

Brentsville Neighbors

“Preserving Brentsville’s History”

August 2015

Welcome neighbors,

I’m sad to report that the planned Flea Market just didn’t work. It seems the interest was not there from those who might have had items for sale and then the rain ... Why does it rain for every event we have in Brentsville? As it turns out, I was there with a pocket full of cash with nothing to buy. Maybe next time. Let’s not dwell on the past but look forward to a free outdoor movie on August 8th. Enjoy an old movie the way they were meant to be seen! The movie starts at nightfall. Bring chairs and or blankets. Concessions will be available for purchase.

It’s not too early to start planning for our “Bluegrass at Brentsville” to be held September 19 from 1-5 p.m. at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. The cost is \$10 per person, \$5 PWC employees with ID, and children under six are free. Buildings will be open for tours and food available for purchase with additional activities on the grounds.

And of course the FREE Prince William County Farm Tour will be held this year on September 26 & 27 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Join site staff as we learn about farm life in Brentsville during the 1800’s with a tour of the 1850’s farm house. Discover how they lived and worked before electricity and running water. Historic games will also be played throughout the day. Information on any of these events can be obtained by calling 703-365- 7895.

Page 4 of this issue concludes the story of the Modern Woodmen of America in Brentsville. Perhaps information on the Home Demonstration Club would be of interest. Anyone have details you would be willing to share?

Very best wishes,
Kay and Morgan

100 Years Ago

The Manassas Journal

August 6, 1915

—The Modern Woodmen of America made a gain in membership of 31,622 from Jan. 1 to May 31, and for the month of June a gain of 6,946 new members. This order, of which Mr. G. E. Cooper, of Brentsville, is deputy head consul, now has a membership of nearly one million.

The Manassas Journal

August 27, 1915

—Dr. H. L. Quarles will preach at Hatcher’s Memorial chapel at Brentsville at 3 o’clock Sunday afternoon. Every one is invited to attend this service. Dr. Quarles will hold the usual Sunday evening service at Manassas Baptist church.

This month:

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|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| ➤ Letter From Brentsville | page 2 | ➤ Greetings by Del. Anderson | pages 6 & 9 |
| ➤ Where Wild Things Live | pages 3 & 9 | ➤ A Brentsville Citizen | pages 7 & 8 |
| ➤ Modern Woodmen Part 3 | pages 4 & 5 | | |



We have always maintained, in the face of the most stubborn opposition, that the direct and positive approach to any problem is most satisfactory in the long run, but we are now willing to concede that this method can be carried too far. My problem, and a VERY humiliating one, as any mother will admit, is what to do about a daughter who has contrived to make herself—not only unpopular, but downright OBNOXIOUS to the opposite sex. This embryonic wallflower is practically ostracized from polite juvenile society at this point, having committed a truly Imposing social blunder.

It seems that her brother, and his bosom friend Tommy, had a pet Worm which they were laboriously teaching to follow them around and answer when called; I think they also planned to have him, or her, do tricks like the dogs at the Carnival, and furthermore, had named him Willy and tied a red ribbon around his neck for a leash. This innocent, we might even say artless, enterprise had occupied the pair of them (as well as, we must presume, the Worm,) for two solid hours Thursday morning, while Mother weeded the onions in uninterrupted bliss.

The higher education of Willy had been proceeding at a great rate when, after the impetuous fashion of young gentlemen the world over, they suddenly decided to put him in his box for a short nap while they took time out to plant a few cigarette-seeds under the pear tree. And it was in this unguarded moment that, like a bolt from the blue, disaster struck. Sister escaped from the sand pile where she had been playing under the watchful eye of grandmamma, for just long enough to willfully capture, kidnap, and steal poor Willy. There was a loud weeping and wailing from the would-be animal trainers, and at length the two of them came and presented themselves to me, tear-stained, but determined. Delancey was the spokesman.

“Mother,” said he, “Baby is BAD.” Tommy nodded his head in full agreement with this

unequivocal statement; “She STOLED our Worm.”

“Well,” I said, deprecatingly, “It was not a very nice thing to do, but she didn’t know any better.”

