

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

February 2013



February 12



February 22

Welcome Neighbors,

A decision has been made to bring to a close the series "To Build A Jail." The more the subject was researched the more interesting it became to me but upon reflection I can understand that all of us do not share the same level of interest and for some readers it may have become too detailed. So we will put this to rest and anxiously watch as the full restoration gets underway. No given time for completion yet – it has a long, long way to go – but each step along the way is viewed as a great achievement.

You will note a slightly different format in the series "When War Came to Brentsville." As I research these items there are sometimes pictures of the individuals involved and I've found this adds a lot to the story. We hope you agree. But as with everything, there is a downside as well. I've slowed down putting in other pictures that I know were popular with many. Slowed down, yes, but not stopped. Trying to get a good balance is sometimes hard to accomplish so we will keep plugging along trying to reach an acceptable compromise.

Someone asked why I'm listing summer flowers in the winter newsletters. Truth be told, I do try to use a "Wild Thing" picture taken during the current month but sometimes I run short for a particular month so use what I have. Something to work on for the future!

Very best wishes,

Kay and Morgan



This month:

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Flashback

Where WILD things live...

NOTES FROM BRENTSVILLE

Rev. S. P. Frogel preached here Sunday morning.

Mrs. John Donovan was the guest of Mrs. R. H. Keys Sunday, evening.

Mr. Roy Molair will open a store in Dr. Bell's storehouse here soon. We wish him much success.

We understand that Mr. Keller will open a store in the spring here.

Mr. Jones, of the Valley, is expecting to build here in the spring. He is going to build on the lot he bought of Robert Molair.

We expect to get a graded school here soon.

Mr. R. H. Keys is going to buy an automobile soon.

Brentsville is going to be one of the leading towns now.

Miss Ella Garth has closed her school for a week on account of the illness of her mother, Mrs. Garth.

Miss Essie Cornwell and Miss Nettie Hensley were the guests of Miss Myrtle Keys Sunday evening.

The young people of Brentsville are enjoying the sleighing and skating.

BLUE EYES

Source: The Manassas Journal – Notes From Brentsville – February 16, 1912



Potentilla reptans
Creeping Cinquefoil

Potentilla is a genus containing about 500 species of annual, biennial and perennial herbaceous flowering plants generally found throughout the northern continents of the world. Some species are referred to as “barren strawberries.”

Typical cinquefoils look most similar to strawberries, but differ in usually having dry, inedible fruit (hence the name “barren strawberry” for some species). Some species, such as the barren strawberry, have just three leaflets, and others up to 15 or more leaflets. The flowers are usually yellow, but may be white, pinkish or even red; the accessory fruit are usually dry but may be fleshy and strawberry-like, while the actual seeds – each one technically a single fruit – are tiny nuts. Cinquefoils grow wild in most cool and cold regions of the world. Most species are herbaceous perennials but a few are erect or creeping shrubs. Some are troublesome weeds. Other types are grown in gardens.

Cinquefoils are a prominent part of many ecosystems. The leaves of some are eaten by the caterpillars of grizzled skippers. The flowers are pollinated by insects.

Some of the typical cinquefoils are grown as ornamental plants. These are generally high species with bright, showy flowers. Some species are used in herbalism to treat diarrhea and other gastrointestinal ailments. It also contains a red dye and was sometimes used to colour leather and other materials in former times.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potentilla>



Snippets from the County School Board Minutes (abridged)



COUNTY SCHOOLBOARD MEETING

Manassas, Virginia
May 8, 1936

The County School Board of Prince William County met in regular session on the above date with the following members present: D. J. Arrington, Chairman, Anita D. Piercy, W. L. Lloyd, A. T. Barnes, Fred M. Lynn, Floy H. McInteer, and R. C. Haydon, Clerk.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A committee on the Brentsville Court House reported that they had held a joint meeting with some of the citizens of Brentsville and that they recommended the following:

