

Summer 2018

PALACE

TRYON PALACE MAGAZINE

USCT

United States Colored Troops
at Tryon Palace

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Immortalizing
Kay P. Williams
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**BEEES AT THE
PALACE!**
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Leaving the History Center on a March evening, I drove toward Metcalf Street and looked left at the beautiful Trent River. To the right, the evening sunlight was bathing the Palace and I was suddenly overwhelmed with emotion. I am now part of the stewardship of North Carolina's premier historic property. For someone whose background is in historic architecture and who loves nothing more than to toil in the landscape, being Executive Director of Tryon Palace is my perfect job. It was not, however, historic architecture, landscapes, or the beauty of New Bern that caused me to apply for the position. Rather, it was the professionalism, dedication, and good humor of the staff that led me to Tryon Palace.

My professional career now spans more than 40 years and without a doubt, the staff at Tryon Palace is the best. It is easy to come to work being surrounded by people who strive daily for excellence. I have been asked if I am a custodian or a visionary, and to that, reply that I am a custodian with a vision! First, I want to assure all our buildings, landscape, and artifacts are properly cared for as the core elements of our mission. While those core elements are being improved, we can envision a Tryon Palace that is more inclusive of the history of all people, a museum that promotes learning as fun and not tedious, and a historic attraction that is relevant to all. I am partnering with the staff so collectively we can make this happen. In just a few months, many people who deeply love Tryon Palace have shared their ideas with me. I appreciate the positive look to the future that each of these ideas offer. So, my vision: a museum and historic site that is a model for the state and nation. The good news is that we are nearly there!

Bill McCrea

Executive Director, Tryon Palace

PALACE: TRYON PALACE MAGAZINE

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MEET THE DIRECTOR

Bill McCrea: architecture buff, swimmer, Tryon Palace's new Executive Director. *Page 6*

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KAY P. WILLIAMS

Now immortalized in art, the late Kay P. Williams and her Tryon Palace legacy. *Page 14*

HERITAGE OF HEROES

Interpreters tell the stories of African American heroism and adversity in Civil War-era New Bern. *Page 16*

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ON THE COVER

Brennan Forbes, a member of Tryon Palace's 35th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops, poses with his drum during Civil War Weekend, March 3-4, at New Bern Academy. Story on page 16. *Photo by Matthew Callahan*



Tryon Palace Donates Retired Equipment to *Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain*



In February, Tryon Palace donated 86 Archos 5 tablets, a charging station, and accessories – valued at \$16,000 – to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain. The tablets were previously used as GPS devices for guiding visitors through the historical grounds and had been retired. At the North Carolina History Center, surrounded by the smiling faces of children – all local members of the Boys & Girls Club – Executive Director Bill McCrea and Multimedia Specialist Rob Jones presented the tablets to Andrea Nix, Regional Vice President, BGCCP. The tablets were dispersed throughout the seven counties in BGCCP, and will be used to assist club members with their education in history, literature, mathematics, and technology.



Palace Scholars Program Seeks to Bring More Students to Tryon Palace

Tryon Palace and the Tryon Palace Foundation are pleased to announce the launch of a new educational program seeking to help fund field trips for students and educators from Title 1 schools in North Carolina. Palace Scholars will be a grant-based, application-based program that will provide funding for field trip-related expenses for visitors from underserved communities, who may not be able to visit the important historic site without financial assistance. Palace Scholars has begun seeking contributions, will be open for applications in late 2018, and selecting recipients based on applications for the 2019-2020 school year.

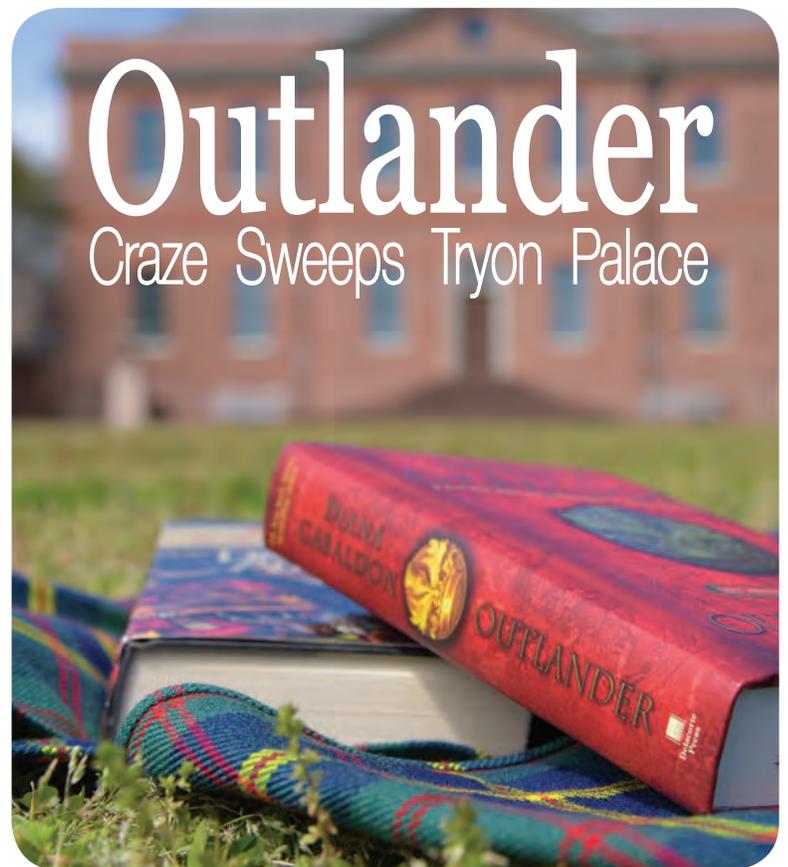




Freedom Victory Flag Returns to New Bern Academy Museum

In March, the Freedom Victory flag, a Confederate flag captured at the Battle of New Bern in 1862, was installed in the New Bern Academy Museum, making its way home after more than 150 years in Worcester, Massachusetts. The flag is on loan to Tryon Palace from the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall in Worcester, the city where the regiment that occupied New Bern during the Civil War hailed from. The flag joins the New Bern Academy Museum's collection of Civil War artifacts. The New Bern Academy is one of the historic buildings maintained by Tryon Palace, and is free to the public.

Based on the popular book series by Diana Gabaldon, and television series from Starz, *Outlander* has reached Tryon Palace. The stories follow Claire and Jamie Fraser as they navigate 18th-century Scotland and - later - North Carolina, including a brief stint at Tryon Palace. Recognizing the international success of the stories, the Palace began *Outlander*-themed tours in February. These consistently sold-out tours run the third Saturday of each month at 9:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., accommodating 25 visitors per tour. In May, the North Carolina History Center welcomed an *Outlander*-themed exhibit on loan from Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in Leonard, Maryland. This exhibit displays artifacts related to the stories, and will be free to visitors at the North Carolina History Center through August. In August, *Our State* magazine will host its second "Outlander Weekend" in New Bern, heavily featuring Tryon Palace as part of its festivities. The weekend will include a private *Outlander* tour of the Palace and grounds, and a special dinner on the South Lawn of the Governor's Palace. There seems to be no end in sight for the *Outlander* craze, and Tryon Palace is happy to participate in this unique and entertaining tourism industry.



