By-gone Anthologies of a Treasured Harbor

Old Photographs of Bath's Past Compiled by Jimmy Taylor & Don. Carrow
Introduction

This photo "album" is dedicated to all the folks who have an undying interest and desire to preserve the history of old Bath for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

The advent of this book was the quest of Jimmy Taylor of Bath. He felt an innate need to gather and preserve the antique images in book form so they could be available to the public. Jimmy has spent several years in his tireless efforts to accumulate as many pictures as possible. His contributions, editing, and historical knowledge helped to make this book possible. Jimmy collected over seven hundred photographs. Thus, because of limited book space and expense, only the most unique and rare views could be selected.

With that in mind, this book is not for sale, or circulation, and is to remain permanently in the public libraries of Bath and Washington for the use by all.

The majority of the pictures incorporated here are from the works of professional photographer Thomas R. Draper of Bath. In 1890 he set up a portrait studio that included the needed light of the era, a northern facing skylight roof. He made postcards from his photographs and sold them in his souvenir shop. He lived and worked in Bath until his death in 1940. It appears that his pictures are the earliest known optically recorded views of Bath. He had a wide array of photographic interest, ranging from studio portraits, to everyday life scenes. Special thanks go to Helen Florence Brooks Richardson, a distant relative of Tom Draper, for the use of her Draper album that has been handed down through the generations in her family. My parents purchased the Draper house in 1952 when I was 12 years old. Helen's grandmother, sister to Tom, and my grandfather were first cousins. After my parents deceased, the house was sold in 1990 and later demolished.

Special appreciation goes to the life-long Bath resident, Virginia Brooks Carson; as her personal pictures, interest, and historical knowledge are priceless.

Other contributors have shared their precious and priceless images of Bath's past: Billy Moore, Joy Henderson, the family of Mary Libby Wallace Selby, and of course, Jimmy Taylor. Their graciousness and the permission to use their pictures is sincerely appreciated. Recently I converted many of my old photographs and early 1950s slides of Bath to digital format for use as well.

Many books and pamphlets were useful in assembling the content for the historical thumbnails, especially Beaufort County, North Carolina by Louis Van Camp, and Bath, The First Town in North Carolina by Alan D. Watson with Bea Latham and Patricia Samford. A valuable source of information is located on the Internet site, http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bath/. A special map was drawn a few years back by Wingate Reed, which gives a visual placement of the many interesting historical sites in Bath.

Additional photographs, corrections, and comments are welcomed.

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December 2012
Car overboard, circa 1945
Car owned by D.B. Ricks

Mid 1940s photograph looking west
Warehouse dock on left, hardware store on right
Not shown west side of store, Dr. "Joe" Norman's Office.

Front Creek Bridge, early 1940s
Nurse Fanny Myrtle Shepherd and Cary Norman

Bridge and swing draw, December 1955
Opening of new bridge dedication and ceremony circa 1962

Old bridge, circa 1955
Dixie Filling Station on southeast corner Main and Carteret Streets
Bottom left: Will Duke, David Waters, Rivers Beasley, Marion Brooks, Holland Gurkins
ESSO Gas Station, circa 1930s
A fuel dock was located west side of creek for off-loading fuel barges
Fuel line ran under the creek to gas station on east side of bridge
Stone Monument commemorating the history of Bath on the 219th anniversary, 1924
Helen Waters and Arcadia Tankard
Bottom right photo taken in 1955
Young man with "1924 sign" possibly Guy Cutler, Sr.
View, looking east, circa 1925
Dixie gas station on right next to automobile
“Horse and buggy days”
View of Main Street
looking south from the
Bath Marker
T. A. Brooks’ store on far
right.

Photo taken from roof of T.A. Brooks’ store, 1900s
The photographer is facing northeast

Bath Marker,
T. A. Brooks’ home and store,
mid 1900s
View south, circa 1925

Photo taken from mid-town, looking south on Main Street
Easter Sunday 1942

Facing south, circa 1944
Williams (Glebe) House at left

Main Street in front of Marsh House, looking south
December 1955
Williams (Glebe) House on left, built between 1827 and 1832.

All views on page are facing south.

Draper’s souvenir shop on left.

Looking toward Bonner’s Point. Dr. John T. Nicholson’s home and car on right.
All photos taken looking north, except bottom left, facing west
Circa 1920s and '30s
Top views taken near Bonner’s Point looking north, circa 1920s
Note Dr. J. T. Nicholson’s home and cars on far left of frame.