1. That general exterior repairs, including painting, glazing, etc., be made to the building;
2. That the roof be inspected with a view to either repairing it or replacing it with a new roof;
3. That as soon as leaks are stopped that the interior walls be patched and plastered where breaks are shown;
4. That a new floor be put down;
5. That the lower windows be screened to prevent breaking with rocks and base balls;
6. That the railing in the balcony be patched;
7. That the platform be made movable and an additional [blank space] be made so that it can be used for a stage;
8. That the road leading into the grounds be repaired and out buildings put in usable shape;
9. That the Committee purchase one hundred fifty folding chairs to be used in the Court House, twenty-five of which would be paid for by the Community League and can be used in either the Court House or the school house;
10. That a suitable memorial to Judge J.B.T. Thornton be erected and that the following committee have charge of the decision as to what this memorial shall be, its location and the amount of money to be spent.

W. L. Lloyd, J. Murray Taylor, Lester W. Huff, Mrs. Seymour, R. C. Haydon and J. Jenkyn Davies were appointed committee to take charge of this.

A letter was presented from Louise Allen, teacher at the Antioch School, requesting that her salary be increased to the same as other teachers who have taught the same length of time as she. The Board decided that it would not be possible to make this change in her salary until such time as she has met the requirements for the normal Professional Certificate.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned to meet again in regular session Wednesday, June 10, 1936.

[signed] D. J. Arrington
CHAIRMAN

[signed] R. C. Haydon
CLERK

To Build a Jail

By Morgan Breeden

Part 5 - Wrapping it Up

Wait a minute. This is crazy! As one might say, TMI (too much information). But I've been trying to show how much and how complicated the work of building the jail was in 1820. In just the four criminal cells there are over 330 large planks. Both ends of each plank has a matching set of mortise and tenons that amounts to approximately 660. It is estimated to take approximately one hour to form each matching mortise and tenon or roughly 82 man-weeks worth of work just to prepare the beams for installation. All of the beams are cut and fitted and just need to be put into place. Remember, every one of these 330 large planks are connected together on the ends or in the sides or both. So how did they do it? I have no idea! I've spent far too many nights lying awake trying to figure out how they would have been assembled so that every joint came together at the right time and in the right place and it is simply beyond my comprehension. And there are still four other rooms on the western side of the building, two hallways and the roof to be constructed yet. But they are not nearly as demanding as are these first four rooms.

Most of the rest of the building will deal with the manufacture and placement of bricks. Let's consider how bricks were made in the early 1800's..

There are five steps needed to make bricks: winning or mining the clay, preparation, moulding, drying, and burning. Each of these steps was a manual process and very labor

intensive. In the interest of space, we will only discuss the final step of this process here.

If fired bricks were on hand they were used to construct the outer walls of the kiln and the surface was daubed with mud to contain the heat. If no fired bricks were available the kiln was constructed entirely of green or raw bricks which were stacked in such a way as to act as their own kiln. These kilns were called clamps or scove kilns. Wood and coal were used for fuel.

Even after drying in air the green bricks contained 9-15% water. For this reason the fires were kept low for 24-48 hours to finish the drying process and during this time steam could be seen coming from the top of the kiln. This was called "water smoke". Once the gases cleared this was the sign to increase the intensity of the fires. If it was done too soon the steam created in the bricks would cause them to explode. Intense fires were maintained in the fire holes around the clock for a week



Picture 1

(Continued from page 4)

until temperatures of 1800 degrees F were reached. The knowledge and experience of the brickmaker dictated when the fireholes would be bricked over and the heat was allowed to slowly dissipate over another week.

When the kiln was disassembled the sorting process began. If only raw bricks were used, the bricks from the outermost walls were kept to be burned again in the next kiln. Some bricks which were closest to the fire received a natural wood ash glaze from the sand that fell into the fires and became vaporized and deposited on the bricks. These bricks were used in the interior courses of the walls. Bricks that became severely over burned and cracked or warped were called clinkers and were occasionally used for garden walls or garden paths.

