

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4 APRIL 2014

MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS ACCEPTED INTO TAP

Late in 2013 the Department of Cultural Resources of North Carolina notified our museums that a Traveling Archivist Program was available for small museums. Our application listed all the archival materials within our collection and sought acceptance into the program.

After a telephone interview, we learned that our collection seemed to meet the criteria for evaluation. We enclose our letter of acceptance which was quite an honor for our relatively new institution.

Dr. Dick Lankford was formerly chief archivist at the North Carolina Archives. In that position, he understood that many small organizations might need assistance, advice, and professional appraisal. Upon retirement, he set up the TAP program and is the professional who visits and evaluates museums which are accepted. The Department of Cultural Resources provides funding for the visit and includes a "care package" of sample archival materials and helps.

TOBACCO BARN PROJECT

As soon as the weather improves enough for outside work, the volunteers organized under Charles McLauren will finish the tobacco barn. At the same time the barn is chinked, the playhouse will also have its chinking repaired or replaced.

Grading is needed around the barn. The Conservation CSP of the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club is discussing a project to help with the display board costs for this building. A local family has promised to donate tobacco sticks for the barn. One of the volunteers plans to construct a slide to show how tobacco was hauled to the barn.



Tobacco barn stand ready for finishing touches

JAZZ AND JULIPS ON THE TERRACE

ATTENTION: Friends of the Museums, Docents, Staff, Tour groups, Fuquay Springs Questers, and everyone who wants to be a supporter of the Museums of Fuquay-Varina

Join us in your dressy finery for "*Jazz and Julips on the Terrace*" at Carillion Assisted Living, 6516 Johnson Pond Road, Fuquay-Varina from 2:00 to 4:00pm on April 26th.

Music, entertainment, food and beverages along with raffle door prizes.

DONATIONS: Suggested \$25, \$50, \$100

All proceeds go to purchase our **RAILROAD CABOOSE** for the Museums Park in Fuquay-Varina.

Invite all your Facebook friends. Call all former residents of the Fuquay Springs and Varina area.

MAKE THIS A FUN CELEBRATION!

MUSEUM IMPROVEMENT #1

The Fuquay-Varina Garden Club has decided to assist the museums with the replacement of a dying dogwood in front of the "Squire" Ballentine School House Museum. The dogwood could have been over 75 years of age, a left over from the yard of Mrs. Doughtry who lived on the site. It was a special landmark in all the photos and drawings of the building. Over the last few years, it continued to die and looked worse and worse.

Since the Garden Club wished a project celebrating Arbor Day, planting a tree somewhere in town was a natural. Garden Club Awards are given for a project which enhances an historic site, planting a tree at the historic school house fit the criteria.

The Ballentine School House project had received devoted attention from Frances Ashworth Senter from the beginning raising of funds to move the building, through the Fuquay Springs Quester's opening the museum, and continuing as a docent for the present museums complex. The fact of Mrs. Senter's charter membership in the Fuquay-Varina Garden Club provided added incentive to recognize her contributions.

RESULT----the new "*Ashworth Dogwood*"

The Fuquay-Varina Garden Club invites the public to enjoy the new red dogwood which they have donated and planted in front of the school house in honor of Mrs. Frances Ashworth Senter. Dedication of the tree will take place on National Arbor Day, April 25 at 2:00 p.m.

The Friends of the Museums are happy to acknowledge the thoughtful contribution from the Garden Club!



Ashworth dogwood to be dedicated April 25.

MUSEUM IMPROVEMENT #2

The Needmore Ruritan Club invited our volunteer director to speak to the club at their March meeting. Their intention was to find a project which would match their group with a need at the museums.

Earlier the Ruritan Club had built a case for the 48 Star American Flag, an artifact from the Fuquay Springs High School on Ennis Street. Several members had volunteered hours of work at the museums on the tobacco barn.

The Friends of the Museums were delighted to learn that these civic minded individuals agreed to take the "little log playhouse" as their project. We look forward to having this building readied for tours and displays.

PLAYHOUSE FURNISHINGS

Before we can open the Log Playhouse, we need to collect children's toys, furnishings, and artifacts. Presently, we have in storage a doll high chair, a doll house with furnishing from the 1960's, a pair of stilts, and a small metal stove. One of the Ruritan members pledged a small crib.

