



## *Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 546  
Farmville, Virginia 23901*

*October, 2008*

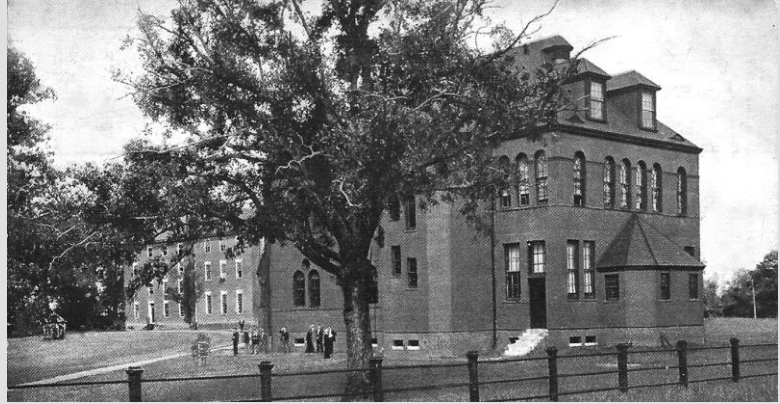
### **Ghosts Hampden-Sydney College**

**Presented by  
Rev. William Thompson**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2008  
7:00 p.m.  
Farmville Train Station**

**Guests Always Welcomed**

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.



**Memorial Hall, Hampden-Sydney College, 1917**

### **The "death" of Betty Dickerson of the Hampden-Sydney area**

Reverend William Thompson relates the story of Betty Dickerson, who lived in the Hampden-Sydney area, and died in her teenage years just shortly after the ending of the Civil War. A family member rode to Farmville to send a telegram to her brother, who lived in Texas. The return wire told the family not to bury Miss Dickerson until he arrived because he wanted to see his sister's "sweet face" one more time. The family now had a problem since this was before the days of embalming.

A local coffin maker built a two-layered coffin. Miss Dickerson's corpse was put in the top section and beneath her was a lined metal container. Relatives, friends, and neighbors gave ice to be put in the bottom. After three days, they ran out of ice and set the funeral services for a Tuesday afternoon with interment in College Church Cemetery. That fateful morning, her brother arrived. He went to the parlor where his sister, wearing a black dress with a red flower tucked into its bodice, was laid out.



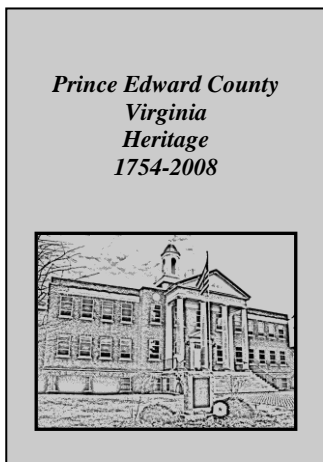
When the brother bent over to kiss his sister farewell, he felt the flower move! The family called a doctor to check her pulse. He found none, but the brother insisted that a stimulant be applied. In two or three minutes, Betty sat up, opened her eyes, and started talking to those in the room.

Betty Dickerson lived to be 96 years old. From that day of her "funeral" to her death, she wore a red flower.

## This Day in October in Prince Edward County History

- 10-1-1928** President Eggleston restores spelling "Sydney" in college's name to match 1783 Charter  
**10-2-1892** Colored 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 exhibited near Verdun.  
**10-11-1979** Pepsi Cola commercial filmed at the Farmville train station.  
**10-12-1909** Remains of Gov. Beverly Randolph re-interred 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 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

### *Prince Edward County Virginia Heritage 1754 - 2008*



Listen to the radio and look in the newspapers. The Prince Edward County Heritage Book Committee is expecting delivery of the heritage book in November.

The committee has spent the last few months proofing and re-proofing the copy from the designers. Once the proofings are complete, the book will go to press.

Those who chose to pick up their copy will be able to get them at a time and location to be designated in the newspapers and on the radio.

Are you in need of a Christmas present? Place an order for a copy of the heritage book. Order forms are available for download at [www.fpehs.org](http://www.fpehs.org).

### **2009 Prospect-area church calendar available**

The Prospect Historical Society will be selling a 2009 calendar featuring pictures of Prospect-area churches.

The calendars will be available beginning the first

of November. Copies, at \$12.50 each, may be purchased, as well as quarts of the election day stew, on November 4 from Prospect Historical Society members.

Fourteen area churches are featured, one each month from December of 2008 to January of 2010: Appomattox Prince Edward Presbyterian, Bethpeor Baptist, Buffalo Presbyterian, Calvary Baptist, Davis Memorial Presbyterian, First Rock Baptist, Glenn Memorial Baptist, Olive Branch United Methodist, Peaks Baptist, Prospect Gospel Tabernacle, Prospect United Methodist, St. James African Methodist Episcopalian, Sulphur Spring Baptist, and Trinity Mennonite.

