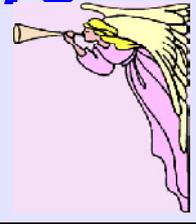


# Brentsville Neighbors



Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors  
December 2010

## Welcome Neighbors!

Would someone please tell me how it got to be December already? But it is that wonderful time of year when we all think of peace and joy so it's a good thing!

I had the privilege of spending a fine afternoon with the "Keys Sisters" (Frances Duckett, Joyce Smith, and Nancy Shely) and their niece Karen (Dunn) Lawson who had collectively brought photo albums full of wonderful old pictures. A small sample is contained in this newsletter. I am so happy to have been given the opportunity to add these to the "Brentsville Collection" for our shared enjoyment.

On November 20<sup>th</sup> there was an *Open Hearth Cooking Class* in the Haislip/Hall Farmhouse. Participants enjoyed learning the skills of open hearth cooking as instructed by cooking historian Barbara Ziman. Instruction included techniques in building a fire and preparing/cooking three different dishes. The best part was at the end when everyone got to enjoy eating that which had just been cooked. I can attest that it was delicious!

In December of 1862, artist Thomas Nast made one of the first known illustrations of Santa Claus. Santa was shown giving gifts to soldiers in the field at Fredericksburg, Virginia during the American Civil War. This year, Santa will

dust off that old suit he wore back then and make an appearance at the Brentsville Courthouse on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and again on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The program is free but pictures with Santa will be available for \$5.00 for 4X6 or \$10.00 for 8X10 sizes. During this time guests can make old-time holiday decorations and Pomander balls with citrus fruit and cloves for their trees at home.

Also, please remember that the Holiday Concerts will again be conducted this year on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. & 6 p.m. Enjoy sounds of the season as they are performed by the Brentsville District High School Women's Treble Ensemble and the Brentsville District Mixed Vocal Ensemble. The two concerts will take place in the historic ca.1870 Union Church. Sample hot cider and gingerbread by the warmth of a bonfire. The site will be open until 8 p.m. and as usual, it's FREE.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and all the joys of this wonderful season.

Morgan

## This month:

- Flashback ----- pages 2 & 5
- Where Wild Things Live - pages 3 & 9
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- A Brentsville Citizen of Note -- page 6
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# FLASHBACK

## Brentsville

By Mrs. Agnes Webster

Evidently our stern admonition of last week was heeded by the socially elite of Brentsville for, despite the inclement week-end weather, news was forthcoming on Monday; which only goes to show what the positive Approach, when combined with a certain amount of Xmas Spirit, will accomplish.

Well, the Brentsville Union Church was filled on Sunday night when its annual Christmas party took place. Highlight of the entertainment was a dramatization of the song, "We Three Kings", with Buddy Croushorn, Jimmie, and Benny Shoemaker as the kings, and the choir rendering the verses. A Xmas present for the Church was bestowed by the Rev. Wynn in the form of a handsome signboard, with the name of the Church in black lettering, which will be duly hung out in front.

A wedding invitation was read by Rev. Wynn, announcing the forthcoming marriage of Mr. Dale, who resided here last summer as student pastor, to Miss Margaret Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Williams. The ceremony will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December at Indian Valley, Virginia, 4 P. M., and all members of the Parish are cordially invited to attend.

The Brentsville Home Demonstration Club met on Tuesday last, at the home of Anne Keys, to deal with lamp shades. It was decided that instead of a Christmas party this year, the Club would prepare a basket for a needy local family. Anyone in the Community who wishes to help by donating food, clothing, or toys, is asked to bring the things to Mrs. Wetzels on or before Friday. The family selected has eight children: two 3-year-olds, a boy and a girl; two 5-year-old boys; two 8-year-olds, boy and girl; one 13-year-old girl, and one 15-year-old boy, so select your gifts accordingly.

The baby-shower for Virginia Braden, which was slated for Friday night, was postponed until Saturday on account of the weather. The shower was given by Becky Fogle and Delores Counts, and was held at the home of Mrs. Joe Keys.

