

SHIPPING NEWS FROM PORT BATH

*From Register of Deeds
Office, Beaufort County,
NC Book 3, page 87*

“Shipped by the Grace of God, in good order and well conditioned, by Michael Coutanch on the proper acct & risqué of James Nottingham of Liverpool, in & upon the good Ship called the New Bern, whereof is Master for the present Voyage Capn. Henry Robinson & now riding at anchor in the river of Pamlico, & by God’s grace bound for Liverpool, to say, one hundred and thirty Barrels of full bound Tar, being marked & numbered as in the Margin, are to be delivered in good order & well conditioned at the afsd. Port of Liverpool; or his assigns, freight paid in North Carolina thirty two pounds ten Shillings lawful money of England, with primage & average accustomed.

In Witness whereof the master or purser of said Ship hath affirmed to four bills being accomplished the others to Stand void; So GOD send the ship to her port, dated in port Bath North Carolina 7th October 1751.”



The Bath Packett

Newsletter of the Historic Bath Commission

2012 Historic Bath Highlights

January 2013

A Golden Anniversary—May 5, 2012

It was a celebration that was meant to be—both in 1962 and 2012. After several years of raising money, acquiring historic properties, period artifact collections and performing appropriate renovations the birth of “Historic Bath” was welcomed on a sunny Saturday, May 5, 1962, with Edmund Harding at the helm and droves of visitors who wanted to be the first to visit the Palmer-Marsh and Bonner Houses and walk in the invisible footsteps of past Bath citizens.

May 5, 2012 was much the same. Rays of sunshine danced on Bath and Back Creeks and a gentle breeze provided comfortable temperatures for both speakers and visitors under the tent. While Edmund was certainly attending in spirit, his widow Carolyn and local artist Nancy Scoble unveiled a new portrait of Edmund funded by the Historic Bath Commission to hang in the Van Der Veer House. Also in attendance were two of Edmund’s grandchildren and a number of other relatives.

As in 1962, this event was very much a town celebration. Students from Northside High School’s JROTC and FBLA organizations assisted guests during the program and the outdoor meal. A hearty welcome and opening remarks were given by event organizer and site employee Bea Latham. Speakers for the opening ceremony included site manager Leigh



Swain, Historic Sites Director Keith Hardison, Historic Bath Commission Chairman Bill Pruitt, Bath Mayor Jimmy Latham and Town Administrator Bubs Carson. Musical selections were performed by Pam Carson with the Bath Ruritan Club hosting a fish fry lunch.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

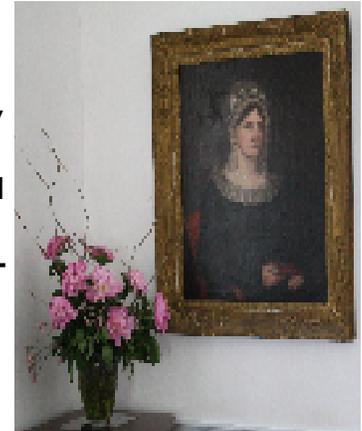
The Bath Methodist and Christian women had homemade bakery items for sale with all of these groups receiving the proceeds for their projects.



In the afternoon, the houses were open to the public at no charge, donning fresh

floral arrangements created by the Bath Garden Club. Visitors were encouraged to try their hand at crosscut sawing, colonial games and ropemaking while St. Thomas Church collected donations for the Glebe House restoration project with tasty homemade ice cream and cookies.

As we move forward and continue to share the history of North Carolina's oldest incorporated town, we also look forward to the celebration of Historic Bath's 100th anniversary in 2062!



Event information is sent to the *Washington Daily News*, *The Beaufort-Hyde News*, and the *Tri-County* webpage. Flyers are posted at the Bath Library and the Bath Post Office. You can call the Visitor Center at 252-923-3971 or visit our website www.bath.nchistoricsites.org or www.ncculture.com for more details. If you would like event information sent to you by email, send your email address to bea.latham@ncdcr.gov.

