

Historically speaking



Quarterly Newsletter

2025
january
february
march

Our vision continues - with YOU - our amazing supporters!



Celebrate



Educate



Preserve





Update from Anthony Giardino, Executive Director

Happy New Year!

We're excited to get right into our 2025 programming - especially after seeing how strong we closed out 2024! First, we had record attendance for our 34th Annual Ghostwalk, hosting 1,800 ticket holders! Thank you for supporting this wonderful event! Also, fall presentations from **Glen Swain** and **Jerilyn Lee** were both captivating and informative. It was a true pleasure hosting them. Now, we jump-start the year with two more education programs from exceptional presenters - in January discovering the history and culture of the Tuscarora Tribe of this region; and in February, learn the impacts of WWII along the NC Coast. I hope these two events sell out and that I see you there!

The New Year is also the time for resolutions and renewed purpose. I am proud to report that the leadership of this organization reaffirmed its vision and goals for the years ahead. With our great staff and devoted volunteers, we are committed to delivering quality education programs and events, continuously broadening the topics we share. Through events, articles, social media posts, and even welcoming visits to our beautifully maintained Battlefield Park and Attmore

Oliver House Campus, our intention is to stay deeply rooted with this great New Bern community as **The Storytellers!** The efforts to perform this mission take place all year, so we are hard at work reviewing future speakers, preparing article topics, and always adding to our "cast of historical characters." Thank you all for your support! It's a joy doing what we do.

Now I must share the bittersweet news that our Program Director, Marissa Moore, has accepted a position as Executive Director for Downtown Morehead City! We appreciate and celebrate all that Marissa has done for the tremendous success of the Historical Society over the last 3 years. Thank you and best of luck!

While our organization has proven resilience through change, I will truly miss working with my friend. Congrats, Marissa, and we will see you, Zach & Max around New Bern soon! Come to think of it, can you volunteer for Ghostwalk?



Marissa Moore, Elisabeth Luther, and Anthony Giardino during Tee it Up for History



Rekindled Memories...by Jim Hodges, NBHS Curator

Back in August 2024, I received an email from an out-of-towner who had family connections to New Bern. She had in her possession two brick pavers that had belonged to her grandmother who had resided on Hancock St. Story has it that her grandmother "stood them on end to use as door stops to keep the doors open when the long heavy trains rumbled through town in the night". The granddaughter wanted to know if the pavers were on the streets and sidewalks. Investigation revealed that these decorative pavers were most likely used in gardens or to define yard pathways and that a few still could be found around town.

Mary Ellen, the granddaughter, further revealed that her family, both grandparents and great-grandparents, had owned and resided in the Francis Hawks House which was located at that time on the east side of the 300 block of Hancock Street. After WWII, her grandmother built and lived in a smaller house next to the Hawks House that she rented until it was sold in the 1970s. The house was purchased by Robert and Margaret Stallings, then relocated to the southeast corner of Metcalf and New Streets and restored. Also of interest, the smaller house that Mary Ellen's grandmother lived in for a number of years was eventually relocated to Crescent Street off of North Craven Street in the Riverside area of New Bern.

Dating back to 1769, the Hawks House is a Georgian period gambrel-roofed house that was enlarged later during the federal period. One of the owners was Francis Hawks who was the son of John Hawks, the architect of Tryon Palace. Francis Hawks had five children, the most prominent being Francis Lister Hawks who became a bishop in the Episcopal Church and, additionally, published two volumes in 1857 on the history of North Carolina.

During the course of our communications, Mary Ellen shared with me some genealogical information and photographs of her grandparents whose last name was Lasitter. Her grandfather, Thomas T. Lasitter, had been the New Bern Fire Chief in 1914 and passed away in 1941 at the age of fifty-five. The photograph of her grandmother, Elizabeth Colligan Lasitter, confirmed my suspicions that this was the delightful little lady with the warm smile and gentle, loving touch that babysat for me in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Her photograph was exactly the way I remember her—a sweet, dear lady. She outlived her husband by forty-seven years and passed on to her reward in 1988 at the very ripe old age of one-hundred-one. Obviously, to my credit, baby sitting me didn't drive her to an early grave.



