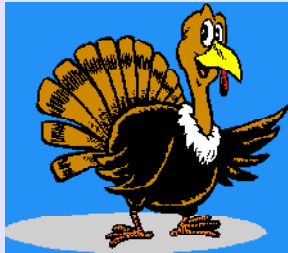
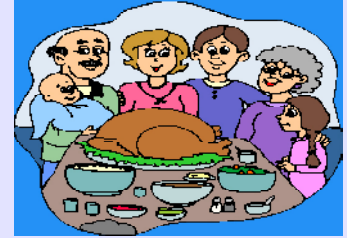


# Brentsville Neighbors



Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors

November 2006



Welcome Neighbors,

We need to start by thanking everyone who attended the Brentsville Courthouse open house that was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. During that weekend there were nearly 300 people visiting the buildings and grounds. A remarkable turn out! And while every visitor is important, one that stands out was Judge Sinclair. He has fond memories of his father bringing him to Brentsville to visit the old home place. He has also agreed to sit down with us to share his thoughts and memories and we look forward to that very much.

Speaking of which, we are starting to run out of the personal reflections with only two left in the hopper! Many thanks to Lois Blankenship for taking the time to write hers which is offered in this issue. Lois told us that she would jot down a thought or two on a paper towel as she was working and then she gathered them all together to form her story. And she admits it was easy to do once she set her mind to it, so have you started yours yet? Several people have offered to sit with us to share their memories and we will be in contact very soon now that the busy summer is over. We are told that this section is the one that is most frequently read first which makes it the most important part of our little newsletter. We need your stories.

Last month we talked about walking behind the courthouse to get the paw-paws. This month they are all gone but the walk is still a very nice one with the autumn leaves. And to make it even easier, William Sinclair (no relation to the judge) is making huge improvements on the trail as his Eagle Scout project. He and his team of volunteers should be finished by the end of Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> with the trail running from the old log cabin, past the Keys cemetery, down the hill to Broad Run and up a little rise to a park bench that creates a perfect place to sit and reflect on the wonders of nature. From there it is a walk back up the hill using the steps installed by the YCC this past July. The walk is of medium difficulty (up hills) but if you pick up one of the self-guided tour books from the information box, we think you will enjoy the experience.

A Happy Thanksgiving to all our  
Brentsville Neighbors!

Nelson and Morgan.

## This month:

- A Brentsville Building: -----pages 2-3
- Remembering Brentsville-----pages 5-7
- Records of the Court-----page 6
- Flashback! - - - - - page 7
- Where Wild Things Live - pages 4-6

## Featured Brentsville Building

### IOOF Brentsville Lodge #77

Most of us do not associate the IOOF with Brentsville but not so long ago, that was the case. Founded October 19, 1916, the Brentsville Lodge #77 was located behind the current Brentsville Superette. Despite efforts to gather more detailed information on this specific building and lodge, we are (so far, anyhow) limited to several pictures and several items, including the seal, which were left behind by Mr. James S. Smith of Bristow, who may have been the last president, and the dues book which we believe belonged to Mr. Robert Keys of Brentsville. Pictures of these items are located on page three. Lacking more specific information on this lodge, we offer a short history of the organization that we hope you will find interesting.

In 17th century England, it was odd to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need and of pursuing projects for the benefit of all mankind. Those who belonged to such an organization were called "Odd Fellows". Odd Fellows are also known as "The Three Link Fraternity" which stands for Friendship, Love and Truth.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded on the North American Continent in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 26, 1819 when Thomas Wildey and four members of the Order from England instituted Washington Lodge No. 1. This lodge received its charter from Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows in England.

Odd Fellowship became the 1st national fraternity to include both men and women when it adopted the beautiful Rebekah Degree on September 20, 1851. This degree is based on the teachings found in the Holy Bible, and was written by the Honorable Schuyler Colfax who was Vice President of the United States during the period 1868-1873. Odd Fellows and Rebekahs were also the first fraternal organization to establish homes for our senior members and for orphaned children.

Fraternal societies are patterned on the craft guilds of the middle ages where members gathered together to regulate conditions of employment, to promote good fellowship, to support community good, and to provide financial benefits in the event of illness, accident, old age and death. The Golden Age of fraternal societies began after the Civil War and lasted into the 1920's. Part of their success was the insurance benefits given members in a hard time marked by bank failures and financial panics.

