

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

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MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

HERITAGE DAY SUCCESSFUL

The Friends of the Museums partnered with FV Parks and Recreation again in bringing Heritage Day to Ashworth Park on May 6, 2017. Docents and Friends of the Museums worked hard to create something for everyone to enjoy!

Preserving our past was also the mission of the Fuquay Springs Chapter # 1134 members who serve as staff at the museums.

Parks and Recreation spruced up the park with new mulch, clean up and providing the mound to be used by "Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine" specialist, Bryan Avery and crew.



This demonstration of the colonial industry of Naval Stores provided much interest for visitors again.

Handling a piece of resin, seeing how tar was used to seal wooden ships, and noting how turpentine could be secured from a mound of burning fat light wood were educational events.

The museums have a record of turpentine taxes paid by Mr. Utley in the late 1800's on his pine forests near Five Points as proof of the local practice of this industry.

A major addition this year was the "Old Timey Games" for children. Questers, docents, and scouts demonstrated these for children.

In a scavenger hunt game situation, children could actually try their hand at some ten games.

Brenda Johnson showed the church doll and gave many away to girls. Arthur Johnson made hula hoops which children could actually use.



Larry Summerlin played his "Can Jo" one stringed instrument. Both children and adults learned how to play a tune.



Diane Lunchick gave away small wood carvings of animals which skill she demonstrated to all.



Debbie Semple had her "Singing Buttons" in production in one room of the school house while Cherry Santas worked to teach how to play "Jack Rocks."



Julia Yeargan helped children produce large bubbles from a homemade soap concoction. Diane Schurr enlisted children and parents in making the "Cat's Cradle" and climbing "Jacob's Ladder."

Curt Lunchick enlisted his troop of Boy Scouts who showed children how to shoot marbles and how to make whimmy diddles.

Hidden away in the doctor's office, was Gail Woolard with "Pick Up Sticks." Outside on the walkway, Kim Johnson had children enjoying "hopscotch."

Children took their parents through the museums and park as they searched for and participated in the games.

Demonstrations of early crafts included: David Haywood turned a large spinning wheel; Betty Haywood made bobbin lace; Hilda Manriquez wove baskets while Mark Manriquez created small animals at the blacksmith forge; Doris McGlothlin showed wonderful punch needle crafts; and Ann Hull and Carey Mauget displayed lovely hand-made quilts.



Several times the tobacco auctioneer's chant rang out from the barn where Roy B. Talley reenacted his life time profession.

An extremely popular craft was the outdoor cooking done by Glenn Traylor, District Scout Commander and other leaders.



The bubbling pot of stew hanging from a tripod of poles was welcome on the chilly day and the peach cobbler was the perfect dessert after the family enjoyed hot dogs or hamburgers cooked by Old North State Catering.



A new attraction was the enthusiastic presentation by Model A. owners from Tar Wheels A. Ashley Bass and Kyle Kinton proudly display their cars and answered countless questions.



The newest building to open was the Johnson Playhouse. Thanks to volunteers Ken Lantz, Stephen Kish, and Arthur Johnson, this little building was opened for limited viewing. Since it was moved to the park, the staff has been accessioning toys and other contributions to furnish the playhouse.

On Heritage Day, itself, Freddie Hill visited, went home and brought two dolls and a book which were much enjoyed by the children.

On Monday, May 8, Betty Bruce Howard Hoover donated the promised "Tea Set" which will become a regular feature in the playhouse.

The Friends plan that Heritage Day with some theme will become an annual spring event held at the museums in Ashworth Park.

JOHNSON PLAYHOUSE OPENS

When the Town of Fuquay-Varina acquired the Woodrow Johnson House above the Fuquay Mineral Spring, a tiny log playhouse stood behind the house. It had weathered many years, been overrun by shrubbery, and become a storage house for old lumber and windows.

The town agreed in 2016 that the museums could move the building to the park and the eventual furnishing of the playhouse with toys of the past became our dream. A story board interprets the history of the family and building as our fifth museum in Ashworth Park.



