

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 2018

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President's Message

Congratulations! The Historic Bath Exhibit Center, located on the first floor of the Northwest Wing of the Bath High School building opened with the traveling exhibition of Blackbeard artifacts from the Queen Anne's Revenge in March 2018. This exhibit was a huge success and visitation was outstanding.

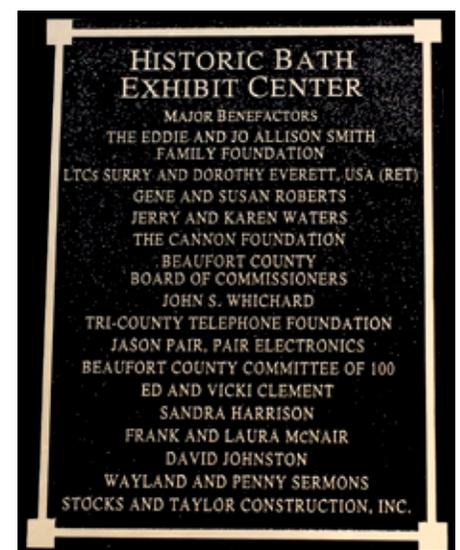
This display was moved on May 31 and replaced with the North Carolina barbecue exhibit. The traveling exhibits will be changed quarterly to promote ongoing interest and repeat visitation to the Center. Visitation of the Blackbeard Exhibit and the subsequent traveling exhibits has been outstanding!

Phase II plans are to complete the second floor renovation and install an elevator between the Exhibit Center and Pirate Hall Gallery. The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has secured funding from the Cannon Trust which will be utilized, along with existing cash funds and the remaining matching grant funds from the Smith Foundation, for the elevator installation. Approximately \$300,000 will also need to be secured to complete the Exhibit Center second floor renovation.

The Bath Creek Bridge Park has been completed with the recent installation of a table, bench, swing and other equipment. The park is a beautiful addition to the entrance into Bath and is consistently utilized. A special thanks to Gene and Susan Roberts; Jim and Bea Latham; and Ed and Vicki Clement for their substantial donations for the Park Project.

Thanks to all our members for a great year and please encourage friends and relatives to join our fine organization.

Jerry Waters, President



Committee News

Advance Museum Planning 101

Like all great creations, designing a museum that effectively and creatively engages its audience with exciting educational experiences requires careful advance planning. The proposed Historic Bath museum is no exception. While we are already fortunate to have an ideal space in the Bath High School, making sure that the interior floor plan and the proposed exhibits and other spaces meet our needs is critical.

Many decisions and steps go into creating a successful museum, including collaborating with local and state partners on which stories to tell and how to best engage visitors with those stories. And because those stories are enhanced by physical objects, it is important to choose exhibit objects that can best inform those narratives. Creating exhibit spaces that flow seamlessly and lead the visitor on a journey of discovery is also a key element. Just as important in planning are the elements that few visitors ever take into consideration, including structural ingress/egress such as an elevator configuration that accommodates moving artifacts and visitors effectively, programming space needs, how and where to create secure collections storage and exhibit preparation rooms and staffing needs.

Many professional services exist to help a future museum with clarifying its mission and vision and with how to work within financial resources to create an end product that will fit the needs of the museum stakeholders. Again, we are already one step ahead in that the museum will be a part of the NC DNCR Historic Bath site, whose mission is already established as telling the story of North Carolina's first incorporated town. North Carolina State Historic Sites has a crack team of scholars, curators and exhibit designers and fabricators with years of creating museums and exhibits and we will benefit greatly from their experience. The Historic Bath Foundation looks forward to being a part of this exciting and important museum planning process.

Patricia Samford, Director

Construction Committee

I am seeking an estimate of the costs to redesign the elevator and shaft as directed by the Board of Directors. In addition to a more expansive elevator, it may also be necessary to design a gate to secure the stairwell at the north end of the building so that the stair could be used for ingress and egress to and from the second floor. The architect is evaluating these designs issues. It is our intent to have the design complete, and approved by the Board, so we can start construction as soon as funds are available.