Elizabeth Colligan Lasitter

Continued on p. 3

2025 Events Calendar

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

Sunday, January 26: Presentation / “Tuscarora Education & Powwow Event” by Kaya & Kat Littleturtle / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium **SEATS ARE SELLING FAST!**

Sunday, February 23: Presentation / “War Zone: WWII Off the NC Coast” by Kevin Duffus / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium **TICKETS ON SALE JANUARY 13!**

Thursday-Saturday, March 20-22: Lantern Tour 2025 / New Bern Battlefield Park / 6-9pm

Saturday, March 22: Battlefield Adventure Day / New Bern Battlefield Park / 1-4pm

Friday-Saturday, May 2-3: Heritage Homes Tour / Various locations in Historic Downtown New Bern and DeGraffenried Park

Sunday, May 4: Spring New Member & Volunteer Social / Attmore-Oliver House Lawn and Gardens / 1-3pm

Wednesday, May 21: Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Dinner / Maola at Riverside / Details TBD

Sunday, June 8: Golf Tournament / Carolina Colours Golf Course

Rekindled Memories...Continued from p. 2

This past October, Mary Ellen traveled to New Bern bearing gifts for the Historical Society. One gift is a copy of the booklet “Your Liberty Town” authored by Miss Gertrude Carraway in 1943.

The other, a nicely framed original acrylic painting created by Willie Taglieri in 1993 of the Hawks House. Mary Ellen’s mother, Dollie Lasitter Cavanaugh, commissioned Willie Taglieri to commemorate the family home and Mary Ellen felt that it was important for these family possessions to find their way back to New Bern under the stewardship of the Historical Society.



Jim and Mary Ellen with the Willie Taglieri artwork, now on display

We had a mutually rewarding time together culminating with a visit to Cedar Grove Cemetery to pay respects to her family.

I am especially appreciative of Mary Ellen reaching out to the Historical Society and allowing me the opportunity to rekindle a warm memory from my childhood of her grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Colligan Lasitter.



New Bern’s Home for History

thank you

For your Annual Fund Contributions!

A heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to the **Annual Fund!** With the rising costs of food, venues, building supplies, and other expenses, the Annual Fund is critical to help us cover operating costs. We are grateful for your trust and humbled by your generosity.

There’s still time to donate! Any gift of any size truly makes a difference. We’ll be highlighting contributors in the spring newsletter – we’d love to see your name there.

Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour

March 20 - 22, 2025

6:00 - 9:00 pm

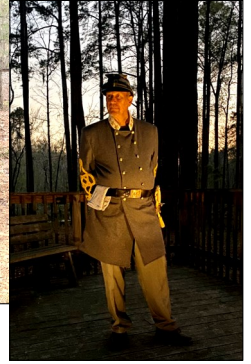
New Bern Battlefield Park

300 Battlefield Trail

Tickets on sale February 6!

Online Reservations Required

www.newbernhistorical.org



Take an evening, lantern-lit walk through the Hallowed Ground of Battlefield Park.

Hear moving stories of courage & conviction from the past.

The Historical Society's Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour returns for its fourth year! Take a 60-minute guided walk through the wooded battlefield trails, where costumed reenactors will share inspiring stories about life in New Bern's Civil War past. You'll hear about the planning behind the surf-boat landing at Slocum Creek, a New Bern freed slave on a first name basis with the White House, and sisters rebelling in their own way against the Union occupation of New Bern. Guests will also walk through a full civil war encampment to learn about a day in the life of a soldier.

Not a battlefield tour or a program about the war, these are poignant human stories of civilians, soldiers, and the formerly-enslaved. These gripping narratives are largely based on letters, diaries, and contemporaneous accounts.



The *Marks Scholarship* was established in a trust for the estate of Miss Harriett Marks as a memorial to the O. Marks family. The *Taylor Scholarship* complements and supplements the *Marks Scholarship*. It was created in 2015 by J. M. Hodges, Jr. to honor the memory of his grandparents. These scholarships are awarded annually based on both academic performance and financial need.

