

Historically speaking



Quarterly Newsletter  
october  
november  
december

Our Centennial Celebration continues...

Don't forget to visit our interactive exhibit at the Duffy Gallery!

TALES  
from  
the 20's

# Ghostwalk

NEW BERN, NC

OCT  
19-21  
2023



Photos: Left - Flappers Ginny Dorrington & Chloe Jeter; Center - 2022 Ghostwalk Cast; Right - Bill Hand as The Mortician.

### This Year's Highlights:

All new historical characters & scripts!

Tickets good for all three nights

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

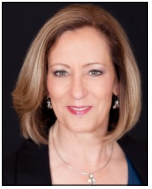
Downtown churches serve yummy meals

Site includes Cedar Grove Cemetery, two indoor locations, and front porches

Special attractions: Veri-Good Bakery, special Civic Theatre show, and a "thrilling" dance performance!

Thank you to our Title Sponsors!





## Update from Mickey Miller, Executive Director

### Ghostwalk!

Get ready for the 33rd annual Ghostwalk, our biggest fundraiser and signature event. Ghostwalk combines fascinating history, talented local actors, cool locations, and a family fun-filled environment like no other event in town. Continuing on our Centennial Anniversary theme, this year's historical (and hysterical!) spirits are coming to share their tales from the Decadent Decade.

Flappers and suffragettes? Of course! But we've also got other 20's-themed stories including a silent movie, the founding of the Climbers Club, how Union Point Park came to be, a puzzling murder mystery, the origin of the Old North State song, and a former slave who wrote a book about his life experiences. You're going to love these engaging vignettes. Did you know that they're all based on real characters or actual events from New Bern's past? With a little artistic license, of course. Details and schedule are on our website [NewBernHistorical.org](http://NewBernHistorical.org).

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

### A word about Lunch & Learn

Last spring **Chris Hoveland**, owner of **The Chelsea Restaurant**, sadly told us they could no longer cater our Lunch & Learn programs due to staffing shortages. We are huge fans of The Chelsea, who have provided our delicious lunches for many years, so it was tough to see them go. We're trying out three different caterers and asking guests for feedback before settling on one. In order to keep the price point the same, the meal will be in buffet format. So be sure to sign up for our December lunch program and let us know your thoughts.



### by Claudia Houston, Historian

It has been a busy three months since our last newsletter as we have spent much time preparing for the 3rd year of History Quest.

We can put all those clues and destinations behind us for a bit and begin working on History Quest #4.

One of our clue destinations was in James City where a Rosenwald school once stood. For those who don't know, a partnership existed between Booker T. Washington, President of Tuskegee University, and Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, and Roebuck. They devised a plan to give matching grants for building schools for African American students. If the white school board or the state would agree to support the facility and contribute to the costs, Rosenwald would contribute cash. The local African American community would have to raise additional funds and provide construction labor. Craven County

had seven Rosenwald Schools in Craven County and one, founded in 1924, was in James City.

The Quest participants were given a short history of the Rosenwald schools and then had to answer a question as to how many rooms the school had in James City.

We had a poster with a photo of what the school looked like, as well as a blueprint of a six-room school. **Lisa Setliff**, Quest Steering Committee member, worked with her neighbor, **Mike Brett**, who was willing to build a replica of the school. The Setliff family donated the materials and Mike built a model of the school based upon a photo. Those of you who participated in the Quest saw the result of all his hard work.



Right: Lisa Setliff & Mike Brett



It was a great crowd pleaser and a fun learning experience for all involved. A big thank you to Mike and Lisa for this special addition to the Quest. We are always grateful to the volunteers who continue to enhance our programs. This model will eventually be donated to another organization, but you never know where it may pop up.



