Face to Face
Civil War Exhibit Opens at Academy Museum

New to the Collection
Rare and Unique Objects Now on Exhibit

Lighting the Fires
Palace reopens Blacksmith Shop
A Love for New Bern

To know and love New Bern is to know and love her history. Here are just a few of the quotes from New Bern’s Civil War era that have inspired my love for the history of North Carolina’s first state capital.

“The city is pleasantly located, its streets regularly laid out with beautiful shade trees… In the early days the government was located there, and the princely palace built by Governor Tryon was the finest edifice on the continent, building at great expense, causing much ill feeling with the people. The barn which was attached to the palace still stands upon the original site, and during some of the time of the Federal occupation, was guarded by details of Union soldiers.”
- Joseph W. Denney, 25th Massachusetts

There is a feeling of sadness and desolation here that you can form no idea of. I sit in my piazza of an evening, crowds pass by but rarely a face that is familiar to me. I walk out and pass the residences of my old friends and acquaintances, they are occupied.
- Caroline Stanly Howard to Harvey Stanly, August 21, 1862

This is really a charming little city, but I reckon from neglect and hard usage from the soldiers, it will soon lose its beauty.
- David L. Day, 25th Massachusetts

We, the colored women of Newbern, North Carolina, desire to give to the world our object, plans, constitution, and our officers, for the purpose of ameliorating the miseries of our colored soldiers in their struggle for freedom, whatever may be the occasion against oppression.”
- Signed by the officers of the Colored Women’s Union Relief Association of Newbern, North Carolina, Mary Ann Starkey, President

The stories that breathe life into the history of New Bern, colonial America, and of course, Tryon Palace, can be found here in the pages of our latest edition of “The Palace,” and around our site with a new series of tours, events, and educational programs.

Prior to joining the Tryon Palace team earlier this year as the new assistant director, I worked at the New Bern Academy Museum in 2014 as the curator of the exhibit “Face to Face: Civil War Sketches and Stories.” Before the exhibit opened, the New Bern Academy Museum was only open two or three weekends a year. Now, I am thrilled to see that the New Bern Academy Museum is open every weekend as one of the best collections of Civil War artifacts in the region.

Here at Tryon Palace, we seek to preserve and share a full spectrum of experiences with our visitors. Of course we want people to learn about history and have fun while they are here, but to create truly memorable experiences, we have to excite their senses. Now, when a person visits the historic grounds, they can hear the sound of metal hammering against metal as it rings from the Blacksmith Shop. Smells waft from the kitchen, flowers are perpetually in bloom, and there are more and more interpreters in costume to share the experiences with you. We also expect to reopen the Hay House for seasonal tours by late spring of this year.

We have weathered the storm, and are now ready to face 2015 with renewed purpose, vigor, and a spirit of determination to tell our stories.

LeRae Umfleet
Assistant Director, Tryon Palace
PALACE
Spring 2015

FEATURES

8 Cutting through Time
Tryon Palace revives the 19th-century love for human-powered machines with the restoration of a W.F. & John Barnes Company metal lathe.

12 Rekindling the Furnace
After three years of being closed, Tryon Palace’s 18th-century blacksmith shop has reopened to the public.

16 Reopening a Local Treasure
The New Bern Academy Museum brings the Civil War to life every weekend with its latest exhibit, “Face to Face: Civil War Sketches and Stories.”

20 Mustering the U.S. Colored Troops
Discover how New Bern became the rallying point for thousands of African Americans during the Civil War.

22 Behind the Brushstrokes
Meet Mary Daves McKinlay (1777-1840), an intelligent, energetic lady whose family ties and surviving documents shine a revealing light upon New Bern’s antebellum past.

DEPARTMENTS

2 From the Director
4 News & Notes
6 New to the Collection
15 Q & A
25 Kitchen Recipes
27 In the Garden
28 Upcoming Exhibits
30 Mark Your Calendar
31 Storytelling
Palace and Stanly House Featured in ‘Sleepy Hollow’ Finale
The FOX TV series “Sleepy Hollow” used Tryon Palace as a filming location for the third time in two years. Exterior filming took place at the Governor’s Palace, Stanly House, and George Street, while interiors were shot at the Dixon House, which was used as the home of lead character, Ichabod Crane.

“Ever since the first season wrapped, we’ve been keeping our fingers crossed that ‘Sleepy Hollow’ would want to use Tryon Palace again,” said LeRae Umfleet, assistant director for Tryon Palace. “They are a tremendous group of people to work with and they bring a level of excitement to the site that’s truly contagious.”

Sleepy Hollow was renewed for a third season, but producers have stated that the show will no longer be filmed in North Carolina.

Visitation at Tryon Palace Grows by 25 Percent
Tryon Palace finished 2014 with a 25-percent increase in total visitation over the previous year. Tryon Palace welcomed 226,571 visitors last year, making it one of the top 20 most-visited historic attractions in North Carolina. The 11th annual list was announced March 2, 2015 by Carolina Publishing and Associates of Matthews, and noted an improvement of four spots for Tryon Palace over the previous year’s list.
Tryon Palace Welcomes New Citizens during U.S. Naturalization Ceremonies

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services held two naturalization ceremonies at Tryon Palace in 2014, and has plans for a third one on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at the North Carolina History Center. During each of the previous ceremonies, more than 50 new citizens spent their first few moments as Americans on the grounds of Tryon Palace.

Hosted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, these emotional ceremonies include the oath of allegiance, Pledge of Allegiance, a singing of the national anthem, and a call of nations. The public is invited to witness these events at no charge, but seating is limited.

Palace Website Invites Garden Lovers to Explore ‘BloomBlog’

Tryon Palace’s gardens are filled with mystery and beauty that change with the seasons. To keep garden lovers informed about what’s new with the gardens at Tryon Palace, a new blog entitled “BloomBlog” was launched on the Tryon Palace website. BloomBlog is available online at www.tryonpalace.org/bloomblog as a one-stop resource for seasonal blooms, upcoming garden events, plant sales, and free garden weekends.

