

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

July 2011



Welcome Neighbors,

On behalf of those of us who attended Don Wilson's presentation on June 18th, I wish to thank him for a wonderful program that was filled with information on sources and resources needed for discovering the history of our homes. Don most graciously donated his time for this event and considering all of the competing events that took place at the same time, his presentation was well attended and very well received. Mike Riley is busy rounding up additional volunteers who will lecture on a variety of subjects during the summer months. Look for information concerning them here.

July in Prince William will be filled with events on the sesquicentennial anniversary of the first battle of Bull Run. Although Brentsville was the county seat at that time and there was much activity taking place here, the new county seat is now the center of attention for most of these events which are widely advertised. That's not to say there is nothing going on in Brentsville, however. If you have not visited the nature trail along Broad Run recently, this would be a great time to take a quiet walk in the woods and check out the newest Boy Scout project—a bridge over a wet area—that was recently completed. While you are at it, consider a **Nature Trail Walk** conducted by Daniel Breeden on July 16th at 1 p.m.; \$5 per person, free for children under six. Take a guided tour along the nature trails and learn about

plants and animals that live in this part of Virginia. For more information call 703-365-7895.

Very best wishes,
Morgan

RESURRECTION

Ask of the rose that fades and dies,
And blooms again in brighter hue,
If death ends all. With fragrance sweet,
And beauty fresh 'twill answer you.

Ask of the forests, naked, bare,
If they their foliage can renew.
With pulsing veins and budding leaves,
And spreading boughs they'll answer you.

Ask of the earth when silent, cold,
(Whose heart to Nature's God beats true),
If death ends all. With throbbing breast,
And myriad life she'll answer you.

Then look within, where dwells a voice
That speaks in accents clear and true.
There is no death—'tis God who speaks,
And through all nature answers you.

Margaret H. Bowen.

The Manassas Journal, June 1, 1917

This month:

- Flashback ----- page 2
- Where Wild Things Live --- pages 2,3 & 8
- Ready to Fight Again ----- pages 5 & 8

Circulation: 234 - 122 Electronic

- A Look Back in History ----- pages 6 & 8
- Jail Inspection of 1888 ----- page 7
- Reader Feedback----- page 9

FLASHBACK

BRENTSVILLE NEWS

Mr. Roy Molair has recently painted his dwelling and store-house.

Miss Gladys Atkins will leave for Luray in the near future, where she will visit relatives for several weeks.

Mr. A. F. Williams, of Roanoke, is expected home this week.

J. W. Keys visited at the home of his parents last week.

We regret to state the absence of Miss Tracie Spitzer, who recently left for the Harrisonburg Normal.

Quite a few of the Brentsville youth went on a straw ride to Manassas last week to see the "Battle Cry of Peace," which they greatly admired. Among those taking the trip were Mr. and Mrs. Jake Flory, who chaperoned the party; Misses Ethel Molair, Irene Shenk, Minnie Smith, Louise and Elizabeth Suthard and Messrs. Elijah Wright, Fred Shenk, John Flory, Clarence Suthard and Mr. Weatheral. The entire party wishes to extend their compliments to the management of Manassas; fine theatre. Chihauhau.

Source: The Manassas Journal – Brentsville News –
July 7, 1916

Where WILD Things Live

Acanthoecephala terminalis Leaf Footed Bug

Have you seen a large, brown bug walking around your walls and windowsills? It probably is a leaf-footed bug. This nuisance insect invades homes in late summer and early fall looking for a warm crevice to spend the winter. They can fly but are most often seen walking on windows and walls. They do not injure houseplants or bite humans, though their large size and slow flight around the house can be startling.

The name, *A. terminalis*, is probably a reference to the terminal (apical) segment of the antenna, which is orange and contrasts with the 3 dark basal segments; however, this characteristic is shared with 3 of the 4 other species of *Acanthoecephala* in North America.

