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FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

Heritage Day 2019 Was a Success

Dedication of our Norfolk Southern Caboose # 375 was the feature of our Heritage Day on May 4, 2019. The Board of the Friends of the Museums enthusiastically presented a list of more than seventy-five contributors to the project.

Orlean Newton welcomed guests who were invited to receive a certificate of appreciation. Max Ashworth praised the efforts of Tim Carroll, Caboose Project Chairman and gave a brief history of the caboose.

Shirley Simmons recognized the major contributors: Ben Slaughter, Duke Energy (Marty Clayton), Norfolk Southern Historical Society (Felix Freeman & Mike Seawell), Bob Barker and Bob Barker Company, North Carolina Railroad Museum (New Hope Valley RR), Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club and Bobbie Asad, Town of Fuquay-Varina, Carillon Assisted Living.

Brenda Johnson and Debbie Semple shared the recognition for all those who have worked on the project, donated items to the restoration, or donated portions of their service to the cause. This is such a major list, with varying amounts of time we have provided a complete list of individuals and their contributions which will be part of the NOTEBOOK on display in the caboose for visitors.

Tim Carroll expressed some special appreciations to individuals several of whom are now deceased. This has been a labor of love and energy from 2014 until 2019.



Current President of Friends of Museums, Orlean Newton talks to Max Ashworth



Past Presidents of Friends of Museums: Donald Cotton & Max Ashworth



Tim Carroll, Chairman of Caboose Project was recognized.

Curtis Holleman had the task of noting monetary donations to the Caboose Fund. This list only included those who specified their contribution in one of our campaigns for funds. Since much of the funding came from the Friends budget, anyone who is a member or who has contributed to the Friends of the Museums Funding has actually had a part in this project.

Donald Cotton closed the event by recognizing the Town for their part, our first past president, Larry Bennett, and giving instructions on following Tim Carroll as he unveiled the Caboose in its completed glory. There was a continuous stream of visitors all day to see the transformation of this caboose.



NS Caboose # 375 is finished and ready for tours when visiting the museums. Gray original paint with yellow and red and bunks are part of the decor.



The original rusty stove was repaired and painted by some excellent craftsmen volunteers. Lamps were donated by rail collectors.

Another feature of this Heritage Day was a visit from the House in the Horseshoe in Moore County (State Historic Site) volunteers.

Frank Voelker – 18th cen. wood working and NC militiaman

Mary Voelker – 18th cen. textile (spinning & weaving)

Catherine Rogers – 18th cen. textile and toys

Tom Imars – 18th cen. town crier and NC militiaman

These individuals helped us remember our connections to the American Revolution with our Fuquay family.



The Dedication Crowd at Heritage Day



Larry Bennett and family are recognized in the crowd of contributors and visitors.



Ladies from House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site gave presentations.



Scout Master Curt Lunchick and fellow scout master confer with the militia men from House in the Horseshoe.

The Scout Troop under Curt Lunchick gave faithful service in set up and moving tables and chairs. Without their help, we would be almost helpless to get Heritage Day moving along. The scoutmasters also provided “outdoor cooking” to augment our Revolutionary history.

Finally, Century 21 owner, Stephen Vatino, sent the TROLLEY (famed by W. E. and Becky Medlin) with driver, Karen Jacobs to assist us with Historic Tours of Fuquay and Varina. A number of citizens were given a lot of information around town by Shirley Simmons and Donald Cotton.

This tour is one which we provide to visiting groups in “step-on” tours with their buses or vans on a regular

basis. Tours planned for a regular date were cancelled by our fall hurricane. We are evaluating whether this is something which persons in town find of interest.



Trolley from Century 21 provided transportation for tours exploring history of Fuquay and Varina.

Heritage Day would not be complete without the regular work of docents in all our six components. Thank you—

To: Sonia Webb, Dot Mays, Debbie Semple for school house duty.

To: Sara Tew, Diane Schurr, Julia Yeargan, Kim Johnson, Orlean Newton, who worked under the direction of Betty Vaughan in the Centennial Museum.

To: Dot Mays and Cherry Santas for duty in the Post Office

To: Peggy Blakemore for duty all day in the Playhouse

To: Faye Cress for duty all day in the Tobacco Barn

To: Tim Carroll and Donald Cotton for Caboose duty.

To: Dan Turner and Brenda Johnson for host duties with our visitors

Finally, for our experience with providing FOOD TRUCKS, we are still evaluating the success. Taco Mama Chava and Weaver's Wieners were assisted by Curtis Holleman in providing this service.



Weaver's Wieners food truck was one of those serving the Heritage Day.

Mark your calendars for the First Saturday in May 2020 when we will celebrate another Heritage Day.

Squire Ballentine School House Museum Has New Roof

The Friends of the Museums are excited to replace the wooden shingles on the Squire Ballentine School House Museum during the spring of 2019. A wooden shingle, found in the attic back in the 1990's when the school house was moved to the present location, led the preservation efforts at that time.

However, with dangers of fire and other considerations, Preservation North Carolina did not recommend replacement with wooden shingles. The Friends secured On Tops Roofing to replace the shingles with a new Timberline one which was chosen to match the building and look as much as possible like the historic shingles.



