

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

January 2013



Isaac Newton
Born 1643

Betsy Ross
Born 1752



Welcome Neighbors,

Thinking back over the past year there have been many more memories added to the history of Brentsville, some happy and some sad but all of them a part of life in this wonderful community.

During this Holiday season we have received so many wonderful notes about the newsletter. Too many, in fact, to include in this edition but we will share many of them in the February newsletter. We have also received support from many of our friends and neighbors. So a very special thank you to Ms. Betty Farmer, Mrs. Nancy Shely, Mrs. Frances Duckett, Mr. Harry Schockley, Mr. Karl Yohn and Ms. Virginia Carrico.

We very much need your help to identify, record and preserve some of the memories of Brentsville. Everyone can help—even if you were not born or raised here. Anyone who has ever passed through Brentsville can contribute. Simply by remembering why you were here and what you were doing would be a wonderful addition. For those who have

lived here many years, your input is especially needed to share with us a unique perspective about living in a rural area with such a historic past. Help us remember who was here – what they did – how they lived – and most importantly, information about yourself—**your** memories. During the past several years we have collected a lot of information about Brentsville but we also believe this is just a good start. We hope you agree that it is important to preserve our history just as we preserve our historic buildings.

So please, take the time to look over your photographs, old and new, and share them with your Brentsville friends. Please, take the time to sit down for just a few minutes and start jotting down your memories of Brentsville. Short or long, everything is welcome. Even old letters say a lot about our community.

Very best wishes,

Kay and Morgan



This month:

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Flashback

BRENTSVILLE (Mrs. Emma Wolfe, Cor.)

Miss Edith Melvin and brother, George, are spending the holidays in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Spenser, of Washington, spent a few days with her father, Mr. Kenny Bradshaw, this week.

Master Nelson Bradshaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bradshaw, has been very sick.

Mr. Morgan Breeden has been ill at his home here.

Dinner guests Christmas Day of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Counts were Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Counts and family and Mr. and Mrs. James Keys and family.

Charles Bean, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bean recently discharged from the Navy, who has been in the hospital with throat trouble, has returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Bell spent Christmas with Mr. Bell's father, Rev. Jesse Bell.

Mrs. Alice Speaks, of Manassas, spent Christmas Day with her uncle, Rev. Jesse Bell.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hedrick spent Christmas Day in Arlington with their son, Elmer.

Mr. Sidney Spitzer, who has re-enlisted in the Army, will leave the first of the year for North Carolina.

Miss Alice Fletcher spent the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Janie Fletcher, of Gainesville.

Mrs. Catherine Gill, who has been spending a few days in Washington, has returned to her home.

Miss Faye Golliday, of Washington, spent, Christmas with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Bill Golliday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wistor Stephens and family were Warrenton visitors Christmas Eve.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Ritchie and son, of Bealton, were dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Spitzer, Christmas Day.

Pfc. T. L. Newton, of Dahlgreen, spent several days with his family during the holidays.

Miss Mary Lou Lipscomb visited her mother, Gertrude Lipscomb, during the holidays.

Mrs. Ray Hedrick entertained her Sunday School Class Friday night at her home.

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Where WILD things live...



Confederate Violet

Viola sororia priceana

Description: This is a native perennial plant with the leaves and flowers emerging directly from the rhizomes, and forming a basal rosette. A typical mature plant may be 6" across and 4" high, with the flowers slightly higher than the leaves. The leaves are individually up to 3" long and 3" across and vary in color from medium to dark green, depending on growing conditions. The flowers are about ¾" across, and consist of 5 rounded petals; there are 2 upper petals, 2 lateral petals with white hairs (or beards) near the throat of the flower, and a lower petal that functions as a landing pad for visiting insects. Behind the petals, there are 5 sepals that are green and lanceolate. The petals of this form are a mottled combination of blue-violet with white; from a distance, they appear pale to medium blue-violet. From the throat of the flower, there are dark blue-violet lines radiating outward (particularly on the lower petal). There is no noticeable floral scent. The blooming period occurs from mid- to late spring and lasts about 1-1½ months. During the summer, cleistogamous flowers without petals produce seeds, which are flung outward by mechanical ejection from the

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Snippets from the County School Board Minutes



Note: The first known School Board Minutes were recorded in Book One from a meeting conducted in Brentsville on April 2, 1872. Below is a transcript of those minutes.

At a meeting of the School Trustees of Prince William County held in Brentsville on Tuesday the 2d day of April 1872.

