

# FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 19 OCTOBER 2019

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

## CELEBRATE FUQUAY AT THE MUSEUMS

On October 5, 2019 the Fuquay-Varina Museums opened all day for visitors as a part of the annual Celebrate Fuquay-Varina Festival. Docents interpreted each building, room by room, explaining special details of the collection for all visitors.

While the town presents the major portion of the festival on Main Street and environs, the museums generally notice visitors as they enter and leave the celebration.

All docents reported a steady stream of interested visitors at every building from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## BARNING TOBACCO

The Friends of the Museums arranged a special event: LOOPING OF TOBACCO. Local farmer, Kent Revels annually donates enough green tobacco leaves for the museums to use to illustrate how tobacco was harvested, barned, and cured.

At 11:00 a.m. our guest, Rosalyn Snipes, came to loop tobacco on sticks which we then place into the barn to remain at least for the rest of the year.

Advertising this on Facebook and other sites continued this year.



Unloading green tobacco

Ernest Simmons and Lisa Ashworth transport the green leaves to be used for looping to the museums from Kent Revels' farms.



Looping Tobacco

Rosalyn Snipes has graciously come to loop for

several years. She and her late husband Chester Snipes were among the farmers honored in our “Ghost Farmers” statuary. Her daughters and granddaughter accompanied her this year.



Handers

Distinguished and over dressed Friends of the Museums, Orlean Newton and Gail Woolard showed the crowd how to hand leaves to the looper.



Watching the looping visitors and docents observed, but declined to stick their hands into the tobacco gum.



Filling the barn

Charles Stirewalt got enlisted to carry the finished stick of tobacco into the barn and put it on the tier poles as directed by Donald Cotton.

There is now a definite aroma within our tobacco barn which visitors will variously remember as pleasant, see as interesting, or find “smelly” dependent upon their past experience.

Docents will use this drying tobacco in conducting tours all during the year. The staff will fight with the squirrels who try to invade the barn from time to time.



Donald Cotton interpreted the tobacco barn and raising tobacco in general to the public all day.

## INTERPRETING THE CABOOSE

Our N & S Caboose # 375 is a major attraction at the Ashworth Historic Park. The Friends are working diligently with the Town of Fuquay to get approval for construction of a replica of the "Little Depot" to complete our rail component of the museums.

Michael Weeks has generously given his expertise to provide sketches and architectural drawings so the Friends can build the depot.

The Town approved a change in their new set back requirements so that the depot can be located beside the caboose as a unit.

Eventually, visitors will be able to enter the depot from the walkway and the caboose from the platform of the depot making tours available for handicapped and older citizens.

Shirley Simmons is still working on dating the demise of the Little Depot. With research, we have realized that this depot was still in use as late as the 1923 accident in which the Weathers family were killed. Historically Speaking (our other newsletter) has the entire account of this event. A list of agents found by Tim Carroll still indicates an individual assigned in 1934 to Fuquay Springs. Thus the depot, which was built in 1902, enjoyed at least thirty plus years of service on Depot Street. We still have only this one postcard picture.



Crowd at the Little Depot in Fuquay Springs

There was a steady stream of visitors to see inside the caboose during the festival. Docents include this in our regular tours of the museums.

Since the dedication in May, the staff has added several artifacts, some additional details, and a scrapbook of the project.



Docent Bryant Tyndall explains the caboose and its furnishings to a family of young visitors.

## Other SCENES FROM THE FESTIVAL





Two sisters were allowed to come inside for a real “close up” view of the toys in the Johnson Playhouse. We have included the Senter girls stove, refrigerator and sink from their playhouse as artifacts.



Rosalyn Snipes, Debbie Semple and Ernest Simmons converse in Ashworth Park on what was a pleasant day for all.



Gerald Vaughan enjoyed the museums as one of the local citizens who had never visited before.

## LUX MAGAZINE HONOR OUR MUSEUMS

In May of 1919, Steve Simpson of Luxury Life Magazine notified our Fuquay-Varina Museums that we had been selected as their “Best Museum Complex 2019-North Carolina. With this selection, we received the 2019 Family & Visitor Attraction Award for the July Issue.

The staff was delighted to accept the following complimentary listing in that magazine.



### Museums of Fuquay-Varina - the USA Best Museum Complex 2019 - North Carolina

Unfortunately, we had to confirm that we were not financially in a position at this time to work with this Global Media publication. Katherine Benton, Awards Executive, has generously stated that they will be willing to work with us at some future time and provided this press release for use for the public to access their magazine.