Setting a New Course

Tryon Palace’s staff congratulates former director Philippe Lafargue on his retirement in March 2015, and welcomes several team leaders who joined Tryon Palace in recent months. LeRae Umfleet was hired as Tryon Palace’s new assistant director, where she oversees the day-to-day management of the institution, coordinates long-range planning of exhibits and programs, and organizes a review of collections management procedures and policies. Prior to accepting her position at Tryon Palace, Umfleet was the Administrator of the Education and Outreach Branch of the Office of Archives and History for the Department of Cultural Resources. Other new team members include Director of Collections Alyson Rhodes-Murphy, Director of Education Megan Griffin, Historical Clothing Interpreter Leslie Lambrecht, Registrar of Collections Kristie DaFoe, and Marketing Assistant Cole Dittmer.

The search for a new executive director at Tryon Palace began in April 2015.

Stay Connected

For updates on Tryon Palace news throughout the year, make sure you follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, sign up for our newsletter at www.tryonpalace.org/contact-us, and visit our blog at www.tryonpalace.org/blog.
Years before Tryon Palace opened to the public in 1959, the idea of Tryon Palace had already taken shape through a growing collection of rare books, furniture, silver, art, and countless other artifacts. Many of these objects went on to fill the Palace and its surrounding homes, while others were put on display in the North Carolina History Center, where visitors connect daily with objects that span across four centuries.

Not every item in the Tryon Palace Collection is on display; some items need extra protection to be preserved, and can only be displayed during special exhibitions. Make sure you explore our exhibit space in the North Carolina History Center and the New Bern Academy Museum, where you’ll find some of the new acquisitions listed below.

**Magic Lantern Projector**

Magic lantern projectors were lit with gas light or candle and projected an image from a glass slide onto a cloth or screen. Offering a precursor to the television and movie experiences that we have today, Tryon Palace’s recently-acquired projector was used in Vanceboro, North Carolina in the early part of the 20th century. *Exhibited in the North Carolina History Center through summer 2015.*

**Powder Horn**

The hunting-style powder horn was owned by Charles E. Smith, a 23-year-old private who served with the 25th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company 7 during the Civil War. Smith enlisted on September 21, 1861 and was discharged for a disability on May 27, 1862 in “Newbern,” NC. *Exhibited in the North Carolina History Center through summer 2015.*
Civil War Seating
Confederate Captain Frederick Cox Roberts of North Carolina’s 5th Cavalry found brief moments of relaxation in his Civil War-era folding chair, which is now on exhibit in the New Bern Academy Museum. Roberts (1836-1911) was a lawyer from New Bern, NC who enlisted in June 1862. Commissioned as a first lieutenant, Roberts was promoted to captain three months later in October 1862, but was forced to resign in February of 1863 due to disability.

Liquor Jug (opposite page) from A.H. Holton Retail Liquor Dealer
Advertisements in the Daily News by the Commercial Printing Company reveal that A.H. Holton Retail Liquor was selling a wide range of foreign and domestic alcoholic beverages from his shop on Middle Street in New Bern in 1881. Just a few of the items he stocked included brandies, whiskies, gin, rum, ale, wine, and cider. Personalized jugs like the one added to Tryon Palace’s collection were used by grocers and liquor stores to advertise their products to their customers. Exhibited in the North Carolina History Center through summer 2015.

Continued on Page 29
Demand for human-powered tools in homes across America drastically increased following the Civil War. Tools that could be found in an industrial factory were simplified and purchased by craftsmen, entrepreneurs, and farmers. New Bern’s own Charles Henry Hall (1870-1955) was one such craftsman, who purchased a foot treadle operated metal lathe that has been donated and restored in the care of Tryon Palace.
Human-powered machines existed in a wide variety, such as powered mortising chisels, saws, end mills, “post” drill presses, grinders, combination machines, and sewing machines. They were sold by the newly established mail-order hardware stores like Sears, Montgomery Ward, and others on the equally new “affordable” installment payment plan. Technology, marketing, expanded rail transportation, and economic innovation combined to make a revolutionary change to the market and culture.

Among these remarkable pieces of machinery was the foot treadle operated metal lathe, like the one given to Tryon Palace in 2014 that was manufactured by the W.F. & John Barnes Company in Rockford, Illinois. This piece not only educates about a lost form of industry, but about how that industry appeared here in New Bern. The history of this tool is almost as interesting as the story that came with it.

The original owner, Charles Henry Hall of New Bern, N.C., lived at 217 South Front Street on a lot that is now the driveway on the east side of the Harvey Mansion and part of the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center parking lot. The original lot extended all the way to the Trent River and Hall kept this lathe in a workshop located between the house and a small dock on the water.

Hall was a prominent New Bernian who worked in the lumber business in Jacksonville and New Bern, and later in general business insurance. He was a member of the New Bern Board of Aldermen and instrumental in promoting the diesel electric power plant on First Street. He was a member of the Button Fire Company, which set a world record during a firefighting competition held in Wilmington on May 19, 1911. Hall was an active member of First Baptist Church, a member of the local Elks Lodge and one of the original stockholders of New Bern Country Club. His obituary mentions that family would reserve seats for African-American friends of Hall at his funeral. It appears that his life was one that touched the lives of citizens throughout New Bern.

Though Hall did not use the lathe as part of his professional career, his ownership of it speaks to the home-hobbyist mentality that began to arise in America as tools became more readily available to the masses. His nephew, Dr. Charles Hall Ashford Jr., said he loved to tinker and work in his shop, which was about 375 square feet. Ashford recalled how his father and uncle built a sailboat together that they sailed on the Trent River, which they possibly used the lathe to construct.

L. R. “Pete” Thomas Jr. was given the lathe by Ashford. Thomas is no stranger to industrial work as his company oversaw the move of the John Wright Stanly House from Middle Street to its current location on George Street, and also built the fellowship hall for St. Joseph’s School on Bern Street in 1954, which has since become the conservation lab for Tryon Palace. It is here that the lathe was brought for donation to Tryon Palace.

When Thomas acquired the lathe from Ashford it was in many pieces, as it had been stored in Ashford’s possession completely disassembled. With the help of his grandson, Luke Lundquist, Thomas reassembled and restored the lathe to near working condition. Together, Thomas and Lundquist donated the lathe and six gears or cogs, which allow for different screw sizes to be cut. However, the screw drive shaft to operate the carriage was misplaced over the years.

Conservation lab volunteer Roger Noyes worked on cleaning and conditioning the lathe further, so it could be displayed in a museum setting. When the lathe arrived there were traces of oil and other types of lubricants on the parts. Slight corrosion had begun to develop on the seat and other areas. Noyes used different conservation techniques to clean these areas and stabilize them with the use of microcrystalline wax.