Upgrades to HVAC System Help Palace Remain Steward of North Carolina History

Since mid-March, visitors to Tryon Palace have seen signs of construction around the grounds due to an ongoing project to update the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Governor's Palace. Parts of the previous system were original to when the reconstructed Palace was built in 1959, and required constant maintenance. Heating, cooling, and humidity control are important to ensure the proper preservation of artifacts in the Palace. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity can cause dimensional changes in objects, such as warping, shrinkage, and swelling, as well as loosening of joints and popping of veneer. High humidity is likely to create issues with mold spores and insects, while low humidity can create brittleness in paper, textiles, and paintings. Small areas in the Palace and grounds will be closed for the duration of the project; a date of completion has yet to be determined.

Meet William McCrea THE DIRECTOR

Bill had an interest in historic architecture from the time he was a late teenager. Whether fortuitously or by design, that led him to the University of Virginia, where he completed a master's degree in Architectural History and Historic Preservation. Thus began a long, rewarding career with historic sites and museums, a path that led him to his current life as the Executive Director of Tryon Palace.

Bill began his career journey at the New Jersey state historic preservation office, preparing National Register nomination. This position eventually led to a job in Bath Township, Ohio, with a preservation planning firm that was doing work in North Carolina. He didn't know then that work in North Carolina would lead to his lifelong home. When the position of Restoration Specialist with the North Carolina State Historic Sites became available, he applied, was offered the position, and settled down in Raleigh. Since then, he has developed a true love affair with North Carolina's historic architecture, landscape, and its people.

For 18 years, Bill worked for the State Historic Sites managing restoration and new construction projects. This experience gave him firsthand knowledge of some of the State's most important historic architecture and a strong background in how capital projects are handled at the state level.

"It was a distinct honor for me to work on such important buildings as the Thomas Wolfe Memorial in Asheville, Duke Homestead in Durham, Somerset Place in Creswell, the James Iredell House in Edenton, and the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath," Bill said. "I got to see nearly all of North Carolina and began to love the richness of the state's cultural diversity."

In 1997, Bill began a two-year break with the Department of Cultural Resource after he was named Director of Production for Exploris, the children's museum in Raleigh now known as Marbles. After helping open Exploris, he got the urge to return to history and accepted the

Continued on page 31



Restoring a **Relic**

Updates on The New Bern Academy Project



By Bill McCrea
Executive Director, Tryon Palace



The interior of the New Bern Academy is terrific. The building is home to the New Bern Academy Museum, which boasts great exhibits on several subjects, including an important discussion of New Bern's role in the Civil War. The outside of this important building, however, is another story.

Southern weather can take a toll on buildings, especially those more than 200 years old. The wood trim of the Academy has suffered the most. Deteriorated window sills, collapsing shutters, and peeling paint only begins the repair list! Equally important is repairing deteriorated brick and mortar joints.

Two years ago, the Tryon Palace Foundation began raising funds for the care of the oldest-surviving public school in the state. The building is a fine example of Federal period architecture, and an important historic landmark in North Carolina. Repairs of this nature are expensive, but more than \$200,000 has been raised toward a project anticipated to cost \$250,000. MBF Architects of New Bern are preparing the plans, specifications, and contract documents for the repair work for public bidding.

Through the generosity of The Cannon Foundation, the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system will be replaced soon, assuring a proper environment for the significant artifacts on display at the Academy.

We anticipate a work crew on the grounds by Fall 2018.





WEAVING HISTORY & Community

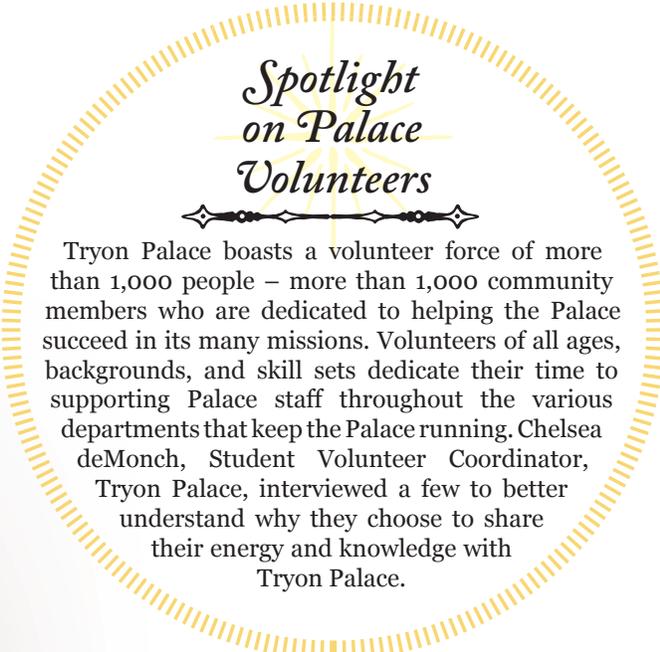
Student Volunteer Teaches Historic Craft to High School Club

By Chelsea deMonch
Student Volunteer Coordinator, Tryon Palace

Emmy Par joined the Tryon Palace volunteer force in Fall 2017. It was apparent right away that she had a talent for historic crafts. She excelled at tape weaving and was producing high quality tapes (woven ribbons) for the Museum Store in a matter of days. After a few months of volunteering, Emmy saw an opportunity to share and market the skills she learned. Her high school club's annual fundraiser was coming up, and she wanted to teach her friends how to weave tapes and turn them into jewelry to sell. Emmy rallied the members of the Coalition for Asian Pacific and American Youth (CAPAY) to become volunteers at Tryon Palace and brought them in to learn how to weave. They used warp instructions provided by the Tryon Palace Youth Volunteer Program as a guide for their designs. The club purchased their own charms, string, and other materials to create unique and beautiful tapes. Emmy inventoried and priced their products based on size and the amount of materials used.

CAPAY held their fundraiser during International Night at A.H. Bangert Elementary School in Trent Woods, North Carolina. The club members shared stories about their native countries and their experiences before coming to the United States. They also performed a variety of songs, a fashion show, and a group dance. Throughout the presentation, the members of the club voiced their gratitude and their desire to share their unique talents with the community. It was obvious that the event left a positive impression on the attendees and CAPAY. They sold their jewelry and baked goods during the event raising more than \$200 for the club.

All of us at Tryon Palace are grateful to receive youth volunteers, like Emmy and the members of CAPAY. It is our pleasure to assist them in their mission to become more involved with the community.



