



FUQUAY-VARINA

FOOTPRINTS

OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 6 OCTOBER 2014

MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

TOBACCO BARN MUSEUM

Charles McLaurin, volunteer who took on the tobacco barn raising for the Friends of the Museums, has the task complete, ALMOST.

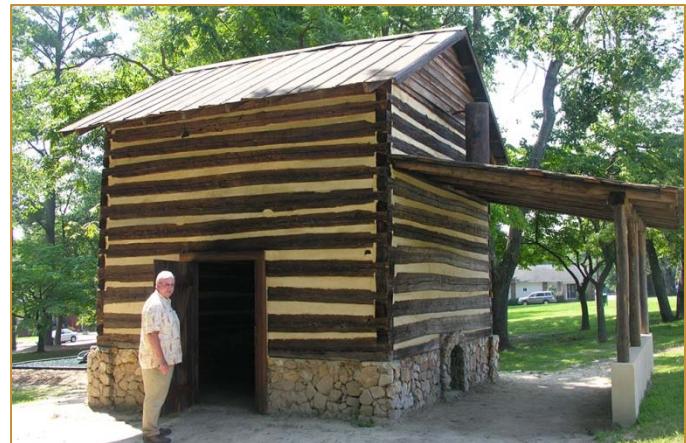


On Saturday, August 2, the following persons came to help: Charles, daughter, Jane McLaurin, grandsons, JC. Whitley and Bryce Riley, daughter Pam McNeill, brother Eldred, nephew, Dennis, along with Kin Lantz, Butch Woody, Stephen Kish, Leon Phelps, Bill Tingen, Mike Jones, Kevin Burge, and Shirley & Ernest Simmons.



During the morning hours, before the deluge came, the shelter supports and roof were completed, the barn pipes were installed over the sand floor placed inside, the open spaces filled under the rafters, and the landscaping around the barn completed. Charles had built a door from the old original one and it was fitted onto this barn.

Then during the next week, Mike Jones, Butch Woody, and Charles got the final exhaust pipe placed on the shelter roof and some last minutes holes plugged to keep out any varmints. The last work day came on Thursday, August 7, with spraying of the logs to prevent weather damage by Charles and Butch. If you haven't seen the finished product, enjoy this picture with Charles in front of the door.



The ALMOST finished encompasses the electrical wiring so that tours may be able to really view all the barn's details.

The Town of Fuquay-Varina will be providing lighting and sidewalks in the park so that the barn can join the other buildings on regular tours. Walkways are necessary for handicapped access and general tours.



Shirley Simmons has installed display boards which relate general information about tobacco and the story from planting to marketing. Special emphasis was placed on the roles of North Carolina and Fuquay-Varina in tobacco history.

Special thanks go to Jerry Holland for his scrapbook on tobacco which proved invaluable with pictures and details.

The Conservation CSP of the FV Woman's Club donated funding for the display boards. Actual green tobacco was provided by Kent Revels. Both green tobacco and cured tobacco was donated by the N. C. Agriculture Department for the barn museum.



Jerry Holland also donated a 'looping horse' of metal and a cradle for sticks used by his family.

Rosalind Snipes and daughters donated some of the tobacco sticks used by Chester and a barn thermometer.

The original barn pipes were worked into the museum on one side so they can be explained and firing of the barn comprehended. Everyone who has come by adds their own spin to "what I did with tobacco." Surely, more information will come with each visitor. The full use of these displays cannot be achieved until lighting is effected; however, we will use some temporary illumination.

President Donald Cotton, Barn Project Leader, Max Ashworth and Shirley all wish to offer sincere appreciation to Charles McLaurin.

It was his foresight which advised the reconstruction of an historic barn. It was he who located one near Greensboro. It was he who led volunteers to take down the barn log by log, mark them all, and bring them to Fuquay.

It was he who gave instructions to the artisan who constructed a rock foundation and furnace (he may have even picked up some of the field rock personally). It was he who led the reconstruction of all the logs with special emphasis on rods to tie them together making this a safe structure for the public.