This small log playhouse was built by druggist Woodrow Johnson for his daughter Hettie. Even Hettie was not sure just when the building began but she believed she was about six years old.



Moving day by Ben Slaughter: Spring Park to Ashworth Park.

Johnson wired the playhouse with electricity and included a small heater. The neighborhood children enjoyed the spot during the 1950's and 1960's.



Volunteers work to get playhouse repaired and restored.

History works in wondrous ways when on Heritage Day, Willa Adcock informed us that her senior superlative

picture was made at the playhouse in May of 1952. At that point the area of the playhouse does not include any shrubs but the building is well established at the back of the Johnson House. Therefore, our guess of Circa 1950 appears to be accurate.



Inside the playhouse a collection of toys are displayed. These date from the 1950's into the 1980's. The latest of these came on Heritage Day, when a visitor, Freddie Hill, brought us Goldilocks and Little Red Riding Hood with special "secrets" which are revealed by docents leading tours. Since Heritage Day, a tea set has been donated by Betty Bruce Howard Hoover.



Inside the playhouse, a major doll created by Frances Goddard awaits with many others.

The small door is not handicapped accessible; however, viewing from the door is provided. New caulking in the windows, fresh paint, and new wiring were courtesy of volunteers, Stephen Kish, Ken Lantz, and Arthur Johnson. We are still awaiting some volunteers who want to paint the ramp.

As a visitor remarked, "every little girl dreamed of such a playhouse." All visitors will enjoy this addition to the museums. Docents will be prepared to share the old toys and their history with children of all ages.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN # 375 SHOWS PROGRESS

Before and after pictures of our Norfolk Southern Caboose # 375 show remarkable progress by project manager, Tim Carroll and volunteers. Here are some scenes of the many hours of work involved.



When the caboose first arrived, it looked like this.



Finally the original red has been completed.

Here are the workmen most responsible for these changes.



The welder



The Painters

Work has been done on windows, doors, and steps.

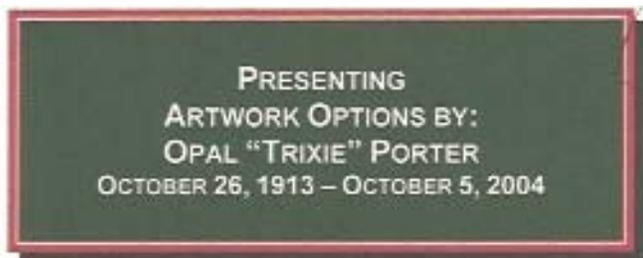


Here Robbie Horton cuts metal for steps.

The Caboose will become our sixth building in Ashworth Park when the final touches of paint, windows, floor, and doors are completed. Following these and the move to the park interior work will begin. Carpenters are needed!

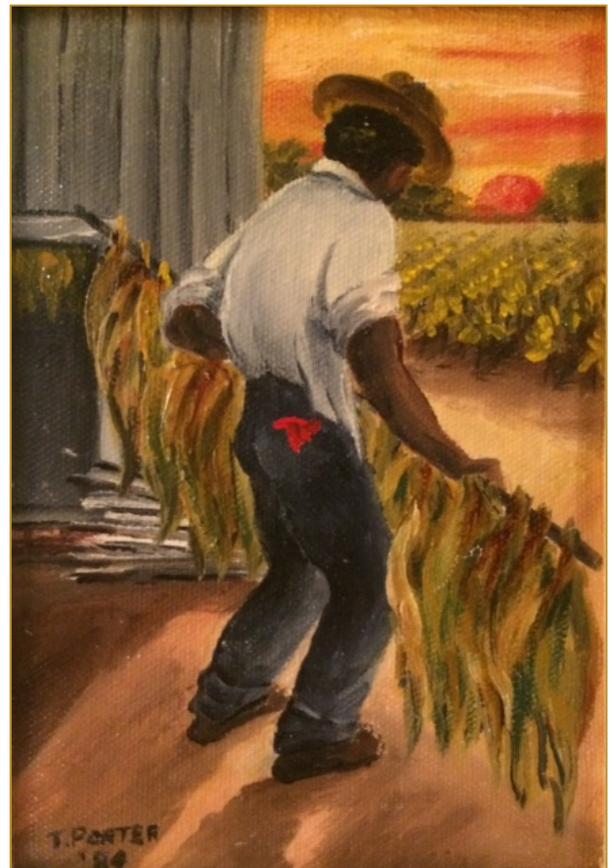
OPAL "TRIXIE" PORTER ART OFFERED AT MUSEUMS

