



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546
Farmville, Virginia 23901

August, 2009



George Peers

A Visit to Old Appomattox with County Clerk George Peers

Presented by
Patrick Schroeder
Historian Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park

Tuesday, August 18, 2009
7:00 p.m.

PE Co Agricultural Center
Hwy 15 South to 100 Dominion Drive

Board meets at 6:00 p.m.



Patrick Schroeder

George Peers, Appomattox County sheriff and county clerk, visits Society meeting

Journey back in time with the former sheriff and county clerk of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, George T. Peers. The Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society members will experience a first-person, living history program taking them to Appomattox Court House in the summer of 1867 with Mr. Peers, who was born and raised in Appomattox. He perhaps knew more than anyone about the area from his clerking duties, and he became known as the "Ambassador of Appomattox" as he liked to show visitors and curiosity seekers the sites and tell of the events connected with the surrender.

"Mr. Peers will tell some of the early history of Appomattox County, about some of its famous citizens, and the war years leading up to that fateful April 9, 1865, when General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at the tiny hamlet of Appomattox Court House. Peers will give a recount of the arrival of the armies, the battles in and around the village on April 8 and 9, of Wilmer McLean and his house where the surrender took place, the surrender meeting between Lee and Grant, Grant and Lee's meeting outside of his house on April 10, his visits with General Joshua Chamberlain and the surrender ceremony, and his thoughts about post-surrender Appomattox. Peers' narration about the trying days of April 1865 as the towns people were surrounded by nearly 100,000 soldiers, North and South, will take you back to a time when the future of the country was in the hands of two men, and the generosity and respect from Americans to Americans at the end of the nations' bloodiest conflict will speak volumes of the power of Appomattox. George Peers is portrayed by veteran, living history interpreter and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Historian, Patrick Schroeder."

Patrick Schroeder, historian and author

Patrick Schroeder is a Civil War author and historian. He holds a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College and a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. Patrick is the historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. He has written, edited or published eighteen Civil War titles including: *More Myths About Lee's Surrender*, *The Confederate Cemetery at Appomattox*, and *Recollections and Reminiscences of Old Appomattox*, and most recently *Images of America Appomattox County*. He lives in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he and his wife run Schroeder Publications.



The Peers House at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

“The Peers House was built around 1850. D. A. Plunkett leased it to Peers, who purchased it in 1870. The last cannon shots of the war were fired by Confederate artillery posted in the yard on the morning of April 9, 1865. Lee and Grant met on horseback outside the house on April 10, and General Joshua Chamberlain of the Federal army dined at the Peers House on the evening of April 11.”--Patrick Schroeder *Images of America Appomattox County*, Arcadia Publishing, 2009

This Day in August in Prince Edward County History

- 8-1-1922** Death of prominent Prince Edward tobacco merchant Walter Grey Dunnington, owner of Poplar Hill
- 8-2-1897** Civil rights activist W. E. B. DuBois studies Prince Edward County's black population for U.S. Labor Commission report
- 8-4-1851** Francis Carr and Christian Ehrman contracted with the Southside Railroad to build the High Bridge original wooden superstructure.
- 8-4-1899** Edward Wiltse, jeweler and silversmith, died
- 8-4-1922** J. C. Brickert seeks location at Third and Randolph streets to locate Farmville's first service station
- 8-5-1942** First daylight air raid test
- 8-8-1907** Prince Edward Hotel opened
- 8-8-1952** Farmville Drive-in opened on Route 15 just south of Farmville
- 8-10-1993** By-laws adopted for Rural Education Foundation, creating the Fuqua School that replace Prince Edward Academy
- 8-14-1902** Work commences to build Norfolk & Western station
- 8-14-1945** County-wide nighttime celebrations for end of World War II
- 8-17-1947** WFLO went on the air
- 8-18-1913** Henry Lindsey elected Fire Chief
- 8-19-1962** Saylor's Creek Battlefield Park dedicated
- 8-20-1969** Hurricane Camille brings flooding to Farmville
- 8-24-1884** Farmville Lithia Springs incorporate
- 8-26-1867** Prince Edward resident and nationally-recognized educator Robert Rousa Moton born in Amelia County
- 8-27-1894** Gov. O'Ferrall arrives for visit to Farmville
- 8-27-1909** Farmville Silver Band's first open air concert
- 8-30-1895** The Confederate Monument Association organized
- 8-30-1905** Partial eclipse of the sun witnessed

The Peers House today

The Peers House was constructed in the early 1850's. Samuel D. McDearmon originally sold the house to William Abbitt, who then sold the house to D. A. Plunkett in 1856. When General Lee surrendered to General Grant, the house on a hilltop overlooking the village of Appomattox Court House, once owned by Sheriff Plunkett, was occupied by George Peers. Peers bought the house at public auction for non-payment of loans in 1870 after Plunkett's death.

The two story house, of post and beam construction, is built on a brick raised basement almost six feet above grade. The house is finished with a narrow wood siding with an almost five inch exposure. It has single step external end chimneys. The west side has a temple form entry porch raised to the first floor. The house was completely renovated in 1954 and is currently used as staff housing.

