

First Town. Your Town.

The mission of the Historic Bath Foundation is to encourage and promote the historic aspects of the Town of Bath.

Winter 2017

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Jerry Waters, President

Gene Roberts, Vice President

Claude Jones, Treasurer

Jimmy Edwards, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Betsy Boxer

Jordan Cantrell

Jimmy Edwards

Milo Gibbs

David Johnston

Claude Jones

Gene Roberts

Patricia Samford

Jerry Waters

Leadership Transition

Jerry Waters has assumed the presidency and chairmanship of the Historic Bath Foundation, replacing Surry Everett who had served the maximum terms allowed under the foundation by-laws. Jerry, a retired Professional Engineer, is supervising construction of the museum, along with new board member David Johnston, who is a retired architect and housing developer. Jerry has been a lifelong resident of eastern North Carolina and currently resides on Bath Creek with his wife, Karen. He grew up on a local tobacco farm and attended Bath High School. He appreciates the rich history of Bath and values the community and its citizens. He believes the primary purpose of the Historic Bath Foundation is to preserve the history of the town while financially supporting projects which improve and protect its historical aspects and architectural heritage. Karen Sayer, whose term limits expired along with Surry's, was the long-time secretary of the foundation and a leader in membership growth and such projects as Lawson's Walk, Bath Creek Park and the restoration of Bath High School. Under Surry's leadership new heights were reached in fund-raising, membership and preservation projects undertaken. Karen's place as secretary was assumed by Jimmy Edwards, who was already a board member.

Gene Roberts, Vice President

President's Message

I am honored to be serving as your President. The other Officers selected to guide the HBF through the upcoming year include Vice President, Gene Roberts; Treasurer, Claude Jones; and Secretary, James Edwards. Numerous standing committees have been organized to spread out the workload among all board members. The officers, along with committee chairs, will share the duties that have been covered for over six years by Surry Everett and Karen Sayer. Please make sure you let them know how much they are appreciated for their leadership and service.

The major focus of the HBF Board in 2017 has been associated with construction of the Bath Creek Park and the Pamlico Region Exhibit Gallery, located on the first floor of the northwest wing of the Bath High School building.

A celebration and tour of the completed Exhibit Gallery is planned for January 20, 2018. The State Historic Sites will officially open the Pamlico Region Exhibit Gallery with the traveling exhibition of Blackbeard artifacts from the Queen Anne's Revenge on March 2, 2018. A dedication of the Bath Creek Park will take place Spring 2018. Please plan your schedules for these important events!

Numerous events are also being planned in 2018 for the celebration of the 300th Anniversary of Blackbeard's death. A committee of members from the Town of Bath and local organizations are coordinating efforts to ensure the success of these events. The synergy of everyone working together will ensure the economy of the area is enhanced by coordinating events that showcase the history and natural resources of our beautiful town and surrounding area.

Jerry Waters, President



Finance and Committee News

The Historic Bath Foundation's two current projects -- the museum and the park-- are the latest in a long list of undertakings that have preserved Bath's scenic charm and historic ambience and in doing so have contributed to an improved Beaufort County economy.

In its 17 years of existence the foundation has played the leading role in saving Swindell's Store and two other Main Street stores. It was the major funder of Lawson's Walk on the town's northern boundary. It erected a wrought iron fence around the cemetery at the junction of Highway 92 and Craven Street, thus enhancing the eastern entrance to Bath. It financed the restoration of the period gardens at the historic Bonner House. It contributed more than \$100,000 to the restoration of Bath High School, not counting what it is spending on the museum in the school's northwest wing. It contributed \$10,000 to the restoration of the Glebe House at St. Thomas Church. And it did all of this while contributing year in and year out to the Bath Historic Site and its many projects, ranging from a walking-tour guidebook to school education projects.

All of this has made Bath more attractive to tourists, some of whom fall in love with our town and decide to retire here. The retiree boom in the Bath area, along with commuters from Washington and Greenville and second-home owners, have made the Bath area one of eastern North Carolina's most dramatic economic turn-arounds. As recently as 1980, Bath was one of Beaufort County's poorest communities, with a median household income (\$5,909), half that of Beaufort County as a whole (\$12,984). In 2015, Bath's median household income had grown to \$56,129 and was substantially greater than the county median of \$47,830. This financial growth, of course, created jobs by putting more money into the economy and increasing spending with Beaufort County businesses.

The State Division of Historic Sites estimates that the exhibits in the museum will increase visitations to the historic site by twenty percent, or more than 5,000, based on this year's visitations. If only a fraction of these visitors -- say 20 couples -- decide to retire to the Bath area, it would add more than \$1 million a year to the local economy, computed at the town's median family income.

Our foundation's contributions to Bath's charm and its economy would not be possible, of course, without the support of you and its more than 200 other members who each year contribute to the foundation treasury. You can take pride in the foundation's accomplishments.