“She knew better than to BITE him!”

“Oh DEAR!”

“We want you to get RID of her.” Tommy nodded, solemnly.

I cleared my throat. “That ... ahem ... isn’t so easy to do.”

“Oh yes it is.” Apparently they had it carefully figured out. “First you put her in a box, and then you put a ten-sixty stamp on the box.”

“Interesting.” Said I, “and THEN what do I do?”

“Why you just give her to the mailman, and he ‘livers her to Mrs. Cox.”

Curiosity overcame caution, and I walked straight into the next one, wide open, like a rank amateur: “What in the world would Mrs. Cox do with Baby?”

Both children regarded me with that pained expression which they reserve for the slightly stagnant-witted adult, then with dignity Tommy explained, ‘She would take her ... right ... straight ... back ... where she CAME from.”

I have always claimed that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, there is nothing like a straightforward attitude when confronted with a complex problem, But when that ONE HUNDREDTH case arises ... well. I wonder if a somewhat round-about method—like Lifebuoy soap, for instance, —— wouldn’t work just as well?

P.S. Due to your correspondent’s having just returned, in a mad rush, from the Seashore to find the house topsy-turvy and a new calf in the barn, this week’s news must be curtailed, but we hope to make up for it next week.

Best regards,

Agnes Webster

The Manassas Messenger, August 15, 1947

Where WILD things live...

Black-Eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta, commonly called Black-eyed Susan, is a North American species of flowering plants in the sunflower family, native to Eastern and Central North America and naturalized in the Western part of the continent. It has now been found in all 10 Canadian Provinces and all 48 contiguous United States. Black-eyed Susans grow in open woods, gardens, fields, and roadsides. They grow quickly in just about any kind of soil. They are very competitive and can push other plants out of an area.

This is one of a number of plants with the common name Black-eyed Susan. Other common names for this plant include: Brown-eyed Susan, Brown Betty, Gloriosa Daisy, Golden Jerusalem, Poorland Daisy, Yellow Daisy, and Yellow Ox-eye Daisy.

Rudbeckia hirta is an upright annual (sometimes biennial or perennial) growing 12–39" tall by 12–18" wide. It has alternate, mostly basal leaves covered by coarse hair, with stout branching stems and daisy-like, composite flower heads appearing in late summer and early autumn. In the species, the flowers are up to 4" in diameter, with yellow ray florets circling conspicuous brown or black, dome-shaped cone of many small disc florets. However, extensive breeding has produced a range of sizes and colours, including oranges, reds and browns.

The genus name honors Olaus Rudbeck, who was a professor of botany at the University of Uppsala in Sweden and was one of Linnaeus's teachers. The specific epithet refers to the trichomes (hairs) occurring on leaves and stems.

Rudbeckia hirta is widely cultivated in parks and gardens, for summer bedding schemes, borders, containers, wildflower gardens, prairie-style plantings and cut flowers. Numerous cultivars



have been developed, of which 'Indian Summer' and 'Toto' have gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit. Other popular cultivars include 'Double Gold' and 'Marmalade'.

The Black-eyed Susan was designated the state flower of Maryland in 1918. In this capacity it is used in gardens and ceremonies to celebrate, memorialize and show affection for the state of Maryland and its people.

The Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, Maryland, has been termed "The Run for the Black-Eyed Susans" because a blanket of chrysanthemums, decorated to look like Black-eyed Susans, is traditionally placed around the winning horse's neck (actual Black-eyed Susans are not in season during the Preakness).

The Black-eyed Susan which also traditionally symbolizes "Justice" makes a very nice cut-flower with a vase life up to 10 days. Butterflies are attracted to them when planted in large color-masses, creating a beautiful spectacle.

