

Congratulations to our 2025 Award Recipients!

The strength of any nonprofit comes from the time and commitment of its volunteers. This year we hosted our Annual Awards Dinner & Membership Meeting at **The Doubletree by Hilton**, where we honored your volunteer colleagues for their generous contributions. Congratulations to these incredible volunteers - the heartbeat of our great Historical Society family!



From top left to bottom right: **Bob Penvose** (Executive Director's Award), **Makenzie Richardson** (Marks & Taylor Scholarship Recipient), **Tracey Krumel** (Newcomers Award), **Curtis Krumel** (President's Award), **Mark Eckert** (Ambassadorship Award), **Holly Prafke** (Battlefield Award), **John Klecker** (Education Award), **MJ Woika** (Newcomers Award), **Maryann Murphy** (Extended Service Award), **Heide Lock** (Battlefield Award), and **Nancy Hitchcock** (Battlefield Award).



Update from Anthony Giardino, Executive Director

Celebrate! Now let's get ready for another great year!

Our Annual Awards Dinner and Membership Meeting gives us an opportunity to come together and reflect on a fantastic year of events and continued service to the New Bern community. This year, the event took place at the **Doubletree Hilton Hotel** where our 100th Anniversary Exhibit hangs proudly on display. It was the perfect backdrop for the evening! We celebrated the Society's impacts and recognized the many talented volunteers who made it happen. Also, we were thrilled to re-elect our Class of 2027 Officers and 2028 Board of Directors. With our strong member base, devoted volunteers, and focused leadership, the Historical Society is in great hands for the foreseeable future!



The summer heat is here, which means it's the time when our staff puts the final touches on the plans for the upcoming year of programs. I am very pleased to report that we have an action-packed schedule lined up for August through June 2026. Be sure to follow our events calendar every newsletter as well as on our website to ensure you get the first opportunity for ticket sales and any information updates. We always welcome your phone calls or visits to the office if we can further assist you in any way. The Attmore-Oliver House is *your home for history*!



Beautiful Attmore-Oliver House view courtesy of Janet Francoeur

Ghostwalk planning is taking place right now with all scripts, characters, and sites under the review of our steering committee. Auditions take place in early August, so if you are feeling a call to the ghostly spotlight, this is your moment to shine! Now in its 35th year, **Ghostwalk** remains a community favorite and we are grateful for the support of all ticketholders, sponsors, and of course, our very loyal and talented volunteers who bring it all together! This year, you'll hear all about New Bern's early "*Movers, Shakers, and Impact Makers!*" It will make for 3 memorable nights of spirited excitement! This is our largest fundraising event, so I truly hope to see all of our members out on the town! Thank you for your exceptional support!



Thank you to our talented photographer **Jerome Reed** with Coastal Photo Club for these exceptional images!

2025 - 2026 Events Calendar

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

Saturday, August 2: Ghostwalk Actor Auditions / 11 am / Attmore Oliver House

Wednesday, September 3rd: Lunch & Learn, Native American Canoes of Lake Phelps NC / 11:30am / Carolina Colours Pavilion ****Tickets on sale July 21st!***

Saturday, September 6th: Living History Day / 8am-4pm / New Bern Battlefield Park

Saturday, September 20th: History Quest / 10-3pm / New Bern Battlefield Park

Thursday-Saturday, October 23-25: Ghostwalk / 6-9pm / Historic Downtown New Bern

Wednesday, October 29: Fall Volunteer & New Member Social / 4-6pm / Attmore Oliver Back Lawn

Wednesday, November 12th: Lunch & Learn, North Carolina's Oyster Boom / 11:30am / Carolina Colours Pavilion

Sunday, December 14th: Presentation, The Lost Light by Kevin Duffus / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium / Craven Community College

Sunday, January 25th: Presentation, New Bern Then and Now by Jim Hodges / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium / Craven Community College

Sunday, February 8th: Presentation, History of Rosenwald Schools in NC & Craven County / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium / Craven Community College

Thursday-Saturday, March 19-21: Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour / 6-8pm / New Bern Battlefield Park

