approach in teaching methodology. This system is familiar in that the elementary school curriculum is divided into classes based on age (first grade, second grade, etc.). This approach further complicated the academy’s financial difficulties because more teachers would be needed.

As a result of General Assembly legislation in February 1883, a public referendum established a special property tax to relieve the struggling graded school system. However, in 1886 the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled that the “special act to levy municipal taxes for the support of graded schools, such as New Bern’s 1883 Act, was unconstitutional and void.” In an attempt to survive, the trustees solicited voluntary subscriptions from New Bern citizens and also reinstated tuition charges based on grade level. Once again, in 1899, the General Assembly passed a law similar to that of 1883 whereby public referendum would allow the creation of a special tax to provide operational funds for the New Bern city school system and construction for new school buildings. The main difference contained in the 1899 law as compared to the 1883 law involved the division of property tax according to race, which constituted racial inequality and was thereby unconstitutional since the black school facilities were decidedly unequal. Officially, 1899 signifies the evolution of the New Bern Academy into the New Bern city school system.



New Bern Historical Society Photographic Collection.

Due to overcrowding in the Academy Building, it was apparent that an additional school building was greatly needed. It is reported that, in 1881, an astounding total of 530 students were enrolled. Situated on the Academy Green but fronting on Hancock Street, the Bell Building, as it is commonly known, was constructed in 1884-1885. It is interesting to note that, in 1888, the bell that had been in the Academy Building was transferred to the Bell Building. The attending architect was Samuel Sloan, who also designed the Craven County Courthouse and the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh. The completion of this structure provided for an additional eight classrooms that were able to accommodate 600 students. A marble plaque is mounted over the entrance of the Bell Building and is inscribed with the Latin phrase *Nulla Palma Sine Pulvare* ("no reward without work"). After almost a hundred years of service, the Bell Building was purchased in the mid-1980s by Robert and Margaret Stallings, who converted the structure into four upscale apartments.

In 1908 new floors and ceilings were installed in the Academy Building. Due to inefficiencies and risks of open fireplaces and coal stoves, a new steam heating plant and maintenance supervisor's residence were completed in 1909.

A fourth building was completed in 1904 and enlarged in 1909. This structure was primarily designed to accommodate the needs of the newly-expanded high school curriculum. Construction costs were subsidized by an endowment left by Moses Griffin and, appropriately, the building bore his name. At his death in 1816, Moses Griffin had converted his substantial estate to a trust to provide education to indigent children. Amazingly, that trust survived almost a hundred years to benefit the construction of the high school building. In addition to three classrooms, two laboratories, a library, chapel, and principal's office, the Moses Griffin Building had an auditorium that could seat 600 people. This structure faced Hancock Street, with a long frontage on the 500 block of Johnson Street. Sadly, it was demolished in 1981. The Coor-Cook House, which was relocated from Craven Street, is now situated on that corner of Hancock and Johnson Streets. As well, a two-story frame residence previously located in the 400 block of Middle Street that had served as the public library 1912-1935 and more recently as the Christian Science Reading Room

was moved in 1984 to the lot on Johnson Street behind the Coor-Cook House.

In order to comply with fire code requirements, new combined fire escapes and stairways were constructed on the Academy Building and the Bell Building in 1914. Immediately west of the Academy Building on New Street, a new Primary Building containing eight classrooms was constructed in 1915 and eventually demolished circa 1981. That lot presently accommodates the Cutting-Allen House, relocated from its original site in the 200 block of Broad Street. A one-story wooden structure, the size of which was possibly 50-by-30-feet, was situated immediately southwest of the Primary Building on New Street. This structure was originally a lunchroom and later a band room. It is not known to have had a formal name, was probably built in the late 1920s or 1930, and was most likely demolished in 1981.

The high school that occupied the Moses Griffin Building relocated in 1955 to a new campus that is currently Grover C. Fields Middle School. From that date on, the buildings on Academy Green were referred to as “Central Elementary School,” representing grades one-through-eight. Classes ceased in the Academy Building in 1971 and Central Elementary School officially closed its doors to students in June 1977, thus concluding a 211-year history of education on Academy Green.

In 1975 the North Carolina General Assembly created the New Bern Academy Historical Commission to organize the restoration and public use of the Academy. Ownership of the property was transferred from the Board of Education to the Commission in 1976. Although the building was badly damaged by fire in September 1977, with financial assistance from the Kellenberger Foundation the repair process was begun that same year and completed in 1985 under the supervision of local restoration contractor John Thomas of L.R. Thomas & Sons.

It has been suggested that a cupola was added to the Academy Building after its original construction in 1806-1809, but apparently it was later removed as it does not appear in Civil War era photographs. When the 1977 restoration was

undertaken, the cupola was recreated based on the charred timber design in the attic. The bell original to the Academy Building, which had been moved to the Bell Building in 1888, was returned upon completion of the cupola restoration. Today the Academy Building operates as a museum and is under the supervision of the Tryon Palace Commission and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The exhibits, maintained by volunteers, are open to the public free-of-charge. Although the bell is mostly silent now, it does ring from time-to-time in celebration of this landmark building's history and continuing pursuit of education.

Author's Note: Much of the factual information in this article is derived from *The History of the New Bern Academy* by Mary Ellen Gadski. Those with an interest in this part of New Bern's history are strongly encouraged to read her complete and detailed account, available at the Tryon Palace Gift Shop at the North Carolina History Center and in the Kellenberger Room at the New Bern Public Library.

WHO KNEW? THE GUANO INDUSTRY IN NEW BERN

John Fuller Leys

The city of New Bern owes its existence, and for many years its prosperity as well, to its location at the site where two rivers come together to form a much larger river. In the days of sail, New Bern was as far up the Neuse River as deep-water shipping could reach. The much smaller stretches of the Trent and Neuse Rivers above New Bern penetrated far into the interior and, at one time, small riverboats routinely went up the Trent as far as Trenton and up the Neuse to Smithfield. Therefore, New Bern was a natural location for incoming cargos to be unloaded for transshipment further inland. (Conversely, New Bern was also a natural location for agricultural crops and timber products to be shipped out to other parts of the country and abroad.) Even after riverine transportation was displaced by rail and truck, New Bern was for many years a transshipment port for high-bulk low-value products.

Guano typifies such products. Around the turn of the twentieth century New Bern was the headquarters of the guano industry in eastern North Carolina. The word “guano” comes to us via Spanish from the Andean language word “wanu,” which refers to all forms of dung used as fertilizer. It is the excrement of cave-dwelling bats, sea birds, or other birds. As a fertilizer guano is an excellent source of nitrogen, phosphates, and potassium, all essential for plant growth. It also has the desirable property of combating nematodes on plants, nematodes being a major problem for tobacco growers in North Carolina prior to the development of efficacious pesticides.

Archaeologists believe the Andean peoples have been collecting guano as a soil additive for more than fifteen hundred years. Its primary source has been the small islands located off the desert coast of Peru, with the Peruvian pelican and Peruvian booby, along with the Guanay cormorant, likely being the most important producers of guano. Although most of the seabird guano was harvested from the Peruvian islands,

large quantities were also exported from the Caribbean and the islands off the coast of Baja California, as well as from Namibia, Oman, and Patagonia. Some islands had guano deposits as deep as fifty meters.

Guano was for many years a major import into the United States. It is estimated that in the early 1850s approximately 760,000 tons per year were brought into this country. Much of this guano had to come around Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America, an area feared for its treacherous weather in the days of sail and even today.

Eventually guano became less important because of other natural sources of nitrogen, such as Chilean nitrate. In the years 1894–1911, the German chemist Fritz Haber developed an industrial process of nitrogen fixation that is the foundation for the ammonia-based fertilizer that maintains about half of the world’s present-day population. Such “chemical” fertilizer has now largely displaced natural fertilizers. Guano, however, has enjoyed some recent resurgence due to its role in organic farming.

At the beginning of the last century New Bern had several fertilizer firms that were heavily dependent on guano. All of these businesses were located on the waterfront since their basic materials came in by sail and barge. The guano was unloaded, stored, and later mixed with other ingredients and fillers to produce a wide range of fertilizers. Some of the companies employed as many as a hundred people.

The oldest manufacturer in eastern North Carolina was the E.H. and J.A. Meadows Company, dating to 1889. It was said that the best tobacco in Craven, Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, Pitt, and Wayne counties used the Meadows’ fertilizer. The Meadows had two immense factories outfitted with modern equipment. On the west side of the Neuse River, just across the Trent River from New Bern in the present-day Greensprings area, was the Meadows guano plant with a large double-level dock to facilitate the unloading of ships. Sara Meadows, in her interview for *Memories of New Bern*, recalls sailing ships with three masts (and once, one with four) that came from Chile, Peru, and other South American areas with the guano to make the fertilizer. Annual output of the Meadows Fertilizer Company was an unbelievable forty million pounds per year! (To put

that figure in perspective, such amount of fertilizer would fill approximately eleven hundred contemporary dump trucks.) The Meadows were also proprietors of a gristmill and the steam marine railway and shipyards.



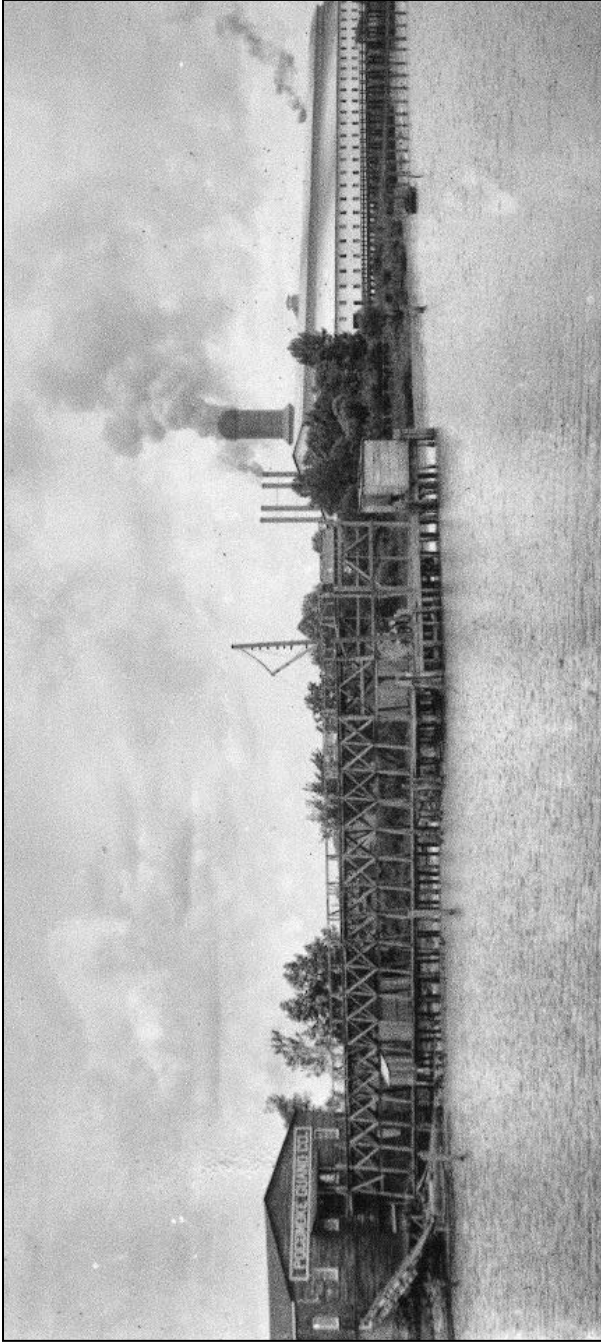
Early 20th Century view of Meadows Guano Plant. From “City of New Bern: Pen and Sunlight Sketches”; date unknown. New Bern Historical Society Photographic Collection.

