

*Journal*  
of the  
  
*New Bern*  
Historical Society

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**JOURNAL OF THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION, INC.**

[www.newbernhistorical.org](http://www.newbernhistorical.org)  
[nbhistoricalsoc@newbermail.com](mailto:nbhistoricalsoc@newbermail.com)

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## BATTLEFIELD GUIDES REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF NEW BERN

Steve Shaffer

During the fall of 2006, my wife, a native New Bernian, and I retired to live in New Bern. During brief visits to the city over the preceding years, I had learned that Union General Ambrose E. Burnside seized New Bern with an overwhelming force on March 14, 1862, and that the city was occupied for the duration of the war; but my knowledge did not extend much beyond those few facts. In the mid-1960s when I first visited New Bern, there were few scholarly historical materials available on the battle. Surprisingly, few people knew precisely the location of the battlefield. Then, the emphasis in New Bern seemed focused on its colonial past.

My mother-in-law Kathleen Orringer always saved past issues of the Historical Society Journal neatly stacked, marked, and ready for me to read during our visits, particularly the few articles about the Civil War in and about New Bern. Reading those articles by local historians about events in their city piqued my interest about the Battle of New Bern. Within one week after arriving in the city to rent a place and await the completion of a new home, I joined the New Bern Historical Society.

When I joined the Society in September 2006, I indicated on the application my interest in participating in the Battle of New Bern Battlefield project. I subsequently received a phone call from Newsom Williams, Executive Director, who inquired of my interest in joining a training class for prospective battlefield guides. I happily joined that group of Civil War devotees who share a strong, common interest in developing the battlefield as a historic

showpiece. I am now proud to be a part of this group.

The one person most responsible for initially organizing the battlefield guide cadre was Dr. Dick Lore, historian of the New Bern Historical Society. I knew him for only a brief time prior to his death earlier this year. However, his energy and enthusiasm was infectious and attracted more than a dozen volunteers for Battlefield Guide training. His expert guidance and direction was strengthened by his in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience gained over his many years of involvement with the New Bern Historical Society. His words of encouragement were invaluable to the prospective battlefield guides. A list of the guides and loyal supporters appears at the close of this article.

### *The Battle of New Bern*

On March 13, 1862, 11,000 Union troops led by General Ambrose Burnside along with a flotilla of 13 heavily-armed gunboats led by Commander Stephen C. Rowan landed at Slocum's Creek, now part of Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station. Their objective was capture of New Bern (then called New Berne) because of its strategic position and the fact that the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad was also located here. Union strategists hoped to use New Bern as a stepping-off point to cut off the main Confederate north-south railroad supply line at Goldsboro.

The weather on that March day was cold and rainy as Burnside advanced his three brigades: Brigadier General John G. Foster on the right along Old Beaufort Road, Brigadier Jesse L. Reno on the left via the railroad parallel to Old Beaufort Road but farther inland, and Brigadier John G. Parke's brigade situated in reserve behind Foster. Commander Rowan's naval flotilla would shell the shoreline just ahead of the Union advance. However, this naval gunfire would add little more than noise to the outcome.

Awaiting the Union forces were about 4500 inexperienced and ill-equipped Confederate troops commanded by General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch, a politician with virtu-

ally no military experience. Branch positioned his infantry regiments, one cavalry regiment, local militia units, and three gun batteries to defend a line extending from Fort Thompson, a mile north of Johnson's Point on the Neuse River, and running approximately one mile west to the Weathersby Road at the eastern edge of Brice's Creek.

Extending Branch's right wing to the railroad tracks was the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment commanded by Colonel Zebulon Vance (later the wartime governor of North Carolina). Redans were built along the Confederate line of defense. Artillery and two companies of cavalry under Colonel Vance strengthened the right line with three infantry companies led by Lieutenant Colonel Henry King Burgwyn (the "Boy Colonel," for he was not yet 21 years of age). However, he was an able leader having graduated from the Virginia Military Institute.

Lieutenant Colonel Burgwyn's companies (B, E, and K) manned a series of redans on several promontories high above Bullen's Branch. To the south, trees were cleared some 300 yards out for a field of fire. The Union attackers were slowed by the felled trees forming an abatis and bitterly cold high water resulting from a dam up the branch.

The battle commenced at 0730 on March 14 and raged for nearly six hours. The main Union attack was in the vicinity of Fort Thompson where the Craven County Fairgrounds is presently located. Despite support from Commander Rowan's gunboats, this attack under General Foster stalled. However, a regiment of General Reno's brigade flanked the position of a militia battalion near Wood's brickyard adjoining the railroad. Reno's infantry drove these poorly armed, fresh militiamen from their position leaving the right flank of the 35<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment exposed. Confederate artillery pieces that were being mounted at the railroad were abandoned before their mounting was complete. The Confederate line was broken between the 26<sup>th</sup> and the 35<sup>th</sup> regiments, and the Union forces pushed through precipitating the retreat of the Confederate troops.

The Battle of New Bern was the baptism of fire for the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Later, in July 1863, the 26<sup>th</sup> at the battle of Gettysburg would lose 588 of 800 men--sustaining the largest numerical losses of any unit, North and South, during the entire course of the war.

The Battle of New Bern was a significant event of the Civil War. The hard-fought battle in the swamps and along the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad less than five miles south of town was a signal victory for General Burnside. Occupation of New Bern by Union troops, which grew to about 20,000, served as a base for future operations in eastern North Carolina. Inland waterways previously safe from the Union fleet for the transport of supplies and blockade running were now threatened.

### *Development of the Battlefield Park*

Interestingly, I was to learn that our house in Carolina Colours is only 2.5 miles from the battle site. As a military history buff, I wanted to learn more about the Battle of New Bern--details like where exactly it was fought, how the battle developed, the units engaged and their leaders, and perhaps some personal details of the combatants and their descriptions of the battle from their personal diaries.

The New Bern Historical Society was my primary access to details concerning the battle. The Society is bringing this battle alive, making it relevant to our time and our place by its stewardship of the battlefield that has been dormant for more than 145 years. How are we to appreciate where we are, or for that matter, know where we might go, if we have no knowledge of the historic events that occurred in our place? I had to visit the emerging New Bern Battlefield Park.

The approximate center point of the battle is tucked behind an automobile dealership off Highway 70 East along the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad just inside the entry point to Taberna. What I found at the battle site beyond the present tree line are pristine redans and rifle

pits--undisturbed by the surrounding development. Difficult terrain, mature trees, and thick underbrush had closed the site to all but the most ardent relic hunter. After so much time since the violence that had occurred, there are now emerging interests to establish an entity that will serve to appropriately memorialize the men who fought at the battle. There is considerable evidence that development of the New Bern Battlefield Park is underway.

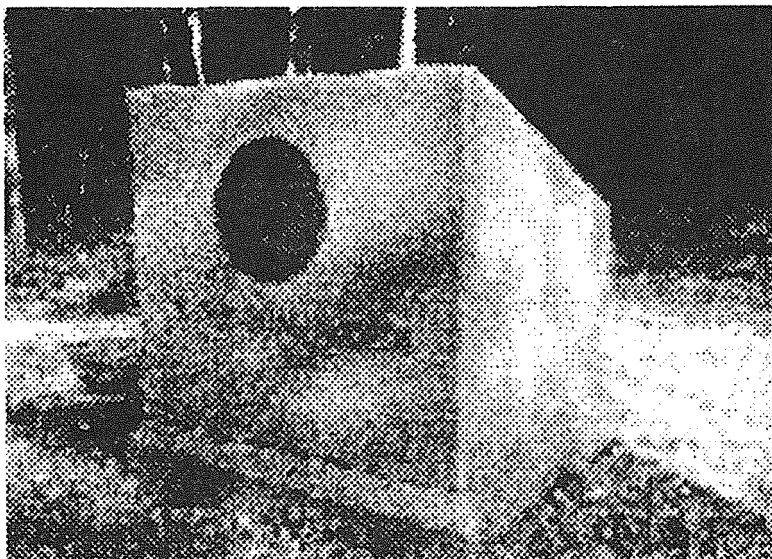
The New Bern Historical Society received the core 24.65 acres of the battlefield from the Civil War Preservation Trust. An additional tract of 2.4 acres adjacent to the Park was recently purchased for an entrance road, visitor center, and parking. Construction permits are being acquired along with city and county approvals. Within the last few years bridges to carry visitors over the streams throughout the property have been designed, and the first bridge was constructed by Boy Scouts of America Troop #13 of Centenary United Methodist Church in New Bern.