Charles Henry Hall’s lathe was donated to Tryon Palace by Thomas and Lundquist for the enjoyment of future generations and to educate about the entrepreneurial spirit that swept across the United States following the Civil War.
GEARS
Powered the movement of the lathe and increased the power of the operator. The operator would use a variety of gear sets or transmissions to control the rotational cutting speed, the direction of rotation, and similar control of the automated cutting tool carriage.

FLYWHEEL
The treadle moved a large weighted inertial flywheel at the bottom, which in turn would move a belt drive and transmit energy through a variety of gears at the top of the machine.
No. 4 1/2 Velocipede Screw Cutting Lathe
Available from the 1885 W.F. & John Barnes Company catalog

**CHAIR**
The operator sat in a chair and powered the machine via a pedal style treadle below.

**TOOL HOLDER**
Allowed for interchangeable cutting bits of different sizes, shapes and depths of cut, all precisely controlled to within thousandths of an inch like a modern lathe. A major advancement over earlier metal lathes was the automated machine function of cutting a wide variety of threads. The operator would use a screw drive to move the tool carriage and a variety of interchangeable gears to control the advance rate in a proportioned manner. The carriage was adjustable for taper boring or ball turning. It advertised feeding and cutting screws right- or left-handed in various pitches by simply making changes to the gears.
Wood creaks as the old bellow, freshly lathered with oil, expands with life anew. Dressed in the garb of an 18th-century blacksmith, volunteer Ralph Linley (pictured above) pulls down on the wooden lever to operate the bellow. Like a giant pair of lungs the upper and lower chambers work together to send a puff of air out through the vent and fan the flames.

One of Tryon Palace’s most popular attractions, the blacksmith shop, has reopened after more than three years lying dormant.

LeRae Umfleet, Tryon Palace assistant director, said the blacksmith shop is a key attraction for visitors to make a connection with their tours of the Palace and grounds.

“I think for the visitor experience, having things like the blacksmith shop open for visitors to see, smell, and hear is very important,” Umfleet said. “Once I discovered we had a core group of volunteers interested in making that happen, I said, ‘let’s make it happen.’”

A crucial grant from the Kellenberger Historical Foundation in 2015 helped kick start the initiative to restore the blacksmith shop, Umfleet said.

Like the staff at Tryon Palace and visitors that will enjoy it, Linley is happy to be back at work in the blacksmith shop. Linley, a self-proclaimed “history nut,” has volunteered at Tryon Palace for nearly 20 years and took an interest in blacksmithing early in life, first taking lessons as a teenager growing up near Greenfield Village in Michigan.

“I took a course from the blacksmith there and he was really good. He had the patience to take a couple teenagers and teach them how to be a blacksmith,” Linley said. “Since then I have just puttered with it and I have my own stuff at home.”
Throughout his years working in the blacksmith shop at Tryon Palace, Linley has noticed almost every visitor has some interest in what is going on in the shop.

“I think it is something everyone knows something about but has really never seen; I mean how many people have ever been in a blacksmith shop,” he said. “Most people think a blacksmith is some great, huge guy and I always have to explain that a good anvil does 90 percent of the work.”

All of the tools in the Tryon Palace blacksmith shop are historically accurate to the 18th century when the shop would have been in use. The key tools to a good blacksmith shop are a solid tempered anvil, good furnace, and hammers.

In a blacksmith shop hammers come in all weights and sizes, and are designed for specific tasks in mind. While some hammers are lighter for finishing, others are heavier for moving or flattening the heated iron.

“Most people think you have a hammer … but there are several sizes of hammers of the same shape,” Linley said.

The peen of each hammer can be different as well with varying alignments for spreading the iron vertically or horizontally. If a blacksmith wants to spread the metal in a specific direction, they use the peen, but if they want to spread the metal in all directions they use the face.

Certain hammers also have single grooves in the face that can shape the edges of a piece of metal when used in conjunction with the corresponding bit that fits in the anvil’s hardy hole. This process can be used to make wire or rod stock.

Combined with an anvil that weighs more than 200 pounds, Linley said each strike of the hammer wastes very little energy.

“Not only are you pounding with force but the resistance of the anvil itself is pushing on the bottom of the piece you are working on,” Linley
said. “If you are hitting with 4 pounds of force you are probably getting 3.75 pounds of energy into that piece.”

Of course none of it is possible without the metal heating to a workable temperature, courtesy of the furnace and bellow.

“This bellow is absolutely correct; it is a double action bellows so there is a chamber on the bottom, a board, then a chamber on the top,” Linley said. “The chamber on the bottom is what we are pumping, so when I am pumping, I am pumping air into the bottom and gravity is pulling the top one down, which gives you a constant flow of air.”

That constant flow of air helps keep the bituminous coal burning and the interior of the furnace around 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. If more air power is needed, Linley said the blacksmith can pile hammers, bricks or anything else on top of the bellow to provide more resistance and leverage.

With its sights, sounds, and smells, Linley said the blacksmith shop attracts visitors old and young alike.

“I generally find the older gentlemen are fascinated and the kids are just awestruck,” he said. “Out of 10 men you will get a handful that are really interested and the kids are not as interested in how it is done, they just think it is really cool, which is still good.”

A retired science teacher, Linley likes to teach visiting kids about the effect of heat on metal by asking a student in the group to bend an unheated metal rod.

“I have only ever had one person bend it and he really was a big guy, but they usually strain and strain, and don’t budge it,” he said. “Then I take another rod out of the furnace and I can bend it with my pinky finger. There are a lot of things you can get them to understand if they see it.”

Linley and the other blacksmiths to occupy the shop have crafted all manner of items while working on the Palace grounds. Most of the work comes from repairing items used in the Kitchen Office and other in-house repairs, but now the blacksmiths will begin working on items to sell in the Tryon Palace Museum Store as well.