Saturday, April 11: Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day / 10-2pm / New Bern Battlefield Park

Friday-Saturday, May 1-2: Heritage Homes Tour / 10-4pm / Historic Downtown New Bern & Riverside District

Saturday, May 2: Spring Volunteer & New Member Social / 4:30-6pm / Attmore-Oliver Back Lawn

Saturday, June 7: Presentation, Women Pilots at Camp Davies by John Moseley / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium / Craven Community College

Met a new neighbor or someone who just moved here? Please send them our way! Better yet, welcome them with a gift membership to the Historical Society. We love welcoming new members to our dedicated history loving family!

We bring history to life!

It was a fabulous spring - and we couldn't have done it without YOU!

A Weekend of Beauty & Charm

We had another marvelous Homes Tour this year, thanks to our stellar Homes Tour committee, led by **Cathy O' Brien** and **Sharon Nelson**. Everything was wonderfully orchestrated by the team, from the beautiful floral arrangements and live music, to the carefully coordinated docents and relaxing sit 'n' sip. And, of course, the stars of the show...the Historic Homes in both downtown New Bern and the Degraffenried Historic District! Thank you to everyone who made this year's tour truly a feast for the senses!



Heritage Homes Tour Committee

Lisa Setliff - Garden Party Chair

Jeanne Garner - Flower Chair ♦ **MJ Woika & Tracey Krumel** - Volunteer Chairs

Joanne Friedman - Music Chair ♦ **Annette Hunt** - A-O House Garden Chair

Kathy Morrison - Publicity/Marketing Chair ♦ **Sue Wyatt** - "Church Lady"

Cheryl Jukich - Graphics ♦ **George Evans** - Logistics Chair



We Tee'd It Up Fore History

The New Bern Historical Society's **6th Annual Golf Tournament** battled to the greens through thunderstorms, but it was still all smiles from this group supporting a great cause! Huge thanks to our amazing committee, generous sponsors, and dedicated volunteers. The **Carolina Colours** staff hosted an exceptional dinner where the fun continued into the evening with raffles and silent auctions. Masterfully led by **Walt Teasdale**, the hard-working committee included **Cindy Teasdale**, **Gary Staley**, and **Bob Dofner**.



2025 Marks & Taylor Scholarship Recipient



Mary Parrish, Scholarship Committee
Member & Makenzie Richardson

The New Bern Historical Society is pleased to announce the Harriett Marks Scholarship and the John R. & Alice Land Taylor Scholarship for 2025 was awarded to New Bern High School Senior, **Makenzie Richardson**.

Makenzie was selected from among a group of talented and deserving applicants. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Brandi Richardson.

Makenzie demonstrated academic and athletic excellence throughout her high school career. She was a straight "A" student and a starting player in basketball and softball all four years of high school, during which time, won "All-State" honors along with Rookie, Offensive Player, and Sportsmanship Awards. She is a member of Project Unify, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the National Honor Society, as well as involved in multiple projects in the community (especially those involved in special needs activities and events). Makenzie will be attending Campbell University this fall majoring in Special Education and minoring in Entrepreneurship and Christian Studies.



Ghostwalk Auditions

Saturday, August 2 • 11 am
Attmore-Oliver House

It's that time of year again! We are gearing up for another exciting fall filled with spirits, creepers, and ghostly guides - oh my! If you are interested in participating in one of New Bern's premier events as a ghostly specter from the past, a guide, or a cemetery creeper, be sure to be at the Attmore-Oliver House at 511 Broad Street at 11am on Saturday, August 2, for Ghostwalk Auditions. First-come, first-served; no preparation needed.

SAVE THE DATE for Ghostwalk 2025!

October 23-25th from 6-9 pm



Lunch & Learn : Native American Canoes of Lake Phelps, NC

Wednesday, September 3 • 11:30 am
Carolina Colours Pavilion

Tickets on sale July 21st!



