

Historically
speaking



Quarterly Newsletter

april
may
june

2025

Join us for an unforgettable 2025 Heritage Homes Tour in the Downtown & DeGraffenried Historic Districts

Friday & Saturday, May 2-3 from 10am to 4pm

Our 55th Homes Tour and a cherished New Bern tradition! Savor the rich diversity of architecture that illustrates our town's amazing three centuries of history.



Charles Slover House

Union Troops, 1862-65 occupation



2025 Heritage
Homes

Friday • May 2
Saturday • May 3
10am • 4pm

Tour



*Charles Slover House
ca. 1848*

where the past is present...

The **Heritage Homes Tour Committee**, led by co-chairs **Cathy O'Brien** and **Sharon Nelson**, is hard at work to bring you beautiful homes, floral arrangements by local florists, live music, gardens in bloom, and historic churches!

This year's tour will be a feast for the senses!

When you need a break, stop by the Attmore-Oliver south lawn and enjoy a "sit-and-sip" while you admire our heritage gardens and beautiful Centennial Garden.

Special thanks to New Bern treasure **Janet Francoeur** for the artwork!



Update from Anthony Giardino, Executive Director

Our busy spring season is in full bloom! Both Lantern Tour and Battlefield Adventure Day concluded in March, and now we approach summer with a few more great events in store. I am humbled by the talent, hard work,

and commitment of our volunteers, actors, sponsors, and supporters that make these events the true successes they are. We are so fortunate to live in a place that appreciates local history and embraces our exceptional storytelling events. Thanks to each of you!

If you haven't heard yet, our Society was tirelessly working behind the scenes to prepare and present the reconfigured 100th Anniversary Exhibit: *Through the Looking Glass*. We first showcased this exhibit to the community in 2023 at the NC History Center for our Centennial Celebration. After a year in storage, our trusted design team from Raleigh, **Design Dimension**, returned to New Bern to give this great exhibit a new life! It now adorns the walls and windows on the first floor of the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel and is free and open to the public for the next 5 years. I hope you take some time to walk through this wonderful exhibit with friends and family and appreciate the great images and stories.

This wonderful exhibit is the result of years of leadership, planning, fundraising, and a vision to share this important history with the New Bern community. Our Centennial Committee, Board of Directors,

generous donors, **John Haroldson** and **Rowena Arroza** of DoubleTree Hilton, and **Design Dimension** are the true champions in bringing this vision to fruition. Thank you to all involved!



Drop Me a Line Postcard Display

Also, tickets to this year's **Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner** are on sale now! What better location for a night of feast and friendship than at the DoubleTree Hotel with our new exhibit for all to see!

Spring is also the season of renewal! I am proud to announce that we have filled the Program Director position and introduce you to **Kim Deal**. Kim and her husband, Jim, relocated to New Bern from Occoquan, VA. Kim has quickly immersed herself in local history and is excited to bring her expertise and enthusiasm to sharing stories of the past! Help us welcome Kim at our upcoming events or stop in to say hello!



In Service to our Veterans, by Claudia Houston, Historian

You may have visited Cedar Grove Cemetery by participating in a tour led by the Questers or have passed under the Weeping Arch while attending the New Bern Historical Society's Ghost Walk. A cemetery serves as a lens to the history of a community, and Cedar Grove has a large lens.

Historical Society volunteers have initiated a project to locate all the military graves in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Cedar Grove has had more than 15,000 burials, and the identities of many are unknown or their headstones are illegible. Some headstones do not indicate military service, but a search through 9,000 Find-A-Grave entries, as well as other genealogical databases, has identified additional individuals to our list. We have discovered some fantastic stories, such as that of Ensign Henry Purefoy Whitehurst Jr., whose cenotaph denotes his tragic loss at sea during WWII aboard the USS Astoria when it sank at the Battle of Savo Island.



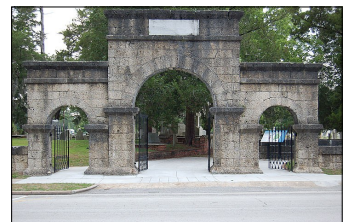
Ens. Whitehurst

During this past holiday season, the Wreaths Across America program identified 375 headstones that mentioned military service. This did not include the extension across George Street. We know that number is low and have begun documenting grave sites for

historical purposes. With the assistance of the Questers and other volunteers, we have now identified 538 veterans. The Questers will be able to share new stories during their tours, which help to raise funds for preservation work at the cemetery. This information, when completed, will be shared with the Library, Veterans' and historical organizations, community organizations, and the City of New Bern, which owns the cemetery.