Events for 2013

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming events offered at Historic Bath

Lectures and Programs:

February 2nd, 10am: "Thomas Day, Cabinet Maker: Man in the Middle" Laurel C. Sneed, film-maker, educator, and researcher will lecture about Thomas Day, African-American artisan and businessman, (1801-1861) who had the largest furniture business in the state during the height of slavery.

April 27th, 10am: "Preserving Family History through Gravestone Preservation" Bea Latham will talk on different styles of gravestones and the information they hold. Attendees will also learn the proper techniques to safely clean and repair stones with a hands-on workshop following the presentation.

June 8th, 10am: "American Without Indians: An Imaginary Journey" Dr. David LeVere will ask the audience to imagine the Western Hemisphere devoid of Indian peoples and will then explore how the nation may have developed and the role the Indian people.

August 10th, 10am-2pm: "A Woman's Work is Never Done" Learn about woman's chores from the past through

demonstrations by the Tar Heel Civilians.

November 2nd, 10am: "Blood and War at My Doorstep: Some NC Women During the War Between the States" Author and researcher Brenda Chambers McKean will share how citizens did not idly stand by when their soldiers marched to war. Period newspaper accounts and unpublished letters will help tell the story.

Lectures are held in the Visitor Center and are free to the public.

Movies:

February 21st, 7pm: *Red Tails*

March 21st, 7pm: *The Iron Lady*

April 18th, 7pm: *The Sound of Music*

September 19th, 7pm: *Midnight in Paris*

October 17th, 7pm: *The Island on Bird Street*

November 21st, 7pm: *The Education of Little Tree*

The movies are free with refreshments served.

Heritage Days 2012: Beaufort County 4th Graders Visit in October



Left to right: Students try their hand at writing with a quill pen. The Wheel of History quizzed students on NC History facts. Goose Creek State Park provided wildlife education.

Visitation Is More Than Out-Of-Towners

Many statistics are kept in an effort to accurately reflect what we do in the tourism business and how many people we interact with on a daily basis. To visit the site and see what we do can sometimes be misleading because visitors don't come at predictable times or in specified numbers; many days it can go from feast to famine in a short amount of time. Therefore it is more representative to release our data on a yearly basis.

The measuring stick, if you will, of each historic site is the number of visitors that are recorded in a year. We are happy to report that our total visitation for 2012 was **18,091**, an increase of 1,582 over 2011. Sadly, our lecture and movie attendance has once again been on the decline, so much so we are eliminating May-August in our movie schedule. Lectures and movies are free and while we welcome out-of-towners to these events, one purpose of offering these types of programs is to have local participation. We will be monitoring movie attendance even more closely this year and without increased participation we may have to eliminate this from the 2014 schedule. We would welcome your suggestions for future movie titles and will consider them if they meet our rating standards.

Volunteers: A Gift Money Can't Buy

Volunteers are a vital part of the operations at Historic Bath and many aspects of our programming and the presentation of the site grounds would not be successful without them. In 2012 we were fortunate to log 857 volunteer hours, many of those in the Bonner House grounds project, assisting with school groups and decorating for Christmas Open House. To put the value of this into a financial perspective, at minimum wage this was a gift to us

of \$6,213.25. In reality, the value of these helping hands are so much more than a money figure. These workers interact with each other and the public to make the site look its very best and this shows through their willingness to give freely of their time and talents and the results of this work that our visitors enjoy.

We depend on and appreciate our seasoned volunteers but lucky for you, there is no age limit and we can never have

enough volunteers. If you have a few hours here and there and would like to try something new, I'm sure that we can find a place for you doing something that interests you. Give us a try; we look forward to hearing from you and giving you the opportunity to share Bath with others.

If you would like to join in the fun, give us a call at 252-923-3971 and we're sure to have a place just for you!

Is there a wedding in your future, maybe a family reunion? Various areas of the historic site can be rented for such events. A permit is required with applicable fees. Contact Bea Latham (923-3971) at the Visitor Center for more details!

Past Times 2012—A Child's Life

Children attending the Past Times Day Camp in 2012 took on the role on Thursday as a child of the working class and moved up to the life of the upper class on Friday. Thursday's activities included making butter, working the arm muscles at crosscut sawing, cleaning and using luffa and making a gourd birdhouse.

