

Brentsville Neighbors



Information About Brentsville
Shared Among Neighbors

January 2008



Welcome Neighbor!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's 2008 already and we didn't get everything done that was planned for 2007. Our honest goal is to buckle down a bit this year and work harder to capture more of the information about Brentsville that we know exists and is just sitting there waiting to be shared. Our books are expanding but it's a bit like watching grass grow – you know it's happening – it's just hard to tell sometimes.

Some really great news! Ron Turner, about the most knowledgeable person on Prince William history we know, has graciously volunteered to write a number of short stories concerning Brentsville. These will mostly concern court cases that took place here and we are much honored to have his work in our little newsletter. Check out the first one on page seven. Thank you Ron!

We know a number of you attended the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre Christmas Concerts that were held on December 8th. Weren't they wonderful? We have heard so many positive comments on the music these young people produce and they

have agreed to join us again next year as well! So if you are a long-range planner, mark your calendar for December 13, 2008, for the next performance!

More good news concerns the Hall Cabin. Work is starting on the front porch and the stairs to the second floor are in the works. Mrs. Martino has purchased some blue checked gingham for the windows and a table cloth just like her mother used. She will make the curtains just as she remembers them from way back when. In early spring there should be a fence around the "pasture" and a small kitchen garden will be planted with authentic 1800's crops. If you would like to volunteer some of your time at the cabin, please contact Rob Orrison at 571-641-0223. He will be very happy to find work for you consistent with your talents.

Very best wishes,

Nelson and Morgan

- This month: ➤ A Brentsville Building ----- pages 2&3
➤ Who Am I? ----- page 2
➤ Where Wild Things Live – pages 4, 6 & 7
➤ Buzzy Remembers ----- page 5
➤ A Look Back in History ----- page 7
➤ Flashback! ----- page 7

Featured Brentsville Building

The House Where Buzzy Shoemaker Lives

12341 Bristow Road

For the purpose of this report, the first land transference took place on August 29, 1887, when Joseph B. Reid sold three acres of land to George Lovelace for the sum of \$30.00 (DB42PG562-3). It appears that George lived here with his sister and perhaps children until his death around 1910-11. We know that on December 1, 1911, James R. Lovelace, a single person, and Rama A. Keys and John W. Keys, her husband, the only heirs of George Lovelace, deceased, sold the 3 acres for \$150.00 to Martha Molair. The deed stipulated that the said first party shall retain, but give full and complete possession of said property within fifteen days from date hereof, and that the aunt of said first parties, Mrs. Alice Wright, shall have the right to rent two rooms in the dwelling House upon said land, at the monthly rental of fifty cents per month, so long as said second party shall retain possession or legal title to the said property, and should Mrs. Wright still be in possession of said two rooms, at such time as said second party shall sell, or otherwise dispose of the said property, then the said Mrs. Wright's right to rent said two rooms at fifty cents per month shall cease and determine (DB61PG453-4).

On June 20, 1914, Martha Molair sold the property to her daughter, Josephine Molair, for \$200.00 (DB65PG200-01). And on February 15, 1929, Josephine (single) sold it to her brother, R. Lee Molair for an undisclosed amount. By now it was known as the "Lovelace Place" (DB86PG442-3). Lee held onto the property until March 31, 1933, when he sold it to T. R. Cooksey for \$300.00 (DB92PG39-40). We believe Mr. Cooksey built the house now on the property and lived there until March 28, 1941, when he (as a single man) sold the property to James R. Shoemaker for \$1,000, "a lot with improvements containing 3 acres." The 1941 taxes are to be paid by Shoemaker (DB106PG493-4). Jim Shoemaker had been living with his father after his marriage on January 20, 1938, to Bessie Madeline Cordell.

During the following years, Jim Shoemaker would expand the home and make many improvements. On April 26, 1944, he issued a Power of Attorney to his wife, Bessie, when he went into the Army (DB115PG410). Later, several parcels would be

separated off as gifts to his children until on August 30, 1967, Jim and Bessie wrote a deed to themselves consisting of the home and 1.195 acres (DB436PG474). James R. Shoemaker died on January 29, 1991, leaving Bessie M. Shoemaker, the sole surviving joint tenant.