David Johnston, Vice President

Exhibit 2020

The Foundation's exhibit committee has begun discussions with the State Department of Natural and Cultural Resources on plans for a permanent Bath historical exhibit in the exhibit center in the former Bath High School.

The plan, with assistance from the Foundation, is to open the exhibit in 2020 on the first floor of the center and to structure it around artifacts from the early stages of Bath history, with later Bath history explored when the second floor is completed and equipped to display artifacts.

The first floor's permanent exhibit will include cannon and other artifacts from the wreck of the Queen Anne's Revenge, one of the vessels commanded by Blackbeard and which sank near Beaufort. It will also include historic maps, prints and other artifacts from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

*Gene Roberts, Chair
Exhibit Center Artifact Collection Committee*

Exhibit Center Artifact Collection/Marketing Committee

The Exhibit and Marketing Committees formed by our President, Jerry Waters, met and decided to combine like-minded goals in an effort to meet the challenges put forth. Our primary goal is to increase tourism and interest in Historic Bath. We intend to expand the Bath story. Our focus for the Exhibit Hall as a whole (first and second floors) is to share the story of Bath through the ages and not solely the Bath colonial period. We will market Historic Bath in this way in hopes of providing a more complete story and to reach a larger audience.

Karen Sayer, Director

Meet our Treasurer

Ken Friedlein of Durham is a retired North Carolina architect who purchased and renovated the Swindell Cash Store on Main Street in Bath. He also worked with the Foundation and the Town of Bath on the feasibility study for the re-use of the abandoned Bath High School buildings. A native of Baltimore, Ken graduated from Duke University in 1972 and spent 20 years as a newspaper writer and editor in Durham, Raleigh, Winston-Salem and Charlotte. He was a Professional Journalism Fellow at Stanford University in 1977-78, and also spent three years in Washington, D.C. as Press Secretary to the late U.S. Senator Terry Sanford, the former Duke President and North Carolina Governor. He returned in 1992 to study architecture, earning an M.Arch. degree from N.C. State University in 1995.

Treasurer's 2018 Report

Income

Institutional & In-Kind gifts	\$ 52,813.11
Membership & Individual gifts	\$ 15,291.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 68,104.39

Capital Spending

Museum Construction	\$ 88,453.67
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Other Expenses

Bridge Park	\$ 14,791.87
Grants	\$ 5,042.04
Operations & Misc.	\$ 38,118.90
TOTAL SPENDING	\$ 146,406.48

HBF ended 2018 having spent nearly \$90,000 for capital improvements to finish the first floor of the Historic Bath Exhibit Center in the former Bath High School. Funds for construction came from cash on hand at the beginning of the year and additional contributions. Foundation memberships and individual contributions raised about \$15,000, and nearly \$53,000 was received from five government, institutional and in-kind business contributors: Beaufort County, Nutrien Ltd., the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation, the Tri-County Telephone Foundation and Pair Electronics. At year's end, HBF had approximately \$154,000 on hand to help finance the elevator and second-floor phases of the Exhibit Center in 2019.

Ken Friedlein, Treasurer

From Your Secretary

Thanks to the many members who have supported the Historic Bath Foundation over the last 20 years. Without you we would not have the Exhibit Center! Local members are very valuable and are really needed. Local members help demonstrate that our efforts are community supported and provide seed money in our efforts to establish the Exhibit Center, as well as carry out other community projects. Large donors look at local membership to determine if a project is supported and wanted by the local populace and will not contribute if it is not locally supported. Your membership has assisted the Foundation to not only obtain large donors but also has help convince others to proceed with the establishment of our Exhibit Center. Please continue your support!

Surry Everett, Secretary

Community Grants and Support

\$1,000 to Greater Bath Foundation as a sponsor of the Memorial Day activities.

\$4,000 to Town of Bath as 1/5 share of the Harding Street parking project.

\$1,600.00 to support Historic Bath Commission Sunday temporary staffing of the Visitor Center.