Now, Linley has trained all new volunteers and historical interpreters like Nelson Edmondson (pictured left), who will man the shop and keep the furnace stoked for years to come.
Q: Did the governors own slaves?
A: The short answer is, “Yes.” However, details about the enslaved people who lived here are a bit trickier to find. While governors Tryon and Martin both left behind many writings, they tended not to write about the staff that worked for them. Still, we actually know a bit more about some of their enslaved servants than their paid staff. When Governor Tryon lived in Brunswick Town, we know he had eight male and two female slaves who worked on his farm. While researchers have yet to uncover further information, we speculate that these slaves may have moved to New Bern to work on another farm that Tryon rented about three miles away from the Palace. We know that Tryon also purchased an enslaved servant, named Tom, from James Murray in 1766. When Tryon moved to New York, he took Tom with him. Another enslaved servant was Surry, who Tryon sold to his secretary, Isaac Edwards. Governor Martin’s father sent many gifts to congratulate his son on his appointment. These gifts included silver plate services, a carriage, and enslaved servants. Among these servants were Prima, a house servant, Prima’s daughter Betsey, who was sent to be a lady’s maid to Governor Martin’s eldest daughter, Kate, and Tool, who was sent to be the cook.

Q: Did all men wear wigs in the 18th century?
A: Most people did not wear wigs. Wigs were a very expensive fashion accessory in the 1700s, so few could afford them. Even people who could afford a wig often chose to simply style and powder their own hair. Studies have shown that about 5 percent of colonists wore wigs, and that group was divided in an even split between rich landowners and working professionals, such as doctors and lawyers. In fact, some advertisements for runaway servants (free, indentured or enslaved) mention that the individual was wearing a wig. These wigs were likely supplied by the master of the house to help show off their wealth.

By the 1770s, the fashion for wigs was beginning to fall out of style, and even more people were beginning to forego powdering their hair. By 1800, short, natural hair had become the fashion for men.

The above questions were answered by Matt Arthur, Living History Coordinator for Tryon Palace. Do you have a question to ask? Email info@tryonpalace.org and look for the answer on our blog (www.tryonpalace.org/blog).
Like many Southern towns, New Bern has its own Civil War story, but the story of New Bern’s Civil War experience is unlike many others in North Carolina and the South. Union occupation began after the hours-long Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862, and continued until the end of the war with the Union Army using many of the homes and buildings around New Bern for offices, dwellings, and hospitals.

New Bern Academy Museum
Located on the corner of New and Hancock streets in historic New Bern. Open weekends and for special events. For current hours and ticket costs, call 252-639-3500.
One building, the circa 1810 New Bern Academy Museum, was used as a Union hospital and now hosts a plethora of Civil War features, including the exhibits "Face to Face: Civil War Sketches and Stories” on the first floor, and a Union military occupation exhibit on the second floor. Reopened with these exhibits and more in March 2014, the New Bern Academy Museum now provides visitors a glimpse of life in New Bern during the Civil War for all walks of life, not just soldiers.

Providing the stories of all New Bern’s citizens during the Civil War was the driving force behind reopening the New Bern Academy Museum with new exhibits, said Tryon Palace assistant director LeRae Umfleet. “We wanted to tell the story of New Bern and of the New Bernians who were here under occupation, so that is why the downstairs portion covers the experiences of African Americans, women and the medical side of the war,” Umfleet said. “As a Civil War historian I am always trying to share the full scope of the war, which includes the women’s story. Yes, wars were fought by men at that time but understanding when the battle came to the home front is important too, and that is what happened in New Bern.”

Umfleet, who was the education and outreach branch supervisor for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources division of Archives and History at the time she was tasked with reopening the Academy museum, said she was particularly happy to tell the stories of New Bern’s women during the Civil War. One rare item, originally on loan from a private collector in New Bern, was a Confederate apron that would have been worn at teas and other social gatherings by a woman of stature still loyal to the Confederacy during New Bern’s occupation. “There are a lot of stories about Confederate aprons but not a lot of examples around,” she said. “I had read about them, only seen one other example in Richmond ... and then one fell in my lap.”

Before the original apron was returned to its owner the Tryon Palace costumers produced a reproduction of the apron that now hangs in the Face to Face exhibit. Featured prominently throughout the Academy are sketches completed by occupying Union soldiers during their stay in New Bern.

“One of the things that drove the theme and content of the exhibit were the collections here at the Palace and one of the great things we had were the sketchbooks and drawings that were done by occupying Union soldiers,” Umfleet said. “The Union soldiers stationed here did not have Twitter or Facebook, or photographs to show their families, and they did not have anything else to do after their duty shift was over so they scribbled and sketched.”

Another story featured in the reopened Academy museum is that of the lives of African Americans in New Bern during Union occupation through storyboards and historical information on the escaped...
slaves that fled to New Bern. Nelson McDaniel, president of both the Tryon Palace Foundation and New Bern Historical Society, said New Bern’s occupation allowed African American leadership to flourish, unlike most other areas of the South.

“The Battle of New Bern was tremendously significant for the history of African Americans, both free and enslaved; not only for New Bern, but for the nation,” McDaniel said.

Since the Academy building served as a Union hospital during the Civil War, the medical side of the war is also recreated in the Face to Face exhibit. One of the featured stories is that of the advancement of prosthetic limb design that resulted from the large number of amputees during the war.

McDaniel said North Carolina was on the leading edge of development for new and improved ways to outfit those amputees with prosthetics. To illustrate that point McDaniel reached out to Jim Goodman, president and CEO of Capitol Broadcasting Company, Inc. in Raleigh, who he knew was in possession of multiple Civil War-era prosthetic limbs used by Goodman’s grandfather, a Civil War amputee himself.

“I called Jim, who is an important philanthropist in the state, and asked him to borrow the leg,” McDaniel said. “I was able to tell him, ‘Jim, most people call you asking for an arm and a leg, but we only want a leg.’”

In addition to the one prosthetic leg on display in the Academy, Goodman also recently lent Tryon Palace three more of his grandfather’s prosthetic legs.

With all these stories to tell at the Academy, Tryon Palace conservation specialist Richard Baker said it was a challenge to complete the installation of the new exhibits from the time planning began in October 2013 to its opening for Civil War Weekend in March 2014.

