

GREETINGS go to you from the Coats Museum Board of Directors and Volunteers. Board member Ralph Denning suggested that a newsletter via emails would be an excellent means to share the story of why a small town such as Coats could have a museum that would become the destination for thousands from near and far. Many of you may follow the Coats Museum through the Coats Heritage and Cotton Museum on facebook while some may read about it through the weekly column in the Friday edition of the Daily Record or on the coatsmuseum.com website.

The success story is because of many of you. You have gone into your closets, attics, trunks and barns and shared precious items to donate or loan to the museum for display. Others of you have opened your checkbooks to write checks for memorials, honorariums, gifts, engraved bricks or purchased books published by the museum volunteers.

Because of your amazing support, we have filled our exhibits to the max and our storage is overrunning. Our bank account has grown beyond our annual needs and excitement is abounding. Our Coats Museum Endowment is growing to the point that it could finance many of our budget needs.

In the newsletters, we will spotlight pictures of old houses, businesses, citizens, tombstones, maps, exhibit items and so much more. You will learn about those who are supporting the

museums via giving their time to help maintain the grounds and buildings, give tours, write grants and all the things it takes to operate a museum without tax support but through the generosity of individuals such as you.

Our first edition “Summer” will be longer than those following it and will focus on some data from the 2023 report while some is from our current happenings.

In 2023:

- 1,781 visitors came from 29 towns, 12 states and 3 countries. Some came for tours while others came for research. Virtual website visitors and facebook groups would number in the thousands.
- Community trust, participation and dedication have resulted in outstanding collections: the Spacesuit of astronaut Dr. William Thornton from his Challenger flight in May 1985 (thanks to the help of the late Joe Tart); the Tocci wedding dress and night gown hand fashioned from the groom’s reserve WWII parachute (loaned by his son, Mike Tocci family); the Native Americans artifacts given by Dorothea Stewart and those loaned from the Jimmie Byrd collection, and the military collections from the 1800’s loaned by Andy Cole. The numerous items from dozens of veterans who had put their lives in peril in the wars beginning with WWI to Afghanistan either loaned or donated to the museums.

- More current collections include the Vintage Toy Collection of Preston Ingalls, the Vietnam War dress uniform of Danny Gardner (CHS 1973), the DMORT uniform of Deputy Commander L.D. Parker (CHS 1973), former educator M.O. Phillips' WWII uniform and wedding dress of his bride Kathryn Smith Phillips (by Carolyn Phillips Spears), WWII scrapbooks of Dr. Bruce Langdon (CHS 1938) who was a survivor of Bataan Death March and Hell's Ship (by his son Bruce Langdon). Myrtle Bridges and her Cobalt Blue and Depression glass draws much attention; the vintage doorknobs and insulators from Jimmie Byrd and Jennifer Johnson's 1904 McClellan Cavalry Saddle, made and issued to the 7th Cavalry at Ft. Sill, OK where the Apache Chief Geronimo was held from 1894 until his death on February 17, 1909, are priceless.
- More vintage items will be addressed in the FALL newsletter.

Being a non-profit, we are grateful to the families who over the years have designated the museum as a source to memorialize their loved ones (Joe Tart, Pearl Lumley, Lib Guy, Devon Moore, Ann Beasley, Dovie Beasley and H.L. Sorrell, Jr.). To those who give honorariums for various reasons, to those who are just givers to good causes, you have helped raise much money. The cash gifts, honorariums and memorials were extremely high in 2023 because of the large number of deaths associated with the museum's board and volunteers.

Needing another exhibit building to display stored artifacts has already brought in \$20,500 thanks to Geraldine Byrd, Myrtle Bridges, Mike Tocci and Floyd McLamb. The sale of brick pavers which border the sidewalks and share

engraved stories of accomplishments, memories and honorariums has added over \$7,000 to our incoming monies.

The board of directors and volunteers meet once a month on Tuesday nights to clean and tackle other needed tasks at the museums.

The Grant Committee has applied for a grant to add much needed technological advances to improve our museum's presentations and to offer a pilot opportunity for our youth to be historians and researchers.

Many volunteers have hit the roads to identify the older houses in the various 7 school districts of Grove Township.

Kent Hudson has replaced the water fountain dedicated to his parents –Mack and Juanita Hudson- and it makes the perfect backdrop for pictures or a wedding on the square.

Some of the events that the museum sponsors will show up in the FALL Spotlight.

Coats Heritage & Cotton Museums

P.O. Box 1294

109 S. McKinley Street

Coats, NC 27521

Open

Thursdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sundays 2 – 5 p.m.

& Appointments

Closed Holidays

coatsmuseum.com

facebook groups:

Coats Heritage & Cotton Museums

Coats Museums' Military Appreciation

Daily Record, Friday editions - Coats

Museum News articles and photos

Spotlighting A Citizen, Map and House

Daniel Shaw II



This is the tombstone of Daniel Shaw II (died in 1860) and Margaret Urquhart Shaw (died in 1874) that is located in the Coats City Cemetery near the circle of the J.T. Coats family circle. After the death of their parents- in 1860 and 1874, the Shaw heirs sold 706 acres for \$3,452.50 from the land they had inherited to James Thomas Coats. These

purchases of land occurred between January 6, 1875 and March 1, 1876. It is unknown to the Coats Museum folks as to when this tombstone was placed in the Coats City Cemetery. Their son Benjamin Franklin Shaw was the first clerk of court when Harnett County was formed from Cumberland County in 1855. Their daughter Caroline married Andrew Jackson Byrd and they are parents of Walter Pierce Byrd of Lillington who was a member of the first class at the Buies Creek Academy.

