



## Featured Brentsville Building

### The Whetzel / Eanes Home

The Eanes Home  
 12224 Bristow Road  
 Bristow, VA 20136

Reid – Bowen	1890 - 1918
Mattie Jones	1918 – 19??
Paul Cooksey	19?? – 1928
Jess Whetzel	1928 – 1959
A.V. Eanes	1959 – Present

This home is located on Lot 23 of Square 7 as platted in 1822 and recorded in Deed Book 8, page 348. It is a two story frame walled, gabled tin roof structure with some additions and out buildings that included a wash house, shops, barn and a chicken house which may pre-date the house itself. All of the buildings sit on just under two acres of land and are bordered by Bristow Road (originally Main Street) on the North and the original platted streets of Hooe (on the South) and Center (on the East). Center Street has been officially closed by Prince William County.

The first owners, Reid and Bowen held the property as a part of a much larger tract of land but did not build. The first construction may have taken place after 1918 when Mr. Jones built a four-room home (now the back part of the home) consisting of two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs as was the common design of that time. The property was purchased by Mr. Paul Cooksey in the early 1920's and he reportedly turned the back portion of the house and added the front section which has two walls of bay windows and a double pocket door that still rolls smoothly after all these years and children. He also added a lovely front porch, hardwood floors and plaster walls.

Mr. Jessy Whetzel purchased the property in 1928 and raised his family here. After his children were all grown and moved away, the home was simply too large and he sold it to A.V. Eanes in 1959. Here Gladys and A.V. raised their six children and it remains her home today. The property became part of the Brentsville Historic Overlay District in 1983.

The following is a transcript of the H. Thornton Davies Report dated July 12, 1928.

For Mr. & Mrs. Whetzel.

By deed of Feb. 17, 1871, in deed book 28, p. 276, P. T. Weedon conveyed to Jos. B. Reid lots 21 and 22 in the plat of Brentsville. This plat is recorded in deed book 8, page 348-9.

By deed from Jno. Camper, in deed book 28, p. 232, Jos. B. Reid was conveyed a lot in Brentsville, describing same and saying it was same lot conveyed to said Camper by Hunton, etc. by deed in deed book 27, p. 547, where it is mentioned and described as lot 24.

This gave said Reid title to lots 21, 22 and 24.

By deed, dated Nov. 6, 1882, in deed book 33, p. 477, Thos. Cornwell and wife conveyed to P. B. Bowen lot 23 in said Town, and being further described as the lot upon which said Cornwell resided, and thereafter often called and referred to as the "Old Cornwell Place".

Jos. B. Reid and P. B. Bowen thereafter had a deed of exchange by which said Reid obtained the best portion, if not all of lot 23 and said Bowen a portion of lot 24 and probably a small part of lot 23, after which said Reid and Bowen took possession of their respective parcels. These lots were fenced, according to all residents, and the exchange must have been made about 1890, or prior thereto.

Reid's lots, through various conveyances, have vested in Paul J. and Norma I. Cooksey, having been conveyed by said Reid to H. W. Reid in deed book 51, pp. 21-2, and by H. W. Reid to Mary R. Zirkle in deed book 52, pp. 179-0, and by Zirkle and others to Robt. Molair by deed in deed book 60, pp. 453-4, and by said Molair to Mattie L. Jones by deed in deed book 61, p. 435, and by said Jones to said Cooksey and wife by deed in deed book 72, p. 207.

