

Brentsville Neighbors

“Preserving Brentsville’s History”

February 2016

Welcome neighbors,

We are very happy to report that 2016 is off to a great start. For example, Brentsville District Supervisor, Ms. Jeanine Lawson, informs us that the Board of County Supervisors unanimously approved the transfer of funds to the jail restoration project in the amount of \$39,449.00 on December 1st (thank you Supervisor Lawson!!). This amount will go a long way in completing four rooms of the jail. AND we have been informed that the heat/air conditioning system is now complete and fully operational (the people working inside will really appreciate that!). AND Fritz Korzendorfer is busy building the windows to be used there (see picture).

We have also been informed (very informally) that the Historic Preservation Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the preservation program of Prince William County, is temporarily setting aside efforts to fund the Prince William Museum at Rippon Lodge to concentrate on completion of the jail. But they still very much need your help and to do that there are three ways. First, the Foundation is part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC # is 35085) where donations can be made. Second, direct donations may be made by going to <http://www.preservepw.org/#!membership/c24ka> and hit the “donate” button



at the bottom. Or third, mail your check to PWHPF, 17674 Main St., Dumfries, VA 22026. all donations are tax-deductible and are gladly received.

Very best wishes,
Kay and Morgan

This month:

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My husband, who has a weakness for the Theatre, came back from New York with the calm announcement that he had seen four Plays—FOUR, mind you. Not one, not two, but FOUR. Including *Cyrano de Bergerac* and the new Noel Coward show. I wouldn't have minded so much if he hadn't added, piously, that he considered it part of his job, as a conscientious movie director, to keep up with these things. A painful duty, one inferred I could almost SEE the martyr's halo forming around his head as he spoke. "Well," said I, with sudden inspiration, "in line with my own lowly position as chief cook and director of the household, perhaps we should dine at the Mayflower more often—in order that I may inspect the menus and service, of course!"

But that was not what I started out to relate. What he really went up to New York for was to choose scenes from the Pathe News film library for use in a government movie on Water Conservation, and we will give him the benefit of the doubt and assume that he spent his days so occupied, in spite of his wild night life. This film library is an enormous place, containing the negatives of all the newsreel scenes ever taken by that company, all carefully salted down under a very complicated filing system. One, therefore, is quite dependent upon the good will of employees in looking things up. The film cutter assisting my husband seemed to be the typical, casual New Yorker, and the work was progressing at an indifferent rate of speed when their desultory conversation turned from film to agriculture, from agriculture to farming, from farming to Brentsville, from Brentsville to Manassas—when, all of a sudden, it developed that this chap, whose name was George Butts, had attended old Swavely School, along with Earl Hurst, Bob Davis and others, some years back! Nick says it was very amusing to see that bland, cosmopolitan expression change to pleased astonishment and enthusiasm at the mention of

the old home town, and the work and reminiscences began to fly. Mr. Butts sent his regards to any of his friends who happen to read this, and was delighted to hear of the school's and Manassas' progress in the past few years. He said further that he would like to get back out in the country, and didn't want to end up like so many city people who "die with their plans in their pockets".—Which we thought was very well put.

Well, the runs have been frozen up solid ever since Thursday last, and everyone who could scramble together a pair of ice skates has been out skating. Wilson Petty came over Sunday, and I am reliably informed that Charles Bean fell through up to his neck.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Shoemaker and children, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Shoemaker, and Herbert Cordell spent Sunday in Falls Church at the home of Mrs. Shoemaker's father, C. C. Cordell, who was celebrating his 65th birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hedrick's sons were out from Alexandria on Sunday, and we are sorry to hear that Mrs. Hedrick is sick.

Myrtle Keys' son, David Landis from Alexandria spent Sunday in Brentsville.

We are happy to report that Mrs. Newton has recovered from her recent illness, and was back at school on Monday.

Mr. Ramkey held services at the Brentsville Presbyterian Church on Sunday.

