



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

May, 2009

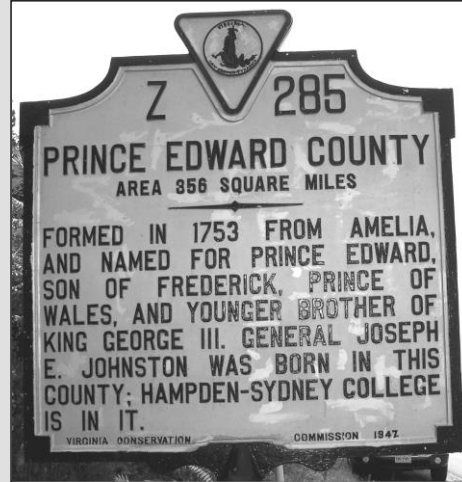
Historic Highway Markers Prince Edward County

**PowerPoint Presentation
Edwina Covington**

**Tuesday, May 19, 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.



Jackson House, 304 Beech Street and Thornton House, 309 Beech Street

At the April Society meeting, Rev. William Thompson delivered an informative talk about General Robert E. Lee and his connection to local hero, Colonel John Thackston Thornton. This month the Jackson House and the Thornton House, which are situated diagonally across Beech Street from each other, are being featured. Both of these homes are distinguished not only in local lore but also in Civil War history for the visits by General Lee.



The first part of the Jackson house was built in 1837 by Patrick Henry Jackson, a wealthy tobaccoist and supporter of the Confederate States. It was here that General R.E. Lee spent the night of April 6, 1865, and on the morning of April 7 met with the Confederate Secretary of War John Cabell Breckinridge, Quartermaster General A.R. Lawson and Commissary General I.M. St. John.

The Thornton house is situated on a lot that was purchased at auction in 1836 by Mary T. Riddle, the first woman to purchase property in her own name in the town of Farmville. The house, built in 1836, was sold in 1839 to Colonel John T. Thornton, CSA. John and Martha Thornton had five sons. Four grew to adulthood.

William M. Thornton was a Professor of Mathematics, Chairman of the Faculty, and Dean of Engineering at the University of Virginia. James R. Thornton was an honor graduate of Hampden-Sydney College and taught mathematics there. Harrison R. Thornton became a teacher and missionary to Cape Prince, Alaska. (He was killed in 1863, the only missionary to Alaska to be slain by a native Alaskan.)

Colonel John T. Thornton was severely wounded in the arm in 1862 at the Battle of Sharpsburg, Maryland. He died after efforts to save him by amputation of his arm were unsuccessful. His body was returned to Farmville for burial. General Lee paid a brief condolence visit to the widow and children of the Colonel at their home on April 7, 1865.



This Day in May in Prince Edward County History

- 5-1-1832** Gov. Philip Watkins McKinney born in Buckingham
- 5-2-1894** First official proposal by trustees to move Presbyterian seminary from its 70-year existence at Hampden-Sydney
- 5-3-1905** Farmville Guard left for Richmond to attend funeral of Major General Fitzhugh Lee
- 5-4-1895** Farmville Guard called to Pocahontas to guard working men from violence at the hands of strikers
- 5-4-1901** The first "dry" Saturday in Farmville history; no liquor sales
- 5-5-1942** World War II sugar rationing begins
- 5-5-1996** WFLO tower collapses
- 5-6-1776** William Watts and William Booker elected Prince Edward representatives to convention to establish constitution for Commonwealth, to replace colonial rule
- 5-6-1965** J.J. Newberry Department Store at Third and Main burned.
- 5-7-1846** Town and citizens decide to buy \$100,000 stock to secure railroad service to Farmville; original South Side Railroad proposal would have linked county seats, taking railroad through Worsham
- 5-7-1978** Farmville Flea Market opened at new Randolph Warehouse
- 5-10-1905** Odd Fellows Lodge instituted
- 5-10-1926** Dr. W. E. Anderson died
- 5-11-1964** U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy visits Farmville schools
- 5-12-1894** *Farmville Herald* begins editorial campaign to keep Union Seminary at Hampden-Sydney
- 5-12-1920** Fire department draft horse "Charlie" drops dead after pulling engine to fire on Buffalo Street
- 5-14-1937** Patterson's Drug Company buys stock of Canada Drug Company
- 5-15-1942** Gasoline rationing began during World War II
- 5-17-1954** U.S. Supreme Court rules on *Brown v. Board*, unanimously, striking down "separate-but-equal" public education with Prince Edward case included
- 5-20-1834** Birth of Hampden-Sydney president Richard McIlwaine, who represented Prince Edward county in Virginia Constitutional Convention
- 5-23-1901** The Masons meet for the first time in their new Lodge room
- 5-24-1777** Thomas Anderson Morton, who operated first store in Farmville on Second Street opposite Morton's tavern, was born
- 5-24-1833** Death of area famous Congressman John Randolph of Roanoke
- 5-24-1902** Charlotte, Farmville and James River Valley Railroad Company organized
- 5-26-1898** Farmville Guard leaves for service in Spanish-American War
- 5-26-1918** Farmville Guard leaves for service in World War I
- 5-27-1887** J. W. Dunnington, tobacconist, died
- 5-28-1832** Charles H. Erambert, lt. Farmville Guard, photographer, born
- 5-28-1963** Civil War era locomotive "The General" visits Farmville
- 5-29-1736** Birth of Patrick Henry, sometime resident of, and delegate from, Prince Edward
- 5-30-1905** First memorial service for Confederate dead held at the cemetery in Cumberland
- 5-31-1897** Earthquake and aftershocks rattled window panes

June and July programs planned

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.