Another company, the New Bern Cotton Oil and Fertilizer Mills, started small in 1898. In 1902, it began the manufacture of fertilizer, growing to a capacity of a hundred tons (five-plus dump trucks) of fertilizer per day. Its storage facilities were capable of holding several thousand tons awaiting shipment by truck, rail car, or boat. It was located in the, at that time, new and growing suburb of Riverside.

Another New Bern manufacturer of high-grade fertilizers was the Craven Chemical Company located at 81 South Front Street on the Trent River. It started in 1906 and catered to the eastern section of North Carolina. Fertilizers of several grades were made to suit various crops. Using quality material, each order was freshly bagged and shipped to reach the customer in the best chemical condition. Examples of their brands include C.E. Fay’s High Grade Guano, Standard Tobacco Guano, Hanover Standard Guano, Pantego Potato Guano, and Prolix Special Guano. These names indicate some of the various uses of the guano fertilizer.

Other fertilizer firms in New Bern at that time were Bough & Sons Company, Newberry’s branch of Armour Fertilizer Works, the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation, and S.M. Jones and Company. A plant operated by Pokomoke Guano Company, based in Norfolk, was located on the Neuse River in Riverside near the foot of A Street.

In addition to its use as fertilizer, nitrates in guano went into products like gunpowder. Chemicals, foods, and medicines all used phosphates found in guano. Even Coca -



Pocomoke Guano Company Plant, approximately 1913. (Roper Lumber Company mill in background) Courtesy of the UNC Collection Photographic Archives and Ernest Richardson III.

Cola and New Bern's own Pepsi Cola contain phosphoric acid, which rather makes one wonder just where that phosphorous may have come from!

Who knew?

THE TANGLED HISTORY OF NEW BERN'S CONFEDERATE FLAGS

Leonard Lanier

Although made of simple cloth, a flag raises human emotion like no other symbol. An emblem of nationality and nationhood, this almost weightless entity signifies a people's hopes, dreams, and aspirations. Throughout history, sometimes flags signify good, sometimes they signify evil, and sometimes they occupy a nebulous middle ground.

In 2011, the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Trust in Worcester, Massachusetts, contacted the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City about the disposition of three Confederate flags in the trust's collection. The collection grew out of the souvenirs and other mementoes that former Union soldiers gave the town's local veterans' camp of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

After the last Worcester Union veteran died, the camp converted into a museum. In 2005, after years of declining visitation and interest, a local developer approached the trustees about buying the building. After much discussion, the museum's board decided to accept the offer, sell the land, and use the money to professionally conserve the remaining artifacts and find them a new home at other institutions.

The vast majority of the collection, including uniforms and weapons, made its way to the Worcester Historical Museum. However, the three Confederate flags did not easily fit the mission of the city institution. They displayed the flags on short-term loan after a \$37,000 restoration, but did not want them long-term. Hence, the phone call to Elizabeth City.

Exactly how the flags ended up in Worcester, Massachusetts, is a story in itself. Several regiments from the city, including the 21st Massachusetts Infantry, the 25th Massachusetts Infantry, and the 51st Massachusetts Infantry, served in North Carolina during the Civil War. Both the twenty-first and the twenty-fifth regiments formed part of Major General Ambrose Burnside's Expedition.

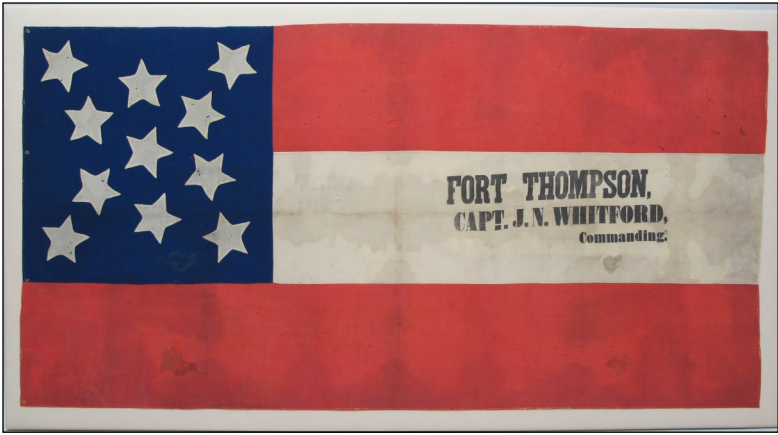
On April 21, 1862, a month after the Battle of New Bern, in a ceremony outside Worcester's Mechanics Hall, members of the 25th Massachusetts Infantry presented a series of captured Confederate flags to the city's mayor. The Worcester *Daily Spy* of April 21, 1862, gave the following account of their capture:

“After the sharp engagement of four hours, the 25th [Massachusetts Infantry] were ordered to charge and a portion of Capt. [Thomas] O’Neil’s command led the charge, himself seizing the flag of the enemy and taking it from its place bore it in triumph, pursuing the rebels, taking many prisoners and these rebel standards in their pursuit, the standard of the Texas rangers, the flag of the 33d North Carolina regiment, another color of a North Carolina regiment, and the flag of Fort Thompson.”

Although the GAR Memorial Trust did not absolutely prove that their three flags belong to the same grouping mentioned in the newspaper account, oral tradition maintains the same. At least one of the flags directly matches this written description.

The largest flag in the collection, measuring 72” x 38,” is a First Confederate National, commonly known as the “Stars and Bars” (Flag 1). The flag’s field contains the following inscription: “FORT THOMPSON, CAPT. J.N. WHITFORD, Commanding.”

Born in Craven County, John Nathaniel Whitford came from a notable local family; his father served as a general assemblyman. Whitford himself worked as a local merchant in New Bern. When the war broke out, Governor Clark quickly commissioned Whitford as an army captain.



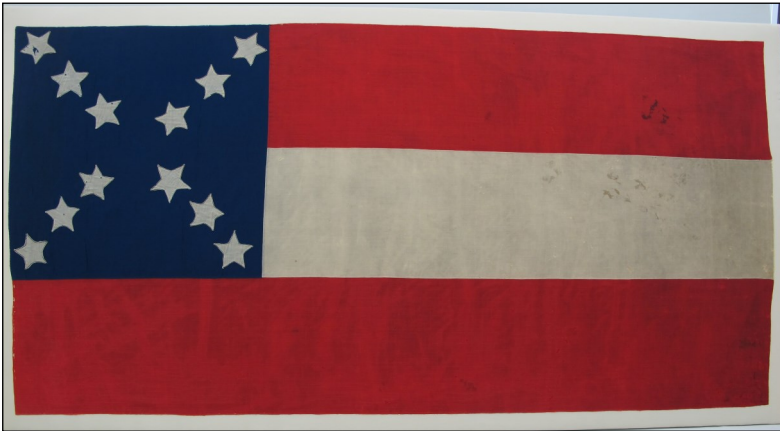
Flag 1. Fort Thompson Flag. Courtesy of GAR Memorial Trust.



Flag 2. Colonel John N. Whitford Headquarters Flag. Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History.



Flag 3. "Freedom" and "Victory" Flag. Courtesy of GAR Memorial Trust.



Flag 4. Unidentified First Confederate National Flag. Courtesy of GAR Memorial Trust.

Using his local connections, Whitford raised a company of artillery—Battery I, First North Carolina Artillery. Union troops on the Outer Banks posed a threat to New Bern, so Whitford's men remained in their hometown. They began work on a series of fortifications to protect the port from attack. Whitford's battery manned a section of this line known as Fort Thompson.

Details about the flag remain murky. Although similar to other Craven County regimental standards made by the ladies of New Bern, its specific creator is unknown. The date of the flag is also a mystery, although Whitford probably received it during the winter of 1861-1862 after his troops manned the completed Fort Thompson.

Union troops under Ambrose Burnside attacked the New Bern fortifications on March 14, 1862, and routed the Confederate forces. While Whitford's men held out longer than other rebel troops, the captain ordered his men to destroy their cannon and retreat, leaving the regimental flag as well.

Despite the loss of their original fighting emblem, Whitford's men carried on as a military unit. No longer artillerymen, the group became a wandering band of infantrymen. Transferred from one post to another, with no hope of actually serving again in the artillery, Whitford finally made a request to Governor Zebulon Vance to reorganize his remaining men as a band of partisan rangers, or irregular soldiers, which Vance granted in April 1863.

In all the reshuffling of men and matériel, Whitford's Battalion Partisan Rangers acquired two new flags. One, apparently directly issued to now Colonel Whitford by the Confederate War Department, was a silk Second Confederate National Flag (Flag 2), which due to its white background, friend and foe alike often mistook for a surrender flag. For this reason, Whitford probably used the banner as a headquarters flag, not a battle flag.

The other flag, the battle flag carried into combat, came to the battalion by way of Henry Clay Whitehurst. This flag is the familiar Confederate battle flag that is sometimes known as the battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia. Whitehurst was the son of a New Bern constable and attended UNC-Chapel Hill before the Civil War. He enlisted as a private in John N.

Whitford's original battery and remained with the unit after its designation as partisan rangers.

In January 1864, Whitford's command reorganized yet again, this time into the 67th North Carolina Infantry. Now a regular infantry regiment, the unit required a color sergeant to carry the colors and lead the men into battle. Private Whitehurst became Color Sergeant Whitehurst, with responsibility for the regimental battle flag.

Exactly where Whitehurst acquired the flag is unknown. Whitehurst's sister, *Carolina and the Southern Cross* editor Lillie Archbell, later claimed it came personally from Confederate General Robert Ransom, whom he served as personal scout. However, Whitehurst's muster records mention no such duty. Ransom served as nominal commander of the brigade that included Whitford's unit, so it remains possible that Ransom's headquarters issued the flag to the regiment via Whitehurst.

After Lee's surrender, the regiment disbanded. Whitford personally surrendered to Union forces on April 26, 1865, but he did not turn over his headquarters flag. Henry C. Whitehurst took the battle flag home with him, although he eventually later passed it on to his former commanding officer, Whitford. In 1964, Colonel Whitford's descendants presented both the unsundered battle flag and the Second National headquarters flag to the Hall of History, now the North Carolina Museum of History.

Meanwhile, John Nathaniel Whitford's original flag, with the bold letters "FORT THOMPSON," spent the intervening years in a location about seven-hundred-miles north from New Bern: Worcester, Massachusetts. It kept company with two other Confederate flags captured at the Battle of New Bern. Unlike the Fort Thompson flag, however, these emblems have less reassuring provenance.

Like the Fort Thompson flag, the other two standards are First Confederate Nationals (Flags 3 and 4). They both display the distinctive three bars and blue canton of the "Stars and Bars." The smaller of the two has the words "Freedom" and "Victory" printed in the canton, along with a single large star (Flag 3). Matching these two flags to Confederate units present at the Battle of New Bern is an inexact science.

According to Worcester's official town history, which itself drew from the Worcester *Daily Spy* story of 1862, three possible candidates exist for the identity of these two flags: the Texas Rangers, the 33rd North Carolina Infantry, and an unknown "North Carolina regiment."

The claim about the Texas Rangers is easily discounted. No regiment from Texas served among the Confederate forces at New Bern, and certainly no company of Texas Rangers. The discrepancy probably refers to the "Freedom-and-Victory" flag's single star, which does resemble a Texas state flag.

