

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 12 JUNE 2016

MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

FREEDOM BALLOON FESTIVAL MUSEUMS PARTICIPATION



Balloons fill the sky and fields as they search out landing sites.

Docents signed up on Memorial Day to showcase our Fuquay-Varina Museums at the Freedom Balloon Festival. Opening on May 28, Saturday was deemed a success! We enjoyed visits from guests from New Jersey to China. While not a "flood" of visitors, we did have a steady flow of persons throughout the buildings.



Honor bagpiper at presentation of wreath in flag field.

Sunday, May 29 was a very different story for us as well as the entire festival events. Docents gave tours to less than one-half dozen visitors; however, we "caught up" on visiting with each other!

We acknowledge the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club for their hostess table out front with cookies and water and "welcome." Their poster by Martha Smallwood remains an on-going drawing.

FUNDRAISER FOR
THE WOMAN'S CLUB:

Scholarships

THE MUSEUM:

NS 375 Caboose



1-Ticket for a DONATION.

Our special thanks to: Betty Vaughan, Pam Booker, Mollie Stephenson, Donald Cotton, Kim Johnson, Orlean Newton, Sonia Webb, James Stephens, Dot Mays, Diane Schurr, Bryant Tyndall, Al Prevatte, Mike Bub, Judy Bub, Debbie Semple, Martha Moore, Dan Turner, Davis Fields, Gail Woolard, and Shirley Simmons for "hours" of service!

Such a dedicated group of volunteers makes our museums a joy! Clearly, here our volunteers pointed with pride to our TREASURE: the Fuquay-Varina Museums!

MUSEUMS DECLARE FIRST HERITAGE DAY GREAT SUCCESS

The Friends of the Museums and the FV Parks and Recreation Department received very enthusiastic praise from the public who participated in our first Heritage Day on May 14th. Held at Ashworth Park, the dozen local participants found the adults to be interested and the children to be eager learners.

Earl Butz outdid himself with his peach and pineapple cobbler and his beef stew. David Haywood wowed visitors with his spinning wheel while Betty Haywood gave details on bobbin lace making.

Sandy Anastasio helped children make baskets or watch the process. Dona Barton and Diane Lunchick had a carved animal for each child to take home after the listened to the carving process.



Auctioneer Roy B. Talley displays his talent encouraged by Al Prevatte.

Roy Talley, master of auctioneering, worked with Al Prevatte to simulate a tobacco auction for the crowd. Mark Manriquez showed off working with old tools beside his friend, Kirt Jarrett who operated a small blacksmith on site.

Judy Stephenson and Hilda Manriquez allowed everyone to try their hand at wood burning and inspired visitors to press and dry flowers for cards and bookmarks. The Willow Bees led by Ann Hull, who gave the Centennial Quilt to the museums in 2009, returned to display their skills to all visitors.

The "Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine" exhibit led by Bryan Avery brought quite a production. "Pitch black," "The devil to pay," and "between the devil and the deep blue sea" became expressions with definite meaning to North Carolina naval stores history.



The Tar Mound in which pitch and turpentine are burned off.

Commissioner Jason Wunch braved his wool outfit as a member of the presentation. The museums will have a copy of the book on "Naval Stores" for those who would like to bone up on plank roads, pine lightard, shipping turpentine down freshet rivers to Wilmington and even the early railroad network of eastern North Carolina. Tar Heels: North Carolina's Forgotten Economy: Pitch, Tar, Turpentine & Longleaf Pines edited by Kent Wrench speaks to our area of Wake County, too.

Mr. Utley, sometimes postmaster at Old Shop near Five Points, actually paid a large tax bill for his turpentine as evidenced by our original copy of his receipt in 1867.



Bryan Avery entralls the crowd with his lore about "Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine." The Naval Stores industry of N.C. was extensive because of our long-leaf pine forests.

The crowd enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs with all the "fixings" prepared by Old North State Caterers. The Friends are greatly indebted to Chris Wrenn for this event. Someone declared it to be "the best hamburger ever."

Again, many visitors could not believe the extent of our museums collection! Docents had a steady stream of eager listeners in our four buildings. An additional attraction was provided by Ben Harris, master sculptor of the park's "Ghost Farmers." Quite the artist, he can weld metal into anything from cowboy with gun to butterfly. The museums were delighted to showcase his work on Friday night and Saturday.

Pictures of this article courtesy of Town of Fuquay-Varina and Melissa Champion.

TRAIN RIDE ACCLAIMED BY ALL

The Friends of the Museums were overwhelmed by the efforts of the New Hope Valley Railway in providing a benefit train ride for our Norfolk Southern Caboose # 375. The public response was gratifying, too. The ride netted \$2303 for the restoration of the caboose!



