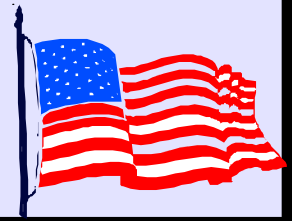


Brentsville Neighbors



Information About Brentsville
Shared Among Neighbors
November 2005



Welcome Neighbor!

If it's November, at least three things must be true: 1) November 11 is Veterans's Day and it's worth the time to stop and remember those from our community who have served; 2) Thanksgiving is upon us – a time for family and reflection; and 3) Christmas is right around the corner! Of these three, we wish to take the opportunity in this issue to share just a few pictures of the men and women of Brentsville who have served in the Armed Forces (including the Merchant Marines) during the past 100 years or so. And in keeping with the tradition of Thanksgiving, we want to give you an update on the restoration of our Union Church. We are so thankful that Brendon Hanafin and the entire Historic Preservation Division, Department of Public Works, PWC, have taken such a personal interest in it's restoration to insure the greatest possible authenticity for which we can all take immense pride. It is expected to be completed toward the end of December so what a wonderful Christmas present that will be!

Best regards,
Nelson Keys & Morgan Breeden

This month:

- Men & Women Who Served
- Flashback!
- Gen. Howard H. Cooksey
- Eddie Powell – In His Own Words
- The Union Church Restoration



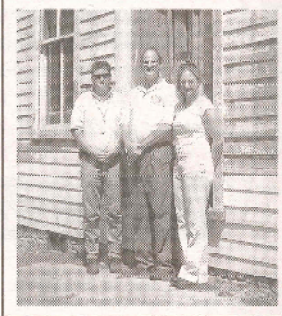
Union Church Restoration Update

During the weekend of October 28, 2005, Brentsville was home to a production crew recording the restoration of the Union Church for the History Channel. Check out the next page for information and pictures.

Shop at home, save at home

Union Church (circa 1874)...

The Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre complex includes the courthouse and jail built in 1821, Brentsville Union Church (pictured here with our travelers), and a one-room schoolhouse built in 1929.



Located in the geographical center of Prince William County, the land was part of the Brent Town Grant of 1687 made by King James II. The first Board of County Supervisors held their meetings in the courthouse in 1870.

Restoration of the courthouse, Union Church, and jail are currently underway. Delain Fink, Events Coordinator for the Historic Preservation Division, remarked that she loves the feeling of walking in the footsteps of those who lived so long ago. "I can't imagine doing anything else. I love my job!"

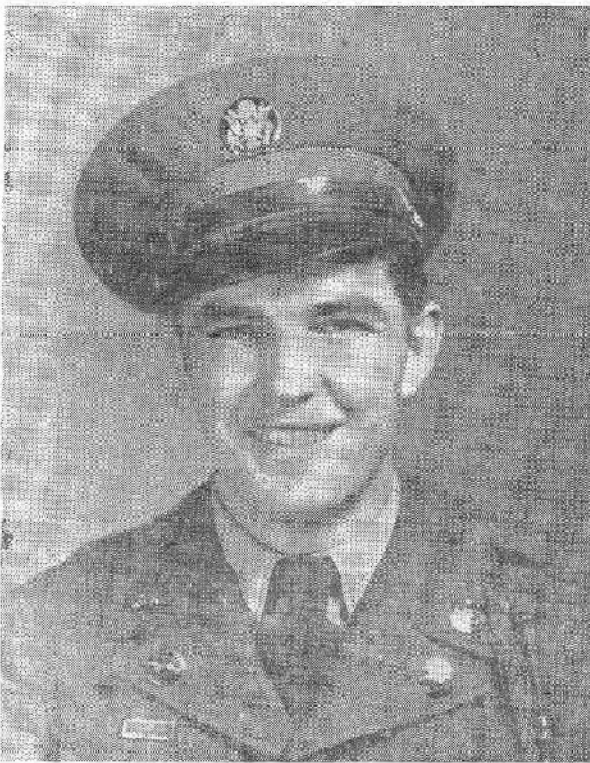
The above clip is from "Discover" 9/2005

We offer in advance our apologies to those Brentsville residents who served in the military but whose picture is not present here. It is because we have not yet been able to obtain pictures from all of those we know have served. If you have pictures of our neighbors in uniform and would like to share them in our our albums, won't you please send us a copy or let us borrow yours for a day or two?

Flashback

Friday, October 20, 1950

War Injuries Lead to Meeting Of Brentsville Boy and Pal



IN HOSPITAL REUNION—Pals in civilian life and through their years in the service two area boys who were separated by the Korean War were re-united in a Tokyo Hospital recently. They were Pvt. Clyde Walton Wolfe 20, (above) son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wynnell Wolfe of Brentsville, and Pvt. Carl Robey Jr. of Centreville.

