

# FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7 FEBRUARY 2015

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

## Norfolk Southern Caboose # 375

Norfolk Southern Railway came to Fuquay Springs in 1911 when they purchased the Raleigh & Southport Railway. Later Norfolk Southern passed through Fuquay Springs on its way to Charlotte on the main line and the branch line to Fayetteville. Caboose #375 served the line through our town for a number of years.

Built in 1940 for the original Norfolk Southern Railway as a caboose, ownership was changed to Southern Railway in a merger and the caboose given another number. The individual who purchased this caboose intended to convert it into a cabin; however, work stopped upon his death. His widow was the owner who sold it to us.

Allen Paul, Deputy Director of NCDOT Rail Division, attested to the Friends of the Museum that this particular caboose would be highly recommended as an authentic piece of history. He noted that often towns displayed caboose pieces which had no connection whatsoever to their towns. Further these caboose pieces have often been painted and lettered to represent lines which they never served.

Thanks to Tim Carroll, Rob Rousseau and the Norfolk Southern Historical Society, we will be able to display an authentic caboose which actually served our town. Further we have pledged to paint and letter it in its original color scheme. Tim has been working hard to enlist

support from railroad interests and individuals. His ideas and knowledge will be valuable to us once we are ready to begin restoration of the caboose.



The NS375 as it looked in 1964. Photo by Tom King

We hope to move it locally where sandblasting and painting can take place. Once these are complete, Jonathan Cox, Parks and Recreation Director and the Town of Fuquay-Varina, will work with the Friends to pour a pad and imbed track on which we can relocate the caboose to our Ashworth Park Museums Complex.

This project will mean quite an investment of time and money both of which can become sources of great pride. Rob Rousseau has set up a Facebook page to enlist support and disseminate information. Go to the following links to learn more and to see pictures of the actual caboose.

<https://www.facebook.com/NS375>

<http://norfolksouthernhs.org/x375.html>

Donations for the caboose will be greatly appreciated and can be mailed to:

Friends of the Museums, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2034  
Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina 27526

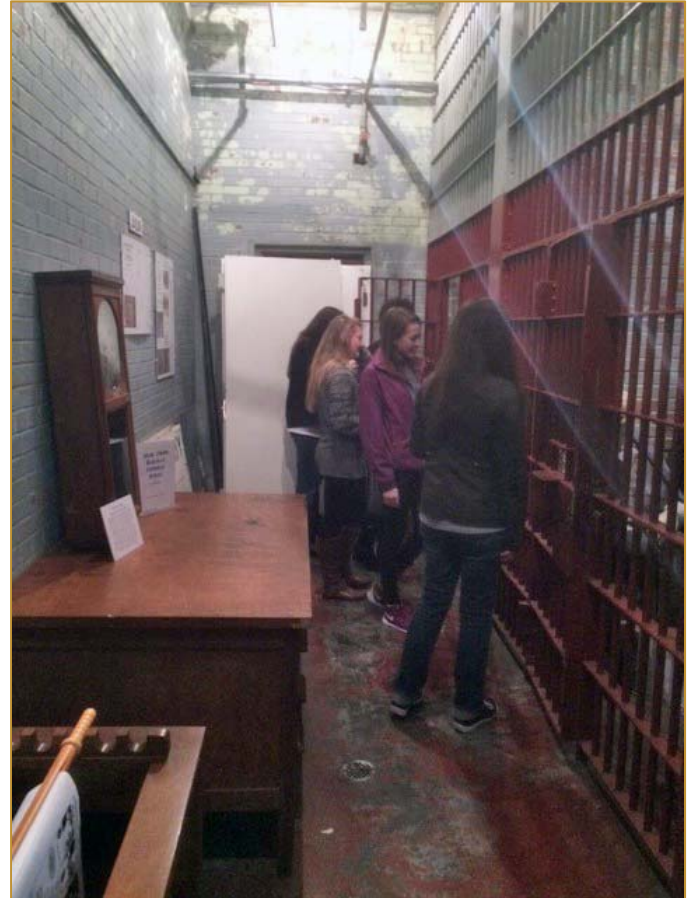
### Holly Springs High School Volunteers

The Social Studies Honor Society of Holly Springs High School approached the Staff of the F. V. Museums relative to possible historic projects. Given several options, they elected to clean the museums.