Dismissing the Texas Rangers theory leaves two remaining possibilities. The 33rd North Carolina Infantry fought at the Battle of New Bern; in fact, the regiment lost thirty-two men killed there. Further supporting this idea, the 25th Massachusetts Infantry engaged the 33rd North Carolina in battle at New Bern.

In the closing stages of the contest, after Confederate General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch ordered a general retreat, he called up the 33rd North Carolina from reserve to act as a rear guard and allow the rest of the rebel army to leave the field. Unfortunately for the men of the 33rd North Carolina, Union General John G. Foster personally led a charge by the 25th Massachusetts that captured 144 men and the Confederates' regimental headquarters.

At least one regimental standard also fell into Union hands. In addition to a national flag and the headquarters flag, some regiments had a state flag. Taken as a souvenir by General Foster, the 33rd North Carolina Infantry's state flag remained in private hands until 1917, when North Carolina Governor Thomas W. Bickett arranged its return to North Carolina. Did the regiment's First Confederate National suffer a similar fate?

One slight problem with this hypothesis: the North Carolina Museum of History already holds a flag identified as the original First Confederate National Flag of the 33rd North Carolina Infantry. In 1915, the widow of Lieutenant James W. Gibbs gave the Hall of History a First Confederate National made for the regiment by the women of Hyde County, home of the unit's Company F.

Usually each company within a regiment had at least one standard. The Gibbs flag probably served a similar purpose for Company F, but that conflicts with the oral tradition recorded upon the flag's donation to the state collection more than a hundred years ago. Even if the Gibbs flag is the regiment's national flag, one of the Worcester flags might still belong to the 33rd North Carolina Infantry, but which one?

Considering its size, almost twice as long as the "Freedom-and-Victory" flag, the larger of the two Worcester flags remains a strong candidate as the possible 33rd North Carolina's regimental flag (Flag 4). Yet, returning once again to the details surrounding the flag presentation to the Worcester mayor, the larger flag might also belong to the unnamed "North Carolina regiment."

Excluding the local militia, at least nine different Confederate units fought in the Battle of New Bern. Of those, whereabouts for at least six First Confederate National regimental flags are unknown. In other words, neither the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh nor the American Civil War Museum (formerly the Museum of Confederacy) in Richmond—the two institutions with the largest-identified collections of North Carolina-associated Confederate flags—possess First Confederate National flags connected with the 2nd North Carolina Cavalry, 7th North Carolina Infantry, the 26th North Carolina Infantry, the 27th North Carolina Infantry, the 35th North Carolina Infantry, or the 37th North Carolina Infantry. Any of these regiments are possible candidates for the Worcester flags.

Therefore, unfortunately, the jury remains out on the possible identity of two of the three GAR Memorial Trust flags. The road is not at a complete end. In the best-case scenario, further research might uncover period descriptions of the missing flags and/or a better account of the Worcester flag presentation. Additional information also may come from the National Archives' "Register of flags captured or recaptured by Union troops, 1861-1865," a record set that was not available for this study.

For the foreseeable future, the Worcester flags will remain on loan in Elizabeth City. Although the Museum of the Albemarle's Civil War Sesquicentennial exhibit closed in

February 2016, the three flags now form part of the artifact rotation for the museum's permanent gallery. Roughly every year, a different flag will go on display.

Confederate flags, whether a national or battle flag, occupy a fractious middle ground. To some they epitomize the sacrifices of ancestors who fought valiantly for a worthy cause. To others, they signify dedication to the preservation of slavery and the idea that all men were not created equal. For the Worcester flags, this conundrum is compounded by the fact that their exact identity remains unknown. Whatever their meaning, the three Worcester flags exist primarily as historic artifacts. Visitors to the Museum of the Albemarle experience these emblems within the context of their time, allowing for wider contemplation both of the country they represent and the nation they tried to break apart.

THE CROCKETT-MILLER SLAVE QUARTERS

Ben A. Watford

Cities and towns tend to preserve their fine homes and significant buildings, but the residences, businesses, and other structures frequented by ordinary people—even though much more common—are less apt to survive. Fortunately, and largely through the efforts of the James City Historical Society, the greater New Bern area has a well-preserved example of mid-nineteenth century slave housing. This structure, known as the Crockett-Miller Slave Quarters, is now located at the southeast end of Howell Road on property owned by the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport.

This building began its existence within the environs of New Bern. Until about thirty-five years ago, a large farm was located just west of the intersection of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard and Neuse Boulevard in the general area where a Taco Bell, several other businesses, and the Craven Regional Hospital now stand. The use of the family name “Crockett” in association with the farm is based solely on local oral tradition. J.S. Miller is believed to have acquired the property in the 1930s, and he lived there until his death in 1954. His widow continued to occupy the Crockett-Miller House until shortly before her death in 1979. In addition to the main house and outbuildings such as a barn and smokehouse, the property included a slave quarters believed to have been built in the 1850-1860 era, now known as the Crockett-Miller Slave Quarters. The original site of these structures is presently occupied by the Taco Bell fast food restaurant, but it can still be recognized by its slight elevation and by the several old pecan, pine, and dogwood trees ringing the restaurant parking lot.

Following Mrs. Miller’s death, the property was sold and the various structures on the site were donated to the New Bern Preservation Foundation. In 1980 the slave quarters building was moved to the rear of 311 Johnson Street, while the other structures were moved elsewhere in New Bern.



Crockett-Miller Slave Quarters. Courtesy of R.W. McEnally.

In 1993 the Johnson Street property was put up for sale. Dr. Al Howard, the owner of the property, was approached by the Tryon Palace Commission and asked to donate the slave quarters to Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens. Dr. Howard readily agreed. At the time, the staff of Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens felt the quarters would be a valuable asset in improving their interpretation and preservation of African-American history in New Bern. It eventually became apparent, however, that problems involved in moving and placing the structure on Tryon Palace property would make its acquisition by Tryon Palace unfeasible. At the suggestion of the Tryon Palace staff, the James City Historical Society approached Dr. Howard, who agreed to donate the structure to that organization, which he did on October 4, 1993.

The James City Historical Society, Inc., was formed in 1980 under the leadership of Thelma Bryant of New Bern. The fundamental mission of the society has been to preserve and perpetuate the unique history, struggle, and quest for freedom of thousands of former black slaves who followed Union troops into New Bern following the fall of the town in 1862 and who then eventually settled across the Trent River in a refugee settlement. This settlement was named "James City" for Horace James, a U.S. Army Chaplain who became Superintendent of Freedmen for the District of North Carolina and who administered the refugee camp at its beginning.

The Crockett-Miller Slave Quarters was moved to its present site on the airport property in early 1994. The airport location was selected because an old slave cemetery is located nearby: the Bryan or Far Cemetery, so-named because it is located approximately two miles from the original Trent River settlement and an associated cemetery.

On January 18, 1994, a lease and agreement was contracted between Craven County, Craven County Regional Airport (now Coastal Carolina), and the James City Historical Society, Inc. This agreement allowed the historical society to establish and maintain a historical and memorial site upon a designated area of land measuring approximately 100- by 200-feet inside the airport perimeter, overlooking the Far Cemetery.

Moving the Crockett-Miller Slave Quarters to the airport site and restoring it was a complicated and expensive

undertaking! Many agencies and foundations contributed to the reconstruction project, the cost which was approximately \$195,000. The entire process was overseen by the architectural firm Steven & Francis, which insured that proper materials were used and that as much of the original structure as possible was preserved. The restoration was completed in 2003, and the opening took place in July that year with the assistance of airport director John H. Price and his staff.

The reconstruction of the Crockett-Miller Slave Quarters has been based on current knowledge of construction materials and techniques used for slave quarters and other lower-class housing and service buildings in eastern North Carolina in the 1850-1860 era. Some characteristics it shares with such structures are materials of poorer quality than would have been used for buildings considered more permanent or important, a mixture of hand-hewn and circular-sawn, mill-produced lumber, and a generally light frame created by widely-spaced joints, studs, and rafters in order to save on materials. Additionally, the Crockett-Miller quarters appeared to have little or no interior finishing, typical of the period for slave housing. The building is approximately 29 ½ feet long, 14 ½ feet wide, and 17 ½ feet in height. Until moved in 1980, the slave quarters had a brick chimney centrally placed between the two first-floor rooms, with a separate fireplace serving each room. The loft rooms were unheated, the chimney stack having no fireplace at that level. Access to the loft or attic rooms is by an open, single-run ladder-like set of steps.

As originally constructed, the building contained separate quarters for two families, with two separate entrances. The two first-floor rooms were divided by the chimney and flanking vertical-board partition walls. The loft or attic rooms were likewise divided by the chimney stack and similar flanking vertical board partitions. The first-floor rooms contained no ceilings other than the exposed loft floor joints and the underside of the loft flooring, both of which were whitewashed like the exposed walls. Each loft unit had one small window in its gable for light and ventilation. Thus, in its original embodiment as a slave quarters, each unit consisted of a first-floor room which served as the primary working, cooking, and sleeping area for the inhabitants, while the loft room provided additional sleeping and storage space, albeit unheated.

A related aspect of the reconstruction project was the erection of a large monument to commemorate all the former slaves buried at the Far Cemetery. In December 2003, this monument was placed overlooking the site, with an inscription:

*Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed,
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.*
Thomas Gray

The James City Historical Society conducts tours of the museum park, which includes the completely restored and reconstructed Crockett-Miller Slave Quarters. One side of the building currently houses old tools, while the other side displays photos and historical artifacts. The museum park also includes the monument commemorating all of the former slaves buried at the Far Cemetery and a functional outhouse complete with a box of corn shucks for personal needs. (A more modern structure is also provided.) Artifacts from the archeological study conducted at the cemetery site by East Carolina University are also located in the park.

Tours are free and require about an hour to complete. The museum park is open every third Sunday from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Tours can be arranged by calling 252-638-8536.

While working on the Crockett-Miller museum project, a question that was frequently asked was, "Why would a black man want to save and preserve a slave quarters?" The answer was always the same: "It is a part of the history of America and to forget history is to repeat it."

Acknowledgement: The James City Historical Society, Inc., owes a debt of gratitude to John B. Green, III, for his historical research and especially for his recommendations concerning the preservation of the Crockett-Miller Slave Quarters.

CIVIL WAR SITE IN CRAVEN COUNTY PART II: UNION FORTIFICATIONS 1862-1865

Peter J. Meyer, Jr.

Author's note: This is the second part of a multi-part article. The first part appeared in the last issue of this *Journal*, Vol. XXII, No.1, 2015, dealing with Confederate defenses, and the third part dealing with pre- and post-Civil War fortifications will appear in a future issue.

The Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862, resulted in a Federal victory and the occupation of New Bern for the duration of the war. Construction began almost immediately on defenses designed to prevent the Confederacy from retaking the city. Any shortage of labor was rectified by the presence of thousands of freed men in the city. General Ambrose E. Burnside ordered that five thousand of them be hired to build fortifications.