The lakes in North Carolina have been an important maritime resource for Native Americans for thousands of years. In the 1980s, 23 dugout canoes were discovered in and around the lake, and four were recovered for further study. Elise Carroll, conservator for the NC Office of State Archaeology's Queen Anne's Revenge Conservation Lab in Greenville, is working on the re-conservation of three out of the four canoes recovered from Lake Phelps, alongside the conservation of a newly recovered canoe from Lake Waccamaw. Elise will discuss the history of Native American activity around the lakes, the discovery of the canoes, and the efforts to stabilize the canoes so that they are preserved for generations to come.



History Quest

Saturday, September 20 • 10 am
New Bern Battlefield Park

Put your Sherlock Holmes hat on and join this family friendly, outdoor scavenger hunt! Get your family, friends, or colleagues together to follow the clues to a series of quests. You'll discover historical places in and around New Bern that are hidden in plain sight. You might even learn a thing or two about this town that we live in! **Registration opens August 11;** watch our website (www.newbernhistorical.org) for more details.





Curator's Corner...by Jim Hodges

The Attmore-Oliver House : A Story of Preservation

After the death of Miss Mary Taylor Oliver in March 1951, the Attmore-Oliver House was inherited by her nephews, the Huske brothers in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The city of New Bern had expressed an interest in purchasing the property only with the intent of demolishing it to create a parking lot for the Health Department next door. The original asking price was \$35,000, but the brothers reduced the price to \$30,000 because they felt that the Historical Society would obviously be the better steward for the Attmore-Oliver House. On behalf of the Historical Society Board of Directors, John R. Taylor and John G. Dunn traveled to Fayetteville, met with the Huske brothers, and arrived at a mutually agreeable purchase arrangement. The acquisition was completed in early 1954 for \$30,000 and the Historical Society borrowed an additional \$30,000 to restore the somewhat compromised structure.



Attmore-Oliver House prior to restoration in 1954

Over the next few years, an energetic campaign was pursued by the Society's Directors and membership to solicit funds to satisfy the outstanding debt. Although the New Bern Historical Society became inactive during the WW2 years, it was not until November 1952 that it would be reactivated. Most likely the purchase of the Attmore-Oliver House in 1954 generated a

concrete sense of mission and community presence for the Historical Society. Under the leadership of the Society President, John R. Taylor, as well as a strong Board of Directors, the total debt was satisfied within ten years and culminated with a mortgage burning celebration at the Governor Tryon Hotel on March 20, 1963.

In a collective demonstration of appreciation, the New Bern Historical Society presented an engraved silver platter to

Mr. Taylor on November 7, 1957 for his tireless efforts regarding the purchase and restoration of the Attmore-Oliver House. This beautiful platter was recently presented to the Historical Society by Mr. Taylor's grandson, John Taylor Stanley.



In addition, another worthy artifact was discovered and given to the Historical Society by Mr. Stanley and is proudly displayed in the Attmore-Oliver House. In 1961, the Cannon Cup Award was presented to John R. Taylor in recognition of the Historical Society's Attmore-Oliver House preservation efforts and achievements. In Mr. Taylor's humble manner, he accepted the award on behalf of the Historical Society.

The Cannon Cup Award was established by Charles and Ruth Cannon of Concord in 1948 and is considered North Carolina's most prestigious award for preservation achievement. The award is given to four North Carolinians annually and since its inception, six recipients have been from New Bern. They are as follows: Miss Gertrude Carraway-1948, Mrs. Richard N. Duffy-1949, Mrs. Claudius Foy-1951, John R. Taylor-1961, Robert L. Stallings-1985, Newsom Williams-2003. Of interest, in addition to Mrs. Richard N. Duffy, all three gentlemen recipients had served as President of the New Bern Historical Society.

The Historical Society recognizes and greatly appreciates its leadership and vision over the past one hundred plus years. Most assuredly, the acquisition, restoration, and stewardship of the Attmore-Oliver House have been critical components of our success.

