

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 16 OCTOBER 2018

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

Armistice Day: 100th Anniversary



At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11 month (November 11, 1918) the soldiers from the ALLIED lines came out of the trenches and met the soldiers from the GERMAN lines across the no man's land between the two lines in France. November 11, 2018 will mark the 100th Anniversary of this event.

The "War to end all wars" came to an end that day; the goal did not prove true. The League of Nations failed. Nazi Germany arose. Racist Italy joined. Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor. World War II followed. Still, despite all, World War I did end. That ARMISTICE (cease fire) did occur. That is the event we celebrate this year.

All across the United States groups are asked to remember by "ringing bells" at the exact 11th hour.

All churches of Fuquay-Varina have been asked to participate if they have bells, or to commemorate the hour in some manner. The Fuquay-Varina Fire Department is going to sound sirens. The Fuquay-Varina Police Department will remember the event. Some have suggested that all car horns could be sounded at that hour!

The Friends of the Museums will ring the bell at the Squire Ballentine School House Museum. There will be a short program at 10:45 a.m. prior to the ringing at exactly 11:00 a.m. that morning.

Gail Woolard, who's great grandfather was a World War I veteran, has taken on the task of researching names of local veterans of World War I.

The museums are building a notebook with whatever information we have gathered. Gail is planning to donate her research for the archives.

We are working with the local American Legion Post 116 celebrating their Charter date of Nov. 3, 1920 noting that all their charter members were Veterans of World War I.

Schools have been asked to use some craft projects to teach the students about the date. Parents are encouraged to discuss Armistice Day with their children. Please see the end of the newsletter for an activity which you may use to engage your children.

Individuals are encouraged to visit the North Carolina Museum of History and view their World War I display before January 7, 2019.

Our museums are happy to publicize this excellent exhibition.

League of Women Voters Schedules Visit to Fuquay-Varina Museums

Nine ladies from the League of Women Voters of Raleigh came to tour Fuquay-Varina Museums on October 9.



Sometime during the planning stage from early summer, the League met Marilyn Gardner, F. V. Town Commissioner and invited her to join them for luncheon to discuss the growth of Fuquay-Varina.

They did not have time for a visit to our Cultural Arts Center even if it had been completed but maybe they will return. A number said they planned another visit to really see everything.

Museums Accepted for Digitization Project

“Digitizing North Carolina’s Hidden Collections” is a project submitted by the North Carolina Archives working with the N. C. Digital Heritage Center at Chapel Hill. Funding comes from the National Archives and applications from museums and archives across North Carolina who do not have the resources to accomplish this digitization. The actual work takes place in Chapel Hill’s Wilson Library but is not associated with the University itself.

Shirley Simmons submitted an application to secure digitization of our high school yearbook collection. The museums will receive a copy which can then be made available for researchers or for the staff to share with individuals. This is not associated with genealogy societies or Ancestry but the digitized copy will be available locally.

Privacy concerns mandate that nothing can be digitized that is not at least 50 years old so we are only working with 1928, the first yearbook, and 1948-1968, the continuation of yearbooks. Our collection comes largely from Fuquay Springs High School; however, we are seeking to add Fuquay-Consolidated High School and Lafayette High School to our collection.

The collection will not be available for the months necessary to complete the project; however, in many cases, we do have another copy within our archives. Eventually, the museums would like to continue this digitization in-house with the possibility of borrowing from individuals who might allow us to copy a yearbook which they do not actually accession to our collection in print.

If and when, the Fuquay-Varina Museums can secure space to open its archives to public research, this will be a great beginning. The museums will likewise consider other archival collections for digitization. Wear and tear upon originals will be alleviated with this availability.

Donald Cotton and Shirley Simmons divided the group so that the tour could be very small and personal, as the group wanted to “learn” about Wake County history and our town’s history and to ask a lot of questions. The group could only devote 1 1/2 hours which is generally not enough time to fully explore all our museums.



Donald Cotton leads one tour.



Shirley Simmons leads part of tour.

Sharing will be easier for the staff to honor.

The museum does have numerous scrapbooks, ledgers, and record books which we will eventually consider digitizing. While digitalization may not be permanent for all time, this will make many things available for study within our archives for indeterminate years.

The DREAM we are attempting to communicate to the public is that of our institution becoming the archive for many town organizations and businesses. Fuquay needs to preserve its history but the norm for most organizations is a lack of preservation and/or the loss of many records over time. The Friends of the Museums hope the public begins to help us fulfill our dream! HELP us by ensuring that we have space for expansion.

DREAM with us.

Restoring NS Caboose #375 is Closer to Completion

Project Chairman, Tim Carroll, and all the 50 or so volunteers and donors who have given to this project will be honored at our DEDICATION to be scheduled as soon as the caboose is completed. While we do not have a date yet, from July 19, 2015 when the caboose arrived, we have come a long way.

While the Friends of the Museums had set into motion the rebuilding of the first "Little Depot" built by the Raleigh and Cape Fear Railroad on Depot Street, and had hoped that it would be built and ready to open along with the caboose, we now know that this is not going to come to fruition.

We will make the best of the situation, hopeful we can complete the depot as planned. Access to the caboose will be limited to reach the steps with careful mounting of these steps to the actual entry level. We regret that this may limit the ability of some visitors to access the caboose; however, we will try to work the caboose (when completed) into the tours for groups where possible rather than keep all visitors waiting.

