



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

May, 2012

War Touches Poplar Forest

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Farmville Train Station

Guests Always Welcomed

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.



Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

On Tuesday, May 15th, Phyllis Guilliams, who is in her 16th year as a volunteer tour docent at Poplar Forest, will give an overview of events at Poplar Forest during the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

In the spring of 1781, Governor Thomas Jefferson, was meeting at the State Capitol in Richmond with his predecessor, Patrick Henry, and his successor, Thomas Nelson, as well as all of the Virginia Delegates and Legislators, including Daniel Boone, to have an orderly turn-over of the governorship from Jefferson to Nelson.

Word reached Governor Jefferson that British troops, led by General Cornwallis, were enroute to Richmond to capture the Governor and everyone else, especially anyone connected to the Declaration of Independence. The Governor told everyone to leave Richmond and go to safety at their own homes or elsewhere. He and Martha and the children left for Monticello as quickly as possible. The plan was to reconvene in Charlottesville on the 1st of June to complete the turn-over.

When General Cornwallis and his troops arrived in Richmond and found everyone gone, he sent one of his most trusted officers, Colonel Banastre Tarleton, in pursuit of Jefferson. What ensued was another dash for safety – this time to Poplar Forest.

By the 1860s, Poplar Forest was no longer owned by anyone in the Jefferson family. Indeed, it had been in the Hutter family since 1828 and would remain so until 1946.

The Civil War touched Poplar Forest only briefly, but no less dramatically. Emotionally and economically, its effect was far more serious, and had far more lasting consequences.

In March of 1862, 18-year old William Christian Hutter was mortally wounded during the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac at Hampton Roads.

When Union Major General David Hunter was making his march from the Peaks of Otter eastward to Lynchburg in June 1864, they stopped at Poplar Forest searching for spoils. Upon their departure, very little was left. There were no animals, no crops, and very little to sustain the family.

Phyllis Guilliams Biography

Phyllis Guilliams, our speaker for the May meeting, was born in Hampton, Virginia. After marriage, she moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

When an opportunity for overseas employment came along, she and her husband took it and went to the Panama Canal Zone.

After the Panama Canal Treaties were signed, things started to deteriorate in the area where they lived -- bullet-proof glass in all the doors and windows and bars over them as well. Then, another overseas opportunity came along and they went to Yokosuka, Japan. They were both lucky enough to have jobs that required a lot of travel so got to see a good part of that part of the world. They were out of the country for almost 25 years.

While home on leave from Japan in 1984, they started looking around for a place for retirement and ended up buying a small farm in Prince Edward County -- about half-way between Farmville and Charlotte Court House.

She returned from Japan in 1993 and did a major over-haul on the house and when her husband retired in 1994, they were here to stay.

She started volunteering at Poplar Forest in 1996. She gives tours of the house.

Upcoming Events

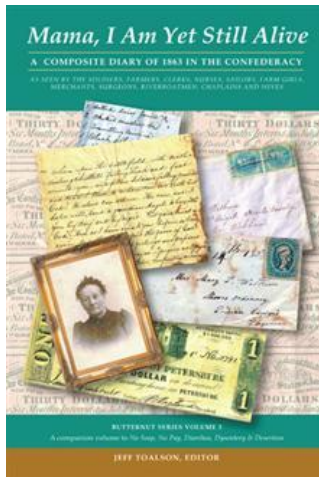
June 19, 2012 – “*Observations of Farmville History*” –
Dr. Ray Gaskins.

Just Published...

Mama, I Am Yet Still Alive

A Composite Diary of 1863 in the Confederacy

By Jeff Toalson



Civil War studies normally focus on military battles, campaigns, generals, and politicians, with the common Confederate soldier and Southern civilians receiving only token mention. Using personal accounts from more than 240 soldiers, farmers, clerks, surgeons, sailors, chaplains, farm girls, nurses, merchants, teachers and wives, author Jeff Toalson has created a compilation that is remarkable in its simplicity and stunning in its scope.

These soldiers and civilians wrote remarkable letters and kept astonishing diaries and journals. A major portion of these documents were unpublished and were made available by the Brewer Library of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Mama, I Am Yet Still Alive – ISBN 978-1-4697-5316-4

463 pages – 6x9 Quality Paperback –

\$29.95 + 5% tax + 3.50 S/H 1st book

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Museum of the Confederacy – Appomattox
President Kay Whitfield with Director of MOC-Appomattox

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



Crowd of approximately 50 in attendance at Museum of Confederacy – Appomattox private tour held April 17, 2012