



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

July 2013

“Textbooks Published During the Confederacy”

Nathan Ryalls

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Farmville Train Station

Guests Always Welcomed

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.

Nathan Richard Samuel Ryalls was born and raised in Williamsburg, VA. He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 2011 with a major in History and a minor in Rhetoric. While at HSC, he worked at the Esther Thomas Atkinson Museum and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. In 2013, he received a Masters of Arts in History (with a concentration on local, regional, and public history) from James Madison University.

Nathan wrote: “My talk is based upon my Master’s thesis, which looked at textbooks published during the Confederacy for school aged children and investigated what these books taught students. I discovered that these textbooks had similarities with widely used northern textbooks of the day, but Confederate authors crafted new narratives of their American past that highlighted southern achievements in the American Revolution, justified the institution of slavery, and attempted to profess the greatness of their new nation.”

When several southern states seceded from the United States in 1860 and 1861, the Confederate nation they formed was forced to produce on its own the materials it had previously

obtained from northern and overseas manufacturers. Books were no exception.

Books had been largely imported into the South prior to 1861. Once the Civil War began, established southern



publishers had to step up their production, often putting their

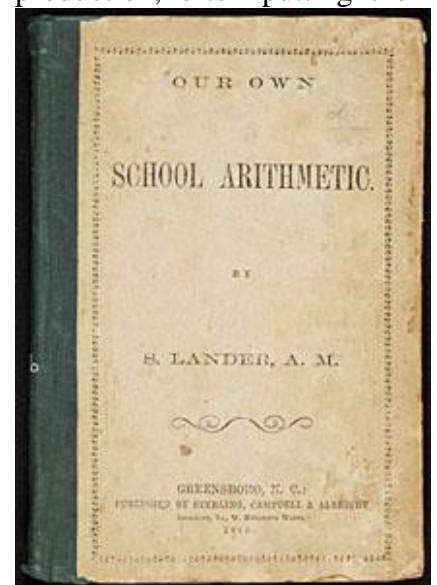
presses to work on materials previously outside of their specialty. New publishers also emerged to meet the rising demand. Both faced tremendous challenges over the course of the war.

Educational texts represented one of the major genres of Confederate imprints. Nearly three-fourths of the Confederate juvenile publications were

textbooks of some sort, including primers, spellers, and readers. Prior to the Civil War, most school books were published in New York, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia. Southern schools were forced to find used copies of the popular northern textbooks until presses in Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, and

Alabama began printing them. A majority of these texts were reprints or adaptations of northern texts that had been popular prior to the war, although some publishers generated original material, usually covering regional subjects. Houston *Telegraph* publisher E. H. Cushing took the lead in producing original school books for

Texas children. Copyright © 2005-2008 The University of Alabama



Upcoming Programs:

- August 20, 2013 – program by Edwina Covington – a PowerPoint slide-show of the Buildings of Prospect. (See picture below)
September 17, 2013 – program by Dr. William E. Thompson – the Hampden-Sydney Boys.
October 15, 2013 – program by Jimmy Hurt – on the Old Farmville Airport.

NOW AVAILABLE:



Farmville Train Station Kits – 17” x 6”, 3 dimensional - \$15.00 (assembly required)

This Day in July in Prince Edward County History

- 7-1-1900** Leslie Fogus joins Farmville police.
7-1-1934 Craddock-Terry commences manufacturing shoes.
7-1-2000 Longwood College assumes new designation as Longwood University
7-2-1896 Solomon Marable hanged for the murder of Mrs. Pollard
7-3-1902 The first automobile makes its appearance in Farmville; it was driven by Mr. A.F. Herman of Richmond on his way to Lynchburg
7-4-1776 George Walton (born near Farmville, ca 1741) signs Declaration of Independence as delegate from Georgia
7-6-1901 Lightning strikes the Presbyterian Church steeple causing fire and \$300 in damage
7-7-1901 Bottling house at Lithia Springs burned
7-10-1927 Amandus Cox, livery stable operator, died
7-10-1928 First traffic light installed at Third and Main streets
7-11-1861 "Hampden-Sydney Boys" military company surrenders after battle of Rich Mountain in present-day West Virginia
7-12-1864 Birth of Henry R. McIlwaine at Hampden-Sydney (Virginia State Librarian, 1907-1934)
7-13-1781 Notorious British cavalryman, Colonel Banastre Tarleton, raids area around Prince Edward Court House village
7-16-1832 Hampden-Sydney literary society requests that Bible be taught as a college course
7-17-1825 James T. Gray, Farmville tobacconist, born
7-17-1843 First class meets at Farmville Female Seminary, which was founded in 1839
7-18-1955 A three-judge Federal Court rules the Prince Edward County will have to desegregate its public schools
7-22-1903 Southside Telephone Company chartered
7-23-1864 Dr. J.R. Spencer born
7-23-1836 The Mineralogical Society of Virginia formed in Worsham
7-26-1940 Farmville is the nation's hot spot. Thermometer tops 135° and then explodes!
7-27-1896 The Pythians reorganize their lodge here.

<http://www.fpehs.org>

Meetings are held January through November, the third Tuesday of the month at the Farmville Train Station, unless otherwise announced.

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



Homes along Railroad Ave., Prospect, VA