# Brentsville Weddings



Clyde & Verona Bean



Lloyd & Doris Keys



AV & Gladys Eanes



Brian & Becky Noonan



Joe & Ora Keys



James & Mildred Wolfe



Richard & Cathy White



Joe & Melody LaGrave



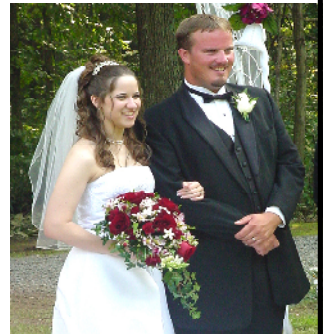
Freddy & Hazel Wolfe



Nelson & Georgie Keys



David & Cathy Eanes



Kevin & Tammy Bean



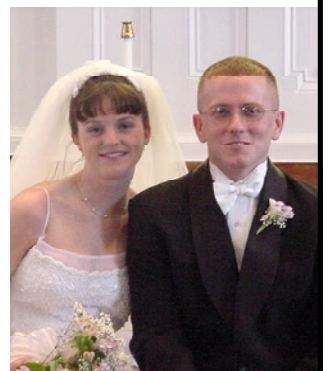
Morgan & Marye Breedon



Ira & Libby Whitzel

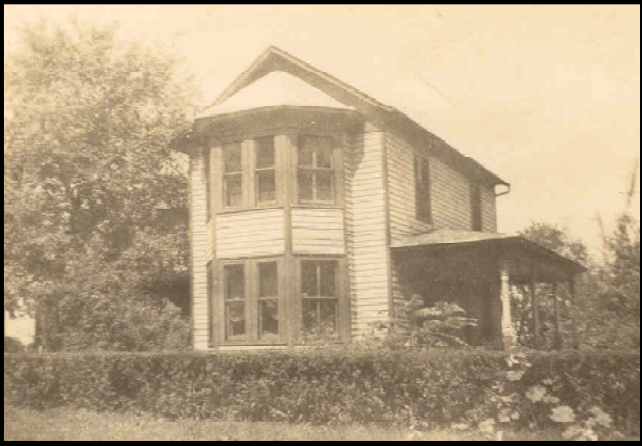


John & Delores Eanes



Joseph & Jessica Braden

The Featured Home  
Story starts on page  
two



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*Rosa carolina L.*  
(See Page 6)



A recent photograph of the Eanes home

# 100 Years of Memories

## Verona (Counts)(Bean) Craig

(The following information was obtained from SOME DESCENDANTS OF JOHN COUNTS OF GLADE HOLLOW (Southwest Virginia) 1722 – 1977)

“John Baptist Riley Counts and Victoria Barton were married on November 21, 1895, in Russell County, VA. They lived on his inherited part of the home farm at Cleveland. He was a justice of the peace, Cleveland Dist., 1904-1905. In 1906, he sold his farm and worked as a rural mail carrier. During 1907, they moved to Texas and lived at Tulia and Beeville. Afterward, they moved to Westminster, MD for about a year before settling at Manassas, VA, in 1910. Following Victoria’s death in 1912, John returned to Russell County for a few months and left the four younger children with his sister, Nancy. The next year, he brought them to his home on Lucasville Road and reared the family by himself. He was an avid reader and read the Washington daily paper from cover to cover. In later years, he became crippled with arthritis. Following his death in 1932, both were returned to Russell County for burial in the Joshua Counts Cemetery at Cleveland.”



Verona Counts was born October 27, 1905, in Cleveland, VA, and arrived in the Brentsville area (on Lucasville Road) with her family in 1910 at the age of five years old. This is her story, recounted “In Her Own Words” based on an interview conducted on December 17, 2005, while visiting with her oldest daughter, Lucy (Bean) Hartman.

*Q. We understand you arrived here some 95 years ago at the ripe old age of five. What are your earliest memories of Brentsville or this area?*

A. Troy, Rome and Mamie went to school in Manassas but I wasn’t old enough. I was only five. They had to cross a little branch to get there. After mothers death, we returned to Cleveland and I went to school there for two years. I was nine when daddy built the house where we lived on Lucasville Road. He planted a holly tree in the yard and it was my request that it never be cut down. It is a landmark! It is still there today. I remember my mother making cornbread. We would have it three times a day except on Sunday we had flour loaf bread that was a treat. We raised two horses and a cow. My daddy raised chickens and he had an iron pipe that he would put into the ground and he would tap on the pipe and the chickens would come. My dad once had a chicken

with three legs. It wasn’t able to get around very well and several times we had to retrieve it from the fence or other places. We had a big garden. One time my daddy told Troy to spread ferterlizer on the garden but he got a bag of cemet by mistake and spread it over the garden. We raised tomatoes, potatoies and just about everything else. My future mother-in-law had a hot bed that provided us plants such as sweet potatoes and tomatoes.