Modern Woodmen of America in Brentsville - Part 3

THE DECLINE

Finally, at some obscure point, interest in this fraternal order must have started to decline. Was it because a new program was taking the members? The Manassas Journal reported on October 6, 1916, the following: "Brentsville Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, will be instituted here in the Prince William Lodge room of the Masonic Temple by the degree team of Potomac Lodge, Alexandria. Mr. C. W. O'Meara is the instituting officer. A full attendance of members is requested." This was to become Brentsville Lodge No. 77, I.O.O.F., Brentsville, Va. What relationship, if any, did M. W. A. have with I.O.O.F.? In Brentsville they appear to have used the same building and, quite by surprise, the I.O.O.F. Member's Dues Book was actually used to record Woodman's Lodge dues.

No activities have been found for the next year or two until 1918 when James S. Smith of Bristow was elected clerk of the Brentsville Camp since Mr. G. E. Cooper resigned to accept a position as mechanical draftsman with the Washington Steel and Ordnance Company.

THE END

Finally on July 2, 1931, there appeared the following announcement:

TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.

Under and by virtue of an order of the Circuit Court of Prince William County, entered at the April, 1931, term thereof, the undersigned trustees shall offer for sale at public auction, at R. H. Keys' store, Brentsville, prince William County, at two o'clock P. M., Saturday, July 18, 1931, the property at Brentsville known as Woodman's hall, consisting of desirable lot with building thereon, said lot adjoining the lands of R. H. Keys and the public road.

Terms of sale: CASH

JAMES SMITH

HARVEY W. HENSLEY,

Trustees.

This was soon followed with the filing of a deed which seems to have closed the chapter:

DB89PG216 20July1931 James Smith & Harvey Hensley to Walter W. Keys

THIS DEED, made this 20th day of July, 1931, by and between James S. Smith and Harvey Hensley, the surviving trustees of the Brentsville Camp No. 13037, of the Modern Woodmen of America, parties of the first part, and Walter W. Keys, party of the second part:

WITNESSETH, that whereas, by their certain deed bearing date of May 11, 1914, and recorded in Deed Book 65, page 173, among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia, R. H. Keys and wife conveyed to E. W. Cornwell and the said James S. Smith and Harvey Hensley, as trustees of the Brentsville Camp No. 13037, of the Modern Woodmen of America, a certain lot or parcel of land described in said deed as follows, to-wit:

"All that certain lot or parcel of land, lying and being situate near Keys' Store in Brentsville magisterial District, Prince William County, Virginia, adjoining the land of Keys, and being surrounded thereby, and being described as follows:

"Beginning at an iron rod driven in the ground in said Keys' line and running in a southerly direction fifty feet parallel with the old Reid line (now Keys) and a distance of three feet from the building on said lot, to another iron rod, corner in Keys' lot; thence in a westerly direction a distance of seventeen feet from said building to the old Reid line aforesaid being thirty-six feet thence with the aforesaid old Reid line and parallel with the first line a distance of fifty feet to another iron rod; thence running parallel with the second line and three feet from said building, a distance of thirty-six feet to the place of beginning, being a lot thirty-six feet by fifty feet, save and except the old grave-yard road running along the old Reid line, the right of way and use over which is expressly reserved."

And whereas, the said E. W. Cornwell has now departed this life and left the said James S. Smith and Harvey Hensley as sole trustees for said Brentsville Camp No. 13037, of the Modern Woodmen of America; and whereas, at the April, 1931, term of the Circuit Court of Prince William County, Virginia, the said James S. Smith and Harvey Hensley, trustees as aforesaid, filed their petition in writing in the said court praying that they be authorized and directed to sell the above-described real estate; and whereas, the said Circuit

Court of Prince William County, Virginia, by an order entered April 16, 1931, and recorded in Common Law Order Book No. 10, page 104, authorized and directed the said James S. Smith and Harvey Hensley, trustees as aforesaid, to sell the said real estate at public auction for cash, after certain advertisement in said order to fully set forth; and whereas the said James S. Smith and Harvey Hensley, trustees as aforesaid, in pursuance to said order, did, on the 18th day of July, 1931, on the above-described premises in the Town of Brentsville, Prince William County, Virginia, offer for sale, at public auction, the above-described parcel of land, having in pursuance to said order advertised the time, terms and place of sale in the Manassas Journal, a newspaper printed and published in said County of Prince William, for a period of three successive weeks, at which sale the said lot or parcel of land was struck off to the said Walter W. Keys for the sum of \$150.00, that being the highest bid for the same.