Several of our members have expressed interest in contributing to this endeavor, and we would welcome assistance. We seek individuals with diverse skill sets, from walking through the cemetery and verifying headstone and plot numbers, to researching genealogical records such as Fold3 and FamilySearch, as well as researching units, battles, and other relevant information. With this information, we will gain a deeper understanding of the lives and history of the men and women who fought for our freedom. Some of this work is physical, but some can be done from a home computer.

If you are interested in assisting with this project, please get in touch with me at nbshistorian@gmail.com and I will be happy to discuss further.



Watch our website (www.NewBernHistorical.org) for details on the upcoming 2025 programs!

- Friday-Saturday, May 2-3: Heritage Homes Tour** / 10-4pm / Historic Downtown New Bern & DeGraffenried Park
- Sunday, May 4: Spring Volunteer & New Member Social** / 1-3pm / Attmore-Oliver Back Lawn
- Wednesday, May 21: Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Dinner** / 6pm / DoubleTree Hilton Hotel **Tickets on sale**
- Sunday, June 8: Golf Tournament** / Carolina Colours Golf Club
- Wednesday, September 3: Lunch & Learn, Native American Canoes of Lake Phelps NC** / 11:30am / Carolina Colours Pavilion
- Saturday, September 20: History Quest** / 10-4pm / New Bern Battlefield Park
- Thursday-Saturday, October 23-25: Ghostwalk** / 6-9pm / Downtown Historic District & Cedar Grove Cemetery
- Wednesday, November 12: Lunch & Learn, North Carolina's Oyster Boom** / 11:30am / Carolina Colours Pavilion

\$250 and above

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Sincere thanks to those who contributed to the **Annual Fund!** Your generous gifts go far to helping maintain our beautiful campus and the hallowed ground of Battlefield Park.

\$100 - \$249

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A bugle call and fun for all!



Harry Goodman BATTLEFIELD Adventure Day

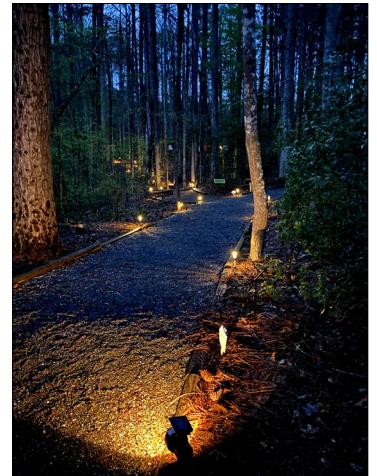
Another wonderful event with 150 in attendance at the New Bern Battlefield Park for our annual Battlefield Adventure Day. Led by NC Regiment reenactors, Mark Trail, cavalryman Chris Cook, and others, kids of all ages as well as history-loving adults immersed in an action-packed day of Civil War camp life. The event culminated in an exciting mock battle and a “payday” for the children. With the beautiful weather and delicious apple crisp, the day turned out spectacularly for everyone involved. Keep your eye out for this event next spring!

This annual event is made possible through the generosity of the family of the late Harry Goodman (Ted Goodman, Helen Goodman, and Bill Reight), beloved Historical Society board member, volunteer, and Battlefield Park preservationist.

Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour a HUGE Success!

Approximately 740 visitors descended upon Battlefield Park during the evenings of March 20-22 to hear the riveting tales of the Civil War told from the perspective of those who were closest to it. We heard General Burnside and Commander Rowan discussing their plan to seize New Bern, a former slave who left New Bern to start his 40-year career in the White House, three civil war era artists demonstrating an image is worth a thousand words, and more! It all culminated with up-close perspectives from a civil war encampment with reenactors. The reviews are in: *FANTASTIC!* This is the Historical Society’s storytelling at its best, and it just keeps getting better. The consensus?

Don’t miss out next year!



Hats off to the talent!

A program like this is only possible with the time and talent of many selfless volunteers who made it happen:

Script writers **Lori Neill & Marissa Moore** • Researcher **Claudia Houston** • Actors: **Tommy Grzeika, Matt Schauer, Stephen Schmidt, Laura Miller-McLemore, Rylie Willis, Haron Beatty, Heidi Dickstein, Stephanie Garner, Melanie Corbett, Brian Flannigan, Cathy Lane, John Rock, Rodger Allison, Jerry Trenholm** • Special talent: **Mark Trail** and reenactors from the 5th and 7th NC Regiments • Hats off and job well done to the dozens of volunteer guides, parking attendants, photographers, logistics helpers, ticket-takers, greeters, and battlefield guides.