Miss Doris Stephens is up and around and will return to school as soon as the weather permits.

Mrs. Clyde Wolfe has been sick in bed ever since last Thursday.

A special meeting of the Courthouse Committee has been called to decide whether or not a dance will be held at the Courthouse in the near future.

Yours truly,
Agnes Webster

Source: The Manassas Messenger, February 14, 1947

Where WILD things live...

Duchesnea indica

Indian Strawberry

This plant, sometimes known commonly as mock strawberry, Indian strawberry, India strawberry or false strawberry, has foliage and an aggregate accessory fruit similar to true strawberry, though this is apparently an independent evolution of a similar fruit type. It has yellow flowers, unlike the white or slightly pink flowers of true strawberries.



It is native to eastern and southern Asia, but has been introduced to many other areas as an ornamental plant. It has been naturalized in many regions, including the southern United States, and is considered an invasive species in some regions. It is found in most places except the Rocky Mountain states and upper New England.

The leaves are trifoliate, roughly veined beneath, dark green, and often persisting through the winter, arising from short crowns. The plant spreads along creeping stolons, rooting and producing crowns at each node. The yellow flowers are produced in mid spring, then sporadically throughout the growing season. The aggregate accessory fruits are white or red, and entirely covered with red achenes, simple ovaries, each containing a single seed. They are edible, but they have very little flavor.

The entire plant is medicinal as an anticoagulant, antiseptic, depurative

(purifier) and febrifuge (fever reducer). The herb can be used for stomatitis (an inflammation of the mucus lining), laryngitis, and acute tonsillitis. The fresh leaves can be crushed and applied externally as a medicinal poultice, a soft and moist mass. It is used in the treatment of boils and abscesses, burns, weeping eczema, ringworm, snake and

insect bites and traumatic injuries. A decoction of the leaves is medicinal and used in the treatment of swellings. An infusion, or liquid extract, of the flowers is used to activate the blood circulation. The Indian Strawberry can also cure skin diseases. In folklore it is said that in India it is to be used as an offering to the gods. The Wild Indian Strawberry is used extensively in China as a medicinal herb, and is being studied for its ability to stop the HIV virus and some forms of cancer from spreading through the body.

On first glance it looks like you have found yourself a brilliantly red, juicy strawberry. And that is probably the public relations problem with this plant. It's not what people expect so a lot of commentators dismiss it as worthless, but that's a bit unfair. The fruit is 3.4% sugar, 1.5% protein and 1.6% ash. It has 6.3 mg of Vitamin C per 100 ml of juice. An eight-foot patch will produce about 5.5 ounces fruit annually, about the same as wild strawberries, and you can cook the leaves

as a green. Some folks think the fruit has a hint of watermelon flavor. Others say it is sour so there may be some genetic diversity there, either in the plant or our taste buds. There is certainly no harm adding some of the plant to your wilderness stew.

Be forewarned though, there is descent into negative exaggeration. Many sites state the fruit is edible but tasteless. Others translate “edible but tasteless” into “not suitable for human consumption.” Some translate “not suitable for human consumption” into not edible. Others translate “not edible” into poisonous. Herbalist and researcher, Dr. James Duke, addressed the issue specifically in his “Handbook of Medical Weeds.” He says the plant is “often described as ‘poisonous.’ I have eaten hundreds and find the word insipid more accurate.” The leaves, besides a potherb, dried make a nice tea. The berries can help stretch other berries when making jam and jelly. On their own they make a mild jelly or juice for those hot summer days.

Indica means from India though the plant is native to southern Asia (though some also think it is native to North America... does it really make any difference?)

IDENTIFICATION: Low, trailing vine, roots at the nodes. Single flower on long stem, five yellow petals are notched at tip, five sepals. Long-stemmed leaves have three blunt-toothed leaflets, strawberry-like fruit, seeds on outside.

TIME OF YEAR: Fruits in September in temperate climes, sooner in warm areas.

