

Historically
speaking



Quarterly Newsletter

january
february
march

New Year - New Stories - New Voices!

Celebrate



Educate



Preserve





Update from Anthony Giardino, Executive Director

Page 2

Happy New Year!

It was an incredible year for the Society, filled with many great memories as we reflect on the accomplishments. It's a true joy to serve our community in this capacity, and we all have so much to be proud of.

Our annual events remain community and tourist favorites as we continue to see growth in ticket sales each year. I'm proud to report that Ghostwalk, Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour, and the Heritage Homes Tour aren't going anywhere! These popular events connect us with thousands of history-lovers each year, and we have a winning recipe that delivers the perfect blend of education and entertainment. I continue to be in awe of our very talented volunteers that bring these huge productions to life. We are also fortunate to have the best community partners and sponsors, many that you will find on the back page of each newsletter.

Our entire New Bern community was heartbroken over the recent loss of Mr. Howard "Music Man" Matthews. Here with the Historical Society, Howard was such an energetic and uplifting member, always giving his time and talents to play music during the Homes Tour and our Social Events. I want to share one of my favorite

memories from 2025 during the Homes Tour here at the Attmore Oliver House. I witnessed Society Member, Faye Cress, give Howard a beautiful guitar as a gesture of appreciation for all that he did for us.

I am comforted by memories like these, and actions like these are what makes our organization so special. The New Bern Historical Society brings together some of the most generous and inspiring people to help us continue an amazing legacy of storytelling for our great community!

None of that changes for 2026. Our education programming is set for the year ahead, research articles are being prepared, and our committees are actively preparing for the big events to come! We remain committed to researching, documenting, and sharing every aspect of New Bern's history, and I am thrilled to have your loyal support as we continue this mission.

Let's make it another historic and memorable year!



Windmills on the Coast...by Jim Hodges, NBHS Curator

Over the years, the New Bern Historical Society has been extremely fortunate by having not only New Bern and Craven County residents, but individuals near and far who donate family mementos to the Society that have a significant connection to our area's history. During my tenure as curator, it has been my intent to expand the collection but always being selective as to what is accepted. Although the Society's home, the Attmore-Oliver House, is a large structure, I am always mindful of available space to tastefully display artifacts and not clutter. Of course, "what's in the attic" does get a bit congested.

In 2013, the Historical Society received from the widow of a past Board Member a collection of framed **Harper's Weekly** pictorials from the Civil War era. Although there is direct New Bern and Craven County provenance for some of the prints, several others were more relevant for other eastern North Carolina areas. One print, in particular, that caught my attention was entitled the **"Bombardment of Fort Macon"** and in the left corner was a windmill. I have always

been receptive to artistic license but somewhat confused as to the accuracy depicted in the print.

Another situation surfaced a couple of years ago when the Society received a substantial collection from a local New Bern family. One photograph that I came across rekindled my interest in windmills. This was a single black & white image (8" height, 9 1/2" width) originally from a portfolio of photographs entitled "America Photographs" that covered points of scenic and historic interest in North America and was published in 1894. The title of this image is the **"Beach at Beaufort Harbor"** and shows two boys on the beach with a windmill in the background.



Gracie Bender & Jim Hodges

At this point, further investigation into the windmills of eastern North Carolina was warranted and pursued. Several articles surfaced that provided detailed insight. Windmills in North Carolina date to the mid eighteenth century and were used to grind wheat/corn or to pump water. There were basically two types of windmills – the post mill design and the tower or smock design. The post mill type seems to be preferred because it was less expensive to build. By 1900, it is documented that 155 windmills had existed along eastern North Carolina but their eventual disappearance was due to the introduction of steam and gas-powered mills.

Continued on page 3

2026 Events Calendar

Page 3

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

Sunday, January 25th: Presentation, New Bern Then, Now & Down the Rabbit Hole! by Jim Hodges / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium / Craven Community College

Sunday, February 22nd: Presentation, History of Rosenwald Schools in NC & Craven County by Dr. Tom Hanchett / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium / Craven Community College

Thursday-Saturday, March 19-21: Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour / 6-9pm / New Bern Battlefield Park

Saturday, April 11: Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day / 1-4pm / New Bern Battlefield Park

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

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

Wednesday, May 27: Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Dinner / 6pm / The Flame

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

Sunday, September 13: Presentation, Harlowe Patriots by Dr. Valerie Johnson / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium / Craven Community College

Saturday, September 19(tentative): History Quest / 10 – 4 pm / New Bern Battlefield Park

Thursday-Saturday, October 22-24: Ghostwalk / 6-9pm

Wednesday, October 28: Fall Volunteer & New Member Social / 4-6pm / Attmore-Oliver Back Lawn

Sunday, November 8: Presentation, Tuscarora / 2pm / Orringer Auditorium / Craven Community College

Windmills on the Coast...continued from page 2

Although there were 3 windmills in Craven County, an astounding 65 were in Carteret County representing 42% of all the coastal windmills.