Bottom views taken mid-town Main St.
looking north, early 1950s
Near Bonner's Point, looking north, 1952

Photo taken facing north from Nicholson House, (not shown) at left.

This view taken in the 1940s of the Bonner House believed to have been built around 1830.
1920s view of the Bonner House

Old photo of Bonner's Point looking south
Note small fence around pecan tree for protection
Pecan trees were planted throughout Bath by Molly Brooks

Note old ship with sails in the distance

After restoration, 1962
The Williams House was built between 1827 and 1832. In 1947 it was sold to the Episcopal Diocese and became known as the Glebe House.
Older and newer views of the Glebe House on church property in front of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.
Early views taken in the 1920s and 30s

Rev. A. C. D. Noe and Don. Carrow, Jr. in doorway, early 1940s
This photo was converted into a drawing and placed on the North Carolina highway ESSO map, mid 1940s
(Drawing shown, 1951 map)
Early view inside St. Thomas

Note wood-burning stove

Photo taken in 1953 of the original lock and key, both were later stolen, and have never been recovered

Slave gallery, December 1955
Buzzard Hotel
Built circa 1830
No longer standing
Top right, 1953
Bottom right, 1946
Palmer-Marsh House, built 1744
Top left, old graveyard, east end of yard; bottom right shows fire place in cellar in 1952
View of school looking northeast

Bath High School and buses, circa 1934
Student and bus driver Ab. T. Alligood on top of bus

Original portico entrance to school’s auditorium
Photo taken in Feb. 1951

2nd floor classrooms fire escape, 1951
Top photos
Draper placed the sign on this kettle to sell postcards.
No proof this was ever Teach's or used by him

At left,
Artist McMullen portrait of Blackbeard, presented to Mayor Braxton Brooks 1955

Legend states that the bricks above were part of Teach's cellar wall
Dr. Joseph Norman's office, at foot of Front Creek bridge
Young girl, possibly Peggy Latham, circa 1944

Home of T.A. and Molly Brooks

Van Der Veer House, built circa 1790

Water tank for the T. A. Brooks home and store
View of the Van Der Veer House from Bath Creek

W. O. WINFIELD,
Dealer in
GENERAL MERCHANDISE,
Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Hats,
Gaps, Groceries and School Books,
Highest Prices Paid For Country Produce
Bath, N. C., 190

This is our old home where shot was burned the 1st Sunday in April 1918

Winfield house and store that burned in April 1918

Store on Main Street
T.A. Brooks' Grocery Store, built 1905

The shop later became Swindell's Cash Store
 Bill and Eunice Tankard

Old Marsh potato grader, 1940s

Thad Tankard's barber shop, circa 1940
The James Franklin Carrow House, built late 1800s

Draper photo of the Waters-Brooks home, circa 1930

Bryan House near Archbell Point

The Hamilton House, South Main Street, no longer standing
Draper's souvenir shop, in Belhaven after the 1913 hurricane

1900s restaurant, exact location unknown, perhaps on Main Street
2nd. person on left appears to be Rev. W. O. Winfield, 1st. minister of the Bath Christian Church

Plowing in Bath behind the former Draper home, 1953

Draper's Souvenir Shop in Bath
Tom R. Draper, Photographer  
Dr. John T. Nicholson, Physician  
Tennis Team, 1910--1915, Bath High School  

Early 1900s photograph of town's people  
Young girl, bottom right, sitting on ground, Mildred Winfield  

Bath's first garbage pickup, early 1960s, operated by Plum Oden in cart, "Esta Murry" with can
Site of
"Queen Anne's Bell" Drama
celebrating
Bath's 250th birthday
Stage location, end of Craven St.

Bath's birthday cake, celebrating 250 years of incorporation

Bath was founded in 1705
W.B. Midyette, Jr., with pony and buggy
Queen Anne’s Bell at St. Thomas, 18 years older than the Liberty Bell.

Scene with Gov. Luther Hodges.

Virginia Reel scene outdoor drama, October 1955.

Norman Cordon played the part of Blackbeard.

