

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 26 - MAY 2023

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

HERITAGE DAY, 2023

The Friends of the Museums sponsored Heritage Day at Ashworth Historic Park on May 6, 2023. The event was declared a success by docents and board members who attended. Heritage Day seems to be back following covid after two successive annual events in 2022 and 2023.



Mason Clark won all our hearts as our new Fire Chief. We have just installed a photo of our 2023 Chief Jim Jones in our museum.

The Historic Children's Parade was not a winner much to our disappointment as the interest of parents and children did not materialize.

HOWEVER, our Blue Ribbon Winner was a delight to all present. Mason Clark, age 2 1/2 came dressed in his Fire Chief's outfit. Congratulations to Mason who had visited the museums the week before with his dad and learned of the parade.

Our second feature of Historic Children's Games was a success. Much of the credit for this goes to the National Honor Society members from Fuquay-Varina High School and their sponsor Rachel McLaughlin. Helping with the games during a morning shift and an afternoon shift were a total of 17 high school students.

The morning shift was very well attended; however, we suppose children have nap time in the afternoon so they were not very busy after lunch.

Games for participation by children included: Marbles, Chinese Checkers, Checkers, Pick Up Sticks, Tic Tac Toe, Jack Rocks, Hula Hoops, Hopscotch, and Jump Rope. Interestingly, these games were also a learning experience for most of the high school students themselves. Historical games had passed them by, too.

The Board of Supporters of the Museums were represented by Dr. Bob Johnson, Dr. Sim Cozart and wife Liz, and Martha Rowland Fish.

Dr. Cozart was a great surprise to docents in the Centennial Museum where his grandfather Dr. W. S. Cozart, Jr. and his father, Dr. Wiley H. Cozart are featured in the Doctor's room display.

From Dr. Sim's baby picture to the World War I uniform of his grandfather which he donated, docents were excited to share with him.



Dr. Wiley Simeon Cozart, III examines the artifacts and displays from his family, father and grandfather within our Doctor's Room.

Much appreciation and credit for the success of the games and parade goes to the Education and Libraries CSP of the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club. Barbara Giarelli produced the wonderful signage for the games and parade. Donna Barger and husband assisted with games. Debbie Semple and Julia Rowland worked on prizes while Alison Keisler contributed ribbons and judges. Angela Moss taught games along with Alison and Barbara assisted Betty Vaughan at registration.

Within the six components of the museums to help guide visitors served docents: Brenda Johnson, James Stephens, Orlean Newton, Pam Booker, Ruth Olive, Sara Tew, Kim Johnson, Debra Cramblit, Jane Swinden, Debbie Semple, Betty Vaughan, Shirley Simmons, Donald Cotton, Julia Yeargan, Diane Shurr, and Tim Carroll.



Food Truck Menu was a success! We thank them and Rich Johnson from the town who helped facilitate bringing this part of our Heritage Day to fruition.

Assisting with the food truck and lunch details was Curtis Holleman who came at 6:00 a.m. to reserve the parking lot. Assisting with set up, signage and general cleanup were Jeanette and Bob Burlock. Special thanks to Parks and Recreation director, Jon Cox, for providing the audio system and to Jimmy Barnes and Tyler for before and after supplies and clean up. Heritage Day requires a lot of hands-on and many hours from these tireless volunteers! These 24 adults gave 3 to 7 hours each that day plus the preparation time. The 17 students donated 3 hours each.

SALE OF THE OLD LIBRARY: IMPACT HUGE



The Old Library loss makes us shed tears.

While we all have heavy hearts at the town's surprise decision to sell the old library which had been our dream location for the museums archives, the Friends of the Museums continue to serve and preserve our history! Dismay, disappointment and disbelief came to the Friends suddenly on Monday, May 1 at noon when we first heard, quite by accident, that the possible sale of the old library was on the agenda for the Board of Commissioners meeting that night. Much greater surprise came at 5:30 p.m. when the Friends learned it was a done-deal and there was to be no possible further consideration for expansion of the museums into the old library. Special thanks to Brenda Johnson, Curtis Holleman, Orlean Newton, Debbie Semple, Shirley Simmons, and Martha Fish for attending the town board meeting to voice opposition to this deed.

The potential restaurant's new owner did tell us that he intended to call the restaurant "The Old Library Restaurant" and that he did plan to preserve the wonderful mural within the center of the building.

Now the question of how to continue to preserve our history, manage our complete need for expansion, and sustain the non-profit Friends of the Museums is left in the hands of our 501 (c) (3) Board of the Friends and our Board of Supporters.

For the information of the public, here are the members

who solicit your support as we move forward. Please continue to encourage them in this all-volunteer effort.

Board of Supporters: Carl Clark, President, Evelyn Booker, Vice President, Bob Johnson, Michael Weeks, Mike Akins, Martha Fish, and Sim Cozart.

