

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 29 - JUNE 2025

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

SAYING GOODBYE and THANK YOU, TIM

Heritage Day, May 3, 2025 was set aside to say goodbye to our good friend, board member, historian, donor, and wonderful gentleman, Timothy Earl Carroll.

For those of you who might not have been able to attend either of the two services held in his memory, we have compiled much of the information here.

Timothy Earl Carroll arrived on July 2, 1963 to parents Ann Dickens Carroll and Robby Carroll. He was welcomed by his big sister, Tammy, who was his best friend for life. Tammy and her husband, Robby Horton, traveled with Tim and became his closest companions after the death of his mother and stepfather, William Stinson.

Timothy grew up on Durham Street and was graduated from Fuquay-Varina High School. Class of 1981. In his early life he became fascinated with the Durham and Southern RR and spent much time around the Varina Station.

His close buddies, Alan Ashworth, Blair Slaughter, David Campbell and he lived and breathed railroads as teens and continued to be involved with rails, travel, and collection of artifacts as they grew into adults. They all worked either in the rail industry or helped with the Bonsai museum site establishment as adults.

Tim's own account of his life is quoted here. " I am pulling the pin at Amtrak after 38 years, 6 months & 24 days of service. I hired in Miami in April 1986 as a train employee. First job was dining Car LSA. worked the Mia crew base for about a year then transferred to Tampa crew base. Worked there for 3 years until I took a

station job back in NC. Back in NC, I trained at Fayetteville, NC with Sylvia Temple and Milton Malloy for 3 months. My first job as agent was at Southern Pines, NC. in January 1995, I left Amtrak & went to work with Norfolk Southern out of Raleigh. I left in July to come back. It's been a great gig. Met so many amazing folks along the way. Rode thousands of miles across the USA. It's been an amazing journey."

"Amazing Journey" would not even half describe what all his friends recounted at the Memorial Service held for Tim at the New Hope Valley Railroad museum in Bonsai, NC.

Tim's memberships included the New Hope Valley Railway, Norfolk & Southern Railway Historical Society, Red Springs and Northern Foundation and the Bearded Villains Brotherhood and others.

If there was a rail event, likely Tim attended. If there was an opportunity for sale of artifacts from his collection, Tim was present.

His memorial service and location were selected by Tim and his family fulfilled all his wishes. After the program, his rail family carried his ashes along the tracks and left them at the exact overpass he requested. Hence forth a salute of tribute to Tim will be given by the train as it transverses that site on tours.

Celebrating THE LIFE OF



TIMOTHY EARL CARROLL

July 2, 1963 - February 12, 2025

Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts ♥

THERE IS A TRAIN AT THE STATION WITH A SEAT RESERVED JUST FOR ME
I'M EXCITED ABOUT ITS DESTINATION, AS I'VE HEARD IT SETS YOU FREE.

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS, THE PAIN AND STRESS WE BREATHE
DON'T EXIST WHERE I AM GOING, ONLY HAPPINESS, I BELIEVE.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE THERE, TO WISH ME ON MY WAY
IT'S NOT A JOURNEY YOU CAN JOIN IN, IT'S NOT YOUR TIME TODAY.

THERE'LL BE MANY DESTINATIONS, SOME ARE HAPPY, SOME ARE SAD
EACH ONE A BRIEF REMINDER, OF THE GREAT TIMES THAT WE'VE HAD.

MANY FRIENDS I KNOW ARE WAITING, WHO TOOK AN EARLIER TRAIN
TO GREET AND REASSURE ME, THAT NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED.

WE'LL TAKE THE TIME TOGETHER, TO CATCH UP ON THE PAST
TO BUILD A NEW BEGINNING, ONE THAT WILL ALWAYS LAST.

ONE DAY YOU'LL TAKE YOUR JOURNEY, ON THE TRAIN JUST LIKE ME
AND I PROMISE THAT I'LL BE THERE, AT THE STATION AND YOU WILL SEE;

THAT LIFE IS JUST A JOURNEY, ENRICHED BY THOSE YOU MEET
NO-ONE CAN TAKE THAT FROM YOU, IT'S ALWAYS YOURS TO KEEP.

BUT NOW AS NO SEAT IS VACANT, YOU WILL HAVE TO MUDDLE THROUGH
MAKE SURE YOU FULFIL YOUR AMBITIONS,
AS YOU KNOW I'LL BE WATCHING YOU.



