



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

April, 2009

Programs Set for May, June, and July

Be sure to mark Tuesday, May 19, for a program on the Virginia Historic Highway Markers in Prince Edward County. Edwina Covington will present a slide show dealing with the markers, their locations, and a brief history related to each historic site.

In June, Bob Flippen will talk about the famed Farmville Lithia Springs. He will also shed light on what happened to John Stanley James after he left the Farmville area in the late 1800s. Stanley Park was his mansion on the bluff overlooking the Appomattox River. Now Stanley Park Townhome Apartments are situated on the site of the mansion. The house was removed and reconstructed in the Prospect area by Gordon and Alecia Daves-Johnson.

John Noel will present the Crossing of the Dan River at the July meeting.

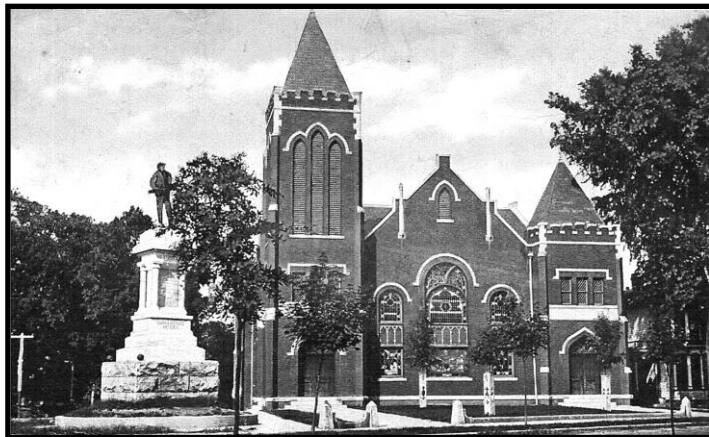
John Thurston Thornton Hometown Hero

**presentation by
Rev. Dr. William Thompson**

**Tuesday, April 21, 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.



Farmville United Methodist Church, High and Randolph Streets

Continuing on our walking tour of Historic Farmville, we are now gazing at the impressive structure of Farmville United Methodist Church on High Street across from Ruffner Hall on the Longwood University campus.

Research indicates that there was a meetinghouse for religious worship on this site in 1831. The Farmville Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1833 and gained more believers after the 1837 revival. In 1840 a brick structure with "a fine central steeple giving a this site.

notable appearance" was completed on

This church had an ornate ceiling centerpiece medallion made from 400 pounds of beeswax. Mrs. Pleasant Hubbard, a church member who lived in the western area of Prince Edward County, rode her husband's horse through her neighboring countryside collecting the needed wax. Encased in glass, this medallion is on display in the church.

Methodist membership continued to increase after each revival that came to Farmville. Records show that in 1869 there were 120 white and 106 black members in the congregation. By 1907 the congregation had grown so large that a new church was needed. In May of 1908 the first service was held in the present church. Renovations and enlargements were done in 1953 and in 1963.

The sanctuary features beautiful stained glass windows. "Five of the windows, the two large center windows on either side of the sanctuary and three windows on the wall behind the balcony, were dedicated along with the sanctuary in 1908." The 13 windows were dedicated in honor of Richard and Harriet Paulett, Charles McKinney Walker, Thomas J. Davis, Mahala Booth Warren, Howell Edmunds Warren, Margaret Burks Kasey Waimsley, Douglas T. Elam, Elizabeth Jennings Paulett, William Goodwin Venable and his wife Virginia Pettit Venable, Martha (Mattie) Wainwright Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. William Burger, George Almy Newman and his son Captain George A. Newman Jr., and Robert Watkins Mottley.

"Free Blacks of Israel Hill" historic highway marker approved

The Board of Historic Resources approved the highway marker "Free Blacks of Israel Hill" text at their March 19, 2009, meeting. The site of the marker has also been approved by VDOT. The next step is for the DHR to send the order to the foundry and casting can take from four to six months.

Both the Town Council and Board of Supervisors have been informed of the approval of the marker which cost \$1,350. They have agreed to co-sponsor the marker with the Society which makes the cost \$450 for each body.



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