Recognizing the significance of the windmill history in Carteret County, I contacted **Gracie Bender**, Executive Director of the **History Museum of Carteret County** in Morehead City and shared this interesting history with her. Although she was aware of the early existence of windmills in Carteret County, the museum did not have a

copy of the Harper's Weekly "**Bombardment of Fort Macon**" nor a copy of the "**Beach at Beaufort Harbor.**"

Growing our collection at the New Bern Historical Society is certainly important, but even more important is being collegial and finding the most appropriate home for a "piece of history" and doing the right thing. In the spirit of sharing, the two windmill-related pieces were presented to the **History Museum of Carteret County**. They were graciously accepted and genuinely appreciated.

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. Any gift of any size truly makes a difference. We'll be highlighting contributors in the spring newsletter. We are grateful for your trust and humbled by your generosity.

thank you





Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour

March 19 - 21, 2026

6:00 - 9:00 pm

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 fifth 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 Sisters of Mercy assisting those wounded at New Bern, the evacuation of the city, the forming of the United States Colored Troops, the USS Underwriter and more!

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 2026 scholarship application deadline is Friday, March 20, 2026.

"New Bern Then, Now & Down the Rabbit Hole!"

Page 5

**Reservations open
now!**

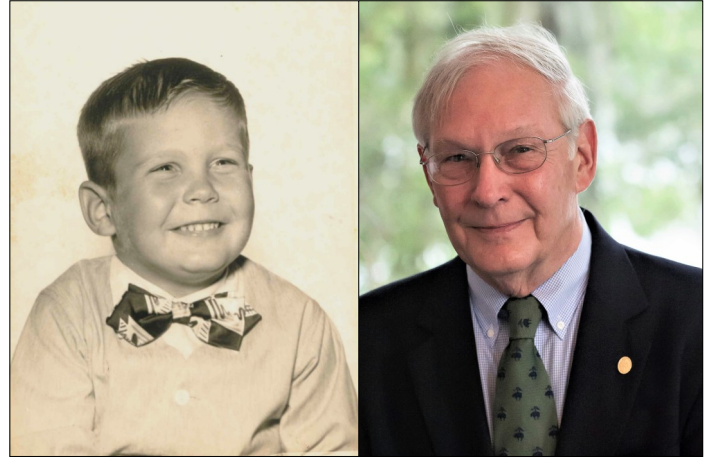
By Jim Hodges

Sunday, January 25th

2 pm

Orringer Auditorium

Join local historian and storyteller Jim Hodges as he brings the past to life with rare photos, personal anecdotes, and historical insight—highlighting the people, places, and pivotal moments that shaped New Bern. Whether you're a lifelong resident or new to the area, this engaging presentation offers a unique perspective on how the past continues to inform the present.



History of Rosenwald Schools in NC & Craven County

By Dr. Tom Hanchett

Sunday, February 22nd

2 pm

Orringer Auditorium

**Reservations open
January 12th!**

Discover the story of Rosenwald schools in North Carolina, with a special focus on Craven County, where local Black communities partnered with philanthropist Julius Rosenwald to build schools during segregation. Through historic photos, personal accounts, and preservation efforts, Dr. Tom Hanchett reveals how these modest buildings empowered generations—and how their legacy continues to shape education and community identity today.



2026 Heritage Homes Tour

Friday and Saturday, May 1st & 2nd

10 am - 4 pm

Historic Downtown & Riverside Districts

Join us for an exciting 2026 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 Riverside Historic Districts not normally open to the public.

Homes range from glorious to tiny and focus on the 18th century in celebration of the United States 250th Birthday!



Annual Membership Meeting and Awards

Dinner!

Wednesday, May 27th

6 pm

The Flame

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





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

Page 6

We are at the end of another calendar year for the New Bern Historical Society. We have had a good year; our programs continue to be well received, and we are fortunate to have a strong and capable staff, a loyal Board of Directors, and we are truly blessed with hundreds of dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers are exceptional and are the reason all of our events run so smoothly and successfully. Their energy, commitment, and professionalism make a real difference in everything we do, from planning and organizing to welcoming guests and ensuring each program reflects the mission of the Society. We are deeply grateful for their contributions and the pride they take in supporting the history and culture of New Bern.