On Friday the children tried their hand at writing

with a quill pen, making a powdered wig or fancy hat, making ice cream and learning etiquette rules. Most children agreed that they would much rather live the life of the privileged than that of the working class!

Past Times is an excellent program finding fun ways to teach children about life in the past. Check out the program for 2013 and sign up your child today!!



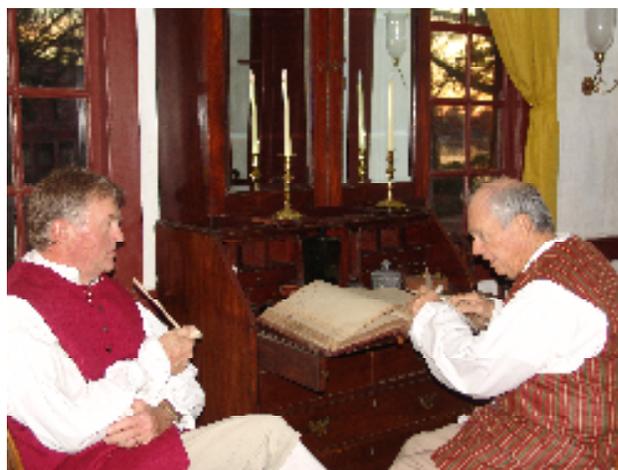
For Children in 2013:

July 11th and 12th: Past Times Day Camp: A Pirate's Life for Me! Children ages 5-10 will step back to Blackbeard's day through activities, crafts and stories. The program is limited to 20 children and pre-registration is requested. Lunch is provided. 10am to 2pm at the Visitor Center. \$20.00 per child for the 2-day program.

Palmer-Marsh Candlelight Tour

For the first time, the Palmer-Marsh House was featured in a candlelight tour on the evening of December 8th, prior to the annual Christmas Open House on December 9th.

Forty-five people purchased tickets for this rare glimpse into our historic home after dark. Costumed interpreters portrayed members of the household, adding the feel of colonial life in the dimly-lit rooms. Join us on December 7, 2013 when we will feature the Bonner House after sunset.



Candlelight volunteers: clockwise: Donanna Bates, Hannah Alligood, Betty Pruitt, Amanda Smith, Jimmy Latham and Bill Pruitt

A Heartfelt Farewell—Hubert Carrow 1936-2012

While the apple cider press worked the same as always, there was certainly something missing this year as the press squeezed out the fresh apple juice for visitors to sample. Bath native Hubert Carrow passed away suddenly September 5th and left behind a legacy of being community-minded and always willing to pitch in whenever and wherever needed.

At 76, Hubert had certainly showed signs of slowing down a bit but his heart was always nestled in his hometown and his family. Soft-spoken and a man of few words, the twinkle of his eye, his smile, and his willingness to share the stories of his past have certainly left a void in the lives of those he left behind. Our heartfelt thanks for his ser-



vice and to his family for sharing him with us.

Van Der Veer Produce Garden

The Van Der Veer Garden produced enough vegetables this summer that people in the area could take some home for a donation to the garden project.



From the Manager's Desk

Dear Readers,

What does Bath mean to you? After giving the question the consideration it is due, I realize my answer may vary from yours. However, when you get right down to it, we all share similar concerns for this small jewel in North Carolina's crown. How can we ensure the historic site's doors stay open in these tough economic times?

Historic Bath needs YOU to visit. Please don't count on vacationers or your out-of-town guests to help keep our visitation numbers strong – we need our local folks now more than ever! Some of the programs we offer are designed with you in mind.....if you like that we offer a historical film series, come support it with your attendance. If you like to learn something new occasionally, attend our lecture series. If you like the idea of the site offering a candlelight tour at Christmas, help support it.

The good news is that we have seen a bit of an attendance turnaround – there were about 1,500 more visitors accounted for last calendar year than in 2011. However, we haven't counted over 20,000 people in one calendar year since 2007. Check out this year's schedule of events and make a visit (or several) with us a priority – help us reach our goal of 20,000+ guests in 2013!