After going through the service together these boys were separated five months ago when Wolfe was assigned to Japan prior to Robey. Eventually both were sent to the Korean front. Robey suffered leg injuries and Wolfe was shell-shocked. Both were sent to a Tokyo Hospital, where they met.

Gen. Howard H. Cooksey

Lt. Gen. Howard H. Cooksey, 78, formerly of Berryville, died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1999, at The Fairfax retirement community, Fort Belvoir.

Gen. Cooksey was born June 21, 1921, in Brentsville, the son of Paul and Norma Cooksey. He was deputy chief of staff for research and development and acquisition at the Pentagon, where he retired in 1978. Other assignments during his Army career included serving as a combat infantry officer with the 158th Regimental Combat Team in the Philippines during World War II, with the 7th Infantry Division during the Korean War, and as a general officer with the Americal Division and the First Regional Assistance Command in Vietnam. He qualified as a paratrooper in 1958.

Other military assignments included serving with Gen. Douglas McArthur's Honor Guard during the occupation of Japan, serving with the Second Battle Group, 6th Infantry Division in Berlin and as commanding officer of Fort Dix. He also was an assistant professor of military science at Drexel Institute, Philadelphia. Gen. Cooksey was president of Cooksey Corp., a military consulting firm, following his retirement and was a senior associate with the Association of the U.S. Army.

Gen. Cooksey's military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star with V and oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal with 28 oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Purple Heart.

He moved to Clarke County in 1986 and became a member of the Clarke County Planning Commission, president of the Lions Club of Clarke County, chairman of the board of Grafton School, a volunteer driver for FISH, and a member of the Shenandoah Valley Chapter of The Retired Officers Association.

He was an Episcopalian and served on the vestry of Grace Church, Berryville.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, the former Althea Hooff; a son, Paul Hooff Cooksey of Alexandria; a daughter, Allison Cooksey Highland of Annapolis, Md.; a sister, Carolyn Cooksey Baker of Falls Church; and six grandchildren.

A funeral with full military honors will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 3 at the Old Chapel, Fort Myer. Burial will follow in Arlington National Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. on Jan. 2 at Demaine Funeral Home, Alexandria.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grafton School, P.O. Box 1300, Stephens City 22655.

Source: The Winchester Star, December 27, 1999.

Saluting Those who Served



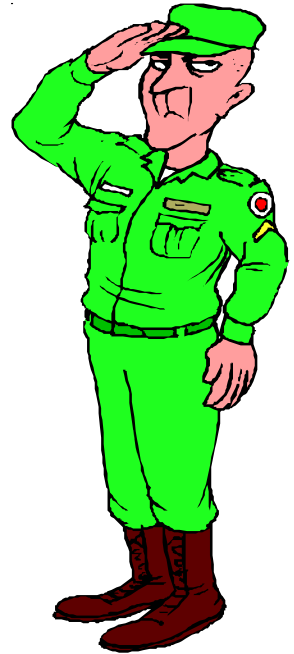
Gordon Newland



James Wolfe



Earle Wolfe



A.V Eanes



Franklin Cornwell



James W. Keys



Charles Bean



John "Freddy" Wolfe



Nelson Keys & Silas Bean



Clyde Wolfe



Darin Braden



Douglas Keys



Raymond Keys



Clyde Breeden



Donna Braden



John Eanes



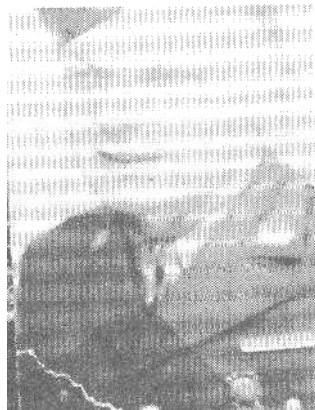
Ruth Dotson



Ernest "Grant" Dotson



Daniel Breeden



Sidney Spitzer



Eugene Flory



Morgan Breeden



Elmer Breeden



Melody Sue & Joe LaGrave



Cleveland Flory

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS WRITTEN BY EDDIE POWELL “IN HIS OWN WORDS”
ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2003.**

Brentsville Memories of Eddie Powell

The Powell Family first came to Brentsville about 1950 when my dad's brother, Robert Powell purchased a farm on the outskirts of the community of Brentsville. The farm was next to the land owned by Spicier and Ann Keys. My uncle had planned to retire from the US Navy and farming the land he had purchased. The Navy made him an offer he could not refuse. He stayed in the Navy and wrote to my dad, Donald Powell offering Dad the opportunity to join him farming the 104 acre's on the farm. Dad was in a dead end position with the Corp. Of Engineers in Omaha, Nebraska and accepted his brother's offer.