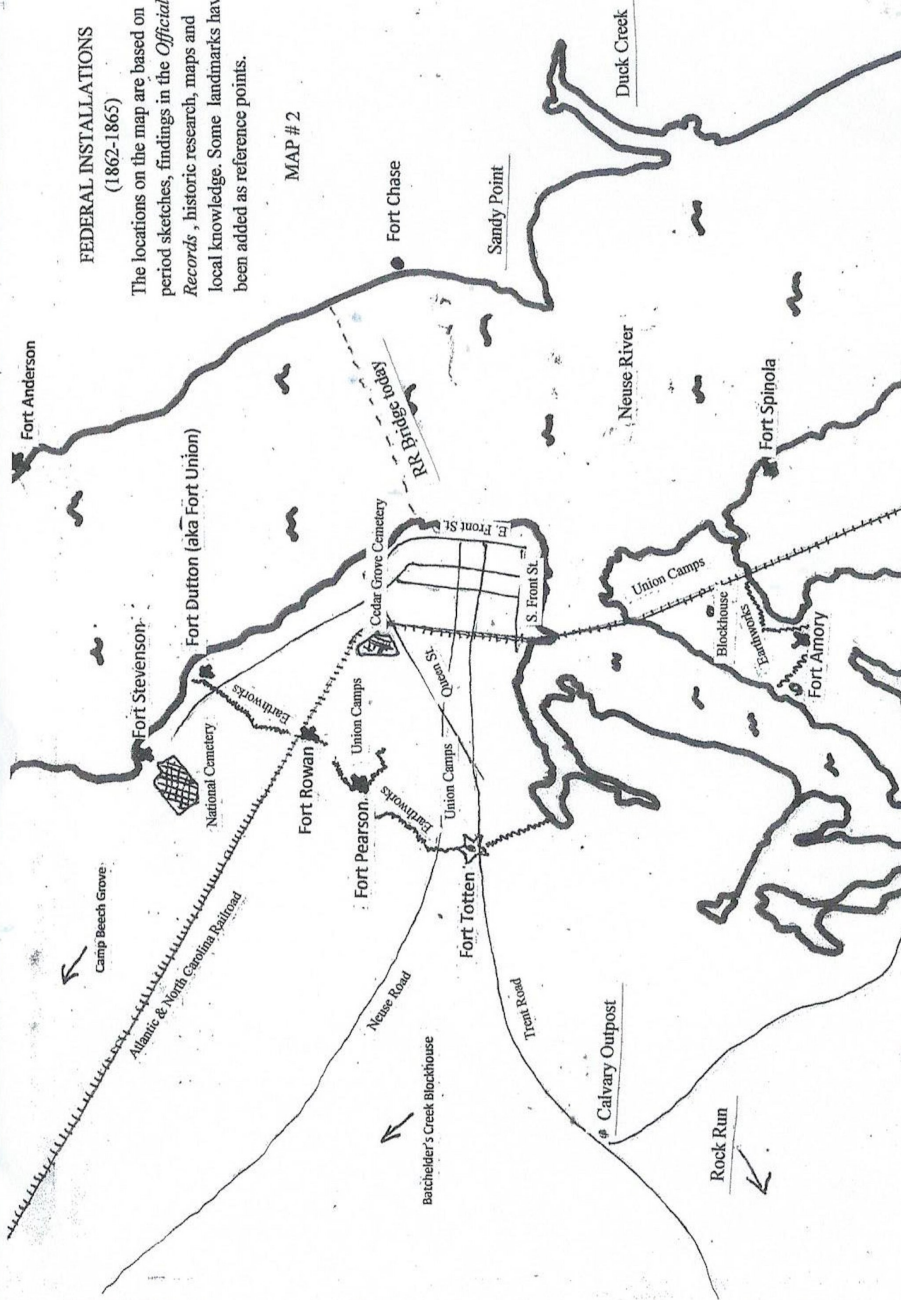
As Alan Watson has stated in *A History of New Bern and Craven County*, Tryon Palace Commission, 1987, "The Federals eventually built ten forts in the vicinity of New Bern in addition to the existing Confederate arrangements." While most of these sites have fallen victim to development over the last half century or more, the location of a number of them have been identified. Map #2 provides an overview of those locations.

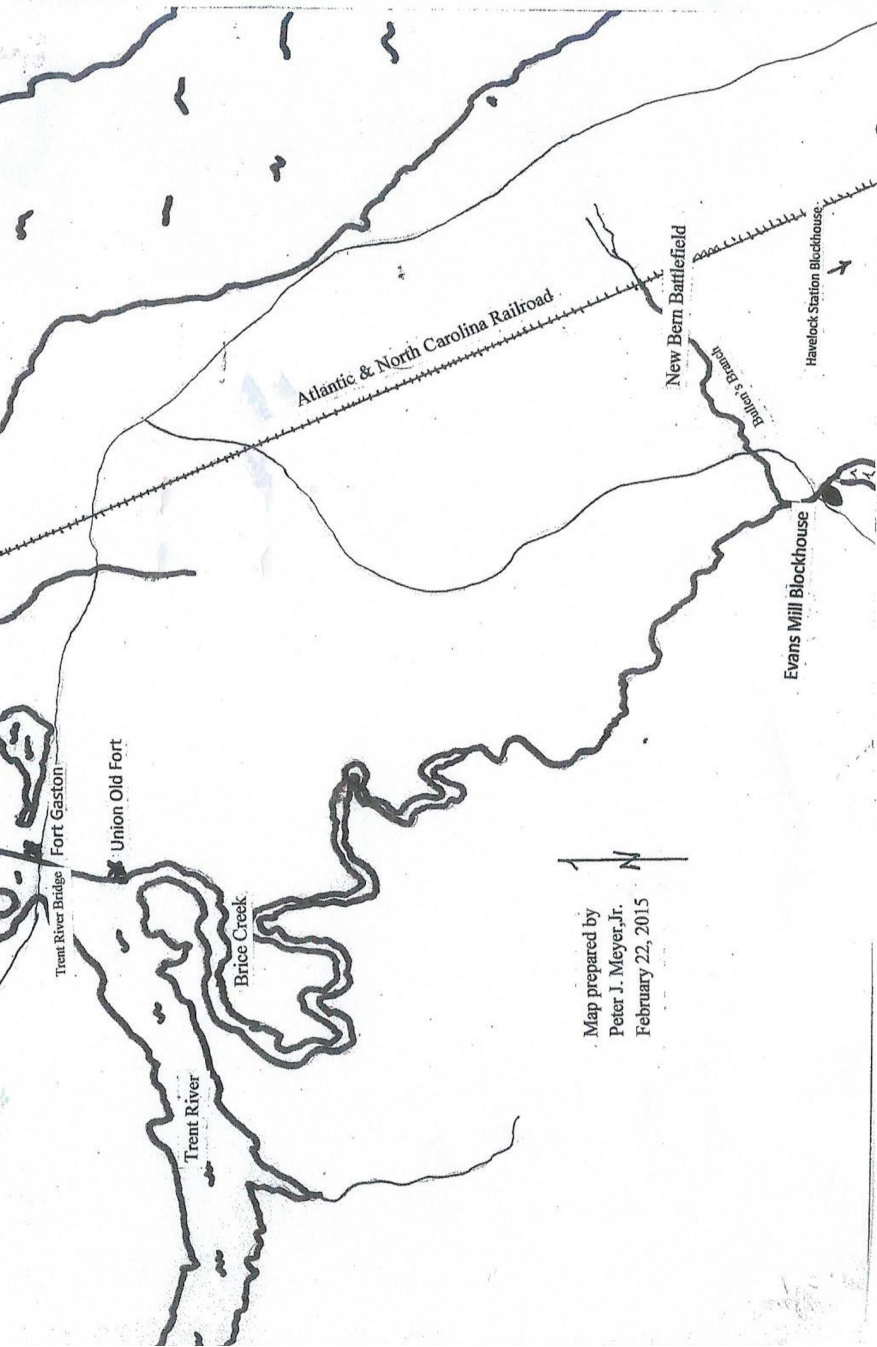
FORT AMORY was built in 1862-63. This fort was located at the end of a line of **earthworks** along the south shore of the Trent River [*terms in bold type are explained at the end of this article*]. It was named for Colonel Thomas J.C. Amory of the 17th Massachusetts Infantry. The fort mounted three **32-pounder cannon**. Camp Amory and Camp Pendleton were located nearby. Company G of the 5th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery garrisoned the fort and eight companies of the 19th Wisconsin Infantry were stationed nearby as support. Today, this site is on private property on Madame Moore's Lane, just west of the loop in Scotts Creek.

FEDERAL INSTALLATIONS
(1862-1865)

The locations on the map are based on period sketches, findings in the *Official Records*, historic research, maps and local knowledge. Some landmarks have been added as reference points.

MAP # 2





FORT ANDERSON was another of the forts built in 1862-1863. It was located near the mouth of Mills Creek, directly northeast of Fort Dutton, on the northeast side of the Neuse River. Alan Watson describes it as "...a two acre earthen enclosure having ten foot walls..." The fort was named for Lieutenant Colonel Hiram Anderson of the 92nd N.Y. Infantry, the unit that garrisoned this installation with nine companies. The arsenal included one **32-pounder rifle**, three 32-pounder **smoothbore cannon**, a 24-pounder **howitzer**, one 32-pounder **carronade**, and a 12-pounder howitzer. The Confederates attacked the fort in 1863, but could not take it. There are no visible remains today at the site, located at the end of Lufberry Road in Bridgeton.

Located on the northeastern shore of the Neuse River directly across the river from New Bern at what is now Sandy Point was FORT CHASE. It may have existed just to the south of the present-day railroad trestle, but this is only a guess. This fort mounted three 24-pounder cannons. One company from the 92nd N.Y. Infantry formed a portion of the troops stationed there.

A small fortification was built by the Federals at the end of the old Croatan Line and was called FORT CROATAN. The exact number of artillery pieces in the arsenal is undetermined. The installation was garrisoned by troops from Rhode Island at the time it was recaptured by the 65th N.C. Regiment in 1864. Today, this site would lie within the Croatan National Forest.

FORT DUTTON, also known as FORT UNION, was one of the principal Union forts constructed on a defensive line west of the city of New Bern. Built in the 1862-1863 period, it anchored the north end of a line of **entrenchments** that stretched from the Neuse River to the Trent River. Together with Fort Totten, Fort Rowan, and later Fort Pearson, this line was a formidable obstacle to enemy attack. More of a **redoubt** than a fort, it mounted a 100-pounder Parrott rifle and two 32-pounder cannon. The fort was probably named for Colonel Arthur H. Dutton of the 21st Massachusetts Infantry. Ten companies of the regiment, totaling 477 men, were encamped nearby. Today,

the site would be at the end of Windley Street, in Riverside, on private property.

FORT GASTON was located about two miles south of New Bern on the south shore of the Trent River. Southwest of Fort Amory and northeast of the mouth of Brice's Creek, this would place it near where the Old Beaufort Road crossed the Clermont Bridge on the Trent River. Originally a Confederate installation, Union forces enlarged it and mounted four 32-pounders (long) and three 32-pounders (short). The fort was garrisoned by Company K, 5th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. Today, the site is north of the intersection of Kelso Road and Madame Moore's Lane. Remnants of the **ramparts** and earthworks can be seen from the street on private property.

FORT ROWAN was the middle fort in the original western line of defense. It was a small four-pointed star fort guarding the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad. Surrounded by **trench works**, its arsenal was formidable: one 100-pounder Parrott rifle, two 32-pounder cannon (long), one 3" rifle (brass), one 3" rifle (steel), and two 8" mortars. Fifty-five men of Company F, 5th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, manned the guns at the fort. This installation was named for Navy Commander Stephen C. Rowan, who had commanded the flotilla that accompanied General Burnside during the Federal attack of New Bern. While there are no visible remains of the fort today, its location has been pinpointed as being near "A" Street and the railroad.

Some one-and-a-quarter miles south of New Bern in James City was the site of FORT SPINOLA. Just north of the FORT CASWELL/FORT LANE location, this fort anchored a line of earthworks that extended along Scott's Creek to Fort Amory. Named for Union Brigadier General Francis B. Spinola, its arsenal consisted of six 32-pounders (long) and two 32-pounder rifles. Sixty-two men comprising Company B, 5th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, garrisoned the fort. Remnants of this installation can be seen on private property behind Vail and Maple streets in James City.