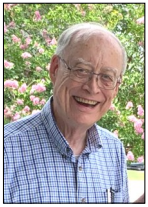


We're not going to avoid using clichés for this quarter's volunteer spotlight. A go-getter, renaissance woman, powerhouse, mover, shaker, and IMPACT MAKER! We're shining the spotlight bright on the very talented and energetic **Lisa Setliff**! This spring, Lisa devoted her time and efforts to deliver a flawless "sit-n-sip" refreshment station during our annual Heritage Homes Tour. This involved the budgeting, planning, shopping, preparation, and operation of this important event feature for both days of the tour. Lisa put together a fantastic team of friendly and hard-working volunteers to keep the tables fully stocked during the entire event. Upwards of 900 ticket-holders passed through this space to take a load off, enjoy the light fare, and plan their next house visits. The feedback from our visitors was exceptional with the highest compliments of a "best-

ever" experience! Lisa stays extremely busy in our community as a wife, mother, career woman, and equally devoted to other local nonprofits to include the Preservation Foundation, Arts Council, and Civic Theatre to name a few. We are grateful for the contributions throughout the year from Lisa, husband **Billy**, and daughter **Kyla Ayn**!



Lisa, center, and volunteers



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

We need your help in keeping the New Bern Historical Society an exceptional organization and one of the many things that make New Bern a great place to live. The following volunteer opportunities are great options to contribute:

Office Assistance: Help with administrative staff to keep operations smooth.

Event Planning and Setup: Be part of organizing and executing successful events.

Acting: Take on roles in events to engage, entertain and educate visitors.

Docent Work: Guide visitors through home tours, sharing knowledge and stories.

Civil War Battlefield Park: Contribute to preserving and presenting this historic site.

Attmore-Oliver House Campus: Maintain the beauty of the grounds and gardens.

Education Planning and Journal Contributions: Support the society's educational programs and publications.

Scriptwriting: Research and craft narratives for actors to perform at events.

With a need for 400 to 500 volunteers annually, your unique talents will not only enhance the organization, but also allow you to meet new people and have fun as part of a team dedicated to preserving and celebrating the history of New Bern, Craven County, and Eastern NC. If you currently volunteer with us, we are blessed by your efforts!

To express your interest in volunteering or to learn more about how you can support the New Bern Historical Society, please contact our office directly. We welcome your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to our mission. Thank you for considering to be a part of this great adventure!



Another busy day on campus!

Battlefield Park News

The Historical Society family was deeply saddened by the loss of our close friend, Board Member, and Battlefield Adjutant, **Gene Lock**, back in April of this year. Gene devoted countless hours at the Battlefield doing what he loved, preserving and sharing history. Over the years, many park visitors have reported bumping into Gene along the trails, offering a warm smile and willingness to share historical perspectives from the Battle of New Bern. He was truly at peace among those hallowed grounds. We proudly honor Gene through our continued mission to educate and preserve from that sacred place.



Gene Lock presenting to students



Mark Trail, newly appointed Battlefield Adjutant

The Board of Directors has appointed **Mark Trail** to continue our mission as Battlefield Adjutant. Mark is no stranger to New Bern or the Historical Society. He is a retired Marine and has been a civil war and revolutionary

war reenactor for over 20 years. He was a tour guide at Tryon Palace for 6 years and has been actively involved in running the Society's annual Living History Day and Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day at the Park for many years. As a close friend of Gene Lock, Mark fully understands the priorities at the Battlefield and is proud to serve our organization.

Be sure to visit during the next **Living History Day, on Saturday September 6th from 8am-4pm**. Uniformed re-enactors from the 5th and 7th NC Infantry Regiments set up a full period camp and both Union and Confederate soldiers will be in camp to share a "day in the life." Demonstrations and displays include a Civil War surgeon's display, weapons display with over sixty original Civil War era weapons, and culminating with an exciting artillery firing. Visit our website for further details!



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Summer Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10am - 4pm; Fridays 9am - 12pm

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 & KATHY
MORRISON



JIM HODGES, CURATOR
NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CHARLES K. McCOTTER, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

JOE & ANNETTE HUNT



CENTURY 21



Ghosts of New Bern

JAN GUNDERSON



KATHY DODGE