We share a BRIEF series of photographs showing the process of restoration. Numerous other pictures have been saved in our DVD collection for historical purposes. Visitors can access these in the museum's audio visual collection.



Alabama Caboose as we purchased it on site, derelict.



On location in NC with trucks all rusty and caboose separated.



Inside clean and down to the bare bones to begin work



Moved to the park and lowered onto the truck on pad



Under its tarp while work began on replacing windows



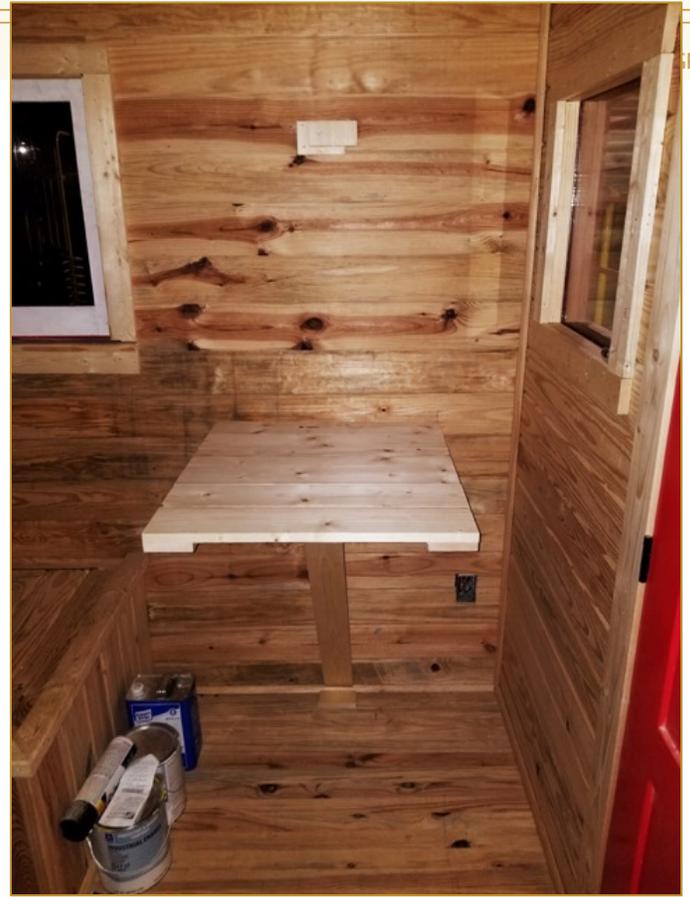
Work on outside, sand blasting and welding to restore



Inside caboose reconstructing of walls, ceiling & floors



Inside cabinets, cupelo and doors rebuilt



Finished table & woodwork

LAST STEP: inside painting and furnishing are still to be completed.



First time inside: Heritage Day but still unfinished



With emblem all outside was finished and the fences removed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Annual membership meeting of Friends of the Museums

7:00 p.m. November 27, 2018 at the FV Woman's Club Clubhouse

Upcoming Museums Schedule

Monday mornings: 10-1

Wednesday afternoons: 1-4

Closed: Nov 21, Dec 24, Dec 26 & Dec 31

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.

Armistice Centennial Bell Craft

1. Open a pop-top steel can. Keep the pop-tab and discard the rest of the lid. [note that using a can with a pop top will leave a smoother, safer edge for the bottom of the bell, but the edge could still hurt if rubbed.]

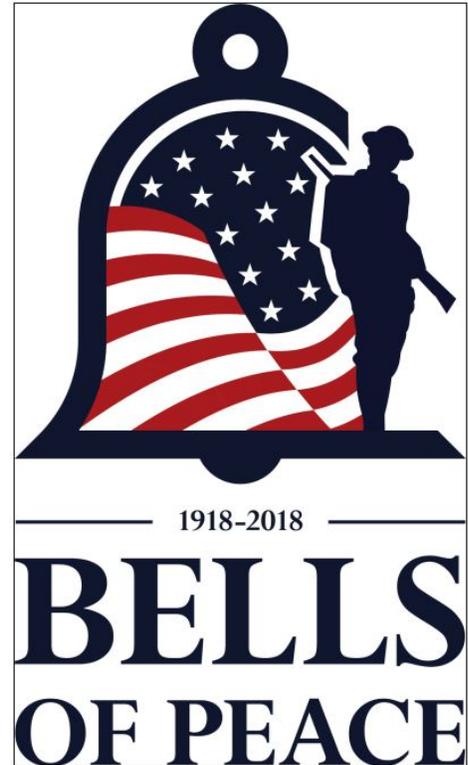


2. Once can is clean, punch a small hole in the center of the base. A quick and easy way is to hammer a nail for a small hole. [Depending on the ages of your participants, this can be done in advance of the program.]

3. Thread the string down through the hole; knot it on the outside several times to ensure the string will not be pulled through the hole.

4. Trim the other end of the string—now inside the can—and tie the pop-tab to it.

5. Decorate your new bell with paint, stickers, glue and colored tissue paper, or logos attached with clear packing tape.



NORTH CAROLINA
★ in the ★
GREAT WAR