Outdoor simulated fortifications (redans) will be used for re-enactments and educational demonstrations. Trails through the battlefield, overlooks, and interpretive signage will allow visitors to follow the progress of the battle. Hands-on activities will encourage an interest in Civil War history by tourists, military history enthusiasts, school groups, and area residents. With the help of a grant from the Craven County Tourism Development Authority, the site has been awarded recognition by the National Register of Historic Places. Factors compelling its selection for this honor include some of the hardest fighting of the battle occurred here, its pristine condition, and the significance of the battle itself and its consequential aftermath.

Including the value of the land, the restoration project when completed will constitute an investment of over \$970,000. Over \$350,000 has been raised through individual contributions, direct grants, and proceeds from special events. Fund-raising activities for the Battlefield Park continue. Based on the masterful design of prominent landscape architect Patrick Hart, the actual restorative work on



Steps and bridge constructed by Troop #13, Boy Scouts of America, Centenary United Methodist Church, New Bern, lead to the 26<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment Memorial. Photo by Shaffer.



Salisbury granite monument commemorating the 26<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment. *ESSE QUAM VIDERI*, state motto of North Carolina translates "To Be Rather than to Seem." Photo by Shaffer.



the battlefield and construction of the Battlefield Park is underway.

### *Guided Tours of the New Bern Battlefield*

This group of civil war enthusiasts--very much expert in the politico-military events of the Civil War in general and the Battle of New Bern in particular--researched and prepared a battlefield tour script. This script describes in detail the background and events preceding, during, and after that intense but brief battle of March 14, 1862.

Twice during the month of February 2007, Battlefield Guides presented details of the battle for two intermediate school groups from Carteret and Pamlico counties using the newly developed script.

March 14, 2007, marked the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of New Bern. On this day the New Bern Historical Society and the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment (Reactivated) dedicated a beautiful 11.5-ton Salisbury pink granite and bronze monument commemorating the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina's participation in the battle. New Bern Historical Society Civil War Adjutant Mark Mangum has worked several years on the development of the battlefield site, on this Civil War weekend, and the placement and dedication of this monument. He is also a member of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Reactivated and a battlefield tour guide.

A six-section flyer was developed by battlefield guides for use on May 11, 2007, when a tour was provided for 300 passengers on an Amtrak excursion train from Goldsboro to Morehead City in celebration of the latter's sesquicentennial. Four battlefield guides embarked the train in New Bern and described the battle as it approached the battlefield site. The train stopped at the northwest edge of the battlefield where the passengers were entertained with a mock battle by a number of authentically uniformed re-enactors representing the 7<sup>th</sup> North Carolina State Troops.

In June 2007, the battlefield guides, with Tom McGraw as principal contributor, produced a rack card advertising

this undisturbed battlefield and the availability of guides for informative tours. It serves as a primary marketing tool for battlefield tours at the present time.

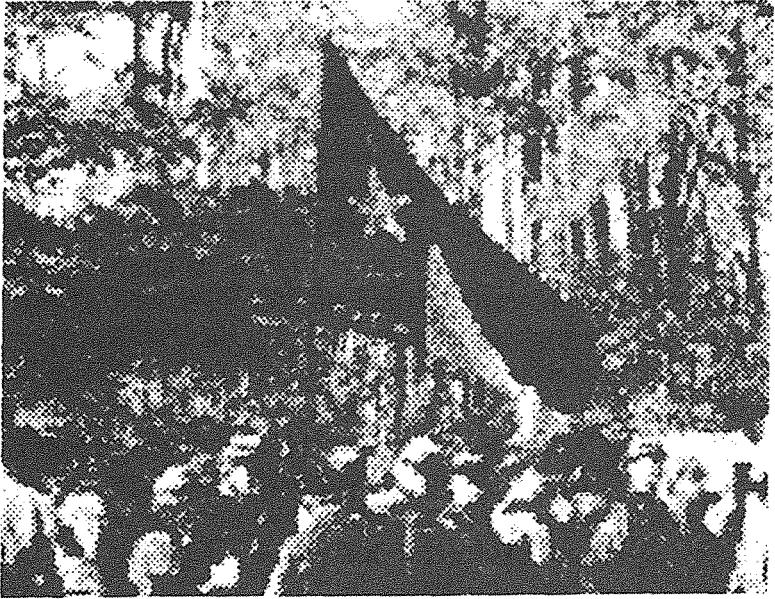
The battlefield guides are preparing a manual which presents the script that will be used by guides in developing their own oral presentations for the five stations along the battlefield tour trail. Included in the manual is detailed background data about the battle, a bibliography, and related Internet Websites for further detail and background.

One of the most popular community events sponsored by the New Bern Historical Society over the years has been Ghostwalk. In 2007 the theme of the 17<sup>th</sup> annual New Bern at Night Ghostwalk was the "Civil War Years in New Bern," and battlefield guides were available for tours of the New Bern Battlefield on that Friday and Saturday.

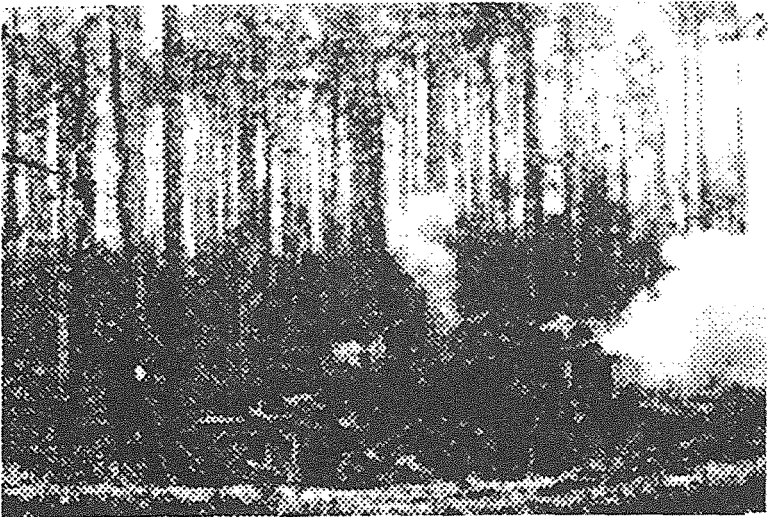
These various projects on which I have worked as one of the battlefield guides have been an invaluable learning experience for me. It has focused my attention on the development of the Burnside Expedition to coastal North Carolina and the Battle of New Bern in particular. Residing so near the battlefield park, I frequently visit this pristine site early in the morning at about the same time of the morning the first shots were fired. I walk through the area where the undisturbed redans are perfectly preserved by nature. There I can imagine troops of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment in the cold, wet morning of March 14, 1862, hastily completing those redans in the face of overwhelming odds.

### *The Battlefield Guides and Support Staff*

Mike DuMont, U. S. Air Force retired. Mike is a descendant of two brothers once stationed in New Bern with the 3<sup>rd</sup> New York Cavalry during the Civil War. Both became prisoners at Ream's Station, Virginia, during the Petersburg Campaign in 1864: one brother died at Salisbury; the other, Mike's great-great-grandfather, was imprisoned at Florence New Stockade and at Andersonville.



Re-enactors of the 26<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment prepare to march for the dedication of the monument memorializing their regiment on the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. Photo by Myers.



Re-enactors portray the Confederate's Harding's Battery firing a salute at the dedication of the monument. Photo by Myers.

Harry Goodman, a Pennsylvanian retired steamship company and marine construction company executive. His grandfather served in the 100<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment (Volunteers); he was captured at Seven Pines, imprisoned at Libby and Salisbury, exchanged and then discharged at Petersburg. A charter member of the North Carolina Chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Harry serves on the Society Board of Directors and is closely involved with the New Bern Battlefield Park.

Mark Mangum, Civil War Adjutant of the Historical Society, a re-enactor with the renowned 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, and a principal action officer for the New Bern Battlefield Park. The 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina donated the 11.5-ton Salisbury pink granite monument mounting a large bronze tablet commemorating the service and sacrifice of the original 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina.

Horace Mewborn, retired FBI, served seven years in the U. S. Army. He moved to New Bern in 2002. His Civil War interests and the focus of his two books include John Mosby Rangers, the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia, and the Civil War in eastern North Carolina. Nine of his ancestors fought for the Confederacy.

Pete Meyer, retired school teacher from Long Island, New York. Pete's great-grandfather served in a New York infantry unit as a sharpshooter during the Civil War.