# 2023 Events Calendar

*Watch our website ([www.NewBernHistorical.org](http://www.NewBernHistorical.org)) for further details on the upcoming 2023 programs!*

**Now through Jan 7, 2024: NBHS 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Free Exhibit / *Through the Looking Glass: A Journey with the Storytellers* / Duffy Gallery, NC History Center**

**October 8: Special Centennial Program: *Discovering New Bern's Historic Architecture: A Personal Journey*** presented by architectural historian Peter Sandbeck / 2pm at Orringer Auditorium, Craven Community College / reception following / **Sold Out!**

**October 19-21: GHOSTWALK 2023!** 6 - 9:30pm / Cedar Grove Cemetery & various downtown locations

**October 28: Fall Volunteer & New Member Social / Chili Cook-off & Cookie Bake-off / 12 - 3pm / Battlefield Park**

**November 12: Annual Lore Lecture: *The Other Coup D'Etat: Remembering New Bern, NC in 1898*** by historian and author David Cecelski / 2pm at Orringer Auditorium, Craven Community College / reception following

**December 6: Lunch & Learn *Between Two Rivers: A Seafarer's Guide to Early New Bern*** / presented by John Leys / 11:30am / Carolina Colours



## History Quest Success!



Between the perfect fall weather, excited Questers, and well prepared crew, we could not have had a better day for our 3rd Annual History Quest!

Our kudos to the hardworking committee, many of whom have been working on this event since the beginning of the year. Thank you to the volunteers, committee members, and sponsors who made this event another great success!

**History Quest Committee Chairs:** Claudia Houston & Kathy Morrison

**Clues Committee:** Mark Sandvigen, Claudia Houston, John Klecker, Susan Cook

**Steering Committee:** Claudia Houston, Kathy Morrison, John Klecker, Mark Sandvigen, Lisa Setliff





# 2023 Ghostwalk

NEW BERN, NC

TALES  
from  
the 20's



## A Decadent Decade



Be sure to eat lunch or dinner at **MORGAN'S TAVERN & GRILL** on Ghostwalk Thursday, October 19. Our good friends at **Morgan's** will donate a portion of that day's proceeds to the Society!



### Ghostwalk 2023 - Hats off to the Team!

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

#### Ghostwalk Steering Committee:

**Directors:** Bill Hand, Nancy Hitchcock, Kathy Morrison, Katie Shorter, Lynda Rock • **Script writers:** Lori Favre, Bill Hand, John Leys, Gayle Albertini • **Publicity:** Kathy Morrison • **Graphic Artist:** Cheryl Jukich • **Ghostly Greeters/Volunteers:** Lisa Setliff & Kathleen Marty • **Homes Coordinators:** Cathy O'Brien & Mary Parrish • **Logistics:** Mike Williams & Walt Teasdale • **Church Liaison:** Sue Wyatt • **Veri-Good Bakery:** Karen Whitmore & Terri Hickman • **Law Enforcement:** Sergeant Monico Hargett • **Thriller Flash Mob Director:** Roxann Wheeler • **Ghostwalk Chair:** Marissa Moore

#### Ghostwalk 2023 Talent:

Tommy Grzeika ♦ Benny Thompson ♦ John Rock ♦ Rita DeSanno ♦ Jerry Trenholm ♦ Stephen Schmidt ♦ Dick Peebles ♦ Cindi Broome ♦ Ceven Bryant ♦ Stephanie Carpenter ♦ Gale Boulware ♦ Karen Mason ♦ Lee Purcell ♦ Sara Sirmons ♦ Kathy Martin ♦ Bill Hand ♦ Marilyn Marr ♦ Sophia Giroir ♦ Steve Elliot ♦ Carlene Burke ♦ Kim Burdine ♦ Rachel McGuire ♦ Tracey Konulik ♦ Matthew Schauer ♦ Laura Miller-McLemore ♦ Jody Wilham ♦ Dianne Morgan ♦ Nelda Coats ♦ Pat Mora-Coxe ♦ Jim Atchinson ♦ Chloe Jeter ♦ Ginny Dorrington ♦ Cory Farnham ♦ Tamara Paquee ♦ Lynda Rock ♦ Linda Brown ♦ Kenzie Girior ♦ Monica Amende ♦ R.J Sirmons ♦ John Stillely ♦ Holly Prafke ♦ Notra Lail ♦ Mark Eckert ♦ Katie & Asa Coyle ♦ Charles Davis ♦ Megan & Ainsley Griffin ♦ Adrienne Dash ♦ Jenn Waterman ♦ Janice Cox ♦ Kyla Setliff ♦ Gayle Albertini ♦ Michelle Denman

Special thanks to our generous Ghostwalk property owners - First Baptist Church, City of New Bern, Curtis & Tracey Krudel, Leeann MacCabe, Civic Theatre, Tryon Palace, and Dr. Alan Craig.