Board of Friends: Orlean Newton, President, Curtis Holleman, Vice President, Debbie Semple, Secretary, Brenda Johnson, Treasurer, Shirley Simmons, Volunteer Director, Donald Cotton & Larry Bennett, Past Presidents, Tim Carroll and Dan Turner, At large, Betty Vaughan, Docent Rep, Gail Woolard, Quester Rep.

At our November membership meeting an additional member to represent the Friends Membership was adopted. Thanks go to Marsha Smith, Friends Member Representative who has agreed to serve. Her affiliation is Fidelity Bank. a Corporate Member.

Non-voting Representatives: Adam Mitchell or his designee, Mark Matthews and Marilyn Gardner, Town Commissioner, serve as our liaison with the town to assist in the operation of the partnership.

Current concerns and long range plans are expansion so we can use our archives, providing an office for a potential full time employee of the nonprofit, and continuing to preserve and house our collection. Construction of ramp access to the Caboose is urgent. Plans for a replica of the little depot are on hold. Efforts to move the Burt Cafe to the park to support our African American community remain our goal. Need to provide electricity in the tobacco barn remains current.

Loss of the library and the DMV portion of the municipal building prevent any programs to bring in revenue and the possibility of sponsoring displays from outside sources as well. This was quite a blow to our goals and brought to question the value of the Fuquay-Varina Museums to the town.

These are only a brief recap of plans from our Strategic Goals which we detailed in 2020 for the next several years. Covid did delay many plans and impact our volunteers.

ARCHIVAL EXPANSION

The Friends of the Museums are delighted to report we are awaiting the arrival of digital copies of the Independent Newspaper 1935-2010 and some issues of the Gold Leaf newspaper from 1914 and forward.

We are excited to have these so that research can be done without damage to our bound and unbound collection of the Independent.

We anticipate being able to read and print from these files. These are a tremendous gift paid by the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club at the request of the Education and Libraries CSP. Of course, this was part of our plan for our archives which we now have to find space to utilize.

PUBLIC SUPPORT:

There are MANY local citizens who should, could, and are invited to consider becoming annual members of the Friends of the Museums. We will be updating our 2023 membership on this web site in the near future. Please join now and continue each year. New members or renewal members will find this form on the web site: <http://fuquay-varina-museums.org>. Please mail it ASAP for 2023!

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club is sponsoring a drive to solicit signatures of citizens, visitors, and former residents of our area in support of preserving our history and museums.

The Friends of the Museums were told by the town representatives that we needed to be sure to garner proof that history and preservation of our museums was important to people in the adoption of The Generational Master Plan now being considered. Everyone who is so inclined to help is urged to sign one of these copies. Please invite your relatives and friends who reside elsewhere to sign on-line if they cannot sign in person. <https://chnng.it/Db9fQzcW>

Fuquay Varina and Wake Forest are head and shoulders above the Wake County towns in the preservation of

history. Wake Forest Museum is the result of Wake Forest University support and of the alumni of that institution who sustain it. Garner Historical Society has just opened a depot museum and is well supported by the town and Wendell Historical Society has been leased a town building for their collection. Cary has the Paige Walker Hotel complex which is a non-profit operation. Zebulon Historical Society just organized and planned a historic homes tour. Keep helping and supporting the Friends of the Fuquay-Varina Museums so this non-profit can survive and grow!

OLD SCHOOL BELL ON HOLD

The old 1918 School Bell from Fuquay Springs High School is still to be repaired and a decision made on how the Friends of the Museums can display it. This is another project which the Friends of the Museums hope to complete and preserve for our citizens. We did not anticipate that it would take a year but we have not forgotten.

Once we were able to remove the bell and determine its condition, it was found to need repair before it could be displayed in a permanent place.

Our thanks go out to Danny Vuncannon of Talton Metal and to Phil Weathers at Weathers Manufacturing for helping the museums in this preservation.



The 1918 Fuquay Springs High School Bell as it looked when Talton's Metal was able to get it down for preservation.

SCHOOL TOURS RESUME

The Museums reached out to local schools suggesting tours of the museums would resume the fall of 2022. We are grateful that South Lakes Elementary were able to schedule all their 3rd graders to tour. They were well-behaved and very interested young visitors. School groups remain one of our important functions always.



The third grade Class of Ms Preston from South Lakes Elementary was one of the three day tour event in March.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS, INC.
131 South Fuquay Ave.
Mailing Address P O Box 2034
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

Circle Type of Membership Requested

Individual:	\$50.00	Business (Small):	\$150.00
Family:	\$75.00	Corporate:	\$200.00
Non Profit Organization:	\$100.00	Industrial:	\$500.00

Amount Paid: _____

A 501 (C) (3) Non-Profit Corporation