The director will be delighted to speak to you about other items. Consider what you might have to donate which would be unusual, interesting, and educational from the period of 1950 to 1960.

The little playhouse was moved from the Woodrow Johnson home site. Hettie Johnson, for whom it was built, noted that she once had a table and chairs, a storage shelf, a tea set, and other toys. Perhaps you can help us with these items.

EVALUATION BY TAP

Dr. Jesse Lankford visited the Fuquay-Varina Museums on February 25, 2014. At this time, he met with President of the Friends, Donald Cotton, Treasurer of the Friends, Brenda Johnson, and Volunteer Director, Shirley Simmons.

The staff was hopeful that Dr. Lankford would find that the museums were not only a repository of historical artifacts but also a reputable archive of historical materials. Combining these two functions has always been our goal. The outstanding collection of photographs, of scrapbooks, of family histories, of school yearbooks, along with many original documents and newspaper holdings led us to seek this evaluation.

Spending the better part of one day looking over the museum's collections left us confident that Dr. Lankford's report would be positive. His suggestions of helpful professional sources, the sample materials provided, and practical ideas to improve our practices were invaluable.

On March 25, the visiting archivist completed his evaluation and recommendations in a written report. "The archival holdings of the museums are historically valuable and merit long-term preservation. The volunteer staff and Friends board of directors are to be commended for their efforts in collecting material to commemorate the history of Fuquay-Varina and for preserving and making it available to the public," he stated. Another major observation was an appreciation and acknowledgment of the support of the Town of Fuquay-Varina for the Museums Complex.

The Friends of the Museums will be studying the recommendations and working to implement them in an orderly fashion. First among these will be adopting a collections policy and developing an accession program. The first will help us receive or decline donations which support our goals. The latter will help us answer public inquiries for research and assist individuals who need to conduct research.

One glaring need was the shortage of space for storage, expansion, and research. Another, a computer for the museums, has just been provided by the Friends of the Museums. With this purchase our board is ready to begin the accessioning process.

LAFAYETTE THIRD GRADE VISITS

Lafayette Elementary third graders have been on tour three days. These young visitors have given their undivided attention to docents Betty Vaughan, Fran Baggs, Dot Mays and Shirley Simmons in the Centennial Museums, the School House and the Post Office.

Following the on-site tour, Shirley Simmons has stepped onto their activity bus and conducted a tour around town. Our theme has been the three factors which contributed to the growth of Fuquay-Varina. Tobacco warehouses, the mineral spring, surrounding hotels, Varina Mercantile, Main Street sites, and a visit to the depot area of Varina gave these students an opportunity to visualize history.

They finished their visit with a picnic at another historic site, eating under the rebuilt pavilion at Falcon Park.



Lafayette teacher, Judy Bub supervises unloading of students at the Museums Complex.

MEMBERSHIPS NEEDED

Individuals are invited to join the Friends of the Museums. Dues are \$10 per year and \$25 per year for families. These funds help us with materials for archival preservation, with printing of pictures for individual requests, and with general expenses. Renewal of memberships is imperative to growth.

Mail your memberships to:
Friends of the Museums
P O Box 2034, Fuquay-Varina, 27526



Mrs. Dorothy Jones, 85 years young, left Fuquay in the 1940's. She was brought to visit the museums by her nephew

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Docents provide tours and assistance to all visitors. Training is provided so that these volunteers have knowledge of our collection and can interpret our displays. Contact us if you have interest in helping us as provide this service.



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Pat McCrory, Governor

Susan W. Kluttz, Secretary

November 26, 2013

Shirley D. Simmons
Fuquay-Varina Museums
P. O. Box 2034
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Dear Ms. Simmons:

Thank you for your application to the Traveling Archivist Program (TAP). I am happy to inform you that your institution was selected for inclusion in TAP.

Dick Lankford, project archivist, will be contacting you by telephone in the coming weeks to gather some basic information and schedule your site visit.

Congratulations and welcome to the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Gabriel".

Andrea Gabriel
State Archives of North Carolina

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