Although not indicated on Map #2, CAMP MASSACHUSETTS was located adjacent to Fort Spinola. The camp

initially housed many of the Massachusetts units after the Battle of New Bern. The site was, most likely, one of the former Confederate camps. Another former Confederate camp used by Union troops after the battle was CAMP PIERCE. Its exact location has not been determined, but it, too, was most likely one of the camps in James City. During the occupation, these and other camps were the home for many units stationed in or around New Bern. Those units included the 99th N.Y. Infantry, the 13th Connecticut Infantry, the 3rd N.Y. Light Artillery (Batteries C,E,I,K), and the 1st Regiment, U.S.C.T.

FORT PEARSON was built in 1864 as an addition to the western line of defense anchored by Fort Totten and Fort Dutton. The exact size and precise location of this installation has not been determined. However, it is thought to have been between Forts Totten and Rowan. Research suggests it occupied the area just south of the intersection of “K” Street and Eubanks Street in New Bern.

Named for Brigadier General Thomas G. Stevenson, former Colonel of the 24th Massachusetts Infantry, FORT STEVENSON was located just upriver from Fort Dutton. It is said to have mounted four 32-pounder cannon and one 32-pounder rifle. The guns were manned by forty-three men of Company H, 5th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. Today, the site would be at the end of River Drive in the Riverside area. Fort Stevenson is not to be confused with the small fort or **blockhouse** that was positioned near the railroad trestle at the foot of Hancock Street. That site may have been known as Fort Stevens.

Occupying seven acres and capable of handling twenty-eight guns, FORT TOTTEN was the largest of the Union forts on the western defensive line, anchoring the southern end. This five-**bastioned** star fort was named for Brigadier General Joseph G. Totten, U.S. Army Chief of Engineers. Four artillery companies with a total of 241 men were stationed at the fort. They consisted of Companies D and I, 5th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, and Companies E and F, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. The rear provost-guard duty consisted of five companies of infantry, totaling 454 men, backed up by five additional companies of infantry, all from the 17th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. Today, a portion of the fort site

comprises the five-and-a-half-acre city park that bears its name. The remaining acres are on private property with no visible evidence of the installation. A N.C. State marker near the intersection of Ft. Totten Drive and Trent Road states: "Here stood one of the forts built around New Bern by Union forces after they took the town in March, 1862".

UNION OLD FORT was most likely located on or near the site of the Confederate OLD FORT at the mouth of Brice's Creek. As mentioned earlier, that site is today on private property. The size and armament of this installation remain undetermined. A Union blockhouse was further south, guarding a Union cavalry camp. Troops from Company K, 12th N.Y. Volunteer Cavalry, were among those stationed at the camp.

A Confederate outpost near the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad existed about ten miles northwest of New Bern. General Burnside placed pickets here and at other points to protect the town. The BATCHELDER'S CREEK BLOCKHOUSE was eventually built about 300 yards from the earthworks that guarded the bridge over the creek. This outpost was garrisoned by the 132nd N.Y. Infantry, consisting of ten companies totaling 470 men under Colonel Peter J. Clausen. They were supported by Company L, 12th N.Y. Volunteer Cavalry. They probably tented out at CAMP HOFFMAN. The Confederates, not to be easily frightened off, established their own line and camp about two miles away on the western side of the creek. Skirmishes took place here from time to time. Earthworks and remnants of the outpost can be seen today, just off the roadway on private, undeveloped property. A N.C. State marker states: "Site of Union outpost captured by Generals Hoke and Pickett on February 1, 1864. The earthworks are 300 yards north".

Another blockhouse was located about four-and-a-half miles south of New Bern near Evans Mill Pond. The EVANS MILL BLOCKHOUSE was located at the end of the paved portion of Old Airport Road, but north of County Line Road. One company from the 19th Wisconsin Infantry was known to have manned the blockhouse. Visible remains can be seen in the woods.

The HAVELOCK STATION BLOCKHOUSE was a sizable log structure near Master Mill that protected the railroad trestle over Slocum Creek in what is now Havelock. The site is approximately seventeen miles south of New Bern. The blockhouse was burned by Confederate troops in February 1864. There are visible remains of the blockhouse foundation, but they are on private property. However, an excellent diorama of the blockhouse is on display at the Havelock Visitor Center off Highway 70 E.

Established in 1864-1865, CAMP BEECH GROVE was a Union cavalry camp located about nine miles west of the city of New Bern. Also referred to as GROVE CAMP, the site today is occupied by the Beech Grove Church on the Washington Post Road (NC 1401). Five companies from the 3rd N.Y. Volunteer Cavalry were stationed there. Nearby, or possibly on the same site, was CAMP PALMER. At one time, Companies A,C,H, and M, 12th N.Y. Volunteer Cavalry, camped here.

Another camp was located along the north side of the railroad near the Batchelder's Creek Blockhouse. It was called CAMP HOFFMAN. Still another Union camp was CAMP ANDREW. The precise location of this latter camp remains undetermined. Most likely it was one of the former Confederate camps or one of many camps that supported the western defensive line that crossed the city from the Neuse to the Trent. ROCK RUN was a Union cavalry camp located on the north side of present-day U.S. 17 near the entrance to River Bend. It was the encampment for Companies E and G, 12th N.Y. Volunteer Cavalry. The site is presently on private property. As with the Confederate installations, there were likely others in the area not yet identified.

Federal troops were widely dispersed and single companies from many regiments garrisoned outposts throughout the outskirts of New Bern. Among the units that saw service in New Bern from March 14, 1862, until the summer of 1865 were the following:

Connecticut: 8th, 10th, 11th, 15th;
Massachusetts: 2nd Heavy Artillery, 3rd, 5th, 17th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 51st;

New Jersey: 9th;
New York: 3rd Light Artillery, 12th Cavalry, 23rd Battery,
51st, 53rd, 89th, 92nd, 96th,
99th, 103rd, 132nd;
Pennsylvania: 48th, 51st, 58th, 85th, 96th, 101st, 103rd;
Rhode Island: 1st (Battery F), 4th, 5th;
Wisconsin: 19th;
NC Union Volunteers: 1st, 2nd;
U.S. Colored Troops: 1st, 1st Heavy Artillery, 2nd;
Naval and Marine personnel on gunboats, transports, etc.

The information given in this article is for historic interest. Please note that many of these sites are located on private property and that statutes pertaining to unlawful trespass should be strictly observed by enthusiasts or sightseers.

I am indebted to my colleagues and fellow guides at the New Bern Battlefield Park for their advice and support, in particular, native Craven County historians Ray Cahoon and Horace Mewborn, who provided me with private tours and access to many of the locations described in this article.

Explanation of technical terms, in the order of use:

earthworks – a hastily-constructed fortification consisting of a trench with earth and wood erected at the fort for protection from enemy fire. Used interchangeably with entrenchments and trench work

32-pounder cannon – describes the size of a cannon or gun. Refers to the weight of a solid projectile the weapon could fire; an 8-pounder would be modest while a 100-pounder would be very large

32-pounder/6” rifle – the measurement in inches, another measure of size, refers to the diameter of the barrel bore. “Rifled” indicates that the barrel has grooves that cause the projectile to spin, thereby extending range and increasing accuracy.

smoothbore cannon – A cannon without rifling.

howitzer – a short cannon used to fire projectiles with a high trajectory a short distance.

carronade – a short-barreled gun firing large shot at short range, used especially on warships.

entrenchments – see earthworks.

redoubt – a small field fortification, often hastily constructed.

ramparts – the walls of a fortification.

trench works – see earthworks. Usually not reinforced with wood.

blockhouse – a structure of timbers with sides pierced for gunfire and often with a projecting upper story.

bastioned – a projecting part of a fortification.

NEW BERN'S JEWISH BUSINESSES BEYOND MIDDLE STREET IN THE POSTWAR YEARS

Richard W. McEnally

Author's Note: This is the second part of a two-part article. The first part, published in the 2015 issue of this *Journal*, reviewed the background for the development of New Bern's postwar Jewish community, catalogued the many Jewish-owned retail establishments on Middle Street in the early postwar years, and examined some reasons for the disappearance of those businesses. This part continues the cataloguing, with attention to businesses located elsewhere in town.

New Bern's business community had a strong Jewish presence for many years. Several of the Jewish businesses active in the years following World War II dated back to circa 1900. While many of them were retail establishments located on Middle Street, a number of others, both retail and industrial, were located in other parts of the city. By 1990 or so most of these had ceased operation, and in 2011 the last of the Jewish-owned businesses, Goldman Metals, was sold out of the family.

Retail Businesses Beyond Middle Street

324 South Front Street – “Harry’s Cleaners” – Harry Kahn, ~1946-1956: Harry’s Cleaners appears to have been the only service-oriented business operated by a member of the Jewish community in the postwar years.

28 Tryon Palace Drive (South Front Street) – “Morton’s Credit Clothes” / “Morton’s Stag Shop” – Harry and Morton Lipman, ~1960-1965: This men’s clothing store was a venture of two of Sam Lipman’s sons. (The business activities of Sam Lipman and his two sons on Middle Street were reviewed in the first article in this series.) The name of the store was changed roughly midway through its existence, presumably for marketing purposes.

2014 Trent Road – “The Bargain House” – Harold and Kathleen Orringer, ~1960-1968: “The Bargain House” was a variety

store operated by a couple well-known in New Bern. Kathleen Orringer was a New Bern alderwoman and was active in many aspects of the town's civic life and educational institutions. (The Orringers are discussed more fully below.)

1015 Queen Street – “The Bargain Store” – Samuel Yudell.
~1941-1948: Samuel Yudell was brought to the United States in 1903 as a small child; his family came from a village in Russia. His wife Sally was from Krakow, Poland; she was a sister of Betty Coplon. (The Coplon family and its business activities were discussed in the first part of this series.) Samuel (“Sam”) had lived in New York City and later worked in several stores operated by the Coplon family. With the advent of World War II and the booming local economy, he was advised that New Bern would be a good location for a retail establishment, leading him to open The Bargain Store (listed in city directories only as “Sam Yudell”). His was what is sometimes referred to as an “Army-Navy” store, concentrating on men's work clothes, shoes, and the like, and selling military surplus. The Bargain Store was unusual for the time in employing both white and African-American sales people. This business was very successful during the war years, but because of Sam's health problems and the decline in business following the end of the war, it closed around 1948.

A daughter of Sam and Sally's, Carol Yudell, married Raymond Goldman. (See “Goldman Metals” below).

Businesses with Limited Local Connections

In the postwar years two retail businesses were owned by Jewish families who were not based in New Bern: “Heilig-Levine Furniture Company” at 312 Tryon Palace Drive (South Front Street) and “Oettinger Brothers, Inc.,” another furniture store, at 319-321 Pollock Street. Both local branches were managed by gentiles.

The “Cohen-Goldman Company,” a sewing operation that initially made men's suits and later only men's pants, opened in 1931 at 809 Pasteur Street, at the corner of Queen Street, just across from the train station. This business last appeared in the 1947-1948 city directory, suggesting it must have closed around the end of the war. It does not appear that mem-

bers of the local business community were involved in its operation. The building in which it was housed, an impressive two-story brick building, was torn down several years ago.

