

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

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MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

MUSEUMS AT WORK

TOBACCO BARN

Our tobacco barn moved last fall now has the gable ends completed and the shelter bones attached. Thanks to Mike Jones, Arthur Johnson and Charles McLauren, work resumed after the cold winter and rainy spring.

Parks and Recreation removed the old playground which was near the barn, replacing it with new modern equipment.

Visitors now have a bit more space in the park and the barn will not be crowded.

The town will be providing sidewalks and lighting for this portion of the park during the coming year.



Working on the tobacco barn are: Charles McLauren (left) with Arthur Johnson holding a piece while Mike Jones (on ladder) takes measurements.



Parks & Rec Director, Jonathan Cox, had his department remove the old rusty playground and install this state-of-the-art equipment in the museums/library park.



The barn sports the framework for the shelter. The gable ends are now complete and the entire structure awaits chinking next.

ARTIST FEATURED

During the Art After Dark event scheduled for June 13, 2014, the Museums features art pieces donated to the museums by Kaye Howard Cloniger.

Kaye, who grew up in Fuquay-Varina, is the daughter of former Mayor Bruce Howard and the granddaughter of Varina Depot Agent, J. E. Brown.

She has been most generous with her art. She and her sister, Betty Bruce Howard Hoover, have provided many artifacts from their family to the museums.

SENIOR VISITORS

The museums staff calls your attention to two senior groups who have taken tours of the museums. Carillon Assisted Living toured the three buildings with Shirley Simmons. Following the museums, the group brought their picnic lunch to the Mineral Spring Park where they were given the history of the spring and area. They completed their day with a narrated bus tour of Fuquay-Varina where they learned the history, saw the commercial districts, viewed the schools and churches, saw the existing warehouses, and much more. Of special interest were the three fires of downtown Fuquay and the rail junction in Varina.



Carillon Assisted Living Activities Director, Nicole Young, (back left) arranged for this group of residents to enjoy a guided tour with Shirley Simmons.



The lady (foreground) at "ninety three years" was the most energetic of the Carillon residents on tour.

The second senior group was the Smiling Age Club of Raleigh. They enjoyed a nostalgic visit recounting tobacco farming, old schools, spinning wheels, pump organs, train travel, and doctor's visits. A few even admitted hearing of, if not visiting, a jail. Following their tour, they enjoyed lunch at Joyce and Family. Orlean Newton discovered, while helping conduct the tour, that one of the visitors was the sister of her college roommate. What a small world we find sometimes!

Senior Groups are encouraged to contact the museums. Buildings are handicapped accessible. Bus tours can be planned to cater to all interests and time frames.

CABOOSE

The Friends of the Museums have visited or viewed four different possible cabooses for the park. No conclusion has been made at this date. Contingent upon prices, moving costs, and projected work to be done, the task is proving to be lengthy. A decision involves whether to use one with bay window or one with cupola. Another decision involves whether to move it via rail or via truck.

Our most important decision is which caboose projects the best financial arrangement from purchasing, moving, refinishing, and displaying. Finally, the board must decide whether there is any historical significance to consider among the available cars.

The Friends will be happy to receive any further contributions to the caboose fund. Mail to P. O. Box 2034 or drop a donation off at the museums.

PLAYHOUSE FURNISHINGS

The Needmore Ruritan Club has taken the Johnson Playhouse as a project. As they are able, the building will be repaired and made ready so that it can be furnished with children's toys. The museums are still interested in a table/chairs and book shelves for the playhouse.

HISTORIC ENGINE VISITS TOWN

Did you see the Norfolk Southern engine when it visited Fuquay? Norfolk Southern held an association meeting in Fayetteville and brought this special engine from Raleigh through Fuquay. Several people have reported that they brought their children. Others said they were not able to view the engine while it was standing near our depot. If you missed it, here it is!

Norfolk & Southern came to Fuquay Springs in 1911.

Later it was Southern, then back to Norfolk Southern of today. Tim Carroll, our chief railroad contributor, gave us a heads up on this visit.



Norfolk Southern Engine as it was parked overnight on rail behind Cooleys.

DOCENTS

Three new docents have been trained and have worked in the museums. Barbara Bailey and Karen Rowe are new Quester members. Almost all the Questers are trained and working as docents. The third new docent is Sonia Webb. Sonia is volunteering weekly and doing much of the filing or pictures.

Fran Baggs, Polly Sheets, Dot Mays, Donald Cotton, Betty Vaughan, Frances Tindal and Shirley Simmons have given many hours to student tours this fall and winter. All are former teachers and enjoy student questions. Student tours usually have a theme and these docents can tailor the tour to fit their needs.

Nineteen docents worked during the June 7th festival. From the comments of all of them, these visitors were very interested and fun with whom to work. The Stars Theater allowed a number of their young actors to help the museums with passing out brochures along Main Street and helped to direct visitors to S. Fuquay Avenue.