*Spotlight
on Palace
Volunteers*

Tryon Palace boasts a volunteer force of more than 1,000 people – more than 1,000 community members who are dedicated to helping the Palace succeed in its many missions. Volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and skill sets dedicate their time to supporting Palace staff throughout the various departments that keep the Palace running. Chelsea deMonch, Student Volunteer Coordinator, Tryon Palace, interviewed a few to better understand why they choose to share their energy and knowledge with Tryon Palace.



Jerry Eubanks

Gardens and Greenhouse

What did you do before you volunteered with us?

I served in the U.S. Army and worked civil service before volunteering with Tryon Palace. I give a lot of my time to family life and my Baptist church. I spent time doing yokefellow ministry for the North Carolina prison system, and sang with a barbershop quartet and chorus groups. I spent time mountain camping and doing different art forms like canvas artwork, wood carving, and tole painting. I have volunteered with a lot of different organizations like community gardens, RCS and Special Olympics, and was a North Carolina Senior Games Ambassador and Competitor.

What inspired you to stay as a volunteer?

I love being able to utilize my talents in vegetable and flower gardening, and enjoy working along with peers and staff who also enjoy what they are doing. I like having the opportunity to be friendly and helpful to tourists and visitors who may come my way.

What are your other special talents?

Being an encourager to those hurting physically and spiritually. I'm also an artist, singer, play harmonica, and am a senior vegetable and flower gardener.

What advice would you give to new volunteers?

Be the best you can be in using your talents in what you do. Also, work together with your peers and Palace staff to help make and keep Tryon Palace a very special place to visit and enjoy. Be of good cheer, and helpful to visitors and guests.



Judy Smith

Costumes

How long have you volunteered at Tryon Palace?

Longer than some, not as long as others. I have reached an age when anything lasting over ten years reminds me that time is passing much more quickly than it used to. Suffice it to say that, fortunately for me, when I ventured onto the hallowed grounds, the costume shop was in dire need. It had been completely empty for a while. Someone actually advised me not to let anyone know that I was there. I think that she envisioned me buried under an avalanche of the lost buttons, sagging hems, and torn seams that were piling up at an alarming rate.

What inspired you to stay as a volunteer?

I met pleasant people who enjoyed sewing and the activities involved in keeping the costume shop running. Over the years, I have worked with many fine seamstresses and two extremely talented ladies, Laura Rogers and Leslie Lambrecht, each of whom headed up the shop. They both taught me a great deal. It was sort of like going to an old-fashioned sewing bee every day that I was in the shop. Along the way I made some very dear friends.

Over the years the shop has changed. I have seen it go from a too-small portion of the second floor to the too-small entire first floor. For the most part, we are strictly a space overflowing with fabric and creativity. Did I mention the fun that we have? What's not to love?

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

That's like asking, "Which is your favorite child?" Some beautiful things have come out of the shop. Each one is the favorite until the next one comes along. Many of the creations are a group effort with contributions from each of the volunteers, even extending to the concept and design. Most costumes pass through several sets of hands before they are ready to be worn. Of course, it's very gratifying to create an historical garment that becomes a part of the overall experience that is Tryon Palace, but one of the things of which I am most proud, and which continues to amaze me, is the sheer volume of work that we are able to produce in our shop with a limited staff. It is a tribute to Leslie's leadership and the dedication of her volunteers.

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Ad for the 1955 Silver Clipper, one of Barbour's best-selling boats. Tryon Palace Collection.

Barbour

A LEGACY OF "BUILDING BETTER BOATS"

By Lindy Cummings
Research Historian, Tryon Palace

cas

In 1953, Bill Sharpe, publisher of The State (now Our State) magazine wrote to Edward Weigl, the president of Barbour Boats, Inc. During a recent visit in Wilmington, Sharpe had been told about a successful boatyard up in New Bern, "one of the biggest selling boat lines in America today." Sharpe was immediately hooked. The Barbour story sounded "like a very good story for our magazine which is much interested in the activities and achievements of North Carolinians and in North Carolina enterprise."

By 1953, Barbour Boats was riding the postwar economic wave, a far cry from the four-man shop Herbert Barbour had opened during the early years of the Great Depression after he had lost his job with the closure of Meadows Shipyard in 1931. The Barbour yard specialized in handcrafted wood sail boats, other small craft, and commercial fishing vessels until the onset of World War II. From 1941 – 1945, the yard constructed wood minesweeping vessels for the British Navy as a part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Lend-Lease program. After the United States entered the war in 1941, the yard contracted with the U.S. Navy for a variety of vessels, including the construction of two of the largest all-wood net tenders.

Come see the Barbour Boats Exhibit at the
North Carolina History Center

June 30, 2018 - January 13, 2019



State fisheries vessel Croatan at the Barbour yard, 1939. Tryon Palace Collection.



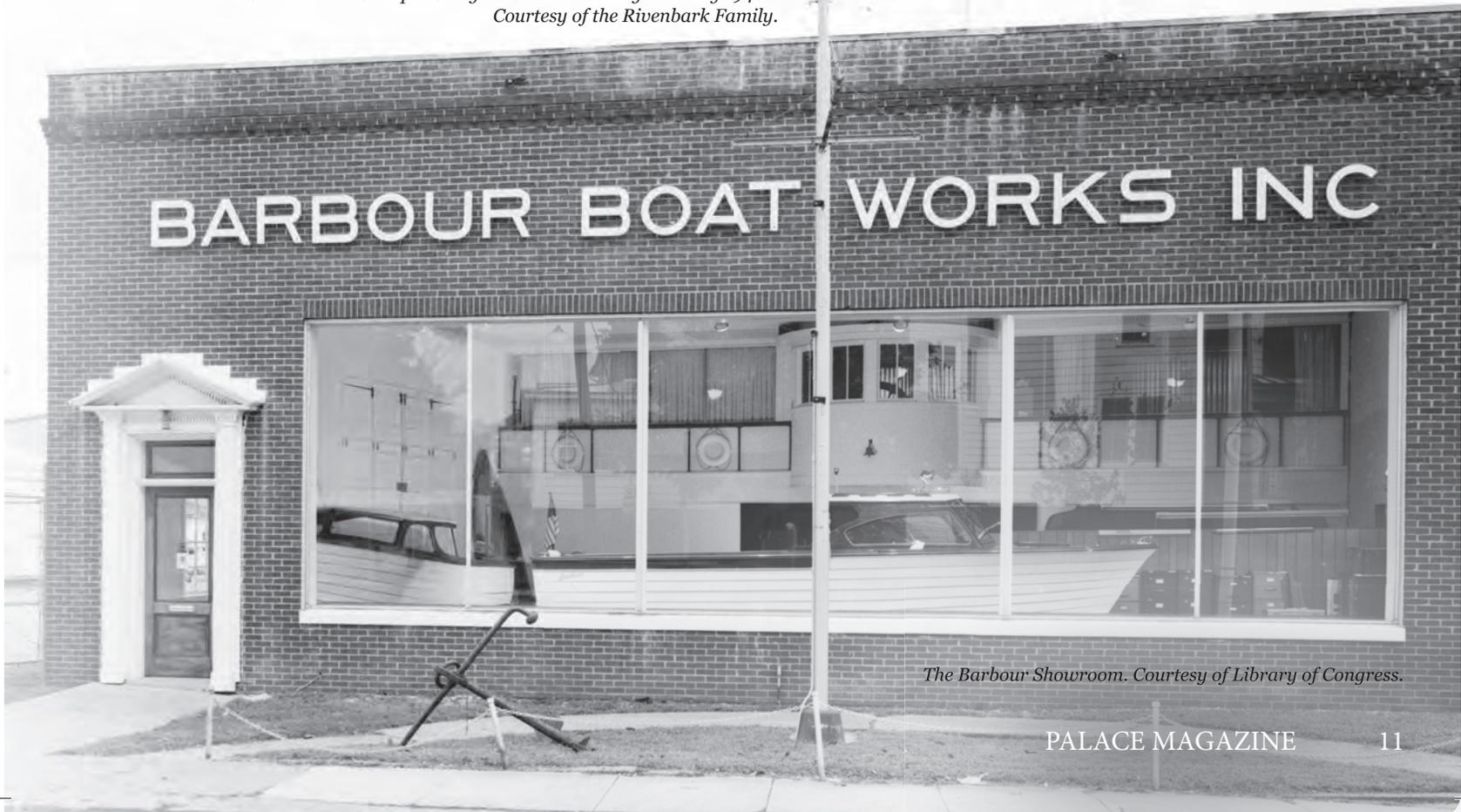
*A British Yard Minesweeper being constructed during the early 1940s.
Courtesy of the Rivenbark Family.*