It was he who located old timber to replace the eves of the barn, cleaned it and directed its use on our barn. He actually trained the artisan to chink the barn, (Roberto's first experience with chinking). It was he who directed the landscaping and actually moved the sand for inside the barn.

Finally, it was Charles who did the actual spraying of the logs and directed the placement of the original tin roof. Most of us cannot even envision the hours of time and effort Charles gave to the "barn raising."

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION COOKOUT

The Friends of the Museums wished to do something special to show our heartfelt thanks to all the many volunteers who have worked to bring our TOBACCO BARN MUSEUM to fruition.

The insight and foresight of Charles McLaurin can be credited with this success. Insisting that we needed to consider a log barn which we could dismantle and move, reconstruct to last a lifetime, utilize old tin roof and flue pipes, and use only correct materials, Charles persuaded us all.



Max Ashworth was chef of the cookout with the help of Arthur Johnson

To actually be able to interpret the “by-gone” flue curing experience which was so common throughout our area from 1872 until the advent of oil burners is now possible. The volunteers and their families were invited to visit on September 20 to see the completed project, have lunch, receive our thanks, and then tour the complex. Many family members had not visited any of the park before that day.



Special thanks go to all of those who gave time, energy, in-kind materials, use of machinery, and expertise just because they wanted the past to be remembered!

These are special people indeed, running the spectrum from teen years to advanced seniors. Even the younger children of these volunteers made contributions. The families who allowed them to forfeit Saturdays for the cause share in our debt.

The list follows along with pictures from the Appreciation Cookout.

1. CHARLES MCLAURIN
2. Mike Jones
3. Arthur Johnson
4. Dan Houck
5. Dennis McLaurin
6. Eldred McLaurin
7. Max Ashworth
8. Dewey Keith
9. Stephen Kish
10. Richard Larson
11. Cleveland Thamnes
12. Jimmy Keith
13. Ken Lantz
14. Butch Woody
15. Steve Maynard
16. Gary McNeill
17. Leon Phelps
18. Bill Tingen
19. Jim Melvin
20. Marty Tart
21. Ernest Simmons
22. Donald Cotton
23. J. C. Whitley
24. Bryce Riley
25. Pam McNeill
26. Logan Whitley
27. Kevin Burge
28. Jane McLaurin
29. Brenda Johnson
30. Shirley Simmons



Additional assistance with the project came from Donald Dickens who inspected the materials for “creepy crawlers” and will be continuing these services.

Town inspectors have given approval of the construction. Employees of the town, Rick Russell and Jimmy Barnes have likewise provided installation of displays.

Docents, Kim Johnson, Dot Mays, Sonia Webb, Betsy Gunter and Orlean Newton assisted with the tours for the volunteer families. Rosalind Snipes wowed everyone as the champion "looper" of green tobacco!

The Friends provided a sheet cake proudly displaying the picture of the completed barn! An album telling the story of the tobacco barn project will become a permanent part of the museum collection.



CARILLON HELPS THE MUSEUMS

Carillon Assisted Living partnered with the Friends of the Museums for a second fund raising opportunity to benefit the caboose project for the park on September 6, 2014.



The Antique Road Show event featured expert appraiser, Jewel Ryals of Bostic and Wilson, who gave attention to all the persons who wished to have their "treasures" evaluated. Carillon provided delicious refreshments to the gathered assembly.

The event clearly entertained all observers. A surprisingly diverse variety of articles were presented and the colorful rendition of details by Jewel fascinated the crowd. The items ranged from books to oil paintings, from icons to pottery, and from furniture to jewelry. Some fifty persons participated during the afternoon.

Under the direction of Victoria Sosa, Marketing Director, the event proved to be unique. Carillon used the same model for other facilities to benefit other non-profits on the same date.