The tiny Fuquay Springs Post Office seems a magnet for leaves and dust. The Ballentine School House has a number of full time resident spiders who make extensive webs throughout. Additionally dust falls from the old ceilings onto the desks and furnishings. With all the glass cases and displays, fingerprints and dust are a given. Sonia Webb and Shirley Simmons were delighted with the first cleaning efforts.

Students came on the cold January workday when they had been delayed for two hours opening school. Working were: Kelsey O'Connell, Sydney Price, Maddie Adams, Morgan Shortt, Ashton O'Hara, Alex Gibbs, Blayne Callas, Morgan Karlok, Elizabeth Bobbit, Jackson Bingham, Allie Bhenke, Rebekah Favarro, and Kirsten Bootes. Their leader and President, Mary Harris, cast a watchful eye.

The club will have work days in February and March. Cleaning is never a one-time occasion!



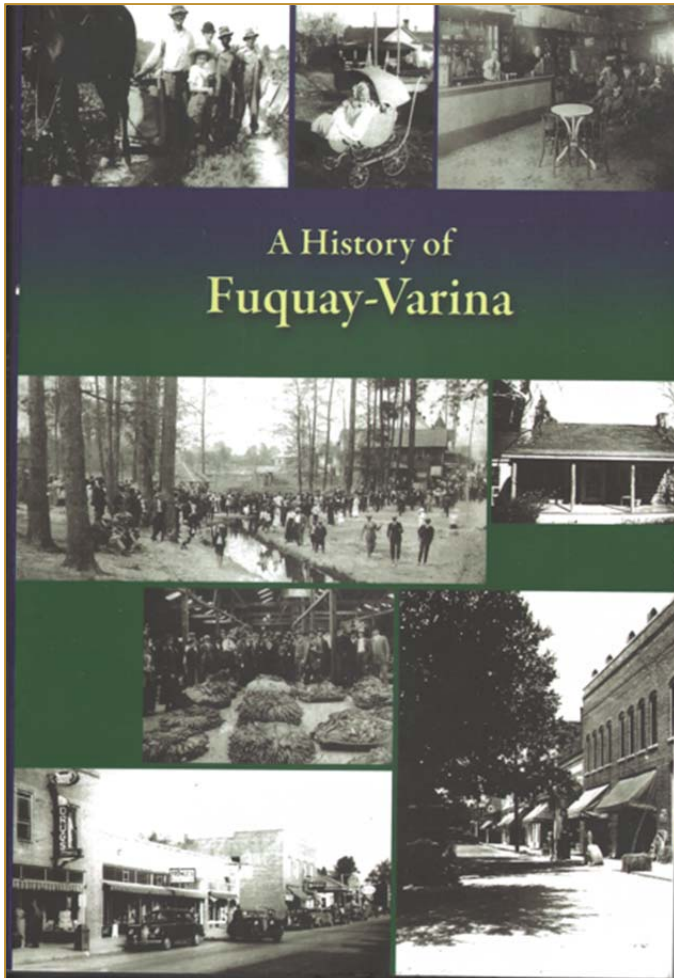
The old jail cells were marvels and certainly the bars proved to be dust collectors.



The Dean Collection of photos, paintings, and plaques were shining again.

## Looking for a Gift? Need a Banner for a New Business?

We get inquires about items for visitors who might come to Fuquay-Varina, gifts to welcome those new neighbors, or something to send to a cousin or old classmate.



The Friends have reprinted a small number of the History of Fuquay-Varina. The edition is available at the Museums or at David Anthony's on N. Main Street. Many persons seem to enjoy reading about their town so we wanted to keep copies available for sale.