Gene Roberts, Vice President

Treasurer's Report

Current Assets

Cash	\$	456,457
Bridge Lot	\$	76,354
Total Current Assets	\$	532,811

2017 Major Expenditures

Museum	\$	310,315
Park	\$	86,162
General Operations	\$	5,603
2017 Income	\$	400,634

Claude Jones, Treasurer

For individuals that qualify, Qualified Charitable Distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) were reinstated in 2016 and made permanent.



Directors reviewing plans for museum

Committee News

Meet the New Directors

Jordan Cantrell is a life long resident of Washington, NC. She grew up going back and forth to the town of Bath and Bayview area to spend time with her grandparents, Sherman & Claire Alphin. She always enjoyed the field trips from Terra Ceia Christian School to learn more about the history of Bath wishing there was even more cultural education as a high schooler and young adult. Jordan believes that whenever Beaufort County is mentioned to an outsider, to educate the outside world is to familiarize them with this special place. She sees herself living there down the road. However, the reason she wants to join the board is because she cares about small town culture, community and vision. She would like to be a part of this exciting growth. She feels she can add even more energy to the Foundation's mission. Jordan is in wealth management with Edward Jones in Washington on John Small Avenue. Her professional expertise is in figuring out what is most important to her clients and personalizing strategies to help them reach their long term goals.

David Johnston is willing to serve on the HBF Board because the organization has accomplished worthwhile projects for Bath. As a citizen volunteer, he has already assisted with the renovation of the Marsh Stores on Main Street that were purchased by Debra Torrence and Clay Johnson, the renovation of a wing of the high school to accommodate the Bath Library and the renovation of the museum space. He also serves on the Town of Bath Historic District Commission. He has experience in design and construction management and the restoration of historic buildings.

*"Give me a museum and I'll fill it."
- Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)*

Foundation Events

January 20th - Opening of Museum Exhibit Hall to members and benefactors

March 1st - Opening of Museum Exhibit Hall to the public

March 30th - Foundation quarterly meeting, 3pm

April - Spring Event, date to be determined, grand opening of Bath Creek Park

June 29th - Foundation Annual meeting, 10am

Photo

New Historic Marker at the Town Park

The North Carolina Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists has generously donated a historic marker for the park. The group approached Historic Bath State Site and the Historic Bath Foundation back in the spring of 2015 about doing a marker on Thomas Harding and the early history of Bath. The dedication was October 28th.

Patricia Samford, Director

Committee News

Museum

The northwest wing of the former Bath High School is on target for a March 1 exhibition of Blackbeard artifacts retrieved from the wreck of Queen Anne's Revenge.

The opening of the wing for exhibitions will mark the achievement of a major goal of the Historic Bath Foundation when it was organized 17 years ago--a permanent museum featuring the history of North Carolina's oldest town.

The foundation has raised more than \$750,000 for construction of a permanent first floor exhibit of Bath history, an area for rotating exhibits, office space, a museum shop and a second floor, climate-controlled storage room for historic artifacts.

The foundation is continuing to raise money for an elevator connecting the wing's first and second floors and the completion of the second floor beyond the storage room. Work that has been completed thus far, or is underway, is extensive. It includes a new stairway to the second floor, plus the adaptation of classrooms to exhibit rooms, bathrooms, storage, offices and shop.

The plan is to complete the work by the end of the year, which will give the State Division of Historic Sites two months to set up the Blackbeard exhibition, commemorating the 300th anniversary of the pirate's death.

Gene Roberts, Vice President



The importance of dedicating space for Collections Care for the New Museum

A critical component of running a museum is collections care. The objects in a museum's collections are essential for connecting people with the past, and being aware of the environmental factors that bring about object deterioration is part of responsible museum management. It is important for the collections to be maintained within a narrow range of temperature and relative humidity levels and to have limited exposure to light (harmful ultraviolet radiation). Incorrect temperatures can cause disintegration, fracturing or discoloration and incorrect relative humidity can cause mold, swelling or shrinking. A temperature and humidity monitoring system will be crucial to help museum curators with assessing environmental conditions within the collections storage area.

Patricia Samford, Director

Construction in Progress

The historic restoration of the NW Wing of the Bath High School is progressing according to schedule. All structural repairs have been completed. The windows have been removed, repaired, restored to their original condition and reinstalled. The historic integrity of the building has been preserved with the restoration of the original entry system and the restoration of all interior and exterior doors. The vestibule and corridors will have oak floors and wainscoting as was originally used in the historic school.

A ramp will be constructed on the exterior to allow accessibility for handicapped persons. Bath High School Preservation Board of Directors suggested and offered a better alternate location which enhances how it will look and flow. We are grateful for their insight and good nature in allowing us to place the ramp on their property for shared use.