Kudos to: Betty Vaughan, Michael Bub, Fran Baggs, Barbara Bailey, Burt Holland, Betsy Gunter, Kim Johnson, Pam Booker, Gail Woolard, Orlean Newton, James Stephens, Polly Sheets, Martha Moore, Jean Seabrook, Sonia Webb, Donald Cotton, Dot Mays, Frances Senter, and Shirley Simmons.

ACCESSIONS

Among our latest we give you a sample:

- A tobacco notebook with pictures and information, a metal horse for stringing, a rack for sticks..... We are still hoping for our tobacco

sled, a basket, barn thermometer, more sticks, some wood which would have been used in the furnaces ...& more

- A 1929-30 scrapbook of the Varina Woman's Club (the oldest written information on the club)
- A family genealogy and pictures of the Tom Stevens family
- A notebook from the Lynwood Stephensons
- An annual from Fuquay Consolidated High School (we would like to acquire more issues of this annual)
- A printer/copier/scanner, fax
- A sign from the Fuquay Lions Club
- A doll (dressed in simplicity pattern)
- A copy of Peter Rabbit (printed for Parker Furniture)

Contact Shirley Simmons at the museums if you have artifacts to donate.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

Research has been done for the commercial marker project which is getting underway with Naomi Riley and James Spidle.

The museums staff welcomed an adult artist for En Plein Air to our park from the Downtown Revitalization Program.



The Fuquay Varina Arts Council planned the young

artists program during En Plein Air for the museums park. The staff enjoyed helping them locate blooming shrubs and plants and encouraging them in their efforts.



We did not ask for names or other details but found several works quite impressive. With our interest in students, we salute the Arts Council for this innovation.

HISTORIC VARINA TOUR

The Friends of the Museums were delighted to lend support and assistance to the Fuquay Springs Questers for their annual historic homes marker project. This will work into guided tours from the museums for visitors. Eventually the museums will be the repository of the histories of these buildings.

The Fuquay Springs Quester Chapter # 1134 found that the Historic Varina Homes Tour was a monumental occasion for the owners and for the former owners and residents of Ennis and Broad Streets. In the words of one grandson of an original home owner, "I did not think I would like it, but it was so much fun. We saw some folks we hadn't seen in over 40 years."

The general conclusion was that all the grandmothers and mothers would have been pleased with the event and with showcasing their homes. While the former residents felt that Varina was special, the tour reinforced that with everyone.

Among the family participants were: Anne Clark Dahle, Lynn Stephenson Davis, Bob Stephens, Wray Stephens, Anne Perry, Ramona Weaver, Donna Johnson, Jewel Stephens, David Stephens, Rhonda Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Mary Paul Thomas, Rick Mullen, Cris Mullen, Dr. Teresa Thomas Birchard, Renee Averette, Donnie Averette, Donald Averette, Willa Adcock Akins, and

Briant Cotten. Many others contributed information and assistance in compiling histories.

The Historic Homes of Varina date from circa 1910-1936. The oldest appears to be a seven room house on Broad Street, lived in by J. E. Brown before being purchased by Lot Howell, while the 10 room T. H. Stephenson House, on Ennis Street dates from 1912.



T. H. Stephenson House

The Varina Presbyterian Church, now Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian Church dates from 1913.



Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian Church

The youngest of the buildings are the Wayland Stevens Home and the Varina Woman's Clubhouse (now Fuquay-Varina WC) both built in 1936. We have just learned from the Independent that the Woman's Clubhouse was begun in September, 1936, to be finished in one month at a cost of \$1500.

Gail Amos Woolard prepared an interesting drawing of Historic Varina which has been given to the museums collection. Visitors will be able to appreciate the area known as "Varina." Although there was a plot for a proposed town of Varina drawn up by the original owner of the area, B. G. Ennis, the town never materialized.



Three generations of Stephens

When Fuquay Springs was incorporated in 1909, the town limits were from Main to Railroad Street and from Spring to Jones Street. With the coming of the railroads and their junction and the decision of the Post Office to allow the re-use of the name Varina for another post office near the depot, the area grew. Eventually, Fuquay Springs annexed the Broad and Ennis Street area into the town. Not until 1963, however, was the town renamed Fuquay-Varina.

The Questers will be working on the order for markers by mid-summer. Meantime, persons who might wish to contribute are invited to do so. Send donations to: Fuquay Springs Questers, designated "Marker Project." The Questers are a nonprofit and all funds will be applied to the purchase of markers. Mail to the Questers at P.O. Box 595. The Museums will also be happy to receive your donations and pass them along to the Questers.

While many of these homes do not qualify for the National Register of Historic Homes, they do belong in the Fuquay-Varina Historic Homes Register. While our town is not as old as many, Questers believe that the preservation of our history is a worthy goal. The Friends of the Museums applaud the efforts of the chapter.

QUESTERS ARE WORKER BEES

Members of the Fuquay Springs Questers have spent a number of days working to identify the collection of

photographs from the Independent. There are many laughs as these ladies try to remember names, find the names in annuals, family histories, or even within the museum displays.

Following the identification, photographs are placed in envelopes awaiting accessioning. These become a part of our archival collection. When completed, the staff will be able to provide copies and eventually the collection may be available on-line.