As the war wound to a close, inquiries began to stream in for the type of handcrafted boats built by Herbert before the war. Taking advantage of their wartime experience, the yard converted to large-scale boat production; at its peak, they could turn out one boat every hour. In 1949, the company divided: Barbour Boat Works, Inc., handled the construction and repair of large commercial craft; Barbour Boats, Inc., developed a line of all-wood pleasure boats.

The boat works' rise to success had been so sharp that by the end of 1953, orders for new boats and inquiries for dealer franchises outpaced the company's ability to fill orders for existing clients, much less take on new ones. Even Montgomery Ward was interested in carrying Barbour Boats in its mail-order catalogs.

The introduction of fiberglass boat hulls signaled the end to wood pleasure craft. By the early 1960s, Barbour Boats, Inc., had effectively ceased operations and was subsumed once more by Barbour Boat Works, which continued to repair and manufacture large steel commercial vessels into the 1970s and 80s. But the legacy of Herbert Barbour lives on in the boats that survive and are prized for their "quality, beauty and craftsmanship."

BARBOUR BOAT WORKS INC



The Barbour Showroom. Courtesy of Library of Congress.



The
Girandole
Looking Glass
Project

By Richard Baker
Conservation Specialist, Tryon Palace



Photos by Cole Dittmer and Chelsea Payne

The Girandole Looking Glass on display in the dining room of the Dixon House recently returned from an extensive conservation project that lasted three years. Richard Baker, Conservation Specialist, Tryon Palace, worked to protect the original framework, preserve original elements, and change its external appearance to fit with interpretation of the Dixon House dining room.

The word “girandole” comes from the Italian word *girandola*, and is usually associated with a candle or lighting device. For a mirror, it refers to the elaborate candle holders with crystal drops that together – with the convex mirror – could reflect light throughout a room. This mirror, which dates from

1810-1820, features decorative elements common to similar mirrors, including golden balls around the mirror, and a carved eagle or other decoration on top. The eagle on this mirror is clutching two snakes with its talons.

Prior to returning to the Conservation Laboratory, the mirror’s gilding had been separating from the surface and falling onto the sideboard below. As wood shrinks over time, gaps can form at the joints, and cracks appear where wood is stressed, and paints, gilding, or other coatings will stretch, break apart, and detach from the surface. The initial treatment goal for this mirror was to stabilize the areas where gold leaf was breaking off.



“The best option for the mirror was to drastically alter its outward appearance while at the same time protecting its original surfaces.”

- Richard Baker

After principal work began on securing the original gold leaf to the surface of the carved elements, an overall survey was performed to check the entire piece. Many of these types of mirrors have undergone heavy restoration over time; these efforts tend to make the piece presentable, but use materials that neither last nor are safe for the object. Several restoration needs were discovered during an initial survey of the existing mirror. First, it was discovered that a fair amount of the surface was actually painted or painted over original gold leaf. Secondly, the candle holders were actually brass, and had been lacquered or painted to appear gilded. Additionally, the candle holders didn't match each other, bringing up the question if either were original to the mirror.

Thus, began a long process of delicately cleaning the surfaces and carefully removing paint that had been applied over original gold leaf or original surfaces. This process consumed most of the project. Once this phase was completed, it was decided that the best option for the mirror was to drastically alter its outward appearance while at the same time protecting its original surfaces. All this was done with conservation materials and solvents, assuring what was done could be reversed at any time in the future. Next, gold leaf was applied to the carved surfaces of the eagle and snakes with oil gilding, and the mirror's frame was painted with iridescent gold acrylic paint mixed with mica gold powder. This approach allows a balance between looking as it would during the period but not appearing to be in mint condition as this is still an antique in a room with other antiques.

In addition to the conservation on the surfaces, other work was completed, including consolidating the material on the mirror's glass and backing it so mercury could not pose a future hazard; polishing the brass candlesticks; cleaning the crystal glass drops and saucers, and making general furniture repairs throughout. By the end, the 150-hour project is just one of many projects that help Tryon Palace and the Conservation Lab continue to preserve the artifacts on exhibit in our museums and historic houses.

The Girandole Looking Glass can be seen in the Dixon House with purchase of a One Day Pass to Tryon Palace.



*Kay P. Williams Portrait in oil by Sergei Chernikov
Commissioned by the Tryon Palace Commission*

'It's time...'
NCHC's Champion
Kay P. Williams
Immortalized in Art

By Regina A. Ochoa
Director of Public Affairs, Tryon Palace

caeo

Five modern portraits hang

on the walls of the North Carolina History Center. Four bear names memorialized throughout the Tryon Palace gardens – Kellenberger, Latham, Carraway – names original to the founding of Tryon Palace as a historic site, their portraits a reminder of the museum's past. The fifth, however, bears a name recognizable to those in the know the unwavering champion of the North Carolina History Center: Kay P. Williams.

In oil, Kay looks unassuming: red suit, coiffed hair, casually placed in the Latham Garden, a portfolio tucked under her arm, a small, knowing smile on her lips. Nothing in the painting suggests the true fire behind the woman who – in her 30 years of service to Tryon Palace – turned the museum on its head and into the technologically-sophisticated, world-class destination it is today. Throughout New Bern, Kay is remembered for the unfailing energy she brought to the Palace, and her legacy stands in brick-and-mortar form overlooking the Trent River as the North Carolina History Center.