From about 1958 through 1979-1980, “Jay Apparel Company” operated at 421 Church Alley (the alley between the O. Marks Building and the First Baptist Church, running from Middle Street to Hancock Street). While it was managed by Marcus Block (more on him below), it was owned by the Cantor family based in New Jersey. In this sewing center, pre-cut fabric was sewn into women’s smocks. The New Bern operation employed approximately a hundred seamstresses.

Other Locally-Owned Businesses

400 Cypress Street & Pasteur Street – “Orringer Pickle Company” – Joseph, Leon, and Harold Orringer, ~1929-1963: This business, founded by Joseph Orringer around 1929, had its company offices and processing facilities on Cypress Street. Orringer had been born in Austria around 1887 and came to New Bern by way of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Orringers purchased cucumbers, onions, and peppers from area farmers during the harvesting season and pickled them in brine in large vats sitting out in the open on the east side of Pasteur Street, just around the corner from the Cypress Street location. In the company’s early years, the brined vegetables were withdrawn for further processing into a variety of pickle products sold under the “Carolina Maid” label. At one time the company processed as much as 70,000 bushels of vegetables with a work force of fifty persons. In the postwar years the company was run by Joseph’s two sons, Leon and Harold; by then it had exited the consumer products business, however, and sold its brined cucumbers to other companies for further processing into branded products.

142 Middle Street – “Grapette Bottling Company” – Marcus Block, ~1946-1953: The Blocks were of German extraction. It is unclear when the family came to America, but certainly they were here by 1900, as Marcus Block was born in Charlotte that year. They were in New Bern at least by 1903, because the 1904-1905 New Bern city directory lists Abram Block as a tailor at 96 Middle Street (now 236 Middle Street). In the



Orringer Pickle Company Office and Processing Plant.
From "New Bern Industrially", 1940. Courtesy of Kellenberger Room, New Bern-Craven Public Library.

1926 city directory there is a "Block's" at 85 Middle Street (now 230 Middle Street), operated by Abram Block. The complete name of the business was given as "Block's Ladies' Ready-to-Wear." Abram's son Marcus was listed as "displayman."

In the 1937 city directory, "Block's" is shown as being managed by Marcus, but the store apparently was closed in the late 1930s or 1940 because the 1941 city directory lists Marcus Block as "trav slsmn." The Blocks owned rental property, so Marcus was no doubt managing that. At some time, he may have been involved with a motion picture theatre and a "dime store," possibly in the early 1940s.

In the 1920s Marcus won a number of awards for his store window decorations. He was also a skilled cartoonist, with a number of political cartoons published in the local newspaper. He was an animator as well, executing drawings for cartoons for Ace Motion Pictures, located for a time in New Bern and later in Charlotte.

Some time in the 1940s, most likely following the end of WWII, Marcus Block opened the "Grapette Botling Company" at 142 Middle Street. This business appears in the 1947-1948 and 1951-1952 city directories, but not the 1954 directory. Grapette, in six-ounce clear glass bottles, was a popular soft drink in the period, and the company's line also included

“Orangette” and “Lemonette,” the latter often used as a mixer for alcoholic drinks. Apparently this business was liquidated in 1952 or 1953.

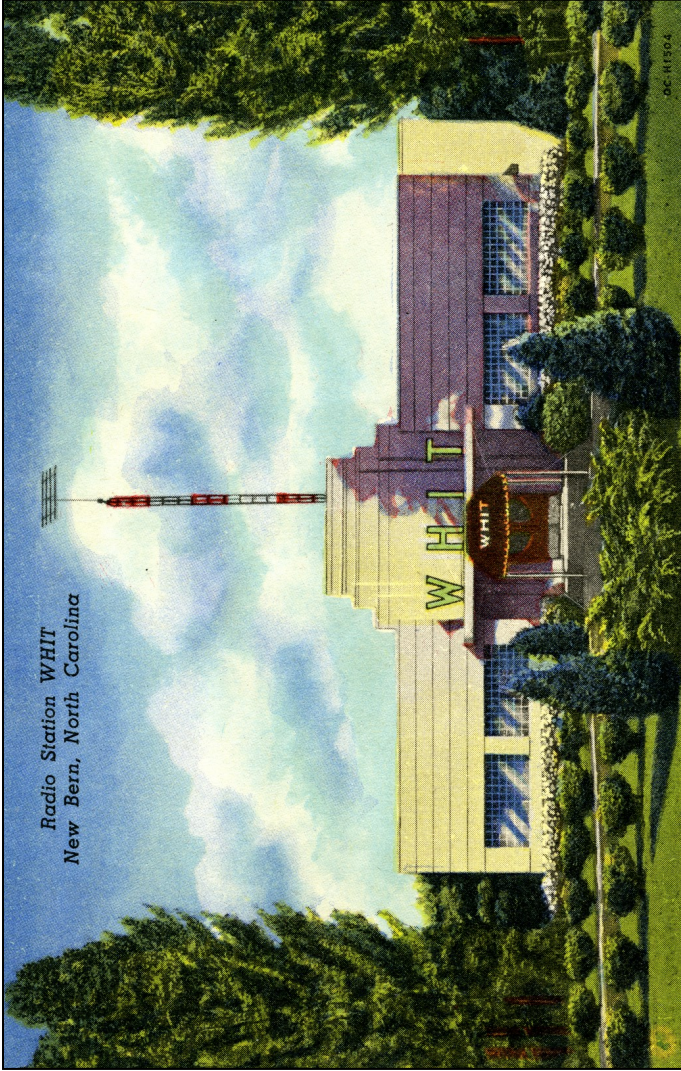
2301 Trent Road – “Coastal Broadcasting Company” (Radio Station WHIT) – Louis Howard, 1942-1952

321 South Front Street – “Colonial Hotel Corporation” (Hotel Governor Tryon) – Louis Howard, 1954-1965:

Louis Howard was a noted New Bern entrepreneur and civic leader in the 1940s through the 1960s. By the late 1930s he was, apparently, no longer actively involved in the operation of “Howard’s,” the men’s clothing store on Middle Street (discussed in the first article in this series), but rather had moved on to other ventures.

In 1942 a company he founded, “Coastal Broadcasting Company,” brought on the air New Bern’s first radio station, WHIT. (Given the time required for permitting, etc., it is likely that this radio station was in the works well before the outbreak of the war.) The radio station was located in a striking Art Moderne building located at 2301 Trent Road, frequently pictured on post cards and municipal promotional media. (The building and associated radio tower are still there, but the building has been remodeled and converted into offices.) WHIT was something of an institution in New Bern for many years, promoting patriotism and support for the war effort during its early years and providing local news coverage and popular music broadcasting in the postwar period.

Howard sold Coastal Broadcasting around 1952 and entered into a new venture. Through an entity “Colonial Hotel Corporation,” in 1954 he acquired the old Gaston House on South Front Street. This hotel, once the most important in New Bern, was more than a hundred years old and had fallen on hard times. After a major renovation, it reopened as the leading hotel in town, the Governor Tryon Hotel; it was properly described as “a showplace of 19th century charm and distinction,” according to various city directories and “Notes for Obituary of Louis N. Howard.” This venture apparently fulfilled a boyhood dream of Howard’s. Unfortunately, the hotel burned in 1965 and was not rebuilt.



Radio Station WHIT
New Bern, North Carolina

OC-11504

WHIT Radio Station: Postcard based on architect's drawing Zaytoun News Agency, New Bern, N.C., and Genuine Curteich-Chicago "C.T. Art-Colortone" Creation. Courtesy of Kellenberger Room, New Bern-Craven Public Library.



HOTEL GASTON-GOVERNOR TRYING BEFORE IT BURNED 1961

New Bern Historical Society Photographic Collection.

In addition to these two ventures, Louis Howard was active in acquiring and renovating other properties in New Bern. He retired to Florida in 1975 and died in 1984.

Postwar at 824 ½ North Craven and at 2912 Neuse Road – “Goldman Metals” – Max Goldman, Raymond Goldman, Dale Goldman, early 1900s-2011: According to family lore, one Jewish-owned business was located in New Bern by mistake. The story is that Max Goldman was on his way to Rocky Mount to take up a position as rabbi. By mistake he failed to get off the train in Rocky Mount and got off—or was put off—in New Bern, effectively said “Why not?,” and stayed on to start what became the family scrap metal business.

Max Goldman came to Baltimore with his father around 1895 from Krakow, Poland. He was apparently in business in New Bern early in the 1900s. (Family lore has a date of 1900, while other sources give a date of 1902. The city directory for 1904-1905 does not list him or his business.) In any event, the 1908 directory shows him as “grocer” at 88½ Middle Street (now 227 Middle Street). According to the city directory for 1920-1921, he was doing business as “M. Goldman Hide and Fur Company” at 96 South Front Street (now 408 South Front Street), while the 1937 directory lists him as owner of “New Bern Hide and Fur Company” at 49 South Front Street, “junk dealer.” (Apparently it was not uncommon for buyers of hides and furs to migrate into the scrap metal business.) In addition to his business activities, Max performed rabbinic functions for New Bern’s Jewish community from around 1912 until 1943.

Max’s son Raymond, born in 1916, worked with his father in the business until he went into service in World War II. During the war, Max returned to Baltimore, where he remained until his death around 1953. Upon Raymond’s release from the military following the end of the war, he came back to New Bern. He entered the scrap metal business as “Raymond Goldman & Company” at 824½ North Craven Street (behind the icehouse then located on the east side of Craven just north of Queen Street). Around 1950 the business moved to 2912 Neuse Road, where it has remained. In 1972 it was incorporated as “Raymond Goldman Scrap Metals, Inc.”

Raymond Goldman’s son Dale, born in 1946, worked

in the family business as a youth and again after a stint in the service and college. Following Raymond's death in 1986, Dale acquired the business, became its manager, and renamed it "Goldman Metals, Inc."

The business was sold out of the family in 2011. At that time, it was the last of the many locally-owned Jewish businesses that flourished in New Bern in the first two or three decades following WWII. The acquirer was Sims Metal Management, an international firm based in Australia, claimed to be the largest recycler of metals and electronics in the world. It has recently closed the former Goldman Metals operation, apparently for good.

"L & M News Company" – Louis and Muriel Steinberg, 1955-1990: As noted in the first article in this series dealing with the Steinberg's news stand on Middle Street, the Steinbergs acquired the "Zaytoun News Agency," a wholesale distributor of magazines and newspapers, in 1955. Initially the business was located at 2218 Trent Road. Around 1970 it was moved out of New Bern to a location on US 70 East. This business closed in 1990 when the Steinbergs retired.

Real Estate Activity

Many of the Jewish families in New Bern in the post-war years invested in real estate. Separate real estate companies were established by Louis and Ellis Howard ("Howard Realty Company," later "Allied Realty Corporation") and the Joe Lipman family ("Lipman Realty Company"), but others, including the Block family, had substantial real estate interests.

Acknowledgement: This article benefitted greatly from recollections gathered from in-person, email, and telephone interviews with Janet Block Daniels, Dale Goldman, Judy Steinberg Gilman, Elbert Lipman, Bertha Howard Miller, Joan Oringer Shaffer, Helene Howard Shuter, and Robert Yudell. Various New Bern city directories provided valuable information on street addresses, dates, and operators of the businesses reviewed.

NEW BERN IN MAPS

Victor T. Jones, Jr.

“I am told that there are people who do not care for maps, and I find that hard to believe.”

