



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546
Farmville, Virginia 23901

August 2015

"Schools of Yesteryear:

Early Schools in Prince Edward County"

Edwina Covington

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

7:00 pm

Historic Farmville Train Station

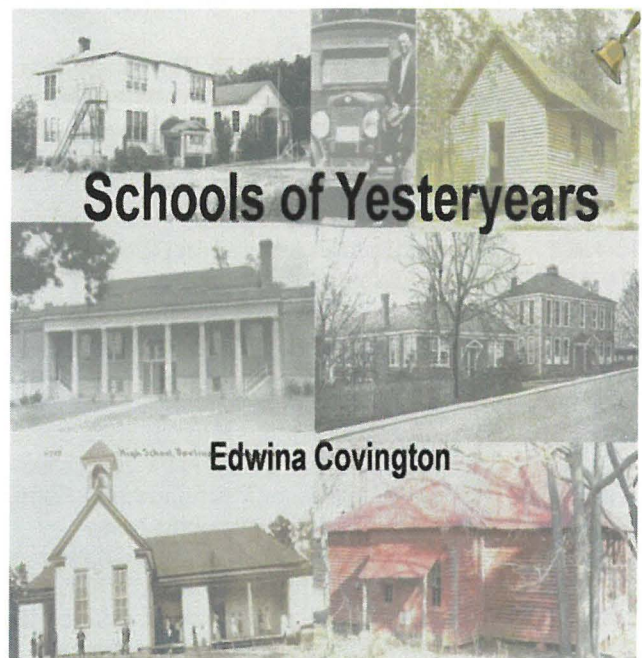
Guests always Welcomed

Board meets at 6:00 pm

Edwina Covington is a woman of many talents. She is a retired teacher, author, research historian, a webmaster, and writes the Elam Area News column for *The Farmville Herald*. Edwina has served the Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society as a director, the secretary and presently, is the society's webmaster. She was born and raised on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and came to Farmville to attend Longwood College. After graduation, she married Julian Covington and settled into the dual careers of tobacco farming and teaching. Edwina retired after forty-two years of teaching in Appomattox County Public Schools and she now enjoys working with her husband on their four-generation Virginia-Century farm located near Prospect. She and her husband authored and published the book



Tobacco Rows in Prince Edward County which tells the story of tobacco farming in Southside Virginia. Edwina was a member of the committee that organized the information for the *Prince Edward County Heritage Book*. On Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00 pm in the Historic Farmville Train Station, Edwina will speak about Prince Edward County schools of yesteryear featuring the schools of the Prospect and Pamplin area, along with Darlington Heights and Madisonville.



Schools of Yesteryear

Did your grandparents tell you that they had to walk miles to go to a one-room school? No joke, they did. Early schools in Prince Edward County were localized to the neighborhood as evidenced by Public School # 20 on the Fuqua farm near Elam or the Hardy School near Hurtsville.

From these neighborhood schools grew the one and two room community schools like Hixburg and Buffalo. For better educational opportunities these schools were consolidated into village schools such as Prospect and Pamplin, which housed all the grades 1 through 11.

Yes, our ancestors did walk to school but as the schools were combined, walking did become a daunting task so local people began "school bus service." They first used the horse and modified wagon and then progressed to motorized vehicles. DeWitt Goin and the Brisentine brothers were among the early bus owners who provided community transportation.

Standards for both teachers and children have certainly changed. One rule at Union Academy in Hixburg in 1870 stated, "There must be no communication between the male and female portions of the school (as possible, and no playing or romping of the the one with the other will be allowed)." It is assumed that this rule applied to both teachers and students: "Tobacco chewers must furnish themselves with spittoons and not be spitting on the floor."

The 1872 Virginia State Teachers' Code states, "Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean the chimneys, and trim the wicks." Believe or not there was teacher evaluation even in those days: "The teacher who performs his labors faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of 25 cents per week providing the State Board of Education approves."

Upcoming Program:
September 15, 2015: Jimmy Hurt
"Postcards of Farmville"

This Day in August in Prince Edward County History

- 8-1-1922** Death of prominent Prince Edward tobacco merchant Walter Grey Dunnington, owner of Poplar Hill
- 8-2-1897** Civil rights activist W. E. B. DuBois studies Prince Edward County's black population for U.S. Labor Commission report
- 8-4-1851** Francis Carr and Christian Ehrman contracted with the Southside Railroad to build the High Bridge original wooden superstructure.
- 8-4-1899** Edward Wiltse, jeweler and silversmith, died
- 8-4-1922** J. C. Brickert seeks location at Third and Randolph streets to locate Farmville's first service station
- 8-5-1942** First daylight air raid test
- 8-8-1907** Prince Edward Hotel opened
- 8-8-1952** Farmville Drive-in opened on Route 15 just south of Farmville
- 8-10-1993** By-laws adopted for Rural Education Foundation, creating the Fuqua School that replaced Prince Edward Academy
- 8-14-1902** Work commences to build Norfolk & Western station
- 8-14-1945** County-wide nighttime celebrations for end of World War II
- 8-17-1947** WFLO went on the air
- 8-18-1913** Henry Lindsey elected Fire Chief
- 8-19-1962** Sayler's Creek Battlefield Park dedicated
- 8-20-1969** Hurricane Camille brings flooding to Farmville
- 8-24-1884** Farmville Lithia Springs incorporate
- 8-26-1867** Prince Edward resident and nationally-recognized educator Robert Rousa Moton born in Amelia County
- 8-27-1894** Gov. O'Ferrall arrives for visit to Farmville
- 8-27-1909** Farmville Silver Band's first open air concert
- 8-30-1895** The Confederate Monument Association organized
- 8-30-1905** Partial eclipse of the sun witnessed