*Q. As a young lady you attended school in the Brentsville courthouse. This must have been around 1913. Can you tell me how long you attended there and anything about the school or others who were your classmates?*

A. I started school in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. There were only 4-5 people in class with me. I don’t remember just what we did study but I know I didn’t study any of the A-B-Cs.

# Flashback



MR. AND MRS. DOUGLAS G. KEYS

## Heflin-Keys Wedding Held

Miss Charlotte Virginia Heflin, daughter of Mr. L. W. Heflin of Marshall, Virginia, and Mr. Douglas Gilbert Keys, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Keys of Brentsville, were united in marriage at the Marshall Methodist Church on June 8 at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Miss Georgia Lorraine Heflin, sister of the bride, was her bridesmaid and only attendant. Nelson Keys of Manassas, brother of the groom, was best man.

A reception was held for the young couple on Sunday afternoon, June 9, at the home of the groom's parents in Brentsville.

Mr. Keys is a graduate of the Marshall High School, and is now employed by the Navy Department. Mr. Keys is with Dudley Martin Chevrolet in Manassas.

Said Bowen lot was conveyed by his heirs to H. F. Keys by deed in deed book 65, pp. 201-2, and then by Davies, Trustee and Comr. To J. H. Burke and J. R. Larkin by deed in deed book 78, pp. 16-7, and by them to Mrs. Keys who has not recorded her deed.

The deeds to the Bowen lot refer to it as lot 23, but the various deeds to the Reid lots do not contain the same numbers, though several refer to it as all of that square, or Reid barn lots, etc., and one says "Lots 21, 22 and 24 and part of 23", and one says "lots 21 and 22 and part of lot 23 conveyed to Jos. B. Reid by P. B. Bowen and that part of 24 conveyed by Jos. B. Reid to H. W. Reid".

The undersigned thinks that the deeds were drawn in some instances from memory and the numbers in this way confused. From information of old residents and the knowledge of the undersigned, it is evident that these lots have been claimed and occupied by the respective owners as claimed and occupied to-day, regardless of the confusion in the numbers and the loss of the Reid-Bowen deed of exchange which was never recorded. By a properly drawn deed, executed by the proper parties, the undersigned thinks the title to said respective lots will be all right.

The vendor's lien in the Jones-Cooksey deed has not been released.

July 12, 1928 (signed) H Thornton Davies

## Where W I L D Things Live

*Rosa carolina* L.

- **Family:** Rosaceae
- **Common names:** pasture rose, Carolina rose
- **Inflorescence:** solitary flowers, petals 5, pink, flowers appear from May to July.
- **Fruit:** a hip about 8 mm (0.3 in) in diameter, red; fruits mature late August.
- **Distribution:** Oklahoma, Texas, east to Florida, north to Vermont, west to Wisconsin, Nebraska.
- **Habitat:** woodland margins, prairies, fence rows and roadsides. Carolina rose does not form dense thickets.
- **Food uses:** rose hips are an excellent source of vitamin C (60 times the concentration of lemons). Fruit - raw or cooked. Tasty but sour. The fruit can be made into syrup, jelly, tea and jam. The fruit is about 8mm in diameter, but there is only a thin layer of flesh surrounding the many seeds. Some care has to be taken when eating this fruit, be sure to remove the seed hairs. Flowers - raw or cooked. They can be added to salads. A delicious taste. Normally it is just the petals that are eaten, the white base of the petal is removed since this often has a

bitter taste. The seed is a good source of vitamin E, it can be ground and mixed with flour or added to other foods as a supplement.