There was not too big a crowd at the Corbin's sale on Saturday, but those who did brave the elements were determined customers. The Corbins will leave Friday for North Carolina to spend Christmas at the home of Mr. Corbin's sister, Mrs. J. B. hooks.

Mr. Curtis Harper, the student pastor, had Sunday dinner with the Powell's, Lt. Powell left Sunday

evening to return to duty at Norfolk, but hopes to be back for Christmas day.

The Golladay and Webster families, separately, got snarled up in that Friday afternoon vehicular impasse, or rat-race, in Arlington, reaching home about ten o'clock. I don't know about Mrs. Golladay, but the rest of my Xmas shopping is going to be done at Stephens' and Shoemakers stores in Brentsville.

Ralph Spear, ... sensible man, ... stayed in Washington Friday night rather than cope with the traffic on Route 50; he was guest of District Commissioner and Mrs. James Mitchell. Mike Spear spent last week in bed with a strep throat which, coming on top of virus pneumonia, was viewed with alarm by the family. Glad to hear he's back at school.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cox attended a buffet-supper at Gunston Hall on Sunday evening, as guests of Col. And Mrs. Montague.

Gill Machen spent Sunday visiting near Leesburg at the home of Mr. Stanley Lanham, jest makin' a little music with the boys.

A near-catastrophe was avoided on Sunday when an oil stove caught fire at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Counts and burned a hole in the floor. Fortunately, the blaze was extinguished before any extensive damage occurred.

On Wednesday Mr. Nicholas Webster arrived home from Athens, Georgia, where he has been editing a film in which many of the scenes were shot locally. We are all plugging for a Manassas premiere, feeling that with the President of the Woman's Club in the role of heroine, our late, lamented Superintendent as villain (he reforms in the end), and utilizing the talent of the socially prominent wife of the publisher of the journal-Messenger, it should play to a full house!

Mr. and Mrs. John Samsky have moved into their new house at Independent Hill, and expect to be settled by the holidays.

The two Wright boys, Charles and Warren, will be home from Bridgewater for Christmas, and Leona, who teaches at Aldie, will also spend her vacation with the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ermine Wade were out from Alexandria on Sunday to visit the Grady Shoemakers.

(Continued on page 5)



Eppa Hunton, Jr.  
(Photo from story)

## Where WILD things live..



**Stereum species**

See page 9



Barbara Ziman (in apron) with Mike Riley (to her right) and the cooking students.  
See more photos on FaceBook under “Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation”



Hearth roasted hen



Bread Pudding and Sweet Potatoes



(L-R) Nancy Shely, Joyce Smith and Frances Duckett  
Photos below courtesy of the "Keys Sisters"



Joyce Keys on Lucasville Road



James Mifflin Keys, Jr. and Mamie Atlee Counts on  
their wedding day, Sep. 5, 1922



John & Victoria Counts, Fall 1902



(L-R) Johnnie Melvin, Gladys Wolfe, Eugene Wolfe,  
Joyce Keys, Mattie Whetzel & James "Cookie" Wolfe

# Brentsville Memories

by  
Flossie Wilson

We moved to Brentsville several years ago as a newly married couple and started out living in an apartment at Joe and Ora Keys. They were such an inspiration to us. They treated us like they did their own children and we felt like their family also.

Our first child, Jimmie, was born there in September 1958. Nanny (Ora) was good at spoiling children and ours wasn't any exception. We lived in the Keys' home until 1960 when we moved to Bradley Forest and lived there until 1964. We then bought a house on Izaak Walton Road. Just couldn't stay out of Brentsville. We lived there thirty-nine years. While we lived there on Izaak Walton Road we saw some good changes made. The school bus and mail came down there and the road got paved. We had excellent neighbors.

In 1958 I joined the Home Demonstration club in the old school in Brentsville. There were several members such as myself (Flossie Wilson), Ora Keys, Lillian Shaffer, June Lily, LaVerne Flory and others. Each month we had a Heart Sister. We received a gift but didn't know who gave it. It was a secret as to who your Heart sister was. We also did other things like crafts, cooking, sewing and even re-upholstering furniture. We enjoyed a pot luck lunch once a month. A good time was had by the ones that participated in fun at the old school!