Present

William W. Thornton President ex officio B. P. Dulin, John S. Powell, T. J. Simpson
John R. Shirley, John H. Butler, Charles G. Harrison, A. F. Dunn, George C. Round and John S. Sinclair.

On motion of George C. Round the Country Board was organized by the election of John S. Powell as Vice President, and John S. Sinclair as Secretary.

Ordered that the Clerk purchase without delay such books as the law requires for the preservation of the records thereof.

Ordered that the County Superintendent of Public Schools, be requested to inquire into the condition of the Jones' legacy, and if necessary to employ counsel to aid in the collection of the same.

Ordered that the President be requested to appoint the following committees viz:
one to settle with Allen Harrison former School Commissioner, one to settle with the County Treasurer, one to propose By Laws for the government of this board, and one to fix the time of opening the schools of this County and the length of time per day they should be taught.

Ordered that John S. Powell and John R. Shirley be appointed to settle with the County Treasurer.

Ordered that George C. Round and Charles G. Harrison be appointed to propose By Laws for the regulation of this board.

Ordered that George C. Round and A. F. Dunn be appointed to propose regulations for the Public Schools of the County.

Ordered that W. W. Thornton, Geo. C. Round, John S. Powell, John R. Shirley, A. F. Dunn, B. P. Dulin, and A. H. Fuechsel be appointed to propose an address to the people of this county, explaining the Free School Systems, and the manner in which this tax imposed is to be expended.

Ordered that William W. Thornton, Robt C. Weir, W. C. Merchant and C. S. Hynson be appointed a committee to examine the account of G. C. Round as School Trustee.

Ordered that the meeting adjourn until Thursday after the 1st Monday in June next.

[signed] W. W. Thornton

To Build a Jail

By Morgan Breeden

Part 4c - Lumber Requirements: The Construction Process

To help with understanding the layout of the jail, we will consider the front of the building as facing the south; the side farthest away from the courthouse as facing the east; the back as facing north; and the side nearest the courthouse as the west. I've assigned arbitrary room numbers as follows: lower floor – room on south-east corner as #1; room on north-east corner as #2 (these are the two criminal cells downstairs); room on the south-west as #3 and room on the north-west as #4 (these are the jailer/sheriff rooms); upper floor – room on south-east corner as #5; room on north-east corner as #6 (these are the two criminal cells upstairs); room on the south-west as #7 and room on the north-west as #8 (these are the debtor cells). The downstairs hallway is called H-1 while the upstairs hallway is called H-2.

To help with describing the joints needed in this section, we will identify the four sides of a horizontal timber as follows: top and bottom (obvious locations), front (meaning the side that faces the inside of the building or room so if you are standing in the center of a room and looking toward a wall, the part closest to you is the “front.”), and back (meaning the side that is farthest away from you).

As we carefully examined the jail components, it has become obvious that the building was constructed in phases as follows: phase one, the foundation was installed; phase two, construction of the criminal cells, both downstairs and upstairs, with all of the associated timbers locked into place with the use of mortise and tenon joints; phase three was the laying of bricks that enclosed the criminal cells

on the eastern side of the building, and created the four rooms on the western side and phase four was the installation of the roof. We have already addressed phase one and now it's time to consider phase two.

Today if we wish to construct a building with large timbers we turn to big metal plates and heavy bolts to keep everything in place. In 1820 they didn't have the luxury of doing that in Prince William County. Although hand-made bolts with wing nuts were seen as early as 1800, it wasn't until 1818 that the notion of a nut and bolt manufactory in America originated with Mr. Micah Rugg, a small country blacksmith, in the town of Marion, Southington Township, Connecticut. And it was 1840 before the first company to manufacture bolts and nuts in America commenced operation.¹ Too late for our jail.

Construction of the four rooms that would be used as criminal cells involved the assembly of approximately 320 wooden beams ranging in width from seven to seventeen inches and in thickness from four to nine inches. So how were all of these beams tied together? Through the use of mortise and tenon joints augmented with wooden pins.

A bit of background. The **mortise and tenon** joint has been used for thousands of years by woodworkers around the world to join pieces of wood, mainly when the adjoining pieces connect at an angle of 90 degrees. In its basic form it is both simple and strong. Although there are many joint variations, the basic mortise and tenon comprises two components: the mortise

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hole and the tenon. The tenon, formed on the end of a member generally referred to as a rail, is inserted into a square or rectangular hole cut into the corresponding member. The tenon is cut to fit the mortise hole exactly and usually has shoulders that seat when the joint fully enters the mortise hole. The joint may be glued, pinned, or wedged to lock it in place.