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

A very special thank you to Director Jordan Cantrell for organizing the Awards Ceremony this year.

Committee News

HBF Award Ceremony, March 30th 6:30PM

All of us know one. One who gives so much to an organization whether with time, resource or funds. HBF has been fortunate to have more than one. This year we would like to recognize Gene and Susan Roberts for creating the strategy and setting a pace which assisted HBF in fulfilling our primary mission of creating a museum.

Gene and Susan embraced locating the museum in the NW wing of the Bath High School long before a lot of the community could envision it as being the ultimate location. They, together, spent countless hours over the past decade hosting brainstorming sessions, writing and coaching grant writing, contacting resources, and utilizing their influence to bring funding into Bath not only for the museum but for preserving BHSP, creating the library and more. They, together, also were the largest private contributors for the Marsh house restoration and Bath Creek Park. They have also gifted many priceless artifacts which will be a part of the museum collection and the library collection for future generations to enjoy and from which to learn. We are grateful for their generosity of time, effort, influence and philanthropy.

Karen Sayer, Director

RSVP before March 25th to historicbath@yahoo.com.

I have known Gene and Susan Roberts for over forty years and they have always shown a great interest in Bath's history.

Jimmy Edwards, Director

Bath Historic District: Integral loss

The Bath Historic District lost a contributing Main Street property in November when present-day owners demolished the one-story cottage that had been the longtime residence of Mrs. Vonnie Marsh. Heir to the house her husband's family had built around 1898, Mrs. Marsh was an active member of the Bath community for many decades, including service on the Historic Bath Commission. The house was typical of Bath's modest family homes, often altered over time to accommodate successive generations. Distinctive to the Marsh house was a front-facing addition that gave the building its L-shaped form and wraparound porch. In the hands of latter-day 20th century owners, however, the home had fallen into disrepair. Offers by the Foundation to assume ownership in order to stabilize the structure failed, and as concerns mounted over the deteriorating condition, Beaufort County authorities condemned the structure, requiring either immediate improvement or removal.

Ken Friedlein, Director

Bath Creek Park Dedication



Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise.

~ Aldo Leopold

Accomplishments



Historic Bath Exhibit Center Ribbon Cutting



Messages from....

HBF Ex-Officio Directors

Historic Bath Site had an active and wonderful year. With the opening of the Historic Bath Exhibit Center, Pirates in the Port, and the various Blackbeard Tri-Centennial programming activities, Historic Bath out-performed many of our sister sites in the region. In the fall, we added Laura Rogers and Almond Drake to the staff, filling positions that had been vacant since March of 2018. By having their various talents and a complete staff, we were able to begin looking at fresh programming ideas for the 2019 season. The State will be rolling out a more robust and user-friendly website for all Historic Sites soon. The new format will allow us to monitor and edit material here at the Site. This added tool will help with more specific wants from the public. Please come and spend some time at Historic Bath and ask about our various volunteer opportunities.

Chris Umfleet

Historic Bath State Historic Site Manager

The commission would like to thank our previous Chairman, Penny Sermons, for her dedication and leadership. We greatly appreciate her service, along with her fellow officers who served so admirably. We also extend our thanks to those friends who completed their appointments July, 2018. We welcome our newest commission members. Our new slate of officers are Rusty Duke, Chairman; Leesha Jones, Vice Chairman; Laura Gerard, Secretary and Jason Pair, Treasurer. Our goal has been a renewed solidarity of the Historic Bath foundations with the Town of Bath and the Historic Bath Commission. Bath is a great place; a beautiful and vibrant town full of liveliness and history.

