



FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 12 OCTOBER 2016

MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

MUSEUMS OPENING CLARIFICATION

The new flyers have been printed to explain and detail all our buildings. This version will be used until we locate the caboose and reprint the historical pamphlet. Annette Ragan gives one of these in "Welcome Wagon" newcomer packets and they are placed in the Welcome Centers of North Carolina and in Raleigh Visitors Bureau. This new flyer is being posted on-line by a number of groups.

The staff is located in the Centennial Museum, with docents conducting tours to the other buildings as a group progresses. We do not have those smaller buildings open and staffed except for all day schedules. Some individuals may not realize the museums are open when one of them is locked until needed if they do not enter the Centennial Museum door. Generally public days bring a small number of visitors making this the expedient procedure.

In response to a recent criticism that "the museums were never open", the Friends Board studied possible schedule changes. Obviously, this comes from local residents, as all visitor requests from letters, telephone, Web or email are honored. With many businesses closed on Monday, the museums are implementing the Monday morning for local persons who have not been able to visit on Wednesday.

Monday mornings: Beginning Sept 12 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Wednesday afternoons: continued 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Special Schedule:

November 5: Celebrate Fuquay-Varina and Chili Cook Off 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

December 4: Following Christmas Parade 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Special Tours: The staff arranges tours for all groups as mutually worked out. This is better than a regular schedule because it involves weekends, nights, or meeting dates when museums are not generally open.

The Board has reached out to all local schools detailing the types of tours and subjects of tours which the staff might arrange for different grade and subject levels.

Adult/senior group tours often include step-on for vans and tours giving the historic sites or the town as well as the museums. These are available for student groups where they have transportation.

Art After Dark events will close with their schedule in September but will resume in the spring. These have presented collections, writers, artists, and musicians. A regular schedule of monthly events awaits future expansion of the museums when space is available for larger groups to view films, DVD's, and special exhibits in addition to taking a tour.

ART AFTER DARK at the Fuquay-Varina Museums

The museums featured a local young musician for our Art After Dark Event on Sept 9th between the hours of 5:00-7:00 p.m. Docents and visitors alike ranked this presentation as one to the best of the season. Musicians and novices alike were entertained by the playing of David Klingler.

David is the son of Mr. & Mrs. John Klingler and the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Buford Mitchell. His instrument, The Scottish Fiddle, proved to be an educational experience extraordinary. David shared with the audience so much information on his teacher and his own passion for the music. Hearing a melody played in different versions was intriguing: lament, march, dance,

et al. Many of his numbers were accompanied by a story of the composition.



The Scottish Fiddle was the instrument of Robert Burns and the renowned composer, Neil Gow and family. David is a student of the Gow school. With the express intention to teach the Scottish Fiddle far and wide, he performed upon the fiddle he won in competition.

For a living, David is a game designer at Solanimus, his Fuquay-Varina Company. By avocation, David is a master musician, playing for almost two hours with no written music. His grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Buford Mitchell attended the performance night and were very helpful. His great grandparents the Proctors of Proctor-Barbour and the Mitchells of Mitchell Chevrolet were among the early business people of Fuquay Springs.

DOCENTS MAKE THE MUSEUM A PLEASURE FOR VISITORS

Approximately 50 volunteer docents have trained to work in the museums and to give tours to visitors. Our most recent trainees are Cheryl Biconish and Julia Brown.

Cheryl is recently retired from the Wake County Public Schools as a classroom teacher while Julia was a librarian with the school system. Both will be great additions to our docent staff.

Persons who might be available to work on Monday mornings or Wednesday afternoons or during festival days are encouraged to contact Shirley Simmons at the museums.



RAGSDALE FAMILY VISIT

The family of Lt. Col. Billy Ragsdale, a native of Fuquay-Varina who lived in Utah, honored his memory in a recent family reunion. Since Billy has been a dedicated supporter of the museums, they requested a special Saturday afternoon tour arranged for their 25 family members.

Among the Ragsdale artifacts were picture albums, Eagle Scout records, Ragsdale genealogy, a calendar of Robert Ragsdale's store, the store record book, souvenir pieces given to customers, *Independent* type set by Jack Ragsdale, and the crowning piece: a framed portrait of our first mayor, Edward Ragsdale. Family came from far and wide; Utah, Minnesota, and Germany were among their homes. Jackie Ragsdale Seawell arranged the tour of multiple generations.



Billy Ragsdale & others view family pictures.



Ragsdale Family enjoy collection from Lt. Billy Ragsdale. Ragsdale's wife in on right.



Rosalind Snipes loops tobacco with handing by members of Aiken family who were touring that day.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS PARTICIPATE IN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPO

Each year the Museums staff participate by setting up a booth at the Business Expo hosted by the local Chamber of Commerce. Visitors to the booth are presented with a variety of items which the museums have to promote Fuquay-Varina. Our project for the NS Caboose were major items, along with the History of Fuquay-Varina, and notecards featuring historical prints. Board Members from the Friends of the Museums are on hand to enlighten business people and visitors to Expo.