“Without Kay Williams and her work with North Carolina State Representative William Wainwright, the North Carolina History Center would never have got off the ground,” said Laurie Bowles, Human Resources Coordinator, Tryon Palace. “She spent countless hours visiting and calling potential donors, legislators, and presenting the idea of the History Center to any group that would listen to her plea.”

Kay led the charge in developing the vision for

a fun, modern facility that would use the tools of the present and future to engage people in the past. At the very birth of the idea, Kay created a written description used to engage board members and early donors at the beginning of the project. From locating the property and negotiating its acquisition, to securing tens of millions of dollars in funding, her devotion to the History Center was the true driving force behind the building that hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

Through three decades of service to Tryon Palace,

Kay stood as a mantle of advocacy and encouragement for the Palace's mission, resolute in her beliefs that preserving the state's history and educating the state's young people about their heritage were essential. She is responsible for many of Tryon Palace's successful programs and outreach efforts, having served as a constant driving force to make things happen.

“I remember her saying, ‘It's time,’” said Keith McCleave, Gardens Operations Supervisor, Tryon Palace. “She used to say this phrase when I asked her about Jonkonnu and why she

started it, because it was so controversial. ‘It's time,’ she said. One of Kay's gifts was knowing when to start things. Now, it's one of our most popular programs.”

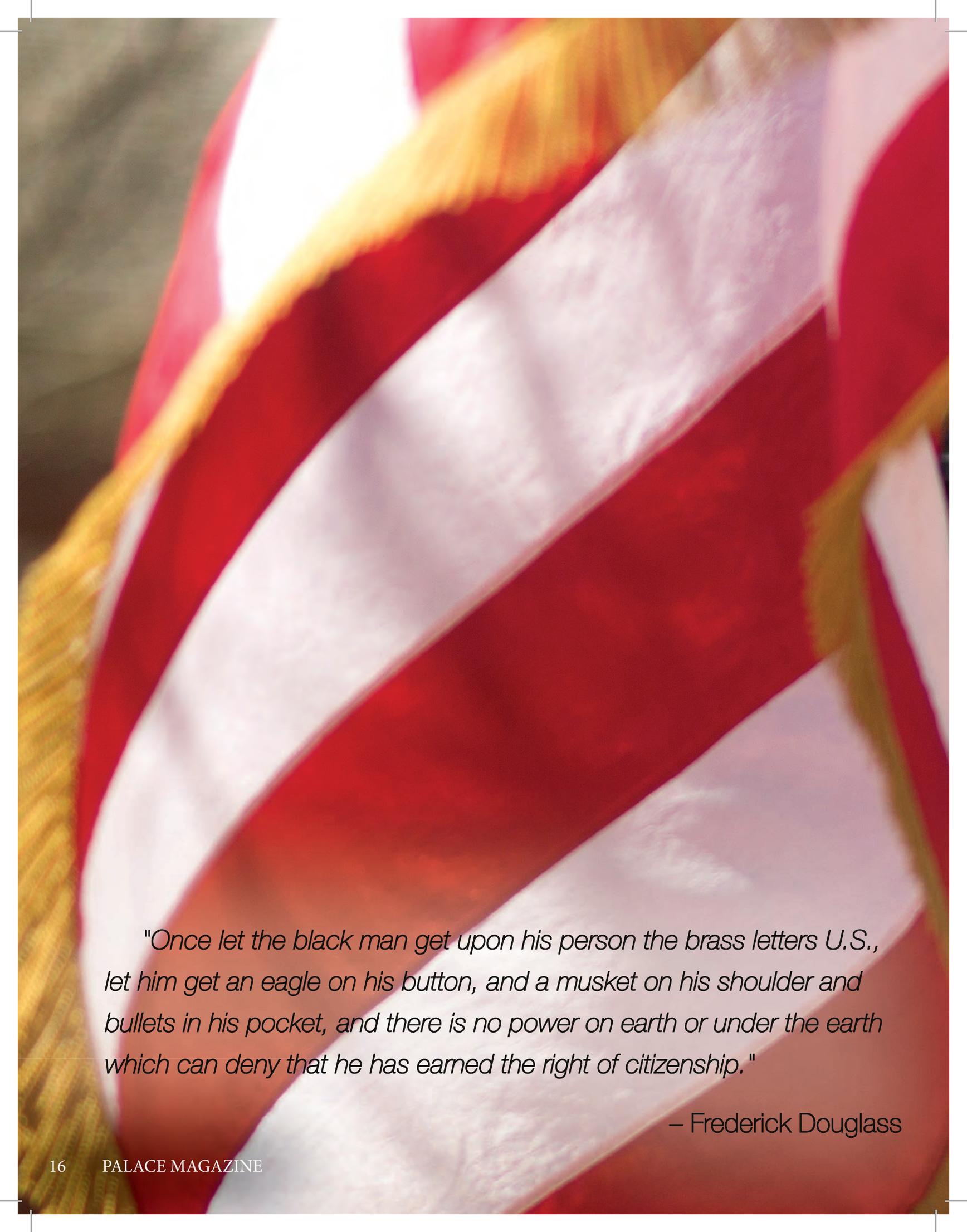
To those at the Palace who had the pleasure of working with her, her lasting impression goes well beyond a framed painting on the wall.

“Kay taught me how to succeed at working in state government, and challenged me to stretch beyond my comfort zone,” Bowles said. “Kay treated every-

“She did not just build a great building. She built people who can continue to build on into the future.”

- Keith McCleave

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"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth or under the earth which can deny that he has earned the right of citizenship."

– Frederick Douglass





HERITAGE OF HEROES

Preserving the History of New Bern's UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

By Regina A. Ochoa
Director of Public Affairs, Tryon Palace

Photos by Matthew Callahan

They carried rifles and packs – reproductions reminiscent of a long-ago war. They carried brass buckles, brass buttons, wool hats with brass hardware, impressed with a “US” or a minute image of an eagle. The little ones carried drums half their size, and with it the weighty obligation of keeping weary feet in step. They all carried the heaviness of history, the burden of memory, the responsibility of keeping a fragile past alive.

Gathered on the lawn of the New Bern Academy at Civil War Weekend in March, members of the 35th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops carried the stories of African American Civil War soldiers into the 21st century. This is the obligation they accept as part of the interpretive unit, the duty they have to the past and present of the African American community.

During the Civil War, New Bern was occupied by Union forces early in the war, and quickly became a safe haven for runaway slaves. Many entered military service with the Union army occupying New Bern, establishing North Carolina's first regiment of African American Union soldiers. They rallied together on July 24, 1863, and were officially designated the 35th Regiment of the USCT in 1864. More than 150 years later, African American residents in New Bern mustered again, this time to keep the flame of their forefathers. To tell their story.