Rest in Peace  Bearded Railroad Man

Order of Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025 AT NOON
NEW HOPE VALLEY RAILWAY
NEW HILL, NC

MUSICAL PRELUDE
Music and photo slideshow

EULOGY
Jd Thomas

SONG AND PRAYER
Jd Thomas

OPEN MIC SPEAKERS
Friends and Family

PRAYER
Jd Thomas

MEMORIAL TRAIN RIDE
New Hope Valley Railway



Tim's second love was the Fuquay-Varina Friends of the Museums. His involvement began with the contribution of artifacts to display for the Fuquay-Varina Centennial in 2009. When the Friends of the Museums organized as a non-profit 501 c 3, Tim joined. All the artifacts and archives he shared were given to the Friends on condition that they not be sold but remain in the collection. They were to be returned to him should the non profit disband.

Tim worked tirelessly to help the Friends secure a NS Caboose for the Ashworth Historic Park . After many trips to view different possible purchases of a caboose, Tim located one which he determined had run through Fuquay-Varina. That was it! The Friends had to purchase NS Caboose # 375. Tim made the trip to Alabama, secured the sale, and helped with the arrangements to transport the caboose to town.

Friends of the Museums were on the streets on the night of August 2015 when Ben Slaughter and Baker arrived with the caboose on two trucks. Friends accompanied the trucks to Chalybeatte where Slaughter allowed Tim and his crew of volunteers to place the caboose. Slaughter assisted the work at every turn until he could finally transport the partially restored car to the park on August 21, 2017. Our web has the details of moving a caboose archived.

Once in the park, Tim began soliciting workers to help with the inside restoration. A complete listing of persons who contributed labor, materials, and expertise exists in the caboose. Finally the Caboose was finished and open for tours on Heritage Day, May 4, 2019. No one can total the hours and money which Tim contributed along with other volunteers. The Friends records show about \$30,000 spent. The Town of Fuquay-Varina contributed the pad valued by them at \$10,000.

Tim became a member at large for the Friends of Museums Board at the November Annual Meeting 2017. He served in this role until his death. During that period he continued to bring artifacts and archives for the collection. To date, in sheer numbers, his accessions surpass all other donors. We shall miss his constant work on the web to secure anything listed as Fuquay, Fuquay Springs, D & S, Varina, and more.

We have no idea what his monetary contributions totaled. Often he was forced to bid against others in town who wanted to collect on their own. The Friends of the Museums decided to honor Tim in the 2024 Heritage Day program, "Riding the Rails." Part of the program was based on an archive of letters exchanged by officials of the D & S and the NS Railroads relative to the local depots. Tim obtained these from the estate of a railroad friend and donated them to our collection. A larger article was published and archived on our Web under Historically Speaking on Oct 10, 2021.

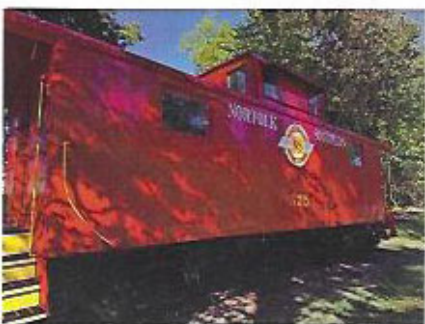
A major portion of the Heritage Day program was honoring the various aspects of Tim's life in Fuquay-Varina. The program paid tribute to his work with the D & S, and the Brown Family, with his New Hope Valley

Railroad work, with his career at Amtrak, and with his contribution to our NS Caboose # 375. His family contributed the involvement they had with the Rails and Tim, showed photos and donated a selection of photos for our AV collection.

RIDING THE RAILS

Dedication to Timothy Carroll

Heritage Day, May 3, 2025
Ashworth Historic Park



RIDING THE RAILS

Dedication to Timothy Carroll

Heritage Day, May 3, 2025
Ashworth Historic Park

Welcome: Curtis Holleman, President of Friends of the Museums

Our Rail History: Shirley Simmons, Volunteer Director
Legacy of Tim

Varina Station & the Brown Family Memories: John Brown
Betty Bruce Hoover, Sarah Johnson and Kay Cloniger, grandchildren
Poetry Tribute: Betty Vaughan (reading from Kay Cloniger)

The Little Depot & the Carroll Family: Jay Howard (great grandson)

Our Conductor, Jasper Ashworth: Dan Smith & Kim Johnson, relatives

Dedication to Timothy Earl Carroll

Early Rail Interest: David Campbell, Friend

Life with Tim: Kristin Horton Valle, Niece
Tammy & Robby Horton

Work at Amtrak: Paul Cacciatore, Co-worker

New Hope Valley Railroad Life: John Morck, President

N S Caboose # 375: Orlean Newton, Vice President of Friends

Closing Remarks: Curtis Holleman



The final event will be a plaque to be placed with the Caboose honoring Tim. This is donated by the Friends of the Museums in his memory and expected in June. Anyone who wishes may contribute to that memorial through "Friends of the Museums."