



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546
Farmville, Virginia 23901

April, 2008

James Power Smith

Hampden-Sydney Student before the Civil War
Youngest Member of Stonewall Jackson's Staff
Lived until 1923
Wrote about Stonewall Jackson
There is a local connection!

Presented by
Rev. William Thompson

Tuesday, April 15, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Farmville Train Station

Guests always welcomed

Board meets at 6:00 p.m.



James Power Smith

"Son of a minister and a seminary student before the war, James Power Smith was promoted from a corporal in the famous Rockbridge Artillery to a member of 'Stonewall' Jackson's staff during the Sharpsburg campaign. During the Gettysburg campaign, Smith not only brought General Lee information that Stuart was still south of the Potomac and east of the Blue Ridge as of June 28, but Smith also played a central role in the drama of July 1, 1863. Smith, who delivered to Ewell the second direct order from General Lee to pursue the retreating Federals and to take Cemetery Hill, put the blame squarely on Ewell for not acting on this order. *Eleanor S. Brockenbrough Library, The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond*"
-- <http://www.lastchanceforvictory.com/caption.htm>

"An aide-de-camp to Stonewall Jackson, James Power Smith, was riding alongside when General Jackson was wounded by friendly fire from a North Carolina regiment. Smith helped evacuate Jackson from the field and shield him when artillery shells began exploding around them."
-- <http://civilwargazette.wordpress.com/2007/05/02/>



This Day in April in Prince Edward County History

- 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
- 4-4-1902** "The Gladiator" opens at the Opera House
- 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
- 4-8-1896** Odd Fellows Lodge organized
- 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 -1861** Regional Congressman Roger Pryor helps to open fire on Fort Sumter
- 4-12-1892** Farmville Populist Party organized
- 4-12-1917** Farmville Guard dispatched to St. Paul, Virginia, to guard bridges and tunnels
- 4-13-1803** Initial meeting of board of Buffalo Circulating Library
- 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
- 4-14-1974** Coronary Intensive Care Unit opens at Southside Community Hospital
- 4-15-1895** Thornton-Pickett Camp of United Confederate Veterans organized
- 4-15-1933** Roy Clark born nearby in Meherrin
- 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
- 4-22-1866** Henry Watkins Allen dies in exile in Mexico City
- 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
- 4-24-2001** The Rotunda and Ruffner East and West destroyed by fire; Grainger Hall destroyed beyond repair
- 4-25-1946** Thomas Hardy Graham VFW Post organized.
- 4-25-1953** Robert Morris Chapter Order of the Eastern Star initiated
- 4-26-1924** Taylor Manufacturing Company located end of Buffalo Street burned
- 4-27-1905** Lodge No. 200 Odd Fellows organized here
- 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
- 4-29-1901** All saloons in Farmville closed by liquor Dispensary law
- 4-29-1903** Farmville N&W Passenger Station opened
- 4-29-1916** Farmville Dispensary closes
- 4-30-1904** Colonel Richard A. Booker, Captain of Farmville Guard, tobacconist and proprietor of Randolph House, died

Mark your calendar for May, June and July

On Tuesday, May 20, Nicole Greenspan will speak about Prince Edward Augustus, Duke of York and Albany, our county's namesake.

Tuesday, June 16, Jo Smith will present her slide show on the history of High Bridge.

Then on Tuesday, July 15, Eric Hougland will update us on the progress and plans with the High Bridge Rails to Trails project.