Fulton's 1822 map shows the dwellings on the Raleigh-Fayetteville Stagecoach Road. Between the Dushee Shaw House and the Dushee Shaw Halfway House (currently being restored to a museum at Turlington's Crossroad area) and Mrs. Barclay's there was the Daniel Shaw Place. It was this land belonging to the heirs of Daniel Shaw II and Margaret Urquhart Shaw that James Thomas

Coats purchased the land upon which the town of Coats was established. Map on the following page...

James Thomas Coats House

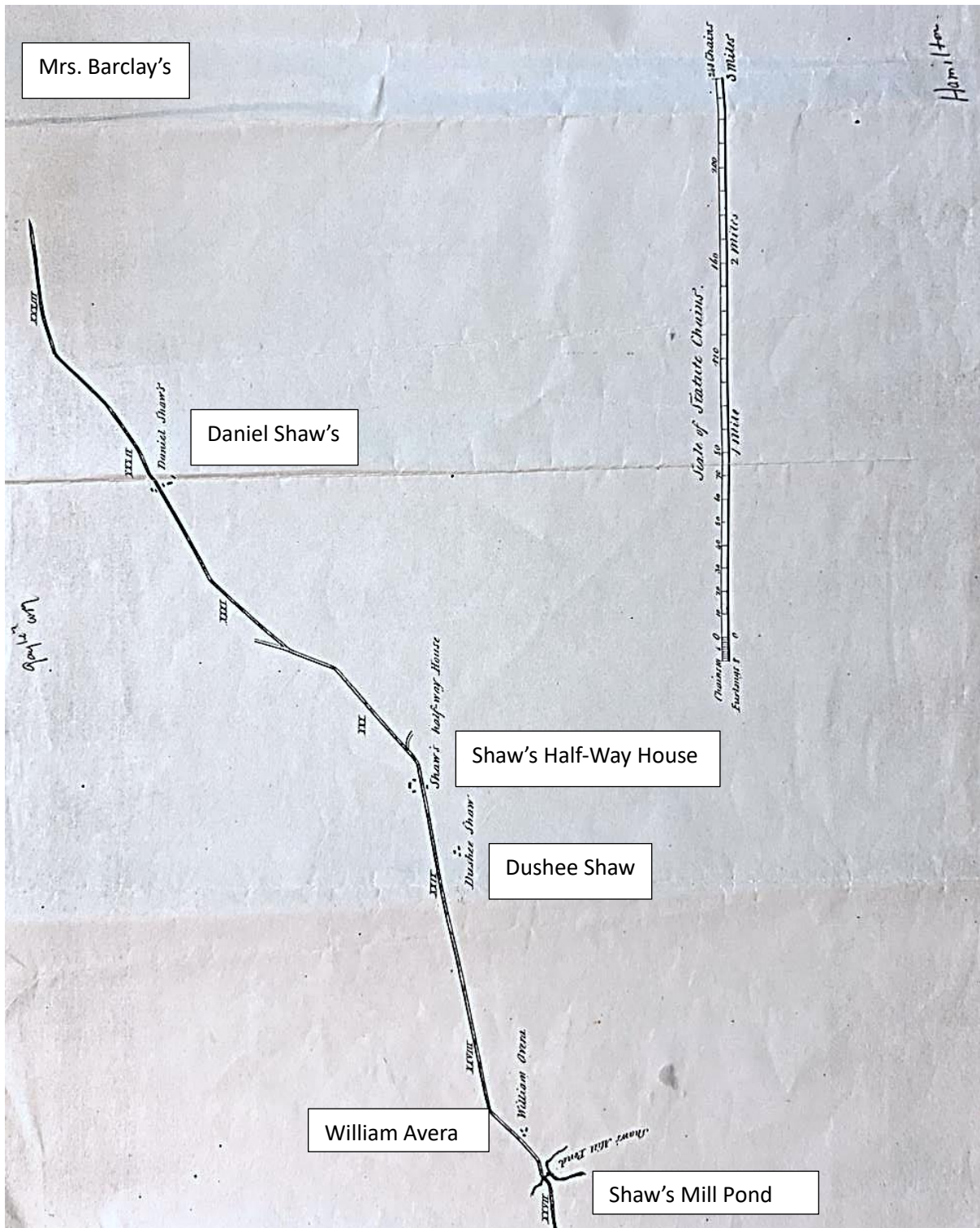
The James Thomas Coats house is located on South Carrie Street and the date of its construction is unknown to the Coats Museum folks. When writing the history of Coats, it was shared by some senior residents of Coats that James Thomas and Nancy Isabella Turlington Coats had a log cabin behind the area of what is now the location of Stewart Tires' business. A second location is that they owned a house in the area of the former Guy Stewart car dealership and the house was moved to its current site. Neither of these bits of information can be backed up with facts. James T. did sell some lots to his half-brother Henry H. Penny and Unity Coats Penny in the area near the Coats house around 1907 indicating that the Coats house was on the current site.



2001



2024



Fulton's 1822 Map – Raleigh-Fayetteville Stagecoach Road
 (labels added to assist viewer)