The best bricks were chosen for use on the exterior walls of the building. Those that were only slightly underfired had a salmon color and early bricklayers knew that the porosity of these bricks would help to insulate the structure and they were placed on the innermost courses of the wall.¹

In our jail it appears that after the wooden components of the criminal cells were constructed, the bricks were laid against them to form the outside walls. At this time the remainder of the building on the western side was also built typical of any other brick building of the time.

Now all that was left to finish was the roof, installation of doors and windows and final inside finish and the jail was ready for its first visitor. While there were a few modifications made during its operating period (1822-1893), the basic structure of the jail remained fairly consistent while Brentsville was the county seat.

Note 1. <http://www.ricks-bricks.com/thespel.htm>
Picture 1: Courtesy of Dr. Carl Lounsbury

Citizen of Note

Samuel Eagle Forman, Ph. D.

Dr. Samuel Eagle Forman, son of Francis Eagle Forman by his second marriage with Eliza Jane Miller, was born April 29, 1858, in Brentsville, Virginia. Both his parents were natives of Maryland. He graduated at Dickinson College in 1887 with the degree of A. B., and three years later took the degree of A. M. Later he took the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Johns Hopkins University, his subjects being History, Political Economy and Jurisprudence. He is the author of "First Lessons in Civics," "The Life and Writings of Thomas Jefferson," "The Life of Philip Freneau," and other works, and is at present engaged in authorship and in lecturing on educational topics.

Source: The Forman Genealogy, Compiled Principally by Miss Anne Spottswood Dandridge for Mrs. E. P. Dismukes of Columbus, GA. From The Forman-Bassett-Hatch Co., Cleveland, Ohio, 1903.

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU
GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU
SCATTER THAT TELLS WHAT
KIND OF LIFE YOU HAVE
LIVED!**

Author unknown

Incorporating the Trustees of Brentsville Academy

ACTS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
VIRGINIA

PASSED AT THE SESSION COMMENCING DECEMBER 2, 1844, AND ENDING FEBRUARY 22, 1845,
IN THE
SIXTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

CHAP. 123.—An ACT incorporating the trustees of Brentsville academy.

[Passed February 20, 1845.]

1. *Be it enacted by the general assembly,* That John Gibson, Lucien Dade, Peyton Norvell, John Williams, James H. Reid, Philip D. Lipscomb, Mordecai B. Sinclair, Redmon Foster, John F. Reid, Samuel Latimer, Eppa Hunton, Daniel Jasper and Allen Howison, be and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name and style of "*The Trustees of Brentsville Academy,*" and by that name shall have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued, and have a common seal, with power to purchase, receive and hold to them and their successors forever, any lands, tenements, rents, goods and chattels of what kind soever, which may be purchased or devised, or given to them for the use of the academy; and to lease or rent, or otherwise dispose of the same, in such manner as shall seem to them most conducive to the advantage of the said academy : *Provided,* That not less than a majority of the said trustees shall be sufficient to authorize the sale of any real estate belonging to said academy.

2. The said trustees or their successors, or a majority of them, shall constitute a board, with power to appoint a president, tutors, librarian and treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary; and shall have power from time to time, to make and establish such by-laws, rules and regulations, not contrary to the laws and constitution of this state, or of the United States, as they may judge necessary for the government of the said academy. And in case of the death, resignation, removal, refusal to act, or other disability of any one or more of the said trustees, the vacancy or vacancies thereby occasioned, may

be supplied by the remaining trustees, or a majority of them.

3. The treasurer shall receive all moneys accruing to the academy and property delivered to his care, and pay or deliver the same to the order of the said trustees, or a majority of them; and before he shall enter upon the discharge of his duties, he shall enter into bond and security, in such sum as the said trustees or a majority of them may direct, payable to them and their successors, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duty, under such rules and regulations as may by them be adopted; and it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or a majority of them, to obtain a judgment for the amount thereof, or for any special delinquencies incurred by him under the same, on motion in any court of record in this commonwealth, against the said treasurer and his securities, his or their executors or administrators, upon giving ten days notice of such motion.