Tom McGraw, U. S. Air Force retired. Two of Tom's relatives served in the Union army. His son is a Civil War re-enactor in Virginia.

Rich Myers, retired hospital administrator. One of his great-grandfathers enlisted in the Ohio Cavalry but served as an engineer on the U. S. S. Conestoga and the U. S. S. Fort Hindman as part of the Union's Mississippi River Squadron. The other great-grandfather served with an Ohio militia unit that captured John Hunt Morgan, leader of the deepest Confederate raid into the Union.

John Rhodes, U. S. Army retired. John's great-great-grandfather and brother fought in the Battle of New Bern. More than six other relatives served during the Civil War.

Steve Shaffer, U. S. Air Force Foreign Area Officer--China, retired; Military Capabilities Analyst--China, Defense Intelligence Agency, retired; Intelligence Operations Division, Booz Allen Hamilton, retired.

David Skaggs, Professor Emeritus of History, Bowling Green State University. Field Artillery Officer, U. S. Army Reserve.

Paul Switzer, retired physician. Paul has been very active as a tour guide with New Bern Tours and Convention Services as well as at the Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens. He has made numerous scholarly presentations about the Battle of New Bern and the Union occupation of the city.

Several more people are of importance to the effort of the battlefield guides and their successes thus far and include: Gayle Albertini, Graham Barden, Sue Dunn, Claudia and Bill Houston, Ken McCotter, and Jim Sugg.

### *Enjoy a tour of the New Bern Battlefield*

What is so remarkable about the site of the Battle of New Bern is that, despite all the many changes in the immediate area over the years, the actual Confederate entrenchments can still be clearly seen. The New Bern Battlefield Park is emerging in the area near where the Union breakthrough occurred.

We battlefield guides representing the New Bern Historical Society invite you to visit the battlefield and learn more about this important engagement. Even tourists who are not history buffs would be fascinated by what is seen and the story of what took place more than 145 years ago at the New Bern Battlefield Park.

Admission to the Battlefield site is free; however, for a nominal fee guided tours may be arranged through the New Bern Historical Society via telephone at least one day before the desired tour.

## A LOOK BACK IN TIME

### The West Street Colored Library, 1936-1973

Arabelle Bryant and Claire Martin-Combs

The history of the West Street Colored Library started in 1936 when six citizens of good will and civic responsibility came together to start a movement to organize a "colored library" in New Bern. These men and women included both black and white citizens from respected civic, religious, and educational backgrounds.

These six citizens met in the office of Mrs. J. D. Whitford, County Welfare Officer, and included Mrs. Betty Windley, from the Library Association; Mrs. Margaret Bryan, librarian from the public library; the Reverend R. I. Johnson, Rector of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church; Professor J. T. Barber, Principal of West Street School; and Mrs. C. D. Mann, a supervisor in the Craven County Schools.

At the next monthly meeting Mrs. Annie Day Smith and Miss Charlotte Rhone, a County Welfare Officer, and Mr. H. B. Smith, County School Superintendent, were added to this historic group.

A Board of Directors was organized; the Reverend R. I. Johnson was elected to chair the group for one year, and Mrs. Mann served as Secretary. Miss Rhone was elected to chair the committee that would locate a building or a lot to build a structure to house the Colored Library. In 1937 Mrs. Annie Day Smith succeeded the Reverend Johnson and served for one year. At this time arrangements were made with Mr. Barber to provide room in the alcove of the front of the West Street High School as a starting place to be used during regular school hours. Miss Lavina Hobbs agreed to serve as Librarian.

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, the nation was experiencing the great depression; but these citizens were dedicated and through faith and perseverance started to stock the library with books donated by the public and raise operating funds. Mrs. Bryan secured some repaired books from the public library and also cast a wide net in the community for donations of books and money.

The first big fund-raising project was a recital at the Masonic Theater with Mrs. Nell Hunter, a sponsored artist of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Success was realized in 1937 with an inventory of 900 volumes. In 1938 Miss Charlotte Rhone was elected chair, and she immediately set about stressing the importance of having a separate building for the Colored Library to accommodate the public when the school was not in session.

Miss Rhone's efforts to secure funds from the city fathers were unsuccessful, but she was undaunted. She continued with help from board members who agreed to donate \$1.00 per month; Mr. Barber sought donations from teachers, students and their parents. A second recital by Mrs. Hunter was held at St. Joseph's School. By 1940 the Board was able to close on a lot on West Street across from Good Shepherd Hospital for the cost of \$300. The lot was owned by Mr. Eubanks, who donated \$100 to the Board, leaving a balance of \$200. Miss Rhone and Mrs. Whitford each borrowed \$100 from the bank to close the deal. Expenses included a payment to Lawyer Ward for \$50, \$35 to move an old house to the lot, \$5 to Mr. Potter for doing the necessary survey, and Mr. Fuson, the architect, was paid \$10 to draw up blueprints for the building. It was estimated that the building would cost \$2500. The WPA promised to donate \$1250 but was unable to follow through. They did supply some construction workers. The Board of Commissioners donated an average of \$10 a month to support construction.

Remarkably, after 10 years, the library realized the \$8000 that was needed to get ready for public use. On June 8, 1947, the New Bern Colored Library was opened

for use. Mrs. Sadie McManus was hired as the Librarian in charge. During this time, the Board changed the name to the West Street Public Library and revised their constitution. The members at this stage in the history of this institution included Mrs. John D. Whitford, Mr. B. S. Rivers, Mr. F. R. Danyus, Mrs. Ruth Cherry Houston, and Mrs. Theda B. Lewis. Miss Charlotte Rhone continued as chair.

The West Street Public Library prospered and grew in services to the community until 1973 when the New Bern Regional Library on Johnson Street was made available to all the citizens in the region. Mrs. Sadie McManus Lowe, who was serving as Librarian, became a member of the staff of the New Bern Regional Library.

After the closing of the West Street Public Library on August 31, 1973, the trustees on the Board voted to turn the building over to the Climbers Club of New Bern, a non-profit organization of women, to use as a cultural center and meeting place for education. The officers and members of the Board who were involved at the time of that transaction were Mr. W. M. Booker, Mrs. Adelaide Respass Fenner, Mr. B. S. Rivers, the Reverend C. H. Ewing, Mrs. Ethel M. Lewis, Mrs. Ruth C. Houston, and the Reverend Solon League.

After the Climbers Club took possession of the building, the name was changed to Charlotte Rhone Cultural Center to honor the memory of Miss Rhone who worked so hard to secure the lot and the building for the New Bern Colored Library from 1936. She was also a charter member of the Climbers Club and was its third president.

In 2007 there is renewed commitment to saving the Charlotte Rhone Cultural Center for future generations of African-American citizens and the entire community under the leadership of Mrs. Esther Hardin, President. She has provided the membership with a new vision and focus to physically restore the building and renovate the interior to be functionally useful and handsomely appointed for its dedication, which took place on November 4 of this year.



## MISS CHARLOTTE RHONE

A Visionary for Our Times

Arabelle Bryant and Mary Barnwell

Miss Charlotte Rhone was one of the founders of the Climbers Club of New Bern and its third president. A graduate of North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) and Freedman Hospital in Washington, D. C., she was the first black registered nurse in North Carolina and the first black social worker in Craven County, a position she held for many years.

Miss Rhone worked hard; she was the first matron of the National Religious Training School and taught physical education at North Carolina College.

She was very community-minded and established a Girl Scout Organization in town. She collected clothes and gave to the needy. During World War II, she sponsored a victory Hostess Club and later sponsored the "World Day of Prayer" in New Bern for the participation of blacks.

Miss Rhone and her family owned and operated the first black hotel—The Rhone Hotel—on Queen Street. A sturdy red brick building built in 1923, it operated until the 1950s as a hotel. During the 1960s and 1970s the building housed real estate and other businesses. In the late 1970s and 1980s the building was bought and remade into apartments by Dr. Sydney and Mary Barnwell, who sought and secured historic designation. It remains in good condition today owned by Newsom Williams, Executive Director of the New Bern Historical Society Foundation, Inc.

Miss Charlotte Rhone was recognized as a "Woman of the Year" by the Climbers Club for her numerous contributions to the uplifting of her people in New Bern.



Miss Charlotte Rhone.  
Photo restoration by James Becton.

