



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

October 2013

"The Old Farmville Airport"

Jimmy Hurt & Sydnor C. Newman, Jr.

**Tuesday, October 15, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

Farmville Train Station

Guests Always Welcomed

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.

Sydnor C. Newman, Jr. attended Farmville High School, St. Christopher Prep School, and Hampden-Sydney College. He served 4 years in the U. S. Air Force. He has served on the Farmville Town Council since July 1976, and is currently serving as Mayor since July 1998. Syd earned his private pilot's license in 1947.



Jimmy Hurt is a graduate of Prince Edward Academy and is currently operating *Dollar Bills* Auto of Farmville. Jimmy serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society. He recently presented the PowerPoint program *110th Anniversary of the Farmville Train Station* to the FPEHS.

The Old Farmville Airport will be the subject of this month's meeting of the Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society. It will be presented by Mayor Sydnor Newman and Jimmy Hurt.

Hear Mayor Newman talk about the Old Farmville Airport, the planes, the local people involved and the reason for its move out of the county. This will be a PowerPoint presentation put together by Jimmy Hurt, which will include many great pictures from Mr. Newman's personal collection of photos.

The old Farmville airport was located just west of Farmville on what is now Industrial Park Rd. Stackpole, Uniroyal, and Craddock-Terry Shoe Factory were built in the area of the old airport. The airport was made up of two dirt strip runways, one 1200 ft. long, and one 1500 ft. long. The airport moved to its present location in Cumberland County around 1967 or 1968. The 1500 ft. runway had a road crossing it going to the home of Henry Birdsong. During World War II, the Farmville Airport was used as camping grounds for soldiers passing through this area to and from maneuvers in North Carolina in the fall and winter of 1941. On the night of December 3, 1942, 3,125 men camped at the airport.



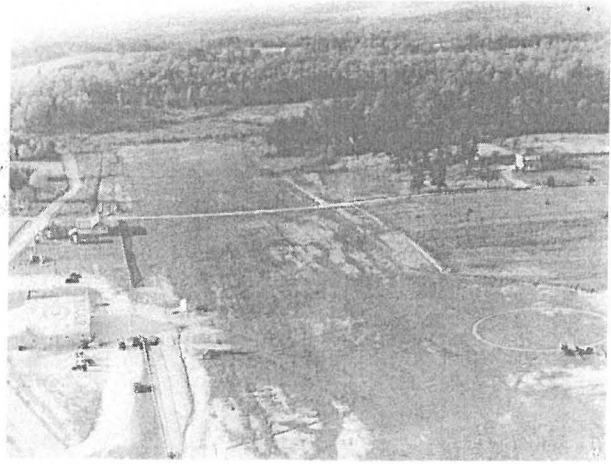
A TRIP BACK TO THE

The airport operated "*The Farmville School of Aeronautics.*"



OLD FARMVILLE AIRPORT





Upcoming Programs:

November 19, 2013 – Annual Business Meeting – no program

January 21, 2014 – “*Show and Tell*”

This Day in October in Prince Edward County History

10-1-1928 President Eggleston restores spelling “Sydney” in college’s name to match 1783 Charter

10-2-1892 Colored Baptist Church dedicated

10-3-1933 County citizens vote in favor (461 - 436) of retaining Prohibition

10-4-1798 First sale of lots in newly surveyed town of Farmville; purchasers agreed to build within 7 years

10-8-1890 John O. Collins, local inventor, receives gold medal from Paris World’s Fair for his railroad car coupler

10-9-1898 Dr. John Atkinson Cunningham, second president of the State Female Normal school, dies in Farmville

10-10-1910 Buck Fuqua, black restaurateur, died

10-11-1900 Confederate Monument unveiled, honoring county’s eight military companies

10-11-1918 Farmville native, Wiltshire C. Davis, 116th Infantry, receives distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre for bravery in battle exhibited near Verdun.

10-11-1979 Pepsi Cola commercial filmed at the Farmville train station.

10-12-1909 Remains of Gov. Beverly Randolph re-interred at West View cemetery

10-15-1902 O. T. Wicker, postmaster, mayor, councilman, died

10-15-1954 Hurricane Hazel comes through Farmville

10-15-1909 Andrew Reid Venable, Inspector General for J.E.B. Stuart, commission merchant, died

10-16-1859 John Brown’s Harper’s Ferry raid produces many enlistments for Prince Edward militia

10-19-1781 British surrender at Yorktown assures free county government

10-20-1871 Cornerstone laid for Prince Edward Courthouse in Farmville

10-20-1884 State Female Normal School opened with 110 students

10-20-1925 Hotel Weyanoke opens

10-21-1948 Farmville Sesquicentennial celebrated

10-21-1998 Farmville epicenter for an earthquake 1:57 a.m., 3.3 Richter scale

10-23-1897 Kappa Delta Sorority organized at the Normal School

10-24-1845 S.W. Paulette, Farmville’s “old Reb,” born

10-24-1946 Dabney S. Lancaster inaugurated president of State Teachers College

10-27-1859 Hampden-Sydney alumnus and future Confederate Brig. Gen. Roger Proyer is elected U.S. Congressman from this district

10-27-1901 Fire destroyed the dog pound of Farmville

10-29-1907 Several citizens witnessed the falling of a dazzling meteor

Exciting Way To Travel...

(Farmville Herald 5/18/2005)

“Kellet AutoGiro” – 1939, owned by J. C. Brickert.

One of the pilots who flew the machine was Jesse Boland, who lived in Farmville. He was one of a few black pilots in the U. S. prior to World War II. The autogiro flying machine had “Norge Refrigerators” painted on the side, which makes sense with Mr. Brickert selling Norge appliances. The machine had a tendency to have wrecks, and spent more time in repair than in the air. Mr. Brickert opened the first service station in Farmville in 1922 on Third St., which later became the Buick dealership.

