



## *Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 546*

*Farmville, Virginia 23901*

*September, 2010*

### **Genealogy by Genetics: BREAK DOWN THE WALLS!**

**Presentation by  
Jim Cooke**

**Tuesday, September 21, 2010  
7:00 p.m.**

**Prince Edward County Agriculture Building  
100 Dominion Drive**

**Board meets at 6:00 p.m.**

### **Jim Cooke, speaker with local ties**

Jim Cooke, genealogy by genetics researcher, is the administrator for “Cook/Cooke/Koch (and variants)” DNA Project with Family Tree DNA.

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### **DNA helps prove trunk and branches of family trees**

DNA has been a tool in forensic investigation for several decades, but only recently has it become a tool in genealogical investigation. It cannot provide you with your entire family tree or tell you who your ancestors are, but it can answer several genealogical questions.

DNA testing can

- Determine if two people are related,
- Determine if two people descend from the same ancestor,
- Find out if you are related to others with the same surname,
- Prove or disprove your family tree research,
- Provide clues about your ethnic origin.

Home DNA test kits are available through the mail or through the Internet. They usually consist of a cheek swab or mouthwash to collect sample cells. You send your sample in and within a month or two you will

Cooke was born and raised in Richmond. He attended Longwood College from 1985 to 1989, graduating with a BS in history, minor in anthropology, with a concentration in historic preservation. He completed an historic survey of Blandford Cemetery in 1989.

For twenty years he worked at Lawyers Title. He is currently employed with Fidelity Title Group. He is married with three sons.

Cooke has local connections. He father grew up in Cartersville and his mother in the Farmville area. They both attended Cumberland High School. His grandfather, Neal Smith, was chief of Farmville police and then chief of security at Longwood.

Cooke has always been interested in family and local history. He was inspired by his aunt’s family history submission to the first *Cumberland County and Its People*, and has since submitted articles to a number of supplements and the second edition of the Cumberland book.

He got involved in DNA genealogy in 2003 following many years of butting his head against the proverbial “brick wall,” and became the administrator for the Cook DNA Project in 2005.

receive the results—a series of numbers that represent key chemical “markers” within your DNA. These numbers can be compared to results from other people to help determine common ancestry.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is passed by a mother to both sons and daughters without any mixing, so your mtDNA is the same as your mother’s mtDNA, which is the same as her mother’s, etc. Mitochondrial DNA changes very slowly so it cannot determine close relationships as to a recent ancestor or one who lived several hundred years ago. A man’s mtDNA comes only from his mother and is not passed on to his offspring.

The Y chromosomal DNA test (Y DNA or Y-Line DNA) is only available for men since the Y chromosome is only passed from father to son. Y chromosome testing indicates that two men share a common ancestor but cannot show the exact degree of relationship.

Since Y DNA is only found in the patrilineal line and mtDNA only in the matrilineal line, DNA testing is only applicable to lines going back through two of our eight great-grandparents. If you want to use DNA to determine ancestry through your other six great-

grandparents, you will need to convince aunts, uncles, and cousins to provide DNA samples. Also, since women don't carry the Y DNA, their paternal male line can only be traced through the DNA of a father or brother.

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### This Day in September in Prince Edward County History

- 9-1-1775** Williamsburg newspaper carries first advertisement for new college for men to open sometime that fall in Prince Edward
- 9-1-1902** 30 cars of processed tobacco leave for Norway
- 9-1-1891** Farmville Silver Band organized
- 9-2-1964** County's public school system reopens as an integrated system, after being closed for five years
- 9-3-1831** Union Seminary founder John Holt Rice dies
- 9-3-1906** The first brick of the Methodist church was laid in northwest corner
- 9-4-1919** Farmville turns out to welcome its returning World War I veterans
- 9-5-1898** Union Theological Seminary moves to Richmond
- 9-5-1935** Hurricane-spawned tornado damages trees and buildings at Hampden-Sydney and Kingsville
- 9-6-1893** Noted Negro, Goliath Armistead died
- 9-6-1933** Virginia Dark-Fired Tobacco Warehousemen's Association organized at Planters Warehouse
- 9-6-1933** Farmville Council approves sale of "near beer" (3.2% alcohol)
- 9-7-1897** Norfolk & Western Railroad fined by Mayor Burton for excessive speed in town
- 9-9-1885** Opera House contracted to be built by Burton and Davis
- 9-11-1934** Farmville's ABC store opened
- 9-13-1944** Honor Roll of World War II veterans unveiled on Courthouse lawn
- 9-15-1907** Prof. August Schemmel, opens Farmville's Conservatory of Music
- 9-17-1862** Prominent county lawyer J. T. Thornton is mortally wounded in battle at Sharpsburg, Maryland
- 9-20-1809** Missouri governor and Confederate Major General Sterling Price born near Hampden-Sydney
- 9-22-1865** High Bridge reopens to regular traffic five months after being burned during the retreat
- 9-22-1914** County voters approve (640-205) request for statewide Prohibition
- 9-23-1890** After a bitterly contested election, Republican Party seats black educator J. M. Langston as this district's U.S. Congressman
- 9-23-1923** Birth of county's famed soldier and educator, Lt. Gen. Samuel V. Wilson
- 9-24-1776** Buffalo Presbyterian Church Session adopts "Petition for Religious Liberty" which was eventually sent to Virginia House of Delegates
- 9-24-1890** Tobacconist, J.W. Dunnington, born
- 9-25-1869** Rev. Daniel Witt baptizes over forty people in Miller's mill pond
- 9-25-1922** Charles Edward Burrell published *A History of Prince Edward County, Virginia from its Formation in 1753, to the Present*
- 9-25-1912** Fire Prevention Bureau meets and Farmville businesses pass inspection
- 9-28-1728** First known land grant to settler in Prince Edward area goes to Richard Jarvis, Jr., for property along the Bush River
- 9-28-1917** *Birth of a Nation* plays at the Normal School auditorium
- 9-28-1955** The old armory on Main Street was sold at auction for \$45,000
- 9-30-1933** County voters approve bond issue to build present courthouse

### Kristin Kirchen speaks in October

Mark your calendar for October 19 when Kristin Kirchen, architectural historian at the Capital Regional Preservation Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, will be speaking to us about historical preservation, a good follow-up topic to Robert Winthrop's talk on Farmville architecture in August.

Our calendar year will end with the annual business session on November 16.



### Editor's Note

In the August society newsletter, this building was misidentified as the Davidson building. This structure once housed the Hub Department Store.