



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

January, 2009

Making of the Prince Edward Heritage Book

**Slide Presentation
Edwina Covington
Margaret Stockton**

**Heritage Books available after presentation
\$65.00**

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

7:00 p.m.

**PE Co Agricultural Center
Hwy 15 South to 100 Dominion Drive
Beside Water Tower, next to Lowe's**

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.

Society Meeting Location Changing

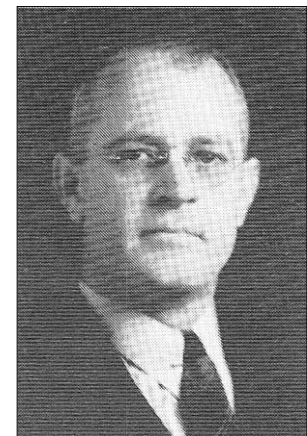
As many of you are aware, the Farmville Town Council voted in December to no longer make the Farmville Train Station available for public meetings and functions without a charge of \$225 per event.

This decision has left our Society in search of a new location that is convenient to Farmville, handicap accessible, with sufficient parking and amenities for our programs, and will allow us to keep our traditional meeting date of the third Tuesday of the month, except for special situations.

The Berkley-Hardy House 303 Beech Street

The Berkley-Hardy House at 303 Beech Street is one of many buildings featured in a Farmville walking tour guide, which will be featured in this newsletter for the next several issues.

Constructed in 1840, this house is the best example of federal style architecture in Farmville. William Randolph Berkley, an attorney, a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate States Army and a trustee of Hampden-Sydney College, purchased the property in 1871. He and his brother, Robert R., were the grandsons of William Berkley, a treasurer of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Robert R. Berkley, an attorney and physician, was a colonel on the staff of Governor William E. Cameron. Berkley later became the editor of the *Farmville Journal* and the first editorial and news writer of the *Farmville Herald*.



Dr. Thomas G. Hardy (photo left) and his wife purchased the property in 1920 and improved and enlarged it. Dr. T.G. Hardy practiced medicine in Farmville for the most part of the early to mid 1900's. In 1907 the Farmville Town Council established a Board of Health to destroy insect carriers of disease. Dr. Hardy was among the members of the Board which was sending samples of town water to the State Health Department for examination.

In 1913 the Town Council appointed a committee to look into the cost of fitting several rooms in a building on North Street for a hospital. Later that same year the Council had the idea of erecting a building and referred it to the Poor and Health Committee of the Council, which dropped the idea. Dr. W.J. Gill created a small hospital in his home/office on High Street as did Dr. T.G. Hardy at his home on Beech Street.

In 1925 Farmville again looked into the building of a hospital and created a committee, composed of J.L. Jarman, E.S. Shields, N.B. Davidson, Drs. W.E. Smith, R.L. Hudgins, and T.G. Hardy to consult with Commonwealth Fund of New York. They reported in September of that year that the fund would appropriate two thirds of the cost to

establish a hospital here if the town council, county board of supervisors or some other group would provide the other one third. The Town of Farmville, Prince Edward County, and the Virginia General Assembly came up with the needed monies. On November 18, 1927, Southside Community Hospital opened. The first patient was Matilda Metzner, whose arm had been crushed in a machine and had to be amputated.

Longwood University Board of Visitors, at its December, 2008, meeting, approved acquiring the Hardy House at 303 Beech Street for \$1 from the Longwood University Foundation Inc. Longwood had leased the house for \$1 a year since it was donated to the Foundation in 1998 by the Wiley H. and James C. Wheat Jr. Foundation. It had been used as office space for Conferences and Scheduling and the internal auditor, and a computer lab had been recently installed in the basement. It was the childhood home of Wiley Hardy Wheat, a 1943 Longwood graduate, who is the widow of James C. Wheat Jr. (a prominent Richmond business and civic leader) and the granddaughter of longtime Longwood president Joseph Jarman.

Upcoming Programs January through March

Mark your calendars for the following programs. In January, Edwina Covington and Margaret Stockton will talk about the process for putting together the Prince Edward County heritage book and will have books available for purchase after the program.

In February, look for something interesting to share with the group. Show and Tell always brings in interesting pieces and generates plenty of discussion.

In March Jo Smith and Billy Poulston, also members of the Cumberland Historical Society, will present a history of Cumberland County, our neighbor.

This Day in January in Prince Edward County History

- 1-1-1754** Colonial act establishing Prince Edward County takes effect
- 1-1-1824** Union Theological Seminary formally opens at Hampden-Sydney
- 1-2-1898** Fire in Farmville destroys over thirty buildings originating at the corner of Third and North in the Lumpkin factory. Powder kegs exploded raining fire on the town.
- 1-2-1894** Farmville Guard escort former Gov. McKinney back to Farmville.
- 1-4-2007** Robert Edward Taylor (age 87), prominent Prince Edward County businessman died
- 1-3-1933** Farmville Mills burned.
- 1-4-1898** Death of R. L. Dabney, famous Presbyterian theologian, architect, and former county luminary, in Texas
- 1-5-1942** Tire rationing began in WW II
- 1-8-1754** First convening of Prince Edward County court
- 1-8-2004** Commemorative postmark, first day issue, 250th anniversary for Prince Edward County
- 1-14-1813** Virginia General Assembly declares the Buffalo River a "public highway" from its mouth at Farmville to Carter's Mill
- 1-14-1904** Farmville Dispensary opened.
- 1-15-1798** Farmville's birthday. Established by act of the Virginia General Assembly.
- 1-17-1898** B.S. Hooper, Republican congressman (1883-1885) from Farmville, died.
- 1-18-1952** Pedestrian lights installed at Third & Main
- 1-18-1980** Death of county's noted civil rights leader, Rev. L. Francis Griffin
- 1-20-1977** The Red Lyon was destroyed by fire.
- 1-21-1880** P.H. Jackson, tobacconist and host to Robert E. Lee, died.
- 1-22-1821** Dr. James T. Spencer born
- 1-22-1869** U.S. military replaces 52-year Clerk of Court Branch Worsham with carpetbagger appointee Joseph Jorgenson
- 1-22-1901** The First National Bank opened its doors for business
- 1-22-1905** T. J. Davis, Farmville grocer, died aged 80 years
- 1-23-1940** 24 inches of snow blankets area
- 1-27-1857** Hampden-Sydney student Ned Longhorne kills schoolmate Charles Edie in Cushing Hall in an "affair of honor"
- 1-27-1870** Virginia Senators and Representatives sit in Congress for the first time since 1861
- 1-28-1858** Large fire damages much of downtown Farmville
- 1-28-1891** Dr. Horace Grymes Taliaferro, chief of Confederate General Hospital, died
- 1-29-1922** 24 inches of snow fell
- 1-30-1920** Dr. Peter Winston, physician, druggist, & mayor died at age 84
- 1-31-1977** Gov. Godwin orders strict energy conservation measure