The ***Harriet Marks and John R. & Alice Land Taylor Scholarships*** are awarded to a senior graduating from New Bern High School and contribute to the tuition, books, board or lodging at an accredited college, university, or other institution of higher learning. They are renewable for three succeeding years if academic standards are maintained.

We are very proud of the academic records of our scholarship recipients over the years, and we look forward to contributing to more students who will maintain this tradition. Scholarship applications are available on the New Bern Historical Society website:

www.newbernhistorical.org/scholarships

and on the New Bern High School website.

The 2025 scholarship application deadline is Friday, March 21, 2025.

Tuscarora Education & Powwow Event

By Kaya & Kat Littleturtle

Sunday, January 26

2 pm

Orringer Auditorium

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Hear stories from the beginning of creation and songs of the eastern woodland native nations, and see the dances being led by various members of the group.



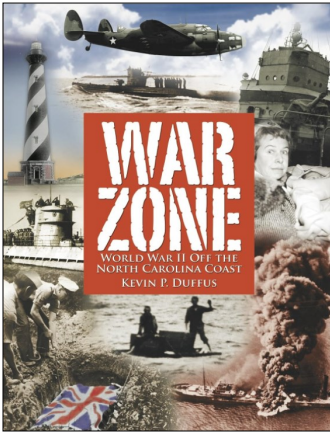
World War II Off the North Carolina Coast

By Kevin Duffus

Sunday, February 23rd

2 pm

Orringer Auditorium



Kevin Duffus recounts the time the enemy entered America's front door unhindered, when the United States suffered yet overcame the German U-boat menace. Black smoke and orange flames from torpedoed vessels filled the ocean skies. Explosions rattled window panes and the nerves of NC coastal residents. German POWs were held in New Bern. Hear the emotional stories of this time.

2025 Heritage Homes Tour

Friday and Saturday, May 2 & 3

10 am-4 pm

Historic Downtown New Bern & DeGraffenried Park

Join us for an exciting 2025 Heritage Homes Tour. This self-guided tour gives you the chance to see the interiors and gardens of very special homes in the Downtown and DeGraffenried Historic Districts not normally open to the public. Homes range from glorious to tiny, from 18th century to restorations in progress.



Save the Date - Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner!

Wednesday, May 21

Historic Maola Event Center

Keep an eye out for the details - you'll receive an invite by mail. Come enjoy the celebration with fellow members as we recognize key volunteers, review this year's success, and be a part of voting for our Board Members and sharing our goals for the future. All this over a delicious meal accompanied by great friends and music!



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



The year 2024 has seen many changes at the Historical Society. We have a new Director, Operations Manager, and Operations Assistant; and another staff member, Marissa Moore, Program Director, has just announced that she has accepted a position with Morehead City. The additions to our staff are doing an excellent job and we are fortunate to have such talented people. The changes in staff were brought about by retirements or opportunities from other sources.

I was asked how I felt about such a rapid turnover in the office staff of the Historical Society. This led me to recall a press conference when our head basketball coach at college was being interviewed and he was asked the question by a reporter how he felt about his talented assistant coach being recruited by another university. His response was impactful, "I don't want anyone working for me someone else does not want." We are the same, preferring two to three years from an excellent employee than a longer service by someone less qualified. Marissa has done an exceptionally good job as Program Director and she will be missed, but we know how to attract talent and will do our best to find someone that can perform the duties as well.



Joe Hunt and Ted Fridholm



NBHS Staff

We feel the same about the Historical Society volunteers. If you go to any of our events, the people performing and orchestrating the event have done an excellent job over the years. To all those who have served, we are fortunate you have brought your talents to the New Bern Historical Society!

