

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 2013

Membership Update

We have 80 new members due to last year's efforts of being more visible at community events, providing awareness of our efforts through our newsletter, and special membership drives and events. In addition, our annual membership dues have increased by \$5000.00.

Gene Roberts will be taking charge of a special membership drive for 2014; Milo Gibbs and Tina Allen are also assisting with membership duties and Debra Torrence is coordinating the HBF newsletter and updating website content.

Please share your brochure with a friend and encourage them to join our efforts for preserving and promoting Historic Bath.

Director Karen Sayer

President's Message

Activity! Activity! Activity! If you've been watching, you've been seeing all kinds of activity in Bath! From the Glebe House to the old high school building, things have happened. HBF has completed a grant of \$10,000 to the Glebe House project. HBF's grants to the Bath High School Preservation have enabled it to begin reconstruction of the old cafeteria and convert it into an area that can be used by the Bath Community Library. While the completion date is not yet exact, it is planned for occupancy early next year in January.

Negotiations are still underway between BHSP and HBF for the Gallery and an option to take ownership of the Northwest Wing in order to establish a museum. Funds for the completion of the Gallery have been identified and are available as soon as negotiations are completed. An architectural plan for the museum in the Northwest Wing will be developed after an agreement is reached. In order to conserve funds, the plans may be developed in conjunction with BHSP for the remainder of the building.

Funds will be needed for the initial part of the museum in the Northwest Wing! I encourage each of you to maintain or start your membership in HBF. Further I ask that you consider making as large a donation as possible to HBF for use in construction of a museum. A museum will not happen without your help. In that regard, please see the article on donations from an IRA or 401(k).

Thank you for your help; we could not have reached this point without it.

Surry Everett
President/Chair



Historic Bath Foundation Grants

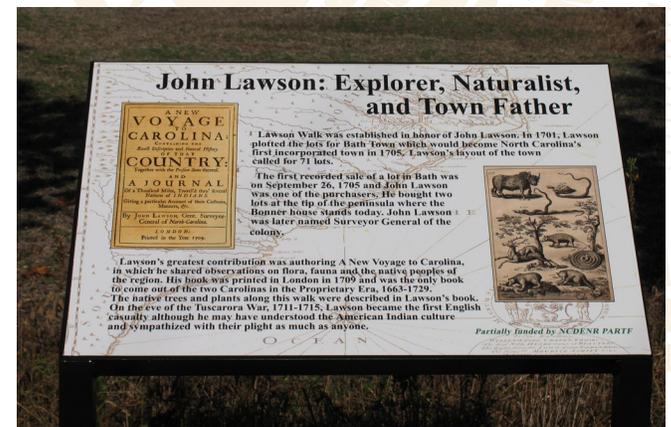
your money at work in the Bath community



Bath Library genealogical and local history section furnishings/books –open Spring 2014



Glebe House exterior restoration



Completed: Lawson Walk



Van der Veer sign

Pending: matching funds of \$5,000,000 provided to the Town of Bath, Historic District, for Architectural Guidelines.

Committee and Special Events News

Financial Report

The Historic Bath Foundation Inc. has had a great year with membership up significantly. During 2013 a \$10,000 grant was paid for the Glebe house exterior restoration and a smaller grant was paid for signs at The Historic Bath site. Unrestricted assets remain at \$104,076. Year-end is fast approaching as is tax time. The Historic Bath Foundation is a great place to give because all of the money is reinvested locally. The results of your gifts will be seen for generations to come. Please mail your tax-deductible donation to HBF, PO Box 238, Bath, NC 27808.

Director Mariann McQueen

Long Term Planning

When the Bath Community Library moves into its new home in the former Bath High School it will have a much expanded collection of North Carolina books because of the efforts of the Historic Bath Foundation.

The Foundation is spending \$6,400 on shelving and furniture for the North Carolina collection; and a collection of nearly 500 books is being given to the library through the Foundation.

The oldest of the books, printed in London in 1730, is David Humphreys' An Historical Account of the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; it includes a 14" by 14" map showing the location of Bath.

