



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

June, 2012

“A Walk Down Main Street”

Dr. Ray A. Gaskins

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Farmville Train Station

Guests Always Welcomed

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.

On June 19th at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Ray A. Gaskins, Professor Emeritus at Hampden-Sydney College, will take the members of the Farmville/Prince Edward Historical Society on “A Walk Down Main Street”. Dr. Gaskins is well known for the articles he writes for the *Farmville Herald* about the history of our great town and county. He has probably read every article, marriage and death announcement and advertisement that has appeared in the paper since 1893. This is what he wrote about the program he will be giving to the Farmville/Prince Edward Historical Society.

“A Walk Down Main Street”

About a year ago, someone suggested that it would be neat to organize a walking tour of Main Street—one that would point out where all the old business houses of Farmville once stood. It sounded like a great idea to me, so this talk is a preview of what this walking tour will be like. The biggest problem is the sheer number of business houses that once existed on Main Street. Even if we limit the time span to 75 years, from 1893, which is as far back as *The Farmville Herald* goes on microfilm, to about 1968, which is when Roses took over Newberry’s burned-out site, the tour would have to be broken up into four or five parts.

For the purposes of this talk, we will concentrate on eight business locations near “Busy Corner” (the SW corner of 3rd & Main). Specifically, we will cover all four corners of 3rd & Main, as well as four other business locations on the west side of Main Street, from the R.J. Martin Building to Busy Corner. These eight business locations

encompassed many businesses over the years, from 1893 to 1968.

We will not have time to cover the three buildings across the street, between Farmville Baptist Church and the Doyne Building. In 1893 they were collectively the J.F. Walton Stores, which sold farm implements, buggies, feed & seed, and hardware. After about 1920 they were used individually by such companies as Walton & Elam, Southern Hardware, Mottley Hardware, Holladay Furniture, and A&P, to name only a few. Eventually these three buildings were again unified into one business—Pairet’s—which proves the truth of the old saying: “The more things change, the more they remain the same.”

There have been many difficulties in putting together “A Walk Down Main Street.” Perhaps the biggest difficulty was finding a way to translate an old-style Main Street address into its modern equivalent. The next difficulty was that some businesses moved around a lot, e.g. Hillsman’s and A&N. Another was that some businesses never advertised and others advertised sporadically, e.g. A&P. Last but not least was that some businesses advertised religiously but never gave their address, e.g. Wade’s Confectionery.

To add a bit of spice, the talk will start with three general questions, not restricted to Main Street: (1) Who supplied most of the local brick for the rebuilding of Farmville after the 1898 fire; (2) Who was Frank Feinman; and (3) What is the factory building, shown here in a 1909 photo, used for today? That is your homework assignment. If you know the answer to even one of these questions, you are doing well.

J.E. Johnston & Co. Factory in 1909. What is this building used for today?



J.F. Walton & Co. Stores in 1902 - Notice that the corner of the Doyme Building at the far left is only two stories and the Walton Building at the far right is only one story.



J.F. Walton & Co. Stores in 1909 - All three Walton buildings are now two stories.



Upcoming Programs

July 17, 2012 – Program:

“Declaration of Independence” – Jennings Custis

Upcoming Events

High Bridge Trail State Park

Grand Opening Celebration

Tuesday, June 26, 2012 – 10 a.m.

Cumberland County End of High Bridge

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation invites you to join your neighbors and local, state, and federal officials as they celebrate the grand opening of High Bridge.

After a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting, plan to spend some time on the bridge and trail. Refreshments will be provided. Learn more about the bridge and other local attractions while listening to the bluegrass sounds of local band *High Bridge*. The U.S. Postal Service will be on hand with a special High Bridge commemorative stamp cancellation. This is an outdoor event so dress casually and wear comfortable shoes.

Guests are encouraged to use the special shuttle service to and from the ceremony site. Shuttle buses will begin running at 9 a.m. The final shuttle before the ceremony will leave the parking area at 9:45 a.m. Shuttle will resume after the ceremony at approximately 11:30 with the shuttle service ending at 1 p.m. Directions to shuttles – From downtown Farmville go north on Main Street. Turn right on River Road (Rt. 600). Go 2.7 miles to parking area on left.