On October 21, 1996, Bessie issued a Deed of Gift to her surviving children, James R. Shoemaker, Linda Shoemaker Pyer, Charles H. Shoemaker and Brenda Shoemaker Lynn. In this deed she reserved a life estate for the benefit of her son, Charles H. "Buzzy" Shoemaker (DB2385PG0865). On September 11, 1997, Bessie Madeline (Cordell) Shoemaker died at the Prince William Hospital and her will was executed on October 23, 1997 (WB94PG1209).

So this is the home of Charles Henry "Buzzy" Shoemaker. The next time you see him, say Hey!

Who Am I?

1. My family arrived from Texas around 1907 and bought a 384 acre farm just outside Brentsville
2. I was born on that farm in 1917
3. My brother and I walked to school in Brentsville
4. I married a girl from Manassas on January 20, 1938.
5. I operated a business in Brentsville for 50 years
6. My father also operated a business in Brentsville for many years
7. I served in the Army in Europe during World War II
8. I served in the Virginia National Guard unit in Manassas from 1957 to 1961
9. I was a charter member of the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department
10. I was a co-founder of the Old Dominion Race Track
11. I died of liver ailments on January 29, 1991, at Prince William Hospital
12. I am buried in Valley View Cemetery

Do you know me?

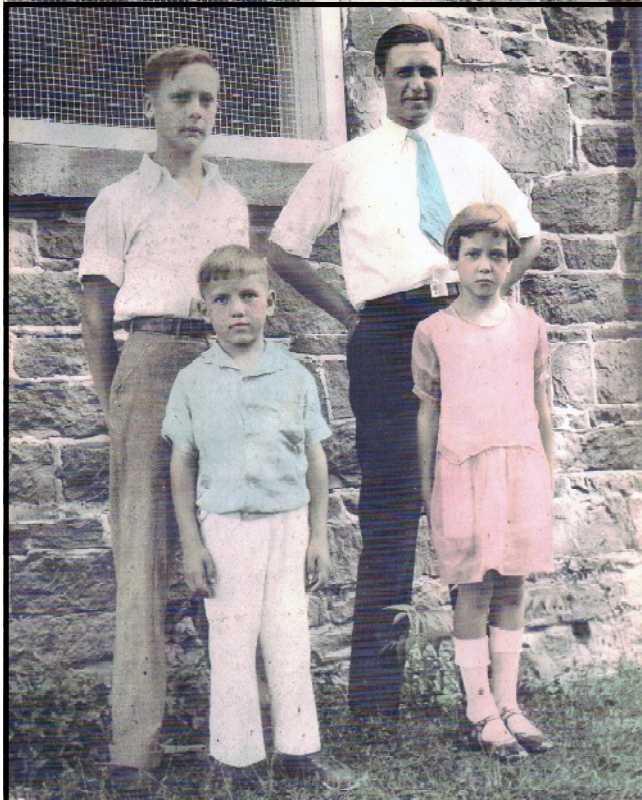
I'm James "Jim" Robert Henry Shoemaker

Featured Brentsville Building The home of Buzzy Shoemaker



Jim & Bessie
Shoemaker
Photos
courtesy
of
Buzzy
Shoemaker





(back) Murray W. Bradshaw & Bolivar Nelson
Bradshaw
(front) Kenrick Montague Bradshaw, Jr. &
Virginia Elizabeth Bradshaw
outside Hatchers Memorial Baptist Church
between 1928 - 1930
Photo courtesy of Nelson Bradshaw

Ms. Linda Beville and the
BDHS Mixed Choir
perform Christmas Music
in the Brentsville Union
Church

Where WILD
things live..



Fruit on the tree

Fruit on the ground



Juglans nigra
Black Walnut
See page 6



“Buzzy” Shoemaker Remembers Brentsville

My name is Charles Henry Shoemaker but not many people know that. They call me Buzzy!

My father was James Robert Henry Shoemaker and my mother was Bessie Madeline (Cordell) Shoemaker. My father was in the Army and was in Germany during World War II. When he got out he worked at Quantico for a while as a mechanic. After that he opened his own garage here in Brentsville. He didn't go to church much but after Danny died he was finally baptized. My mother enjoyed going to church and she worked at several different places. She worked at Peebles in Manassas for a while and she and my brother Jimmy owned an appliance store in Manassas.



