



Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546
Farmville, Virginia 23901

March 2015

"Peter Francisco: The Giant of the American Revolution"

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Historic Farmville Train Station

Guest Always Welcomed

Board Meets at 6:00 p.m.

The Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society will meet Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Historic Farmville Train Station. Jane Clark will speak on the life of Peter Francisco. Jane is a descendant of this hero of the American Revolution.

Jane Anderson Clark grew up in the old Anderson "home place" (1745) in Cumberland County. She graduated from Farmville State Teachers College in 1946 with a degree in Math and Latin and taught one year at the Purcellville, Virginia high school. In 1949, she graduated from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education with a master's degree in Bible and served as the Director of Christian Education of First Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. She earned a degree in Learning Disabilities from JMU and taught fifteen years in Prince William County. While researching her ancestry, she learned about Peter Francisco. Peter Francisco's first wife

was Susannah Anderson of Cumberland County, Virginia, and an ancestor of Jane Anderson Clark. She is married to Rev. William Clark.



Peter Francisco

Peter Francisco lived in Buckingham County and his home there was Locust Grove (National Register of Historic Places) which was built around 1794 and is near the Buckingham-Cumberland Line on Virginia Route 626. He is considered the "giant of the American Revolution". His extraordinary feats were exaggerated around the camp fires of the soldiers who were fighting in the American Revolution. As incredible as some of these stories may have been---many have been proven true. In December 1776, he joined 10th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army under Col. Hugh Woodson of Prince Edward County. He was sent to Middlebrook, New Jersey for basic training and was assigned to George Washington's Continental Army. After the war, he was married three times and was named sergeant-of-arms of the Virginia Legislature. He died in 1831.

Membership Fees Now Due for 2016

All membership fees are now due for the calendar year January-December 2016.
You may pay your 2016 fee at our monthly meeting or send to PO Box 546,
Farmville, VA 23901---\$15.00 individual/ \$25.00 family.

New Members

Betsy Lookofsky
AL Lookofsky
Pamplin, Virginia

Up Coming Programs:

April 19, 2016: William Thompson, "1857 Murder at HSC"

May 17, 2016: Robert Flippen "John Stanley James and the Vagabond Papers"

This Day in March in Prince Edward County History

- 3-1-1841 Blanche Kelso Bruce, first black U.S. Senator (elected from Mississippi), born in Farmville
- 3-1-1899 Gov. P.W. McKinney died at his home in Farmville
- 3-1-1917 Farmville Guard returned from Mexican Expedition.
- 3-2-1942 World War II defense training classes begin for Prince Edward citizens
- 3-2-1964 Prince Edward Hotel collapses while under renovation,,,,,
- 3-3-1884 Farmville and Powhatan Railroad chartered (narrow-gauge line to James River)
- 3-4-1903 Tobacco factory known as "Dunlop's" burned, half million pounds of tobacco lost
- 3-4-1913 Farmville Guard marches at Woodrow Wilson's Inaugural
- 3-4-1949 East wing of State Teachers College burned, displacing 46 students
- 3-5-1839 Farmville Female Seminary established by local supporters (official birth date of Longwood University)
- 3-5-1846 The South Side Rail Road chartered
- 3-6-1935 Birth of Barbara Johns, organizer of 1951 student strike at Moton School
- 3-7-1884 Virginia General Assembly passes law establishing State Female Normal School to train teachers at the already-existing "female seminary"
- 3-7-1886 State Female Normal School incorporated
- 3-7-1921 J.B. Wall purchased *The Farmville Herald*
- 3-8-1938 Farmville Rotary Club organized
- 3-10-1816 Judith Randolph, Farmville's "matriarch" died in Richmond,
- 3-12-1896 Farmville Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy organized
- 3-12-1956 "Southern Manifesto" introduced in U.S. Congress as regional attempt to offset effects of *Brown v. Board*

- 3-13-1926 Devastating fire on Main St. burns 8 buildings in seven hours
- 3-13-1974 Uniroyal began finishing golf balls in the Farmville plant
- 3-15-1781 Peter Francisco and dozens of Prince Edward volunteers support Continental Gen. Greene at Battle of Guilford C. H. in North Carolina
- 3-15-1924 Star Warehouse burned to the ground
- 3-19-1872 Last session held in 118-year old county court at Worsham
- 3-20-1775 Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech in Richmond
- 3-20-1821 Hampden-Sydney trustees begin plans for its signature building New College (Cushing Hall)
- 3-21-1891 Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston died in Washington D.C.
- 3-21-1903 All saloons closed under the dispensary act
- 3-22-1807 Former U.S. Vice President Aaron Burr spends night as prisoner at Prince Edward tavern on the way to his trial for treason
- 3-23-1861 The tobacco factory of Peters & Blanton burned
- 24-1975 Amtrak's first stop in town "The Mountaineer" made the pull
- 3-26-1872 First session of carpetbagger-sanctioned county court at relocated judicial site in Farmville
- 3-27-1837 Farmville and Danville Railroad Co. chartered
- 3-28-1954 Fluorine is added to the water supply
- 3-28-1962 Martin Luther King, Jr., visits Farmville in support of reopening the public school system
- 3-29-1897 McDaniel family opens county's first private school for black children
- 3-29-1957 Hampden-Sydney's McIlwaine Hall burns under suspicious circumstances
- 3-31-1938 Farmville Rotary Club chartered