Leigh C. Swain

From the Historic Bath Commission Chairman— W. W. (Bill) Pruitt, Jr.

Dear Commission Members:

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's, and are ready to begin our Commission year of 2013.

We welcome in our new Secretary, Ms. Susan Kluttz, and are eager to learn of her expectations of the Department and our Commission. She has excellent credentials in historic preservation, and her leadership capabilities are well respected. I plan to not only extend an invitation for a visitation to Bath in the near future, but also meet with her in Raleigh in the days ahead.

Dr. Kevin Cherry is our Deputy Secretary, and we look forward to his direction, as well. Keith Hardison remains as Director of State Historic Sites, and Jeff Bockert continues as our Regional Manager. I know we all wish Ms. Linda Carlisle the very best as she leaves the Department, and we are most appreciative of the leadership she provided; however, we must now look to the future and our involvement with the State in maintaining and increasing exposure for our Bath Site.

Thank you for your dedication to continue our efforts.

Bill Pruitt, Jr.,

Chairman, Historic Bath Commission

Summer Archaeology 2012

One reason that people visit historic sites is for the adventure of traveling back in time and viewing structures or artifacts that emulate life in the past. When visiting Historic Bath, life 300 years ago can be imagined by visiting the artifact-filled homes dating back to the mid-1700s. But how often, while strolling the streets or grounds of historic places, do you stop and think about what is just underfoot?

The treasures, whether they be concrete items or just clues to day-to-day practices, afford historians the ability to fill in the blanks so a more complete history of a place or family can be shared. In Bath we are fortunate to have Dr. Charles Ewen of East Carolina University bring students here to carefully open the earth and let us peek inside.

This summer, 12 Summer Ventures students, under the direction of Dr. Ewen and 2 graduate assistants, spent about 2 weeks tediously examining the earth just outside the kitchen entrance of the Palmer-Marsh House. Some of this area had been uncovered and mapped in the 1960s by Stanley South but Ewen wanted to conduct a small dig in the location to determine if there had been a noteworthy structure in that vicinity prior to the building of the Palmer-Marsh House.

In this short introduction to archaeology, the students learned how to construct a grid, sift the soil for even the smallest treasure, patiently remove grains of dirt around artifacts, document everything they did and found, and then how to put the soil and grass back so you would never know they had been there.

Excitement was in the air when a shard of pottery or a buckle was found. Not everything is removed from a dig site, however. In this case, several rows of brick were found below the surface. Their exact purpose could not be determined from this small dig but hopefully further study in this area will identify their place in the history of this property. With future study in mind, the excavated area was covered in plastic before replacing the dirt from the dig site so work come resume right where it left off.

Dr. Ewen and the Historic Bath Site Staff welcome visitors at dig sites to both watch the process, ask questions and get caught up in the excitement of the treasures waiting to be uncovered just below the surface. Archaeology at Historic Bath usually takes place in the summer, you can watch our events calendar for

when that is scheduled or call us at 252-923-3971.



U.S. Postage
PAID

Non-Profit Org.

Permit #14

Bath, NC 27808

How to contact us:

Historic Bath
P. O. Box 148
207 Carteret St.
Bath, NC 27808

Phone: 252-923-3971

Fax: 252-923-0174

Email: bath@ncdcr.gov

Website:
www.bath.nchistoricsites.org

Facebook:
Historic Bath Site

The Historic Bath State Historic Site staff gratefully acknowledges the support given us by the Historic Bath Commission. Much of what we do beyond giving tours would not be possible without their continued support. However, much of what they do is behind the scenes. Supplementing the salary of temporary employees, providing materials and snacks for special programs for all age groups, funding the Visitor Center gift shop, and funding the Christmas Open House just names a few of the ways that they help us be the best that we can be for ourselves and our visitors.

We hope you will take advantage of our programs in 2013 and we look forward to sharing our Bath with you!

****Postage for this newsletter was provided by the Historic Bath Foundation, Inc.****