



## *Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 546*

*Farmville, Virginia 23901*

*July 2014*

### ***“Life in Japan and Japanese Dolls”***

***by Phyllis Guilliams***

**Tuesday, July 15, 2014**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Farmville Train Station**

***Guests Always Welcomed***

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

#### **Phyllis Guilliams Biography**

Phyllis Guilliams, our speaker for the July meeting, was born in Hampton, Virginia. After marriage, she moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

When an opportunity for overseas employment came along, she and her husband took it and went to the Panama Canal Zone.

After the Panama Canal Treaties were signed, things started to deteriorate in the area where they lived -- bullet-proof glass in all the doors and windows and bars over them as well. Then, another overseas opportunity came along and they went to Yokosuka, Japan. They were both lucky enough to have jobs that required a lot of travel so got to see a good part of that part of the world. They were out of the country for almost 25 years.

While home on leave from Japan in 1984, they started looking around for a place for retirement and ended up buying a small farm in Prince Edward County -- about half-way between Farmville and Charlotte Court House.

She returned from Japan in 1993 and did a major over-haul on the house and when her husband retired in 1994, they were here to stay. She started volunteering at Poplar Forest in 1996, where she gives tours of the house.



Our July program will be presented by Phyllis Guilliams on ***“Life in Japan and Japanese Dolls.”*** Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Japan in 1853, using naval pressure to open up Japan to foreign trade with the West. Before and during World War II, Japan was known as the Empire of Japan, but since 1945 it is now simply known as Japan. Japan was occupied by the Allied Powers until April 1952, during which time it was changed to a democratic state.

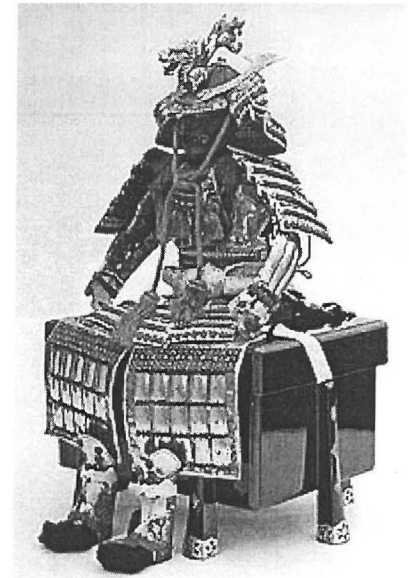


In Japan, *Koinoboi Matsuri* (Boy's Day or Children's Day), is celebrated May 5<sup>th</sup> as a national holiday which was established in 1948. Families typically display warrior dolls (representing legendary Japanese heroes) inside their homes and hang koinoboi carp kites outside. The dolls are not the everyday dolls usually played with but are ceremonial dolls, a heritage of the household, handed down, many of them, from generation to generation. Stories about these figures told by older people to the young children instilled ethics and values, and passed on heritage and pride in the past.

Warrior dolls also known as *musha-ningyo* are very popular among Western collectors. Embodying the martial arts spirit of the samurai, these figures are decked out in full military regalia with lacquered armor, swords, arrows, bows, and other assorted weapons. They frequently represent very specific historical characters and are a fascinating window into Japan's rich past.



In Japan the dolls provide an image on which to anchor what is heard and read about Medieval Japan. They symbolize and testify to the conflicts in Japanese history which helped create a culture unique in this world. These "dolls" were embellished by legend and symbolized ideals and a spirit that long fuelled the Japanese imagination. Boys and girls were weaned on their exploits and struggles, victories and losses.

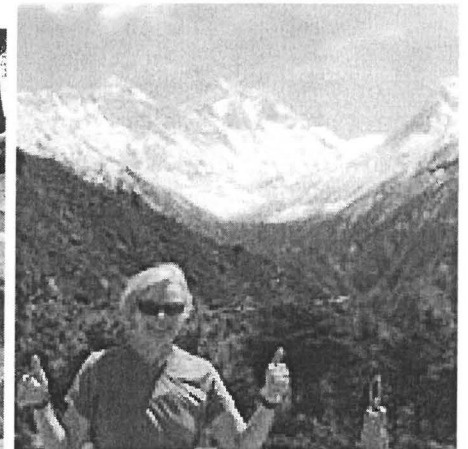
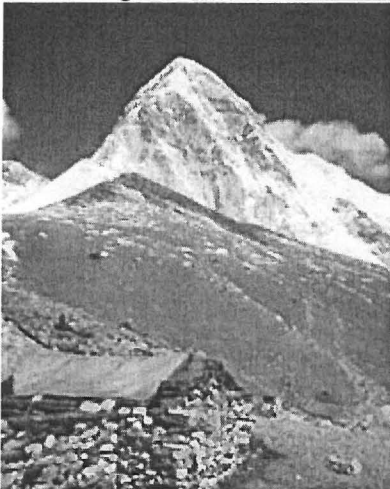


## Upcoming Meetings:

**August 19** – Rena' Koesler, *A Trip to Nepal*.

[www.longwood.edu/staff/koeslerra/NEPAL.HTM](http://www.longwood.edu/staff/koeslerra/NEPAL.HTM)

Rena' works at Longwood University. She received her PhD from Michigan State Univ., her MS from Texas A&M Univ., and her Bachelor's from Western Illinois University.



## 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.