



# Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

February, 2014

## "Slate Hill Plantation"

**Dr. Charles Pearson**

**Tuesday, February 18, 2014**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Farmville Train Station**

**Guests Always Welcomed**

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

## MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE FOR 2014

All membership fees are now due for the calendar year January – December 2014. You may pay your 2014 fee at our monthly meeting or send to PO Box 546, Farmville, VA 23901 – \$15.00 individual/\$25.00 family.

## Nominees for Officers and Executive Board

The Executive Board reviewed the terms of office for officers and board members according to the Society's By-Laws. According to Article VI, Section 6.02 "The officers shall serve a two-year term and can serve up to three (3) successive terms. Terms shall begin on January 1st." According to Article IV, Section 4.03, "The term of office for each director shall be three (3) years. Directors shall not serve on the Board more than two (2) successive terms."

The Executive Board suggests the following slate of new officers and new executive board members.

<b>President</b>	Kay Whitfield	<b>Historian</b>	Billy Poulston
<b>Vice President</b>	Bob Flippen		
<b>Secretary</b>	Dale Bolt	<b>Board of Directors</b>	Tom Dennison
<b>Treasurer</b>	Phyllis Guilliams		Marianne Dennison

Additional nominations and discussion are open from the floor before voting during the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Continuing on the board are Edwina Covington, Julian Covington, Allison Stokes Martin, Jimmy Hurt, and Rev. Dr. William E. Thompson. Thanks to Jo D. Smith, Margaret Stockton, and Richard Stocking for serving on the board. They each served two 3 year terms and are ineligible to serve at the present time.

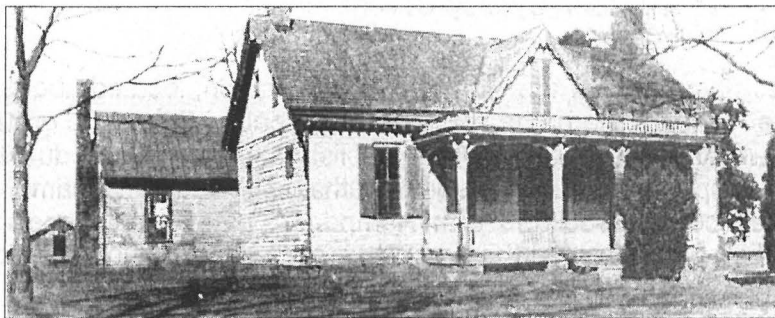
### SLATE HILL PLANTATION:

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

**BY HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE, 2006-2013**

By

Charles Pearson



The Slate Hill Plantation house, 1756-1972

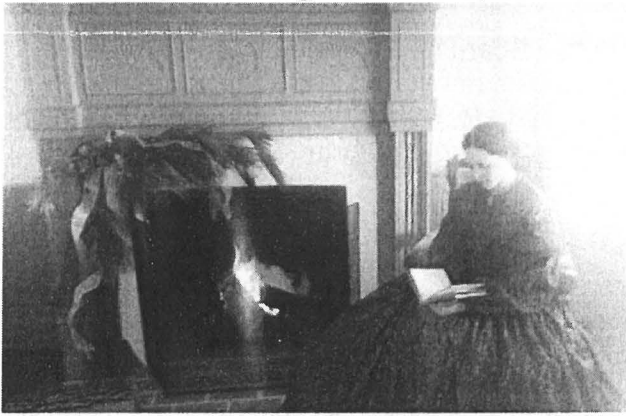
Dr. Charles Pearson is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia, and a Senior Archaeologist with Coastal Environments, Inc., an environmental consulting firm headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A native of Georgia, he now resides in Appomattox, Virginia. He received his Bachelor's degree in archaeology from the University of New Mexico and an MA and Ph.D. (1979) in anthropology (archaeology) from the University of Georgia. Dr. Pearson has conducted archaeological research on historic and prehistoric sites in the southeastern United States for over 40 years. One of Dr. Pearson's specialties is maritime history and archaeology and he has

conducted studies of a number of historic shipwrecks in Louisiana and the Gulf South. Dr. Pearson currently teaches a summer course in Historical Archaeology at Hampden-Sydney College and is engaged in a long term study of Slate Hill Plantation.

In 2005, Hampden-Sydney College purchased a 252-acre tract of the old Slate Hill Plantation, located about 2 miles south of the College campus. It was at Slate Hill, then the home of Nathaniel Venable, Sr., that a group of men of the Hanover Presbytery met in the first week of February 1775 to establish an academy to educate young men. This academy was soon named Hampden-Sydney College. Nathaniel Venable became a founding trustee of the college and the family has been associated with Hampden-Sydney ever since as trustees, benefactors, faculty, students, and recently, as president in the person of General Samuel V. Wilson, a direct descendent of Nathaniel Venable.

The Slate Hill Plantation house was built by Nathaniel Venable in 1756. The small building on the left in the above picture is Venable's office where the meeting to form Hampden-Sydney College was held in February 1775. The office was moved to the College campus in 1944 where it is memorialized as "The Birthplace," and the Venable house at Slate Hill was dismantled and removed in the 1970s.

### Upcoming Meeting March 18, 2014 – Beth Reynolds portrays Anna Jackson



Beth Reynolds portrays Mary Anna Morrison Jackson (July 21, 1831-March 24, 1915), the beloved wife of Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, whom she married July 16, 1857. Her presentation will focus on the life of Anna and Thomas during the Civil War. It is a very romantic type of story. Gen. Jackson will also attend the program.

### 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 prizeroy 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