

OCTOBER 2020

# FARMVILLE - PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society is alive and well. Although we have not been able to have a meeting since February, 2020, operations continue. Ten months have passed since we last held a meeting at the train station due to the Covid Virus. The Town of Farmville has advised when the threat of the virus has passed we will be able to return to our normal meeting place. Until the all clear signal is given there is not much that we can do.

The 2020 officers and board members have been announced. Leading our group in 2020 will be Jimmy Hurt-President, John Burton-Vice President, Phyllis Guilliams-Treasurer, Benedict Chatelain-Secretary, Bill Poulston- Historian, Kay Whitfield, Edwina Covington, Bob Flippen and Richard McClintock.

During 2020 donations have continued to come in. The archives of The Farmville Fire Department have been donated to our historical society. Several boxes of Fire Department archives and materials have been placed in our storage area at Longwood University Library. Other interesting donations have been promised to us by the end of the year.

The board members have made the decision to apply all dues paid into our society for the

year 2020 to the 2021 year. This seems fair since the virus has put our 2020 year on hold. I hope everyone will stay safe and well and that we can restart our meetings at some point in the year 2021.

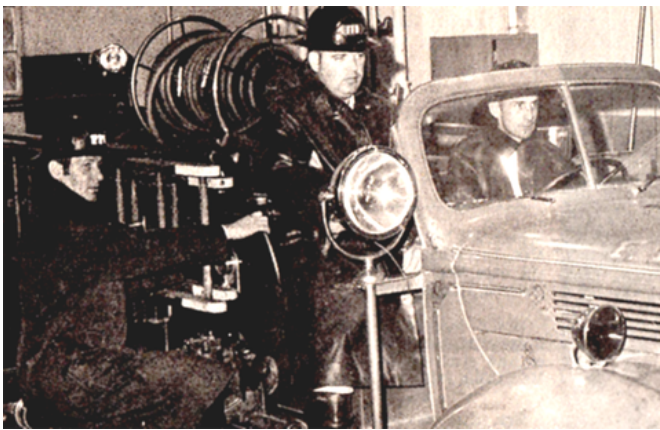
I have been asked what have I been doing during this Covid Virus period? I was in the hospital several times during January and February. So I started off this period taking things slow. I stayed at home like the doctors had advised. When Spring rolled around I started getting out and going to the drug store and Wal Mart.

During the shutdown, The Farmville Fire Department asked for help on developing the history of the Farmville Fire Department. Plans called for the department to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of The Farmville Volunteer Fire Department in October 2020 (ctd. on pg. 2)



## FARMVILLE HERALD DIGITIZATION PROJECT

I joined FPEHS members Dan Pempel and Jim Davis to research and sort out 150 years of fire department records, old photos and newspaper clippings. During the last six months we put together several power point programs and 12 short movies to be presented during a celebration program at the Firemen's Sports Arena.



This has been a time consuming task which helped occupy a lot of my quarantine time. As we were completing our history reports, the Town of Farmville, due to the virus, canceled the Parade and Anniversary Celebration. Plans call for the celebration event to be held when the virus threat has passed. Jim, Dan, and I are still working on collecting any related items, articles, and photos for the fire department history. Jim Davis and Dan Pempel are also members of the fire department. At some point in the future, we plan to give a presentation on the fire department history at one of our FPEHS meetings.

**-Jimmy Hurt, FPEHS President**

Last year, Longwood University's Greenwood Library, the Library of Virginia, and The Farmville Herald entered into an agreement to digitize the entire run of the newspaper from 1893 through 2017. The digitization project was put on hold for much of this year due to the Covid virus, but according to the Library of Virginia, it is now back on track. The digitization is estimated to be complete in early to mid-2021.



As part of this agreement, Greenwood Library has agreed to preserve bound print volumes of the newspaper. Throughout this month, the archives staff at Greenwood Library has been moving these volumes from the Farmville Herald office into the library's newly renovated archival storage facilities. This part of the project should be complete by the end of October and will be available to the public thereafter.

## It Happened in October...

- 10-1-1928** - President Eggleston restores spelling "Sydney" in college's name to match 1783 Charter.
- 10-2-1892** - First Baptist Church dedicated.
- 10-3-1933** - County citizens vote in favor (461-436) of retaining Prohibition.
- 10-4-1798** - First sale of lots in newly surveyed town of Farmville; purchasers agreed to build within 7 years.
- 10-8-1890** - John O. Collins, local inventor, receives gold medal from Paris World's Fair for his railroad car coupler.
- 10-9-1898** - Dr. John Atkinson Cunningham, second president of the State Female Normal school, dies in Farmville.
- 10-10-1910** - Buck Fuqua, black restaurateur, died.
- 10-11-1900** - Confederate Monument unveiled, honoring county's eight military companies.
- 10-11-1918** - Farmville native, Wiltshire C. Davis, 116th Infantry, receives distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre for bravery in battle near Verdun.
- 10-11-1979** - Pepsi Cola commercial filmed at the Farmville train station.
- 10-12-1909** - Remains of Gov. Beverly Randolph reinterred at West View cemetery.
- 10-15-1902** - O. T. Wicker, postmaster, mayor, councilman, died.
- 10-15-1954** - Hurricane Hazel comes through Farmville.
- 10-15-1909** - Andrew Reid Venable, Inspector General for J.E.B. Stuart, commission merchant, died.
- 10-16-1859** - John Brown's Harper's Ferry raid produces many enlistments for Prince Edward militia.
- 10-19-1781** - British surrender at Yorktown assures free county government.
- 10-20-1871** - Cornerstone laid for Prince Edward Courthouse in Farmville.
- 10-20-1884** - State Female Normal School opened with 110 students.
- 10-20-1925** - Hotel Weyanoke opens.
- 10-21-1948** - Farmville Sesquicentennial celebrated.
- 10-21-1998** - Farmville epicenter for an earthquake 1:57 a.m., 3.3 Richter scale.
- 10-23-1897** - Kappa Delta Sorority organized at the State Normal School.
- 10-24-1845** - S.W. Paulette, Farmville's "old Reb," born.
- 10-24-1946** - Dabney S. Lancaster inaugurated president of State Teachers College.
- 10-27-1859** - Hampden-Sydney alumnus and future Confederate Brig. Gen. Roger Proyer is elected U.S. Congressman from this district.
- 10-27-1901** - Fire destroyed the dog pound of Farmville.
- 10-29-1907** - Several citizens witnessed the falling of a dazzling meteor.