## THE CLIMBERS CLUB OF NEW BERN

Esther B. Hardin

The Climbers Club of New Bern was organized in 1921 at the home of Mrs. Carrie Rhone Smith, who lived on Johnson Street in New Bern and was the first President. This organization was chartered by nine prominent African-American women in New Bern, North Carolina, and is a local chapter of the North Carolina Federation of New Women's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. These nine visionary women included Miss Charlotte Rhone, Miss Hattie E. Martin, Mrs. Esther M. Powell, Miss Etta Rhone, Mrs. J. T. Barber, Mrs. E. M. Wilson, Mrs. Florence Fonville, and Mrs. R. I. Johnson.

The purpose of the club in the original constitution and bylaws was to

foster a closer bond of unity among the citizens of our city, by sponsoring activities which will include the public spirited women and encourage things that tend to make our citizens a better and broader group of people, so that we may take our rightful place as an intelligent progressive part of the population of our beloved city, state and nation.

The club was originally subdivided into departments to provide avenues for women of different interests and talents to help in their own ways to achieve the goals of the organization. These were the Home & Garden Club, the Arts & Crafts Club, the Book Club, the Current Events Club, and the Music Club. Each club was organized and worked as a separate unit but was always responsible to the mother club, the Climbers Club. As of this writing, the

active departments are the Book Club, the Home & Garden Club, and the Arts & Crafts Club.

Over the years the Book Club has reviewed and studied many books and articles, hosted authors, and presented several history programs by and about African-Americans to the New Bern community. Plays by famous authors were presented using local talent.

The Arts & Crafts Club members were skilled in making beautiful quilts, which were raffled off to bring in funds for the work of the Climbers Club. These members also held workshops to teach crafts such as macramé, doll making, fabric painting, pocketbooks, jewelry, and loom weaving. They made and donated toys for needy children. Several items were donated to the Good Samaritan Home for the Aged for residents in need.

The Home & Garden Club encouraged residents in their communities to beautify their homes and awarded prizes to homeowners for the best lawns, flower gardens, and well kept homes. In addition, prizes were awarded for Halloween and Christmas decorations. At Thanksgiving, members sponsored a Thanksgiving dinner for senior citizens and the residents of the Good Samaritan Home for the Aged.

Through the fund-raising efforts of these various departments, the Climbers Club makes annual donations to the Good Shepherd Home for the Aged and the Dobbs Farm Boys Home of Kinston, North Carolina. Other good works done by the collective involvement of the members of the Climbers Club include the sending of cards of cheer with monetary contributions to shut-in members of the community. Other projects included the Little Princess contest and the Queen Contest.

The following have served as presidents: Mrs. Carrie Rhone Smith, Mrs. Esther Powell, Miss Charlotte Rhone, Mrs. Eliza Dudley, Mrs. Eva Gibbs Adams, Mrs. Sarah Vails White, Mrs. Elveta Attmore, Mrs. Gladys Witt, Mrs. Georgia Sutton, Mrs. Ether M. Robinson, Mrs. Beatrice M. Smith, Mrs. Carlillie Swindell, and Mrs. Esther B. Hardin.



Charlotte S. Rhone Cultural Center, 608 West Street, New Bern. Photo by Williams.

In 2007 with the election of Mrs. Esther Hardin, the Climbers Club has increased its membership and has taken on the renovation and enhancement of the Charlotte Rhone Cultural Center. This was rededicated on Sunday afternoon, November 4, 2007, for the benefit of the New Bern community.

THE DR. ISAAC HUGHES FAMILY  
AS REMEMBERED IN A WINDOW  
AT CHRIST CHURCH

Julie Hipps

On Tuesday, January 10, 1871, fire spread from a bakery on Pollock Street to Christ Episcopal Church. The flames engulfed the church from cornerstone to steeple. Onlookers testified that when the steeple gave way they could hear the church bell sound as it plunged to the ground. The congregation rallied behind their rector the Reverend Edward M. Forbes, and the entire parish, including children, participated in a rebuilding campaign. Parishioners opened their hearts and pocketbooks as they donated a variety of memorials including 14 stained glass windows, four for the narthex, and 10 for the nave. These windows have graced the church since 1875; they have served to remember church history, stories of people commemorated, and the donors.

The fourth window from the north on the west wall of the nave is dedicated to eight members of the Hughes family. These people are divided into four groups: [named under the lower panels] (1) Bettie C. Hughes, Eliza A. Hughes, and Mary Alice Hughes, of the family of Major John and Jane Hughes; (2) Eliza Ann Hughes and Laura B. Hughes, of the family of James Bettner and Laura Hughes; and [named under the upper panels] (3) Isaac W. Hughes and Anna Hughes, of the family of Isaac W. and Anna Smallwood Hughes, and (4) N. Collin Hughes.

In this window the upper left panel shows the lamb, symbolizing sacrifice, carrying the cross on which the sacrifice will take place. The opposite panel depicts the sword, symbol of warfare and courage, and the shield rep-

resenting faith and protection. The lower panels show lilies meaning Easter and immortality on the left and on the right the cross and crown standing for the reward of the faithful in life after death to those who believe in the crucified Savior.

### *The Family of Major John and Jane Hughes*

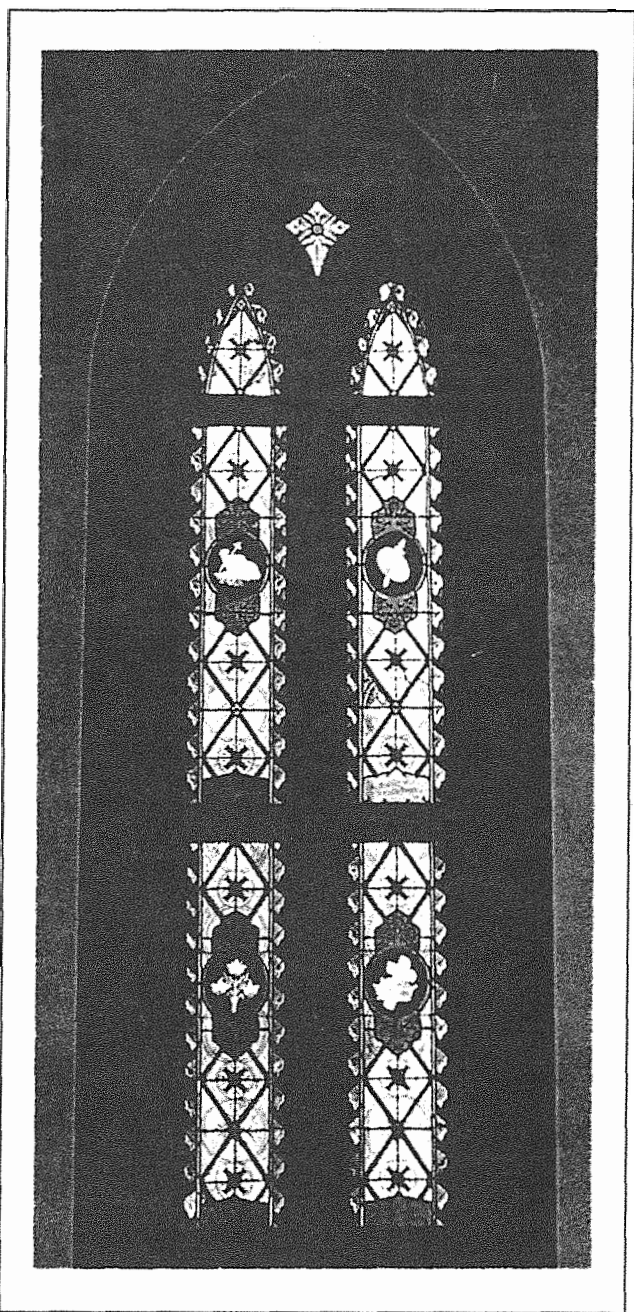
Bettie, Eliza, and Mary Alice

Bettie C. Hughes, Eliza A. Hughes, and Mary Alice Hughes were the children of Major John Hughes (1830-1899) and Jane Graham Daves Hughes (1830-1901). Major John was the son of Isaac W. Hughes and his wife Eliza. Jane Graham was the daughter of John Pugh Daves and his wife Elizabeth Batchelor. The three sisters all died at a young age. Bettie was 13 months old, Eliza was eight months old, and Mary Alice was 17 months old. Jane and John did have more children: John Daves, Jane D., Ann C., and Isaac W. The younger son Isaac died when he was 10 years old; the elder son John Daves died a hero.