This Day in June in Prince Edward County History

- 6-1-2001** Telephone Area Code changes from 804 to 434
- 6-2-1959** Board of Supervisors announces its intention to cease funding of public school system in Prince Edward until further notice
- 6-4-1894** Hampden-Sydney College trustees voted unanimously to oppose "by any legal and moral means" Union Seminary's possible move elsewhere
- 6-5-1788** Prince Edward delegate to Virginia Convention, Patrick Henry, argues against ratifying U.S. Constitution due to centralized power and no bill of rights
- 6-5-1905** Crosses of Honor presented to many Farmville Confederates
- 6-5-1836** Dr. Peter Winston, Surgeon Confederate Hospital, mayor, delegate, born
- 6-6-1749** License issued for Anderson's Ordinary in Worsham area as condition for establishing the new Prince Edward County court there
- 6-6-1907** Charles Bugg, grocer and postmaster, died
- 6-6-1923** Farmville Lions Club chartered
- 6-6-1944** Farmville veterans participate in Normandy invasion (D-Day).
- 6-7-1905** Gov. Montague addressed the graduating class of the Normal School.
- 6-7-1905** Narrow-gauge Farmville and Powhatan Railroad sold and renamed Tidewater and Western, but nicknamed "Tired and Weary"
- 6-8-1791** George Washington crossed the Appomattox River at Rutledge's bridge near end of Bridge Street and spent night in Prince Edward Court House village
- 6-9-1761** Petition sent to Cumberland Court to allow a bridge into Prince Edward
- 6-9-1798** John Woodson surveys the town's first lots
- 6-9-1924** Work starts on Hotel Weyanoke
- 6-10-1926** Confederate Veteran State Convention in Farmville
- 6-10-1943** Cannery opened in the basement of Farmville High School
- 6-11-1926** Confederate veterans go to Appomattox Court House
- 6-12-1926** S. W. Paulett elected State Commander at UCV Convention
- 6-12-1820** R. S. Paulett, Farmville tobacconist, born
- 6-12-1861** The Randolph Guard mustered into service
- 6-12-1934** Council requests a state liquor store be opened in Farmville
- 6-12-1943** Farmville's Lt. Robert L. Gilbert shoots down three Japanese planes during Solomon Islands campaign
- 6-13-1854** Hampden-Sydney trustees reluctantly acquiesce to actions of Virginia General Assembly assuming governance of the college's Medical Department (now MCV)
- 6-15-1898** Spreading rails causes wreck on Farmville & Powhatan Railroad
- 6-17-1903** Farmville Guard ordered to Richmond to quell labor riots
- 6-17-1942** First darkness to dawn blackout. Air raid preparation
- 6-19-1775** Prince Edward committeemen pass resolutions condemning action of Royal Governor Dunmore in moving gunpowder from Williamsburg
- 6-19-1916** Farmville Guard receive orders to prepare for duty in Mexico
- 6-19-1922** Farmville Creamery began operations
- 6-21-1972** Hurricane Agnes brings Farmville's worst flood.
- 6-22-1914** Rail traffic diverted to the new steel High Bridge which replace the wooden one
- 6-22-1916** Farmville Guard ordered to military duty along U.S.-Mexican border
- 6-23-1918** Robert B. Berkeley, Dr., lawyer, newspaper editor, died
- 6-24-1906** The last services were held in the Methodist Church before the old structure was torn down
- 6-26-1796** Benjamin H. Latrobe arrives at Bizarre
- 6-26-1909** Dr. James L. White, founder White Drug Company, died
- 6-26-1908** Socialist J. L. Fitts, addressed local farmers
- 6-26-1918** Birth of noted Prince Edward entrepreneur-philanthropist J. B. Fuqua
- 6-28-1783** County's eight-year-old Hampden-Sydney College finally officially chartered by Virginia General Assembly
- 6-28-1929** E. H. Irby scores Farmville Golf Club's first hole-in-one
- 6-29-1897** Daughters of the Confederacy gave basket picnic at Lithia Springs.