New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

2024-25 Officers & Appointed Positions

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

2024-25 Directors

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Joe Anderson | Laura Miller-McLemore |
| Graham Barden | Cathy O'Brien |
| Carol Becton | Rob Overman |
| Clayton Cheek | Mary Parrish |
| George Evans | Chris Richey |
| Terri Hickman | Walt Teasdale |
| Ken McCotter | Mike Williams |
| Nelson McDaniel | |

Staff

- Anthony Giardino—Executive Director
- Marissa Moore—Programs Director
- Dwight Carlblom—Operations Manager
- Michel Epps—Operations Assistant



Each quarter, we shine the spotlight on a volunteer that's making a tremendous impact. This quarter, that light shines on the eleven wonderful, committed, and talented people that make up our NBHS Journal Committee!

By now, you've received the 2024 Historical Journal that was mailed in early December. What a great addition to the coffee table collection! It's amazing to think that this publication happens purely on volunteer power - and we can all agree that it's a great surprise when it shows up in our mailbox each year! This group is honored to continue this benefit of your membership.

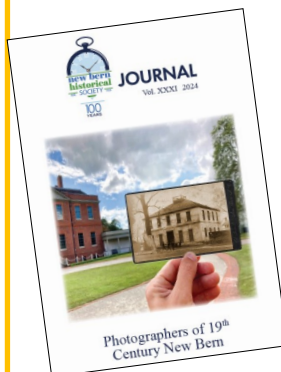


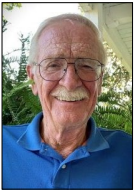
NBHS Journal Committee

We are thankful to the diligent Committee under the leadership of Editor, **George Howard**, and to generous authors **George Evans, Susan Cook, Claudia Houston, Ken McCotter, Bernard and Brenda George, Mark Sandvigen, and Jim Hodges**. Of course, it all comes together thanks to **Margo Fesperman** as technical editor and **John Klecker** with his exceptional graphics and design work.

The committee is already meeting to plan and organize the 2025 Historical Journal - no time to waste! If you are interested in joining this committee or preparing an article for review and consideration, please contact our office. We're always excited to recruit new talent!

Please share this great publication and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us in support of our mission of telling New Bern's inspiring stories.





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

During this last quarter of the year the battlefield hosted two events. The first was the **Living History** event which took place October 5th. This event recreated the life of soldiers during the Civil War. Highlighted activities included infantry drilling, a demonstration of artillery/weapons/gear used during the Civil War, a demonstration of civilian life at this time, and demonstrations of period medical treatment. The event was well attended by the public. We would like to thank the reenactors of the **5th and 7th North Carolina Regiments** for conducting this event.

The second event held was the **Cub Scout Pack 132** two-night campout over the November 8-10 weekend. Approximately 100 scouts attended this event. The scout leadership is commended for all the work they put into this event, and when the event was concluded they left the battlefield in pristine condition. This was the second time the scouts held this event and they are welcome to return next year.

During the fall quarter the battlefield volunteers continued their maintenance activities. The concrete battlefield map was power washed and repainted as needed. This is a beautiful and unique part of the park, and the cleaning brought it back to looking like new. The volunteers also put down new wood chips on most of the trails throughout the park. Once again, we would like to thank **Pamlico Tree Service** for donating several loads of woodchips for us to work with.

In the first quarter of 2025 we will be getting ready for the upcoming **Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day** and **Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour** which take place March 20-22. We hope to see you out on our trails!



Battlefield Guides sitting on the job...giving the map a fresh look!



Newly constructed benches now throughout the park. Special thanks to the Epiphany School volunteers and the New Bern Civil War Roundtable.



Pack 132 Scouts 2nd Annual Campout

Annual Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day

Saturday, March 22 • 1-4pm

New Bern Battlefield Park



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Tickets on sale February 6th

Enjoy this annual springtime event for the entire family at the New Bern Battlefield Park. This day incorporates Civil War reenactors with learning activities, period games and living history. The event is open to guests of all ages, with special activities for children 6-12 years of age.

\$5 per person/\$20 max for group

FOLLOW US!



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Search "NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY" for important updates to our programs!

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

"What's in the Attic with Jim" - a weekly Wednesday favorite from our Curator!

Monthly Article "This Month in New Bern History" from our Historian!



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Michel Epps & Dwight Carlblom / 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.

