



*Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society*  
*P.O. Box 546*  
*Farmville, Virginia 23901*

February, 2008



*Dr. Peter Winston*  
*Farmville Physician and Civic Leader*

by Dr. Warren J. Koontz

**Tuesday, February 19, 2008**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Farmville Train Station**

**Guests Always Welcomed**

**Board meets at 6:00 pm**

**Dr. Peter Winston, Physician and Civic Leader**

Peter Winston was born in 1836 in Richmond, Virginia. He attended Hampden-Sydney College and graduated in 1858, going on to receive further education at the University of Virginia and the University of New York, graduating with his Medical Degree in 1860.

When the Civil War ended, he moved to Farmville in 1866 to begin the practice of medicine. Not only was he a

prominent physician of the area, but he became active in the Farmville Baptist Church, served as Mayor of Farmville, a delegate to the Virginia legislature, a trustee of Hampden-Sydney College, editor and proprietor of the *Farmville Journal*, established the Winston Drug Company on the corner of Main and Third streets in Farmville, and served on many of the boards of the prominent business of the time.

Dr. Winston died in 1920 and is buried in Westview Cemetery.

**Officers and Board for 2008**

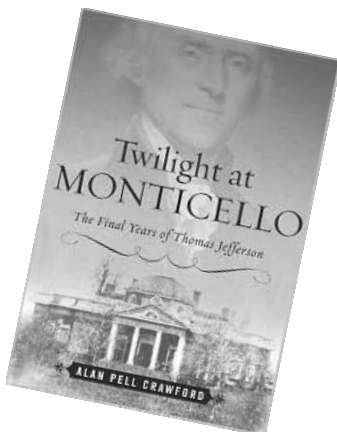
At the January meeting, the officers and members of the board of the Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society for 2008 were presented.

Members are (front, l-r) Bob Flippen, board; Virginia Jones, board; Molly McClellan, board; Edwina Covington, secretary/webmaster; (back, l-r) Richard Stockton, board; Margaret Stockton, board; Billy Poulston, treasurer; Julian Covington, historian; Dale Bolt, president; Kay Whitfield, vice president; (not pictured) Jo D. Smith, board.



**Allen Pell Crawford**  
**speaks in March**

Allen Pell Crawford will speak on March 18, at 7:00 p.m. about his newest book *Twilight at Monticello: the Final Years of Thomas Jefferson*, a 2008 Book of the Month Club selection.



Crawford also authored *Unwise Passions: A True Story of a Remarkable Woman and the First Great Scandal of Eighteenth-Century America*, which is about the Nancy and Richard Randolph scandal at Bizarre Plantation. Barnes and Noble will have a representative at the train station with copies of both books.

## This Day in February in Prince Edward County History

- 2-1-1775 At Slate Hill plantation Hanover Presbytery plans "an Academy in Prince Edward," soon named Hampden-Sydney
- 2-1-1806 Virginia General Assembly appointed commissioners to survey a canal from the Buffalo River to the Roanoke River
- 2-2-1775 Presbytery accepts Peter Johnston's offer of 100 acres of land for the new college, Hampden-Sydney
- 2-2-1924 Tobacco prizery owned by W.P. Gilliam burned
- 2-3-1775 Presbytery appoints Samuel Stanhope Smith rector of the new college, Hampden-Sydney
- 2-3-1803 Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston (USA and CSA) born at Longwood plantation
- 2-3-1942 Company G mobilized for service in World War II
- 2-4-1861 John T. Thornton elected county representative to state secession convention
- 2-7-1797 Gov. Beverly Randolph died
- 2-7-1870 Charles Edward Burrell, county historian, born
- 2-8-1825 Virginia General Assembly incorporates Junction Canal Company to build a canal from the Buffalo to the Roanoke River
- 2-8-1845 Virginia General Assembly creates Appomattox County from parts of Prince Edward and three other counties
- 2-8-1944 Charles Edward Burrell, county historian, died
- 2-9-1762 First court record of a passable bridge at Rutledge's Ford--later the site of Farmville
- 2-9-1892 George Richardson appointed postmaster
- 2-10-1918 H.E. Barrow, former mayor, died
- 2-11-1824 Birth of W. H. Ruffner, first president of Farmville State Normal School
- 2-11-1994 State Theater collapses
- 2-12-1871 Decision made to move county seat from Worsham to Farmville
- 2-12-1872 County seat moves from Worsham to Farmville
- 2-13-1786 Patrick Henry refuses membership in U.S. Constitutional Convention
- 2-13-1901 Legislature passes act establishing the Farmville Dispensary
- 2-15-1907 Farmville had Virginia's last execution by hanging before electrocution adopted. Jesse Ruffin and Massey Hill were the condemned
- 2-16-1781 Prince Edward militiamen leave old court house to reinforce Gen. Greene at Dan River
- 2-19-1945 Farmville livestock market conducts first sale
- 2-23-1934 Prince Edward Mills commences operation on site of earlier mill
- 2-25-1952 Oliver Hill argues NAACP's Prince Edward case before U.S. District Court
- 2-26-1900 Farmville Town Council votes against licensing the private sales of intoxicants; all sales to be through an officially sanctioned Dispensary Board
- 2-27-1833 Virginia General Assembly incorporates Farmville as a town
- 2-27-1942 Parking meters came to Main Street
- 2-28-1820 Birth of W. W. H. Thackston, Farmville mayor and dentist, who founded the Virginia Dental Association

### Prince Edward County's Bicentennial Points of Interest, 1976

Dr. Ray Gaskins shared with members at the January program an interesting brochure featuring the points of interest in our county at the time of the bicentennial celebration in 1976. In the next several newsletters, I will share these places with you.

1. **Briery Church:** Unique architecture (Gothic Revival) - 1855; Congregation dates from 1755.
2. **Buffalo Church:** Erected in 1808.
3. **Burke's Tavern:** There was a tavern here as early as 1800.
4. **Cork:** Early home of the Michaux and Thomson families; Site of first school in Prince Edward; First book in county was written here.
5. **Court House:** Built in 1939
6. **Debtors' Prison:** Built in 1787