HBC Executive Committee

Things in Bath are progressing pretty well. During 2018 we accomplished installing a town parking lot, with combined financial assistance of the Town, Friend of the Bath Library, Historic Bath Foundation, Historic Site Museum, Bath High School Preservation, and Bath Christian Church. With help from the Greater Bath Foundation and local citizens, we "top dressed" Lawson's Walk with a fresh coat of rock which made the area look better. The Nelson House on Main Street was demolished and that made Main Street look much better. The Christmas Parade again this year was a great success. Thanks to all that helped organize, direct and clean the streets prior to the event. Thanks to Senator Cook for serving as the Grand Marshall. The City of Washington has been installing more electrical outlets on power poles so we can have more lighted wreaths in 2019. They are also working with the Town to change all the new street lights to LEDs. The Memorial Day celebration at Bonner Point was another huge success and it was estimated

that 5500-6000 people attended. We continue to struggle with our wastewater system. We feel we are making some progress, although not at the pace we would like.

James G. Latham, Mayor of Bath

BHSP is looking forward to another successful year of fund raising to further our goal of the full restoration of Bath High School. Our Farmer's Market this summer was successful-thank you to all our volunteers, vendors and those who shopped! As we enter 2019, we look forward to our annual Oyster Roast in February, which continues to be a success and major fund raiser enjoyed by all who attend. We will have our 5k in the spring and our annual Yard Sale in May. We continue to move forward in our efforts and appreciate all who help us achieve our goal!

Ruth Dorkin, President, BHSP

Gene Roberts Receives the Prestigious North Carolina Award



On November 16, 2018, former Historic Bath Foundation board member Gene Roberts received the state's highest civilian honor, the North Carolina Award. Gene joins the ranks of more than 250 distinguished men and women, including John Hope Franklin, Maya Angelou, James Taylor, William Friday, Billy Graham and Branford Marsalis.

The award was presented by Governor Roy Cooper at a gala held at the Raleigh Convention Center. Before the banquet and ceremony, this year's six award recipients and their families enjoyed an intimate reception hosted by the governor and his wife at the governor's mansion.

The North Carolina Award has been presented annually since 1964 and recognizes important contributions to the state and nation in fine art, literature, public service and science. Gene's ongoing leadership in the historic preservation of Bath, plus his significant contributions in the field of journalism were instrumental in the decision to accord him this honor.

Patricia Samford, Director

Calendar of Events

March 2019

March 1st, Opening for the new "Mapping the New World" Exhibit at the Historic Bath Exhibit Center. Bath's newest donation is the map collection of local collectors Gene and Susan Roberts. The marvels of over three hundred years of original maps will dress the walls of the Exhibit Center.

March 2th-Sept 7th 2019, First Saturdays Programming
Come and join us each Saturday from March to September for kid-friendly activities around the site from 10am-2pm. Activities and program focus change month to month from bees, to gardening, Native Americans and historical figures.

March 23rd, Garden Day, Community is invited to help tend and mend the Site garden area to prepare the soil to receive seeds and plants for the heritage garden.

March 29th, HBF quarterly meeting, 3pm.

March 30th, HBF Awards Ceremony, 6:30pm.

April 2019

April 24th, Tea on the Van der Veer Porch (Ticketed event)
Step back into the 1830s with a Regency afternoon tea with friends, share some gossip, play parlor games and partake of freshly brewed tea and savories. Space is limited.

May 2019

May 25th, Buccaneers and BBQ
Sanctioned Whole Hog BBQ competition with the NC Pork Council. Come taste and smell the pork in the Bonner Compound. Competitors' setup on the 24th and judging begins Saturday morning on the 25th.

June 2019

June 1st Mid-Summer's Night Dream (ticketed Adult Event)
This June, as the midsummer's eve approaches, we invite you to join us in an enchanting evening full of games, music, feasting and revelry! Col. Palmer requests your attendance at his home for the festivities, where much entertainment will be had, from favorite card games to a bit of the theatrical. Come in colonial dress or evening attire and prepare for an evening of merrymaking!

June 29th, Music on the Point
Come listen to live music played in the most beautiful place in Eastern North Carolina. Bring your chairs, sit back, dance, and laugh with friends while the sun sets and the music fills Bath Creek. Food trucks and Beer/Wine Garden will be available.

June 28th, HBF Annual membership meeting, 10:00.