“Basically we installed an exhibit that needed at least six staff members to do but we only had two in the collections department at the time,” Baker said. “I always say that place would not have been open until May if it had not been for the volunteers, they brought in some skills I didn’t have.”
Mustering the U.S. Colored Troops
How New Bern Became the Rallying Point for Thousands of African Americans during the Civil War

By Cole Dittmer

Outside of the city itself, few know how New Bern affected the Union’s victory in the Civil War. More than 6,000 members of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) came from North Carolina and, because New Bern was occupied by Union forces early in the war, the city became a bastion of freedom and opportunity for runaway slaves entering military service.
Much of the national recognition of the USCT has focused on the regiments raised in northern states like the Massachusetts 54th regiment, whose experience was relived in the film “Glory,” starring Denzel Washington and Matthew Broderick. However, North Carolina Museum of History curator Earl Ijames said New Bern deserves its fair share of the recognition.

“Historically New Bern has been understated because of the national attention that has always been given to the first colored troops regiments raised in Massachusetts,” Ijames said. “The brunt of the colored troops was raised in the South and I think that is something that needs to be known and understood, as well as the travails and negotiations it took to actually do that in the South.”

Dr. Malcolm Beech, USCT Living History Association President and reenactor, said the Union invasion of Roanoke and then occupation of New Bern in 1862 fostered the establishment of what were known as contraband camps in the area, where escaped slaves could live in freedom behind Union lines.

“One of the most significant contraband camps was set up in James City and it became a city because the ex-slaves actually built roads, schools, houses, hospitals, and businesses in that area,” Beech said. “More than 6,000 USCT troops came from all of North Carolina and I would think that more than half came from Eastern North Carolina because the original invasion of the South came in at Roanoke, and they had another contraband camp in that area, so the whole east became the recruiting grounds for the U.S. Colored Troops.”

Like the northern USCT regiments, the troops in each regiment came from far across neighboring regions to join the Union army, but Ijames said those who did so in the South and escaped to New Bern faced many more hazards.

One such USCT soldier Ijames has researched was Private Luke Martin, who had to cross three river basins in the winter of 1863 to reach New Bern. Based on a descriptive register, Ijames said Martin was living somewhere around Plymouth, N.C., before he made the trek to New Bern to join the USCT.

“New Bern is singularly significant because it was established as a hub and a safe place in the South to give someone like Luke Martin the courage and belief to escape to,” Ijames said.

Like Martin, many of the runaway slaves in the South would have heard about New Bern and the prospect of joining the USCT through word of mouth. The mention of freedom would have been enough to spur interest in joining the USCT after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Beech said.

“It had to be passed by word of mouth and it would have been someone that was moving around a lot that could have said, ‘Hey, this is what is happening in New Bern and if you get there you are going to be free.’ Well that is all they needed to hear,” Beech said. “With the Emancipation Proclamation taking effect January 1, 1863, the belief of freedom was more real.”

The addition of around 200,000 USCT troops helped swing the tide of the war in favor of the Union and led to its ultimate victory, but for decades, accounts of the USCT were either omitted or glazed over in history books, especially in the South.

New Bernian and USCT reenactor Bernard George remembered his surprise when his grandfather told him his grandfather fought in a USCT regiment.

Continued on Page 26
Behind the Brushstrokes
A Portrait of Mary Daves McKinlay

By Penne Sandbeck

Elegantly attired, with features caught between gravity and pleasantry, Tryon Palace’s circa 1810-1815 portrait of Mary Daves McKinlay (1777-1840) brings further dimension to Mrs. McKinlay herself — an intelligent, energetic lady whose family ties and surviving documents shine a revealing light upon New Bern’s antebellum past.

While the artist behind this portrait is unknown, what we know of Mary Daves McKinlay’s life creates a compelling story of New Bern in its antebellum period, from family history to the larger history of the town’s African Americans in the years before the Civil War and emancipation.

The future Mrs. McKinlay was born in Halifax County to landowner Oroondates Davis and his wife, the former Mary Eaton Haynes. Oroondates Davis was a member of North Carolina’s General Assembly during the Revolution and also served as a legislative appointee to the state’s 1780-1781 Board of War. A young child when her father died in 1781, Mary Davis became “Mary Daves” upon her mother’s 1782 remarriage to Major John Daves. She then grew up in New Bern with three younger half-siblings, one of whom was John Pugh Daves (1789-1838), whose own 1813 home is now part of Tryon Palace’s historic buildings site. Surviving correspondence shows Major Daves’ family as close-knit — overwhelmingly delighted when younger daughter Ann Rebecca “Nancy” Daves was engaged to Somerset Plantation’s heir Josiah Collins, Jr., in 1803, and grief-stricken upon the sudden death of Major Daves in 1804.

In 1796, Mary Daves was married to James McKinlay, a wealthy merchant. McKinlay was very much a part of this family, so much so that John Pugh Daves named one of his sons for him. The McKinlays had no children of their own, but were devoted to their nephews and nieces.

When James McKinlay died in 1819, he left Mary Daves McKinlay a wealthy woman. McKinlay’s comprehensive probate inventory lists real estate, a residence on South Front and Middle streets that included a “counting house,” valuable furniture, linens, “two pistols,” stock from his store, and “a portrait” that may well be that of his wife. His land holdings included not only part of the Palace lots that were subdivided after the devastating 1798 fire, but also the site’s one surviving building, the Stable Office. McKinlay’s inventory also listed 23 slaves, eight of whom remained with Mrs. McKinlay until her death. One slave named Dick was not included in this list. McKinlay had specifically requested that Dick, who had been in his service for over 30 years and was “honest, faithful, and affectionate,” be emancipated. Mary Daves McKinlay signed the affidavit on Dick’s behalf, along with Francis Hawks, John Snead, J. W. Guion, and John Pugh Daves, on April 20, 1819.

Facing her own mortality, Mary Daves McKinlay drafted her will between 1838 and 1840 with the assistance of family friend and lawyer Edward E. Graham. The resulting document details Mrs. McKinlay’s meticulous and passionate concern for equitable distribution of property and fair treatment, whether among her heirs or for her surviving servants. She left her brother’s widow, who was raising six young children and two stepchildren, a life estate with her own home, kitchen, and nearly all of its implements. A staunch Episcopalian, Mrs. McKinlay also added “I give my pew in the Episcopal Church in New Bern to the children of my brother John P. Daves jointly without the power of either to sell or otherwise dispose of his or her share, but to be

A Portrait’s Final Journey

Mary Daves McKinlay’s portrait (opposite page) passed to her namesake, John P., and Elizabeth Graham Daves’ daughter, Mary “Mamie” McKinlay Daves (1835-1916), who lived an equally full and interesting life. After attending St. Mary’s School in Raleigh and Madame Chegery’s School in New York City, Mamie Daves married John W. Ellis (1820-1861) in New Bern on August 11, 1858 — a year before his election as state governor. When the Civil War began, Mary Daves Ellis was living in Raleigh and so it is likely that the “Aunt McKinlay” portrait was residing in Raleigh as well until November 1865, when Mrs. Ellis returned to her hometown as a widow.