Witness the following signatures and seals:

Harvey Hensley (SEAL)

Thus the Modern Woodmen of America, Brentsville Camp 13,037 came to an end. Brentsville Lodge No. 77, I.O.O.F. appears to have suffered the same fate on or about the very same time. Attempts to find historical records of either of these have gone unfulfilled. We know the camps at Nokesville, Manassas, Independent Hill and Greenwich all seemed to experience the same type of demise. Ms. Elaine (Spittle) Yankey noted: "I have always wondered about the organization because my grandfather was a member of the "Greenwich Lodge." They even had their own building which stood next to what is now Mayhugh's store. I don't know what was on the first floor of the building, but I recall an outside stairway to the second floor. That space was the "hall" and it served as a community meeting place. I recall going to Oyster Suppers there. I guess the proceeds went to benefit members' families who were in financial distress for some reason. I had never heard of the organization anywhere except Greenwich."

Woodman's Lodge

1917	AMT DUE	AMT PAID	DATE PAID	RECEIVED PAYMENT
Jan.				
1		1.25		Emma H. Nissen
"				
"				
2		55		Ernest Harris
Feb.				
"				
"				
"				
"				
Mar.				
"				
"				
"				
31				
31 Regular dues Feb. to date				
BALANCE				
MISCELLANEOUS		CHARGES		
BALANCE				



GREETINGS TO OUR BRENTSVILLE NEIGHBORS!

Delegate Richard L. Anderson

51st House District

Virginia General Assembly

For several years now, I have been an avid reader of the “Brentsville Neighbors” newsletter, and this is my first attempt to pen an article for this exceptional periodical. As one who is interested in all facets of American history—federal, state, and local—I am most impressed with the work that is underway at the Historic Brentsville Jail.

My wife Ruth and I moved all over the country during our respective military careers, during which we both wore the Air Force uniform for a combined total of 51 years. Everywhere we lived in this great country of ours, we encountered a rich and diverse local history that is truly America. But nothing compares to the history found right here in the Commonwealth of Virginia—and in Prince William County. After all, just about everything that is America had its origins in Virginia. Ruth was so fascinated by it all that she served a term on the Prince William County Historical Commission and fell in love with the rich heritage of our community.

On December 1st of last year, I joined then-candidate (now Brentsville Supervisor) Jeanine Lawson and Mr. Morgan Breeden on a walking tour of the grounds and buildings at Brentsville. We spent some two hours there, but Supervisor Lawson and I could have easily spent an entire day! The work is fascinating and all are to be congratulated for their focused and sustained work at preserving the rich history of the Brentsville community. I can’t thank the community enough for caring for the proud legacy that is Brentsville.



Breeden - Lawson - Anderson

A Brentsville Citizen of Note

James Jenkyn Davies

J. Jenkyn Davies died at his home here Sunday afternoon, August 8, 1909, of dilatation of the heart superinduced by typhoid fever, in his thirty-fourth year. While he had been sick for nearly two weeks, he was never thought to be seriously ill, and but an hour before his death, he remarked that he would be out in two days. The end came as suddenly as a thunderbolt from a clear sky, and cast a pall of gloom over the entire community, which attests the sincere affection and esteems in which he was held.

He was confined to the house Tuesday, July 27, with what seemed but a mere touch of fever. His condition was at no time regarded as serious, and Thursday, August 5, there was some talk of having him carried to the polls to vote. Saturday his uncle, Judge J. B. T. Thornton, whose affection for him was that of a father, left for several days visit in Caroline county.

Sunday morning he had no fever, and the most confident hopes were expressed of his speedy recovery. His brother in law E. H. Hibbs left the house about one o'clock, leaving him alone with his wife. Hardly had Mr. Hibbs gotten out of sight, when Mr. Davies received the fatal attack. Mrs. Davies phoned to Mr. Davies' family and ran across the street to Dr. Iden's for assistance. Every thing that skill and loving hands could do, or heart-breaking minds conceive was promptly done, but without avail and at half past one the end came.