July 2019

July 6th, 1836 Independence Day Picnic at Bonner Point
Bring your family, friends and packed picnic basket to Bonner Point and join in a round of town ball and listen to the reading of the Declaration of Independence, as we celebrate the first 50 years of our new nation.

July 20th Pirates in the Port
Come and experience our 6th annual meeting of the crews of both Blackbeard and Robert Maynard as they historically portray the daily lives of pirates and sailors in the Golden Ages of Piracy. Demonstrations of 17th and 18th-century daily sailor activities, cooking, weapons demonstrations, historical lectures, recruitment, pirate pardon and memorial service for Maynard and his men.

July 25-26, Summer Camp (Fee)
Two days' worth of specific programming for young historians. Open to ages 6-12, participants will get two days of hands on activities, crafts and history geared for their ages...proving history is fun.

September 2019

September 21st, Museum Day Live, Market Days, and Music on the Point
In conjunction with National Museum Day live, Bath Historic Site will be hosting a traditional trade market with historical tradesmen, demonstrations, vendors and hands-on activities for young and old. See blacksmiths, gunsmiths and historical brewers, to name a few. In conjunction with the trade market, some modern vendors will also be present.

After learning your new trade, come listen to live music played in the most beautiful place in Eastern North Carolina. Bring your chairs, sit back, dance and laugh with friends while the sun sets and the music fills Bath Creek. Food trucks and Beer/Wine Garden will be available.

September 27th, HBF quarterly meeting, 3pm.

October 2019

Oct 11th-12th Bath Towne After Dark (Ticketed Event)
Come walk the streets of Old Bath Towne and meet the wandering souls of historical figures important to Bath and the surrounding areas. Chat with literary figures, hear the cry of a widowed teen, listen to the story of one of the most tragic ferry events of the early 20th century, hear Blackbeard's story of his own demise and get chilled by the legend of Jessie Elliott.

October 25th, Cooking in the Bonner Kitchen
Come see and smell the holiday fare being cooked up for the October 31st Celtic holiday. Learn of the traditions and lore that goes along with this "spirited" holiday.

October 31st, Scare-Free Halloween (Free)
Come to the safest and happiest place on Halloween and enjoy candy, crafts, painting, music, and holiday movies from 5-8pm. Open to all ages and families. Hotdogs and popcorn will be available for purchase on site.

December 2019

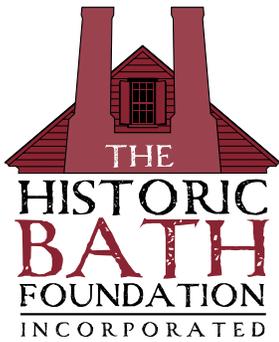
Dec 7th Christmas Open House/Candle light
During the day on our Annual Open House, wander through the decorated homes of Colonel and Mrs. Palmer, the Bonner family and visit with the old fisherman in the Carrow House. At night, when the families settle in for their winter nap, experience the homes by flickering candle light, see and experience the festivities and the stories of the families during the holiday season. Various activities will happen throughout the town of Bath, with singing, music, sweet treats and a special visit from Santa during this most magical time.

December, HBF quarterly meeting, TBD.

On exhibit now "Mapping the New World"



Gift from Gene and Susan Roberts



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For a town that has the distinction as the oldest town in North Carolina, Bath certainly has a lot of “New” things. From the construction of the new Exhibit Center, and the new Bath Creek Park and the beginning of finishing the 2nd floor of the Exhibit Center with a new elevator, 2018 has been a continuous effort to keep Bath on the cutting edge.

This could not have been done without the support of our membership, generous businesses and governmental agencies. Please come out and attend the many exhibits and events the Foundation provides. The citizens of Bath should be very proud of everyone’s contribution to these projects. Thank you for your continued support.

Milo Gibbs, Director

Please remember to send your membership dues in the enclosed envelope. \$25 will be acknowledged as membership dues and funds generously provided above that amount per member may be utilized to match the Smith Foundation grant for the museum.

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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