ENVIRONMENT: Prefers moist, well-drained soil, sunny location with passing shade, can be invasive, spreading freely by runners, more or less evergreen in southern ranges.

METHOD OF PREPARATION: Berries raw, leaves raw in salads, leaves cooked as a green, leaves dried for tea.

For the Gardeners - Technical stuff:

Common Name: **The Wild Indian Strawberry or Mock Strawberry**

Scientific Name: **Duchesnea indica**

Family Name (Scientific and Common): **Rosaceae**

Continent of Origin: **Believed to be from East Asia, China, Japan, the Himalayas, and the Indies. However, some experts believe it is native to North America.**

Most Distinguishing Morphological Features of This Plant: **The Wild Indian, or Mock, Strawberry is a weedy ground cover known for it's small, red fruit, yellow flowers, and little leaves.**

Plant Growth Habit: **Ground Cover**

Height at Maturity: **Less than 1 foot**

Life Span: **Perennial**

Seasonal Habit: **Evergreen Perennial**

Growth Habitat: **Full Sun to Full Shade**

Manner of Culture: **Weed**

Thorns on Younger Stem? **No**

Cross Section of Younger Stem: **Roundish**

Stem (or Trunk) Diameter: **Less Than The Diameter of a Pencil**

Type of Leaf: **Flat, Thin Leaf**

Length of Leaf (or Leaflet): **Less than Length of a Credit Card**

Leaf Complexity: **Palmately Compound**

Shape of Leaf: **Simple**

Edge of Leaf: **Serrated**

Leaf Arrangement: **Whorled (3 or more leaves per node)**

Leaf has Petiole? **Yes**

Patterns of Main-Veins: **Parallel**

Leaf Hairiness: **Somewhat Hairy**

Color of Foliage in Summer: **Green**

Flowering Season: **Late Spring to Early Fall**

Flowers: **Single**

Type of Flower: **Colorful Flower**

Color of Flower: **Yellow**

Shape of Individual Flower: **Radially Symmetrical**

Size of Individual Flower: **Smaller than a Quarter**

Size of Fruit: **Smaller than a Quarter**

Fruit Fleshiness at Maturity: **Fleshy**

Shape of Fruit: **Oblong-Oval**

Color of Fruit at Maturity: **Red**

Fruit Desirable to Birds or Squirrels? **Yes-Birds**

Is the Plant Poisonous: **None of Plant**

Pesky Plant (weedy, hard to control)? **Yes, sometimes**

Source: Information combined from Wikipedia, www.eattheweeds.com and www.bellarmino.edu

A Brentsville Citizen of Note

Evelyn S. Shields

Last month we reported on the Brentsville graded school's upper class of 1927-28. This report covers the lower grades 1-3 with Miss Evelyn S. Shields as their teacher. As in the previous report, the information offered here was extracted from the Prince William County Term Report for those years.

Miss Shields was 21 years of age and had two years of experience. It is not clear if she had graduated from high school but she did not have a college or normal school education. She did, however, attend two summers at the State Teachers College in Farmville and earned a first grade teachers certificate in 1926. She was a member of the State Teachers' Association and subscribed to the VA Journal of Normal Instruction to stay current in her duties.

The Brentsville Elementary School had a library of 104 books. During the year she visited 20 pupil homes to discuss student status and she also attended four formal teachers' meetings. During this year her class was visited twice by the Division Superintendent, at least once by the

Assistant Superintendent, Members of the School Board, the Clerk of the School Board and State Supervisors. Local supervisors visited eight times.

Miss Shields was paid \$70.00 per month of which \$20.00 went for room and board. During this period Miss Shields taught eight months during which she was absent only two days. Her class consisted of 12 boys and only one girl but on average only 9 boys attended while the girl was there most of the time. Seven boys and the girl were promoted while five boys failed.