Leaf-footed bugs get their common (or local) name from the flattened, leaf like flare on the lower portion of the back legs or tibia. They are almost uniformly dark chocolate brown or reddish brown. Tibia frequently pale yellow. First three antennal segments also brown; 4th segment contrasting pale yellow to orange, but sometimes nearly white.

Leaf footed bugs are plant eaters that commonly infest tomatoes and other plants found around the home. Once in the garden, they'll stay in the area all summer till fall turns to winter. Leaf footed bugs are large and generally brown. They range in size from 1/2 – 2 inches in length. Their long legs are strong and ideal for grabbing hold to host plants. Combine this asset with their ability to fly and it's no wonder the leaf footed bug can be such a nuisance once they find your garden.

Commonly confused with squash bugs, the leaf footed bug has a distinct leaf shaped section on the mid part of their hind legs. Squash bugs tend to be more plant specific when it comes to food choices they target; leaf footed plant bugs will feed on most any succulent plant and will many times target a good stand of weeds, ground cover or even trees. Nymphs and adults of both kinds of bugs pierce plants with their needle-like mouthparts and suck sap from pods, buds, blossoms, and seeds. The degree of damage depends, to some extent, on the developmental

(Continued on page 8)



June 18, 2011 in the Union Church--Don Wilson teaching us how to research the history of our homes

Where WILD things live..



Acanthocephala terminalis
Leaf-footed Bug
(See page 2)



Libbie (Keys) Whetzel's grave is covered with buttercups, May 8, 2011



"Last Flowers of Summer"
Computer art created by Bobbie Ratliff



Extended Shoemaker Family – 1933 at Moor Green Farm: Front row: Jim and Mammy Fletcher, Benny Shoemaker, Marie Shoemaker Fairburn, Ann Shoemaker Pope, Jim Shoemaker, Daisy Shoemaker. Back row: Grady Shoemaker, Frank Oscar Fairburn, and John Dorson “Jack” Pope



Ben Shoemaker, Jim and Mammy Fletcher and Jim Shoemaker

Photographs contributed by Bonnie DeHart

READY TO FIGHT AGAIN

Old Soldiers Write Thrilling Memoirs—Fighting and Days of Peace.

The Journal continues to receive responses to its request for short sketches of soldier life from the Confederate veterans who live among us or who are residents of other sections and well known in this community.

“I am now eighty years old,” writes Mr. Elihu Cheshire of Independent Hill, “and I joined the army in 1861, at the age of twenty-four, serving under Capt. B. Norville, 49th regiment, Virginia Volunteers. Company A. Other officers were Col Smith, First Lieut. James Purcell, Second Lieut. Richard Reed, First Sergeant William E. Lipscomb, Second Sergeant Harrover and Corporal Buck Long.

“We went in camp at Brentsville, drilled there July 20, 1861, and marched to Manassas where we were engaged in the first battle of the Civil war, July 21, 1861. After the battle we camped at Manassas until the spring of 1862 when we marched to Clark’s Mts. And from there to orange C. H., where we took the train to Richmond. From Richmond we took a steamboat down to Pile’s Landing and marched 19 miles to Yorktown where we remained for several months. Then one night we marched 22 miles to Williamsburg, fought all next day and held the battlefield all night. Then we were ordered from there to Richmond but were reinforced and fought at the White House where the enemy was aiming to cut off our retreat to Richmond. After this we were ordered to Chickahominy Swamp where we had seven days’ battle.

“There I was captured by the Northern army, with about 400 of my comrades. We were taken to Fort Monroe and stationed there to await orders to carry us to the prison at Fort Delaware.

“We spent 11 months and 11 days in the prison. Our rations were fat meat and three

quarters of a pound of bread per day. I was sick most of the time and could not be exchanged. In the summer of 1863 (I do not remember the day) we were liberated and given a pass to Washington, D. C. When able to travel I came home and helped to care for my mother and father, who were old people, and scouted some with the soldiers of Gen. Lees’ army.

“I am now old and feeble, and unable to work for my living,” he concludes, “but if I were young today I would be ready to answer the call of my country.”