Artist Opal "Trixie" Porter lived in Fuquay-Varina with her family for some 25 years during the 1940's-60's. Married to tobacconist, Jack Porter, she was mother to daughters, Beverly and Cheryl. The family lived in the Ben Wiley first, and finally in their home on Fish's Pond.



Local businessman, William Johnson, noted the talented artist and offered her a position as Head of Residential Design for Standard Homes Plan Service. Besides working at her regular job, Trixie did paintings upon request for friends.

One of her works, "Tobacco Man", hangs in the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club as her gift to the club where she served as Chairman of the Arts Department.



Many local individuals purchased or were given miniatures of an infinite number of subjects. These were best sellers at local "Two Flags Over Fuquay" festivals every year. Trixie also painted men's neckties with colorful scenes befitting the gentleman.

Daughter Cheryl McConnell has offered the Friends of the Museums copies of the works of her mother from the sale of which a portion will be donated to the museums. The first unveiling of these works was Heritage Day.

Popular items were notecards of tobacco man, tobacco barns, the Spring House, and beach scenes. Ornaments of either one design or two are available along with wooden magnets of one scene. Cheryl is

preparing a few larger 5 X 7 prints which are matted for framing. She also has framed several miniatures in two sizes.

The Museums will maintain a small collection of items and will be making orders from time to time. Persons may wish to acquire a collection of painting ornaments for gifts or personal use. Notecards are sold individually or in packages of 10, either as a variety or of one design by request.

Come by the museums to view the multiple prints and make a purchase. If need leave an order with the staff who will contact you when the orders are filled. Of course, interested persons may purchase directly from Cheryl who lives in Oklahoma and will be selling these at events as "My Mother's Art."

FORMER VOLUNTEER GOES TO UTAH

The Friends of the Museums held a Farewell Reception for one of their volunteer docents on Wednesday October 12, at the museums. Guests included family, friends, docents, and board members who could attend. The board presented James Stephens with a small donation in appreciation for his faithful service between 2011-2016.



James Tiberias Stephens of the Fuquay-Varina Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints left on October 16 for his two-year assignment as a missionary. While his departure left a whole in the hearts of the docents and staff at the Fuquay-Varina Museums and the Fuquay-Varina Branch Library, where he also volunteered, both groups considered James quite fortunate to receive this

prized position.

Patiently awaiting his final dispatch to Utah for most of the past year, he trained himself in some specific technical courses in preparation to become a volunteer part of the staff at the Family and Church Headquarters Mission in Salt Lake City, Utah. His work will involve genealogy, church history and library duties.

James interned at the Fuquay-Varina Museums for his graduation project from Southeast High School. First, he helped Shirley Simmons in the display arrangement of books in the Ballentine School House Museums in 2011. From this experience, James decided he was interested in pursuing history studies.

Enrolled at Wake Technical College in 2012, he continued to serve on special tour days as a docent. Upon completion of two years study, he has served the museums on almost every Wednesday since while awaiting a reply to his mission application.

Among his experiences have been preparing scrapbooks for preservation and viewing by the public, filing newspapers, cataloging pictures, and lastly, backing up the museums picture files onto the computer.

He has shepherded two high school interns as well as being a "go to" person for the ladies. On festival days, James chose the schoolhouse as his favorite assignment.

One of three children of Joshua and Gina Stephens, James has a twin sister, Autumn, and a younger sister, Adina. Born and raised in the Church of Latter Day Saints, he follows his parents onto the mission field. Gina served in South Korea and Joshua in San Francisco.