Remarried in 1866 to James Nash, Mary Ellis Nash became State Regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1892 and remained involved in local Civil War commemorative efforts until she moved to Pensacola, Fla. to live with her daughter, Mary Ellis Knowles. Mrs. Knowles’ daughter Josephine Knowles Seligman (1889-1985) inherited “Aunt McKinlay’s” portrait, and later donated it to Tryon Palace as a gift in 1985.

Today, the portrait is on display in the New Bern Academy Museum’s “Face to Face” exhibit, which is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays. It is here that lovers of art and history alike can see the work of an unknown painter, whose rendering of Mrs. McKinlay, from the well-conceived chiaroscuro of her features to the sure execution of her velvet dress, is very much in the style of contemporary American painters such as Rembrandt Peale, Gilbert Stuart, or even Thomas Sully, whose career was just taking off in the 1810s.
kept and used in common by each and all of them.

This concern that each Daves heir have as equal a share as possible continued throughout her will, with special consideration that her niece Elizabeth, John Pugh Daves’ daughter by an earlier marriage, not be slighted in light of the larger family of her brother’s widow.

The aftereffects of North Carolina’s 1835 Convention, where free blacks saw their voting rights taken away and witnessed an increasingly restrictive and harsh environment towards their own class, as well as for slaves, were likely fresh in Mrs. McKinlay’s mind when she wrote her will.

“I have an anxious wish to liberate my slaves,” she begins. Then, she and Graham create a paradigm of multiple scenarios concerning her slaves’ hoped-for emancipation.

First, “If the said slaves can be set free and remain in North Carolina, they or any such are to be forthwith absolutely liberated.” But, no doubt thinking of the 1835 Convention and regional anxiety following Virginia’s 1831 Nat Turner uprising, McKinlay and Graham add, “If the laws of the State forbids that and no relaxation of the strict rule can be found in this behalf, then my Executors are directed to carry the said Slaves out of the State and to those parts where they can be emancipated.” The two then offer a third option: in the event that the slaves chose to stay in New Bern as slaves, they were to be given one year to choose between slavery in New Bern and freedom elsewhere, with “full and plain explanations to the slaves before they are required to choose.”

According to her estate papers, all of Mrs. McKinlay’s slaves were freed in North Carolina.

Mary Daves McKinlay and Edward E. Graham, Jr., made further provisions in her will for surviving slaves Emily, Julia, Julius, Louis, Edward, Louisa, Tom, and Alexander. First, one of the former Palace lots on Eden Street, “the same lot which I now use as a garden,” was to be divided in fee simple between Emily, Louisa, Louis, and Julia. All of the slaves were to receive furniture from her property; beds and “small mahogany tea tables” were specifically mentioned. In a codicil added five months before her death, Mrs. McKinlay requested that Louis and his wife be permitted to continue living “in the room they now occupy in the small brick house standing in my yard during his natural life,” and for Emily to be paid $30 annually for the rest of her life.

After her death in October 1840, Mrs. McKinlay was laid to rest beside her husband in nearby Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Whomever the painter may have been, the result is an intriguing and sophisticated likeness that must have pleased both Mary and James McKinlay, just as it pleases Tryon Palace’s visitors today.

Penne Sandbeck is an architectural historian and author of Greene Along Contentnea: An Architectural History of Greene County, North Carolina.
Today’s grilled cheese sandwich has evolved quite a bit since it was enjoyed by our colonial counterparts. Known during the Georgian period as Roast Cheese on Toast, this dish is very similar to Welsh Rarebit, and was often served after dinner or at supper.

Here are a few things to know before we get started:

- While we are using prepared mustard, the cooks in the 18th century and early 19th century would have blended their own.
- Measurements and amounts found in recipes from the early 18th century were often vague (e.g. enough breadcrumbs, some cheese); the exact measurements in this recipe show that it is an early 19th-century recipe.
- This dish is much easier in modern times, just use the broiler in your oven for a delicious snack or appetizer.

The original recipe for this dish appears in A New System of Domestic Cookery (1808) by Maria Rundell, and is as follows:

“Grate three ounces of fat Cheshire Cheese, mix it with the yelks of two eggs, four ounces of grated bread, and four ounces of butter, beat the whole well in a mortar, with a teaspoonful of mustard, and a little salt and pepper. Toast some bread, lay the paste as above thick upon it, put it into a Dutch oven covered with a dish till hot through, remove the dish, and let the cheese brown a little. Serve as hot as possible.”

**For Our Kitchen:**
1 cup cheddar or another strong cheese, grated
4 egg yolks
2/3 cup plus 2 tbsp. of breadcrumbs
12 tbsp. butter
2 tbsp. mustard (for a more historic taste, use a whole grain or Dijon style mustard)
1/2 tsp. pepper
Salt, to taste
Slices of bread – a baguette would work well

Step 1 – Combine cheese with egg yolks, bread crumbs, butter, mustard, salt and pepper in bowl.
Step 2 – Lightly toast bread.
Step 3 – Spread one side of each slice with cheese mixture.
Step 4 – Place in broiler until cheese is slightly browned and bubbling.
Muster the U.S. Colored Troops

“He told me that at a very early age … and I wasn’t quite sure how to make that out because at that time schools did not teach anything about African Americans involved in the Civil War,” George said.

While a majority of the Civil War history in the South is focused on the legacy of the Confederacy, Beech said awareness has grown about the USCT in the past decade.

“The documents and books that have been written on the Confederate side did not include the USCT but we are getting more and more books coming out about the USCT from North Carolina,” he said. “As the various scholars in the universities and colleges across North Carolina begin to acknowledge the role African Americans played in the war then they will be able to bring that into the classroom.”

One such book, David Cecelski’s *The Fire of Freedom*, follows the story of Southport native Abraham Galloway, who ran away to join the USCT in New Bern and became one of the leading abolitionists in the country before his early death at the age of 33 in Wilmington.