The late 1800's and early 1900's were a colorful period for fraternal societies, featuring such activities as uniform honor guards at funerals, marching in parades, secret handshakes, secret passwords and grand titles. There were four reasons for joining these orders: It was the thing to do; It was good for business; It gave Americans such honorifics as High Worthy Recording Scribe and Grand Hoogow to add to the commonplace distinctions of Colonel, Judge and Professor. And it permitted the swaddled American husband to stay away from home one evening a week. He could shoot pool, talk man-talk and be obscene and valiant.

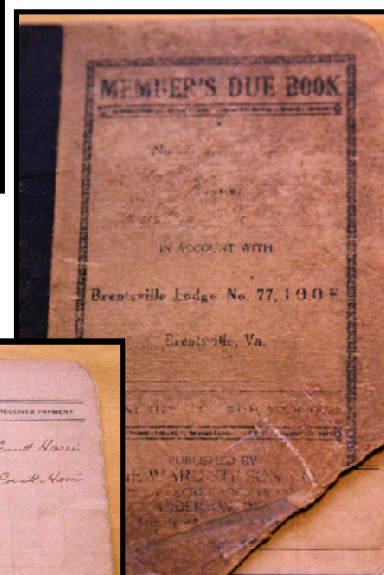
By 1900 there were over 300 fraternal orders with a membership of 5 million. Ornamentation included buttons, watch fobs, pins, badges and swords. Lilley and Pettibone manufactured all these items. The 1917 Sears Catalog featured a full page of Fraternal Society and Club buttons. The Sears Catalog was mainstream America at this time and illustrates the enormous popularity of these societies.

Source: <http://www.ioof.org/>  
[http://www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/pages/Cem\\_Fraternal\\_social\\_organizations.htm](http://www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/pages/Cem_Fraternal_social_organizations.htm)

Dues book and picture of the IOOF lodge were provided by Nelson Keys. The gavel, medal, and seal are courtesy of Fred Wolfe.

# IOOF

## Brentsville Lodge #77



Grady Shoemaker  
& Violet Keys  
standing in front of  
the Brentsville  
IOOF

Brentsville Lodge

1917	AMT	DATE	RECEIVED PAYMENT
Jan.	1.25		Grady Shoemaker
Feb.	1.25		Grady Shoemaker
Mar.			
Apr.			
May			
June			
July			
Aug.			
Sept.			
Oct.			
Nov.			
Dec.			
BALANCE			
RECEIVED			
CHARGES			
BALANCE			





Bert Snouffer, Jimmy Shoemaker and David Landis on Bert's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Photo taken in the Church of the Brethren, Nokesville, VA.

Where WILD  
things live..



*Armadillidium vulgare* (Latreille)  
Pillbugs  
(see page 6)



Spicer Keys, Joe Keys, Cash Keys, Helen Keys, David Keys, and Bobby Landis, March 25, 1926

# Reflections of Lois Marie Compton Blankenship

My name is Lois Marie Compton Blankenship. I am the daughter of Almarine and Cara Compton. I was born August 13, 1941, in Catharpin, Virginia. I am the fifth child out of seven. I have four brothers and two sisters.

My daddy moved to this part of the country in 1931 from Grundy, VA, where he worked in the coal mines and here became a farmer. We lived on numerous farms before he bought land here in Brentsville in 1950. The land was known as the Rosie Keys property.

The house did not have water inside. It had a hand pump outside, a small barn, a chicken house and a small house in back of the main house. I think it was used to store canned foods, potatoes, etc. That is what we used it for. We were very happy to have our own home knowing we were there to stay. We had a milk cow, pigs and chickens.

After moving here we continued going to church in Hickory Grove at the base of Bull Run Mountain. Most Sundays there were always lots of people at our home. We kids would always bring friends home from Sunday School. We played games like hopscotch, horse shoes, tag, hide & seek, soft ball, and rover red rover throw the ball over.

We had chores to do when we got home from school, we went to Nokesville School. One of my chores was to fill the tea kettle and the water tank on the wood stove and the two buckets of water in the kitchen. I pumped many a bucket of water out of that old well. My brother was to split kindling wood and bring it in and put it in the wood box. I remember mom saying if the house caught on fire the water buckets would be the first to burn, they were always empty. I would gather eggs. We had one hen that did not like me nor I her. We also had a mean rooster who would chase you. One day he jumped on my little sister and we had him for dinner! Sometimes I had to help my brother saw a tree. We had a cross-cut saw and it would always bind in the tree. My brother said it was my fault and I guess it was. Our little farm was nothing like the ones daddy worked for but it was a working farm.