David Johnston, Director



Bath Creek Park

Bath Creek Park is nearing completion on two thirds of an acre at the northeast corner of the Bath/ Washington bridge.

As this article was being prepared for publication, workmen were ready to finish the brick walkways and the parking lot. The fishing pier and the canoe/kayak launch were completed earlier this year as were semi-circular brick benches, a concrete car entrance, and shrubbery and tree plantings.

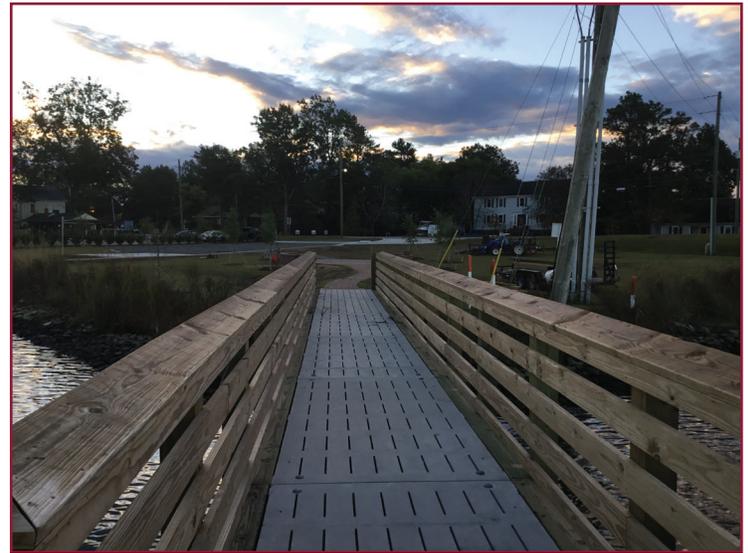
The plan is to formally open the park next spring with a community celebration, but already eager beavers are fishing off the pier and using the canoe and kayak launch.

In terms of cost, the park is the second largest undertaking ever by the Historic Bath Foundation, behind only the museum in the former Bath High School. Counting the cost of the lot, the foundation will have invested about \$175,000 in the park when it is formally opened.

Not only will the park provide recreation for Bath residents and visitors, it will permanently provide a welcoming green vista at the town's entrance.

Tom Moss, our landscape architect, designed the park and has supervised its construction. Toby Tetterton of the Catnip Point community constructed the piers and provided the riprap around the water's edge; and George Chrismon was the winning bidder for the walkways and parking lot.

Gene Roberts, Vice President



Messages from.... HBF Ex-Officio Directors

It has been a great adventure so far since I took the helm as Historic Bath State Historic Site manager in June of this year. A big goal for me is to use the conglomeration of my experiences to be a productive and forward, looking manager for this wonderful site. It has been a pleasure meeting and learning about the staff and support agencies throughout Bath.

We are currently under renovation at the Palmer Marsh house and hope to have the painting completed within the next month. Inspection of the home led to the replacement of many rotten and deteriorated weather boards. Our in-house craft services have been working feverishly to replace and repair all needed components, including window framing, window sashes, seals, flashing, and caulking. In addition, the much-needed restoration of the south facing door is almost complete. We are also looking for replacement of the sandstone steps.

One of my first major tasks was the removal and installation of the Edward Teach sign to a better location from the Carrow House yard. It now has a new home at Bonner's Point where you can read the sign and see Plum Point at the same time.

We are currently ramping up for the festivities of 2018 surrounding the three hundredth anniversary of the beheading of Blackbeard. It will be a year full of programming, lectures and activities such as movies and reenactments. We are striving to increase visitation and ticketed events to the site. March 1st will be the opening of the Queen Anne's Revenge Exhibit in our new Exhibition Hall. In addition, the Historic Bath Foundation will hold an invitation-only event to their members and benefactors, honoring their contributions that made the space available.

The State Site is looking to make new partnerships with Goose Creek State Park, the City of Washington, Beaufort County Visitor Services and the Aurora Fossil Museum. By having joint programming, we can support each other and be more efficient with cost sharing. This combination of efforts, we hope will increase visitation and income to not only our Site but all of Beaufort County.

*Chris Umfleet
Historic Bath State Historic Site Manager*

The Historic Bath Commission supports the Site in its efforts to increase visitors and promote and preserve the historic buildings. Marketing and promotional efforts include a presence at the N. C. State Fair and a radio tour as well as increased use of social media. Work has been done in the gift shop to provide more popular items geared toward children and to increase sales. The annual audit was completed in September. In addition, several dead and damaged trees and tree limbs have been removed from the Site property. 2018 will be an exciting year as plans to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Blackbeard's death unfold and preparations for the move to new exhibit hall are implemented. The new staff members, Chris Umfleet and Erica Smith, are doing a great job developing new programs and generating fresh ideas. A private tour at of the Bonner House at sunset is scheduled in November. Check the web site for upcoming events. Contact 252- 923- 3971 for more details.

