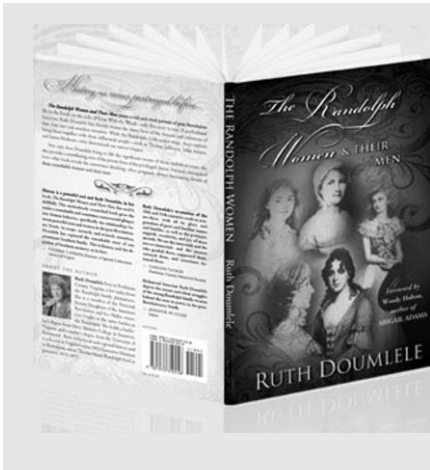




# Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546  
Farmville, Virginia 23901

May, 2011



## The Randolph Women & Their Men

By  
Ruth Doumlele

Tuesday, May 17, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
Farmville Train Station

Book Signing

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.



### Doumlele brings to life Judith and Nancy Randolph, the women of Bizarre Plantation

Ruth Doumlele gives readers a realistic portrayal of the Tuckahoe - Bizarre plantation sisters Judith and Nancy and of the other Randolph men and women who came and went in their lives in her biography *The Randolph Women & Their Men*. Below are some random excerpts that give you a glimpse into the cast of characters.

“Judith Randolph inherited her mother’s beauty and her attraction to men...she married, at a young age and unwisely, her cousin, Richard Randolph of Matoax and Bizarre.

“Ann Cary Randolph, called ‘Nancy,’ a few months younger than Judith, was sunnier, more athletic...Her letters chronicle the sad events of her life – evicted from Tuckahoe, living subserviently with various relatives, penniless in a non existent job market for a woman of her training and social standing . Her seduction and impregnation by her brother-in-law, Judith’s husband, Richard, reduced her to a ‘trull,’ a fallen woman. She found happiness for a few years as the wife of northern aristocrat and statesman Gouverneur Morris.”

The ire between the Randolph sisters is revealed in comments surrounding the death of Richard (Dick) Randolph. “There were rumors that Dick died of medication administered by a woman’s hand and Judith had murdered her husband....No charges were brought and no investigation took place. Two decades later, Judith, when questioned by Jack [John Randolph of Roanoke] about his brother’s death, told him that Nancy had poisoned Dick.”

After the death of Richard Randolph, difficulties on the plantation, and other financial difficulties, Judith “sold part of the Bizarre plantation to a group that

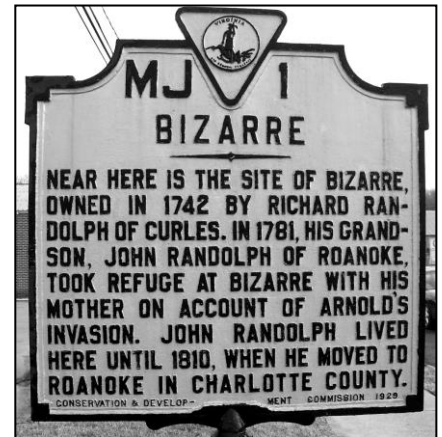
included Creed Taylor and Jack. They divided the parcel into over fifty lots for the village of Farmville. The half-acre lots sold for fifty pounds each.”

John Randolph oversaw the rearing and education of his nephews Tudor and John Saint George Randolph. When Saint was thirteen, John sent him to Europe to study at schools for the hearing and speech impaired. “Saint...was a sensitive and dutiful boy who enjoyed hunting and trapping...”

As a grown man, Saint returned to Bizarre. “One matter weighed heavily on Saint’s mind, and he could not explain it. He bore the responsibility of Bizarre’s farming operation, without adequate slave help. The fire at Bizarre had sent his mother to Farmville and him to an isolated cabin. All of these adversities may have precipitated the loss of reason.

“On May 10 [1814], Jack received Judith’s letter advising him of Saint’s insanity. She could not keep him in Farmville. ‘The high road, the taverns opposite...visited by strangers...the excessive sun and heat in this house would destroy him.’

“Theodore Dudley [cousin] took Saint to Roanoke to care for him....”



Jack [John Randolph of Roanoke] was known to be a man of many moods. “Dudley wrote of Jack, ‘He was a man endowed with two souls. In his dark days, when the evil genius predominated, the austere vindictiveness of his feelings towards those that a distempered fancy pictured as enemies, or as delinquent in truth, or honor, was horribly severe and remorseless.’”

### **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

### **Programs set for June, July, and August**

On June 21, Linda Lipscomb, future director of the new branch of the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox, will speak about the progress on the museum and period events related to Prince Edward County.

Bob Gillette will speak on July 19 about Hyde Farm, a World War II Jewish refuge camp just south of

Burkeville. He will have his new book *The Virginia Plan: William B. Thalhimer and a Rescue from Nazi Germany* available for sale and signing.

Bob Flippen, who is working this summer as a volunteer interpreter on the High Bridge Trail near the bridge itself, will speak on August 16 about the AmeriCorps program and his experiences.