To date, we have identified and filed some 400 photographs and anticipate that we may have another 400. Persons who might enjoy helping with identification are welcome to contact the museums staff.

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL TOUR

The museums conducted three days of tours for the third graders from Lafayette School. Teacher, Judy Bub, who is also a docent at the museums, arranged the visits. Docents Dot Mays, Betty Vaughan, and Fran Baggs gave guided tours of the buildings. Shirley Simmons, Director of the Museums, finished the event by stepping on their bus and taking them on a narrated bus tour of the town. Stops at the mineral spring and Varina Station were incorporated. Unwinding from all the "historical talk", students enjoyed a picnic in the "historic" pavilion at Falcon Park.



Students follow their scheduled assignments to visit the Post Office, School House, Doctor's Office and Jail Cells.

Comments from Lafayette Third Graders

"We enjoyed learning about our town's history, especially the bus tour through town. That was a big hit."

- Amy Heston, Teacher

"My favorite thing was the jail because I liked the uniforms. The jail cell and beds were cool."

- Mallory

"It was cool that the high school that was near the park was the first one in Fuquay."

- Makayla

"I snuck a peek into a book on the desk. The school house was cool."

- James

"I liked when we got to sit in the desks and take peeks into the books. I also liked when I learned there were no lights and the warmth was the fire. That was super fun."

- Willow

"Thank you for doing the bus tour. I had a fun time doing that bus tour."

- Kaylee

"I wrote this long letter just for you wonderful people. I personally love you all and I am getting my family to go there soon."

- Reagan

"I learned that if you got in trouble you would get lashes."

- Ryan

"My second favorite was going to the dentist because the tools look cool."

- Natalie

Other comments:

"I learned that when a train goes north it picks up the north mail. If it was going south, it would pick up the south mail."

I did not know that until then that Fuquay-Varina was called Fuquay Springs."

"I liked seeing the typewriters work. It was cool cause they did not have a delete button."

DOGWOOD DEDICATION AT SQUIRE BALLENTINE SCHOOLHOUSE

The Fuquay-Varina Garden Club dedicated the dogwood they had donated and planted at the Squire Ballentine School House in the Museums Complex on April 25, 2014.

The tree replaced one which Frances remembers being between the yards of the Ashworth Family and The Doughtry Family.

The original tree was there at least as far back at the building of the municipal building and removal of the Doughtry house. The new white and pink dogwood will be known as the Ashworth Dogwood.



From left to right: Frances Senter with daughters Fran Senter Baggs, Kim Senter Johnson

President Bev McDougall read prepared dedication remarks, citing the history of Frances' involvement with the relocation of the school house to the present site and the raising of funds by the Questers to furnish and open the building as a museum.

Frances was a Charter member of the Garden Club when it was organized in 2007 by the Woman's Club Conservation Department. She continues to serve as a docent for the museums and works with the Questers on collections and preservation.

The Friends of the Museums have placed a plaque inside the building as a permanent reminder of the dedication, dated Arbor Day, 2014.

The plaque joins one honoring Joanna Proctor who first worked for the acquisition and was a Quester. They flank the list of donors and grants to the school house over time.

Mayor Byrne, Commissioners Wunsch and Adcock, and sister, Molly Ashworth Stephenson, joined Frances and Bev in the official dedication photo. Two daughters, Kim Johnson and Fran Baggs as well as several Ashworth nephews supported Frances on this special day.



From left to right: Frances Ashworth Senter, the Honoree, Mayor John Byrne, Beverly McDougall, President of the FV Garden Club, Mollie Ashworth Stephenson, Sister of Frances, Commissioners Adcock and Wunsch.

Following the dedication, the Garden Club invited everyone inside for refreshments just as the storm rolled in. All the guests enjoyed tea and cookies while congratulating Frances and thanking her for her inspirational efforts.

JAZZ AND JULEPS ON THE TERRACE

Carillon Assisted Living on Johnson Pond Road sponsored a fundraising event for the Friends of the Museums on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The terrace was a lovely sunny location complete with music provided by a jazz trio.



Staff of Carillon posed for a picture during Jazz and Juleps.

Mint juleps served to remind all of southern grace and society, but it was the tall strawberry cake which topped all compliments. Carillon staff members greeted guests. Under the watchful eye of Barbara Patterson, Public Relations, everyone was entertained royally.



Willa Adcock and Martha Weaver enjoy the refreshments.

Volunteer Director of the Museums, Shirley Simmons thanked Carillon and all the attendees for their support of the Fuquay-Varina Museums. Mayor John Byrne recapped the history of the park and detailed some of the goals for preservation of our town's heritage.



Some of the attendees at Jazz and Juleps. Foreground: Friends of the Museums Board members, Al Prevatte and Orlean Burton Newton.

Winners of the drawing for flower arrangements were Pam Booker and Joan McAndrews. The big raffle winner was none other than Mayor Byrne. Patty will be the proud recipient of beautiful green pottery platter.

Clearly, the CABOOSE FUND was the primary prize winner with more than \$800 in contributions.