Carillon Staff

Such public spirited corporations are invaluable partners and should be highly applauded. Purchasers of tickets to benefit the museums were equally valuable!

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS IN THE MUSEUM



Sonia Webb moved to Fuquay-Varina from Florida and

promptly volunteered for weekly duty at the museums. Over the spring, summer and into this fall, she has placed each of the photos from the Independent collection into envelopes to be preserved and has alphabetized the subjects.

The identification process, accomplished by the Fuquay Springs Quester Chapter members, has made this possible. Work continues to list all the photos preparatory to accessioning them into the museums collection.



Ashton Jones, high school student, volunteered during her summer vacation and continued work to prepare the Fuquay-Varina High School albums for use by visitors.

This has been a two summer project. Currently James Stephens is trying to complete these albums.

CLASS VISITS PROVE INTERESTING

The museums staff would encourage you to bring your classmates from those infrequent or regular luncheon gatherings to visit the FV Museums Complex. Like the Class of 1956, you may hold scheduled Reunions, but have smaller groups who spend time together in between the Reunions.

Our thanks to Dot Mays who garnered her classmates from 1956 for just this type of visit. "I remember," or "let me tell you about this..." or "did you ever hear about..." were exciting comments.

The staff learns a lot and everyone has fun "remembering." Our exhibits do change, so you will likely find "new" additions every trip.

Pictured: Fuquay Springs High School Class of 1956



Front L to R: Dorothy Adcock Mays, Betty Crabtree, Virginia Griffis Perkins, Molly Ashworth Stephenson, Juanita Revels Ball

Second row: Jim Sers, Katie Crabtree Edwards, Billy Yeargin, Sonja Averette Watkins, Jimmy Holleman, Margaret Page Jones, Emitte Tutor, Annette Roundy Stuart, Arthur Ray Talley

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM



Ashe Bridge Children's Academy toured the Museums on two different dates in August. Maribeth Priest, the School Age Leader at the Children's Academy brought the students. On the second tour, the owner accompanied the teacher and children.

New to Fuquay-Varina, the academy is located on Old Honeycutt Road. This was an excellent small tour with

students really finding interesting "old things" to study.

The owner grew up in Cary, so he now knows more about his adopted home here. Ms. Priest came first as a teacher with Willow Springs students.



Belarussian guests of the Jim Baker Family were Maria Huryna and Nastia Dziamidava. The two young ladies came to Fuquay-Varina under the auspices of the American Belarussian Program at the Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church originally.

Maria came for five years until she was seventeen and enrolled in the University at Minsk. She has just been graduated and is planning to work in Customs.

Nastia began as a very young child and came for ten years under the program. She is currently enrolled in college and plans to enter the university this fall.

Both girls toured the museums with Shirley Simmons, Coordinator of the ABRO program at Fuquay. Each was the proud recipient of a copy of the F. V. Woman's Club Cookbook. With their excellent English skills, they were excited to take home these "American recipes" and planned to put them to work among their families. Cookbooks can be purchased at the museums.

ORGAN CONCERT

Philip Sebastian of Windsor Point was the gracious guest organist for the museums concert for ART AFTER DARK. A master musician, Mr. Sebastian delighted the audience with music from the old pump parlor organ.



The gift of Beverly Parker, granddaughter of Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Judd, the organ was her way of ensuring that the citizens of Fuquay-Varina could enjoy this artifact. Such deep resonance and wonderful quality of sound had not been heard until this performance.



The museum's staff will try to arrange another opportunity when Mr. Sebastian is available for those who missed the concert.

OCTOBER 10TH PROGRAM

For the ART AFTER DARK event on October, the museums staff has arranged a showing of six oil paintings of turn of the century sailing ships. The property of a local couple, they were shown at the Carillion Event in September. They are excited to share these wonderful works. We will not spoil their "story" to be revealed on October 10 between 5:00-7:00 p.m. Since the theme of Oct 10 is "water," the museum staff feels sailing ships to be very appropriate.