Mom was in a car wreck and broke her arm and I was the one to milk the cow. I was about 12 years old. Every time she lifted her leg I would grab the milk bucket and run. I would

have to take the bucket to mom who would say go back and get more milk or Bessie will get sick. We also churned our butter. My oldest sister was married and gone at this time. I remember getting up early to get daddy's breakfast. We had gravy and biscuits every morning. At first my biscuits were hard as rocks but by the time mom's cast came off I was getting good at making biscuits. At this time my oldest brother, Sterlen, and oldest sister, Estelle, were married and out of the house. My next brother, Fred, quit school and was working. That left Harold and me to do most of the chores. Sue and David were too little.



Harold and I walked to 619 to catch the school bus. In the winter that was a long walk. There were lots of times we could see the bus on top of the hill picking up

the Green family and we just didn't feel like running so we would get over next to the fence row where honeysuckle was and hide, then go back home and tell mom we missed the bus. Harold would get off the bus in the afternoon and take off across the field. I could not do that because I had on a dress and the briars would scratch my legs up. I hated walking by myself and would do anything to get him to walk with me. So he would walk backwards and I tossed rocks and he would bat them with a school book. The school books had a few dings on the cover.

Every year around Thanksgiving, daddy would kill hogs. I remember one year for some reason daddy wanted mom and me to save all the fat we could from the hogs to render lard. He put the guts on a table and we were trying to be careful to cut the fat off and not cut the gut. After a short time mom said if Almarine wants this fat he can get it. Was I ever glad to hear that!

Mom made most of our clothes - mostly for us girls. She would show daddy the feed sack he got the last time he got feed for the cow so he would get the same kind. She made dresses and skirts out of the colored ones. The white ones made sheets, pillow cases, slips, dish towels. Not much went to waste at our home. Mom saved the buttons and zippers on worn out clothes and saved material from these things to make quilt tops.

(Continued on page 7)

## Records of the Court

7 October 1912

Brentsville Court House, Jail & Lot

In the Circuit Court of Prince William County In re Board of Supervisors of Prince William County.

It appearing to the court that the Board of Supervisors of Prince William County on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1898, conveyed the former court house, jail and lot, at Brentsville, to I. N. H. Beahm, and if this court ratified and confirmed said sale, as provided by Sec 834 of the Code, such confirmation was omitted in the proceedings of said court; and it being made to appear further to the court that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 1912, the said Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution, requesting this court to ratify and confirm the sale then made to I. N. H. Beahm:

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the said sale made on April, 16, 1898, by the Board of Supervisors of this county to I. N. H. Beahm, which is evidenced by the Board's deed recorded in Deed Book 46 at folio 236 of the clerk's office of this court, and it being made to appear that the law with reference to the sale of corporate or public property were in all other particulars complied with, be, and the same is hereby ratified and confirmed unto the said I. H. H. Beahm and his grantee's. It is further ordered that this order be spread upon the Common Law Order Book of this Court.

October, 7<sup>th</sup>, 1912

Source: Prince William County Virginia, Clerk's Loose Papers, Volume V, Selected Transcripts 1900 – 1938. Copyright 2004 by Ronald Ray Turner

## Where WILD Things Live

### Pillbugs

*Armadillidium vulgare* (Latreille)

Pillbugs, sometimes called "woodlice," live outdoors, but they may occasionally enter homes in damp areas such as basements, first floor levels and garages. These creatures are a nuisance by their presence; they do not bite humans nor damage structures or household possessions. However, if present in large numbers, they can feed on young plants in greenhouses. Some may crawl into swimming pools and drown, causing complaints. Those that wander into homes usually die in a few days unless they find a moist place near a leaky pipe or in a damp basement, bathroom or laundry room.

Pillbugs are oval or slightly elongate with a flattened body and up to 3/4 inch long. They are wingless, brownish or slate gray, and possess well-developed eyes, seven pairs of legs and overlapping "armored" plates that make them look like little armadillos and they can roll up into a tight ball. They are slow-moving crustaceans closely related to crayfish, shrimps and lobsters but not insects. The young resemble the adults, except they are smaller and lighter in color.

Pillbugs mate throughout the year, with most activity in the spring. The female carries the eggs, numbering from 7 to 200, in a brood pouch on the underside of her body. Eggs hatch in three to seven weeks and the young are white-colored. They remain in the brood pouch for six to eight weeks until they are able to take care of themselves. There may be one to two generations per year, with individuals living up to three years depending on weather conditions.