In 1964 Jim joined the Izaak Walton Club. He participated in archery thirty years there in Brentsville on Izaak Walton Road.

[Note: Flossie and Jim have now moved to West Virginia. They receive mail at 1224 Exchange Rd., Sutton, WV 26601-9308]

(Continued from page 2)

Dean Shoemaker's two, Janice and Randy, are down with chickenpox, and Bessie Shoemaker's new living-room is now ready for occupancy, just in time for Santa Claus.

Mr. and Mrs. James Cooper, and family, spent Sunday at Springfield, Md, visiting at the home of Lt. Butler.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wister Stephens on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Heflin, of Annandale, Mrs. Nalls, from Alexandria, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Smith, Willie and Clarence Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Keys.

On Wednesday evening Mrs. Stephens, with Mrs. Benny Breeden and Mrs. Harry Visger attended the annual Christmas party given by the Willing Helpers Club at Mrs. Elizabeth Slusher's, in Manassas.

And on Tuesday Mrs. Stephens—who protests that she only does this sort of thing once a year—went to the Wheeler Circle meeting at the home of Mrs. Emery Mayhew.

Agnes Webster

*The Journal Messenger, December 20, 1951*

Sometimes, we just need to remember what the rules of life really are: You only need two tools - WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.

A warm 'Thank YOU' to Joyce Smith for your very generous support.

# Brentsville

## A Citizen of Note

**Eppa Hunton, Jr.**

UNIVERSITY  
OF  
**VIRGINIA**

**ITS HISTORY, INFLUENCE, EQUIPMENT AND  
CHARACTERISTICS  
WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND PORTRAITS OF FOUNDERS,  
BENEFACTORS, OFFICERS AND ALUMNI  
1904**

HUNTON, Eppa, Jr., 1855 –  
**Lawyer. Final Year, 1877; Law.**

Eppa Hunton, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia, a lawyer, is a native of the State. He was born at Brentsville, Prince William County, Virginia, on April 14, 1855, and is the son of General Eppa Hunton, a distinguished Brigadier in the Confederate Army, and of Lucy Caroline Weir. On his father's side he is descended from English ancestors and on his mother's side from a Scotch ancestry. His father was for years the Representative in Congress from the Eighth Congressional District and was a member of the Electoral Commission of 1876. He was elected to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of Mr. John S. Barbour.

He was educated at the private schools of Warrenton and at the Bellevue High School in Bedford County, Virginia. He entered the University of Virginia, from which he was graduated in 1877 with the degree of Bachelor of Law. After leaving the University he opened

an office for the practice of his profession in Warrenton, where he practiced until 1902. In 1893-94 he represented his county in the Legislature, and in 1901 was a member of the Constitutional Convention, where he occupied a most honorable position. In 1902 he moved to Richmond and formed a partnership with Messrs. Munford, Williams and Anderson, which still continues under the firm name of Munford, Hunton, Williams and Anderson. He is a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, and of the City and State Bar Association. While at the University he was a member of the D. K. E. Fraternity. He is a member of the Westmoreland Club, of the Commonwealth Club, and of many other social organizations of the city.

On April 24, 1901, he married Virginia Semmes Payne, daughter of General William H. Payne.

# When WAR Came to Brentsville

THE  
UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
OF  
ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WHO FELL  
IN THE CONFEDERATE WAR  
BY  
REV JOHN LIPSCOMB JOHNSON B A  
1871

WILLIAM G BRAWNER,  
Captain, Prince William County Partisan Rangers.

WILLIAM GARDNER BRAWNER, son of Basil and Malinda Brawner, was born on the 17th of October, 1829. His parents resided at that time at Tudor Hall, the estate upon which Manassas Junction is located, and whose fields afterwards became the historic camp and battle-ground known in Confederate annals as Manassas. Here he continued to reside, except when at school in the city of Alexandria, until the year 1855, when he became a student of law at the University of Virginia.