April 16, dawned a beautiful day! Bright sunshine, plenty of parking, 250 seats on the train, and a delightful train crew created an unforgettable experience for adults and children.



The small miniature track and train outside the NHV Railway enthralled the children before they boarded the actual train. On board, the narration by the crew gave us a feel for railroading along the old Norfolk Southern Line. Open cars allowed us an unrestricted view of the countryside.

Occurring in conjunction with the Norfolk & Southern Historical Society Meeting in town, this added to our experience. We enjoyed giving a tour to these enthusiastic participants as they viewed our artifacts and told their tales of trains, cars, and depots.



The museums acquired two books: Dr. Carey Poole's *Durham & Southern Railway* and Dale Diacont's *Steel Rails Across East Carolina* for our collection. Edward Fielding donated an original blueprint of the Durham and Southern line with right-of-way maps and information. All these become part of our archival resources.



Our appreciation goes to Tim Carroll and Rob Rouseau (two Friends of the Museums) for their work with the NS Historical Society and the New Hope Valley Railway to make these experiences possible.

Interested persons are encouraged to continue to patronize the New Hill group by following: www.trianglettrain.com as they plan programs and special rides each month. Brochures are available in the museums.

ASHWORTH HISTORIC PARK TODAY

Entitled "Ghost Farmers," the work by Ben Harris enjoys a premium place in Ashworth Historic Park. The Fuquay-Varina Garden Club donated plants for the planter surrounding the sculpture. The tobacco barn depicting the tobacco farm is nearby.



The Town of Fuquay-Varina contracted with Duke Energy to provide appropriate lighting for the Ashworth Park. It is worth a visit at night to see the lights and the "ghost farmers" as they float above the walkways.



ART AFTER DARK

The Friends of the Museums cooperate with the Fuquay-Varina Arts Council on each second Friday night in the "Art After Dark" event. Certainly, the museums would welcome greater participation by the public as we plan the event for each month. The council is actively promoting artists at Centennial Square but our Ashworth Park is also worthy of a visit each event.

May Event: Featured artist: Ben Harris

Ben Harris provided quite a display of his works for May 13, Art After Dark. Working with discarded metal parts and unusual pieces of metal, the artist can produce almost anything. Here he displays several pieces for Docent, Sonia Webb. Harris can be commissioned to do special pieces of very creative design.



Parks and Recreation worked hard to complete the park for the May 13 Art After Dark Event and the Heritage Day. Ashworth Historic Park is quite the showplace as a result of the efforts of the town employees.



Tony Smith, town employee, worked late.

The teaching circle features grass sod. The areas of planting all are mulched. Grass seed is broadcast over all the bare spots. All limbs, trash, and trimming of trees and shrubs was completed for May 14th.

Note another of the pieces displayed by Ben Harris for both days. This piece has been displayed in a public library in Wake County.

April Event: David and Betty Haywood

Local collectors of art, Betty and David Haywood were the featured program for "Art After Dark" on April 8 at the museums. Having worked and lived in Germany and other parts of Europe, this couple has a wonderful collection of pieces which they brought home. While overseas, they were proprietors of a gift shop and they still retain many wonderful pieces.



JOHNSON PLAYHOUSE NOW HAS A RAMP

The little log playhouse, moved to the park in 2014, has been patiently waiting to see how we would/could show it to the public. It was excited to receive new chinking on the outside when we did the tobacco barn and to have its logs sprayed with preservative by Charles McLauren and volunteers. Then it had to endure another two years awaiting a walkway location to determine just how a ramp could be constructed to its front door.



Eggs display overlooked by docent, Gail Woolard

The overwhelming display on April 8 was "eggs." These are used in Europe much as we use "plastic eggs" to house candy but these European Eggs are so much grander.

Children must love receiving candy in these colorful pieces. The art work on each is perfectly positioned to follow the elliptical orb. Some of their collection is quite old; others more recently produced.

Other features were books on decorated eggs. Cut out paper pieces were equally impressive. Finally egg cozies of multiple types were displayed. Ranging from simple crocheted pieces to actual figures these are used to cover boiled or poached eggs to keep them warm for the table.



Well, wait no longer! The ramp is built and a wonderful cooperative effort it was! Arthur Johnson, Mike Jones, Rick Russell, Steve Kish and Ken Lantz were the major forces behind the hammers and saws. BUT before they could do their thing, Jim Jones and some of Fuquay's finest firemen loaned their muscle to digging holes for

the pilings. Ernest Simmons contributed an auger which the youthful fight fighters put to good use along with shovels. Even Arthur's two young grandsons got into the act with their grandmother, Brenda.



