



# Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

September 2013

## “First in War:

*The Hampden-Sydney Boys”*

**Rev. Dr. William E. Thompson**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2013**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Farmville Train Station**

**Guests Always Welcomed**

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

The September 17, 2013 program of the Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society at the Farmville Train Station (7:00 p.m.) will be presented by the Rev. Dr. William e. Thompson, the retired pastor of the College Presbyterian Church at Hampden-Sydney, where he also served as the College Chaplain for over 14 years. Upon his retirement in 2002, Willie and Sally Thompson moved into Farmville, where she was subsequently elected to the Town Council. Dr. Thompson has often spoken to the society, typically on subjects relating to the immediate geographical area and the American Civil War. He is also the president of the Friends of Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical Park.



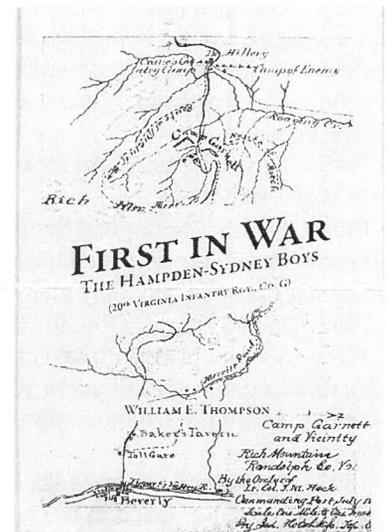
Rev. Thompson will be speaking about his newly-published book, *FIRST IN WAR: The Hampden-Sydney Boys (20<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company G)*. This is a 600 page paperback book with over 50 illustrations and maps, with an

Appendix that lists the 96 men Roster, featuring a biographical description of each of these men in their remaining Civil War service, and also what happened to them in their post-war lives.



HSC President Atkins, Captain of “The Hampden-Sydney Boys”

These college and seminary students started their military drills the day *after* the 1860 presidential election results were known locally, and they were eventually led by the Hampden-Sydney College President, the Rev. Dr. J. M. P. Atkinson. This was the first college-boy military company of either side – North *or* South – to be engaged in a firefight with enemy forces. That skirmish took place near present-day Elkins, WV, and it preceded (by 10 days!) the Ball of Bull Run near Manassas, Virginia, which is often incorrectly referred to as “the first battle” of the Civil War.



Rev. Thompson will have copies of this book available for autographing and sells at \$25.00 a copy (he says that’s less than 4 cents a page!). He will also have copies available of his 2011 book, *BAD FRIDAY*, the story of the Union Army’s occupation of Hampden-Sydney College on Friday, April 7, 1867, two days before the surrender at Appomattox. The cost of this earlier book is now reduced to \$15.00, down from its original price of \$25.00.

## Coming Next Month:



### Upcoming Programs:

October 15, 2013 – program by Jimmy Hurt, with Syd Newman – *the Old Farmville Airport*.

November 19, 2013 – Annual Business Meeting – no program

### This Day in September in Prince Edward County History

**9-1-1775** Williamsburg newspaper carries first advertisement for new college for men to open sometime that fall in Prince Edward

**9-1-1902** 30 cars of processed tobacco leave for Norway

**9-1-1891** Farmville Silver Band organized

**9-2-1964** County's public school system reopens as an integrated system, after being closed for five years

**9-3-1831** Union Seminary founder John Holt Rice dies

**9-3-1906** The first brick of the Methodist church was laid in northwest corner

**9-4-1919** Farmville turns out to welcome its returning World War I veterans

**9-5-1898** Union Theological Seminary moves to Richmond

**9-5-1935** Hurricane-spawned tornado damages trees and buildings at Hampden-Sydney and Kingsville

**9-6-1893** Noted Negro, Goliath Armistead died

**9-6-1933** Virginia Dark-Fired Tobacco Warehousemen's Association organized at Planters Warehouse

**9-6-1933** Farmville Council approves sale of "near beer" (3.2% alcohol)

**9-7-1897** Norfolk & Western Railroad fined by Mayor Burton for excessive speed in town

**9-9-1885** Opera House contracted to be built by Burton and Davis

**9-11-1934** Farmville's ABC store opened

**9-13-1944** Honor Roll of World War II veterans unveiled on Courthouse lawn

**9-15-1907** Prof. August Schemmel, opens Farmville's Conservatory of Music

**9-17-1862** Prominent county lawyer J. T. Thornton is mortally wounded in battle at Sharpsburg, Maryland

**9-20-1809** Missouri governor and Confederate Major General Sterling Price born near Hampden-Sydney

**9-22-1865** High Bridge reopens to regular traffic five months after being burned during the retreat

**9-22-1914** County voters approve (640-205) request for statewide Prohibition

**9-23-1890** After a bitterly contested election, Republican Party seats black educator J. M. Langston as this district's U.S. Congressman

**9-23-1923** Birth of county's famed soldier and educator, Lt. Gen. Samuel V. Wilson

**9-24-1776** Buffalo Presbyterian Church Session adopts "Petition for Religious Liberty" which was eventually sent to Virginia House of Delegates

**9-24-1890** Tobacconist, J.W. Dunnington, born

**9-25-1869** Rev. Daniel Witt baptizes over forty people in Miller's mill pond

**9-25-1922** Charles Edward Burrell published *A History of Prince Edward County, Virginia from its Formation in 1753, to the Present*

**9-25-1912** Fire Prevention Bureau meets and Farmville businesses pass inspection

**9-28-1728** First known land grant to settler in Prince Edward area goes to Richard Jarvis, Jr., for property along the Bush River

**9-28-1917** *Birth of a Nation* plays at the Normal School auditorium

**9-28-1955** The old armory on Main Street was sold at auction for \$45,000

**9-30-1933** County voters approve bond issue to build present courthouse