Ijames believes one of the reasons why there has been a rise in interest about the USCT is a rise in the number of people researching their family’s history.

“There is a general rise in consciousness and wanting to know history in a true fashion,” Ijames said. “What I have seen is there is a rise in people of many races and socioeconomic statuses that are doing genealogy studies and understanding that perspective without bias. That helps to normalize history and put it in the proper context.”

As USCT reenactors, both George and Beech take pride in relating the stories of their ancestors to new generations and those unfamiliar with the USCT.

“As a reenactor my favorite part is to give this living history to younger people or those who are not as aware of it and seeing the wonderment in their faces, and it is great to see a light go off,” George said. “The most important part for us locally is to tell people what an important role New Bern played in the organization and deployment of U.S. Colored Troops in North Carolina.”

For Beech, relating the stories of USCT troops to young African Americans is all about self-respect and the impacts of slavery.

“It has a lot to do with self-respect, they need to know that their ancestors actually fought for their freedom and were not just given it … they paid the highest price,” Beech said. “When you have 400 years of working for free and not accumulating any wealth you have to understand where it came from … it is not something wrong with you because of the color of your skin, it is the historical impact of racism and slavery.”

George, who has traced his ancestry back to 1640 in the Tidewater, Virginia area, is not certain if his great-great grandfather was stationed in New Bern but he is happy to contribute to the rise in acknowledgement of the U.S. Colored Troops.

“When my grandfather told me that was another age, now the information has disseminated, thanks to the Internet, and thanks to modern historians who have researched more and more into the Civil War and African Americans’ role,” he said. “Sharing that information gives me great pleasure because I believe we have a unique population here in New Bern and I think our history proves that.”
Seasonally fresh produce grown merely 200 yards away will soon grace the menus of Lawson’s Landing Café at the North Carolina History Center. Beginning this spring, executive chef Ben Strange will use the variety of produce grown in the Tryon Palace Kitchen Garden for some of his culinary creations.

As Royal Governor William Tryon once noted that New Bern’s “Peaches, Nectar’ Figgs and Plums are in perfection and of good Sorts,” Strange is excited to begin using such locally-sourced produce from the Kitchen Garden.

“It was just a thought I had to ask about the Kitchen Garden and I did not think it was going to go anywhere because I didn’t know they were growing so much,” Strange said.

While Strange does not like to confine the menu at Lawson’s Landing Café to any one regional cuisine, he does always strive to find fresh, never frozen ingredients from North Carolina.

“I want do as much local as I can,” he said. “If I could be completely farm to table I would be happy with that and this will pretty much get me there with my produce. Plus it is all organic and heirloom varieties.”

The 1/3 acre Tryon Palace Kitchen Garden is home to many varieties of herbs, vegetables and fruit throughout the year. In the past the produce not used for cooking demonstrations in the Kitchen Office often went unused.

Walking through the garden rows, Strange’s excitement grows as he pinches off samples of mustard greens, sage, and spring onions.

“I am going to build the June menu around what I am able to get out of the garden,” Strange said. “It will be fun because they have a lot of different things I couldn’t find locally, like fava beans, which is used in a lot of Italian dishes, and melons that I will use for our prosciutto and melon.”

The list of items Strange will have access to throughout the year is extensive, including herbs, tomatoes, beans, lettuce, peppers, onions, pears, apples, grapes, figs, Parisian cucumbers, pumpkins, squash, and greens.

Strange plans to pick whatever produce he needs in the mornings about three days a week to ensure his diners have the freshest ingredients possible. In addition to the Palace produce being a selling point for the restaurant, Strange realizes the partnership will help both Lawson’s and Tryon Palace.

“It helps the Palace and it helps us, and if the Palace succeeds we succeed and vice-versa,” he said. “This is a win-win for everyone.”
Coming to the Duffy Gallery
2015 Exhibit Schedule

Needle Arts in New Bern
May 9-31
The Tryon Chapter of the Embroiderer’s Guild of America and the American Needlepoint Guild will present Needle Arts in New Bern, a sampling of their needlework art as a public exhibit in the Duffy Exhibition Gallery. On exhibit will be various forms of work completed with a threaded needle, including canvas work (known commonly as needlepoint), as well as smocking, beading, French hand sewing, traditional Japanese embroidery, and many other forms.

In addition to pieces by the Embroiderer’s Guild of America and American Needlepoint Guild, there will also be pieces on display from Tryon Palace’s own collection, some of which are seldom on exhibit.

North Carolina in the Great War
June 20-September 13
When World War I broke out in Europe in 1914, North Carolinians shared the same feelings of regret and fear as other Americans. Tar Heels, like many others, did not want to get involved in the war, but once the United States declared war against Germany in April 1917, most North Carolinians supported the war effort and rallied behind President Woodrow Wilson. North Carolinians contributed in a variety of ways, from women serving as nurses in military hospitals in France, to the production of artillery shells in Raleigh and ships in Wilmington, and ultimately the 480,491 men from North Carolina who registered for service.

This exhibition will showcase North Carolina’s contributions to the war effort.

70th Anniversary of the Tryon Palace Commission
September 26-November 8
In honor of the Tryon Palace Commission’s 70th anniversary, “Celebrating Tryon Palace” explores the founding of the commission and its contributions to Tryon Palace over the past 70 years, including its support for the North Carolina History Center, which will celebrate its 5th anniversary this October.

Comforting Words: Anglican Piety and the Book of Common Prayer
October 1-November 8
This exhibition of the 400-year-old Book of Common Prayer and its progeny showcases a book that is not only used for public worship and private prayer but, by its liturgical excellence, holds a special place in the evolution of English language and literature.

The exhibition features the first three editions (1549, 1552 and 1559), along with the five revisions (1662, 1789, 1892, 1928 and 1979), that guided the worship of the Episcopal Church in America through the 20th Century. Celebrating the 300th anniversary of Christ Episcopal Church of New Bern, NC, this exhibit features artifacts from the collection at Drew University and is curated by Kenneth E. Rowe, PhD, retired professor of theological history at Drew University.