More work awaits as we now can get into the playhouse to strip holes, restore some chinking and fix the threshold.

Arthur Johnson will work on electric power for the inside and Rick Russell will get the ramp stained at the proper time and the interior work completed. Some touch up painting and chinking will be necessary. The staff is working on preparing displays and appropriate furnishings.



No definite date has been set but "sooner rather than later," all the doll house furniture and toys which we have been storing into corners and cabinets can go to their permanent display site. We will give recognition to

those donors when the task is completed.



Hettie and Connie Johnson were the small owners of the childhood attraction built by their dad, Woodrow Johnson, and a store worker. Their memories and pictures will be displayed in the finished building.

Visitors will be allowed to look into the small room. Docents will develop a story to interpret the playhouse and its contents for visitors. A treasure is nearing preservation!



VISITORS TO THE MUSEUMS DURING MAY

Willow Springs students came to visit two separate days in May. Bringing their parents and teachers, the second graders were interested in the tobacco barn, tried out the jail cells, and were not sure about the "hickory stick" in

the school house. Their goals, to experience the past were realized as they visited our school, post office, and old doctor's office.

Their goal to learn about town government came with a visit to town hall with the supplement of a visit to a town facility, Ashworth Historic Park.



The Girl Scouts who work with the F. V. Woman's Club under Kim Breivogal and Jen Fortunato arranged a special tour as their May meeting.

These high school students were encouraged to utilize the archival resources and to study the history of Fuquay-Varina through our museums collections.



Parks and Recreation scheduled a visit by their contingent of Seniors who regularly meet at the Community Center.

Only one person seemed to have been "native" to the area, so they requested a special presentation of the History of Fuquay-Varina by director, Shirley Simmons. Twenty-five strong, they asked many questions and were anxious to view and understand their adopted home town's history.



These are three wonderful examples of the types of special tours which the staff is happy to schedule. The public days continue to draw some visitors on Wednesday afternoons, too. Many families are bringing in relatives and parents who come to visit here.

Art After Dark – July

Join the Museums for a special reading of "Gracie" by local author Laura Grace Wunsch on Friday, July 8 from 5pm-7pm. Reading times: 5:00-5:30, 5:45-6:15, and 6:30-7:00.

Museum tours from 5:00pm-7:00.

Follow Us On Facebook

Did you know that the Museums have two Facebook pages?

You can find information about the Museums at <https://www.facebook.com/fuquayvarinamuseums>

You can find information about the Caboose at: <https://www.facebook.com/NS375>



Rural Economic Development
COMMERCE

PAT MCCRORY
Governor

JOHN E. SKVARLA, III
Secretary

December 16, 2015

Friends of the Museums of Fuquay-Varina
Board of Directors
121 South Fuquay Avenue
Fuquay-Varina, N.C. 27526

Dear Board of Directors:

I am pleased to inform you that Fuquay-Varina Downtown Association has designated the Friends of the Museums of Fuquay-Varina Board of Directors as its 2015 North Carolina Main Street Champion. For this special honor, each Main Street community was given the opportunity to select an individual, couple, civic organization, business partnership or government entity that has made a significant contribution this year to the success of the local downtown. Designation as a Main Street Champion recognizes the efforts of those individuals who have been instrumental in downtown revitalization, and this is our tribute to you in appreciation of all your hard work and dedication.

Champions will be individually recognized and presented with a certificate commemorating this honor at a special morning social hour and program at the NC Main Street Conference in Goldsboro on Friday, March 18, 2016. The social will begin at 8:00 a.m., with the program starting at 8:30. In February, you will receive a formal invitation to this event. We hope you will attend. The invitation will include a response card to indicate your attendance and that of any others that you would like to have present that morning.

The N.C. Department of Commerce will distribute a statewide press release announcing the list of champions for publication on March 18. After the Commerce press release is distributed, it would then be appropriate for Fuquay-Varina Downtown Association to offer more details via a press release, social media or other means about what the Main Street Champion designation means to the local Main Street program and the cause of downtown revitalization. In addition, official award photographs will be taken by the conference photographer at the breakfast and will be available to you the week of March 21.

Again, congratulations and we hope to see you in Goldsboro.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Parham, CMSM
Director, NC Main Street Center

cc: Naomi Riley

Nothing Compares™

Reading by local author

Ashworth Historic Park at the FV Museums

July 8,
2016



5:00-5:30 pm
5:45-6:15 pm
6:30-7:00 pm

Three
Reading
Times



Book Cover by author/illustrator

Laura Grace Wunsch

Tour museums while you wait or after the reading
Parents, Grandparents, Children choose time you prefer