



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 27 - MARCH 2024

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

MUSEUMS LEADERSHIP FOR THE NON PROFIT FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS



Annual Meeting picture from 2022. Every November we host an annual membership meeting.

Two groups are hard at work trying to secure our non profit's existence and work with the Fuquay-Varina Museums. Here we give you their information and invite the support of the citizens for the Strategic Goals of this organization.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS BOARD

At the November annual meeting in 2023, the following election of Friends of the Museums Board took place.

President: Curtis Holleman
Vice President; Orlean Newton
Secretary: Julia Yeargan
Treasurer: Marsha Smith

At Large Members: Tim Carroll and Dan Turner

Volunteer Director: Shirley Simmons
Quester Representative: Gail Woolard
Docent Representative: Betty Vaughan
Friends Membership Rep: Jeanette Moore-Burlock
Past Presidents: Donald Cotton and Larry Bennett

Non-voting: from the Town Board of Commissioners:
Marilyn Gardner and the Town Manager's designee:
Mark Matthews

This is the working board of the museums, responsible for the day-to day operation, and the general administration of the museums and their programs.

BOARD OF SUPPORTERS

Chairperson: Carl Clark Term 2020-2026
Vice Chair: Evelyn Booker
Members: Dr. Robert Johnson Term: 2020-2024
Martha Rowland Fish

Michael Weeks Term: 2020-2025
Dr. Sim Cozart

Legal Advisor: John Adcock

This is the board established in 2022 to work with fundraising and permanent support of the museums in Fuquay-Varina. Their goal is to enable the museums to become self-sustaining under the non profit 501 c 3 Friends of the Museums.

SOME FAVORITE VISITORS

For the second year, Emily G. Jessee, Career Development Coordinator at Fuquay-Varina High School brought her Youth Leadership Group to learn about the history of our town. This year they were joined by the Youth Leadership Group from Willow Spring High School as they toured the Fire Department and Chamber of Commerce and the Museums.



Leadership class picture from Fuquay-Varina High and Willow Spring High at the Old Ballentine Schoolhouse

They were delightful visitors, eager to learn about the history of the town and of the history of the high schools in Fuquay-Varina area.

Another favorite group are those involved with the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class under Ann Marie Amico. This group comes from different business members of the Chamber and are always interested in the town's history.

VANDELISM PROBLEMS CONTINUE

The goal of cameras in the Ashworth Historic Park was to thwart and hopefully stop vandalism to the museum buildings and sites. The problems arise from several sources.

Younger children seem to defy their parental close supervision and damaged our tobacco slide for the second time. This caused Aaron Betts to have to rebuild it once only to alas, have it demolished again. This

artifact is a valuable tool in explaining the story of tobacco harvesting at our barn.



GHOST FARMER STATUE: Artist Ben Harris has restored the damaged Ghost Farmer Sculpture in the Ashworth Historic Park.

Older children seem to delight in trying to damage the Ghost Farmer's Sculpture, a feature dedicated to the small farmers of our past. Artist Ben Harris has graciously repaired the piece with new figures of the "ghost farmer" and has replaced them within our circle. This is a centerpiece of our park and important in the story of tobacco as it helped to "make" the town of Fuquay-Varina.

Adult children appear to have decided to attack the door of the Ballentine Schoolhouse over one Sunday afternoon and night. There seems to be no explanation for how an individual or individuals suddenly found themselves at odds with the wooden panels of the door. This building dates from circa 1875 and is one of our treasured components of the museums where tours

are enjoyed by all ages of citizens.

Lamentably, the staff is concerned with children who are allowed to climb upon our Caboose # 375. While the artifact does have a ladder, clearly it is not meant for climbing by our visitors today. We do not want parents to allow a child to climb and be injured in the process.

The Friends of the Museums are working every day to preserve our history.

We invite the public to help us in this work.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN CABOOSE #375 REPAINTING UNDER WAY

As soon as spring arrives and our potential caboose painters all have submitted their bids, the Friends Board will let the contract to begin repainting the caboose. Enough money is believed to have been raised for this.



Then and now pictures of the caboose show us how much the original has faded. Most painters promise about 12-15 years with the new paint we hope to use.

The Friends thank the New Hope Valley RR for a successful fundraising train ride at Bonsal. Special thanks go to Sara Tew for her wonderful fundraising efforts to help with the project. And finally we are very grateful to all the individual donations to this cause.

Yes, we need to get the ramp done and that will be a project which we hope to organize after the repainting is completed.

ONE SPECIAL DONOR



Robert was honored by American Legion Post 116 for his 100th birthday.

Robert Clarence Senter celebrated his 100th birthday on December 23, 2023. Born to Hubert and Myrtle Senter of Kipling, Robert was drafted into the U. S. Army in February, 1943. Overseas in the 86th Infantry Division in 1944, he landed at Utah Beach. France in 1945. Moved to the 83rd Infantry Division he fought in

the Battle of the Bulge. Recipient of the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Service in the European Theater, he returned to the United States in April, 1945.



Robert visits the museums often and often brings friends to tour with him. He often shares his memories with our staff.

Robert was a graduate of Lafayette High School and Campbell College before his marriage to his sweetheart, Hilda Lee. They were proud parents of one son, Michael. Senter worked for the Philco Corporation professionally but served with the First Methodist Church, American Legion, the Emergency Food Pantry and as a Scoutmaster many years of his life.



Robert's wife Hilda Lee Senter.

Hilda is deceased but Robert gifted the archives with many pictures of their wedding and his family. Upon his closing his home and moving to Windsor Point Retirement Community, Robert gave a large collection of artifacts to the Fuquay-Varina Museums. We are proud to honor Robert and wish him a happy 100th year!