At college the writer knew BRAWNER quite well. He was a man of commanding figure, tall and stalwart, with an arm of muscle well calculated to swing the sabre of a partisan. His features were rather passionless, and his student-life seemed to be less subject than usual to those external impressions incidental to a residence among hundreds of young men. He quietly pursued his studies, not excited by the approach of examinations, nor beguiled into indolence when they had passed by. At the end of his second session at the University he located at Brentsville, in his native county, and entered upon the practice of his profession.

When the convention was called at Richmond to decide upon the course which Virginia should pursue in view of the impending disruption of the Union, Mr. BRAWNER was sent as a delegate to that body from Prince William, and represented his county in all its sessions. At the final adjournment of the convention in June, after the passage of the ordinance of secession, he returned to his home and

took command of the 36th Regiment of Virginia Militia, which was called into the field shortly before the battle of Bull Run, July 19th.

Soon after the first battle of Manassas the militia were remanded to their homes, and Colonel BRAWNER set about raising a company of cavalry, to be used as partisan rangers. This was soon done, and he entered the Confederate service in command of his troop.

The materials in the writer's possession do not enable him to follow Captain BRAWNER through all the details of his active life as a partisan chieftain. That it was full of dangers, hardships, and thrilling incidents, no one of this age will need to be told. In the campaign against General Hooker he was slightly wounded near Fredericksburg, though not long detained from the field. When General Lee invaded Pennsylvania, Stuart's cavalry crossed the Potomac near Washington and made the circuit of the Federal army. It was during this expedition that Captain BRAWNER lost his life. While leading his men in a charge upon the enemy near Seneca Mills, in Maryland, on the 11th of June, 1863, he fell, mortally wounded. His body was brought back to his native soil and buried in Alexandria, the scene of his schoolboy days.

On the 15th of June the Prince William Partisan Rangers, belonging then to W. H. F. Lee's brigade, held a meeting, and adopted the following resolutions in honor of their lamented commander :—

(Continued from page 7)

“1. That in the death of Captain W. G. BRAWNER, who was killed while gallantly leading a charge against the enemy, in Maryland, on the 11th day of June, 1863, our country has lost a brave and efficient officer.

“2. That his name will long be cherished and held sacred in the hearts of the remaining portion of his comrades, as a patriot who had responded to his country’s call in defence of those rights so near and dear to us all.

“3. That the members of this company express their heartfelt sympathy for the bereaved family and friends of our departed comrade, and in doing so bid them remember the noble cause and deep oppression of our beloved and down-trodden country.

“4. That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and published in the Richmond papers.”

A few weeks afterwards the following lines, written by “A. C. T.” in memory of Captain BRAWNER, and dedicated to his sisters, appeared in print: —

Another of Virginia’s sons  
Upon the altar lain,  
Another of her gallant ones  
For home and country slain.

“Killed in the charge!” —our hearts beat quick,  
His noble name to hear;  
There is a doubt; yet we grow sick  
With apprehensive fear

“Fell in the charge !” — alas! ’tis true:  
A soldier from his side  
Brings news of “glorious victory,”  
But that his “*Captain died!*”

Fell, leading on a gallant band  
Against the invading foe;  
*His* voice was first to give command,  
*His* hand to deal a blow!

Ah, many a heart will mourn for him,  
The friend of other days,  
And many a lip will render him  
The meed of well-earned praise.

We weep for him, the brave and true  
As ever fell in fight —  
As ever blade to battle drew  
For Home and for the Right!

The names are many: “wounded,” “killed,”  
Oft meet the ear and eye;  
But none within the saddened heart  
Calls forth a deeper sigh.

An only brother, only son,  
So generous, noble, free,  
Has fallen in the glorious cause  
Of “Right and Liberty!”