The collection also includes about 30 books on pirates and piracy and the two oldest histories of North Carolina, the first by Hugh Williamson, printed in Philadelphia in two volumes in 1812, and the other by Francois-Xavier Martin, printed in New Orleans in two volumes in 1829.

Susan Benning, chief librarian of the Beaufort, Hyde, Martin regional library, has supervised the cataloging of 300 of the books and plans to have the others ready for the library opening.

Meanwhile, the Foundation is continuing its discussions with Bath High School Preservation to create first a gallery in the school and later a museum.

Director Gene Roberts

SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1, 2014

HBF Small Grant application are available online or for pickup at the Historic Bath Visitor Center starting February 1, 2014. Applications are due by February 28, 2014. Notification of awards will be announced by April 15, 2014.

WEBSITE UPDATE

According to the website statistics as of November 15, 2013, the HBF website has attracted over 3,700 visitors to the online information and resources provided to viewers this year. This includes 1,992 visitors that are labeled as unique or new users of the site. Visitors on average returned to the site 1.89 times, visited two sections of the site or more and clicked on at least 6 links within the site.

*Debra Torrence,
Membership Committee Member*

Donations from an IRA or 401(k)

Funds from an IRA or 401(k) up to \$100,000 may be donated by taxpayers who have reached 70.5 years of age to non-profit organizations that are designated as 501(c)(3). The funds must be transferred directly from the IRA or 401(k) account to the receiving organization. Transferred funds are not taxable to the donor, are not part of the donor's gross income, are not tax deductible, and may be counted as part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). Such donations are called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD).

DISCLAIMER: This program has not yet been renewed for 2014, but is valid for the few days left in 2013. The above information is not presented as tax advice.

Please consult your tax advisor before making any transaction.

Community News

Garden Club

Bath Garden Club Home & Garden Tour - Visit Bath, the oldest incorporated town in North Carolina and the state's first port, for a tour of 10-12 beautiful homes as well as the Visitor's Center, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and historic houses on April 12, 2014. The event will take place from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is \$20 each with a special rate of \$15 each for groups of 10 or more. Lunch is available at the Bath Methodist Church from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. for \$7. Homes Tour tickets may be reserved by sending a check to: Historic Bath Garden Club Treasurer, Homes Tours, P. O. Box 21, Bath, NC 27808. For additional information contact Sallie LaCava at 252-964-3441 or June Wallace at 252-923-3541.

Creating Outdoor Play Spaces in Bath - The effort to preserve the look and feel of Bath has been a great success. The investments provided to date to preserve and share the history of the state's first town offer an opportunity to leverage resources with a vision of creating outdoor play and learning spaces for the children who live, attend school and visit Bath each year. Individuals from the community and region are working together to enhance community connections to Historic Bath. The Historic Bath play trail and developed resources when completed are estimated to benefit an estimated 2,000 children, 500 families and 100 or more early childhood and school-age educators annually.

Girl Scout Troop #3556

Annual Bath High School Preservation Oyster Roast

You're invited to the 2014 Bath High School Preservation Oyster Roast on February 22, 2014 from 4-7pm for all you can eat oysters plus hotdogs, chili and more! Join the fun at the Selby Farm Shop at 9832 Highway 92 Bath. Call 252-923-5061 or 923-7831 for more information and ticket prices for this fund raising event.

Save the date!

January 18, 2014 is the date for the HBF Reverse Raffle and Awards Ceremony. The event is from 5 to 7 pm at Swindell's store. Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold.

Tickets are \$100 each and the grand prize is \$2,500. Prizes will be awarded through-out the evening as the numbers are drawn.

Tickets may be purchased from any board member or you can call Mariann McQueen at 252-531-1408 to purchase your ticket.

The cost of the event is being covered by a generous donation from BB&T Wealth Management.

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

January 15th - *Women's Work Winter Workshop 1: Colonial Candlewicking* Join staff to learn the early craft of candlewicking. You don't have to be able to sew or do fancy needlework to find success with this craft! The cost of the class is \$5 with a maximum number of 10 participants. Each person will complete a simple design on a flour sack dish towel. 10 a.m. at Historic Bath Visitor Center

January 17th - Historic Bath Commission meeting. Historic Bath Site Visitor's Center. 10 a.m.