Her students were: Earl Boley, age 13; John Counts, age 6; Math Hensly [Hensley], age 8; Philip James, age 7; James Shoemaker, age 9; Ben Shoemaker, age 7; Sidney Spitzer, age 5; Eugene Wolfe, age 6; Robert Pearson, age 7; James Fox, age 7; Mike Fox, age 9; and Lester Keys (age not given). The one girl was Thelma Landies [Landis], age 9.

Instruction was given in reading, spelling, writing, English, mathematics, and community study.

BRENTSVILLE

There was a good bit of hunting around here during Thanksgiving.

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Mowry were Sunday visitors at the home of Mrs. Marion Cooper.

Miss Evelyn Shields attended the State Teachers Convention in Richmond last week.

Mr. Carson Goliday, of Baltimore, spent the Thanksgiving holidays at his father's home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolls moved this week from the Shaffer place here to their own place near Canova.

Mrs. Ernest Lipscomb, of Bristow, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. James, here this week.

Miss Stella Beavers, of Canova, spent Sunday with her aunt, Mrs. R. H. Keys.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Goliday are the parents of a baby girl, born November 21.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Woodyard and son, of Clarendon, visited relatives here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Seymour spent Thanksgiving Day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Wade near Catlett.



Class of 1928 at the Brentsville Courthouse with two teachers:

1) Math Hensley, 2) Eugene Wolfe, 3) Marye Wolfe, 4) Johnnie Counts, 5) Robert Pearson, 6) Ora Spitzer, 7) Kate M. Huff [?], 8) Hazel Counts, 9) Lloyd Keys, 10) Benjamin Shoemaker, 11) Sidney Spitzer, 12) Earle Boley, 13) Thelma Landis, 14) Jim Shoemaker, 15) Phillip James, 16) Mrray Bradshaw, 17) Wynnett Wolfe, 18) George Sibert, 19) Taylor James, 20) Herbert James, 21) Daisy Shoemaker, 22) Margaret Golladay, 23) Marie Shoemaker, 24) Helen Spitzer, 25) Kate May, 26) Louvenia Pearson, 27) Emma Varner, 28) Edna Boley, 29) Miss Shields - Teacher, 30) Beulah Beavers, 31) Mr. George Beahm - Teacher, 32) Anna Shoemaker

Not shown: James Fox, Mike Fox, Lester Keys, Frankie Egan, George Mays, Earle Wolfe, Margarett Shoemaker, Paul Cooksey, Jr., Robert Varner, Ethel Golladay and Pauline Fox. Some of these may have either moved away or dropped.

Identified in the picture by Nelson Keys but not listed on the school roster are: Ora Spitzer, Kate M. Huff, Hazel Counts and Louvenia Pearson.

[We realize that the numbers identifying the individuals may not be visible here.]

In Our Town ...

Commonwealth vs Bob or Robert a Slave 24 February 1826

Prince William County to Wit: To Walter Warder (deputed as constable) and to the Jailor in the said County.

These are to command you Walter Warder in the name of the Commonwealth, forthwith to convey and deliver unto the custody of the said Jailor the body of Bob a slave the property of Richard B. Tyler of the county aforesaid charged before me of breaking open the cellar of John M. Clarke and stealing therefrom a quantity of pork and beef. And you the said keeper are hereby required to remove the said Bob into your custody in the said jail and him their safely keep, until he shall thence be discharged by due course of law. Given under my hand and seal in the County aforesaid this 24th February 1826.

Chas Hunton (seal)

Commonwealth against Bob or Robert the slave of one Richard B. Tyler for burglary and felony.

John M. Clarke a witness on behalf of the Commonwealth provided that the cellar door attached to his dwelling house was on the night of the fourth day of February 1826 forcibly broken open and entered into by some person and taken therefrom sixteen pieces of salted pork and two pieces of salted beef, altogether of at least the value of twenty dollars, that eight or ten days or perhaps more he made a search for the same and found two pieces of pork to wit: a shoulder and jowl corresponding in appearance with the pieces of the pork stolen from him in the possession of a Negro man named Burgess, the property of one James B. Ewell who said he got it from a woman of the said Ewell's called Mimy who had brought it there on Sunday preceding day and asked him to take care of it for her. Witness then went to see Mimy who informed him that Bob had brought to her six pieces and said Bob informed her he

had gotten it from a cellar attached to the house occupied by Mr. Stith in the year 1825 and witness further proved that he occupied the same house at the time the cellar was broken open that Mr. Stith occupied in 1825. The witness says that (the next three lines crossed out).

