



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

March, 2012

Stonewall Jackson & Prince Edward County

Rev. Dr. William E. Thompson

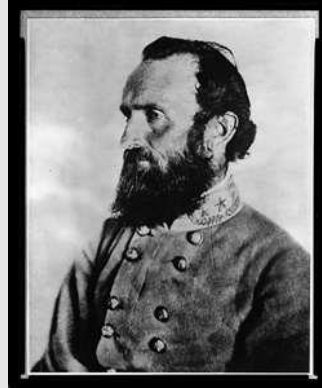
Tuesday, March 20, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Farmville Train Station

Guests Always Welcomed

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.



Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson



Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson was born January 21, 1824, at Clarksburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). He was orphaned at an early age and a formal education was not easy for him to obtain. He was mainly self-

taught but was able to secure an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in 1846 and was in the top third of his graduating class. He received a commission as a second lieutenant and was sent to fight in the Mexican-American War.

In 1851, he joined the faculty of Virginia Military Institute where he remained until 1861. Jackson was married two times. In 1853, he married Elinor Junkin whose father was president of Washington College later Washington and Lee University. She died in 1854. In 1857, he married Mary Anna Morrison of North Carolina whose father was the first president of Davidson College.

Jackson's chief characteristics were his pious religious nature, his careful attention to details, his firm discipline and the ability to get the maximum effort from his men. His soldiers loved him and trusted his ability.

It was at the First Battle of Manassas in 1861 that he got the nickname "Stonewall". In April 1861, Jackson took command at Harper's Ferry. Here he would assemble the famous "Stonewall Brigade" and he would gain fame by pushing the Union forces out of the Valley of Virginia and winning the Valley Campaign of 1862. Jackson was great support for General Robert E. Lee at the second Battle of Manassas and the Battle of Fredericksburg. Jackson was wounded at Chancellorsville and died Sunday, May 10, 1863. His last words were "Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees."

How was Stonewall Jackson connected to Prince Edward County?

Dr. William E. Thompson will answer this question at the next meeting of the Farmville/Prince Edward Historical Society on Tuesday, March 21, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Farmville Train Station.

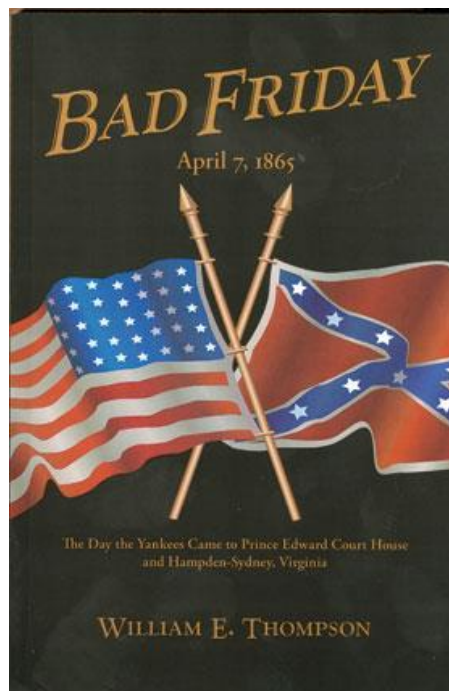
Dr. Thompson is an honor graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina and holds three graduate degrees from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. He has an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Hampden-Sydney College. He is author of *Her Walls Before Thee Stand*, a history of College Presbyterian Church and *Bad Friday, The Day the Yankees Came to Prince Edward Court House and Hampden-Sydney, Virginia*.

Upcoming Events

April 17, 2012 – Tour the new Museum of the Confederacy at Appomattox – 7:00 p.m. No admission charge. Those who would like to carpool can meet at the Farmville Train Station by 6:15 p.m.

May 15, 2012 – *"The Civil War at Poplar Forest"* – Phyllis Guilliams

June 19, 2012 – *"Observations of Farmville History"* – Dr. Ray Gaskins.



Bad Friday:

The Yankees Come to Hampden Sydney

The final days leading up to the surrender at Appomattox Court House involved a stopover by the Union forces at Prince Edward Court House and Hampden-Sydney. This visit is chronicled in detail in *Bad Friday*, a new book by the Reverend William E. Thompson, retired chaplain at Hampden Sydney College.

"Bad Friday," as the Union visit on April 7, 1865, was known to locals at the time, was the follow-up to the battle at Sailor's Creek and the precursor to the Confederate's last gasp days later. Thompson examines the effect on Hampden-Sydney College by the encampment of General Philip Sheridan's Union cavalry and General Charles Griffin's corps of infantry as the Union Army's left flank moved west from Richmond.

