

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 23 NOVEMBER 2021

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

CELEBRATE FUQUAY

October 2, 2021

The docents braved the continuing COVID situation to open all the six museums for the Celebrate Fuquay Festival of October 2, 2021. The visitation was considered to be good, better in the Caboose and outside buildings as people passed through from parking.



Docents with lots of experience volunteered to open the buildings for visitors wearing the masks and social distancing. All prepared are Orlean Newton, President; Brenda Johnson, Treasurer; and Pam Booker, Docent.

Jewell Coleman and Mickey Smith agreed to loop tobacco which Kent Revels was able to provide for us again. With the expertise of these two and Howard Brooks, the docents and visitors learned some valuable information regarding tobacco.



Donald Cotton, Faye Cress, and Ernest Simmons await visitors to the barn to watch tobacco looping.



Dot Mays, our Post Office specialist docent, took time to greet an old friend, guest Howard Brooks.



Julia Yeargan gave visitors the story of the Johnson Playhouse.

The sticks of newly looped tobacco will hang in the barn throughout the year as our docents conduct tours. We have already had much interest in how tobacco was barned.

We find visitors who cannot even identify tobacco in the field today. Remember that the first Fuquay Warehouse was located on this site in 1908. Later the block was divided into lots for residential purposes and eventually the first town hall, our Centennial Museum was prominent on S. Fuquay Ave.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The board met in September to prepare mailings for our membership drive. Long delayed, this had been originally to kick off in the fall of 2019. Our goal is to secure funding through annual memberships which can sustain the 501 c 3 so that we can hire a professional at least part time.

Many opportunities for grants require at least one paid employee. Our situation of trying to keep the museums open for more hours will also require someone with knowledge who can work with volunteer docent schedules. We would also seek a professional either in museums and/or archives preferably both. Our

expectation is that this would be a part time position first, with opportunity to grow.

The drive has begun to bring some results. We plan to continue with our cut-off date for the annual drive set for January 15. Following that, there will be a posting of our members by categories so that the public can recognize those who support the Fuquay Museums.

Encourage all former citizens in your families to support the archives and collections for their home towns by becoming annual members. Request all local businesses to consider becoming members of this important resource in Fuquay-Varina for the preservation of our past. Who would not want to support the museums by becoming a member of FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS?

The list of Memberships will be posted on the web site for the year shortly after the January 15 deadline for 2021-22 members. SO RETURN YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY. If you need a form, we will be happy to send you one.

COLLECTION GROWTH

The collection continues to expand with some very remarkable donations. One from the Newton Farm of Willow Springs donated farm artifacts from Newt and Doris Newton. These include a horse drawn plow, a tobacco planter, a triple tree, hay tongs, an ox yoke and an oil heater.

Curtis and Kitty Holleman contributed some artifacts from Elliott's Pharmacy enabling that collection case to expand. Artifacts include items used in the store and items sold as well as a collection of trophies from Little League teams which they sponsored.

Numerous other individual contributions include J. G. Baker's tops for Ballentine Dairy bottles, Kathy Milstead's contributions from her mother include some CDE artifacts and many town and school memorabilia.

Tim Carroll acquired a very important archive of materials from the Durham and Southern Railroad which we have used to explain the history of our depots. This will require some conservation before use by researchers.

A piece of furniture used by "Deck" Overby in the barber shop on Main Street was a gift from Jewel Ryals. In addition we have acquired two rope beds, one adult, one a child's.

The Tilley family donated a priceless felt hat and metal helmets from WWI veteran Alvah Tilley.

The Museums are out of space! We are having difficulty even storing collections. Our hope is that the request for the entire old Municipal Building which has been on the table from 2009 will come to fruition. This will enable us to rotate collections, store artifacts, and have some research capability for our archives. Know that it is still pending.

IN HONOR OF MAX ASHWORTH, SR.

The Friends of the Museums Board discussed this idea with Betty who gave her approval as "something Max would have liked." Since the Ashworth Historic Park is the home of the six museums, we often wish to explain how the park name originated. The teaching circle is on the approximate location of the original Rufus and Cornelia Ashworth home. Built circa 1927 when Aiken Street was actually just a path off Academy Street, the house remained until the time the property was being considered for a park.