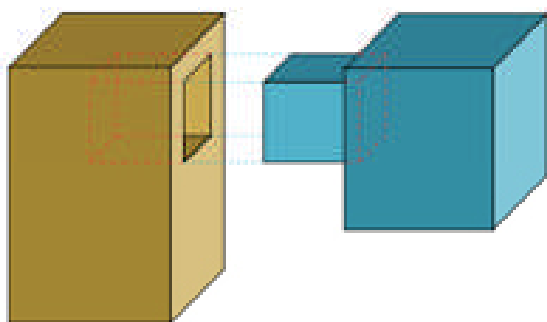


Diagram of a mortise (on left) and tenon joint

Types of mortise and tenon:

A **mortise** is a cavity cut into a timber to receive a tenon. There are several kinds of mortise:

- **Open mortise** – a mortise that has only three sides (limited use in the jail).
- **Stub mortise** – a shallow mortise, in which depth depends on the size of the timber; also a mortise that does not go through the workpiece (extensively used in the jail).
- **Through mortise** – a mortise that passes entirely through a piece (also extensively used in the jail).

A **tenon** is a projection on the end of a timber for insertion into a mortise. Usually the tenon is taller than it is wide.

There are several kinds of tenon:

- **Stub tenon** - a short tenon; depth depends on the size of the timber; also a tenon that is shorter than the width of the mortised piece so the tenon does not show (used with the Stub mortise).

- **Through tenon** - a tenon that passes entirely through the piece of wood it is inserted into, being clearly visible on the back side (used with the Through mortise).

Generally the size of the mortise and tenon is related to the thickness of the timbers. It is considered good practice to proportion the tenon as one third the thickness of the rail, or as close to this as is practical. The haunch, the cut-away part of a sash corner joint that prevents the tenon coming loose, is one third the length of the tenon and one sixth of the width of the tenon in its depth. The remaining two-thirds of the rail, the tenon shoulders, help to counteract lateral forces that might tweak the tenon from the mortise, contributing to its strength. These also serve to hide imperfections in the opening of the mortise.²



Picture #1

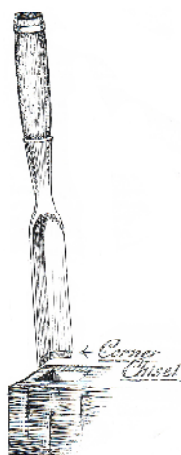
First, let's discuss how mortise and tenon joints were made in 1820 and then we'll discuss requirements in terms of numbers.

Start by laying out the joint on both male (tenon) and female (mortise) parts. Use a square to mark the width of the mortise as well as the shoulders

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of the tenon on all four sides using a scribing knife to make the marks. Make the mortise first and then cut the tenon to fit. For faster mortising, use a brace fitted with a bit that's equal to or slightly smaller in diameter than the final mortise width. Bore a row of overlapping holes along the waste area, stopping just short of the ends of the mortise. It's best to use a bit that leaves a flat-bottomed hole if possible. Using a wide chisel, chop the waste on the sides back to the line. Many craftsmen would use a mallet to drive the chisel for the initial rough cuts, then take the chisel in hand to do the final trimming. A special "V" shaped chisel might be used to make the corners square. To help keep the mortises' sides parallel, some (normally less experienced carpenters) would use a scrap squared block of wood to keep the chisel square to the stock.



To cut the tenon, use a fine-toothed saw to carefully cut down the cheek lines to the shoulders. Use the scribed lines to line up the saw teeth, erring to the outside of the line — it's better to make the tenon too thick, rather than too thin. Hold the saw so that it cuts diagonally as you follow the line. Then, tilt the saw in the other direction to complete each cheek cut. To make the tenon easier to insert into the mortise, use a block plane or chisel to chamfer the ends of the tenon slightly on all four sides.

Now carefully check the fit of tenon into mortise. If it's too thick, use a wide chisel to carefully pare off a little from each cheek face as necessary, until the tenon fits snugly, but not tightly.³

Remember above where we said that the timbers used were from seven to seventeen inches wide and from four to nine inches thick? Because the

act of making lumber was not exact in terms of dimensions as it is today, the carpenters typically found themselves dealing with different widths and thickness as the "norm." This means that every tenon and mortise was unique for that particular set of timbers. Trying to keep the right tenon paired with it's unique mortise would be a major problem. But there was a solution. Mark each mortise and tenon with a unique number that took the guess work out of what went where.

