



FARMVILLE - PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

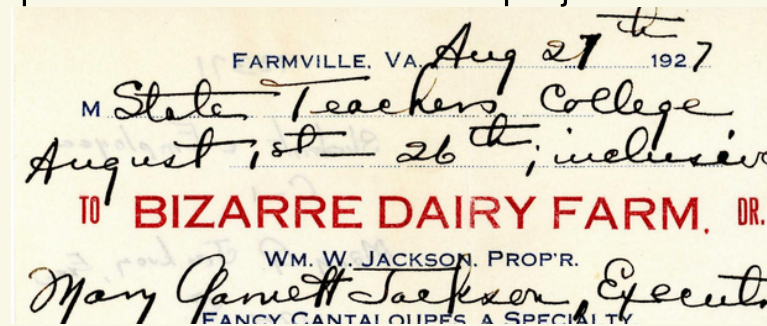
APRIL 2021 - Newsletter

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we enter the Spring Season we look forward to the end of the pandemic shutdowns and the resumption of our monthly historical society meetings. Hopefully we can all meet together soon. I wanted to pass along a few updates and notices to our group. To answer questions we have received regarding our yearly dues, the society did not collect dues for the year of 2020 as the meetings were interrupted by the pandemic. There will be no dues collection for this year, 2021, until we can resume regular monthly meetings. Once we can resume operations the FPEHS board members will then make decisions regarding the resumption of dues.

Local researchers will be pleased to know that the Farmville Herald digitization project is still moving along nicely. As of March 29th, 4211 issues of the Farmville Herald, from 1899-1964, are available online on the Library of Virginia's [Virginia Chronicle](https://www.liv.org/) website. Issues of the Farmville Commonwealth (1873) and the Farmville Mercury (1873-1976) are also available on the same website.

Myself, Jim Davis and Dan Pempel of the historical society have just completed a year long research and collection project for The Farmville Fire Department. A complete history of the fire department was done for the 150th Anniversary of The Farmville Fire Department. Thanks to the many members that helped collect photos and material for this project.



Benedict Chatelain is heading up a project to collect old Farmville billheads. This project features old invoices and billheads from downtown stores from the 1800s to about 1960. So far about 300 items have been scanned and cataloged. If you have any old billheads or photographs of old Farmville businesses, please contact Benedict at Greenwood Library. The final product of this project will include an interactive map of old Farmville businesses.

In late December of 2020 a photo journalist contacted FPEHS and asked about donating a dozen films he produced about citizens in Farmville. The films were made by David Hoffman in California. They arrived just before Christmas 2020 and are now in the hands of The Longwood University Greenwood Library with the rest of the FPEHS Archives. Plans are to share these films with the public in the future. One of the films is also available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

Bob Flippen, Edwina Covington and myself are working on a project to collect and preserve the history of the tobacco industry in Farmville. A large amount of information has been collected and is being finalized. We hope to soon work with Green Front Furniture Company of Farmville to continue this project.

Finally we are lining up new programs to be presented at our monthly meetings once we can get back into The Farmville Train Station. Hopefully things can get back on track at the train station!

Jimmy Hurt, President of The Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society

Twenty years ago, on April 24, a massive fire destroyed Longwood's iconic Rotunda and Grainger Hall.



181 firefighters from 11 departments spent 29 hours and used over 3 million gallons of water fighting the blaze.



It Happened in April...

- 4-2-1905 The first black Baptist Church freed itself of indebtedness
- 4-3-1944 Gov. Darden attends banquet honoring the local company of Virginia State Guard
- 4-6-1865 Confederate forces are defeated in several battles along Saylor's Creek
- 4-6-1865 Gen. Robert E. Lee spends the night at Farmville's Randolph House hotel
- 4-7-1865 High Bridge partially burned; skirmish at Worsham; Federals occupy Hampden-Sydney; battles at Cumberland Church and Plank Road, Farmville occupied
- 4-7-1865 Gen. U. S. Grant, staying at Randolph House hotel, sends a note to Lee encouraging surrender
- 4-8-1865 U.S. Army segments consolidate at Prospect depot en route to Appomattox Court House
- 4-9-1865 Army of Northern Virginia surrenders to Gen. Grant at Appomattox Court House
- 4-10-1865 Gen. Grant spends night near Prospect United Methodist Church
- 4-10-1922 First motorized fire truck acquired
- 4-12-1917 Farmville Guard dispatched to St. Paul, Virginia, to guard bridges and tunnels
- 4-13-1920 Mrs. Martha E. Forrester holds first meeting of her Council of Negro Women
- 4-14-1938 Asa Dickinson Watkins, sheriff, judge, commonwealth attorney, died
- 4-15-1895 Thornton-Pickett Camp of United Confederate Veterans organized
- 4-15-1987 Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library opens; formed by merger of Reading Room and Public Library
- 4-16-1865 Memorial service for President Lincoln is held in Farmville Presbyterian Church
- 4-17-1924 B. M. Cox, sheriff, postmaster, Normal School business manager, died
- 4-21-1861 County representative J. T. Thornton votes for Virginia secession (vote: 88-55)
- 4-21-1936 Farmville High School burns
- 4-22-1892 Birth of civil rights leader, Dr. Vernon Johns, near Darlington Heights
- 4-22-1901 Constitutionality of the Dispensary argued before Judge George Hundley
- 4-23-1919 Carter Glass trophy train came to Farmville displaying captured World War I weapons and material
- 4-23-1951 450 Moton High School students stage strike, protesting inadequate facilities
- 4-25-1953 Robert Morris Chapter Order of the Eastern Star initiated
- 4-26-1924 Taylor Manufacturing Company located end of Buffalo Street burned
- 4-27-1951 Farmville Herald dismisses Moton student strike as a "lack of discipline"
- 4-29-1820 Henry Watkins Allen, Brigadier General, CSA, and governor of Louisiana born near Farmville
- 4-29-1895 Philanthropist Lewis Ginter offers Richmond site for relocating Union Seminary
- 4-29-1903 Farmville N&W Passenger Station opened
- 4-30-1904 Colonel Richard A. Booker, Captain of Farmville Guard, tobacconist and proprietor of Randolph House, died