His graduation project essay declared that he had become "passionate about history." At Wake Technical College, James earned an Associate Arts Diploma, but decided to take some years off for his mission assignment before entering a university.

Upon completion of his work in Salt Lake City, James hopes to enroll at North Carolina State University to study history. Eventually his goal is a masters degree in public administration and/or library science.

James keeps his family informed about events in his new position. From their sharing with the staff, James is very involved in the new research center and trained in the newest methods of dispersing information on genealogical research.

NCSU BRINGS GROUP TO TOUR FUQUAY-VARINA

The Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute at NC State University under the leadership of Joan Hartman-Cobb paid a visit to Fuquay-Varina on May 5, 2017.



Arranged back in the fall, a bus of approximately 15 seniors were enthralled with their visit to Town Hall where they met Adam Mitchell, Manager, and Laura Fahnestock, Chief of Police along with others.

Following the morning hour there, we then set up a divided tour with the Museums staff. Donald Cotton and Shirley Simmons gave them alternating tours of the Centennial Museum and the other 4 buildings.



Between tours, the Rock Harbor Grill was a popular luncheon spot. The day finished with a bus tour of Fuquay-Varina areas narrated by Shirley. Of most interest was the delineation of just what consisted of

Fuquay and what of Varina.



They especially were interested in the buildings, streets, spring, school, depot and parks which they had learned about during the museums tour. This is one of the staff's favorite tour offerings for visitors.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN GIVES ARTIFACTS

Robert Senter, born in Kipling, NC, in 1923, served our country with great distinction during World War II. Entering France shortly after Normandy, he was part of the Battle of the Bulge.

Serving overseas in the same area were Malcom Matthews, Warren Lee, Kermit Rawls and Wilson Rawls. Wilson and Malcom gave their lives. Kermit returned to work with his brother Henry as farmer and sawmill owner. Warren worked at Ashworths many year and until his recent death, often visited with Robert at the museums.

Senter is an active 90 plus year old and loves to welcome visitors to view the World War II artifacts he collected. Both German and American artifacts are identified in the case.

Every citizen should come and view his collection of medals, framed and explained as part of his artifacts on display. Senter was awarded the Purple Heart twice, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, along with 7 other medals. Included with his display be sure to read his personal account of events in France and Germany which he has given us permission to use.

Besides his brother, Wayne, he has been pleased to welcome his nephew, John Brown, his many friends, and

recently his son accompanied him.

Senter has donated a cotton scale, an ice cream freezer, and other home artifacts which are a vital part of the museum's collection.



Senter visited with his son recently.

Senter proudly spoke with visitors from Windsor Point, including a survivor of the Jewish Holocaust. The museums welcomed fifteen residents from Windsor Point under the direction of Becky Hicks who were fortunate to have Robert Senter tour with them.



Recent Photos

While the Art Project of Trixie Porter was being implemented at the Fuquay-Varina Museums, her daughter, Cheryl sent the museums a photo for our collection depicting the buyers of North State Tobacco.

Her father, Jack, is second from the left. North State Tobacco and Brown Tobacco were the two large tobacco processing plants in Fuquay during the 1940's and thereafter.



Tim Carrol and sister, Tammy Horton, whose grandmother worked at Yohanna Restaurant, found this photo in their possession.

The Yohanna was one of the names of establishments in the building which is now Dickens Insurance. We are working to identify all these workers.



Fred Lee Hunt who parents, Bill and Fred Hunt were long time teachers in the local schools uncovered a number of photos taken at the home of Woodrow and Zazell Johnson.

Many persons are working to identify the children enjoying an Easter Egg Hunt. An exciting "plus" with this photo is the Dodd House in the background. Ambassador William Dodd's father lived here during the time his son was assigned to Nazi Germany.

Rev. Dodd, another son, was minister of the Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church, lived in the parsonage located at Academy and Ennis Streets, and was famed for his woodworking skills.

The smaller house was adapted from the office of Squire

Ballentine and was home to several residents of Fuquay-Varina before a tree demolished it in a hurricane. An added bonus would be identifying all these children who are guests of Mrs. Johnson.