Oh! twine a garland for his name ;  
Let it immortal be!  
And write it on the scroll of fame—  
*He died our homes to free!*

In these stanzas and resolutions two statements stand out in bold prominence :— “He fell while gallantly leading a charge against the enemy.” “He died to free his home.” The first of these reminds one of the brave Sergeant-Major Edmund Fontaine, who rushed on to death when the Colonel ordered the charge at First Manassas; of William Latané, who fell, as his General said, “leading his squadron in a brilliant and successful charge;” of Benjamin Harrison, who *volunteered* to lead a regiment at Malvern Hill, and “fell, pierced with seven wounds, near the enemy’s batteries;” of William Baylor, who, at Second Manassas, “caught up from the field the standard of the 33d, and while waving forward the colors and cheering on the charge, fell in death;” of Elliott Healey, who perished in the van on the same field, as he dashed forward shouting, “Victory and glory once more on the plains of Manassas!”

It was because they were fighting for their country, their homes—*pro aris et focis*, as has been fitly said—that they rushed thus impetuously to the battle’s edge. Well did they know that the hope of the land lay in the point of the sword, and under the inspiration of a pure patriotism they dared anything, everything.

The cause for which they struggled is lost; the country for which they did battle so valiantly has no name except in history. But though the land that gave them birth be down-trodden and impoverished for years to come, even as was WILLIAM BRAWNER’S home in the years of the war, still the lustre of their deeds will endure, and their names will be a possession forever to those whose principles are not changed by the triumph of brute force. They died for their country: could any do more?

## Where W I L D Things Live

### *Stereum species*

Common names for species of this genus include leaf fungus, wax fungus, and shelf fungus. Fungi having a shape similar to a *Stereum* are said to have a stereoid shape, which should not be confused with the word steroid. These are wood decayers, and cause a white rot. The green color you see on the fruiting bodies is caused by an epiphytic green alga. It is actually difficult to find a *Stereum* fruiting body without the algae on it. The alga has a commensal relationship with the fungus, deriving no nutrients from it, but instead using the fungus to gain a better position in the environment, in this case for better photosynthesis. There is no physiological interaction between these commensal organisms.

Stereum are simply small bracket-shaped membranes appearing on dead wood. The underside of the membrane contains spores but no ornament, i.e. gills, of any kind. Like most members in the family, Stereums lack clamp connection and have amyloid spores.

Stereum contains 27 species that have a widespread distribution throughout the world. The species seem to fall into two groups, the bleeders and the non-bleeders. If you find a bleeder when it's fresh you can cut or scratch it to make it ooze a red substance that makes it look like it's bleeding. This function presumably discourages insects from grazing on the fruiting body by filling their mouths with sticky fluid when they bite into the fruiting body.

Source: Various internet locations.

## Feedback

Just received this month's newsletter — GREAT issue... and a wonderful idea to focus on the 49th VA in connection with Veterans' Day. You've provided a wealth of interesting info here; thanks for all your hard work. Best wishes,

Mike Simpson

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Thanks for sharing my memories w/other Brentsville natives. I hope that it will bring back warm memories for them as well, as they read it.

Cathy White

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Greetings from Germany,

Hanne and I are in her home town. Tonight is Halloween and I get to pass out the candy to the trick or treaters. It has only been celebrated here for a few years, but the kids are enthusiastic about it. We fly home to Colorado on Thursday after visiting here for 2 weeks. Tomorrow will be a memorial service for Hanne's brother.

Hanne & Eddie Powell

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Loved the memories of Freddy's daughter, Cathy. Knowing Freddy as I do, its great to hear those stories of how the family grew up here in Brentsville!

Rob Orrison

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Just got around to reading your latest newsletter. The article by Cathy brought tears to my eyes since a lot of her experiences re Brentsville were mine too. Good to see a photo of Freddy...you two look so much alike. I still treasure my meeting with him and Hazel a couple of years ago when you took me to their house to visit. I am missing Brentsville more and more as time goes on.

Julie Webster

# Brentsville Neighbors

Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors

Contact us on:  
[morganbreeden@aol.com](mailto:morganbreeden@aol.com)

IN GOD WE TRUST

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

