



# FARMVILLE - PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 2021 - Newsletter

## **Our next meeting...**

will take place on August 17th at the historic Farmville Train Station. The meeting will include two programs. The first, from 6pm to 7pm, will be a movie and slideshow, highlighting the history of the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department and the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Following this, from 7pm to 8pm, will be our regular meeting at which Dan Pempel of the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department will present a program regarding the 6 locations of the Farmville Fire Department from 1860 to 2021 as well as a history of the various fire trucks used by the department during that period of time. This program is free and open to the public.



On August 17, 1947 WFLO began broadcasting at AM 870. See page 3 for a list of historic dates in Farmville and Prince Edward County history.

## **At our July meeting...**

it was great seeing so many familiar (and some new) faces! We learned about some projects the historical society has been working on (updates forthcoming), and discussed progress that has been made regarding the historical society archives. Several historical society archival collections have been processed in the past few months. The finding aids for these collections can be found here: <https://libguides.longwood.edu/SpecialCollectionsandArchives/HistoricalSocietyArchives>. As well, many items from the archives have been digitized and can be found here:

<https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/fpechs/>



## From the archives...

The Bugg Family Collection, in the historical society archives, includes many interesting items regarding local history. One of those items is a [petition](#) circulated by Charles Bugg in an effort to keep four teachers from leaving the State Female Normal School in 1887. Those four teachers all resigned their positions that year in protest of Dr. William Ruffner's continued employment of Celestia Parrish.

Parrish, born in 1853, was a largely self-taught brilliant mathematician from Pittsylvania County. Orphaned at a young age, she and her siblings were raised by an uncle who did not believe in education for women. To make up for this deficit she read and memorized as many books as she could find. This self-education combined with a natural intelligence served her well and after the death of her uncle she was able to secure a position as a teacher. Parrish, however, was not satisfied with her level of education and felt she could do more as a teacher if she could attend college. After several years of attending classes at Roanoke Female College and summer sessions at the University of Virginia, she finally got her chance, when, in 1884 she was able to enroll as a student at the State Female Normal School in Farmville, the first state school in Virginia founded to educate women as teachers.

Dr. Ruffner quickly recognized her brilliance and after only a few weeks offered her a position as an instructor in math. For two years Parrish continued her studies at State Female Normal School while also teaching courses to her fellow students. It is unknown how the rift between Parrish and her colleagues formed, but we do know that despite their efforts and those of the petitioners she kept her position at the school and eventually was made head of the department of mathematics. While she did eventually leave the school in 1893, she went on to head the departments of mathematics and psychology at Randolph-Macon, was the first President of the Southern Association of College women, and was later named Rural School Supervisor for the State of Georgia. Upon her death in 1918, Georgia's governor named her "Georgia's Greatest Women," a title also inscribed on her tombstone.

VA., JULY, 1887.

I hereby constitute and appoint Mr. CHAS BUGG, of the town of Farmville, and State of Virginia, my true and lawful attorney for me and in my stead to attach my name to a petition to be presented to the Board of Trustees of the State Female Normal School of Virginia, asking the retention of Misses BUSH, LEE, BRIMBLECOM, and MINER as Teachers in the same. And I hereby ratify and confirm the action of my said attorney in the premises.

## It Happened in August...

**8-1-1922** Death of prominent Prince Edward tobacco merchant Walter Grey Dunnington, owner of Poplar Hill.

**8-2-1897** Civil rights activist W. E. B. DuBois studies Prince Edward County's black population for U.S. Labor Commission report.

**8-4-1851** Francis Carr and Christian Ehrman contracted with the Southside Railroad to build the High Bridge original wooden superstructure.

**8-4-1899** Edward Wiltse, jeweler and silversmith, died.

**8-4-1922** J. C. Brickert seeks location at Third and Randolph streets to locate Farmville's first service station.

**8-5-1942** First daylight air raid test.

**8-8-1907** Prince Edward Hotel opened.

**8-8-1952** Farmville Drive-in opened on Route 15 just south of Farmville.

**8-10-1993** By-laws adopted for Rural Education Foundation, creating the Fuqua School that replace Prince Edward Academy.

**8-14-1902** Work commences to build Norfolk & Western station.

**8-14-1945** County-wide nighttime celebrations for end of World War II.

**8-17-1947** WFLO went on the air.

**8-18-1913** Henry Lindsey elected Fire Chief.

**8-19-1962** Saylor's Creek Battlefield Park dedicated.

**8-20-1969** Hurricane Camille brings flooding to Farmville.

**8-24-1884** Farmville Lithia Springs incorporated.

**8-26-1867** Prince Edward resident and nationally-recognized educator Robert Russa Moton born in Amelia County.

**8-27-1894** Gov. O'Ferrall arrives for visit to Farmville.

**8-27-1909** Farmville Silver Band's first open air concert.

**8-30-1895** The Confederate Monument Association organized.

**8-30-1905** Partial eclipse of the sun witnessed.