Burgess, a slave, witness on behalf of the Commonwealth proved that on Sunday the 26th of February last he received two pieces of hog-meat to wit, a shoulder & a jowl from Clima the reputed wife of the accused, who told him that she would give him the jowl if he would take care of the shoulder; and he carried it in a upper chamber in the cabbिन where he lodged & there kept it.

Clima, a witness on behalf of the Commonwealth proved that the prisoner at the bar delivered her sundry pieces of hog-meat, to wit, three middlings, one shoulder & two jowls about three weeks before she delivered the shoulder & jowls about three weeks before she delivered the said shoulder & jowl to Burgess to keep on the Sunday morning after the first search was made for the stolen property in question by constable Warden, & other said witness John M. Clarke being in company; that she delivered the same to said Burgess about two hours before day-light on the said Sunday morning; that the meat was delivered to her by the accused on Sunday morning; that the meat was delivered to her by the accused on Sunday morning between two & three hours before day light; that suspecting the accused did not come honestly by the meat, and fearing someone might find it in the house, she hid it under the straw at her masters stock-yard; where one piece was taken by the dogs, & the rest was used by her, & the rest except the two pieces delivered to Burgess ; that, after the search, she delivered those two pieces to Burgess because she thought his house would not be examined for them.

The same witness John M. Clarke proved that the first part referred to by the witness Mima was made on a Saturday about six or seven days

prior to the day of the date of the warrant for the apprehension of the accused which date is the 23rd day of February 1826; that the meat he lost from his cellar is aforesaid consisted of middlings, shoulder, & he believes two jowls; that the accused was committed to jail about one day after the date of the said warrant; that he took no note of the date when his cellar was broken open, & plundered, and he has fixed on the 4th day of February on that date merely from general recollection; but he is certain that it was the day before a fox chase in his neighborhood when W. William Florence was present.

William Florence and other witness on behalf of the Commonwealth proved that the fox-chase mentioned by witness John M. Clarke took place on the third Saturday in January.

Said witness Clima being further examined proved that the accused, she claims as her husband; that he visited her only once a fortnight; that he delivered her the meat aforesaid when he was to see her on his regular visit at once a fortnight; that he delivered her the said meat on the second visit next preceding the day when the first search was made and that he paid her no visit in that period except once a fortnight.

Virginia, Prince William County to Wit: Be it remembered that John Gibson attorney for the Commonwealth for the county of Prince William cometh here into court on this 7th day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty six into a special court of the Commonwealth composed of the justices of the peace of the county of Prince William aforesaid organized according to the provisions of an act of general assembly of Virginia in such __ made and provided for the trial of slaves charged with treason or felony and for the said Commonwealth giveth the court to understand and be informed that a certain Negro Man slave named Bob or Robert late of the said county the slave and property of one Richard B. Tyler of the county aforesaid on the night of the fourth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six about the hour of twelve o'clock with force and arms in the county aforesaid the meat house of one John M. Clarke in the said meat-house, within the cellar

of the dwelling house of the said John M. Clarke then and there being and situate, their and then feloniously and burglarously to steal take and carry away; and then and there with force and arms the goods chattels and property of the said John M. Clarke to wit: sixteen pieces of salted pork and two pieces of salted beef of the value of twenty dollars. The said meat-house within the ____ of the said dwelling house of the said John M. Clarke and there being found, then and there feloniously and burglariously did steal take and carry away against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth and against the force of the act of the general assembly of Virginia in such case made and demanded.