BEFORE: old shingles had begun to fall off. Even though they were not leaking, they did need replacing.

Upon vote of the Board, Volunteer Director, Shirley Simmons submitted an application for a grant to Country School Association Preservation. Wonderful news came when the Association awarded the Friends of the Museums one of their 2019 grants. Our school house met their criteria perfectly! We submitted pictures of our use of the building for teaching children and educating the public.

The Friends also recognize Becky Medlin who gave a substantial donation which was applied to this project. Becky and the late W. E. have been Friends of the Museums from the organizational beginning. W. E. served on the Board of the Friends for several years.

The Fuquay Springs Quester Chapter # 1134 were part of the original local organizations and individuals who raised funds to accept the Ballentine School House from Dickie Aiken and family.

The Town of Fuquay-Varina arranged to purchase the original garden of the Ashworth property as a location for the building in 1993. Partnering with the Town, the Questers completed the interior, furnished the building as a museum, and have conducted tours from 2000.

As a major project of the Fuquay Springs Questers, several grants have come to the school house project from the North Carolina Questers and the International Questers. An Anthemion Award from Capital Area Preservation actually paid for the first wooden shingle roof.

The Questers serve today as part of the Staff of the Museums and were generous in making a donation for the roof. A bid was secured from On Tops Roofing of Angier and work began on the project.

No one knew exactly what would be found underneath the old shingles and as fate would have it, a surprise surfaced. The original sheeting, presumed to have been there since about 1875 underneath other additions, proved to be rough boards with differing widths of space between each.

The Friends then agreed that new plywood would be required to accommodate the new shingles. On Tops workers and Scott Carroll were very considerate of the museums plantings, leaving the building and grounds clean and as they found them.

Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Conservation CSP Gives Redbud

The Conservation CSP under chairmen, Pam Booker and Sandy Allen, donated a Forest Pansy Redbud to the museums park in Celebration of Arbor Day and GFWC Federation Day of April 24th. The Parks and Recreation Department of the town agreed to remove a dead dogwood tree and plant this new addition.



Workmen were careful to cover plants with tarps and collect the old debris. Note the Frances Ashworth dogwood in bloom.



Once old shingles came off, it was necessary to cover the sheeting with plywood and then paper.

The Friends of the Museums are proud of the new roof! A special presentation will be made to the Country School Association at their next convention to complete the requirements for the grant. Officially, the Friends of the Museum Board express our heartfelt appreciation to all those who made the replacement of the roof possible.



Afterward, the new roof was ready at the end of the day.



Parks and Recreation employees pulled out the old tree and planted the new redbud under the watchful eye of Chris Newsome.

It had already bloomed but the red leaf stage was enjoyed by all. The Conservation CSP project to honor Arbor Day earns the CSP credit for participation. Federation Day celebrates the General Federation of Women's Club founding and is an annual project of the Woman's Club. The Friends of the Museums were delighted to have this addition to the Ashworth Park landscape.

Pictured are members of the Woman's Club along with two Parks and Rec employees:



Sandy Allen, Marilyn Gardener, Carol Taylor, and Pam Booker.



Pam Booker gave a presentation on Arbor Day and Federation Day for her Conservation group.

Museums Glad to Help Spread Our History

The offices of Raleigh Radiology contacted the museums for assistance on providing some historical pictures for their main lobby. After consideration, the staff realized that our aerial photographs had not been used widely except for publication in the History of Fuquay-Varina. This idea intrigued the lady in charge of decoration for the building so we settled on the project.

Jeanette Moore-Burlock (who is a trained docent at the museums) worked with the museums and Raleigh Radiology. Her business, Fairway Printing, did the wrapped canvas drawings of four aerial photographs which are now proudly displayed in the lobby on Attain Street. One example of such historical photographs appear below with notations for those unfamiliar with our town. Visitors to Raleigh Radiology have enjoyed studying these.



1959 Fuquay Springs High School Area (it did not become FVHS until 1967). This is a Heulon Dean photo.

All the buildings of the former Fuquay Springs High School are clearly shown. The middle (agricultural building) has since been removed. The Old Red building on Academy was replaced by the present building there. The building along Ennis was the 1928 high school building now administrative offices. The Council gym is across the street with the Teacherage located opposite on Academy. The 1949 Primary Building and Cafeteria are present. Note Aiken Parkway with houses and trees on far left and extended country beyond. Falcon Park has been created beside/behind the Council Gym. This was the 1950's first public park in town. The ball field used by Little League so long is very clear.

Another request came from the owners of Tsuru Sweets and Coffee. They were redoing the second building for the Bank of Varina on Broad Street. The yellow brick building done by A. Y. Hairr in 1925 has been completely changed in appearance with awnings and signage. Here is an original picture which we were able to furnish for them. Fairway Printing did a superior job printing these for framing. Visitors to Tsuru do enjoy the framed versions.



This was one of our early photos of the Bank of Varina, dated 1938 and donated by Martha Whitted Mincey. The Farm Supply (later Stephens) and probably the Post Office, visible on the left of the bank building, were destroyed by fire.

Upcoming Museums Schedule

Monday mornings: 10-1

Wednesday afternoons: 1-4

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.