

New Bern Historical Society

We Bring History to Life!



2024 - 2025 Annual Impact Report

During the past year, the New Bern Historical Society has fulfilled its mission “to celebrate and promote New Bern's heritage through events and education” by –

- Hosting **14 programs and events** throughout the year, which included 5 education programs, 5 fundraising events, and 4 volunteer and member social events.
- Sharing History with **7,830 ticketed participants** for our programs and events.
- Initiating our **Digital Archive project**, conducted entirely with the support of volunteers under the direction of the Curator. This will enable web access to the Historical Society collection of images, postcards, and documents.
- **Stewarding four historic properties** – Attmore Oliver House and Gardens, Manly-Ward House, Roberts House, and the New Bern Battlefield Park – making them accessible to thousands of visitors annually.
- **Partnering** with other nonprofits, schools, and local government to dramatically increase our programming and support in the community.
- **Engaging** hundreds of thousands of social media viewers with weekly historical images, events updates, articles, and stories.
- Redesigning and investing in the **100th Anniversary Exhibit**, *Through the Looking Glass*, to display at a partner hotel for 5 years, free and open to the public.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2024, the Historical Society initiated mid-range strategic planning surveys, which confirmed our mission and vision statement and identified four strategic priorities:

1. Strengthen the interpretation and preservation of the Historical Society's sites, stories, and collections.
2. Attract and grow audiences through topics that include a wide range of New Bern's history.
3. Be a key, recognized resource for history in our community.
4. Encourage new and growing membership involvement with programs, committees, fundraising, and Board Leadership to carry the organization for future generations.

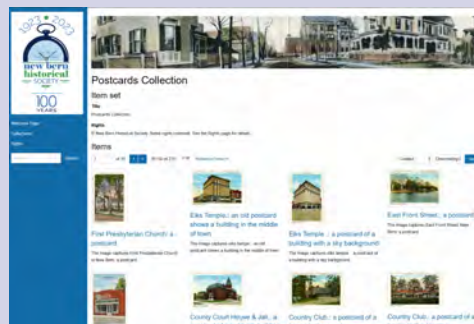
At the New Bern Historical Society, our vision is to become a key resource where history comes alive, and our community comes together to explore New Bern's layered past. Practically the entirety of American history can be examined through the lens of New Bern. Because of your support, the New Bern Historical Society is fostering civic engagement with our shared history and helping the entire community learn from the past and inform the future.



We hosted multiple sold out educational programs this year! We were thrilled to welcome Historian and Author, Jerilyn Lee, who shared captivating details on the topic, Black Soldiers in the Civil War. Members of the 35th USCT supported with a presentation of the colors! Follow our calendar, our events sell out fast!



Preservation efforts are ongoing at the Attmore Oliver House, Gardens, and at the New Bern Battlefield Park. Teams of loyal volunteers participate in weekly maintenance efforts and go above and beyond to share their time and talents for these important sites in New Bern's history. We are grateful for our Garden Angels, Campus Grounds Crew, and Battlefield Guides for their tremendous work!



A Digital Archive project is in the works! The effort to organize, scan, and prepare artifacts for digital accessibility on our website is a huge one. Our Curator, Jim Hodges, along with volunteers Curtis Krumel and Elisabeth Luther, have spearheaded this initiative - now in the final stages!



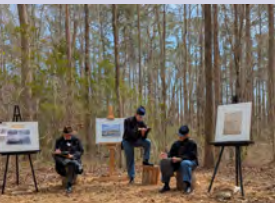
Out of storage and given new life! Our 100th Anniversary Exhibit is available to the community once again after working with a small committee and Design Dimension this year. We are proud to partner with the Doubletree Hotel to share New Bern's important history for many years to come!



As the "storytellers," we were delighted to host the Pearsall family from Mount Olive. The late father and husband, Paul Pearsall, was a well-known house mover in the New Bern area. Here, at the Eby-Maxwell house on Middle Street, the Society & Pearsall family presented the current owner, Donna Harmatuk, with a historical plaque - a truly "moving" experience!



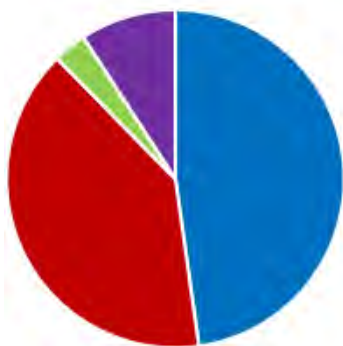
2,800 ticket holders came out to hear all about New Bern's past in this 34th annual fundraising event. Guests were greeted at 14 total ghost sites, both inside historic Cedar Grove Cemetery and on the porches of historic homes, by local actors portraying spirited characters of New Bern's storied past. This event is truly a community favorite!



We hosted 740 ticket-holders for the 4th Annual Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour at the New Bern Battlefield Park. This tour takes you on a guided, lantern-lit walk through the wooded battlefield trails, where spirits of real characters from New Bern's past share their very human and inspiring stories of courage and conviction.

55 years of the Heritage Homes Tour! This year featured 11 exceptional homes, captivating history shared by our docents, a refreshing sit-n-sip tent on the Attmore Oliver House back lawn, musicians all over town setting the mood just right, and gorgeous flowers from local florists in every home. Truly a feast for the senses - and all masterfully done by over 200 volunteers! Our community is incredible!

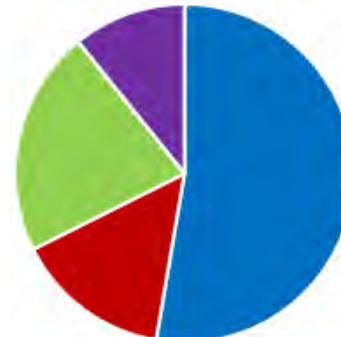
FY2024-25 Income for the Historical Society



- \$112,863 - Memberships and Program/Event Fees
- \$91,795 - Annual Fund, Sponsorships, and Donations
- \$7,370 - Endowment Income
- \$37,810 - Rental Property Income & Other

TOTAL - \$249,838

FY 2024-25 Operating Costs for the Historical Society



- \$132,788 - Salaries & Payroll Expenses
- \$34,700 - Education Programs and Events
- \$50,325 - Historic Site Maintenance (AO House, Battlefield, and Rental Properties)
- \$21,087 - Administrative Costs

TOTAL - \$238,900

**Financial information from July 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025*

OUR MISSION

The New Bern Historical Society celebrates and promotes New Bern and its heritage through events and education.

A special thanks to our talented and hard-working committees:

Ghostwalk Committee
Homes Tour Committee
Lantern Tour Committee
Education Committee
Marks & Taylor Scholarships Committee
Scripts and Themes Creative Committee
Annual Journal Committee
History Quest and Clues Committees
Finance Committee
Board Nominating Committee

Thank you to our Title Sponsors and Community Partners



Board of Directors

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Jim Hodges, Curator
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Ken McCotter
Laura Miller-McLemore
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Walt Teasdale
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Susan Moffat-Thomas

Staff

Anthony Giardino, Executive Director
Kim Deal, Program Director
Dwight Carlbom, Operations
Michel Epps, Administration

To EVERY member, volunteer, donor, and sponsor...
your contribution makes a HUGE impact.

Thank you for helping us
Bring History to Life!