Child’s Play
November 21-January 10
Just in time for the holiday season, come see an exhibit on the evolution of toys! Ranging from 18th-century ivory dominoes to 20th-century model trains, from homemade toys to tech toys, this exhibit will feature a variety of objects both old and new. Visitors will learn how industrial advances have changed toys not only in appearance but in availability as well. No matter your age, toys are for the child in all of us.
Preserving the Past

Circus Program
Step right up to see the circus program for the Cole Brothers Circus and Clyde Beatty’s Gigantic Trained Wild Animal Exhibition, held October 30, 1935 in New Bern, North Carolina. In 1935 new owners for the circus began traveling to cities around the country via railroad, allowing them to perform in a new city every day and introduce themselves with a giant street parade to promote the show. That year was also the first year the Cole Brothers Circus partnered with Clyde Beatty’s animals acts, which introduced the large scale wild animal performances that circuses have become famous for. As a result, the Cole Brothers circus began to gain national recognition along with the other contemporary circuses including the Ringling Brothers Circus. 

Exhibited in the North Carolina History Center through summer 2015.

Stock Certificate
A stock certificate from the Carolina Naval Stores Company, located in Morehead City, N.C. was issued to Joseph Rossenthal for ten shares of $50 on February 10, 1910. The Carolina Naval Stores Company was incorporated in 1910—with a starting capital stock of $100,000—and managed by C.W. Bilifinger of New Bern. Bilifinger oversaw the manufacture of turpentine, tar, and other products from light wood. 

Exhibited in the North Carolina History Center through summer 2015.
2015 Schedule of Events

Behind the Scenes Tours:
Through the Palace Gardens
Tuesdays, Through May 19
Discover what’s in bloom at Tryon Palace this spring by joining one of Tryon Palace’s gardeners for a behind-the-scenes tour of the gardens. Learn about specific plants and design techniques, see the vegetables being served on the governor’s table this season, and take a behind-the-scenes peek into our nursery yard.
Ticketed

Mother’s Day Tea and Garden Tour
Saturday, May 9
This Mother’s Day weekend step back in time and embark on a tea tour that will focus on tea culture in 18th-century Britain and Colonial America at historic Tryon Palace.
Ticketed

In Honor and Remembrance
Monday, May 25
In honor of those who have served our country over the years, and those who still do, Tryon Palace will offer free admission to all active duty and military veterans with the presentation of their military ID or proof of service.
Free for veterans; discounted for accompanying family members

Behind the Scenes: Costume Shop
Tuesday, May 26
Tryon Palace’s historical costumer will lead tours to the Jones House for an inside look at the Tryon Palace costume shop. See the costume racks on the first floor, where all manner of period dresses and clothes hang, and hear our costumer discuss the research techniques used to ensure the costumes are produced using historically accurate techniques and fabrics.
Ticketed

North Carolina Symphony at Tryon Palace
Sunday, May 31
Enjoy a free concert by the North Carolina Symphony on Tryon Palace’s picturesque South Lawn. Bordering the Trent River and surrounded by beautiful gardens, Tryon Palace invites you to bring your own chairs and blankets, but leave pets and alcoholic beverages at home. This concert is presented in partnership with the New Bern series of the North Carolina Symphony.
Free

Stanly-Spaight Duel
Saturday, Sept. 5
On September 5th, 1802, a prominent New Bern lawyer met his political rival, a former state governor, in a lethal duel on the streets of New Bern. Step back in time to an era where a man’s personal honor was his most cherished quality and any incursion on this prized value could result in fiery and violent retribution.
Ticketed

Fall Festival
Saturday, Sept. 19
Families and children of all ages will enjoy interactive crafts and activities during the Fall Festival at Tryon Palace. Craft activities and demonstrations designed for the entire family will be held throughout Tryon Palace and the North Carolina History Center.
Teachers who attend Fall Festival will receive a complimentary One Day Pass (ID required) that includes access to the Governor's Palace, North Carolina History Center, 16 acres of gardens, and four historic homes situated around the palace.
Ticketed

For a more complete list of our 2015 calendar of events, visit us at www.tryonpalace.org/calendar or call 252-639-3500.
The Fire of Freedom, by David Cecelski
Abraham H. Galloway (1837-1870) was a fiery young slave rebel, radical abolitionist, and Union spy who rose out of bondage to become one of the most significant and stirring black leaders in the South during the Civil War. Throughout his brief, mercurial life, Galloway fought against slavery and injustice. He risked his life behind enemy lines, recruited black soldiers for the North, and fought racism in the Union army’s ranks. Galloway traveled wherever he was needed to advance freedom and justice, including New Bern, NC. While in New Bern he was instrumental in organizing numerous regiments of United States Colored Troops. He later became one of the first black men elected to the North Carolina legislature.

A New Bern Album, by John B. Green III
Embark on a visual tour down memory lane with an extensive collection of rare and old photographs of New Bern and the surrounding countryside, which were cultivated by John B. Green III. Discover what New Bern looked like from the pre-Civil War era to the 1950s and the restoration of Tyron Palace through the hundreds of photographs collected.

Images of America: Tryon Palace, by the Tryon Palace Commission
As the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing’s popular Images of America series, Tryon Palace boasts over 200 vintage images, many of which have never been published, and showcases memories of days gone by. On April 10, 1959, Tryon Palace reopened as North Carolina’s premier historic site, and has since grown to include 16 acres of gardens, historic buildings, and the North Carolina History Center. Images spanning more than 70 years of Tryon Palace history come together in this beautifully-crafted scrapbook of memories that celebrate the rich heritage of an important historic landmark beloved by North Carolinians and visitors alike.

Tryon Palace: A Visitor’s Guide, by the Tryon Palace Commission
Funded by the Tryon Palace Commission, this extended visitor’s guide takes visitors through the Governor’s Palace, historic homes, gardens, galleries, and the North Carolina History Center. Packed full of historical insights and photos of the people and cultures that have inhabited the Palace and downtown New Bern for more than 300 years, the guide also promises to enlighten you with a deeper understanding of the unique history represented at Tryon Palace.

You can find these books and more inside the Tryon Palace Museum Store, located at the North Carolina History Center.
Whether you’re looking for an iconic Palace, the modesty of a historic home, scenic gardens, or modern amenities and riverfront views at the North Carolina History Center, Tryon Palace is the premier destination for

- Weddings
- Receptions
- Bridal Portraits
- Rehearsal Dinners
- Photographs
- Intimate Weddings
- Grand Weddings
- Bridal Showers
- Engagement Parties

Tryon Palace
NEW BERN, NC
252-639-3518 | tryonpalace.org/weddings