Special Thanks & Applause!

to our highly talented Director **Nancy Hitchcock**, Assistant Director **Heide Lock**, Guides Director **Holly Prafke**, and interim Program Director, **Kathy Morrison!**



2025 Lantern Tour Cast

We are grateful to
Title Sponsor
Trader Construction,
generous donor &
costumer
extraordinaire
Maryann Murphy,
our friends at **Donna &
Team New Bern**, and
all of our sponsors who
made the event
possible!



where the past is present...

Tickets on sale NOW!

As always, NBHS members receive a special membership rate. This is an important Historical Society fundraiser, so please come out and support!

This year's tour sites range from glorious to cozy, with everything from Greek Revival to a towering school building. These are livable family homes with rich stories and diverse architecture that illustrate New Bern's amazing history.

Special thanks to the Downtown & DeGraffenried historic district homeowners for so generously opening their beautiful homes and gardens:



207 Broad Street
Carraway House
ca. 1891 - Attributed to New Bern son Herbert Woodley Simpson, this house features Queen Anne styling. This house was home to the last Carraways; sisters Gertrude and Rose.
Mickey & Jon Miller



312 Metcalf Street
John A. Glenn House
ca. 1921 - No astronauts, but a trip from a traditional exterior to a modern interior blends perfectly.
Penny & John Higgins



517 Hancock Street
Bell Building
ca. 1921 - Referring to the bell which once rang in the school's cupola, this building is now four charming apts.
Melinda Robinson



208 King Street
Anzalone - Barkan House
ca. 2001 - A home with vintage charm fits perfectly into this historic neighborhood.
Kumi Anzalone & Terrance Barkan

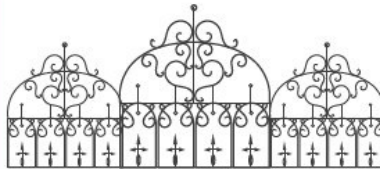


519 East Front Street
Dawson-Clarke House
ca. 1807 - 1810 - also referred to as the Louisiana House; famed photographer Bayard Wootten was a notable resident.
Laurie & Don Eudy

The Poster Home



201 Johnson Street
Charles Slover House
ca. 1848 - This impressive three story Greek Revival-style residence was built for Slover, a prosperous maritime merchant. Current owners orchestrated a much overdue complete restoration.
Anne & Jim Schout



502 Pollock Street
Edward R. Stanly House
ca. 1848 - Built in the Greek Revival style for Stanly, a wealthy merchant & manufacturer. Beautifully restored.
Heron Hospitality Office

1509 Lucerne Way
DeWitt C. McCotter House
ca 1937 - Built for local attorney Dwight C. McCotter. Occupied for many years by the B.H.Baxter family, owners of Baxter's Jewelers, downtown.
Beth Walker



1603 Lucerne Way
Francis P. King House
ca. 1956 - A large brick Colonial Revival was home for local doctor F.P. King and family.
Debbie & Randy Hunter



1514 Trent Road
T. Wallace Brinson House
ca. 1927 - A hip-roof Colonial Revival home for the Wallace T. Brinson family and later for doctor Frank Hammond & family.
Ed Campbell



510C Pollock Street
Coor-Gaston Dependency
ca. 1800 - This former law office of William Gaston has been moved four times and is now enjoying it's current location.
New Bern Garden Club



511 Broad Street
Attmore-Oliver Heritage Garden
Stop in at the back lawn of the Historical Society from 11am - 3pm both days & refresh yourself with a sip. Admire our beautiful gardens!



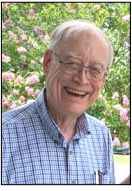
Thank you to our loyal and generous Title Sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible!



Neuse River Region Association of REALTORS®

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President's Message, by Joe Hunt

The new year is off to a great start!

We have completed the Lantern Tour and Battlefield Adventure Day at the Battlefield Park. The Homes Tour is upon us, and everything is in place for this event. In addition, interviews for the Marks & Taylor scholarship are complete, and a selection has been made. Anthony completed interviews for our Program Director, and Kim Deal is already performing well in the position. With all the changes we have had over the last year, it is great to have these items complete.