And the said John Gibson as aforesaid giveth the court further to understand and be informed that a certain Negro and slave names Bob or Robert late of the said county of Prince William, the property of one Richard B. Tyler of the county aforesaid on the fourth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty six being a person of wicked mind and corrupt disposition on the said fourth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty six at night about the hour of twelve o'clock with force and arms at the county aforesaid the mansion house of one John M. Clarke.

There situate feloniously and burglarously did break and enter with intent the goods chattels and property of the said John M. Clarke in the said mansion then and there being then and there feloniously and burglarously to steal take and carry away and then and there with force and arms the goods chattels and property of the said John M. Clarke to wit: sixteen pieces of salted pork and two pieces of salted beef of the value of twenty dollars in the said mansion house then and there feloniously and burglarously did steal take carry away against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth and against the force of the general assembly of Virginia in such case made and provided.

[On March 7th 1826 Bob or Robert was "found not guilty, and thereof is acquitted"]

Source: Prince William County Virginia Clerk's Loose Papers, Volume I - Selected Transcripts 1741 - 1826
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When WAR Came to Brentsville

Report of Lieutenant George R. Maguire, Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST SEPARATE BRIGADE,
Fairfax Court-House, Va., February 8, 1865.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report the result of the scout made in the vicinity of Brentsville, Va., on the night of the 6th instant.

Pursuant to orders received from you, 125 men and 2 officers of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, under the guidance of a Mr. Jacob Kline, of the Jersey Settlement near Brentsville, Va., left camp at Fairfax Court-House at 6 p. m. and proceeded, via Centerville and Manassas, to Brentsville. From Brentsville the column moved in the direction of Cole's Store, distant some fifteen miles from Brentsville. After marching two miles crossed Broad Run and Kettle Run and moved in the direction of the Jersey Settlement; arrived there at 3 a. m.; went into camp and fed and cooked breakfast. AT 5 a. m. remounted and moved back toward camp as we supposed, but, owing to the ignorance of the guide (Mr. Kline), we moved off in the direction of Dumfries and arrived within five miles of that place before we were made aware of our error. We retraced our steps and moved toward Broad Run and crossed at Bland's Ford; from thence toward Bull run, which we crossed at Union Mills. Bull Run River was covered with ice and we experienced great difficulty in crossing. We moved in the direction of Fairfax Station and arrived in camp at the Court-House at 3 p. m.

On the road a number of houses were searched, but nothing resulted from it. No enemy was found, nor were there any traces of any having been there during the last six months. Three colts, the property of Mr. Kline, were brought in, and in my opinion to obtain possession of the said colts was the only object Mr. Kline had in starting the expedition. To Captain Jones and Lieutenant Fowler, both of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, great praise is due for the manner in which they arranged and carried out the programme submitted by me upon reports based upon Kline's statement.

I am, very respectfully, yours,
GEO. R. MAGUIRE,
Lieutenant and Provost-Marshal.
Colonel WILLIAM GAMBLE,
Commanding First Separate Brigade.



George R. Maguire was born in Philadelphia June 5, 1838. In 1861 he married Margaret A. Dunn. During the same year, at the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted as a sergeant in the 3 month service and at the end of this term he was commissioned an Adjutant in the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry, which was part of the 117th PA Cavalry Regiment. He was promoted to Captain on June 2, 1865 and was mustered out with his company on July 14, 1865 with the rank of Brevet Major.

Maguire was recruited into a squadron in 1861 known as the Irish Dragoons (cavalry which fights dismounted with carbines, sabers, and pistols). Recruiting was done in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Pike and Wayne Counties in Pennsylvania. This became the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

He died on January 8, 1879, at the age of forty, interred at Mt. Moriah on June 15, 1879 in Section 123, Elks Rest.

Source: <http://friendsofmountmoriahcemetery.org/>

Brentsville Neighbors

“Preserving Brentsville’s History”

Contact us on:

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All back issues on:

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

IN GOD WE TRUST

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