



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

January, 2010

Farmville Silver Band



Photo: *Prince Edward County Virginia Heritage, 1754-2008*

1945, Clyde Duval, Jr., director

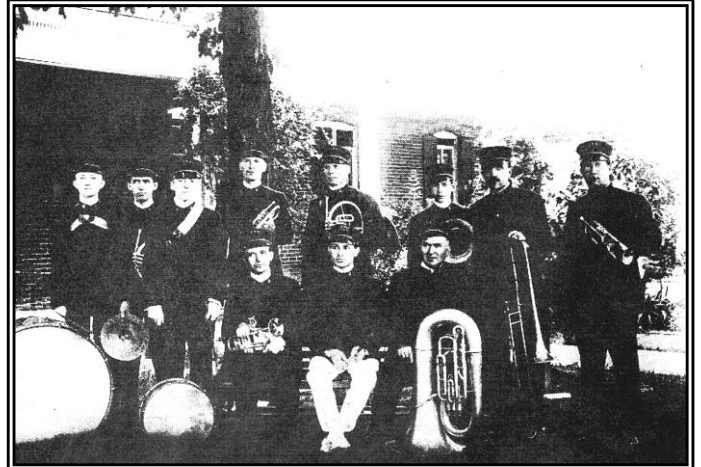


Photo: *Farmville Herald, July 10, 2009*

circa 1910, State Female Normal School campus

Presentation by

Dr. Ray A. Gaskins
Professor Emeritus, HSC

Tuesday, January 19, 2010
7:00 p.m.

PE Co Agricultural Center
Hwy 15 South to 100 Dominion Drive
Farmville, VA

Board meets at 6:00 p.m.

“When J.B. Ragland, the cigar manufacturer, arrived in Farmville in the summer of 1891, one of the first people he met was W.E. England, the tailor. They hit it off at once, love of music being their common interest.” So begins Dr. Ray Gaskins’ *Farmville Herald* (July 10, 2009) article about the Farmville Silver Band, a community band, that like a cat had many lives beginning with these gentlemen’s friendship.

The band was a prominent part of Farmville social life from 1891 to 1897 and then disappeared until 1909. The band reorganized again in 1920, 1927, 1931, and 1938. In 1938, Clyde Duvall, Jr., was the new director and put together a band of almost 50 pieces. Over the many years of rebirth, some of the area’s prominent citizens were members of the organization.

Dr. Gaskins, who has continued his research on the band and its members, will fill in the gaps about the members during the various periods of organization and tell of its history after its disbanding during World War II.

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, and mayor died at age 84
- 1-31-1977 Gov. Godwin orders strict energy conservation measure

Programs planned or 2010

Mark your calendar for February 16, and be looking for something unusual or unknown for presentation at our Show and Tell program.

On April 20, the Rev. Dr. William Thompson will again do a lively presentation about someone from the Civil War era with ties to this area.

If you have any program ideas or know of interesting speakers, contact Billy Poulston.



Can you identify this farm tool? Do you know its history?

Come to the February meeting, to learn more and to share your unusual items.