In June 1953, the D. W. Powells came East to Virginia. Donald, His wife Retha, their children, Darrell 5 years old, Pamela 3 years old, and me, Eddie 15 years old. Dad's decision to return to the soil may not have been a good business decision, but for me it was a great time. I had spent some time on relative's farms in Nebraska, but I was really a city kid. Uncle Bob and Dad decided that it would be more economical to farm with horses then a tractor. (This was their first mistake. Farm equipment for horses was almost impossible to find and we had to make harness from scraps of old harness when we could find them.) They bought 4 horses and because the fences were in bad shape we had to keep the horses in the barn until the fences were repaired. My job was to exercise the horses and I was in seventh heaven. Shortly after we arrived in Brentsville I was invited to come to choir practice at the Brentsville Presbyterian Church. At the time the choir was made up of teenagers. Someone asked why Billy Golladay was not there. They were told that he was watching So and So.'s still. I don't know if it was true, but I was impressed. As I remember some of the choir members were Kaki, Skippy, and Bobbie Taylor, Rosalee Keys, Buddy Croushorn, and Betty Croushorn played the piano. Some time during the summer of 1953 the Presbyterian Church had their first anniversary in the new cinder block building. The kids in the choir used to watch to see which of the men would fall to sleep first during the sermon on Sunday mornings, Mr. Croushorn, Mr. Downs, or my dad. The Brentsville Presbyterian Church would play a major role in the life of the Powell family for all the years we were associated with Brentsville.

It was through the Brentsville Presbyterian Church that we met most of our friends. Our sons were baptized in the church

and my sister was married there. My dad and I both served on the session and I directed the choir. Hanne and I taught Sunday School and our sons had 13 years of perfect attendance. I can

not even guess how many hours we spent playing softball. If you want I could give the name of all the players, their position, where they batted in the line up, and their batting averages. Softball was our major recreation for the spring, summer, and fall. One of my earliest memories of life on the farm was the party line telephone system. There were about 10 or 12 families on one party line. Our ring was 2 longs and 1 short. When you had a telephone call you could hear the volume of your caller go down as your neighbors picked up their telephone to get the latest news. To make a call to Nokesville, you first had to ring the operator in Manassas. After she answered she had to ring the operator in Nokesville who then rang the person you were calling. There were some advantages to the system. On more then one occasion the Nokesville operator would ask, "Is that you Eddie? Are you trying to call Sue? She is at Betty

Caton's house. Want me to ring her there?" I'm afraid today's teenagers would have great difficulty adjusting to the party line system.

Another early memory is swimming in Cedar Run at the "rock" and jumping off the Cedar Run Bridge. About 1970 they temporarily drained Lake Jackson. When Cedar Run went dry we were all surprised to see a car and a large safe under the Cedar Run Bridge.

I joined the Air Force in January 1955. When I came home 4 years later I brought a family, Hannelore and our oldest son, Eric. For a little over a year we lived with my folks, who were renting a house from Eddie Batchelet. We moved to Manassas, but returned to Brentsville in 1960 renting the house that Fred Wolfe now owns. Our son, John was born in 1961 while we were living in Brentsville. We moved to Bradley Forest not long after John was born. In 1970 we purchased land from Anne and Spicer Keys and built a home on Route 619 at the edge of Brentsville. I was transferred to Colorado in February 1980. This ended our physical connection to Brentsville, but the people and the beauty of this Virginia community will always remain in our hearts.

Continued on page 6

(Eddie Powell, Cont.)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

My Uncle Robert Powell, my mother Retha Powell, and our son Eric Powell are deceased.

Fay Powell (96) is living in a home in San Jose, California.

George Powell is an editor for a newspaper in San Francisco, California.

Rodney Powell operates a book store in Chicago, Illinois.

Donald Powell (91) is in a nursing home near Grapevine, Texas. Alzheimer's has robbed him of his memories, but physically he is well.

Pam Powell Gugel lives in Grapevine, Texas. Her 3 children all live in the Dallas area and she has 4 grandchildren and is a real estate agent.

Darrell Powell lives in Montgomery, Alabama. He retired from the Air Force as a Major and completed his

studies with a Doctorate in Education. He teaches at a Sylvan Learning Center. His 3 children are all living in the South and he has 3 grandchildren.

