



# Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

March, 2013

## “Mama, I Am Yet Still Alive”

Presented by Jeff Toalson

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Farmville Train Station

Guests Always Welcomed

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.



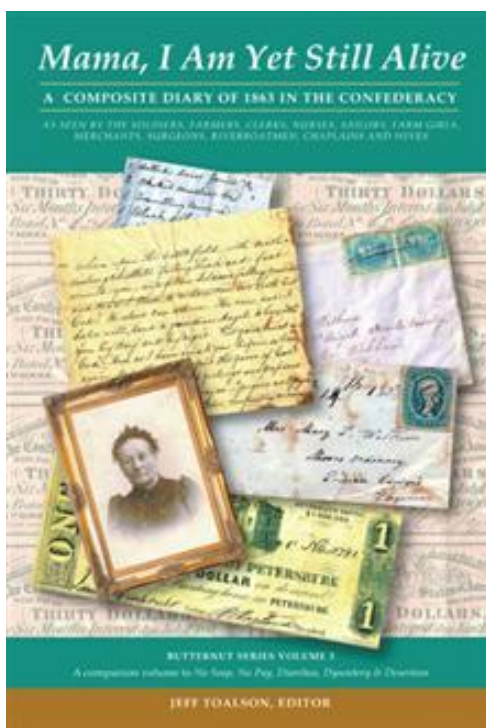
Jeff Toalson is a resident of Williamsburg, VA. He is a graduate of Missouri State University with a BS in Business Management and a minor in American History. While in the U. S. Navy he was stationed in Norfolk on a variety of amphibious ships. Jeff has 35+ years as a salesman in the automotive aftermarket. He is the author of 3 books and numerous articles on the WBTS. Jeff spoke to our Historical Society in 2010

telling stories from “Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls: the Civil War Letters of Richard and Mary Watkins, 1861-1865” who were from Prince Edward County and he was Captain of Co. K “Prince Edward Dragoons.”

## 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 soldiers and Southern civilians receiving only token mention. Using personal accounts from more than two hundred forty soldiers, farmers, clerks, nurses, sailors, farm girls, merchants, surgeons, chaplains 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. Their correspondence is written “in the moment” and is intimate, personal and very revealing. They discuss disease, slavery, inflation, religion, desertion, blockade running, and their never-ending hope that the war would end before their loved ones died. A major portion of these documents were unpublished and were made available by the Brewer Library of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

With this, his third significant contribution to Civil War literature, Jeff Toalson joins the select company of Thomas W. Cutrer and Bell I. Wiley as historians who have devoted their body of work to preserving the “voices” of common Confederate soldiers and civilians.

During this program, you will take a journey through 1863 as Toalson reads selected letters from farm wives, privates, doctors, ministers, sergeants, clerks, refugees and nurses. He will complement his presentation with a variety of historical artifacts and perhaps share some “wisdom” from Mackenzie’s *Five Thousand Receipts in all the Useful & Domestic Arts* including suggested cures for dysentery and other ailments.

Please join us for our March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 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.

### Upcoming Programs:

April 16, 2013, 7:00 p.m. - Jimmy Hurt and Bob Flippen 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.



### 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 birth date 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