

FARMVILLE - PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In November 2020 the FPEHS received a nice handmade quilt from a lady in South Carolina. She had purchased the quilt at a yard sale and noticed "Farmville" and "1939" were embroidered on the quilt. Her intentions were to return the quilt to its original home.



Upon arrival, I noticed 40 embroidered names and the words "Roses Store." I took photos of all of the names on the quilt and posted the photos on my Facebook page. My goal was to identify the names on the quilt and the connection to the Roses Store. I was unsure if the word "Farmville" was indeed Farmville, Virginia. I also shared the information with a few members of the historical society. Hundreds of people noticed the quilt pictures on Facebook. Soon Thomas Morrisett in Florida and Betsy Foster Breen, formerly of Farmville, started researching the names. Dr. Ray Gaskins then supplied information on the name Mr. Rasbury as the manager of Roses Store in Farmville in 1939.



Within two weeks Thomas and Betsy had discovered the identity of about half of the names. Thomas has also produced several charts linking many of the names to a local Overton family of years ago. The research continues as we still have questions regarding who made this quilt, for what reason, and how the quilt ended up in South Carolina. The quilt is now in storage with other FPEHS items at Longwood University's Greenwood Library. In the future, we plan to display the quilt at a location in Farmville as well as show to it at an upcoming FPEHS meeting. If you have any information or connection to the following people whose names appear on the quilt, please contact: jimmyhurt@centurylink.net

- "MOM" - Betty Gay (Smith) Overton (1865-1941)
- "DADDY" - Walter B Overton (1889-????)
- "Grand Mother" - Hattie G Smith (1865-1941)

It happened in December...

- 12-1-1904 First rural mail route opens in county.
- 12-1-1947 Southside Council on Health Care organized.
- 12-1-1892 J. R. Martin elected Captain of the Farmville Guard.
- 12-2-1836 N.E. Venable, Confederate marine and druggist, born.
- 12-3-1940 H.C. Crute, druggist and water works patron, died.
- 12-4-1890 Petition presented to Farmville Town Council to obtain electric service.
- 12-5-1944 George M. Robeson, founder of Farmville Manufacturing Company and international plow-handle mogul, died.
- 12-4-1969 Steeple replaced on the Presbyterian Church.
- 12-8-1899 W.W.H. Thackston, mayor, Virginia Dental Association founder, died.
- 12-9-1952 U.S. Supreme Court hearings begin on appeals by Prince Edward and other jurisdictions on "separate-but-equal" public school systems.
- 12-11-1850 Farmville Lodge No. 41 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons chartered by Grand Lodge of Virginia.
- 12-11-1889 Baptist Church has memorial service for Jefferson Davis.
- 12-12-1849 Walter Grey Dunnington, tobacconist, born.
- 12-14-1900 Banquet honoring Joseph Mannoni held at Randolph House.
- 12-17-1873 County's first agricultural Grange chapter met near Prospect.
- 12-19-1753 Virginia's Royal Governor Dinwiddie signs bill to divide Amelia County, creating Prince Edward County.
- 12-22-1795 Virginia General Assembly incorporates the "Upper Appomattox Company" designed to clear the Appomattox River for navigation from Petersburg to Farmville and beyond.
- 12-24-1844 Col. Charles McKinney Walker, commission merchant, born.
- 12-25-1885 Union Seminary faculty reluctantly approves one-day Christmas holiday.
- 12-27-1860 Moses Tredway, innkeeper and town trustee, died.
- 12-29-1890 Farmville Electric Light, Heat and Power Company franchised.
- 12-30-1938 Farmville Manufacturing Company wins bid to build new courthouse.

and... what not to do this Christmas:

- 12-23-1905 Prof. Mattoon severely burned while impersonating Santa Claus at the Normal School.
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John Chester Mattoon and students from the Normal School on a class trip to Willis Mountain, circa 1907.

Longwood University, Greenwood Library Archives
LU-157 - Mattoon Family Collection