Hannelore and I are in Littleton, Colorado. Hanne is famous for her flowers, gourmet cooking, and her bridge playing. We are both active in the St. James Presbyterian Church. I retired from the Federal Government in 1994, after 37 years and 8 days of service. In spite of a heart attack in 1988 and a stroke in 1995 I have never been busier in my life. I play tennis 2 or 3 times a week and dig holes for Hanne when she wants to plant more flowers. I am singing in the St. James Choir and lead a group of singers and musicians that go to senior centers and nursing homes. Our only grandchild, Laura will be 11 in August. We pick her up from school and struggle to help her do her 5th grade homework.

John Powell lives in Lakewood, Colorado (5 miles from us), He works for the National Parks Service. He is coping with being a single parent. (He has primary custody of Laura) He loves to fly fish and is my doubles partner in the Federal Employees Tennis League.

The Brentsville Union Church Restoration

The Brentsville Courthouse Historic Complex consists of five buildings—the jail, courthouse, one-room schoolhouse, Union Church, and a log cabin, each of which will be restored in the near future depending on available funds and other issues. Work on each of these is in progress but this article will concentrate on the Union Church restoration.

During August of this year, the county received bids from multiple sources, all of which significantly exceeded the independent government estimates. The county was faced with two options: 1) scale down the scope of work or 2) reject the bids and do most of the work in-house. Option (1) was not consistent with the intent of the restoration process so option (2) was chosen with county employees doing the tasks they do best and individual contracts being awarded for other work, such as installation of the roof and other specialized functions. This decision brought forth objections from one or two individuals but support from the majority. The restoration effort has gone forward and has reportedly resulted in a huge savings over what might have been spent. It might be noted that these savings are

now available for work on other buildings on the complex.

During early September activity started to grow. The bell tower (or cupola if you prefer) was removed on September 8th to replace much of the wood that had suffered rot or damage. Structural damage was being repaired and the Breeden Lot – uh, the Tavern Lot (sorry!) was cleared of undergrowth and undesirable trees. It was exciting to see some of the wooden components used in this process cut, sawn and milled from lumber taken from the complex.

Installation of a new copper roof started in October. How excited we were to see this shining in the sun! New support posts for the bell tower were installed and clearing on the lot continued with stumps ground out, trash removed and grass seed sowed. And then the exciting news! We learned that the PWC Historic Preservation Division had been contacted by The History Channel expressing interest in producing a documentary on the restoration of the church. They planned to be on-site October 27 - 30 to conduct the filming. And they were!



The History Channel Visits Brentsville

Kate Geis, the director, was on site the 27th outlining plans for the production. No excitement here! And early the next day, the full cast arrived consisting of Marty (the narrator), a camera man, an audio man, and an assistant. Did you ever wonder how much work goes into something like this? They worked for three full (yes full) days to get enough footage to produce a 22 minute show. OK – it's actually a 30 minute show but when you take out commercials and computer generated stuff, it's not so long after all.



They started off filming the restoration of the bell tower. I didn't keep count (although I wish I had) but they must have "shot" this at least two or three times from each direction and I would guess at least five different directions. I heard the PWC carpenter say he had never taken one board off and put it back on so many times in his life!

This was followed by the installation of molding under the roof. The molding was, incidentally, custom made by the PWC crew with jointer blades that were special made to exactly duplicate the original shape. Once painted it is impossible to tell the original from the recreated. I'm not sure who has the worse job – the narrator or the camera man. Thinking back, I suspect it is the camera man because he had to get in some of the hardest positions to film the sequence to make it look natural in the most unnatural places. But there they were – up the ladder nailing on the trim or helping with the roof installation.

Early the morning of the 29th the crew was back at the crack of dawn to continue work. Today they would record the final restoration of the bell tower and finally (after what seemed like forever) lifting the tower back on top of the church and securing it in place.

Sunday (the 30th) was the most exciting day of all. We learned that the Brentsville Presbyterian Church had approved moving the Union Church bell back to its original location. Immediately after church services the crew rushed over to remove the bell and carefully, ever so

carefully, move it back to the Union Church where it was restored to its rightful and historic place. No one had to ask Gladys Eanes twice if she would ring the symbolic peal to celebrate this momentous event!

So what's next? The outside has been repainted, the copper roof is finished, the windows, doors, shutters and pews are in the process of final restoration and the special access door at the rear of the building is installed. Next the floors will be installed, the heating/air conditioning units in place, walls will be replastered and the interior trim will be completed. All this by the end of November we are told. Perhaps by Christmas – certainly during January - we can once again sit in this wonderful old building to sing praises or to reflect on our wonderful past. Either way, just being able to sit there is wonderful beyond words.

Note: This publication is in no way associated with the Friends of the Brentsville Courthouse Centre, Inc., which produces its own publications.

Brentsville Neighbors

**Information About Brentsville
Shared Among Neighbors**

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