Dr. W. J. Bell, of Brentsville, who is in his eighty-first year, says he was at school in Lexington when a company was made up of 76 men of the student body of 1860-61, with Prof. White as captain. The company was known as the Liberty Hall Company, that being the name of the school when first established. It was then Washington, College and is now Washington and Lee University.

“We went in service in the lower valley, near Winchester,” writes Dr. Bell, “and were put into the 4th Virginia regiment under Col. Preston, known as Company I, Stonewall Brigade. Very suddenly we were hustled across the Blue Ridge to Manassas. Reaching the battle line in the early afternoon we were placed behind the Rockbridge battery, where we lay under fire of shells for over two hours. During this time General Jackson rode along in front three times. The last time he passed he said, ‘Boys, this day we will drive them into the Potomac!’

“In a short time we were ordered up, to charge, and with the Rebel yell we went after them, driving them back probably half a mile. Then we fell back and made ready for a second charge. About this time General Smith came up on our left with reinforcements. Then

(Continued on page 8)

Brentsville

A Look Back in History

by

Ronald Ray Turner

Brentsville Jailor

The Brentsville jailor was not the best job but certainly one with job security. His pay for the most part was regulated by the state of Virginia. Over the years, each jailor found creative ways to supplement his earnings.

In the 1830s, he was allowed 21 cents for every person he received into the jail when first committed, and another 21 cents when the prisoner was released from his custody. By 1887, his fees for these services had increased to 25 cents for both actions. Additionally, the jailor also received 40 cents per day for "dieting" each prisoner but only 30 cents each if he had more than three prisoners and 25 cents each if he had more than 10. The allowance to the jailor for the maintenance and care of a "lunatic" could not exceed 50 cents per day and not to exceed 30 dollars a year for clothing. This was a generous amount for clothing as there is nothing in the records to indicate the jailor ever spent more than 15 dollars a year on any inmate. Sometimes, these inmates were in the county jail for months as the state asylums were always filled to capacity. He also received pay for such services as providing ice to the court in the summer, wood for the stove in the winter, and unlocking the courthouse for church, as well as the maintenance and supplies used at the jail.

The jailor submitted his expense account monthly to the court to be verified and paid. These submissions were usually on small pieces

of paper and not in any consistent format. As no ledger was provided and minimal auditing was performed, overpayments and duplicate payments were made. It is not known if the overcharges were creative bookkeeping or honest mistakes. The only times on record that the jailor's expenses were challenged by the court were in 1856 and 1859. In 1856, a \$35.50 claim for the nursing and dieting of Mary Kehoe and Eliza Rainey in jail for lunacy and, in 1859, for the care of the condemned slave Lucy and slave Brent. In both cases, a sworn affidavit was signed by Mary A. Goodwin that she had provided the care for the prisoners. It appears that Mary had worked at the jail for years, when both her husband and son-in-law were jailors.

George Millan appears to be the first jailor at the Brentsville jail and John Tyler, the last. The first inmate, as far as this writer can determine, was Enoch Calvert, a man arrested for highway robbery. From that point on, for over 70 years, the jailor was not without work. In just the first four years of the jail, he housed four prisoners being tried for murder, slaves of both sexes accused of felonies, debtors, people adjudged to be lunatics, the often incarcerated Manassa Russell, and just the run-of-the-mill inmates. Millan and the other jailors who followed must have found it occasionally difficult to keep the races and genders separated, as there were as many as 10 or more prisoners at the same time but only six cells to house them.

(Continued on page 8)

Note: By July, 1888, the situation at the jail has now changed. As outlined in the following inspection report, there no longer appears to be a need for six cells so the jailer has taken over two of them (possibly the two upstairs on the western side as they have a fireplace in each room) for his family. This report gives a very interesting description of the jail at the time of the report.

July 10, 1888

To the Hon. W^m E. Lipscomb Judge of the County Court of Prince William County:

We the undersigned members of the committee appointed by your Honor to inspect the jail and report to the Court in accordance with Section 929 of the Code of Virginia of 1887, have inspected said jail and respectfully submit the following report:

The jail is a two story brick building 36 feet by 30 feet and contains eight rooms, only four of which are used as cells for the confinement of prisoners; the other four being occupied by the Jailer and his family.