John Daves

John Daves (October 29, 1855-August 18, 1879) died in a rescue attempt during an 1879 storm in Beaufort, North Carolina. During the late nineteenth century, coastal North Carolina was a popular vacation spot, and Beaufort's Atlantic Hotel was one of the favorites. The summer of 1879 started out like any other as guests and hotel management were looking forward to a gala to be held on Thursday, August 21. The Hughes family was joined at the resort by Governor Thomas J. Jarvis, his wife, the Gatlings of Raleigh, and the Stronachs of Wilson. By 1:00 a. m. August 18, heavy rain and gusting wind pummeled the coast. By 3:00 a. m., Front Street was under water. By 4:00 a. m., the strong wind made it impossible to stand. By 5:00 a. m., water covered the first floor of the hotel. Women and children were urged to evacuate as the Atlantic Hotel and other waterfront buildings began to crumble.





Dr. Isaac Hughes Family Window in Christ Episcopal Church, New Bern. Photo from *Windows*.

Three men drowned when the Atlantic Hotel collapsed: Henry Congleton, a local boat hand, John Dunn of New Bern, and John D. Hughes. Before he died, John Hughes selflessly pitched in, guiding other guests to safety. After rescuing several vacationers from the second and third floors, Hughes looked back at the building only to notice what he thought was a young woman in a window. The storm peaked as he re-entered the trembling structure. Waves and wind battered the hotel, and it collapsed with John inside. There was not anybody in the window. Hughes had been misled by the reflection of light on window curtains.

#### Major John and Jane

Jane Graham Hughes was born on October 8, 1830, and was baptized in Christ Church on March 29, 1831. During the Civil War, Jane and other local ladies formed the Craven County Aid Society. Jane was the First Directress of this group of seamstresses who, during 1861 and 1862, made undergarments and other articles of clothing for the troops. They also supplied the soldiers with bed ticking, blankets, socks, and winter apparel.

Major John Hughes was born on March 30, 1830, and was baptized in Christ Church on June 1, 1831. He was described as a wealthy and prominent attorney who was well-known statewide. He was one of the first officers and founders of the National Bank of New Bern. The banking industry in New Bern began in 1804 and was a risky and unsettled business. New banks were established and then folded at an alarming rate. The National Bank was founded in 1856 with Major John as its first president. Ten years later it capitalized at \$100,000 with much of this capital coming from northern sources. Located at 313 Pollock Street in 1858, the bank operated for 65 years; this was a remarkable achievement.

Major John served on the vestry of Christ Church for 23 years and was senior warden for 12. In 1866 he was included among the delegates to the diocesan meeting in

New Bern. The next convention was held in Wilmington, and John Hughes was the only local lay delegate. In 1866 Major John also served on the Board of Trustees of the New Bern Academy.

As a major in the Civil War, John served as quartermaster of the Hoke-Godwin-Lewis Brigade, which included the 21<sup>st</sup> Georgia, 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia, 21<sup>st</sup> North Carolina, and 15<sup>th</sup> Alabama regiments. These men fought in an attempt to regain New Bern from Union forces in April of 1864. Major John was also a member of the Branch-Lane Brigade organized in Kinston under General Branch. It included the 7<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 37<sup>th</sup> North Carolina regiments. Once again John served as quartermaster. When Major John was with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, he fought at Harper's Ferry in September of 1862 under General Branch. Branch and his men not only held their ground, they outflanked the Union led by General Burnside. Burnside, staggering under the attack, was pushed out of sight. When all was said and done, Confederates gained 11,000 prisoners as well as arms, artillery, harnesses, horses, wagons, and supplies, but lost General Branch. Major John described the battle as well as his General:

He had with his command, just swept the enemy before him, and driven them in such confusion and dismay, that all firing had ceased in his immediate front, when Generals Gregg and Archer directed his attention to a V-shaped column of the enemy that was advancing against the troops on his left. He stepped forward and formed with these Generals a little group, which evidently attracted the attention of some sharpshooter on the other side. For, just as he was raising his glasses to his eyes, a single shot was fired, and a bullet was sent to do its deadly work, which, striking him in the right cheek, passed out back of his left ear, and he fell dying into the arms of the faithful and gallant Major Englehard [sic], of his staff, than whom North Carolina sent no truer man to the front.

His death was regarded as a public calamity. (Clark 2: 553-554)

Major John was proud to serve with the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment at Chickamauga, as they bragged that "there was not a Federal to be found within thirteen miles of us by next morning who was at all able to get away (Clark 3: 453)." And Major John was listed on the regimental roll of honor at this battle.

### *The Family of James Bettner and Laura Hughes*

Eliza Ann and Laura B.

The window also memorializes Eliza Ann Hughes and Laura B. Hughes. Eliza Ann was the first wife of Isaac W. Hughes and was the mother of not only James but also John and N. Collin Hughes. She died when she was 33 on February 16, 1843. Laura (March 11, 1836-May 8, 1868) was wife of Dr. James Bettner Hughes (June 9, 1833-May 30, 1900), and she was the daughter of James W. Bryan and Ann Mary Washington Bryan. James and Laura buried one daughter, Corrine, at Cedar Grove on August 20, 1864. The little girl was only 18 days old.

Dr. James and Laura

The Hughes family was originally from Pennsylvania; Laura was from New Bern but may have met James in Philadelphia. Laura attended Mrs. C. C. Tilghman's school in Philadelphia in 1851-1852. At this point in time, James was apparently in Philadelphia attending medical school. Laura was sent home in 1852. She then moved to New York City and attended Mme. Chegaray's in 1853. Laura was back in New Bern in 1854. In February of that year, her parents learned that she was having illicit correspondence with a young medical student in Philadelphia, James Bettner Hughes. The courtship continued even though Laura's parents disapproved. The couple was married in 1858 and settled in New Bern.

James was baptized at Christ Church on June 16, 1833. Evidently James was very well respected in town. Dr. Hughes was described as courteous, patient, and sociable with everyone, especially the sick and needy.

His very presence in the chamber of the sick gave consolation before his soft voice was heard or they had been touched by his sympathetic hand. We had more than the most exalted opinion of Dr. James B. Hughes' pure character as a citizen and physician. (Whitford, p. 312)

Dr. Hughes served the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina Regiment as camp doctor and surgeon from May 16, 1861, until July 18, 1863. A respected, skillful, and dedicated physician, he attended to both sick and wounded. He resigned on July 28, 1863, citing business practice problems and family health. Later he accepted the position of Acting Assistant Surgeon at Pettigrew General Hospital No. 13 in Raleigh. Dr. Hughes also was appointed trustee of the New Bern Academy on February 25, 1875. When he died in 1900, it was said that his "death was felt by all (Whitford, 312)." [The Hughes home on Broad Street was important because it was the largest known Gothic Revival style residence built prior to the Civil War. As an especially fine example of style and craftsmanship, the house served as federal provost marshal's headquarters during the Civil War.

### *The Family of Isaac W. and Annie M. Smallwood Hughes*

Isaac W. and Anna

This window also commemorates Isaac W. (February 26, 1854-February 4, 1862) and Anna Hughes (January 16, 1863-March 5, 1864), the children of Dr. Isaac W. Hughes and his second wife Annie M. Smallwood. Dr. Isaac arrived in New Bern from Pennsylvania in 1825. He was married twice. Major John, Dr. James, and N. Collin were his sons from his first marriage. His second wife Annie M.

Smallwood already had two sons, Edward and Dr. Frank.

When Dr. Isaac arrived in town, he was described as "remarkably handsome (Whitford 311)." His appearance was always neat; he liked to wear a black suit and was never seen wearing an overcoat. He immediately took a prominent place in his profession and maintained this stature until he died. One of six resident doctors in town in 1881, Dr. Isaac possessed a gentleness of character and softness of voice. [The other doctors were H. G. Bates, C. F. Duffy, J. F. Long, M. C. R. Richardson, and Edward F. Smallwood.] His voice, plus a respect for the opinions of others, ensured his success as a physician. He was known for his skill as a surgeon and prompt delivery of services.

A prominent civic leader, Dr. Isaac took his community responsibilities seriously. Dr. Isaac also liked to socialize. Interestingly, an altercation at a party led him into a duel. While visiting his friend John M. Roberts at home, Dr. Isaac was drawn into an argument with Nathaniel Smith. The dispute led to a duel. Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr., Smith's second, made the arrangements. Evidently Dr. Hughes knew no more about "'pistols and coffee for two' than he did sailing a ship, and did not care to be instructed in the murderous art (Whitford 312)." It seems that it was the doctor's second Frederick Shepard, who saved his life. Shepard had accidentally met a naval officer at Portsmouth, Virginia, who taught him how to manage a pistol. He, in turn, must have given Dr. Isaac some lessons.