The process of forming Tryon Palace’s USCT regiment was not an easy one. “We were six months behind the eight ball, so we had to really work long hours and very hard to make this happen,” said Sharon C. Bryant, African American Outreach Coordinator, Tryon Palace. “Once we could pull information together, we were well on our way. Once we did the research and found enough history on this regiment, Tryon Palace was ready to make this unit come alive.”

Enter Bernard George, USCT interpreter and Commanding Officer of the 35th. With more than 15 years of reenactment experience, and almost a decade of study on the USCT, George was at the forefront of planning Tryon Palace’s interpretive unit. In 2016, George and Bryant led a team who together created an application for an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, which was awarded based off the strength and impact of the Palace’s existing African American programs. In January 2017, research, planning, equipping, and recruitment began, and by February 2017, the unit appeared in small groups at Tryon Palace’s African American Lecture Series events. With a force of 15 volunteers, the USCT’s first public appearance was at Tryon Palace’s Civil War Weekend, Sept. 23-24, 2017. The rest – as they say – is history.

Interpreters in the unit learn the basics of military life, Civil War regulations and strategies, and – most importantly – the stories of real men who served with the USCT unit in New Bern during the Civil War. Each of the interpreters in the unit intimately research a real USCT soldier, whom they represent at events. Every interpreter performs this task with great reverence and pride.

“We spend our time both educating and reeducating the public about the historical facts and figures... That’s why it’s so important that we share the evolving scholarship...about African Americans in the Civil War.”

- Bernard George

“We are history ambassadors for Tryon Palace, the City of New Bern, and North Carolina,” George said. “We are all exceptional Civil War historians, and those members of the group who participate are all deeply interested in history and in sharing that history with others. We are excited about the opportunity to share the story of the first North Carolina colored volunteers.”

With a core group of more than 18 interpreters, the 35th has been busy telling the USCT’s story both in New Bern and around North Carolina. In less than two years, the group has traveled to Kinston, Wilmington, Raleigh, Goldsboro, Fayetteville, Virginia, and South Carolina, participating in encampments and parades. They have been invited to other parts of the state to help train and organize new regiments. In July, they will travel to Washington D.C. at the request of the executive director of the African American Civil War Museum. Their high demand and credibility is a true testament to their dedication to historical interpretation, and America’s desire to tell this forgotten story.

“Our message, everywhere we go, is that Abraham Lincoln did not free the slaves,” George said. “We freed ourselves. We demanded freedom, we exercised actions that eventually lead to freedom, and we also fought for our freedom.”

There are currently four formal USCT interpretive units in North Carolina, but the 35th is the largest and best equipped. This is due to the support of the IMLS grant, and the continued support from both Tryon Palace and the local community, both in New Bern and



throughout the state. As the organization grows, so too do the financial challenges to meet that growth. It costs anywhere between \$600 and \$2,000 to outfit each interpreter, and the increasing demand for USCT involvement in events and outreach has posed logistical challenges that require a financial commitment the group simply does not have this early in their existence. They make do, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteers and staff who back the unit the best they can. Beyond the financial challenges, the USCT faces a larger challenge of interpreting a forgotten history in the face of misinformation.

“What has been one of the most shocking revelations has been that we’ve discovered how stereotypical people are thinking and how misinformed they are,” George said. “We spend our time both educating and reeducating the public about the historical facts and figures that sometimes – and many times – fly in the face of assumptions that are taught. Most of those are going to be racist or class-based. It never ceases to amaze me, some of the statements I hear from people who just don’t know, that assume that what they are repeating are the facts of history. That’s why it’s so important that we share the evolving scholarship that continues to be provided about African Americans in the Civil War.”

The scholarship about the USCT and African Americans in the area is currently limited, but the members

of the USCT are doing what they can to support it, add to it, and share it with the public. Through constant study of local and general Civil War history, the group is able to accurately recreate a Civil War camp and battles, providing an engaging and educational platform for the public and scholars alike to better understand the USCT’s place in history.

“The USCT is an excellent opportunity for Tryon Palace to share a facet of Civil War history that is often neglected,” said Amber Satterthwaite, Director of Education, Tryon Palace. “Members perform independent research about the unit, its members, and the action they saw. I am extremely proud of their contribution to the group, and Tryon Palace’s dedication to a comprehensive and inclusive telling of history.”





Tracing New Bern's African American History

By Regina A. Ochoa
Director of Public Affairs, Tryon Palace



It's hard to imagine now, 58 years later, in the middle of sleepy New Bern. African American students from J.T. Barber High School, marching through the streets of New Bern to Kress' Dime Store on Middle Street. Local students, in peaceful solidarity with students around the state – around the nation – staging a march and sit-in, inspired by the Woolworth's sit-in a few days earlier in Greensboro, North Carolina. Standing in front of the building, if you soften your sight a little to see past the modern storefronts and into history, you can almost feel the ghosts of tension and courage lingering in the air. Right there, if you let it, the wave of the past can sweep you away, granting you a view into how intricately woven African American history is in New Bern's cultural fabric.

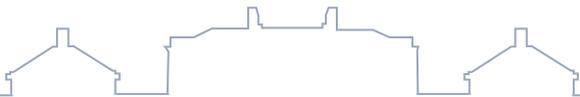
And that's just stop one of 36 on Tryon Palace's African American Heritage Tour of New Bern.

The history of the local African American population is deeply ingrained in New Bern and Craven County's past, playing important roles in the political, cultural, and economic evolution of the area. Walking through the streets of New Bern, breathing in its many beautiful buildings, homes, and places of worship, it is almost impossible to find one block untouched by the positive influence of her African American population. From its establishment, New Bern has benefited greatly from the

hard work, devotion to country, and sense of community fostered by centuries of African Americans.

Beginning in New Bern's business district and making your way to Tryon Palace, you can walk through time, learning about the city's African American heritage through the Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow Years, and the Civil Rights Movement, exploring the facades of buildings sheltering a valued and influential history. From freed slaves to war heroes, from preachers to entrepreneurs, follow the footsteps of New Bern's African American educators, athletes, politicians, and statesmen on the African American Heritage Tour.

Walking Maps are available at the North Carolina History Center, and include a self-guided tour to 36 locations throughout New Bern, including homes, churches, and other places of historical importance. Each location is marked on a map, and includes a brief description of the location's relevance to the tour. Grab a free guide and your comfortable shoes, and enjoy your trip through the footsteps of New Bern's African American Heritage. Or, join Tryon Palace for a guided walking tour on the third Sunday of each month throughout November 2018, excepting July and August. Tours begin at 2 p.m. at the Waystation on George and Pollock streets, and visit 20 of the locations on the map. Tickets are \$6 for adults, and \$3 for youth.



