

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

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FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

HERITAGE DAY 2022 Part 2 Recognition of our Past Presidents

possible because so many individuals were delighted to share their memories and their knowledge. Special thanks go to the individual families of each of these men and to Debra Semple for her research of the minutes.

Orlean Newton, our fifth President of the Friends of the Museums presided and introduced each speaker for our honorees. All three gentlemen have served the board in several capacities and were responsible for the dozen years of progress of the museums.



Orlean Newton, President of Friends of the Museums presided over the program recognizing our past presidents.



Honoree Larry Bennett with his wife Kathy Talley Bennett was our first president.



Honoree Donald Cotton, his wife, Sue Byrd Cotton and Betty Callis Ashworth representing Max Edward Ashworth, Sr. were seated in front of the audience.

The Friends of the Museums chose a special group on three men, our past presidents, to honor in our 2:00 p.m. program "Under the Tent." This program was

Our first President: Larry Bennett served 2010 & 2011. His daughter, Laura McNeill presented his family history. His friend, Charles McLaurin, recognized his special contributions to town, community and church. Rachel Turner sent her remarks on his service to the Town of Fuquay-Varina. Finally, Curtis Holleman described the growth of the museums under his leadership.



Laura Bennett McNeill spoke for the Bennett Family.



Curtis Holleman detailed Larry's accomplishments during his presidency.

Our third President: Donald Cotton served, 2014, 2015, and 2016. His daughter, Karen Wells gave us insights on his family. Debra Semple, who both was a student under Donald and later a teacher under his principalship, detailed his professional life. Brenda Johnson described the museum's progress under his leadership.



Charles McLaurin recognized Larry's professional accolades.



Karen Cotton Wells tells the family secrets on the father, Donald Cotton.



Debra Semple remembered many incidents of the Principal Cotton, from her roles as student, teacher, and docent, under his leadership.

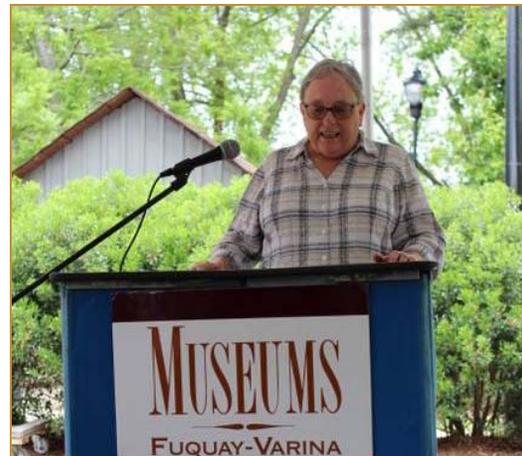


Betty Callis Ashworth is our honored guest for a special presentation.



Brenda Johnson related the accomplishments of the museums under Cotton's presidency

Last, our second and fourth President, Max Ashworth was honored. Max served on the board from its institution and was President in 2012, 2013, 2017, and 2018. Betty Ashworth and family were honored guests for this presentation.



Faye Ashworth Cress remembers Max for the Ashworth Family.



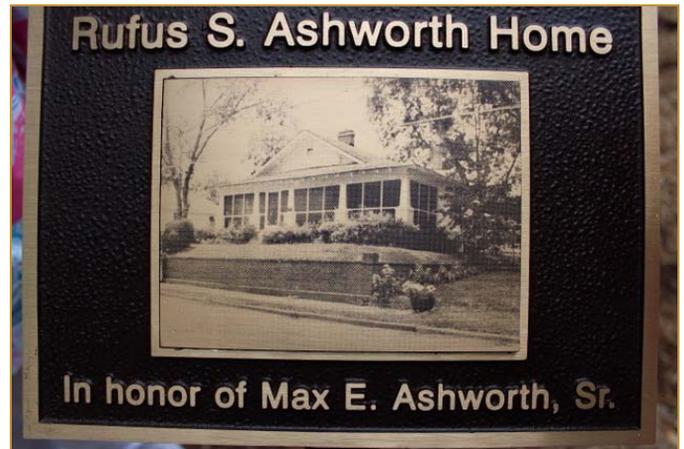
Todd McIntyre, a fellow banker, regaled the audience with his memories of Max, the Bank Executive.



Betty unveils the Marker dedicated in honor of Max.



Shirley Simmons highlighted the accomplishments of the museums under the leadership of Max.



The Rufus Ashworth House Marker will become part of the historical tours.

Following the recognition program, Orlean invited the public to accompany the board in escorting Betty and the Ashworth family into the park. Approximately at the site of the original front porch of the Ashworth home, a marker picturing the home of Rufus S. Ashworth in honor of Max E. Ashworth, Sr. was unveiled by Betty. This will be part of the tours by docents as they explain the naming of the Ashworth Historic Park and lead visitors into the various component museums.



Allison, Lisa, Betty and Faye represented the family of Max (Edward and family were confined with covid)



Ralph Ashworth, Betty, Mollie Ashworth Stephenson and Ida Mae Ashworth

The Board expressed appreciation to the donors who contributed funds to be used in honor of Max. In addition to the marker, a display board recognizing the many donors to our Caboose # 375 was prepared. Max considered the completion of the Caboose a major accomplishment by the Friends of the Museums. Visitors will be able to view this donor recognition display in the Caboose.

All photos of Part II Heritage Day courtesy of Lisa Ashworth.