### N. Collin Hughes

The window honors N. Collin Hughes, son of Dr. Isaac and his first wife Eliza, and younger brother of Dr. James and Major John. [Dr. Isaac Hughes had a brother also named Nicholas Collin Hughes (1822-1893), an Episcopal clergyman and teacher, who served St. Paul's Mission in Greenville and St. Peter's Church in Washington. The Reverend N. C. Hughes had two sons who became Episcopal clergymen: Nicholas Collin Hughes, Jr., and Isaac Wayne Hughes] (Powell 3: 227-228).

The Nicholas Collin Hughes honored in this window was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina Regiment, Company I. Collin was a leader among his lively and rambunctious fellows. Captain Matt Manly later wrote that Collin's "handsome presence and charming manners made him a delightful companion and his superb courage a noble comrade in arms (Clark 1: 158)." Manly also respected Collin because he was "a most valuable officer (Clark 1: 163)." He was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on May 16, 1861, and made Adjutant under Colonel Tew on June 25, 1861. As part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Collin was dispatched to Virginia where in 1862 he joined the campaign against General McClellan's front in the Seven Days' Battles. They were the first troops to cross the bridge at Mechanicsville on June 26. They battled at Cold Harbor, Malvern Hill, South Mountain in June and at Sharpsburg in September. They lost their leader Colonel Charles Tew in this last battle.

At this point, Collin was promoted to Captain. In October 1862 he went on to serve as Assistant Adjutant to General Pettigrew. Pettigrew's Brigade consisted of the 11<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, and 52<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina regiments. Initially the brigade was dispatched to eastern North Carolina to confine the federal army to the coast. During the winter of 1862-1863, the brigade met the enemy at New Bern, Washington, and Fort Anderson. By spring, the brigade was well disciplined and primed for the battlefields of Virginia and Pennsylvania. After the battle of Chancellorsville, Pettigrew's Brigade joined Heth's Division, A. P. Hill's Corps. They started to Pennsylvania to fight at Gettysburg in July 1863. Captain Collin did not survive the bloody ordeal, nor did his general. But he was remembered by his comrade Louis G. Young as "a perfect type of efficiency in the Adjutant-General's Department (Clark 4: 568)."

Some of the Hughes family members died young. Others led full and productive lives. They showed heroism, gentleness, humility, generosity, and eloquence, and their window reminds us of their endurance in family, church, and community.

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## NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, IN THE FUTURE -- ONE MAN'S VIEW

John F. (Mac) McLellan

The documented growth of New Bern in the last 25 years has been remarkable. Such growth is due to the foresight of a large number of motivated individuals working together to assure the continued health of New Bern. Civic interest groups along with city planners had the foresight to look well into the future and plan accordingly. The results have been amazing.

New Bern is a beautiful city with some striking vistas. The small town feeling is everywhere. Location on navigable water is a great asset and is a major draw for tourists and prospective homeowners. My wife and I agree that New Bern is the best place we have lived.

I would like to share some thoughts and predictions about New Bern in the next 25 years. The following comments and observations have resulted from my nearly 5 years experience serving on the New Bern Planning and Zoning Board as well as a 6-year residency in the Historic District. The comments and opinions are mine and not those of the Planning and Zoning staff nor those of other Planning and Zoning board members.

During my tenure on the Planning and Zoning Board, we have ruled on proposals for an estimated \$400 million (at build out) in new housing, condominium, and commercial projects. I suspect it is only the beginning of the continued growth pattern of the City of New Bern.

When traveling for 30 years as an attorney for the Hartford Insurance Group, I observed growth patterns in a number of areas in the United States. I have lived in the Baltimore, San Francisco, Annapolis, and Alexandria, Vir-

ginia, areas and the Outer Banks of North Carolina (Corolla); I was active in community associations in nearly every community. Growth issues were paramount in each community.

Both Annapolis and Alexandria grew in a rapid manner fueled by the job opportunities in the Baltimore/D. C. area. New Bern today reminds me of those two cities some 30 years ago, with a major exception. Retiree arrival in New Bern is fueling our expansion along with associated job growth. Both Annapolis and Alexandria sought to grow in a measured manner while grappling with major traffic and growth issues. I was able to observe both Annapolis and Alexandria for 21 years. What is transpiring in New Bern today is very similar to what I observed in both cities starting in 1975.

#### *Population Projections 2000 to 2030*

*The News and Observer* reported in its May 27, 2007, edition that North Carolina's year 2000 population of 8 million would increase 50% to 14 million people by 2030. It is conceivable that the New Bern area population as well as other portions of eastern North Carolina will also see such a population increase.

The current New Bern population is in excess of 26,000, having grown 33.2 % from 1990 through 2000. Craven County (including the City of New Bern) had a 2006 population of nearly 95,000.

#### *Future Growth Patterns*

Growth patterns in the City of New Bern have changed dramatically in the last 17 years with a number of planned communities now existing in areas that were formerly Craven County. Voluntary annexation allowed a major expansion of the city limits, and such annexation efforts appear to be continuing at a rapid pace. From January of 1990 to July 1996, almost 11 square miles were an-

nexed by the city according to a draft Comprehensive Plan prepared by the city. The water and sewer services offered by the city have allowed developers to offer higher density housing than any well and septic systems could sustain. Developers are eager to hook up to the city systems to maximize land use.

The City of New Bern continues to expand along portions of the NC 70 corridor towards Havelock. Taberna, Carolina Colours, Gables Run, Brices Crossing, Long Leaf Pines, and Evans Mill are but a few of the newer developments clustered in that area. Also planned are a number of commercial areas near those communities to accommodate neighborhood shoppers. Construction along Old Airport Road, which parallels NC 70, will continue as farmland converts to residential and commercial use. Construction of strip shopping centers and car dealerships along the NC 70 will likely consume most of the road frontage areas. Major portions of the frontage are in Craven County allowing installation of multiple billboards. In my opinion, the NC 70 frontage area is becoming an eyesore.

The city also has expanded along the US 17 North and US 17 South corridors and will continue to do so. The Food Lion shopping center in the Bridgeton area as well as several other selected parcels in adjacent areas are in the City of New Bern footprint. It is conceivable that developer interest will cause the City of New Bern to expand to the Pamlico County line along the NC 55 east corridor.

The Bosch Boulevard Connector as designed will traverse a large swath of land between US 17 South and the intersection of NC 55 and NC 43. The new roadway may generate several thousand new homes to take advantage of this transportation corridor. More communities will appear along US 17 South towards Jones County as available land closer to the current city limits grows more limited.

Large communities are under construction or envisioned along both westbound NC 43 and NC 55 within several miles of where they fork. Those communities will be a mix of multi-family as well as single-family dwellings.

Some of the proposed developments will be located near existing quarry operations and may result in community outcries in the future as blasting operations continue.

There are proposals to add commercial space to service residents of those communities along both routes. New development will add to existing traffic flow issues.

Construction along NC 70 West is uncertain because of soil limitations and wetland issues.

### *Infill Projects*

Developers frequently present “infill” projects to the Planning and Zoning Board for rezoning considerations. Whenever small parcels become available within the current city limits, they offer an opportunity for more residential or commercial development. Some of the infill projects are encountering community resistance as residents in existing communities do not want new neighbors. NIMBY reaction (“not in my back yard”) arises nearly every time a new development is to be located near an older more established neighborhood. It is a universal reaction, which I have witnessed in every area where I have lived.

### *Bridgepoint Area*

The proposed DeGraffen condominium project as well as Trent Villas—an already completed condominium project—will anchor future development across the Trent River from the Sheraton. There have been discussions concerning the construction of a new hotel to replace the Bridgepoint Hotel as well as future restaurants and shops.

### *Downtown Business District*

Condominium development will be the driving force for downtown growth. Land costs dictate high density housing which translates into condominium construction. SkySail near the Sheraton is well under way. Several other

smaller condominium projects are in place, under construction, or planned. Parking issues will certainly appear and the city is currently working with a parking consultant to ascertain the future need for parking decks in the downtown area. It is conceivable we may see as many as three parking decks built in the downtown business district.

Construction of the North Carolina History Education Center at Tryon Palace will necessitate additional parking spaces or areas for cars and busses.

The convention center has mentioned the future possibility of expansion (an exhibition hall) constructed in front of the current facility. Such an addition will result in the need for more parking.