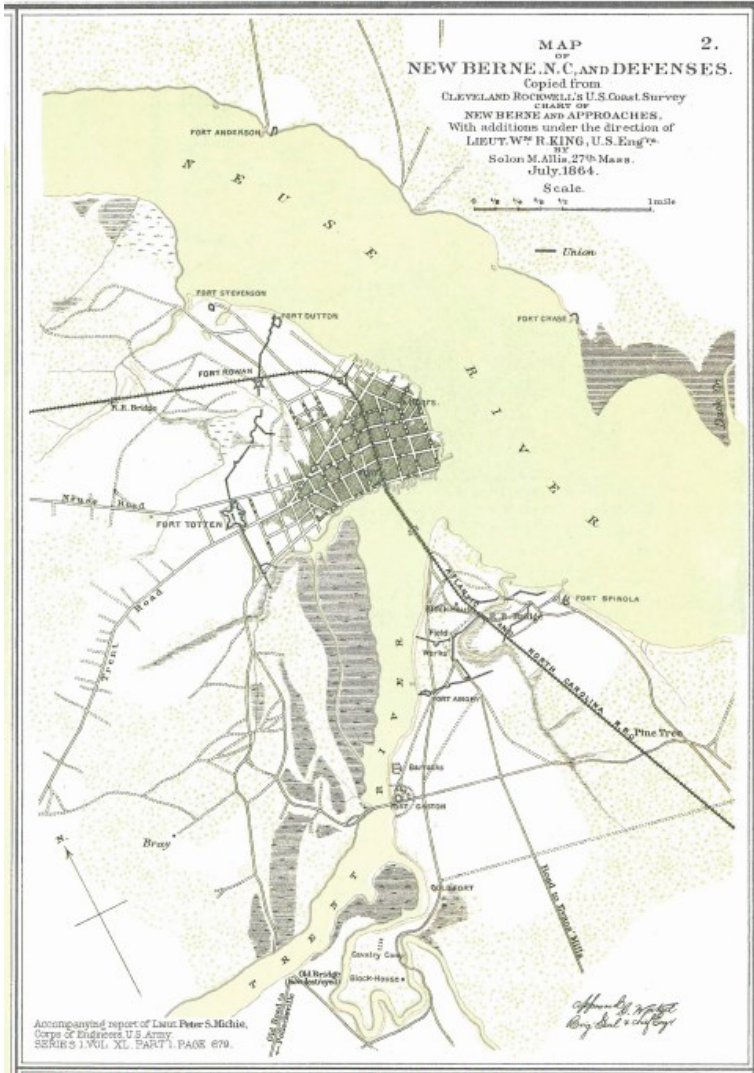
—Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Art of Writing*.

In an earlier issue of the *Journal*, the author presented a history of notable New Bern maps from its founding to the period just prior to the Civil War. This article continues that discussion from the Civil War to the turn of the twentieth century.

During the War Between the States, New Bern was a base of operations for Union troops beginning in March 1862 and continuing until the end of the war. With the influx of troops, the need for detailed maps of the area was necessary for the war effort. Union cartographers produced several examples of New Bern during wartime, but one cartographer in particular had his map published again and again. That engineer was Solon M. Allis. In July 1864, Allis used Cleveland Rockwell’s United States Coastal Survey to compile “A Map of New Berne, N.C., and Defenses.” This map, published in the *Official Atlas* and in numerous regimental histories, depicts New Bern at the confluence of the Neuse and Trent Rivers and shows the various roads leading into the town. Most conspicuous are the number of named forts surrounding the town and lining the riverbanks as well as the route of the railroad.

Solon M. Allis was born June 28, 1838, in Danville, Quebec, Canada. Around 1860 he moved to Massachusetts, the state of his father’s birth. On August 20, 1862, black haired-hazel eyed, six-foot-tall Solon M. Allis enlisted at Springfield, Massachusetts, as a private in Company K, 27th Massachusetts Infantry, though many of the maps incorrectly list him as a member of the 21st Massachusetts. Allis, along with his regiment, traveled to North Carolina as part of Burnside’s

Expedition in eastern North Carolina and participated in the Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862. The regiment remained in eastern North Carolina for much of the remainder of the war. In 1863, Allis was detached to the Engineer's Office as a draftsman. According to Wendell Wilson's biography of Allis



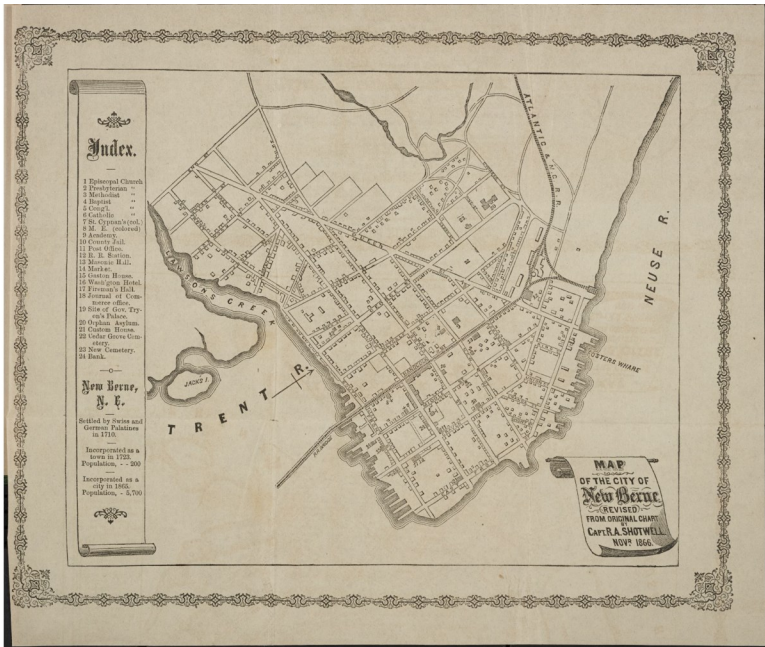
Allis's Map of New Bern, 1864 (Plate CXXXI, map 2, *Official Atlas*)

Courtesy of Kellenberger Room, New Bern-Craven Public Library.

on the Mineralogical Record Biographical Archive website, Allis learned civil engineering and surveying while in the army under Captain Francis Ulrich Farquhar and Lieutenant William R. King. He was discharged September 25, 1864, his “term of service having expired.” After his service in the army, Allis became a United States Deputy Mineral Surveyor in Tucson, Arizona, and laid out the town of Tombstone in 1879. The *Tucson Daily Citizen* on September 21, 1882, called Allis “one of the most efficient, and best surveyors in the service.” He died in Whitman, Massachusetts, on August 22, 1918.

Two years after Allis drew his Map of New Berne N.C. and Defenses, R.A. Shotwell advertised in his *Newbern Journal of Commerce* a forthcoming “Newbern Directory” containing “a splendid Map of New Bern.” In that October 1866 issue, he sought advertisements for what would be published as *New Bern Merchantile and Manufacturer’s Business Directory and N.C. Farmers’ Reference Book*. The nearly sixty-page pamphlet included a history of New Bern, a list of city officials, and advertisements from the majority of businesses in town. The directory also included a copy of Shotwell’s Map of the City of New Bern. An index to the left of the map lists twenty-four places of interest (though there are locations numbered to twenty-six) including various churches around town, the Academy, county jail, post office, railroad station, Masonic hall, the market, several hotels, Cedar Grove Cemetery, and the “New Cemetery” across the road from Cedar Grove. The map also lists the 1865 population at 5,700 residents.

Randolph Abbot Shotwell was born in Virginia on December 13, 1844. His father was a Presbyterian minister who moved the family to North Carolina in 1858, although the younger Shotwell attended Tuscarora Academy in Mifflin, Pennsylvania, and later Media College in Media, Pennsylvania. As the Civil War began, Shotwell left college, returned to Virginia, and enlisted in the Eighth Virginia Regiment. Following the war, Shotwell settled briefly in Rutherfordton (where his father lived), then in New Bern, where he and Stephen Decatur Pool founded the *Journal of Commerce*. Shortly, Shotwell returned to Rutherfordton to convalesce following an attack of malaria. In 1868 he purchased the Rutherfordton *Star*, renamed it *The Vindicator*, and, as a



Shotwell's Map of New Bern, 1866 (courtesy North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH)
Courtesy of Kellenberger Room, New Bern-Craven Public Library.

Conservative and Democratic newspaper, began denouncing the Radicals "with enthusiasm and effect." The paper proved financially unsound though and folded, as did another venture with an Asheville paper. Taking his father's advice, he turned to the study of law and politics. His political activities eventually involved him with the Ku Klux Klan, although he never became an actual member. Radicals seized the initiative, however, and used his affiliations with the Klan to have Shotwell arrested in 1871. A quick trial, led by a partisan judge and carefully selected jury, convicted Shotwell and sentenced him to six years confinement and a \$5,000 fine. He was offered a pardon on condition he implicate leading Democratic politicians, but he refused. President Ulysses Grant unconditionally pardoned him in late 1872. Shotwell returned to the newspaper business for the remainder of his life, but remained in politics as well, running for the state legislature and as state auditor. He was appointed state librarian in 1884, but died July 31, 1884, soon after accepting the position.

It would be another ten years before another map of New Bern would be produced. Using Jonathan Price's 1810 map of New Bern, William H. Marshall redrew the map to include parts of the town that had been included by legislation in 1858-1859. The 1875 map drawn by Marshall was titled "A Plan of the City of Newbern, N.C. As laid by Jonathan Price 1810 and Extended by Legislative enactment (sic) 1858-9" and was drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch. The "extended" portion that the General Assembly added to the New Bern city limits included the old town of Dryborough and extended the town boundaries north of Queen Street to Cedar Street. Apparently Marshall kept the names of the 1810 map when he redrew his 1875 map. The editor of the *Daily Journal* on January 30, 1884, apologized to "A Subscriber" who:

wants to know in view of fact that all the streets just now are *muddy*, on the corner of Broad and *what* muddy street is Mr. Staub's new house to be erected. There is not any street in the city named Muddy and hence the condition of all of them must have prompted the joke. We were led astray by Mr. Wm. H. Marshall's map of the city of New Berne, a copy of



Marshall's Map of New Bern, 1875 (Courtesy of North Carolina State Archives)
Courtesy of Kellenberger Room, New Bern-Craven Public Library.

which hangs in our office. The name of the street marked “Muddy” on the map has since been changed to Berne.

Not much is known about William H. Marshall. He was born in September 1816 (according to the 1900 Craven County census) and lived his early life in the area around the lakes region in Craven County (now in the Croatan Forest). Marshall married Sarah J. Perkins in 1847. Just three years later, Marshall enumerated the 1850 Census for Craven County. During the 1850s, Marshall ran for sheriff of Craven County, but failed to obtain the office. He did serve as county surveyor in the 1860s, a position he would continue to hold until later in life. According to an online genealogy, Marshall died in 1901.

The Marshall map continued to be the map of reference for official purposes until the early 1900s. Between the time of Marshall’s map and the next official map, however, several other examples of New Bern maps were drawn. Attributed to 1882, “Gray’s New Map of New Berne” was drawn by Jacob and George Chace for Gray’s *National Atlas* and is of interest because buildings are depicted along with the town lot lines. Names of some of the homeowners and businesses are also indicated. The map was published by O.W. Gray and Son of Philadelphia.

The Sanborn Map Company of Pelham, New York, published Fire Insurance Maps of New Bern beginning in 1885 and continued periodically until 1948. These color-coded maps give street names (and later, addresses), building footprints, number of stories, building construction material, and other relevant information insurance companies would need to insure buildings against fire. The website “North Carolina Maps,” a joint project between the North Carolina State Archives, UNC-Chapel Hill, and the Outer Banks History Center, includes the New Bern Sanborn maps prior to 1922.