January 18th - **Historic Bath Foundation Annual Awards Ceremony and Reverse Raffle.** 5 p.m. **Swindell's Cash Store.**

FEBRUARY

February 1st - Lecture Series *John Day in Liberia: Southern Baptist Missionary and a Founder of the Republic* Learn about the older brother of Thomas Day, who emigrated to Liberia in 1830 as a participant in the American Colonization Movement. Based on research of his letters, speaker Janie Leigh Carter will relay information about Day's theology, his views of race and slavery, the Liberian people, their culture and more. 10 a.m. at Historic Bath Visitor Center. Free.

February 12th - *Women's Work Winter Workshop 2: Quill You Be My Valentine?* This workshop is timely if you would like to apply the technique of twirling paper into designs into a romantic, old-timey Valentine! All materials needed to quill and make Valentines will be provided. The cost of class is \$5 with a maximum number of 15 participants. 10 a.m. at Historic Bath Visitor Center.

February 20th - Historic Bath's Night at the Movies *42 The True Story of an American Legend* (128 min. PG-13) The life story of Jackie Robinson and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey. 7 p.m. at Historic Bath Visitor Center. Free.

February 22nd - *Bath High School Preservation Oyster Roast.* All you can eat oysters plus hotdogs, chili and more! Selby Farm Shop at 9832 Highway 92 Bath. Tickets available at Bath General Store, Enchanted Gardens, Nameplates and from Board members. Call 252-923-5061 or 7831 for more information and ticket prices.

MARCH

March 14th - **Historic Bath Foundation Quarterly Meeting.** 3 PM. **Bath Town Hall.**

APRIL

April 12th - *Bath Garden Club Home & Garden Tour.* 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is \$20 each with a special rate of \$15 each for groups of 10 or more. Lunch is available at the Bath Methodist Church from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. for \$7. See Community News section for details including ticket information.

MAY

May 17th - *Bath Fest & Cutthroat Croquet Tournament.*

JUNE

Historic Bath Foundation Annual Meeting - Date to be determined

June 14th - *Grand Opening of the Queen Anne's Revenge Traveling Exhibit.* Artifacts recovered from the wreck of Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge will be on display beginning today for a six week period. This is your chance to see actual treasures recovered from the shipwreck site and conserved at the project lab in Greenville. This exhibit includes a range of artifacts including weaponry, nautical tools and personal items and is accompanied by programming for both children and adults. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Historic Bath Visitor Center. Free.

Messages from....

HBF Ex-Officio Directors

The Town of Bath is moving forward with the waste water expansion. The original completion date was 11/20/13 +/-, but due to wetter than average weather and delays in receiving reimbursements from funding agencies, the contractor has requested a 90 day extension for completion. The Town has been in contact with our local officials in Raleigh to intercede on the Town's behalf to help speed up the payment reimbursements.

The Family Dollar, which is going up on Carteret St. (Hwy 92), is coming along and should be open prior to Christmas. The owners have been great to work with as they have been willing to change some of their designs to blend in to the Town's historical nature.

We are beginning the update process on the Historic District guidelines and that process will be ongoing for several months.
Jimmy Latham, Mayor

The first chairman of the Historic Bath Commission, Edmund Harding, wrote a letter to fifty key people, about fifty years ago. His words were simple in 1960 and I believe they ring just as true today.

"...I have appointed each of you for a special reason. There is some particular task that I wish you to do, about which I will write you later....The weather has held us up on the workbut the new weatherboarding has been made, the new windows for the house, made just like the old ones, are ready, and we are ready to jump when the sun shines. I know that I can count on your help." <http://circanceast.beaufortccc.edu/bath/Edmund%20Harding/Access%20files/Appendixes/AppendixesE.htm>

As the new Historic Bath Commission Chair, I cannot improve on his record or his eloquence; but I can uphold his work and try to accomplish something of lasting value - to preserve and protect our heritage. History has a way of repeating itself. Notice his comments on windows and look across the street at the renovated 1920's BHS south wing, soon to be home to the Bath Community Library.