- **Wildlife benefits:** Hips remain on the plant for an extended period of time, providing a late season food source for wildlife. The flowers are an excellent nectar source for bees.
- **Traditional and folk remedies:** Rose hip skin used as treatment for upset stomach. The fruit of many members of this genus is a very rich source of vitamins and minerals, especially in vitamins A, C and E, flavanoids and other bio-active compounds. It is also a fairly good source of essential fatty acids, which is fairly unusual for a fruit. It is being investigated as a food that is capable of reducing the incidence of cancer and also as a means of halting or reversing the growth of cancers.

<http://www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Rosa+carolina>  
<http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/shrub/rosa-car.htm>  
<http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/prairie/htmls/plants/R-carolina.html>

(Continued from page 5)

*Q. What type of special activities were you involved with while attending school in Brentsville?*

A. We played baseball, prisoners base, drop the hanchchif, crack the whip, and hide and seek. I was in school with Morgan Breeden and one day while we were playing fox and geese he was running down a hill and fell on a rock. Someone fell on him and he broke his leg. Clyde Bean carried him home to Mrs. Breeden. One time when I was going to school (Miss Elenor Girtrud Smith was the teacher) the boys put polk berries all over the boys toilet and Miss smith took them down and made them clean it off. She bought a football for the boys and a basketball for the girls. The goals were on a tree. We could only go a little distance with the ball. Miss Smith was a good teacher and a good person. They had an icecream social at the school one evening and my daddy wouldn't let us go so she brought some icecream to the house to make sure we had some.

*Q. How did you travel back and forth between home and the school?*

A. We walked. From home we had to cross Broad Run at the ford and sometimes in the evening Dewey Keys would have his boots and carry us across to dry land. If he wasn't there we had to walk the long way around to Hensley Road where there was a bridge.

*Q. Can you remember anything special about Brentsville during your youth? Such as street lamps or wooden sidewalks?*

A. Brentsville had a three plank wide sidewalk from the store all the way up to Old Church Road on just the left side.

*Q. After the courthouse was no longer used as a school, there were a number of social activities conducted there. Did you attend any of the dances or other special events held there?*

A. My daddy never let us out much at night so I never did attend many social activities.

*Q. During March, 1923, you married Jessie Clyde Bean. When and where did you meet him?*

A. Clyde was a next-door neighbor so I knew him all my life. We didn't have a drinking well so we had to get drinking water from the Bean well. We did have a rain barrel at the four corners of the house that was used to wash clothes and stuff. During the winter we had to put a stick in the barrel to keep the ice from bursting the barrel.

*Q. After you and Clyde were married, where did you first live?*

A. We first moved in with his family next door. Later we moved into the big house on the hill where we stayed for many years I don't remember who we bought it from but at one time it was owned by the Shoemakers. When my mother was in the hospital we stayed with the Shoemakers. The house was purchased by Mr. Dudley and Alfred Bean lived there before we did. All of my children were born there except for Robert. Douglas Keys used to visit with James a lot. Douglas would be visiting and forget to go home and Joe would drive over to retrieve him

*Q. Other than what we have already discussed, are there any special memories of Brentsville that still stand out in your mind?*

A. We went to the Presbyterian Church. My brother told me to never go out with the Wright boys. The prettiest valentine card I've ever seen was given to me by Lucien "Bud" Wright. My sister brought the Valentine to church and put it up high were I could not reach it and I cried. A minister would frequently come to my mother-in-laws to visit and have lunch. One day he brought his son along. While they were eating the son dropped his knife and the preacher was scolding the son and asked him "are you asleep son?" and then he dropped his own knife. Mrs. Bean got so amused that she had to leave the room not to embarras herself.

Many thanks to Mrs. Verona Craig for taking time to chat with us about her early life in Brentsville. We know there is much more to be learned from her and hope to share it with our neighbors very soon. Also a big "Thank You" to Catherine Corner who sat down with morgan and his computer one day to talk about her memories of Brentsville. look for her story in a future issue!

# *Brentsville Neighbors*

Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors  
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