The distressing intelligence quickly spread through the town, and despite the fact the phones are closed on Sunday, through the country as well, and sad faced groups discussed in awed and solemn tones the passing of one whom each held dear as a personal

friend. The brothers and uncles were at once telegraphed to, but Judge Thornton and Senator Thornton could not be reached until Monday.

Tuesday evening the last solemn rites were performed and the large number of persons who came to pay the final tribute of respect attested the large

place Mr. Davies justly held in the hearts of his fellow citizens. The funeral services at the Trinity Episcopal Church at three o'clock were conducted by Rev F. L. Robinson, rector of that church, assisted by Rev. W. H. K. Pendleton, of Spartansburg, S. C., and interment took place immediately after in the Manassas Cemetery. The attendance was the largest perhaps at any funeral in the county for many years, and in the throng of mourners were many colored people to whom Mr. Davies had been a faithful friend.

The numerous floral tributes were of the most exquisitely beautiful design, and more that covered the mound which marked the last resting place.

The following were the pall bearers A. A. Hooff, Walter Shannon, W. N. Lipscomb, J. P. Leachman, W. J. Green and Jos. F. Lewis.

James Jenkyn Davies was the oldest son of the late James J. Davies, one of the best known Lawyers and politicians of the county. His mother was a daughter of the late Maj. W. W. Thornton, and a sister of Judge J. B. T. Thornton, Senator Ewell Thornton, Messrs. B. B. Thornton and W. W. Thornton. Through his mother, he was related to Gov. J. Hoge Tyler.

He was born in Brentsville, in Prince William county, February 6, 1876.



He had such educational advantages as were offered by the public schools of the county, but it was his ambition to become a lawyer. As his father died when he was sixteen years old, leaving a widow and six children of whom Jenkyn was the oldest boy, it seemed for a time as though his ambition would be thwarted. But while never failing in his obligations as a son or a brother, by indomitable energy and perseverance, he overcame obstacles, seemingly insurmountable, and succeeded in attending the College of William and Mary for several years.

He afterwards taught school for several years, and in this way gained sufficient money to enable him to complete the law course at the University of Virginia. In 1898 he successfully passed the state bar examination and was admitted to practice his chosen profession of the law.

That fondness for politics, which made his father such a power in the county, early manifested itself in the son. Long before he was out of his twenties, he was admitted to the councils of state and national leaders, and his advice and influence were eagerly sought in many hard fought campaigns.

His influence was due in no small degree to his ability to get close to his people, and the affectionate regard in which he was held may well be illustrated by the fact that nearly everyone who knew him from the governor of the commonwealth to the humblest citizen addressed him familiarly as "Jenks." Even the colored people, to whom he was a faithful friend, called him, "Mr. Jenks." Indeed, some people did not know him by any other name.

When the Legislature of 1902-3-4 created the office of tax examiner, Mr. Davies was appointed by the Governor to that office in this county, though the Supreme Court afterwards declared the act unconstitutional, and Mr. Davies never qualified.

In 1900 he was elected attorney for the town of Manassas, which position he held until he resigned several years later.

When The Peoples National Bank of Manassas was organized he was one of the charter members and one of the first directors, and the success of that institution was due in no small measure to his untiring efforts in its behalf.

When Mr. W. H. W. Moran sold his interest in The Manassas Journal Publishing Company, Mr. Davies became one of the largest stockholders and one of its directors, and if his voice was one of the most potent in the Director meetings, it was not because of the stock which he held, but because his associates had such confidence in his judgment.

Upon the resignation of Judge Thornton as attorney for the railroads in this county, the firm of which Mr. Davies was the senior member was appointed counsel for the Southern, the C. & O. and the Washington and Southern railroads.

When Judge Thornton resigned the office of Commonwealth attorney for Prince William county, Mr. Davies announced himself a candidate for that office, and was elected in the general election in the fall of 1907. His administration was an unusually successful one, and in his death, the county loses one of her most faithful and efficient officers.

