

# FARMVILLE - PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly Newsletter

## NO MAY MEETING!

Due to the ongoing concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic and the government mandated quarantine we will not be meeting this month.

### MEMORIAL DAY 2020

The origins of Memorial Day began in the years following the Civil War. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan called for a nationwide day of remembrance which he called Decoration Day.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield delivered a speech at Arlington National Cemetery and several thousand participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

Gradually, Decoration Day began to be known as Memorial Day, and, beginning with World War I, evolved into a day of commemoration for American military personnel who died in all wars.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the same date

that General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. It was not until 1968, when Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, that Memorial Day was established as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees.



In honor of Memorial Day we have digitized a scrapbook compiled by Tucker Doyne. This scrapbook is part of the Farmville-Prince Edward County Historical Society Archives and includes notices regarding servicemen from Farmville's Company G

that were killed or injured on the European front in World War II. The digitized scrapbook can be found by following this link: <https://bit.ly/2zYvkuI>

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## IT HAPPENED IN MAY...

- 5-1-1832 Gov. Philip Watkins McKinney born in Buckingham.
- 5-2-1894 First official proposal by trustees to move Presbyterian seminary from its 70-year existence at Hampden-Sydney.
- 5-3-1905 Farmville Guard left for Richmond to attend funeral of Major General Fitzhugh Lee.
- 5-4-1895 Farmville Guard called to Pocahontas to guard working men from violence at the hands of strikers.
- 5-4-1901 The first "dry" Saturday in Farmville history; no liquor sales.
- 5-5-1942 World War II sugar rationing begins.
- 5-5-1996 WFLO tower collapses.
- 5-6-1776 William Watts and William Booker elected Prince Edward representatives to convention to establish constitution for Commonwealth, to replace colonial rule.
- 5-6-1965 J.J. Newberry Department Store at Third and Main burned.
- 5-7-1846 Town and citizens decide to buy \$100,000 stock to secure railroad service to Farmville; original South Side Railroad proposal would have linked county seats, taking railroad through Worsham.
- 5-7-1978 Farmville Flea Market opened at new Randolph Warehouse.
- 5-10-1905 Odd Fellows Lodge instituted.
- 5-10-1926 Dr. W. E. Anderson died.
- 5-11-1964 U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy visits Farmville schools.
- 5-12-1894 Farmville Herald begins editorial campaign to keep Union Seminary at Hampden-Sydney.
- 5-12-1920 Fire department draft horse "Charlie" drops dead after pulling engine to fire on Buffalo Street.
- 5-14-1937 Patterson's Drug Company buys stock of Canada Drug Company.
- 5-15-1942 Gasoline rationing began during World War II.
- 5-17-1954 U.S. Supreme Court rules on Brown v. Board, unanimously, striking down "separate-but-equal" public education with Prince Edward case included.
- 5-20-1834 Birth of Hampden-Sydney president Richard McIlwaine, who represented Prince Edward county in Virginia Constitutional Convention.
- 5-23-1901 The Masons meet for the first time in their new Lodge room.
- 5-24-1777 Thomas Anderson Morton, who operated first store in Farmville on Second Street opposite Morton's tavern, was born.
- 5-24-1833 Death of area famous Congressman John Randolph of Roanoke.
- 5-24-1902 Charlotte, Farmville and James River Valley Railroad Company organized.
- 5-26-1898 Farmville Guard leaves for service in Spanish-American War.
- 5-26-1918 Farmville Guard leaves for service in World War I.
- 5-27-1887 J. W. Dunnington, tobacconist, died.
- 5-28-1832 Charles H. Erambert, Lt. Farmville Guard, photographer, born.
- 5-28-1963 Civil War era locomotive "The General" visits Farmville.
- 5-29-1736 Birth of Patrick Henry, sometime resident of, and delegate from, Prince Edward County.
- 5-30-1905 First memorial service for Confederate dead held at the cemetery in Cumberland.
- 5-31-1897 Earthquake and aftershocks rattled window panes.