Although pencils had been around for many years, if the mark was left in the weather for an extended period of time it would fade and become unreadable. So a more permanent method of marking was needed. How? With Roman Numerals. And why with Roman Numerals? Because they could be made with a wood chisel which cut the number into the wood and became permanent. Roman Numerals are made with straight lines (V, VII, IX, etc), thus suitable to be made with a wood chisel.



Picture #2

Wow! We are out of space again so let's stop here and continue next month with a discussion of requirements in terms of numbers and when they were used.

Note 1: History of the Bolt & Nut Industry in America

2: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

3: Woodworker's Journal, June 2009

Picture #1 courtesy of Dr. Carl Lounsbury

Picture #2 by Morgan Breedon

When WAR Came to Brentsville

DUMFRIES, January 2, 1863

Major-General SLOCUM:

Scouts and scouting party returned from Brentsville. Report a small force there (about 300), supposed to be cavalry. Shall keep a scout in that direction.

CHAS. CANDY.

Colonel, Commanding.

Charles Candy (August 7, 1832 – October 28, 1910) was a career soldier in the United States Army who served as an officer in the volunteer Union Army during the American Civil War. He commanded an Ohio regiment and, frequently, a brigade, during the war, and played a role in the defense of Culp's Hill during the July 1863 Battle of Gettysburg.

Candy was born in Lexington, Kentucky. He joined the United States Army on May 14, 1850, as an enlisted man with the rank of private and subsequently served in a wide variety of garrisons and outposts. He served under Richard S. Ewell in the 1st Dragoons. He was promoted to corporal in March 1853. Candy was honorably discharged in May 1855.

Candy resumed his military career in January 1856 as a private in the 1st U.S. Infantry. In May 1856, he was promoted to sergeant. By the eve of the Civil War, he was a sergeant major. Discharged from the regular army on January 1, 1861, Candy became a volunteer clerk in the Department of the Ohio.



Following the outbreak of the Civil War and the firing on the Union garrison at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, Candy was appointed on September 21, 1861, as a captain and assistant adjutant general of volunteers. He served on the staff of Charles Pomeroy Stone at the time of the Battle of Ball's Bluff. Candy resigned his staff position on December 3, 1861. He was

commissioned colonel of the 66th Ohio Infantry on December 17 of that year.

Candy led his regiment under Nathaniel Banks in what became II Corps of John Pope's Army of Virginia, serving in John W. Geary's brigade of Christopher C. Augur's division. When Geary was wounded in the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Candy succeeded to brigade command. Banks's corps missed the Second Battle of Bull Run, and Candy was absent when the corps—newly dubbed XII Corps, Army of the Potomac—fought in the Battle of Antietam. XII Corps was in reserve during the Battle of Fredericksburg, but it participated in Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's Mud March.

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Candy next saw action leading the First Brigade of Geary's Second Division, XII Corps, at the Battle of Chancellorsville. He commanded the same brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg, arriving on the Baltimore Pike, behind the Union right, late on the first day of the fight (July 1, 1863). Late in the day, Geary led the brigades of George S. Greene and Candy to Little Round Top to protect the Union left flank. The brigade returned to the right early the next day and took part in the defense of Culp's Hill. Candy's brigade was in reserve, except when Geary—trying to go to the relief of the left flank of the army—got lost and took it and the brigade of George A. Cobham, Jr., down the Baltimore Pike in the wrong direction.

When XII Corps was transferred west under the command of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker later in 1863 to relieve the Army of the Cumberland besieged at Chattanooga, Candy was transferred with his brigade. It fought at the Battle of Wauhatchie. Candy was injured early in the Battle of Lookout Mountain, and he also missed the Battle of Ringgold Gap. When XII Corps and XI Corps were combined into Hooker's XX Corps of the Army of the Cumberland, Candy became commander of a brigade in Geary's second division. He led it in Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign until August 4, 1864. Candy was mustered out of the volunteer service on January 14, 1865, and he received a brevet appointment as a brigadier general on March 13, 1865.

After the war, Candy served as chief clerk in the Quartermaster General's office of the War Department. From 1888 to 1906, he was commissary of subsistence for the Southern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Soldiers.