Al Prevatte and Orlean Newton are pictured at the table. Donald Cotton, President, and Shirley Simmons were also present on September 24.



Pictured at Friends booth at the Chamber Expo are Al Prevatte and Orlean Newton, Secretary.

ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW: A WONDERFUL EVENT

Jewel Ryals and Becky Ryals, masters at appraisal, gave another delightful performance at the Carillon Antiques Road Show on September 10, 2016. For the third year, Carillon has partnered with the Friends of the Museums to support the CABOOSE # 375 project for the Fuquay-Varina Museums. And for the third year, the items to be evaluated have continued to AMAZE.



A French bronze sculpture featuring an apprentice artist or worker.



Steiff originals were sent by a nurse from North Carolina who served in U. S. Army during World War II.



Docent Diane Schurr brought her antique doll for valuation.



Victoria Currin, representing Carillon at the Antiques Road Show, welcomed the visitors, residents and persons with antiques to be valued by Jewel Ryals.



Jewel Ryals of Bostic & Wilson with daughter, Becky served as the evaluators for the third year.

While the event this year had some confusion over dates and publicity and sales were not possible as previously, the participants really enjoyed the event.

Victoria Currin and Will Batot and all the local staff provided delightful hospitality and welcome to all. Donald Cotton, President, Max Ashworth, Past President, and Shirley Simmons, Volunteer Director represented the museums.



Another business has boosted our Caboose Project. Proprietor, Bobbie Asad, proudly showed this image of the caboose on her door on Main Street.

GENERAL NEWS OF MUSEUMS

Mannequins have been purchased and dressed with several military uniforms which had been given to the museums. These include: Mayor Cozart's World War I uniform for which the Lion's Club is donating a case in memory of Mr. Lilley. Fittingly, Cozart was a LION. Skinny Ashworth has a mannequin for his uniform as does Sgt. Billy Bullard. A special child's version of a naval uniform, given to John Elliott, also is displayed.

World War II veteran, Robert Senter, gave a large collection of memorabilia which is displayed. This includes both American and German artifacts. A second veteran, Warren Lee, has donated some original material of interest.

Some recent donations:

- A scrapbook from the Fuquay-Varina Credit Women
- An autograph of Muhammad Ali to a Fuquay resident
- Bottle caps & bottles from Varina brick
- Artifacts from Campbell's diner
- FVHS annuals & student handbooks

Accessioning is continuing with almost all artifacts entered on a computer. Work will begin on picture files as soon as a form is ready by Al Prevatte.

Students, Davis Fields and James Stephens, have been working to copy all picture discs to a computer file as a backup system.

Full computer service awaits expansion of the museums at some future point but work is progressing.

An EXPO booth was maintained by the staff in the Chamber of Commerce Event of August. Always we find new citizens and life-long residents who don't know about the Fuquay-Varina Museums. This helps us spread the word to businesses and neighborhoods.

Additional pictures have been donated coming from the Garner *Independent* but apparently a Fuquay-Varina collection. Questers and others will be working on cataloging and identifying these prints which are from the 1980's- 2000's.

Varina Brick Warehouse bricks are to be worked into a column with sundial to complement our Tobacco Barn Museum story. The oldest extant warehouse, it survived from 1914-2016. Alex Weis is working with the Friends on this as his Eagle Scout project.

The museums have acquired large collections from several estates: Senter, Stinson. These will be resources for preservation in a variety of forms.

BLUE STAR MUSEUMS DESIGNATION 2016-2017

Fuquay-Varina Museums are again listed as a Blue Star Museum, joining a list of approximately 40 museums in North Carolina registered for 2016. While the local museums do not charge admission, our docents would welcome military families and be honored to conduct special tours for families or groups of families.

We appreciate the sacrifice made by military families for all of us. Families can follow the prompt for contacting our museums and to arrange a tour time to fit all needs.

Following is the flyer which the museums invite the public to share with any military families they know. Fuquay-Varina will welcome any size family or group of families.

Enjoy our buildings, view our exhibits and learn our history!

LOOKING FOR FAMILY ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER?



Free Admission
2,000+
museums

Memorial Day to Labor Day

Blue Star Museums offers free admission to active duty military, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, National Guard, and Reserve members, with up to five family members.

FINE ARTS SCIENCE HISTORY MUSIC FILM CRAFTS TOYS GARDENS ZOOS
AND MORE

Plan your museum trip at
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

#bluestarmuseums





Fuquay-Varina Museums

ASHWORTH PARK

HOW TO ACCESS INFORMATION

Visit Web: www.fuquay-varina-museums.org

Email: info@fuquay-varina-museums.org

Location: 121-131 S. Fuquay Ave. Fuquay-Varina 27526

Call for tours: 919-552-5562



Centennial History Museum, Post Office, Squire Ballentine School, Tobacco Barn, Johnson Playhouse —filled with artifacts, documents, display boards— all interpreted by a docent for your tour!

PUBLIC HOURS: Monday 10:00-1:00 & Wednesday 1:00-4:00

All Festivals 10:00-4:00

TOURS: By Appointment