Of his title, Thompson says, "I fully recognize that what I am calling *Bad Friday* ... certainly turned out to be 'as good as it could possibly be,' because in the wake of the onward-marching Union Army's Friday activities both the Confederate surrender at Appomattox became virtually inevitable and the liberation of African-American people of enforced servitude became possible ... although their freedom from bondage would not officially become a "law-of-the-land" reality until the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on December 18, 1865."

Dr. Thompson's book is available from the author, at Farmville Visitors Center, the Longwood and Hampden Sydney College Bookstores, and the Sailors Creek Battlefield Visitors Center.

At a Place Called Buckingham

Historic Sketches of Buckingham County, Virginia

Joanne L. Yeck

Available: greydenpress.com/store/ and Barnes & Noble Bookstore

In a dozen engaging essays, historian Joanne Yeck recounts important events in Buckingham County. New material gleaned from county records, 19th century newspapers, and numerous private collections offers a fresh look at Buckingham's past.

Slate River Press 2011

This Day in March in Prince Edward County History

- 3-1-1841** Blanche Kelso Bruce, first black U.S. Senator (elected from Mississippi), born in Farmville
- 3-1-1899** Gov. P.W. McKinney died at his home in Farmville
- 3-1-1917** Farmville Guard returned from Mexican Expedition.
- 3-1-1943** World War II canned goods rationing began
- 3-2-1942** World War II defense training classes begin for Prince Edward citizens
- 3-2-1964** Prince Edward Hotel collapses while under renovation
- 3-3-1884** Farmville and Powhatan Railroad chartered (narrow-gauge line to James River)
- 3-4-1903** Tobacco factory known as "Dunlop's" burned, half million pounds of tobacco lost
- 3-4-1913** Farmville Guard marches at Woodrow Wilson's Inaugural
- 3-4-1949** East wing of State Teachers College burned, displacing 46 students
- 3-5-1839** Farmville Female Seminary established by local supporters (official birthdate of Longwood University)
- 3-5-1846** The South Side Rail Road chartered
- 3-6-1935** Birth of Barbara Johns, organizer of 1951 student strike at Moton School
- 3-7-1884** Virginia General Assembly passes law establishing State Female Normal School to train teachers at the already-existing "female seminary"
- 3-7-1886** State Female Normal School incorporated
- 3-7-1921** J.B. Wall purchased *The Farmville Herald*
- 3-8-1938** Farmville Rotary Club organized
- 3-10-1816** Judith Randolph, Farmville's "matriarch" died in Richmond, far from Bizarre plantation
- 3-12-1896** Farmville Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy organized
- 3-12-1956** "Southern Manifesto" introduced in U.S. Congress as regional attempt to offset effects of *Brown v. Board of Education*
- 3-13-1926** Devastating fire on Main Street. Burns 8 buildings in seven hours
- 3-13-1974** Uniroyal began finishing golf balls in the Farmville plant
- 3-15-1781** Peter Francisco and dozens of Prince Edward volunteers support Continental Gen. Greene at Battle of Guilford C. H. in North Carolina
- 3-15-1924** Star Warehouse burned to the ground
- 3-17-1917** Garden Club organized
- 3-19-1872** Last session held in 118-year old county court at Worsham
- 3-20-1775** Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech in Richmond
- 3-20-1821** Hampden-Sydney trustees begin plans for its signature building New College (Cushing Hall)
- 3-21-1891** Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston died in Washington D.C.
- 3-21-1903** All saloons closed under the dispensary act
- 3-22-1807** Former U.S. Vice President Aaron Burr spends night as prisoner at Prince Edward tavern on the way to his trial for treason
- 3-23-1861** The tobacco factory of Peters & Blanton burned
- 3-23-1902** "Billy" the *Herald's* office mocking bird found dead
- 3-24-1975** Amtrak's first stop in town "The Mountaineer" made the pull
- 3-26-1872** First session of carpetbagger-sanctioned county court at relocated judicial site in Farmville
- 3-27-1837** Farmville and Danville Railroad Co. chartered
- 3-28-1954** Fluorine is added to the water supply
- 3-28-1962** Martin Luther King, Jr., visits Farmville in support of reopening the public school system
- 3-29-1897** McDaniel family opens county's first private school for black children
- 3-29-1957** Hampden-Sydney's McIlwaine Hall burns under suspicious circumstances
- 3-31-1938** Farmville Rotary Club chartered