Penny Sermons, Historic Bath Commission, Chair

The wastewater saga continues. We've contracted with an engineering firm to assist the Town with coming up with a working solution.

The Town of Bath was awarded a \$200,000.00 appropriation from the State of NC for infrastructure improvement within the Town. First and foremost is getting the wastewater system back up and running. Other priorities include public parking and rehabilitation of the old gymnasium.

James G. Latham, Mayor of Bath

It's been an eventful 2017 for BHSP.

More than 100 people were on hand for a dedication and reception for the completion of Pirate Hall-presented by Grady White Boats and the Memorial Walkway, which is an ongoing project leading to the Hall. The event was held Saturday, January 14, 2017.

BHSP and Pirate Hall were pleased to host a special pop-up multimedia exhibit featuring the outdoor drama "Blackbeard: Knight of the Black Flag". This event was held on July 15th and timed in conjunction with the 4th annual Historic Bath Pirates in the Port, giving visitors a unique look at the production and other elements from the outdoor drama which was held from 1977-1986 and 2005-2006. We were very pleased with the favorable feedback from the more than 200 attendees, young and old.

In June we had our annual Yard Sale, which was so successful we had two more. They were made possible by all the donations and hard work of our volunteers and those who "shopped".

Thank-you to all who continue to support BHSP.

Ruth Dorkin, BHSP President

Committee News

Calendar of Events

December 2017

December 2 6:00-8:00 - A Walk through Christmas' Past- This special night time Christmas tour will take visitors through both the Palmer Marsh and the Bonner House. An experience where you can experience the different Christmas traditions- Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, kids under 5 free.

December 3 2:00 - Bath Christmas Parade

December 9 10:00-4:00 - Christmas Open House.
This is a free event

January 2018

January 20 - Opening of Museum Exhibit Hall to members and benefactors

February 2018

February 24- BHSP Oyster Roast

March 2018

March 1 - Opening of Museum Exhibit Hall to the public

March 2 at 7:00 - Bath Exhibition Hall and QAR exhibit opening reception

March 3 10:00-2:00 - 1st Saturdays at Historic Bath

March 24 10:00 - Guest Speaker- Dr. Charles Ewen from ECU

March 30 - Foundation quarterly meeting 3pm

April 2018

April 7 10:00-2:00 - 1st Saturdays at Historic Bath

April- Guest speaker (TBD)

April - Spring Event, date to be determined, grand opening of Bath Creek Park

May 2018

May 5 10:00-2:00 - 1st Saturdays at Historic Bath

May - Guest Speaker (TBD)

May 19 - Bath Fest

May 26 - Memorial Day Event at Bonner's Point

June 2018

June 2- 10:00-2:00 - 1st Saturdays at Historic Bath

June 2- 7:00-9:00 - Family Movie Night- "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" Free event

June 16- BBQ Festival

June 25-29 9:00-1:00 - Past Times Summer Camp. This program is for children ages 7-10 and will cost \$75 per child

June 29th - Foundation quarterly meeting 10am

The Historic Bath Foundation's primary objective is to preserve the history of Bath and tell the stories of that history. We are in lockstep with the Historic Bath State Historic Site in their endeavors to increase tourism. And we, on your behalf, have also told the story of Bath through tangible results, not only through our own efforts, but through funding to the Visitor Center and other local non-profit groups. Our dedication to the town and what makes it unique is unwavering.

Jimmy Edwards, Secretary

All current members of the HBF and special donors to the Exhibit Gallery will be invited to the grand opening and tour of the completed facility on January 20, 2018. It is not too late to encourage friends to join the HBF, make a donation to the Exhibit Gallery project and join in the celebration!

Jerry Waters, President

The Historic Bath Foundation you can be proud of the shared partnership each supporter shares with another in our progress. The past year has seen long-awaited projects come to fruition. Work on the museum is moving rapidly, and the progress of the new park greets visitors and residents as they cross Bath Creek and enter town.

It is through your contributions that members help sustain the work of the foundation. Not just financially, but through your work on committees and boards and many service projects around Bath.

These things are done because you love Bath, and your collective spirit is our essence and fabric that make history come alive, while helping create our future. As we near the end of this year, I encourage you to make a year end tax deductible gift to the Foundation.

It is through your generous spirit the Historic Bath Foundation is able to work on these worthwhile projects.

*Thank you,
Milo Gibbs, Director*



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Historical

landmarks where the beginnings of a State took root...

Intriguing

tales of an infamous pirate and his hidden treasures...

Timeless

tranquility in the "summer-country" nestled
along the Pamlico River...

Where else but North Carolina's oldest town would
be the backdrop for this drama? Where else but the
village town of...

Bath



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