*The Fuquay-Varina Museums exemplify the town’s motto: “A dash more.” One of two hyphenated*

*names for municipalities in North Carolina, our museums thrive on “more.” Unqualified love of our town, overarching determination that our visitor’s experience an enthusiastic docent, the extra mile in providing research for inquirers, and dedication to showcasing Fuquay-Varina’s people, businesses, organizations, and history.*

### **LUX Magazine Announces The Winners of the 2019 Family & Visitor Attraction Awards**

United Kingdom, 2019- LUXlife magazine announces the winners of the 2019 Family & Visitor Attraction Awards.

With modern technology providing personalised experiences at our fingertips, it seems more difficult to get people out of the house, together and engaged; however, year-on-year the greatest natural and man-made wonders manage to draw in crowds and provide unique lifetime memories.

From attractions which raise our adrenaline, transport us to another time or provide once-in-a-lifetime interactions with nature, LUX Life highlights our winner’s efforts and hard work in providing the locals and environments which offer pleasurable diversions and recreational activities.

Commenting on the success of the awards programme, Steve Simpson, Coordinator, stated: “From death-defying adventures, to quiet strolls by exquisite monuments of beauty, LUX Life Magazine promotes and honours the businesses and enterprises which make the entertainment of families, groups and individuals their priority. I am proud of all my winners and wish to congratulate them on their success.”

To find out more about these prestigious awards, and the dedicated establishments that have been selected for them, please visit <http://www.lux-review.com/> where you can view our winners supplement and full winners list.

Published quarterly, LUXlife informs readers on all

aspects of high end lifestyle, including the finest, food and drink, hotels and resorts, health and beauty, automotive, jewelry, art and technology from around the world.

### **NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR**

New docents who have volunteered recently are Michelle Stewart and Faye Cress. We look forward to training and having them on board. Faye is a member of the Fuquay Springs Questers who make up a large group of the staff. Michelle comes from the Fuquay Arts Council membership as an interested young mother of our town.

The staff worked with Ann Marie Amico and the Leadership Class from the Chamber of Commerce on October 2, 2019. This energetic group of citizens selected by their businesses to participate in this Chamber program were delightful visitors.

The staff tried to give them some history of our museums, our town, and the goals of the Friends of the Museums along with a brief tour of the complex.

As a result of the Leadership Class which included a member of the FVPD, Chief of Police Laura Fahnestock donated a uniform from the immediately past era with accompanying badges.

This will be a wonderful addition which we look forward to displaying when we can expand the museums space. The current picture and a number of past year’s pictures will become part of our archival files.

Jimmy Ashworth had promised the museums the first “toilet” to be installed on Main Street businesses. Curtis Holleman, Vice President and son Edwin helped Shirley to pick this up from Ida Mae and bring it to the museums.

Again we look forward to being able to expand the story of our town’s growth. The water and sewer

were done along Main Street in 1937 just as Ashworth's Clothing was being opened.

Sandra Johnson and Rhonda have donated a number of items from the Jewell Ballentine Stephens Estate. Among these is a beautiful hand crocheted dress made by Jewell's mother for her daughter's graduation from Meredith College.

Numerous other treasures of our town are being stored for eventual display when space allows. We were able to work with a wooden jigsaw puzzle called the Silent Teacher. Docent Diane Schurr provided a special case in which we can display this educational tool to advantage.

Tours are scheduled in November for Lincoln Heights and Fuquay-Varina Elementary students. Often students who come with school groups return with their parents and word of our museums spreads.

The staff of the museums provided a number of pictures from our collection to Susan Weiss for the new town hall.

Additionally, a volunteer, Carol Bartos, has worked with the North Carolina Archives on the labels for the Heulon Dean Collection. Eventually this will be more available to the public through the archives. The museums will be able to assist with the photographic requests from this wonderful collection.

Our staff has provided a short video for the Parks and Recreation Department to use in their publicity. The board approved the staff doing another short video for the Downtown Association to use in publicity to their membership.

We have a volunteer who plans to help us provide a video for our web page. These are all to be ready at some future date.

Meanwhile access our Facebook page to keep up with Historically Speaking, our unique story

newsletter. These are also archived on the web page as well thanks to James Spidle, our web master.

Continue to come to visit:

- Monday mornings 10:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday afternoons 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Special Tours by Arrangement, please contact us at [www.Fuquay-Varina-Museums.org](http://www.Fuquay-Varina-Museums.org)

**ATTEND OUR ANNUAL MEETING  
OF FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS  
AT THE FUQUAY-VARINA  
WOMAN'S CLUB HOUSE ON  
NOV. 12 at 7:00 p.m.**

Among the items for consideration will be a new Membership tier. The need to become self-sustaining has inspired the Board to try to reach more membership groups. Our goal is to make MEMBERSHIP AN ANNUAL PAYMENT so we can prepare a realistic budget from dues.

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club house is located at 602 N. Ennis Street.