Candy died in Dayton, Ohio. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Candy

History of the Brethren in Virginia

by

D. H. Zigler

Elgin, Illinois

Brethren Publishing House

1914

HEBRON SEMINARY

Hebron Seminary is the lineal descendant and rehabilitation of the school founded by I. N. H. Beahm at Brentsville, Virginia, 1897, as a private enterprise under the name of Prince William Normal School. "Its development demanded an organization, and hence a charter was secured and a board of trustees chosen, and the school continued successfully as Prince William Academy." In 1905 it was turned over to the county authorities as a county high school, which was operated for a time and then discontinued.

In 1908 the Brethren about Nokesville became enthused with a desire to rehabilitate and reopen the school. A canvass of the situation revealed the consensus of opinion as unfavorable to the old location at Brentsville; it was therefore decided to move to the railroad and erect a new building to house the institution. A commodious three-story building, with part basement was erected in 1909 on a site convenient to the depot at Nokesville, Virginia, donated by W. R. Free, Jr., and the school reopened in the fall of 1909. All subscriptions and donations were given outright, and no stock has ever been issued; none is provided for. The school and property are, to quote from the constitution of the seminary . . . "owned and controlled by the Church of the Brethren through a body of trustees acting for said church . . ." The institution is now entering on its sixth year's work at its new location, with all indebtedness provided for.

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three-parted seed capsules. The root system consists of thick, horizontally branched rhizomes; there is a tendency to form vegetative colonies.

Cultivation: The preference is partial sun or light shade, and moist to mesic conditions, although full sun is tolerated if there is sufficient moisture. The soil should be a rich silty loam or clay loam with above average amounts of organic matter. This plant is easy to grow, and it will spread under favorable conditions.

Habitat & Range: Natural habitats include meadows, open woodlands, woodland borders, savannas, and wooded slopes along rivers or lakes. In more developed areas, it is sometimes found in city parks, lawns, and along hedges or buildings.

Faunal Associations: The flowers have few visitors (hence the need for cleistogamous flowers), but sometimes they attract bees and other insects. The Violet Andrenid Bee is an oligolectic visitor of Violets. [The term oligolecty is used in pollination ecology to refer to bees that exhibit a narrow, specialized preference for pollen sources, typically to a single genus of flowering plants. The preference may occasionally extend to multiple genera within a single plant family, or be as narrow as a single plant species.] The caterpillars of many Fritillary butterflies feed on the foliage of Violets. Various upland gamebirds and small mammals occasionally eat the seeds, including the Wild Turkey, Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, and White-Footed Mouse. Wild Turkeys also eat the leaves and fleshy roots of violets. Although it is not a preferred food source, mammalian herbivores occasionally eat the foliage.

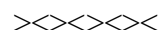
Comments: The Confederate Violet is the mottled form of the Common Blue Violet. The common name of this violet refers to the resemblance of the color of its flowers to the color of Confederate uniforms during the Civil War (pale greyish blue). The typical form of this species, Common Blue Violet, which is more common, has flowers with a more homogenous shade of medium to dark violet.

Source: http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/confed_violet.htm
Photo identified by Nancy Vehrs

F e e d b a c k

Mike just forwarded me the Brentsville Neighbors Newsletter and great job! I found the sawmill article interesting. Mike is always talking about it, and I do know something to an extent, but having it put step by step like that helped me a lot. I just wanted to also email you asking if I could be included in the email blast when you send those out. I would enjoy reading it more often. Thanks!

Amy Shiflett



Thanks for the newsletter; as always you really come up with some interesting stories. How logs were made back in the early days of Brentsville was quite interesting. Keep up the good work!

Madelyn "Mickey" Winslow

(Continued from page 2)

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Keys were very surprised by a Silver Wedding shower given them by their children Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. William Brown had all their children home for Christmas.

Mr. Frank Smith has gone to New York.

Mrs. Cecil Yancey spent several days in Washington recently.

Christmas guests at the home of Myrtle Keys were Mr. and Mrs. Erman Wade and family, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Keys and son, Kenny and Lloyd Keys and David Landis, Cash Keys and Aline Winters.

Mr. Hugh James spent Christmas at his home here.

T-Cpl. Ralph Burke was a week-end visitor at Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Breeden's home.

Word has been received that one of our local boys, Montague Bradshaw, was married recently.

Mr. Bob Beech, of New York, was a recent visitor of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Webster.

Source: The Manassas Journal, Brentsville News, January 5, 1947

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

Contact us on:

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All back issues on:

<http://www.historicprincewilliam.org/brentsvilleneighbors/index.html>

IN GOD WE TRUST

**Brentsville Neighbors
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Nokesville, VA 20181**