The cells are 11½ feet by 11½ feet in size and in our opinion are comfortable and secure, but may be strengthened by slight repairs which we think are needed and should be done.

One door-post to one of the cells is split and should be replaced by a new one. One window should have a new sash & several others, a few panes of glass. Besides these there are a few other slight repairs needed in the inside of the jail which we do not consider it necessary to mention, but can readily be seen by inspection.

On examination we find that the roof leaks in several places and that the rafters are considerably sunken on the North side of the building; the shingles appear to be in the same

condition over the entire roof, but from the fact that the roof leaks in several places we think it is liable to leak in others at any time and therefore we are of the opinion that it would be economy to put on a new one and so recommended.

The wall under several of the windows needs some mortar; two or three window sills show considerable signs of decay though they may be sound.

The condition of the building is such as is required by section 926 of the Code except so far as affected by the needed repairs mentioned above.

The beds furnished for the prisoners are scarcely sufficient. We think there would be a saving to the County in the way of beds and bedding and would be more comfortable to the prisoners if there were one or more iron cots placed in each cell. In all other respects, so far as we have been able to learn, the jailor endeavors to discharge his duties in conformity with the law as required by Section 928 of the Code.

Respectfully submitted

Jno. A. Nicol

W. W. Kincheloe

P. B. Bowen M.D.

Source: Prince William County Virginia, Clerk's Loose Papers, Volume VII Selected Transcripts 1833 – 1938 by Ronald Ray Turner

(Continued from page 5)

was struck the blow which started the rout from Manassas to the Potomac and beyond. In our second charge we captured one of their guns and turned it on them with good effect. Our company lost five men and had seven wounded, two of whom died in a few days.

“And Jackson’s prophecy was fulfilled. That day the enemy was driven to the Potomac.

“After some weeks we went back to the Valley and wintered at Winchester. In the spring Jackson fell back up the Valley to Hawkinstown, Shenandoah county, and then we moved back to the neighborhood of Kernstown, in Frederick. On Sunday evening, March 23, 1862, we had our second battle, which lasted until dark, and Jackson made his escape. Your humble servant was wounded through the hip joint and left on the field. I was taken to Winchester and after four weeks there I had the pleasure of being sent to a Baltimore jail for a few weeks and then to Fort Delaware. On the first of August I was sent to Richmond as one no good for further service.

“I must tell you about my last fight. I was surely no good on foot but could ride a horse, you bet. So when General Hunter was in Staunton, four or five of us boys got together and went on a scouting tour. We captured six Yanks and their horses, without shedding any blood.

“I am trying to fulfill the law of love and kindness and can say that I have hugged some of them but never kissed any of them. I told a few of the Yanks at the Gettysburg reunion that I had hugged two of their brethren on the night of March 23, 1862, when they carried me on a gun between them from where I was wounded to a fire they had kindled some distance away in the woods, and I guess had as well hug two more now.”

Source: The Manassas Journal, May 4, 1917 (abbreviated)

(Continued from page 6)

Three of the first four murder cases generated a lot of press and changed Brentsville into a place where the hotels and barrooms were always full when the court was in session. James Burgess, the first person to be charged and tried for murder, has the dubious distinction of being the first and only white person hung in Brentsville. The second murder trial was Dennis McCarty, a wealthy and controversial man from Loudoun County. He killed a very likeable James Beatty and was sentenced to the penitentiary. The other two people charged with murder were Edward Potter and William Winkfield.

In the hundreds of cases of the people who occupied the jail as prisoners in the years that followed, not much was written about the jailor. He was just a man in the shadows who submitted his expenses about every month to the court for payment.

(Continued from page 2)

stage of the plant when it is pierced by the bug. Immature fruits and pods punctured by bugs become deformed as they develop. Seeds are often flattened and shriveled, and germination is reduced.