Harder to predict is the health of the retail and restaurant industry in the coming years. Many stores and restaurants have opened and closed in the six years that I have lived here. Some establishments have a strong presence and very loyal supporters. I suspect they will succeed despite the vagaries of the economy. Additional residents in the downtown business area can only help the survival rate and may encourage more retail investment downtown.

The farmers market, utilized for the traditional Saturday market in season, is also a venue for music and fundraising events throughout the year. It is a great asset and a large number of citizens hope it remains where it is currently located. The market is an excellent draw for the downtown area.

### *Downtown Historic District*

The oldest residential part of the city continues to prosper as home restoration continues. We have seen remarkable renovation efforts sometimes costing hundreds of thousands per home. Such renovations show no signs of diminishing in the near future. There are few lots left to build on in the downtown historic district. They will command a premium price. This 56-square-block area is a ma-

major tourist attraction as is Tyron Place and the downtown business area. Home values in the historic district will continue to climb in the ensuing years. I watched Annapolis and Old Towne Alexandria prices increase year by year, and we may see the same situation here if the “baby boomers” continue to descend on our area looking for the perfect retirement home.

### *Ghent and DeGraffenried Park*

The Ghent community has seen major gentrification efforts. Property values will continue to climb as the homes are improved. Frequent trips through Ghent reveal the same type restoration efforts that have been evident in the Downtown Historic District.

The DeGraffenried Park community has matured wonderfully. Renovation efforts and additions to existing homes are ongoing.

### *Greenbrier*

Greenbrier was the first large planned community and was the predecessor to the Taberna and Carolina Colours communities. Greenbrier is a good example of a sustainable community.

### *Riverside and Riverstation*

Some residents in the Riverside community have begun substantial renovation efforts. Affordable homes are still available. Home values will continue to increase.

Riverstation is an 18-block area located between Queen Street on the south, Dunn Street on the north, George Street on the west, and the Neuse River on the east. This area was once New Bern’s main industrial section and now stands to become a prime real estate development location. Views of the Neuse River will eventually lead to a major housing effort in the area closest to the Neuse River.

The nearly one mile of shoreline from Queen Street to the Maola Milk property lends itself to residential use.

Other areas in Riverstation will also benefit from development although more slowly as the riverfront area is completed. Revitalization of the Union Station Depot will spur economic growth and will result in new housing and some commercial construction in adjacent areas. Habitat for Humanity is currently building homes on North Cool Street not far from the station. There are plans to construct 11 homes at the location.

The Riverstation area is zoned a Multi-Use Development District (MXU), which will allow appropriate businesses to service the neighborhood. Housing will likely be a mixture of multi-family and single-family housing.

There may come a time when Maola decides to relocate their plant, opening up development of that site. In addition, the railroad may scale back their freight yard, which would allow other use. I remember when the RF&P Railroad sold its large rail yard in the Arlington/Alexandria area to private developers. Today there is huge housing and commercial development on that land generating sizeable tax revenues for those two cities.

### *Duffyfield, Five Points, and Adjoining Areas*

Neuse River Community Development has completed the renovation of a number of homes in Duffyfield, as has Habitat for Humanity. Both groups expect to continue their efforts to make affordable housing available in the Duffyfield area.

Enterprise zones, grant monies, and entrepreneurial efforts may change the face of the Five Points area. Enterprise zones encourage economic growth by offering tax advantages and incentives to businesses who locate within the zone. Federal block grant funding for Five Points and adjoining areas may spur resurgence in construction and renovation for individuals who see an opportunity to invest in that part of the city.

## *Oaks Road at Simmons Street*

A proposal for a large adult community-housing complex was presented to our board some time ago. The development will be adjacent to the former quarry behind the Oaks Road School. The project will change the face of the neighborhood in a dramatic manner.

## *Other Communities*

There are many smaller communities throughout New Bern--some of which are delightful. Some of the smaller communities offer very affordable housing, and we hope they prosper in the future. Only time will tell.

## Issues Which May Temper Growth

### *Traffic*

My experiences and those of friends who moved to New Bern from larger urban areas indicate that heavy traffic will eventually degrade the quality of life. NCDOT has reported that road capacities for most of the major road systems are adequate for the near future.

We need to complete four lanes on US 17 and the promised bypass of New Bern to avoid substantial traffic issues. US 17 through North Carolina carries a large number of out-of-state vehicles heading north and south year round. An increasing number of senior citizens refuse to utilize Interstate 95. US 17 has become a viable alternative route from Virginia to South Carolina. Updating the 1993 Thoroughfare Plan is necessary. The city must press the NCDOT to bring us into the future. We can only hope that funding of well-designed road improvements will be a priority of NCDOT.

In addition, we should consider the feasibility of public transportation. As seniors age, their ability to drive may diminish. We should be planning for that eventually.



A quote from the 2003 comprehensive plan is illustrative of potential problems.

New Bern is very attractive to tourists and retirees. A transportation system capable of maximizing the area's potential is necessary. If adjustments are not made to provide for additional travel demands, the area's growth potential could be impacted by inadequate opportunity for convenient travel between points of interest.

### *Insurance*

The availability of affordable property insurance will directly effect the growth of New Bern. The largest rate increases following Hurricane Katrina have been limited to the beach zone. However, the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner in 2007 allowed insurance carriers to levy a 25% increase on homes within Craven County. The carriers originally requested a 100% increase and have promised to request higher rates in 2008. Insurance will become a major issue in the years ahead. You can bet on it.

### *Jobs*

Job growth is steady; however, service industry wages alone will not sustain the growth of New Bern. Expansion of existing manufacturing facilities and importation of new companies offering higher wages is critical. Cherry Point is a major employer, and any expansion of its operations is a plus for New Bern.

### *Police and Fire Services*

We have excellent police and fire services. Both departments are planning for future expansion as the city grows. Eventually we will need a police substation near the existing fire station on Thurman Road. Absent a satis-

factory mutual aid agreement, we may need both police and fire stations near Bridgeton to service newly expanded areas as growth proceeds along US 17 North and NC 55 East to the Pamlico County line.

### *Water and Sewer*

New Bern has adequate water and sewer capacity for the future. The water system has a new water treatment plant in the design phase, which will be operational in 2009 to provide capacity through 2028. The sewer system had a state-of-the-art nutrient removal process completed in 2001, which will supply ample sewer treatment capacity through 2021. North Carolina environmental regulations dictate the city must begin the permitting process to expand treatment facilities if demand exceeds 80% of available capacity. New Bern has approximately 210 miles of water distribution pipes and approximately 120 miles of sewage collection pipes serving 15,200 homes and businesses within its boundaries. Expansion of service lines to meet future development demands may create new issues as costs escalate.

### *Economy and Shopping*

The recent stock market fluctuations caused by mortgage issues and falling home sales may curtail some potential homeowners from moving to this area. Those who have to sell a home in another area before buying in New Bern are directly affected. Some suggest it may be 5 to 6 years before the mortgage situation is corrected.

As strange as it sounds, we have heard stories of people who left New Bern because shopping venues were limited. I guess the phrase "retail therapy" must be more important than I imagined. Future innovations at the mall and arrivals of some big box retail stores should alleviate the desire to drive to Greenville, Jacksonville, and Raleigh --seeking something new.