4. The said trustees or any one of them shall have power to take and receive subscriptions for the use of the said academy; and in case any person shall fail to comply with his or her subscription, to enforce the payment thereof, by warrant before a justice of the peace, or by motion in any court of record in this commonwealth, according to the amount of such subscription, upon giving ten days previous notice of such motion.

5. nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to restrain the general assembly of this commonwealth, from amending, altering or abolishing at any future period the said corporation.

6. This act shall be in force from the passing thereof.

When WAR Came to Brentsville

FEBRUARY 14, 1864.-Affair near Brentsville, Va.

Report of Captain James Carle, Sixth Pennsylvania Reserves, Provost-Marshal.

HEADQUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES,
OFFICE OF PROVOST-MARSHAL,
Camp at Bristoe Station, Va., February 14, 1864.

SIR: At 1 p. M. to-day I accompanied a detachment of twenty-five men from the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, under Lieutenant Earley, with orders from General Crawford to cross Cedar Run beyond Brentsville, and to scout through the country from a mile to a mile and a half beyond that place if safety would apparently permit. While passing through Brentsville one of four men sent in advance rode back and reported three rebel soldiers having run from the town into a thicket of pines in the direction of Cedar Run, some few rods farther on. Upon arriving at this thicket four men were dismounted to examine through it, and the balance of the party, except three men to lead the horses of the dismounted and to guard at the bridge on the side of Brentsville, proceeded on the road to cross the bridge, the condition of which would permit the crossing only in single file. When the head of the column had reached the opposite side several shots were fired from a thicket of pines a few rods in advance to the right of the road, and being in an exposed position which afforded no chance to oppose the adversary, the head of the column (about eight persons) who had crossed with the officer in charge dashed rapidly forward to a point opposite the thicket, about fifteen rods beyond, where it terminates to a point extending toward the bridge, when Major Larrimer, who accompanied the expedition, and two men fell killed and four were wounded by a volley (apparently from carbines) proceeding from the thicket. This brought the party to a halt, except

two officers (the one in command) and one man, who had gone so far and were under such headwy as to make it prudent to go ahead, which they did, passing the enemy masked close to the road on their right. Being thus separated from the officer in command, I assumed command of the party (consisting then of thirteen men) and went back to the terminus of this neck of timber, intending to advance along on its right to endeavor to get a view of the rebels and if possible to cut off t attack them, but the men evinced much reluctance and hesitancy in following, and it was only by force that a party would go dismounted through the thicket to where the major was lying, upon which being done, however, he was found to have been stripped of his boots, and the enemy had gone (apparently retired) to a more elevated position a little farther on, as vedettes could be seen at various points and in different directions. At first I thought to pursue and attack them, but the other officers, Captain Restieaux and Lieutenants Scudder, Schutt, and Quail, denouncing the policy of doing so with so small a party, and considering the diffidence evinced by the men from the beginning, I deemed it expedient to return to Brentsville, where I posted the men and came into camp to report to General Crawford, who ordered out two companies of infantry and all the available cavalry force attached to his headquarters to pursue the enemy. We went this time about five miles beyond Brentsville, encountering no obstacle, when it became dark and we returned to camp, having seen no traces

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

of the enemy beyond where the skirmish had ensued except fresh tracks of horses upon different by-roads, indicating their departure in groups of from three to five each. It is impossible to judge what force they may have had concealed, but I doubt whether those engaged exceeded our own number. Our casualties were 1 officer and 2 men killed and 4 men wounded. The enemy's could not be determined, there being one dead body on the ground and traces (by pools of blood) of some two others having lain and being carried off.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES CARLE,
Captain and Provost-Marshal, Third Division,
Fifth Corps.

Major R. A. McCOY,
Actg. Asst. Adjt. General, Third Division, Fifth
Corps.