These bugs overwinter as adults in ditch banks, along fence rows, on roadsides, and in other similar places. They become active in spring when temperatures rise above 70 F and feed on flowers and newly forming seeds. Soon they mate and lay eggs on host trees. The eggs hatch after about 10 days and the nymphs start feeding. There are five nymph stages, called instars before adulthood. It’s this nymph feeding that causes the most economic damage. They are adults by August and continue to feed through the fall. They overwinter as adults in protected areas including your house. There is only one generation per year.

Control of leaf-footed bugs is not necessary (unless you’re a pinecone grower!) They are easy to catch because of their slowing metabolism. Once caught, they can be tossed outdoors to find somewhere else to stay for the winter. Be advised, these are members of the stink bug family. If held too long or crushed they emit a foul odor.

Confederate Veteran
VOL. XXXIII. FEBRUARY, 1925 NO. 2

THE OLD TOWN OF DUMFRIES, VA.

Referring to the article in the Veteran for December, page 477, W. J. Chapman, of Baltimore, wrote to B. L. Aycock, Kountze, Tex., about the old town of Dumfries, Va., saying:

“This town was our post office in Prince William County, Va., where I was born in 1848 (near there); and I was mail carrier for the Richmond government from September, 1861, to March, 1862, when the Southern army retired to the Rappahannock River, near Fredericksburg, Va. The town of Dumfries was settled along in late 1600 or early in 1700, and the old stage (telegraph) road leading through there and on from Washington to Richmond was frequently traveled by Gen. George Washington from his Mount Vernon home on the Potomac River. The bricks were mostly brought from England, and a return cargo of tobacco was taken on, as the Quantico Creek was then a navigable stream for sailing vessels. Now it is only a slight trace of water during most of the year. Our home was near the camp of General Whitney’s men, the 4th Alabama, 1st Tennessee (Col. Peter Turney), 2nd Mississippi, 11th Mississippi, 6th North Carolina, and Imboden’s Battery. I was old enough to remember everything about war times. I visited the battle field of Second Manassas and saw so many dead Yankees that I never forgot the look of the field.

“Dumfries was at one time the county seat, and had many elegant brick buildings, nearly all of which are now in ruins, though the town still exists and does some business and is a post office. I carried many bags of mail from Brentsville to Dumfries, and on my final trip I left a room filled with letters and mail matter at Brentsville, intended for you soldier boys around the old town. I rode thirty-six miles twice a week on my mail trips, and you know how the roads were in Virginia during that winter. I often think of my experiences and never tire of reading and hearing about the war.”

(Submitted by Howard Churchill)

Feedback

Truly informative and so nicely written. Thanks for all your hard work.
Linda Shoemaker Pyer

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GREAT issue this month. Great information on some of the soldiers who enlisted at Brentsville...great job Morgan!
Rob Orrison

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I want to thank you for writing the article in your news letter about me. I feel honored. Next month I’ll be 84 years old and in all my life I’ve never lived in a community like Brentsville. The people were friendly and you didn’t have to lock your doors. To get the local news you could go the store or Jim Shoemaker’s garage. Sometimes I wish I still lived there.
Harry Visger

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Thank you so much for these wonderful newsletters! I so enjoy the history, the memories that are shared, and the photos!
Jen Lewis

Famous Firsts of the 1800’s

Mary Kies 1809 — 1st woman to be issued a US patent. She was granted a patent for the rights to a technique for weaving straw with silk and thread to make bonnets.

Elizabeth Blackwell 1849 — 1st woman to receive medical degree in US. (from the Medical Institution of Geneva, N.Y.)

Antoinette Brown Blackwell 1853 — 1st American woman ordained a minister by a recognized denomination (Congregational.)

Mary Walker 1865 — 1st (and only) woman to receive the US Medal of Honor. She was a Civil War surgeon. Her medal was rescinded in 1916, however, when the Army purged its files to cut down on what they thought were “unwarranted” issues. It wasn’t re-instated until 1976.

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

Contact us on:
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IN GOD WE TRUST

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