## SOME INFORMATION ON SMOKEHOUSES

Richard K. Lore

Introduction by E. Newsom Williams

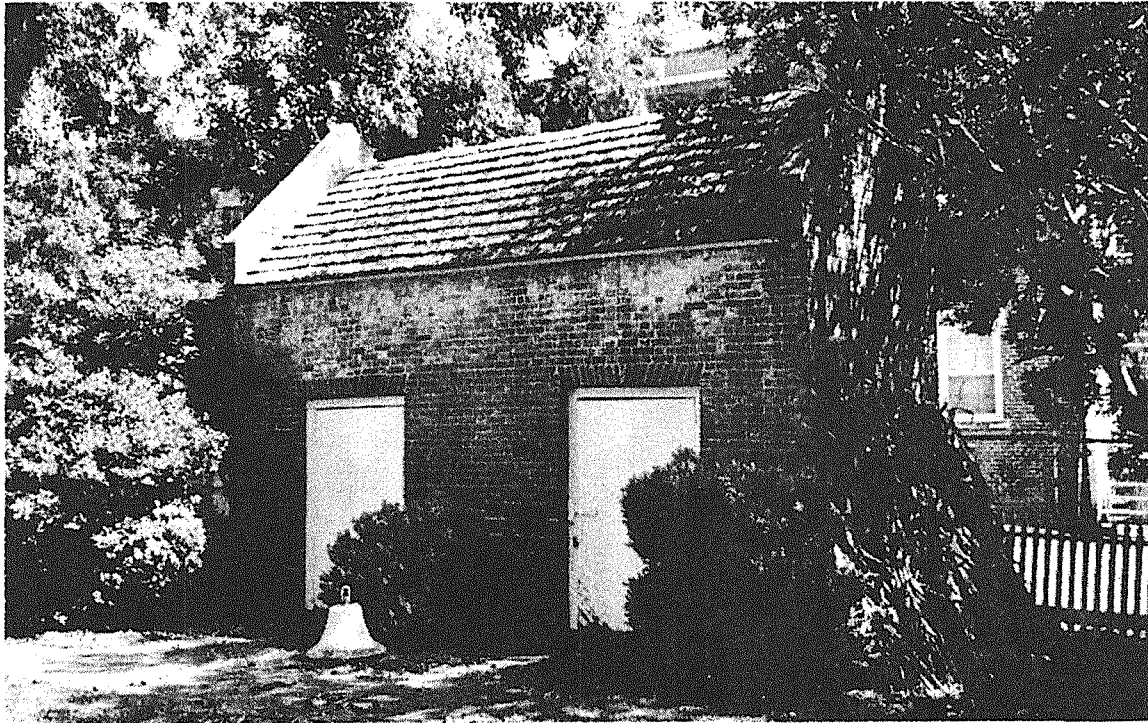
In late March 2007, Dick Lore was dealing with cancer. Although his activities were significantly limited, he did keep up with his e-mail correspondence and, as Historian of the New Bern Historical Society, he was responsive to all questions and inquiries about local history.

One such question pertained to the brick smokehouse in the backyard of the Attmore-Oliver House. Built in 1847 (date brick located on side of smokehouse) and measuring 10 feet by 20 feet, this solid brick building will eventually play a more important role in the interpretation of the Attmore-Oliver House and in the weekly performances of our historical drama--*Haunted Evening*.

Dick was asked to supply relevant information about this important dependency, specifically about its utilization. His e-mail response to this request, dated April 7, 2007, follows. In his preface, he cautions that “. . . this material is off the top of my head and I cannot give you any authoritative references.” It is reprinted in this edition of the *Journal of the New Bern Historical Society* as the last article that he prepared. And of course it contains useful information and observations about eastern North Carolina expressed in Dick’s distinctive style.

“Folks in town would have a smokehouse because if it were filled with custom-prepared hams, this resource represented about the peak of gentrified high status.

“Hog-killing time for small farmers was usually the second cold spell in January. The farmer first soaked the fresh hams in a brine solution (about one cup of salt/each



Brick smokehouse, built in 1847 behind the Attmore-Oliver House. Photo by Williams.

gallon of water) for two to three weeks. The ham is now preserved but not flavored to the demanding palate of the town citizen. The farmer might bring in 15-20 hams and hang them from the rafters of the in-town smokehouse with wire hooks (note the exposed rafters in our smokehouse).

“Smokehouses usually had dirt floors to reduce fire hazard. Periodically, a smoky fire would be built in the houses using wood chips and small bits of wood from hardwood trees (apple, hickory, oak, etc.). Never use chips from a resinous tree such as pine, or you get a bitter ham!

“Smoking does not require a large fire nor does it have to burn for a long period of time. Twice a week for 6-10 weeks will do. While in the smoking phase, coat the hams with your own recipe of secret ingredients, say sugar, pepper, and a long list of herbs and spices.

“These ‘cured’ hams were valuable and good for holiday gifts. Most always they acquired a black crust that had to be scraped off prior to cooking. They should also be soaked in clear water for up to two days before cooking to reduce the salt content. They remain edible for years.

“Sausage and shoulders could be smoked in the same way. Smokehouses were a prime target for thieves. For this reason, they always had a sturdy door and expensive lock. Brick smokehouses were used to reduce the incident of fire and also reduce stealing, since it is harder to break open a solid brick smokehouse than one made with wooden siding.

“Both farmers and townsfolk got out of the ham curing business right after World War II. It was easier to freeze them in communal frozen food lockers that were built in almost every small town, including New Bern, beginning about 1947. For a small monthly fee, one could rent a locker space at these facilities.

“Today’s ‘country hams’ that you buy at the supermarket are a terrible imitation of the real thing.”

## OBITUARIES

### Richard Karl Lore

When does a life begin, and does it really ever end? If it begins, when we begin, then Dick Lore made “his-story” part of the life of everyone he touched, not by the roles he played but by who he was and always will be.



In 49 years of marriage to Linda, no one ever thought about one without the other — they were always a couple. He was the older “brother” to all youngsters as they grew up in their extended family — a favorite “cousin” man. In remembering everything he ever heard and everyone he ever met, he could talk on any level, to anyone, and be at ease because he was at ease within himself. He loved to talk, with a gift for picking up on other peoples’ interests, drawing them into conversation. He loved to eat, to laugh and to poke fun at himself and others, with a humorously friendly wit that let him tease people,

especially Linda, with such tenderness and joy. He was not a soft-spoken man — rather always exuberant and energetic yet with a kindness that radiated his gentle nature. Dick’s history will live on in the love of his family and friends — they will hear his voice, feel his touch, see his loving smile and talk to him in their hearts, by the remembering of this beloved man.

Dr. Richard (“Dick”) Karl Lore, age 73, died on Friday, May 18, 2007. Dick

gallon of water) for two to three weeks. The ham is now preserved but not flavored to the demanding palate of the town citizen. The farmer might bring in 15-20 hams and hang them from the rafters of the in-town smokehouse with wire hooks (note the exposed rafters in our smokehouse).

"Smokehouses usually had dirt floors to reduce fire hazard. Periodically, a smoky fire would be built in the houses using wood chips and small bits of wood from hardwood trees (apple, hickory, oak, etc.). Never use chips from a resinous tree such as pine, or you get a bitter ham!

"Smoking does not require a large fire nor does it have to burn for a long period of time. Twice a week for 6-10 weeks will do. While in the smoking phase, coat the hams with your own recipe of secret ingredients, say sugar, pepper, and a long list of herbs and spices.

"These 'cured' hams were valuable and good for holiday gifts. Most always they acquired a black crust that had to be scraped off prior to cooking. They should also be soaked in clear water for up to two days before cooking to reduce the salt content. They remain edible for years.

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was a native of Roanoke Rapids, N.C. and completed undergraduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill where he was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa. Early in his work career, he was a certified electric welder and worked as a field engineer for the Lincoln Electric Company of Cleveland, Ohio. During his two years of service in the U.S. Army, he was stationed in Korea and Guam.

Dick received his Doctorate in Psychology at the University of Tennessee where he was a National Institute of Health Fellow and was elected to Sigma Xi. He began his academic career as an assistant professor at Rutgers University and retired from that institution as professor and director of graduate training in psychology. In 1986, he was awarded the Rutgers Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. He was the author of more than 90 academic publications, including major review articles in *Scientific American*, *Psychological Bulletin*, and *American Psychologist*. During his academic career, Dr. Lore was an officer in the *International Society for Research on Aggression* and was on the editorial board of that organization's journal.

Upon his retirement to New Bern in 1992, Dick joined the New Bern Historical Society and served on the Society's Board of Directors as historian for many years. He was deeply interested in local history and contributed numerous articles to the Society's journal and gave frequent talks on local history. He wrote many of the original scripts for New Bern's popular Ghost Walk event. Many folks remember him for the humorous stories he related while working as a tour guide on New Bern's tourist trolley. He was also a member of the New Bern Preservation Foundation.

His mother, Eula McGowan Strickland, and his father, Karl Lore, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Linda Coburn Lore; his daughter, Laura Bloom and her husband Curt of Birmingham, Ala.; two granddaughters, Chloe and Alexis Bloom; two brothers, Mark Lore of Winchester, Va., and David Lore of Columbus, Ohio; a sister, Tania Carlton of San Francisco, Calif.; his sisters-in-law, Marilyn Coburn of New Bern, and Lois Snowden of Farmington Hills, Mich.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, at Christ Episco-



pal Church, 320 Pollock Street, New Bern, 28563, immediately followed by internment on the church grounds.

Family and friends are invited to a reception in the parish hall following internment. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the New Bern Historical

Society Battlefield Fund, 512 Pollock St., New Bern, 28560 (252-638-8558), or to Christ Church. The family will receive visitors at the residence on Monday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

Arrangements by Cotten Funeral Home and Crematory.

Paid obituary