According to an article in *The Daily Journal* on January 10, 1893, H.A. Brown “is now preparing another map for the city which will embrace the new portion” of town—suburbs—added since William H. Marshall’s map of 1875. Evidently Brown never completed the map, as a few years later, 1903, the *Journal* headed a story “A City Map Needed.”

This article began “A good map of the city is badly needed.” It went on to say that “Several changes and additions have taken place making the present map [i.e. Marshall’s] unreliable.” The article also stated the importance of a city directory and concluded “It will pay citizens to look into this matter and at least have a directory published if not a map, but it is quite important to have both.” The “citizens” evidently took to heart the first part of this conclusion, for a new city directory was published in September 1904. The editor continued to decry, in 1906 and again in 1908, the need for “a new survey and map of the city.”

Finally, in 1913, after three years of work, Raymond R. Eagle completed and issued a map of New Bern and its subdivisions. According to *The Daily Journal* of November 30, 1913, “Each section of the city and the subdivisions are indexed in bold letters so that it is a very easy matter for



Eagle’s Map of New Bern, 1913 (Courtesy of North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH)

Courtesy of Kellenberger Room, New Bern-Craven Public Library.

anyone to find either Riverside, Ghent, Larksville, or any other section without the least trouble.”

Raymond Rowe Eagle, of Statesville, North Carolina, was born February 26, 1888, and graduated from North Carolina College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts (now North Carolina State University) in 1908 with a degree in civil engineering. Upon graduation, Eagle opened an office in Statesville in 1909 and by 1911 had opened a partnership with Henry A. Brown (as Brown and Eagle) in the Elks Building in New Bern. By 1912 Eagle served as city engineer, tackling several projects, including installing sewer lines through the Riverside area of the city. He continued to work on a map of New Bern and at the August 1913 meeting of the New Bern board of aldermen, Eagle “appeared before the Board and stated that he was preparing a map of the city of New Bern, and would like for the Board to take five copies of this at the rate of ten dollars per copy. Alderman Blades informed Mr. Eagle that although there was no doubt about the fact that the map would be a good one, that it was not an official map and therefore would be of no use to the city, and that the Board did not see fit to purchase them.”

Not to be deterred, Eagle again appeared before the aldermen at their October 1913 meeting “and asked that a committee be appointed to look this over so that they would be in a position to advise the city in the matter of purchasing one or more of [the maps].” The committee evidently approved of the map, for at their December meeting the board “ordered that this map be known as the official map of the city,” despite the fact that an act of the state legislature was needed to make it an official map of the city. The city also agreed to purchase ten copies of the map. At their January 1914 meeting, Alderman Hyman, who had served on the committee to examine the map, “recommended that the city purchase nine maps, at \$10.00 each, having already purchased one at \$10.00, with the understanding that should the map be made an Official Map later, Mr. Eagle will make these ten purchased by the City official maps without charge.” Hyman later requested that five of the maps be distributed to different departments and five be filed for safekeeping. All of the recommendations were approved by the board. Despite apparently never having been officially adopted by the North Carolina legislature, laws in 1919 and 1921

extending New Bern's boundaries referenced Eagle's 1913 map.

On May 10, 1917, Eagle married Bessie H. Hawk, a native of Pennsylvania. According to Eagle's obituary, "Eagle did the major portion of the street paving here and installed the greater portion of the city's sewer system. He built the East Front Street Breakwater on the Neuse River." On March 1, 1935, he was appointed by Franklin D. Roosevelt as postmaster of New Bern, a post he held until he retired on February 28, 1958. Eagle died at Saint Luke's Hospital on June 14, 1959, and is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery. As the twentieth century progressed, additions and updates were made to Eagle's 1913 map by newer appointees to the city engineer's office.

The history of New Bern can be seen in the various versions of the maps of the city. Each map emphasizes slightly different details depending on the mapmaker or purpose of the map, whether for military purposes or advertising purposes or insurance purposes or just to know how the town is growing. Is it any wonder that Robert Louis Stevenson could find it hard to believe there are people who do not care for maps?

MAJOR JOHN DAVES: REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT

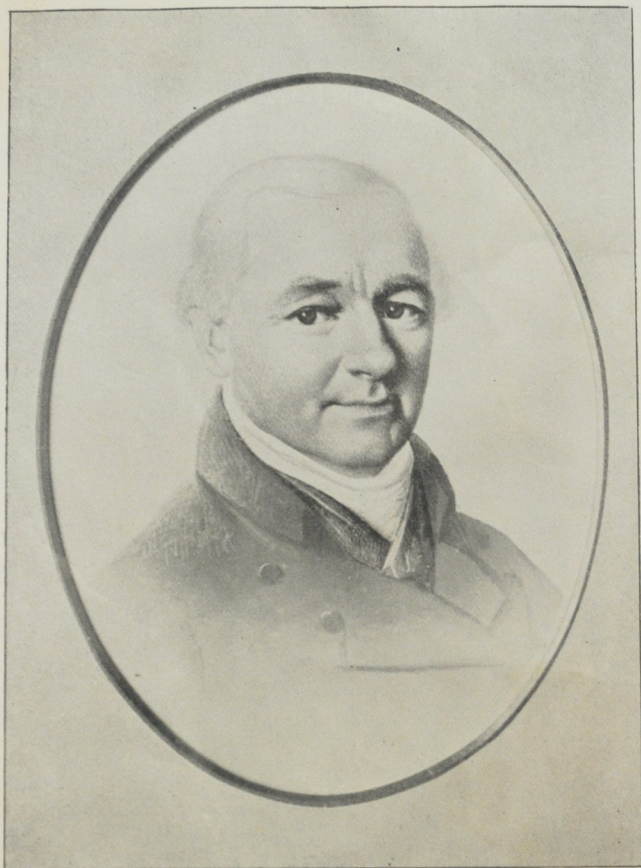
Alice J. Ruckart

The city of New Bern decidedly predates the onset of America's Revolutionary War, at which time a number of its residents became involved in the country's struggle for independence from England. None made a more illustrious contribution in this effort than Captain, later Major, John Daves.

John Daves was born in Virginia, was brought to New Bern by his family when he was two years old, and remained a citizen of New Bern the rest of his life. On October 25, 1770, when he was twenty-two years of age, John bought for twenty-two shillings a town lot, "No. 201," on Eden Street, later called George Street. He built his home there and occupied it until his death in 1804. It then became the property of his second wife and widow, Mary Hayes Long Daves, and following her death it passed to their son Thomas Hayes Daves, who occupied it until his removal to Alabama in 1836.

John Daves' first marriage was to Sally Bryan. Information is conflicting regarding the number of children born of this marriage: one source indicates one child while another indicates two. John Daves' second marriage was to the former Mary Haynes Long Davis, who had one child, Mary Davis (later Daves), born to her during her prior marriage to Oroondatis Davis. Four children were born of the union between John Daves and Mary Haynes Long Davis, two boys and two girls: John Pugh, Thomas Haynes, Sally Eaton, and Ann Rebecca.

John Daves, with the rank of captain, fought in the Continental Army under George Washington; he served bravely at Brandywine, Germantown, Valley Forge, Eutaw Springs, and Monmouth. Following duty at Morristown and in the New York Highlands, he was wounded in 1779 at Stony Point. [This last battle, possibly less well known than others, took place on July 16, 1779. According to Wikipedia, "In a well planned and executed nighttime attack, a highly trained select group of General George Washington's Continental Troops under the command of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne defeated British troops in [a] quick and daring assault on their outpost



John Daves

**Courtesy of Tryon Palace,
New Bern, N.C.**

in Stony Point, approximately 30 miles north of New York City. The British suffered heavy losses in a battle that served as a huge victory in terms of morale for the Continental Army.”]

After the war, Daves was a major in the North Carolina state troops and was known thereafter as Major Daves.

Daves was involved in the organization of the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati. This society, the nation’s oldest patriotic organization, was founded in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army and their French counterparts who served together in the American Revolution. The society is named for Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, who selflessly left his farm to accept a term as Roman consul with lawful dictatorial control of Rome in order to meet a war emergency.

On February 9, 1790, President Washington appointed Daves the first collector of customs for the port of New Bern. He became inspector of surveys and ports on March 6, 1792. Daves was also a planter; one of his plantations, “Blackman’s Neck,” was located about three miles above New Bern on the south bank of the Neuse River.

Daves and his family and descendants for several generations were active members of Christ Episcopal Church. He served on the vestry and at one time was senior warden. A window in memory of him and his grandson Edward Graham is located on the east wall of the church. He died in New Bern on October 12, 1804, at the age of fifty-seven. His death was sudden, caused by apoplexy, or paralysis, and he was buried with military and Masonic orders in the family plot in Cedar Grove Cemetery

The Daves family burial plot is situated just inside the main gate for the cemetery on Queen Street. The John Daves memorial stone in this burial plot is not, however, the one described by his grandson, Graham Daves, in his published work of 1892, *Captain John Daves of the North Carolina Line of the Continental Army*, nor are his remains in the family plot. In 1893 his remains were removed to the Guilford Courthouse National Military Battlefield in Greensboro, North Carolina, by his grandsons Edward Graham and Graham Daves. [The Guilford Courthouse battle, March 15, 1791, was an important and defining battle of the American Revolution between General

Nathaniel Green and Lord Cornwallis.] Graham Daves does not clarify in his publication whether Major Daves' memorial stone was moved to the Guilford Courthouse Battlefield at the same time as Daves' remains, but that is likely. An early image of the Guilford Courthouse site shows a table monument of a style that was popular at the time of Daves' death and reflects the design of other monuments in the Daves family burial plot.

It is assumed that the current memorial stone for Major John Daves located in the Daves family burial plot in Cedar Grove was installed by Edward Graham and Graham Daves when they moved their grandfather's remains to the Guilford Courthouse site. Over the years this memorial stone has been damaged and repaired. In 2013 the Earl of Craven Questers had the stone professionally resealed.

Located to the right of the Major John Daves memorial stone are two table monuments. The first memorializes Sally E. Jones, wife of Morgan Jones, who died February 17, 1802, at the age of nineteen years, nine months, and twenty-nine days. Sally was the daughter of John Daves and his second wife Mary Haynes Long Daves. The other table monument memorializes Mary Haynes Long Daves, who died April 11, 1822, in the seventy-second year of her life.

Sometime between 1922 and 1932, John Daves' monument at the Guilford Courthouse National Military Battlefield was hit by a vehicle and the marble slab tabletop was broken into two pieces. After this incident, the pedestals were removed and the broken pieces of the slab placed flush with the ground. On March 2, 1948, a small bronze plaque was placed in front of the grave by members of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The inscription and epitaph on the slab, written by the Reverend Thomas P. Irving, reads:

Here are deposited remains
of Major JOHN DAVES
One
of the well tried patriots of our Revolutionary War;
Who departed this life October 12th, 1804,
Aged 56 years

Epitaph by a Friend

Beneath this monumental stone repos'd
In shrouded gloom, the relics of the dead
Await th' archangel's renovating trump,
And the dread sentence of the *Judge Supreme*.
But GOD's the *Judge!* in truth and justice
robed;
Impartial to reward the friend sincere,
The virtues of the patriot, parent, spouse;
And These *O Major!* these were surely thine.
Yes, these were thine—and more still con-
join'd
T'endear thee to thy family and friends,
To leave a lasting memory behind,
And seal thy transport to the realms of bliss.

Major Daves left behind a family deeply committed to their birthplace and its people, a family rooted in service to their state and country and to the preservation of North Carolina's place in the history of their country. An extended review of this family's contribution, "The Major Daves Family Legacy: Their Narrative," is available from the author.