Dental assistants and Dr. Honeycutt uncovered this photo believed to have belonged to Doris Matthews, long-time employee there. The museums are trying to identify all the individuals.

A large number of these persons have been identified by Billie Hamilton of Kipling. The setting is definitely Lafayette High school circa 1963. The FFA emblems are obvious and a sign on the desk in front of the blackboard. We do not yet know what the occasion of the picture might be. Discovery is exciting for the museums staff. Help us if you can!



HONORING A WORLD WAR II VETERAN WOODROW WILSON RAWLS



Members of the Rawls Baptist Church and Community reached out to the Fuquay-Varina Museums for assistance in documenting the death of Woodrow Wilson Rawls during World War II. Proving that he was killed during the war was necessary so his name could be engraved upon the Veteran's of World War II Memorial in Veteran's Park at the Harnett County Courthouse in Lillington.

Although there was a grave marker in the Rawls Baptist Church Cemetery ordered from the military by his brother, Henry Rawls, this did not constitute proof that he was killed in action. The staff of the museums was proud to be able to help achieve this much deserved recognition.

Born to Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Henry Rawls on Sept 7, 1911 in Harnett County, Wilson enlisted in the United States Infantry on June 12, 1942. Individuals, including Donald Cotton and a niece of Rawls, remembered attending the internment for his body when it arrived from Europe after the war.

Cotton, a member of the American Legion Post 116, recalled that John Rogers (deceased veteran) had reported that he was with Wilson at the time he was killed. Robert Senter, local veteran of World War II, stated that he served in a regiment with Wilson's brother, Kermit Rawls, in France and Germany.

The local files of the Fuquay-Varina Independent dated Thursday, August 3, 1944 revealed a front page notation that Wilson Rawls had been killed in action.

Further research into the 79th Division, 315 Regiment activity in Europe told the story. The division landed at Omaha Beach in mid-June and began moving inland to support American forces.

During the night of June 21-22, the 315 Regiment moved into the vicinity of St. Martin Le Guard (France). On the 22nd the Americans met heavy resistance.

By the morning of June 23, it was discovered that the Germans had cut the lines of communication. During that heavy resistance, Wilson was killed.

Finally on a Roster of World War II Dead 1939-45, the name of Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Rawls was located with serial number.

The Harnett County Veteran's Organization took the documentation and planned to honor Rawls on Memorial Day, May 29, 2017.

Speakers at the ceremony were two living veterans from Harnett County, one United States Navy and one U.S. Army Air Force.

Presenting a plaque to be placed in the Fuquay-Varina Museums was G. A. Senator Rabon. Don Puryear and sister, Judy, children of Christine Rawls Puryear, joined Shirley Simmons who represented the Fuquay-Varina Museums at the formal unveiling of the monument now bearing the "shiny" new name of Woodrow Wilson Rawls.



The family has donated a picture of Rawls and plan to bring further artifacts. The museums have displayed the

plaque with Rawls' medals, including a purple heart, as part of the World War II collection. These artifacts join the wonderful World War II collection donated by Robert Senter of Kipling.

Members of Rawls Baptist Church, Sheriff Deputy Kevin Matthews, Museums Volunteer, Shirley Simmons, and Rawls family members were deeply touched to be part of this special Memorial Day Observance. "All gave some, but some gave all!" A number of Veteran's organizations and the Harnett Central High ROTC were participants. Woodrow Wilson Rawls is now forever honored in the Veteran's Park at Lillington.

Upcoming Museums Schedule

Monday mornings: 10-1 (except week of July 4)
Wednesday afternoons: 1-4 (except week of July 4)

Special Schedule:

June 9: Art After Dark 5-7 p.m.
October 7: Celebrate Fuquay-Varina 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
November 4: Downtown Chili Cook-off 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Special Tours: The staff arranges tours for all groups as mutually worked out. This is better than a regular schedule because it involves weekends, nights, or meeting dates when museums are not generally open.