Even though the Society is in an advantageous position due to our volunteers and many exceptional Directors, it is important that we continue to evaluate what we do. By examining similar events, reviewing our own programs, and listening carefully to feedback from our volunteers and supporters, we can find new ways to improve and grow. Reflection, adaptability, and openness to new ideas will help ensure that the Society remains vibrant, relevant, and successful for years to come.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or thoughts on how we can enhance our programs or operations, please let us know. Your input is invaluable and helps guide the ongoing success of the New Bern Historical Society, ensuring that together we continue to preserve and celebrate our community's rich history.



New Bern Historical Society Board of Directors

2025-26 Officers & Appointed Positions

Joe Hunt, President
Kathy Morrison, First Vice President
Egon Lippert, Second Vice President
Chris Kelso, Secretary
Bob Penrose, Treasurer
Mark Trail, Battlefield Adjutant
Claudia Houston, Historian
Jim Hodges, Curator

2025-26 Directors

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

Staff

Anthony Giardino—Executive Director
Kim Deal—Programs Director
Jon Silberger—Operations Manager
Michel Epps—Operations Assistant



Do you have your dictionary handy? Look up the words **loy-al**, **de-vot-ed**, and **awe-some**...

Ok, we'll save you the Google search! The same image pops up next to all three!

Kathleen Marty is our Volunteer Spotlight for the quarter! Talk about bringing the greatest enthusiasm to each and every event, Kathleen is truly a pleasure to work with! We've had her support for years with selling tickets, working in the office, assisting with the newsletter, and even bringing cheer to the long lines during Ghostwalk and Homes Tour! And, if there's an opportunity to come in costume, we can count on Kathleen to add to the excitement. There isn't a thing she can't do!



Kathleen with our spooky "friend" at Ghostwalk

With so many events and administrative requirements that go on throughout the year, we are extremely fortunate to have the time and talents from someone as passionate and generous as Kathleen. You may also see her when she is working at Tryon Palace - she truly loves her New Bern history!

We simply cannot conduct our mission without our incredible volunteers, so we hope that if you're out there reading this and want to get involved, please give us a call.

A heartfelt thanks for all you do, Kathleen - inspiring us with your love for the Historical Society!



Battlefield Park News...by Mark Trail, Battlefield Adjutant

We have been hard at work at the battlefield, keeping the trails clean and clear of debris. During the latter part of the summer, lightning struck a very large tree—more than 80 feet tall—near the 26th North Carolina Monument. After evaluating the situation, it was determined the tree needed to be taken down for safety reasons. Kudos go to **Pamlico Tree Service**; after placing a call on Monday, the tree was safely on the ground by Wednesday. They have always treated us well, and we appreciate their prompt and professional service.

Over the last few weeks, we have also completed several bridge repairs due to rotted timbers. These repairs are essential to maintaining safe access throughout the park. Work at Battlefield Park is an ongoing process. During the last quarter, our trails were maintained, grass and brush were cut back on the drill field, bridges and benches were scrubbed and cleaned, and repair work was completed as needed.

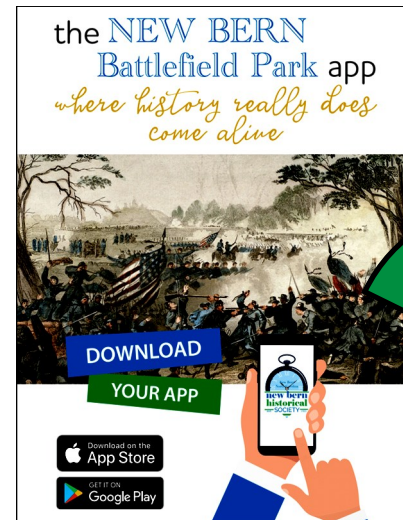
In addition to maintenance efforts, continual community outreach—especially to youth—remains an important part of our work at the battlefield. The 3rd Annual Campout by **Scout Pack 132** took place the weekend of November 7–9 and was a great success. Despite some rain, more than 50 scouts attended, many weathering the elements and fully embracing the outdoor experience. The scouts were led on a guided tour of the battlefield, sharing its history and engaging the scouts throughout the weekend. We also welcomed a recent field trip that included 10 students and two teachers, providing an educational opportunity to experience the park firsthand.

New volunteers are always welcome. We work Tuesday and Thursday mornings from approximately 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. and invite anyone interested in helping preserve this historic site to join us.



Pack 132 Scouts set up on the Birdsong Parade Ground

**Bring your friends and family
out to the Battlefield!**



Annual Harry Goodman Battlefield Adventure Day

Saturday, April 11 • 1-4pm
New Bern Battlefield Park

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Tickets on sale February 26th

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



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Kim Deal / programs@newbernhistorical.org
Michel Epps & Jon Silberger / 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.