A beautiful color picture was provided by Kim Senter Johnson. An etching of this will be displayed on a bronze marker and dedicated in honor of Max who was President of the Friends several terms. Max served on the Board of the Friends of the Museums since it was organized in 2009. The docents can then explain the pear tree, the garden, and even the well which caved in under the teaching circle. All the Ashworth Family will be thus discussed, BUT most of all, docents will recognize all the efforts of Max for benefit of our museums.



Rufus and Cornelia Ashworth and their nine children.

Members who wish may make a donation to the Friends of the Museums in honor of Max. Funds will be applied first to this plaque, then to the general operation and expanding displays within the museums. Since the Caboose was one of his special interests, we plan to display the contributors within that museum as soon as we can do a board.

These pictures are representative of the many tasks Max took on over the years 2009-2021.



Max began with the Centennial Celebration and Fourth of July cookout.



Demolishing the barn to be moved to the Park in 2013 Max was there!



The first look at the inside of the caboose we had purchased on June 20 draws Max's attention.



The Ashworth Historic Park brought all the family with Max serving as spokesman.



Awaiting the arrival of the Caboose through the streets of Fuquay on night of June 20, 2015.



Moving the Bank of Varina safe was an interesting adventure for Max.



Festival Day meant Max was again cooking hotdogs and hamburgers.



Typical Max enjoying every event with his Betty and the friend he called "professor." Along with Larry Bennett, and Donald Cotton, Max served as "past president" providing stability and support.

TOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Tim's grandmother, Ellen Kennedy arranged a tour with the museums director because he was interested in history. The young student proved to be an attentive visitor, asking all kinds of questions and learning about our town, schools at the turn of the century, a post office in early years, barning tobacco, and the purpose of a caboose.



Watching the lettering of the Caboose with Tim was getting a job almost done.



Max delivers remarks to the visiting crowd at the Dedication of the Caboose in 2019.



The jail was intriguing to the young visitor, Tim.



Tim hails from middle school in Holly Springs but found our town of interest, too.



Life at the time of the Ballentine School were explained by Docent Shirley Simmons. The lashes by hickory stick were among the many different educational practices they discussed.

Grandmother Ellen is the editor of the recent book 9/11 That Beautiful Broken Day. Along with 17 other Americans, Ellen and the group call themselves the N. C. Scribes. She gifted us with a copy for our collection, Their local view points, both in poetry and prose, of that fateful day are a great treasure.

We salute Mrs. Kennedy for the thoughtful trip she arranged for her grandson. Many of our tours do involve students or families with children. When finally all the Covid circumstances are behind us, the museum hopes school groups can return for tours.

IN MEMORIAM OF JUDY STEPHENS

Our docents are a precious commodity. We had just acquired a new recruit with promise and such "knowledge" of the local area in Judy Smith Stephens in early 2020 when Covid came upon the scene.

Judy was taken from us after a brief illness of Acute Leukemia on November 1, 2020. Her Celebration of Life is being held on October 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church on Judd Parkway.



Judy was a delightful student!

Judy was a wonderful parent!

Judy was valued in multiple fields!

Judy had just come to work with us at the museums. She was enthusiastic to start this new venture. We were so excited to have her knowledge and draw upon her background in Fuquay. Someone like Judy cannot be replaced, just loved and remembered! BUT we are so blessed she passed our way!

With love,

Fuquay-Varina Friends of the Museums

EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY

Ethan Nash Teague interned with us as part of his Eagle Scout work. Troop 320 will be honoring Ethan and his brother Philip in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at the Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church.

What an outstanding accomplishment for the Teague family!

TOBACCO LOOPING MEMORIES



Mickey Smith came early to practice stringing tobacco, remembering from his childhood.



Jewell Coleman demonstrated the difference between stringing and looping tobacco on the stick. The skill is more than just a difference of words from different areas, she explains.



Howard Brooks added his expertise as a tobacconist to the barning and marketing while he helped Mickey at work.