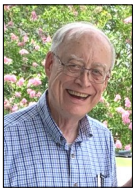
We appreciate the support over the past 32 years of community partners: City Manager Foster Hughes, the staff of New Bern Parks & Recreation, and the New Bern Police Department.

### Free Cemetery Tours

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







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

Our house is next door to the Attmore-Oliver House and our dining room window overlooks its back yard. We have a window on the activities that take place and last week our Programs Director **Marissa Moore**, Vice President **Kathy Morrison** and other volunteers were watching actors practicing their lines for Ghostwalk. Months of planning and hundreds of volunteers are getting ready for this big event which is completely different each year. As we watch preparations unfold, with months of script writing, rehearsing, directing, and planning, it is easy to see why this event is a major annual attraction for New Bern. As our biggest fundraiser, the proceeds are so important for us to maintain Battlefield Park and other historic properties.

Did I mention that Ghostwalk takes about 250 volunteers to put together? It's not too late to volunteer for this fun event. The benefit of volunteering for the Historical Society is you meet so many new people and make new friends with common interests. When my wife and I moved to New Bern we only knew one person. As a result of volunteering with the Society we now know people from all over Craven County. We have many volunteer opportunities in addition

to event planning and acting. This includes working in our office, event logistics, helping with Battlefield Park, gardening on our Attmore- Oliver Campus, maintaining the grounds and buildings, and distributing brochures.

As our Centennial Celebration continues, don't forget to visit our 100th anniversary exhibit at the NC History Center to learn more about the history of New Bern.

Speaking of our anniversary, I'm proud to announce that we've reached an important milestone this year - we now have over 1300 members. That's a pretty impressive number for such a small town. As members, you are the best ambassadors we could have. Keep bringing in your friends and neighbors to join so they, too, can share in the fun and learn about local history. Thank you for your loyal and generous support!



## New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

### 2023-24 Officers & Appointed Positions

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

### 2023-24 Directors

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Joe Anderson  | Nelson McDaniel |
| Carol Becton  | Cathy O'Brien   |
| Clayton Cheek | Mary Parrish    |
| George Evans  | Chris Richey    |
| Lynne Harakal | Walt Teasdale   |
| Terri Hickman | Karen Whitmore  |
| Ken McCotter  | Mike Williams   |

### Staff

- Mickey Miller—Executive Director
- Marissa Moore—Programs Director
- Anthony Giardino—Operations Manager
- Sue Dunn—Administrative Assistant



The Historical Society is blessed with a strong family of talented volunteers who do much of the hard work for this great organization. While we honor volunteers with awards at our annual member dinner, that's just not often enough to show our full appreciation.

This quarter we're turning the spotlight on costumer extraordinaire **Maryann Murphy**. Maryann has generously donated her creative talents for several years, creating, adjusting, and improving on costumes for storytelling events like Ghostwalk and Lantern Tour. As a small-budget nonprofit, we're fortunate to borrow many costumes from our friends at the **Civic Theatre**, but they still need significant adjustments and embellishments. Maryann carefully researches to ensure costumes are as



accurate as possible. Never one to ask for praise, Maryann likes to stay behind the scenes. So it's our great pleasure to bring her out front and thank her publicly for her great creativity and talents. Props to you, Maryann!





## New Bern Historical Society 100th Anniversary Exhibit

Open through January 7, 2024 • Duffy Gallery  
North Carolina History Center

Be sure to visit before it concludes in January! This **FREE** exhibit, courtesy of the New Bern Historical Society in celebration of our 100th Anniversary, takes you on an exciting multi-dimensional journey through New Bern's storied past!

## Fall Volunteer & New Member Social

Saturday, October 28  
12 - 3 pm

New Bern Battlefield Park • Chili & Cookie Cook-off

What better way to say *Thank You* and *Welcome* than gathering with our volunteers and new members at the New Bern Battlefield Park! Do you have an award-winning chili or cookie recipe? Enter your dish to compete for the title of Fall of 2023's BEST!

Please contact the office for more information!