I want to thank our previous Chairman, Bill Pruitt, for his vision and leadership. He was instrumental in starting the Beautification Committee with visible improvements in the exterior gardens at the Bonner House through a team of volunteers under Blanche Monroe's guidance. He advocated and worked tirelessly for the Site, most especially with the sequestration and discussions of possible sites to be closed during budget shortfalls. His efforts and those of fellow officers, Bobby Roberson, Claudia Alligood and Penny Sermons were successful and their service greatly appreciated. We also extend our thanks to Milo Gibbs, Jr. and Betsey Lee Hodges who completed their appointments in July, 2013 and welcome our newest commission members along with a new slate of officers to include myself as chair; Anna Biggs, Vice-Chair; Elizabeth Sparrow, Secretary; and Penny Sermons continues as Treasurer.

The Historic Bath Commission was formed and purposed through NC session laws in 1959 and 1965. The earliest members can be credited with acquiring, preserving and restoring the Bonner House, Palmer-Marsh House and Van Der Veer House before transferring them to the State of NC under the Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History, Division of Historic Sites for operation as a heritage attraction for NC citizens and our visiting guests. Our roots are old and established. I ask each of the Historic Bath Foundation members to help each of us,

as we continue in the strong traditions that serve Bath and honor our place in North Carolina's 300 years of history.

Peggy Daw, Chair, Historic Bath Commission

Bids for the South Wing (Library & Connecting Corridor & Gallery) projects were received on June 19. The overall bids were significantly over the budgeted amount. Obligations to grantors, Friends of Bath Community Library and Beaufort-Hyde-Martin required that the BHSP Board make the tough decision to move forward with the Library Project and defer the Gallery Project until completion of the Library. After thorough evaluation of all bids and further negotiations, Stocks & Taylor Construction of Washington, NC was awarded the contract.

Thanks to the Town of Bath for a grant of \$10,000 toward the goal of completing the Library Project. BHSP has provided additional funding (approximately \$50,000) toward completion of the project. Construction will be completed by the end of December. Plans are for the Library to begin moving by January 2, 2014. The new Library will open between February 1 and 15, 2014. Final checkouts of equipment, etc., are expected to take around 30 days. A dedication of the library is scheduled for late March 2014.

Once the project is complete, BHSP will focus fully on securing additional funding to complete the Gallery.

BHSP thanks all sponsors, grantors, and the entire Bath Community for its continued support. The Vision of restoring the BHS building to its place of prominence in the community is well underway!

Sandra E. Harrison, President, Bath High School Preservation

The late Governor Luther Hodges once said "tourists are much easier to pick than cotton." As I write these thoughts local cotton is being harvested in abundance by machine, but it seems that our guests (tourists and locals) need new incentives these days to visit historic sites because the "pickin's" have been slimmer lately than we'd like to see.

This fall, our first Ghost Walk was hosted by Historic Bath Site and Walk in the Light Productions. Actors portrayed various characters from Bath's past - two women buried at the Palmer-Marsh House cemetery, Blackbeard and Jessie Elliott of devil's hoofprints fame, just to name a few. There was an overwhelming response to this venture, so what were the lessons learned? Perhaps that people like entertainment....they want to try something new.....and if in the end they learn something, that's a bonus. Perhaps we learned that good programs may run their course and you do have to switch things up once in a while so that folks will return.

Please know that the staff at Historic Bath wants to meet your needs and if you have program ideas, we'd love to hear from you. Perhaps we can incorporate your ideas into programs to continue to reach our community and beyond.

Leigh Swain, Manager, Historic Bath State Historic Site

This is the time of year we remind you about tax deductible contributions. Please remember Historic Bath Foundation if you are considering a year-end gift. You may send your contribution to PO Box 238, Bath, NC 27808 or make your contribution online at <http://www.historicbath.com/> (donate tab). Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Join the work of preserving
Historic Bath
Send your tax-deductible contribution to
Bath Historic Foundation
P.O. Box 238 Bath, NC 27808

Donate by visiting us at
[www.historicbath.com!](http://www.historicbath.com)



Post Office Box 238 Bath, NC 27808

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. Postage
PAID
Bath, NC
27808
Permit #14

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



Follow us on Facebook!

Contact us at historicbath@yahoo.com