Blessings in Disguise



Recovering the Gardens from a Long, Rough Winter

By Hadley Cheris
Gardens and Greenhouse Manager, Tryon Palace



*...and don't think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter.
It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous.*

– Rumi, "Form Is Ecstatic," *Soul of Rumi*

This winter, eastern North Carolina experienced very unique weather. In January, we saw eight consecutive days under 40 degrees. This – along with more than six inches of snow and ice – resulted in a lot of winter damage. Across New Bern, winter-blooming plants froze, dropping flowers, buds, and leaves.

Here at Tryon Palace, the gardens staff had three exhausting days of shoveling snow, scraping ice, and putting down ice melt and sand to prevent refreezing. Due to this rough winter weather, our camellia varieties on site were hit hard and still have not recovered completely. We were lucky compared to most of New Bern, in that our *Camellia japonica* varieties did bloom this spring, but that bloom was delayed three weeks. We lost a significant amount of early growth and many of our more tender shrubs only flushed out new leaves in late April. Overall, we were very fortunate as we only lost about 20 plants over the 16 acres of Tryon Palace gardens and grounds.

On the plus side, spring was incredibly long and pleasant this year! Since the tulips love colder weather, they put on a show blooming for NINE solid weeks instead of their normal five. We also had many plants that had slowed down their bloom cycles with the cold weather, and so we were able to see 'Lady Banks' roses, camellias, heirloom roses, and tulips bloom all at once, which almost never happens. The cold temperatures also gave us time to be inside and plan the landscape design for the year – all this when we might normally have been outside. This extra design window means that almost all of our gardens are getting new plants and remodels to bloom bigger and better for the entire year! As we move forward into summer, we're also hoping the colder winter helped reduce pest populations, so we can get a head start on that front, too.



Overall, we've learned a lot from this past, rough winter. Even though there are many things we can't plan for, we can be better prepared for the clean-up that goes along with a winter like this one and pick better species of plants that will withstand any subsequent rough winter weather. We hope you'll join us to see some of our new choices for the gardens!

Access to all 16 acres of Tryon Palace's breathtaking gardens are available with the purchase of One Day, Galleries, and Gardens passes. Stay tuned to the Tryon Palace website and social media, and the Bloom Blog, for more information about Behind the Scenes: Gardens tours, Garden Lecture Series, and other gardens events.

BEEES *in the Governor's Backyard*

By Hadley Cheris
Gardens and Greenhouse Manager, Tryon Palace


Photos by Cole Dittmer

You've seen them in your gardens, Cheerios' commercials, and in dire warnings circling the news reels. Honey bees are critically important to our survival as humans. They provide us with honey, wax, propolis, pollen, and – most importantly (and often forgotten) – pollination. Honey bees are responsible for the large majority of insect-pollinated crops. Without honey bees, we would lose melons, cucumbers, squash, blueberries, almonds, blackberries, pumpkins, sunflowers, pears, peaches, and many more crops and flowers!

Despite their importance, honey bees face extreme challenges from multiple sources. Many of these issues have been generalized as colony collapse disorder (CCD), but the truth is more complicated. While pesticides are by no means good for honey bee health, the biggest issue facing honey bees is the varroa mite, similar to a tick. Think about having to fly with a tick the size of a dinner plate on you! There are no surefire ways to prevent or stop varroa mites, but a lot of research is being done to combat the problem.

This leads us to the importance of beekeeping. While a large part of beekeeping is getting honey at the end of the year, a more important part is monitoring and controlling pests and problems for the bees. Beekeeping in its best form is more an exchange of services and resources between the honey bees and the beekeeper, than taking the honey and giving nothing.

Honey bees and beekeeping have had a long legacy throughout history. While beekeeping has existed for thousands of years, the widespread use and management of honey bees can be attributed to 14th-century monks. These monks are responsible for much of the early work in bee breeding and bee genetics. As beekeeping became more prominent, honey also became an important trade currency because the wax was especially popular for candles in many churches and wealthy families' homes.

It was not until the 1750s, with the settlement of the Moravians in today's Winston-Salem, that beekeeping came to North Carolina. The Moravian settlers provided "candles, beeswax, and hives" to a variety of residents in the colony from backwoodsmen to high-ranking members of the colonial government. In 1767, records show that Governor William Tryon bought six bee hives from the Moravian settlers. It is not unreasonable to assume that three years later, when Tryon Palace was built, that Try-







on's servants maintained beekeeping on the grounds. Since 2013, Tryon Palace has returned to its beekeeping past, by keeping a varying number of bee hives. These hives, located in the Palace greenhouse yard, help pollinate the Kitchen Garden and greenhouse plants, and prevent any visitors from wandering too close. The Palace has Italian honeybees, the most popular breed in the United States, known for good honey production and a generally gentle temperament.

As Tryon Palace's resident beekeeper, I inspect the hive on a regular basis to make sure the bees are healthy, making careful note of their production of brood (baby bees) and honey. During the summer and early fall, if the bees have produced sufficiently, I take frames of honey from the boxes to extract and sell at the Fall Plant Sale. At this point in the season, all the honey that is left in the hive will help feed the bees over the winter. Throughout the winter, I continue to monitor and make sure the bees have enough food.

One of the hardest jobs I have as a beekeeper is to monitor pests, like varroa, and choose the most appropriate and efficient treatment. We use the same approach of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the beehive as we do in our greenhouse and gardens, utilizing a multitude of methods to control harmful insects via mechanical/ physical (squishing bugs), biological (natural enemies), cultural (habits, procedures) and lastly chemical (pesticides) controls. IPM enables us to choose wisely when to use chemicals, many of which can be hazardous to bees, other pollinators, and even people.

*"Honey bees and
beekeeping have had
a long legacy
throughout history"
- Hadley Cheris*

Since we started keeping bee hives on the property, we have had four years where we were able to collect and sell 15 to 25 jars of honey at our Fall Plant Sale. We currently have four hives and hope to reach Governor Tryon's apiary size of six during 2018, as well as provide honey through the Tryon Palace Museum Store in the 2019. Beyond honey, the beehives have also allowed us to have much better pollination in the gardens – especially with our pears. Before 2013, the pear trees in the kitchen garden produced less than 10 pears a tree, but the addition of honey bees has allowed us to continuously supply the Tryon Palace kitchen with pears for compotes and desserts.

In 2018, we celebrated National Pollinator Week, June 18 - 24, 2018. Also in 2018, we are expanding our gardens' pollinator programming through our Young Sprouts educational outreach, Behind the Scenes Garden tours, and a new observation hive! We received a generous Duke Energy Foundation grant to assist us in this expansion.