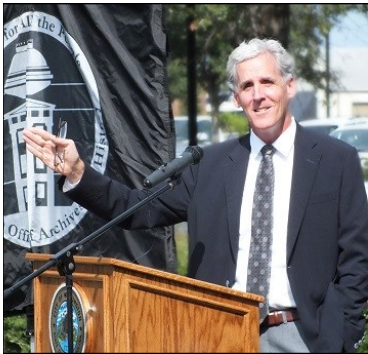


## Annual Lore Lecture featuring Dr. David Cecelski

*The Other Coup D'Etat: Remembering New Bern, NC in 1898*

Sunday, November 12 • 2 pm

Orringer Auditorium, Craven Community College



We are honored to host renowned historian and author Dr. David Cecelski with his powerful program about one of the darkest periods in local history. As the 1898 state election drew near, white Democrats launched an ugly state-wide white supremacy campaign centered here in New Bern. While the horrific overthrow of city government in nearby Wilmington made national headlines, a bloodless coup occurred in our town, resulting in the eradication of decades of political, economic, and social gains made by Black New Bernians. This compelling program will have a dramatic effect on your understanding of race, Jim Crow, and white supremacy.



*Between Two Rivers: A Seafarer's Guide to Early New Bern*  
presented by John Leys

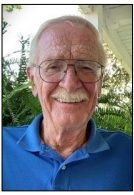
Wednesday, December 6 • 11:30am • Carolina Colours

Enjoy a delicious lunch catered by Strange & Sons while popular and engaging speaker John Leys shares the early maritime history of New Bern and its strategic importance as a port city.

Reservations open October 9







## Battlefield Park News...by Gene Lock, Battlefield Adjutant

This is my first report since assuming the role of Battlefield Adjutant. After filling the role of Adjutant for 11 busy years, **Jon Miller** has left some very large shoes to fill. Thankfully he continues to volunteer at the battlefield and his guidance is highly appreciated. I am honored that Jon and the Historical Society have entrusted me with assisting with the care of our wonderful Battlefield Park.

While speaking of Jon, it is a pleasure to report that on August 7 a surprise event was held at the battlefield. Over coffee and breakfast Jon was presented with a certificate confirming his new title Battlefield Adjutant Emeritus. On hand to honor Jon were Board members and former and current volunteers.



We recently made a significant acquisition - a working replica of an 1841 Mountain Howitzer. The cannon was cast from original molds and is a good example of

light cannons used throughout the Civil War. The purchase was made possible by a very generous donation by a member of the Historical Society. The cannon was obtained from a Civil War reenactor who had participated in various events at the battlefield over the years. It is a work of art, if that can be said of a cannon, and will be fired at Battlefield Adventure Day, Living History Days, and other events.

On September 2, we hosted a living history day planned by **Mark Trail**, Commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> NC Reenactors unit. Reenactors set up a camp which reflected how soldiers and their ladies lived during the Civil War. Over 100 people attended to see demonstrations of marching, cooking, firing, and exhibits of Civil War equipment, clothing, and cooking.



Work at Battlefield Park is an ongoing process. During the last quarter our trails were maintained, grass and brush cut back, bridges and benches scrubbed and cleaned and repair work done as needed. New volunteers are always welcome. We work on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from about 7 until 10AM.

### What legacy will you leave?

We recently enjoyed a lovely evening with a group of **Founders Circle** members and those who are interested in becoming members. What is the **Founders Circle**? That is our designation for those who have included the New Bern Historical Society in their estate plans.

The Historical Society has proudly served the community for the past 100 years. What will the next century bring? Through your bequest or other planned gift, you can ensure that New Bern's historic treasures will be there for future generations. ***That's a legacy to be proud of!***

For more information on planned giving, call Mickey Miller at 252.638.8558.



### FOLLOW US!



Facebook Instagram



Important updates to our programs

Behind the scenes footage of our volunteers and staff supporting your favorite events

“What’s in the Attic with Jim” - our weekly Wednesday feature from our Curator!



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www.newbernhistorical.org

Mickey Miller / director@newbernhistorical.org  
Marissa Moore / programs@newbernhistorical.org  
Sue Dunn & Anthony Giardino / adminoffice@newbernhistorical.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

The Historical Society is proud of the relationships we have developed over the years with the local business community and thank them for their continued sponsorship of our events. Please recognize and support our business partners who generously contribute to the New Bern Historical Society.

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