

FUQUAY-VARINA

FOOTPRINTS

OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3 DECEMBER 2013

MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

TOBACCO BARN DISMANTLED

Thanks to some super charged volunteers, the Friends of the Museums can report that the dismantling of the barn from its site near Greensboro was completed in one day, Saturday, November 9. Men swarmed over the structure intent on the removal process under the direction of Charles McLaurin. By dusk, all the tin, rafters, tier poles, and logs were on trucks and trailers and headed to their new home in Fuquay's Museums Park. Our pictures tell the story but certainly don't record all the individual efforts. The herculean task was truly intergenerational, involving an age range from not quite twenty to eighty-five.

President, Max Ashworth cooked hamburgers to feed the crew at lunch, augmenting their energy to perform a miraculous one-day accomplishment. Working all day were Charles, Eldred McLaurin, Dennis McLaurin, Arthur Johnson, Mike Jones, Bill Tingen, Dan Houck, Leon Phelps and Logan Whitley. With the machinery of Dan Houck, the surefootedness of Mike, Arthur, and Bill on top the barn, the nail pulling of Leon, the muscle and nimbleness of Logan in the bucket, and the careful labeling of Dennis and Eldred, with a bit of help from Ernest Simmons, all jobs were done without wasted effort.



Mike Jones, Bill Tinger and Eldred McLaurin began the dismantling.



Marking carefully made possible the reconstruction process.



The barn as it appeared when located near Greensboro.

SITE PREPARED PER PARK MASTER PLAN

Fuquay-Varina Parks and Recreation Department under Jonathan Cox prepared the site per our master plan which necessitated taking out one tree and some grading. McLaurin arranged for the footing to be dug and the foundation poured.

Masons were hired to lay the rock foundation using local field rocks from earlier barns.



First log must fit exactly on the rock foundation.



Front: Max Ashworth, Richard Larson, Cleveland Thames, Jimmy Keith, Steve Kish, Dewey Keith, Ken Lantz, Butch Woody, Charles McLauren, Jim Melvin

Back: Charlie Adcock, Elred McLauren, Dennis McLaurin, Mike Jones, Arthur Johnson, Steve Maynard

Not pictured: Gary McNeill, Leon Phelps, Bill Tingen, Marty Tart, Ernest Simmons, Donald Cotton

ONE DAY'S ACCOMPLISHMENT IN BARN RAISING

Twenty two men signed in to help with the tobacco barn raising on Saturday, November 23rd. When the day ended at 5:00 p.m. the barn was up including all the rafters in place. UNBELIEVABLE! What a fun day for all citizens who watched the progress and marveled at the agility of the workers up on top and the busy bee activities of those on the ground.

Why did 22 perfectly "sane" individuals give up a whole Saturday for this effort? Some of them were giving a second day, having worked to demolish and move the barn two weeks earlier. Between the two events, others had provided hours unloading, working with foundations, and collecting rocks.

Dewey Keith believes, "The barn represents the heritage of our area. People need to understand tobacco's financial impact and responsibility for the progress of our area." To him the barn is "a symbolic reminder of our past!"

Bill Tingen, working for the second day, declared, "It's part of growing up here in Fuquay. Tobacco ran our town for years. Every teen expected to be in the fields during the summer. Working was my chance to catch up with guys whom I hadn't seen in years." Bill's father, Harold Tingen, was a tobacco buyer for Austin Tobacco Company.

Leon Phelps was also contributing a second day's work. He quipped he was "just getting to know Charles McLaurin better." But he admitted that this project was, "Giving him experience in constructing or reconstructing a barn as well as giving him an opportunity to give back to his home town."

Mike Jones worked high on the top two days. In fact, Mike had previously given a number of days to the museums building a flag case and working on the playhouse. "My wife sends me away on Saturday," he declared.

Charles McLaurin, the mastermind of the tobacco barn project, cracked, "I don't know why I agreed. The jury is still out." Then on a serious note he admitted, "This brings back a lot of memories of growing up, sitting up at the barn all night to cure tobacco, checking every hour to be sure the fire was going and no leaves had fallen on the flues inside."

Charles understands this as a project to preserve history for the community. He has enlisted his brother, nephew, son-in-law, and grandsons as well as his wife and daughters!

Jimmy Keith first declared he just came "to bring his back hoe to help with the timbers." However, he later admitted that he, "Came to be of help like everyone else."

Max Ashworth, President of the Friends of the Museums, was again master chef for lunch. He says he is old enough to remember tobacco barning. His goal is, "Leaving a heritage for the younger generation." His appreciation was expressed to Charles and all the volunteers making this project possible!

Arthur Johnson, too, has given several days of work on the barn, playhouse and other projects. Brenda, Treasurer of the Friends, says she enlisted him. He is representative of appreciated husbands who support wives in their projects.

Individuals were enlisted from church friends, relatives, neighbors, and even Facebook!

Also, working today were: Stephen Kish, Richard Larson, Cleveland Thames, Gary McNeill, Steve Maynard, Jim Melvin, Marty Tart, Arthur Woody, Ernest Simmons, Charlie Adcock, Ken Larky, and Donald Cotton.

Special thank you's go to Dennis McLaurin and Elred McLaurin for two days of expertise! They seem to be able to anticipate problems before they even arise. All of these men felt it was important to "give something back to the community."

