



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

*P.O. Box 546
Farmville, Virginia 23901*

February 2015

“Basins, Bones and Bricks: How Geology Made Farmville”

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016
7 p.m.**

**Historic Farmville Train Station
Guest Always Welcomed
Board Meets at 6 p.m.**

The Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society will meet Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the Historic Farmville Train Station. David B. Spears, State Geologist, will be the speaker.



Membership Fees Now Due for 2016

All membership fees are now due for the calendar year January-December 2016:
\$15 individual/ \$25 family.

You may pay your 2016 fee at our monthly meeting or send to PO Box 546,
Farmville, VA 23901

Upcoming Programs:

**March 15, 2016:
Jane Clark, “Peter Francisco”**

**April 19, 2016:
William Thompson,
“1857 Murder at Hampden-Sydney”**

**May 17, 2016: Robert Flippen
“John Stanley James and the
Vagabond Papers”**

David grew up in Middletown, NJ, and attended Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, where he earned a BS in Geology 1981, followed by a MS in Geology from Virginia Tech in 1983. He began his professional career in the offshore oil industry, working on the Gulf Coast as a petroleum geologist for Chevron USA from 1983 to 1991. For the past 23 years, David has worked for Virginia’s Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, serving as Senior Geologist, Economic Geology Manager, Policy Analyst, and since 2009, as State Geologist. His work has involved resource analysis of coal, natural gas, and gold deposits, as well as policy development for several Virginia governors on uranium, offshore energy, shale gas, and geologic hazards such as earthquakes. He is a member of the Geological Society of America, the Society of Economic Geologists, and is currently President-elect of the Association of American State Geologists. He has been a Certified Professional Geologist since 2002. David lives with his family on a small farm in Buckingham County.

February in Prince Edward County History

- 2-1-1775** At Slate Hill plantation, Hanover Presbytery plans "an Academy in Prince Edward," soon to be named Hampden-Sydney College
- 2-1-1806** Virginia General Assembly appointed commissioners to survey a canal from the Buffalo River to the Roanoke River
- 2-2-1775** Presbytery accepts Peter Johnston's offer of 100 acres of land for the new college, Hampden-Sydney
- 2-2-1924** Tobacco prizery owned by W.P. Gilliam burned
- 2-3-1775** Presbytery appoints Samuel Stanhope Smith rector of the new college, Hampden-Sydney
- 2-3-1803** Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston (USA and CSA) born at Longwood plantation
- 2-3-1942** Company G mobilized for service in World War II
- 2-4-1861** John T. Thornton elected county representative to state secession convention
- 2-7-1797** Gov. Beverly Randolph died
- 2-7-1870** Charles Edward Burrell, county historian, born
- 2-8-1825** Virginia General Assembly incorporates Junction Canal Company to build a canal from the Buffalo to the Roanoke River
- 2-8-1845** Virginia General Assembly creates Appomattox County from parts of Prince Edward and three other counties
- 2-8-1944** Charles Edward Burrell, county historian, died
- 2-9-1762** First court record of a passable bridge at Rutledge's Ford--later the site of Farmville
- 2-9-1892** 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 after ice storm
- 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 was 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



“Farmville in the Snow”

When was this snow storm?

Photo from J. Hurt