The Lantern Tour at Battlefield Park was exceptional this year and brought the largest number of attendees in its four-year history. We owe this success to our staff, the outstanding work done by our volunteers, the support we receive from members of the Historical Society, and our community. It is rewarding to be involved with an organization with so many dedicated and talented volunteers.

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 Penrose, 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 |

Staff

- Anthony Giardino—Executive Director
- Kim Deal—Programs Director
- Dwight Carlblom—Operations Manager
- Michel Epps—Operations Assistant

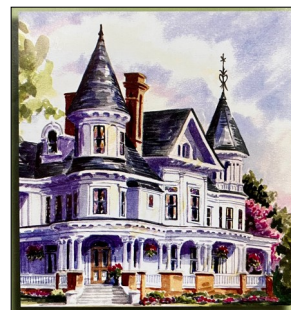
20+ Years of Poster Art!

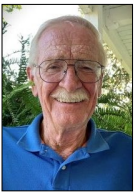
Not only are we fortunate to create and host some of the most exciting events in New Bern, we also get to work with the most talented people in our community!



This quarter, we shine the spotlight on New Bern's favorite artist, **Janet Francoeur!** Janet has many talents—painter, tile maker, writer, photographer, and gardener. Jan, as she likes to be called, has been a professional artist her entire adult life. She started with drawing in pencil, then ink, then watercolor, clay and now oil and mosaic. She has done countless house portraits in ink and watercolor.

In 2005, Jan provided the artwork for the Homes Tour brochure, and she's been our Poster Home artist ever since! Did you know that Jan helps us provide the poster homeowner with an original house portrait every year?! Below are a few of our favorites, and we want to thank Jan for her loyalty, talents, and generosity over these past 20 years. You can find more of her work at **Carolina Creations** on Pollock Street.





Battlefield Park News by Gene Lock, Battlefield Adjutant

During the first quarter of the year, the battlefield volunteers spent much of their time preparing for both the **Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day** and the **Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour**. Our work involved several different areas. We placed wood chips on trails as needed so that visitors would have safe walking surfaces, we cleared sites where actors would be positioned for their skits, and we placed wood chips for better footing for the actors.

The volunteers made approximately 100 wooden rifles which were distributed to the children who participated in the Battlefield Adventure Day. The volunteers also helped with the setup of the events. During both events, the volunteers worked in the parking lot to allow efficient use of the area we have available for parking.



Battlefield Guides & Mac undertake a new project



Active duty Marines conduct military education

We also hosted two tours during the quarter. One involved a husband and wife (the wife was a real Civil War buff). The second was a group of 25 Marines who were studying the Battle of New Bern from the standpoints of strategy and tactics. This group was very engaged in the tour.

We have now started our spring clean up and have cut-back brush on two redans. We will be continuing this process for the next several weeks.

May the Fourth be with YOU as you attend our Spring Volunteer & New Member Social!

Sunday, May 4 from 1-3 pm on the AO House back lawn.

“Do or do not, there is no try.” - Yoda

Yoda wants you to come enjoy great company and make new friends. If you have volunteered for any program or event, sponsored an event, or joined the Society since last October, this party is JUST for you!

Reservations not required.

6th Annual “Tee It Up *FORE!* History” Golf Tournament

Sunday, June 8 • 12:30 pm • Carolina Colours Golf Club

Enjoy a great day of golf, a delicious dinner, and support the New Bern Historical Society all at the same time! Registration opens at 11am with a shotgun start at 12:30pm. Lunch available for purchase from 11am. Play includes cart, range balls & goodie bag. Compete for great prizes for 1st and 2nd place Men’s, Women’s, and Couples’ teams, and four Hole-in-One prizes! After the tournament will be a cocktail hour followed by a fabulous surf & turf dinner created by Chef Michael, and ending with a finale of awards, first class raffle baskets, and a silent auction.

Not a golfer? You can still help! The golf tournament has become a very important fundraiser, so please consider becoming a sponsor. Contact Dwight or Anthony at 252.638.8558 for more info.

Sign up on our website now as teams fill quickly—first come, first served!





511 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

252.638.8558
www.newbernhistorical.org

Anthony Giardino, Executive Director / director@newbernhistorical.org
Kim Deal, Program Director / programs@newbernhistorical.org
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.



JIM HODGES, CURATOR
NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CHARLES K. McCOTTER, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