Four very young men enjoyed moving a sand pile, deciding it was fun to get really dirty. Then someone suggested they help paint roofing nails which proved to be even more messy fun. Thanks go to Keelan Tart, Colby Tart, James Adcock, and Graham Adcock who learned an early lesson in community service.

Food preparation and general assistance came from Brenda Johnson, Frances Senter, Orlean Newton, Cherry Santas, Betty Vaughan, Betty Tilley, Kim Senter, Polly Sheets, Pam McNeill, Sarah McLaurin, Crystal Robinson, and Shirley Simmons. Between registration, refreshment, observing, and photography, the ladies supplied a great "cheering section."

The barn construction will continue following Thanksgiving until the project is complete.

VISITORS CONTINUE TO COME

During the fall month, the museums have hosted two cub scout groups whose major focus is to learn how life has changed. Docents try to work with them to illustrate the difference between a two room school with students of all grades and their classrooms. Textbooks, punishments, writing, and rules are all compared.

The museums work with seventh grade students from Fuquay-Varina Middle School and their teachers, Vicki Powell and Shirley Dunn, to give them a local history lesson.

Most of them do not even realize that we have museums. To help them concentrate a "Trivia Quiz" is provided for them to work in teams of two students. When their tour of the Centennial Museum, the Ballentine School House and the Fuquay Springs Post Office is completed, their quiz is checked and prizes are awarded to the winners.



Helping Mrs. Simmons provide tours for FVMS were: Betty Vaughan, Kim Johnson, Donald Cotton, Polly Sheets, and Dot Mays. All these docents are experienced teachers who take delight in working with student groups.

NEW ACCESSIONS FOR OUR MUSEUM COLLECTION

The *Independent* begun by Todd Caldwell in 1935 closed in 2013. The museums is delighted to be the repository for this collection. Unbound issues from 1935-1947 are being processed and stored safely. Bound volumes exist from 1947-2010 with the exception of 1948 and 1953. From 2010 the issues are stored on discs.

Already the staff has been honoring requests for research. Much previously undocumented information has already been noted.

The Fuquay Springs Quester Chapter # 1134 has worked with Shirley to accession this collection. Special thanks should go to Betty Vaughan, Fran Baggs, Polly Sheets and Betsy Gunter for hours of volunteer time. Additionally, the Questers will begin trying to accession a picture collection from the *Independent* in work sessions.

With the acquisition of the tobacco barn, other artifacts have been donated. We have acquired an original cone of tobacco twine, the top to a hoghead, two dollies used in the warehouses to move tobacco, and a burlap tobacco sheet.

The small playhouse has encouraged several donations of children's toys which will be displayed when that building is opened.

The heirs to the Rawls Estate have donated the uniform, shoes, hats, and artifacts of Henry Rawls used in his many years working with Little League Baseball. When space allows, these will be worked into an interesting display. Several other artifacts have been given from the Rawls family in addition.

Added to our uniforms from the FVFD, we have acquired the turn out uniform of T. C. O'Connell. This will be added to the other uniforms already displayed.

Lastly, the teenagers of Fuquay autographed the basement walls of Dr. Wiley Cozart's recreation room. The new owners have graciously saved these sliding doors and given them to be displayed when space allows.

BOARD OF FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS 2014

President:	Donald Cotton
Vice President:	Larry Bennett
Secretary:	Orlean Newton
Treasurer:	Brenda Johnson
At Large Members:	Eleanor Stephenson Alton Prevatte
Past President:	Max Ashworth
Town Commissioner:	Charlie Adcock
Volunteer Director:	Shirley Simmons

Please give them your support by joining the Friends of the Museums.

Memberships:
\$10 individual
\$25 Family
\$250 Lifetime

Mail to: P. O. Box 2034

Several individuals have made generous donations to the museums. The Friends use funding from memberships, donations and sales for operations.

The cost of the displays in the jail cells, the materials to preserve the *Independent*, and the building of the tobacco barn have all been funded from 2013.

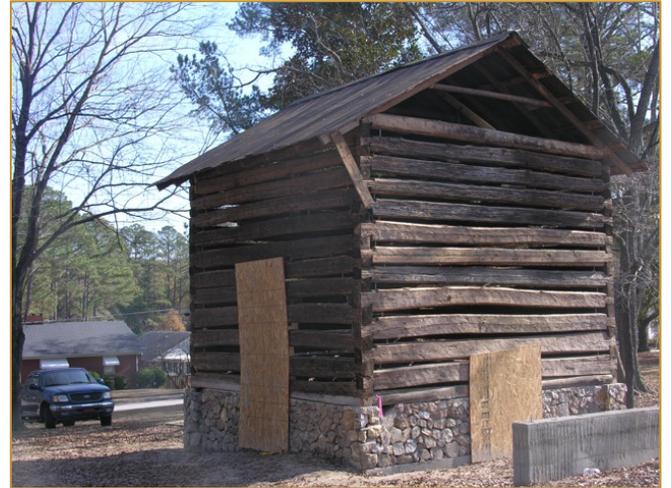
Research by the staff is ongoing. Wells Fargo Bank requested pictures and information for the mural in their new facility on Broad Street. Individuals make personal requests as well.

The staff is seeking a new PC and a copier to facilitate this research and to work on accessioning all the collection.

BONUS BARN PROJECT PHOTOS



Mike Jones, Arthur Johnson, & Elhred McLaurin debate roof



Roof complete



Mike & Arthur place roofing tin



Furnace underway



Power washing the barn



Roofing crew