These creatures live outdoors, feeding on decaying organic matter and occasionally young plants and their roots. They may become pests in and around homes where flower bed mulches, grass clippings, leaf litter, rotting boards, trash, rocks and pet droppings are present. Adequate moisture is essential for their survival, and they group in masses to reduce water loss. On a hot day, they remain under objects on the damp ground and are active only at night due to lower temperatures and more humid conditions. They become inactive during the winter months except in heated buildings such as greenhouses.

Source: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2072.html>

(Continued from page 5)

We always had a big garden. Just about the time school was out the peas were ready to be picked. We canned everything, so my summers were busy. We canned corn, green beans, tomatoes, lima beans, peas, beets, and cucumber pickle. When the blackberries came in we picked them to make jam. I hated that time because most of the time you would get chiggers.

One hot summer day Harold and I walked down to the creek to get in the water. I was the first one in but it didn't take me long to come out of there. I had leeches all over me. Harold took a stick and got them off me. Another hot day we walked to the Brentsville store for a bottle of pop. Now that was a walk! I never did that again.

I remember mom made out a grocery list, a long one, and daddy gave me a \$20.00 bill, and my sister-in-law took me to the A&P in Manassas. I was so afraid I would not have enough to pay for everything. I only got what was on the list and my cart was running over. But I had enough and got change back. If I had known, I would have gotten a few things I wanted. Ha-Ha!

One of my favorite places to go was Rohr's 5&10 cent store. I don't remember getting anything much, but I sure could dream. I learned to embroider when I was very young—eight or nine years old—and we would go to Rohr's and get thread. In the winter was when we sewed the most. I remember the Lone Ranger on the radio; it came on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights. We would embroider while we listened. Saturday night was Green Hornet and Green Door.

In the summer our front porch was the place to be after dinner. We would sit out there while the house cooled down from cooking on the woodstove. That is where mom and daddy told us about the old days. We would also break green beans to be canned the next day. I loved that time. On Saturday night some of my brothers' friends would come over. They all played guitars and we would play and sing till early morning. That front porch was the place in the summer!

The Blankenship family moved to Brentsville in 1955. They rented the house beside the Brentsville store. I had met Rondal through a friend at school. There was a Valentines Day Dance at the Court House and his sister was making dates for him. Mom would not let me go because in our church we did not go to dances. That night I was doing my home work and there was a knock on the door. It was Rondal. I thought he had come to see my brother. Later he said he came to see me. We had our first date July 4, 1956. We now have three children, Annette, Michael and Pamela and on December 7<sup>th</sup> we will be married 50 years. Rondal and I bought land beside mom and daddy's land which is where we live now.

# Flashback

## BRENTSVILLE

The Children's Day services of the Union Sunday School will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday night. Everybody welcome.

The monthly meeting of the Community League will meet at the school house Saturday night at 8 o'clock. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Mr. James Keys, of Roanoke, is spending a few days with his parents here after attending the Shriners' Convention in Washington. He is making the trip in his Nash automobile.

Mrs. O. W. Hedrick has been on the sick list this week.

Messrs. John Gary and sons, John and Robert, of Del Ray, visited Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cooksey last Sunday.

Miss Irene Weeks, of Fairfax, visited at the home of Mr. R. H. Keys this week.

Among those who were Washington visitors last week were Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Earhart, Misses Violet Keys and Tracie Spitzer and Messrs. David and Cash Keys and William Varner.

One of the best games ever played on this diamond was fought out between the team from Midland and the home team last Saturday, resulting in a score of 6-5 in favor of Brentsville, in the eleventh inning. Cash Keys pitched his usual good game, never weakening through the eleven innings. The Midland boys played a good game, however, and we hope they will come again. On Saturday our team will cross bats with the fast Nokesville aggregation on the Nokesville diamond. Come out, fans, and see a good game.

Mr. Oliver Cornwell and family and Miss Mae Molair, of Alexandria, motored out and spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Molair.

Mr. E. W. Cornwell, of Washington, spent the week-end at his home here.

Source: The Manassas Journal, June 15, 1923, Brentsville News



# *Brentsville Neighbors*

Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors  
Contact us via e-mail on:  
[MorganBreedon@aol.com](mailto:MorganBreedon@aol.com)

**Brentsville Neighbors  
c/o Morgan Breedon  
9721 Windy Hill Drive  
Nokesville, VA 20181**

