



## *Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 546*

*Farmville, Virginia 23901*

*February, 2013*

# **“Railroads and the Civil War”**

*Presented by Howard Gregory*

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Farmville Train Station**

***Guests Always Welcomed***

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



This month's program is “*Railroads and the Civil War*” and will be presented by Howard Gregory of Appomattox. Gregory, a retired Virginia State Police Division

commander and a past president of the Civil War Round Table, has authored the history of the “*38<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry*” and the “*53<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Infantry*” in addition to “*The History of the Wreck of the Old 97.*”

The "Civil War Railroads" program will address the impact and influence that railroads had on the conduct of the War in both the North and the South, as well as the challenges and conflicts experienced by both the military and the railroaders. Gregory noted that: "The bloody conflict that swept the United States in 1861 has been known by many names, including the War of the Rebellion, the War Between the States, the Late Unpleasantness, and the generally accepted Civil War. Due to the vital part played by the railroads of both the North and the South, it could also be called the Great Railroad War." The Civil War was the first major military action in which railroads played a critically important role and often the commanders were slow to comprehend the potential uses of this comparatively new mode of transportation. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of the local railroads during the waning days of the War, including the "lost Confederate gold!"

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE FOR 2013**

Beginning January 2013, all membership fees are due as we change to a calendar year collection schedule, January – December. You may pay your 2013 fee at our monthly meeting or send to PO Box 546, Farmville, VA 23901 – \$15.00 individual/\$25.00 family. We will begin sending out bills next month for those still due.

### **Upcoming Programs:**

March 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – *Mama, I Am yet Still Alive: A Composite Diary of 1863 in the Confederacy* by Jeff Toalson

April 16, 2013, 7:00 p.m. - Jimmy Hurt will be doing a program on the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Historic Farmville Train Station. Anyone with information about the Train Station contact Jimmy Hurt at 434-392-8831.

Lynchburg College and Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest present: Reflections on “*The Legacy of Emancipation.*” This will be held Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at Snidow Chapel, Lynchburg College. The panel discussion will include Adam Dean (Professor of History at Lynchburg College), Gary Gallagher (Professor of History at UVA), and Lori Lee (Visiting Asst. Professor of American Culture, Randolph College). It is free and open to the public.

## New Members:

W. Howard Smith – Farmville  
Amy Tillerson-Brown – Waynesboro, VA  
Gail Shepard Tomlinson – Senatobia, Mississippi

## February in Prince Edward County History

- 2-01-1775** At Slate Hill plantation Hanover Presbytery plans "an Academy in Prince Edward," soon named Hampden-Sydney  
**2-01-1806** Virginia General Assembly appointed commissioners to survey a canal from the Buffalo River to the Roanoke River  
**2-02-1775** Presbytery accepts Peter Johnston's offer of 100 acres of land for the new college, Hampden-Sydney  
**2-02-1924** Tobacco prizery owned by W.P. Gilliam burned  
**2-03-1775** Presbytery appoints Samuel Stanhope Smith rector of the new college, Hampden-Sydney  
**2-03-1803** Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston (USA and CSA) born at Longwood plantation  
**2-03-1942** Company G mobilized for service in World War II  
**2-04-1861** John T. Thornton elected county representative to state secession convention  
**2-07-1797** Gov. Beverly Randolph died  
**2-07-1870** Charles Edward Burrell, county historian, born  
**2-08-1825** Virginia General Assembly incorporates Junction Canal Company to build a canal from the Buffalo to the Roanoke River  
**2-08-1845** Virginia General Assembly creates Appomattox County from parts of Prince Edward and three other counties  
**2-08-1944** Charles Edward Burrell, county historian, died  
**2-09-1762** First court record of a passable bridge at Rutledge's Ford--later the site of Farmville  
**2-09-1892** George Richardson appointed postmaster  
**2-10-1918** H.E. Barrow, former mayor, died  
**2-11-1824** Birth of W. H. Ruffner, first president of Farmville State Normal School  
**2-11-1994** State Theater collapses  
**2-12-1871** Decision made to move county seat from Worsham to Farmville  
**2-12-1872** County seat moves from Worsham to Farmville  
**2-13-1786** Patrick Henry refuses membership in U.S. Constitutional Convention  
**2-13-1901** Legislature passes act establishing the Farmville Dispensary  
**2-15-1907** Farmville had Virginia's last execution by hanging before electrocution adopted. Jesse Ruffin and Massey Hill were the condemned  
**2-16-1781** Prince Edward militiamen leave old court house to reinforce Gen. Greene at Dan River  
**2-19-1945** Farmville livestock market conducts first sale  
**2-23-1934** Prince Edward Mills commences operation on site of earlier mill  
**2-25-1952** Oliver Hill argues NAACP's Prince Edward case before U.S. District Court  
**2-26-1900** Farmville Town Council votes against licensing the private sales of intoxicants; all sales to be through an officially sanctioned Dispensary Board  
**2-27-1833** Virginia General Assembly incorporates Farmville as a town  
**2-27-1942** Parking meters came to Main Street  
**2-28-1820** Birth of W. W. H. Thackston, Farmville mayor and dentist, who founded the Virginia Dental Association



Original Farmville Train Station – N. Main Street  
Now the J. Ferguson Gallery – photo from Jimmy Hurt



Farmville Train Station – September 19, 1917  
photo from Jimmy Hurt

If you have any information to include the newsletter,  
send to Dale Bolt at: [dlbolt55@gmail.com](mailto:dlbolt55@gmail.com) or  
[registar@co.prince-edward.va.us](mailto:registar@co.prince-edward.va.us)