If you're interested in finding out more about bees and beekeeping, contact your local clubs <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/county-chapters/state-map> and check out the NCDA&CS pollinator website <http://www.ncagr.gov/pollinators/>

FOR THE MODERN KITCHEN:

2 eggs, beaten
1 cup heavy cream
½ cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons sugar
½ teaspoon nutmeg
24 fresh strawberries
Flour for dredging
Oil for deep frying
Confectioners' sugar



- 1) Combine eggs and cream; set aside.
- 2) Combine flour, sugar and nutmeg in a separate bowl. For an extra pop of period appropriate flavor, you can add about ½ teaspoon of lemon zest. Fold dry ingredients into the cream mixture so that the batter is mostly smooth, but still has some lumps.
- 3) Wash and dry strawberries. Dredge in flour and shake off excess.
- 4) Heat oil in pan or deep fryer to 350 degrees F. Dip each strawberry into batter to coat thoroughly and drop one by one into oil. Cook until golden brown. Cooked fritters will rise to the top. Remove and drain on paper towels.
- 5) For an 18th-century plating, stack cooked fritters in a pyramid on a plate and dust with confectioners' sugar.

Strawberry Fritters

By Matt Arthur

Living History Programs Coordinator, Tryon Palace



Photo by Chelsea Payne

The 18th century was an era where what you ate was determined by the agricultural year and how well you could preserve your produce. Unlike today, where we can run to the grocery store for our favorite fruits and vegetables at any time of the year, crops had their seasons and so the tastes at your table changed as the year went along. One thing that did not change, though, as the 18th century's love of fried foods, especially fritters. Fritters could appear on the table throughout the year with whatever bounty was fresh from the garden or dairy – fresh cheese curd fritters in summer, apple or cabbage fritters in autumn, others made with grape leaves and orange-blossoms, and even syringe fritters – a dish we'd recognize today as a funnel cake. Hannah Glasse, the author of the best-selling cookbook of the 1700s, listed a dozen different recipes for fritters. Below you'll find a strawberry fritter recipe from William Verral for you to try at home.

For this you must make a batter of another sort from what you have seen before; to two eggs well beat, white and yolks both, put about half a pint of cream, made thick with fine flour, a little fine sugar and nutmeg, put your strawberries in raw, and fry them in a pan of clean lard, a spoonful at a time, dish them up in a pyramid, and sift sugar between and at the top. This is a pretty way of making fritters with any sort of fruit.

William Verral, *A Complete System of Cookery*, 1759





SEASON *in Review*

A photo story highlighting Tryon Palace events from the past Winter 2017-2018 and Spring 2018.

Photos by Cole Dittmer and Chelsea Payne



Left: Costumed Candlelight dancers pose on the Tryon Palace front steps in their custom-made outfits.

Top: This past Candlelight, children were able to write holiday cards for New Bern's First Responders in the Commission House.

Bottom: Signora Bella shocks the crowd with her balancing act in the Performance Tent at Candlelight.



The first annual Chamber Music by Candlelight was held in December 2017. Guests enjoyed baroque music performed by the UNCW Music Consort and an intimate reception to follow.



Guests enjoyed oysters at the 7th annual *WinterFeast: Oysters, Brews & Comfort Foods*. WinterFeast is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Tryon Palace Foundation.



At Free Day in February 2018, visitors were amazed at the authentic cooking that took place in the Tryon Palace Kitchen Office. On the menu this past year - cow's tongue!



The 35th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops put on quite a show at the New Bern Academy for Civil War Weekend, held in March 2018.



Left: Tryon Palace's annual Spring Heritage Plant Sale featured perennials, herbs, annuals, trees, and shrubs. Each item for sale was grown locally and in the Tryon Palace greenhouse or by local North Carolina growers.

Right: Visitors take advantage of the free garden admission and enjoy the beauty of the Latham Garden tulips, during Garden Lovers Weekend, held in April 2018



*Sip sweet tea
with your sweetheart
this summer.*

Nothing says
 "summer mornings"
 more than tea for
 two in the garden.
 Shop all your
 tea needs at the
 Tryon Palace
 Museum Store.



1. Lavender Honey Jar w/Dipper 9.95
2. Dishcloth Set of 2 5.95
3. Gold Pineapple Napkin Ring 5.95
4. Oliver & Puff Co. (Loose Tea)
Lavender Black Tea 12.95
5. Small Sugar Cone 6.00
6. Oliver & Puff Co. (Loose Tea)
Cacao Citrus Tea 9.95
7. Distressed Metal Pedestals
Medium 20.00
Small 16.00
8. Blue and White Floral Teapot 19.95
9. Silver Tea Infuser with Charm 7.50
10. Black Tea Brick (Full Block) 21.50
11. Country Garden Snack Plate 6.50
12. Botany Illustration Plate 11.00
13. Cup of Tea Kitchen Towel 8.00



From WILLIAMS page 15

one the same. She made you feel that you were just as important as the next person, no matter who. She allowed her staff to do their work without a lot of involvement, but she kept her finger on the pulse of the Tryon Palace Commission.”

“She had a way of making you feel like family,” McCleave agreed. “That’s the kind of relationship I had with her. She was an in-house, hands-on leader, and helped people in their gifts, putting them in positions to benefit the Palace as needed. I was said to be Kay’s secret weapon. Kay was my mentor.”

Her sphere of influence went beyond the Palace, however, into the very fabric of New Bern and North Carolina. In New Bern, Kay was passionately involved in many civic organizations like New Bern’s 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee, and boards of Swiss Bear, the New Bern Chamber of Commerce, the New Bern Civic Theater, the Tourism Development Authority, and many more. From 2002-2007, she served as Director of the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, supervising 27 state historic sites across North Carolina. In recognition of her distinguished service to Tryon Palace and North Carolina, she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Beverly Perdue.

Kay passed away in her home in New Bern on October 14, 2012, at 69 years old. After more than a year of planning and execution, her painting was unveiled at the Tryon Palace Commission Spring Dinner, April 19, 2018. It was moved to the North Carolina History Center, where she stands as a silent guardian of her masterpiece, providing subtle yet resolute support to the current and future staff as they usher her legacy into the future.

“I am Kay’s legacy,” McCleave said, “a living legacy, as are many more who love and respected her leadership and vision for the Palace. She did not just build a great building. She built people who can continue to build on into the future. I consider myself a Kay-built man.”

From DIRECTOR page 6

position of Design Chief with the North Carolina Museum of History. Bill was head of the design section for 12 years, eventually rising to the role of Associate Director. During one of the many budget cuts that hit the department in the early 2010s, then Secretary Linda Carlisle asked Bill to become Director of Regional Museums, overseeing three museums spread across the state. He is very proud of the advancements at the regional museums during his five-year tenure. Feeling he wanted one more challenge in his professional career, Bill applied for the position of Executive Director of Tryon Palace and was appointed to the position on January 8, 2018.

Goals for his first year in the job include: renewed focus on the maintenance of the historic buildings, landscape and the artifact collection; enhancing tour scripts, expanding programming for young families with children; outreach to underserved communities; and a concerted effort at statewide fundraising.

Bill and his wife Edie have two grown sons; Ryan and his wife Liz live in Raleigh, and Dr. Reid McCrea is in Charleston, South Carolina. Late in life, Bill joined a masters swim team with no prior competitive swimming experience. He says it is one of the best things he has ever done. He jokes with teammates, “I’m not competing in meets with the hope of a college scholarship!”

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