In 1901 Mr. Davies, in the first popular election ever held in this county for that purpose, was elected a member of the county Democratic committee, and was afterwards elected Secretary of that body, which position he held at the time of his death.

Shortly after his admission to the bar, he was appointed by Judge C. E. Nicol one of the Master Commissioners for the Circuit Court of Prince William county.

Just one year ago, he married Miss Harriet Green, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen H. Green, and no picture of domestic bliss was more perfect than that of Mr. Davies and his shy, sweet bride, who in one short year has been widowed.

Mr. Davies was a careful painstaking lawyer, and while he paid more attention, perhaps, to criminal practice, than to the civil branch of the law, in every case in which his services were retained, his clients could feel that he would give every detail his most careful attention.

About two years ago, he formed a law partnership with his brother, H. Thornton Davies under the name of Davies & Davies, and the firm enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. He was not only frequently employed in cases in the adjoining counties, but was a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of Appeals of the state and of the bar of the District of Columbia.

He was a devoted husband, a dutiful son, an affectionate brother, and a faithful friend. His death leaves a wide gap, not only in his family circle, but in the county which will not easily be filled.

To the crushed young wife, whose orange blossoms have scarcely withered, to his stricken mother, to the bereaved family, the hearts of the whole community have gone out in the sad hour of their common bereavement.

His fellow citizens with one voice can say. "He was my friend, faithful and just to me."

Source: The Manassas Journal, August 13, 1909.

The plant also is a traditional Native American medicinal herb in several tribal nations, believed in those cultures to be a remedy, among other things, for colds, flu, infection, swelling and (topically, by poultice) for snake bite. Parts of the plant have nutritional value. Other parts are not edible. The roots but not the seed heads can be used to boost immunity and fight colds, flu and infections. It is also an astringent when used in a warm infusion as a wash for sores and swellings. The Ojibwa people used it as a poultice for snake bites and to make an infusion for treating colds and worms in children. The plant is also diuretic and was used by the Menominee and Potawatomi peoples. Juice from the roots has been used as drops for earaches.

As with any wild plant, it is usually recommended to research carefully before consuming as not all parts of the plant may be edible and to avoid mis-identification with other plants that may look similar to the Black eyed Susan. The species is also known to be toxic to cats when ingested.

Butterflies, bees, flies, and other insects visit flowers for nectar. When they drink nectar, they accidentally move pollen from one plant to another. This allows the plant to grow fruits and seeds, which are lightweight and travel by wind. They bloom from June to October.

Black-eyed Susans are a pioneer plant. That means they are one of the first plants to grow in a new field. For instance, if a fire burns down part of a forest, this plant will be one of the first to start growing. Snails, slugs, and aphids eat the leaves of this plant. Rabbits and deer eat the entire plant. Some species of fungi grow on the roots of Black-eyed Susan. The fungi pull nutrients from the roots and, at the same time, pass nutrients to the plant from the soil.

Source: Various Internet locations.

Soon after retiring from the Air Force in 2009, I was elected to represent the 51st House District in the Virginia General Assembly. The district stretches from Occoquan in the east through Manassas and all the way to Nokesville in the west. I am now completing a third two-year term in the House of Delegates and am running for a fourth term in this year's election cycle. As someone who is in love with our magnificent Virginia history, words can't describe how thankful I am to work and serve in Mr. Jefferson's Virginia State Capitol—a building that he designed and built in 1788 and where he served as the second governor of Virginia.

Many thanks for the privilege of penning a few words for this issue of the "Brentsville Neighbors" newsletter. If I may assist in any way, I can be reached at DelRAnderson@house.virginia.gov or at our legislative district office in Woodbridge (571-264-9983). And if you have an urgent need that can't wait until the next business day, feel free to call my home at 703-730-1380. I can't be responsive if I can't be reached!

It's truly a privilege to live among all of you, to serve with Supervisor Jeanine Lawson, and to watch the leadership and work of Morgan Breeden and all who love Brentsville. As the masthead of the newsletter says, you are truly working hard at "Preserving Brentsville's History"!

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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