Audience awaiting the opening of “Queen Anne’s Bell,” written by Edmund Harding.
Scenes from the golden days of Bayview, photos probably snapped in the 1920s and 30s

The grand hotel, built in 1925, burned in 1944
Pictured also are Coast Guard Cutters

Photo, upper left corner, drawing of the Jay Kilby dance hall of the 1950s
Thumbnail History

Glebe House
Built between 1827 and 1832 by Jesse B. Lucas, it is located on the church lot in front of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. The current house is probably the third to occupy the lot. In 1877, the Williams family purchased the house. Rev. A. C. D. Noe purchased it in 1937 and later transferred it to the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina. In colonial time, a “glebe” referred to church land set aside for use by a church minister for financial needs.

Buzzard’s Hotel
The hotel was located on Main Street, mid-town, facing Bath Creek. It was built about 1830 reflecting the style of the time. After many years of use by private owners, it was later condemned and demolished around 1980. It is supposedly named for its builder and operator.

Bath Marker
This stone monument was erected to commemorate the 219th birthday of Bath in June 1924. It is estimated that 4,500 people attended the ceremony. The inscription reads:

“This marker was erected 1924. Bath, the original Indian town of Pamlico, was settled by white men about 1690 and incorporated in 1705. It is the oldest town in North Carolina. Its first commissioners were John Lawson, Joel Martin, and Simon Alderson. Here was founded in 1700 the first public library in the colony. St. Thomas Church was built in 1734. It is the oldest church in North Carolina. The General Assembly met in Bath in 1744 and 1752.”

Van Der Veer House
Built around 1790 by Dr. Ephraim Whitmore the house reflects Dutch Colonial design. Eventually, it was purchased by Joseph Bonner and almost immediately sold to Jacob Van Der Veer who was a merchant and a rope manufacturer.

Bonner House
This structure was erected in 1830 on the lot that originally belonged to John Lawson, one of the first landowners in Bath. It is said that during colonial days a fort in the rear of the yard defended Bath during the Tuscaroran Indian War. The home reflects early nineteenth-century Carolina architecture. Some of the original features still remain: the small blown-glass window panes; wide-board pine floors; hand-carved mantels and paint finishing of the period that include wood graining on interior doors and “marbleizing” on baseboards. Several names, etched many years ago by the Bonner children, can be seen on one of the front windowpanes.

Palmer-Marsh House
This grand house was built by Captain Michael Coutanch, a Frenchman, in 1744. He served as town commissioner and Bath’s representative in the Assembly. In 1764 the house was purchased by Robert Palmer, Colonel of the Beaufort County militia. He was Surveyor General of the Colony, served in the Assembly and a member of the Governor’s Council. Governor Eden was said to reside there once as well as Rev. Alexander Stewart. The house was eventually purchased by Jonathan and Daniel Marsh in 1802 and remained in the Marsh family until 1915.
St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church
It is the oldest church building in existence in North Carolina. The Parish was created around 1701 with church construction beginning in 1734. Contrary to popular belief, the bricks were probably not shipped from England but were made locally from the excellent clay source. The structure was completed before 1740. The church was presented a pair of three-branch silver candelabra by King George II, circa 1740; it has a Bible printed in 1704 and a silver chalice given by the Bishop of London to Rev. John Garzia, circa 1739.

Queen Anne’s Bell
The bell was cast in 1732 and presented by the Queen whose name it bears and is eighteen years older than the Liberty Bell. It is housed outside the church on the south side and is still in use today.

Blackbeard
He is perhaps better known as Edward Teach. Many legends abound but it is a fact that he came into the local historical scene in 1717. He supposedly lived in Bath at times, as well as near Bath, at Plumb Point where his cellar was supposedly filled with his stolen goods. Tobias Knight, Secretary of State, was probably his partner and advisor. It is said that he married his thirteenth wife in Bath. Teach was killed by Lieut. Maynard at Ocracoke in 1718.

Tar Kettle
The pictured kettle was located in a field near the end of King Street, on the east side, near Back Creek. The Draper photos show examples of tar kettles located on local farms that were used in much earlier times. The kettles were needed to make tar and pitch necessary for weatherproofing, glue, and sealant-like substances. Draper placed the sign, as shown, on the kettle located within his farm in order to sell postcards. There is no actual proof that this kettle belonged to, or was ever used, by Edward Teach.

The Marion
This was a fifty-foot, gas powered, cargo boat, that capsized and sank on June 16, 1916 near Archbell’s Point. Four passengers drowned. It was on a run to Washington with a large load of potatoes.
Hurricane Hazel, October 1954
View of waves over bridge
Destruction of piers and oyster-crab house
SITES OF HISTORIC BATH TOWN 1705-1767

NOT TO SCALE

Wingate Reed
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