I was born November 19, 1944, in the home where I still live in Brentsville. My dad was in Germany at the time. I've lived here all of my life except for one year. We always lived in this same house until we moved to Tennessee in 1956 but we moved back in 1957. I had two brothers, "Jimmy" (James Robert Shoemaker) who was older and "Dannie" (Daniel Karel Shoemaker) who was younger than I am. Both of them are now gone. I also had three sisters, Linda Dean Shoemaker and Barbara Lee Shoemaker who died at one month old, both older than I and Brenda Jean Shoemaker who is younger. I was the fourth child.

I went to school at Brentsville District in Nokesville but didn't participate in any of the sports. I'm not sure that I had a favorite subject either. But during my spare time I liked to go fishing. Most of the time I went to Broad Run where I caught bluegills and a few bass. I was

in the Boy Scouts and was working on my First Class badge. I enjoyed camping at Tapawingo and went on a few Jamborees. Later I was a member of the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department and was selected "Fireman of the Year" in 1973. That's something I'm very proud of! I still like to listen to the fire department scanner that also picks up county police calls.

I used to cut grass for Granddad (Grady Shoemaker) and would sometimes pump gas but other than that I didn't help at the store very much.

I've been involved with the Presbyterian Church for a long time. I've been a member for over 40 years. At one point I was a church Deacon and I would take the collection, count it and record the information. In 1986 I was presented a plaque for 20 years membership. That's now hanging on my bedroom wall beside the Lake Jackson award.

I'm retired from the Virginia Department of Transportation on December 1, 1991. When I started it was simply called the Highway Department.

I traveled to Jerusalem one time with my mother, Aunt Dean and Aunt Lula. They were fighting over there so we didn't get to see too much but being in the Holy Land is something I like to remember.

Since I retired I don't do a lot other than go to church almost every Sunday. But I don't mind the slow life, in fact, I enjoy it!

Where W I L D Things Live

Juglans nigra (Black Walnut)

Juglans is derived from a Latin phrase meaning “acorn (or nut) of Jove”; *nigra* refers either to the black nut or the dark brown wood.

Juglans nigra, commonly known as black walnut or American walnut, is a tree species native to eastern North America. It is a large deciduous tree attaining heights of 100–130 feet. The bark is grey-black and deeply furrowed. The male flowers are in drooping catkins 8–10 cm long, the female flowers terminal, in clusters of two to five, ripening in the autumn into a fruit with a brownish-green, semi-fleshy husk and a brown corrugated nut. The whole fruit, including the husk, falls in October; the seed is relatively small and very hard. The wood is used to make furniture and rifle stocks, and oil is pressed from the seeds. The Black Walnut produces a substance that is toxic or “allelopathic” to other plants called juglone. It interferes with the healthy development of other plants, especially plants in the Nightshade family (e.g. tomatoes), causing wilting and yellowing of the foliage. This has caused some to believe that nothing grows under a Black Walnut, but there are many varieties of plants that can such as Fescue grass.

Use as food

The extraction of the kernel from the fruit of the Black Walnut is difficult. The shell is covered by a thick husk that exudes a dark, staining, strong-smelling juice. The juice will often be a yellow brown at first, then rapidly assume a deep black-green color upon exposure to the air. The shell often protrudes into the meat, so that whole kernels often cannot be obtained. The husk is best removed when green, as the nuts taste better if it is removed then. Rolling the nut underfoot on a hard surface such as a driveway is a common method; commercial huskers use a car tire rotating against a metal mesh. The black walnut’s husks are known to leave durable, hard to remove stains on hands and clothing. Before eating or storage, the nuts should be cured in a dry place for at least two weeks. While the flavor is prized, the difficulty in preparing the Black Walnut may account for the wider popularity and availability of the Persian Walnut.

Wood

Black Walnut is highly prized for its dark-colored true heartwood. It is heavy and strong, yet easily split and worked. Walnut wood has historically been used for gunstocks, furniture, flooring, paddles, coffins, and a variety of other woodworking products. It is so valuable, on the order of \$50,000 for a mature tree, that so-called “walnut rustlers” have been known to harvest it illegally by posing as forestry officials, cutting trees during the night, and even using helicopters to take them away quickly; such overharvesting has greatly reduced its numbers and range since colonial times.