There are also notecards of historic prints of Fuquay-Varina. We sell these as boxed sets and as single cards with envelopes. These

make nice gifts for persons who still write notes! Individual cards are suitable for framing.

The museums also have a few souvenir copies of the 2009 Centennial Calendar which included major historic events and a number of photographs.

Banners which flew over the town during the Centennial year are also available. These make excellent outdoor flag type decorations or wall decorations inside new businesses.

In keeping with the caboose project, we acquired some genuine railway spikes. These make nice conversation pieces. Painted black, they can also serve as paper weights.

## Library Program at the Museums

The Fuquay-Varina Branch Library under the direction of Judy Packer asked the museums staff to plan an historical program for their monthly event on January 30, 2015. Having only 45 minutes to give for the tour, the staff elected to plan an introduction to our two older museums.

Docents Sonia Webb, Dot Mays and Shirley Simmons gave a three part guided tour. Eighteen young participants, some accompanied by their parents visited the two rooms of the Squire Ballentine School House and the Post Office Museum.

They saw the school room and heard about education in earlier years. Comparing school books from the 1880's era and the 1940's era proved interesting. Actually sitting in the old desks brought many questions. Fountain pens and ink bottles were real puzzles.

At the Post Office, they learned about the early mail delivery system. That mail came on the train was a revelation to many. That no zip

codes existed and only the town was required as an address mystified the adults.

identified by sight or tied to the speed on computer.

Visitors are always welcome to come and see this and many other historical DVD's in our collection.

### Membership in the Friends of the Museums

The Board is anxious to increase our membership rolls and to remind current members that the annual dues period opened January 1, 2015. Important for a variety of reasons relative to support and encouragement, membership numbers are ALSO vital to our efforts to apply for grants as we move forward.

Dues: \$10 individual membership  
\$25 family memberships  
\$250 lifetime memberships

Mail to:  
Friends of the Museums  
P.O. Box 2034  
Fuquay-Varina, N.C. 27526

Consider encouraging family members who live other places to join. Facebook and other social media seem to be hotbeds of "remembrance" so put in a good word with your friends there.

Meetings of the Board are open to the public every third Wednesday morning. These are the planning and discussion phases where all member ideas are welcome. Contact us regarding time and location if you would like to attend. You can find a membership application at this web site, but PLEASE include your email since members enjoy one PERK. You receive our members only newsletter: "Artifactually Speaking." Usually sent after monthly meetings, this keeps you informed.



Docent Dot Mays shows off the Little Fuquay Springs Post Office

### 1937 Waters Film

W. Lee Waters of Lexington, NC filmed in town on Thursday, February 25, 1937. (Ind, Feb 27, 1937) A call went out for people to come for filming.

The film was shown at Wade's Theater on March 11 & March 12, 1937. Sometime after 2000, Duke University contacted us regarding whether Fuquay-Varina was one of the towns he filmed. They were organizing the collection which has films from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

To view the film, please visit:  
[http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/hleewaters\\_rl10075dvd0005010/](http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/hleewaters_rl10075dvd0005010/)

The Museums has had a DVD since opening in 2009. The Fuquay Springs Questers sold this 1937 film as a portion of a VHS Tape on historical houses about 2000.

We are working on identification of the people seen on the film When we complete this a copy will be available at the museums either

## The Park Beautiful

The Friends are working as per our partnership with the Town of Fuquay-Varina to lay out walks and place lighting throughout the Ashworth Park Museum Complex.

Jonathan Cox, Parks and Recreation Director, assures us that the project will be underway shortly and completed in early spring. If you have never seen our master plan, we reproduce it here. Although a few changes have been necessary, the board has approved the concept in general as the town has contracted. Lighting will be welcome in our Tobacco Barn and during night tours of the complex.

Look for a special event when the work is completed! We will have an outdoor teaching area and other features which can expand our programs. Meantime, tours will continue with minor disruptions necessary for construction.