JAMES CARLE, son of John and Maria (Suttle) Carle, was born on the 8th of September, 1835, in Broome county, New York. He served an apprenticeship to the business of printing, and five years in the regular army, and

entered the volunteer service in April, 1861, as a Captain in the Sixth Reserve Regiment, participating in all the battles in which that noted body was engaged. At Antietam he had a part of his left hand shot away, but remained with his company until ordered back. When the Reserve corps, at the expiration of its term of service, was mustered out, the remnants - a few scarred veterans - were organized into two new regiments, the One Hundred and Ninetieth and Ninety-first, and Captain Carle was given command of the latter. Soon after crossing the James he was directed to charge the enemy before Petersburg. This order was gallantly executed, and the Thirty-ninth North Carolina regiment was captured in a body. On the 18th of August, 1864, in an action upon the Weldon Railroad, near the Yellow House, he was captured with a large part of his brigade, and was held at Belle Isle, Salisbury, and Danville, until near the close of the war. "For conspicuous gallantry and meritorious services" he was brevetted Brigadier-General by the President.

Source: Bates, Samuel P., Martial Deeds of Pennsylvania, Pgs. 948-949.



Major James Harvey Larrimer
Killed in Brentsville
February 14, 1864
(See story on page 7)

F e e d b a c k

Thanks for all the information this year. You have provided me with some good reading. Glad we were in the same class and our paths crossed again last year.

John McMichael

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Keep up the good work.

Jay, Betty and Blake Blankenship, Nokesville

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We continue to enjoy the Brentsville newsletters. Maybe you should expand to PWC.

Janie and Jerry MacDonald, Woodbridge

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You all do a great job with the newsletter!

Ruth, Grant & Forrest Dotson, Manassas

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We really enjoy the newsletter

Nancy & David Shely, Manassas

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“Thanks for the Memories!”

Jim & Flossie Wilson, Sutton, WV

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Your Brentsville Christmas cards are always special! I enjoy reading the monthly newsletter. Thank you.

Mary Staggs, Manassas

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Enjoyed the visit. You are doing a great job on the Brentsville news.

Harry Visger, Saint Cloud, FL

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We would like to thank you for all your work and effort that is put into “Brentsville Neighbors.” We really enjoy reading it and look forward for the next issue.

Karl and Christine Yohn, Nokesville

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Thank you for the paper. I enjoy reading it. I especially liked the one with my dad, Casper W. and my Grand Father, Solomen.

Melissa Green, Fredericksburg

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We really enjoy the news letter!

Howard & Brenda Counts, Manassas

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I have enjoyed the story on the old jail. I look for more. Thanks.

Frederick Whetzel, Fredericksburg

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Really, really enjoy the newsletter. Thanks.

Dot Lane. Manassas

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I always enjoy receiving your cards with the pictures of home! Ken & I moved to South Western Virginia & are enjoying retirement. So many changes & adjustments but we have time. Thank you for sending me the newsletter via email... this is a great format. Many blessings to each of you, your children, & please pass along my regards to Freddie.. miss my Brentsville friends.

I'll pass along some memories for your consideration soon..think I was there from 1958 - 2011, (I'll need to check into the dates). I love Brentsville! Couldn't have asked for a better place to be raised or a better place to raise our family.

Ken & Rebecca Meredith, Riner, VA

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So appreciated your BRENTSVILLE Christmas Card. Surely miss coming to your Christmas activities but can't see anymore to drive at night. I know Leigh-Ann must of did a beautiful job decorating. My I do appreciate your Brentsville News every month. I was so sad to see all the trees and clearing of land on old Chapel Springs Road. When I saw it I just stopped my car and cried. Surely wish the Supervisors would protect the History of this area.

Peggy Mauck, Bristow

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I appreciate so much receiving the recent Brentsville Newsletter. I especially enjoyed the article “To Build a Jail.” From felling the trees, to sawing the lumber, that is what my Dad did from the late 1800's and early 1900's. He was the foreman with a large group that worked in lumber camps in West Virginia. So the article was so interesting to me. Thanks for all you do in helping to preserve Brentsville's History.

Virginia Carrico, Nokesville

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I am enjoying reading the monthly newsletters thank you so much for keeping it going. I love the Christmas greenery on the old Courthouse and school looks very nice.

Nancy and Ken Lindgren, Nokesville

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

Contact us on:

morganbreeden@aol.com

All back issues on:

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

IN GOD WE TRUST

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