Medicinal Uses

Black walnut contains two main types of active chemicals. One is juglone, which may have some antibiotic and antifungal effects. Black walnut has been used to relieve both constipation and diarrhea due to a normalizing effect that juglone may exert on intestinal tissue. It is thought to have some effectiveness, as well, for eliminating internal parasites such as tapeworms. The second type of chemicals in black walnut are astringents known as tannins. Astringents shrink and tighten the top layers of skin or mucous membranes, thereby reducing secretions, relieving irritation, and improving tissue firmness. These effects may contribute to the antidiarrheal properties of oral black walnut preparations as well as giving them some usefulness for treating other gastrointestinal (GI) complaints such as indigestion. All of these uses are based on tradition and case reports; however, none have been verified through clinical studies in humans. The bark is chewed to allay the pain of toothache and it is also used as a poultice to reduce the pain of headaches. The tree yields a sweet sap that can be drunk or concentrated into syrup or sugar. It is tapped in spring.

These familiar trees are recent additions to the list of poisonous plants. Little information is yet available about their toxicity. Horses are most often affected when bedded on wood shavings containing more than about 20% of black walnut shavings (which tend to be dark in color). Affected horses become unwilling to move or have their feet picked up. Difficulty in breathing (increased rate and depth) may be noted. Horses on pasture may show mild respiratory signs from pollen or fallen leaves.

(Continued on page 7)

Brentsville

A Look Back in History

by
Ronald Ray Turner

Thursday the 28th day of August, 1856, was not a typical day in Brentsville, the circus was in town on the green and crowds of people were moving about. Most, I'm sure, were happy but little did anyone suspect that this would be a day few would ever forget.

James Cornwell, according to some, had been in town at least two days and was drunk most of the time. He was known to be a hard working family man on most occasions but as folks here knew, that with a few drinks, that could change. On this day he had complained that some people had tried to "blacken him" and he wasn't going to be taken advantage of. Along about sunset he found his way to Davis' where tonight Mrs. Davis was tending the bar. He was only there for a little while before he threatened James Fair and then got into a fight with John Renoe. This fight was broken up by Wm. Renoe and Thomas Turner. William took John Renoe outside. About a half hour latter James got mad at Thomas Turner, stabbing and killing him with what is described as a 25 cent knife.

James Cornwell was charged with 2nd degree murder, convicted, and sentenced to 16 years in the state penitentiary. There were a lot of mixed feelings that the sentence was too harsh and within months the citizens had started to circulate petitions to get him pardoned. A couple of times it seemed that Governor Wise was going to issue the pardon but retreated. When Governor Letcher took office the petitions started again with Wm. Brawner and Eppa Hunton leading the charge. On the 23rd day of January, 1861, and being over 60 years of age, he was pardoned and returned to Prince William County.

Poisoning in dogs is reported occasionally when the seed hulls are consumed, causing stomach upset and diarrhea (gastroenteritis).

Other Uses

A brown dye is obtained from the nuts, husks, leaves, stems and bark. The dye turns black if it is prepared in an iron pot. The husks are rich in tannin. The green fruit husks can be boiled to provide a yellow dye. The husks can be made into a high quality coal (charcoal) and is then used as a filter. It was used in gas masks. The woody shells on the fruits have been used to make jewellery. Insects are said to avoid the walnut tree, hence it is often used as a poor man's insect repellent. When rubbed on faces, walnut leaves are said to repel flies. The leaves repel fleas and have been used as an insecticide against bed bugs. The ground up husks are also insecticidal. The Catawba, Cherokee, and Delaware made a fishing poison from the ground bark of Black Walnut trees.

Sources used:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Walnut
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<http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant45.htm>
http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Juglans+nigra
<http://www.survival.com>
<http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/shrub/juni.htm>

flashback

BRADSHAW, KENRICK MONTAGUE.

On Saturday, January 4, 1958, at Purcellville, Va., KENRICK MONTAGUE BRADSHAW of Brentsville, Va., husband of the late Mary K. Bradshaw and father of Mrs. Virginia E. Spencer of Purcellville, Va., Murray W. Bradshaw of Rockville, Md., B. N. Bradshaw of Alexandria, Va., and Kenrick Bradshaw Jr. of Manassas, Va. Friends received in the Baker & Son Funeral Home, 314 N. West St., Manassas, Va., where services will be held on Monday, January 6, at 2:30 p.m. Interment Manassas Cemetery.

Source: The Washington Post, January 5, 1958, pg. A18

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IN GOD WE TRUST

**Brentsville Neighbors
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