

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

November 2011



Welcome Neighbors,

There are times when I get so wrapped up in the present activities that I completely forget about important things that may have happened a little while earlier. Such was the case when preparing the October newsletter. I failed to thank John Eanes for his support. I also forgot to recognize Rob Orrison as the one who contributed "Correspondence of the *Sentinel*" used in the October newsletter. My sincere apology to each of you.

And now before I do the same thing again, I wish to thank Cay Sinclair for contributing documents, pictures and other items from her family to the growing Brentsville collection. It is indeed wonderful to be entrusted with these treasures that will be included in the information currently maintained in the Brentsville School for the enjoyment of all.

While this November edition does not reflect on Veteran's Day the way others have, it remains, in my opinion, among the most honored days of the year. As you read the familiar verses to the right, please keep in your thoughts and prayers the safety of our military men and women, whoever and wherever they may be and always remember that 'Freedom Is Not Free.'

Very best wishes,
Morgan

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

by John McCrae (1872-1918), from *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems, 1919*



This month:

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Circulation: 254

Flashback

Where WILD Things Live

Brentsville

By Mrs. Anne Keys

George Yancy, a long-time resident of the county, was buried Sunday at a private cemetery on the Baker property. He was in his ninetys and had been in the Warrenton Nursing Home for some time. He came to prince William in the 1930's when the government bought his home to make a national park in the Skyland Drive area.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted McGlocklin are the proud parents of a daughter, Nita Sue, born Sunday at 3:30 a.m. at Prince William Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs. 8 ozs. Mrs. McGlocklin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. McCuin of Raven, Va., spent the weekend at their apartment in the J. C. Keys home.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lerch visited their daughter, Alice, at Roanoke College on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Bobby spent the weekend in Davidsonville, Md., with his cousin, Gary.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Wood of Warrenton and Paul Ross were dinner guests of the Spicer Keys family on Nov. 1.

Benny Shoemaker, who has been in France serving with the Air Force for the past two years, is at home with his parents.

The following persons were recently received into the membership of the Brentsville Presbyterian Church: Catherine Corner, Cheryl Corner and Brenda Shoemaker. The Sacrament of infant Baptism was administered to Rocky and Rodney Corner.

(Continued on page 9)

Groundhog (*Marmota monax*),

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The groundhog, also known as a woodchuck, whistle-pig, or in some areas as a land-beaver, is a rodent belonging to the group of large ground squirrels known as marmots. Other marmots, such as the yellow-bellied and hoary marmots, live in rocky and mountainous areas, but the woodchuck is a lowland creature. It is widely distributed in North America and common in the northeastern and central United States. Groundhogs are found as far north as Alaska, with their habitat extending southeast to Alabama.

Description

The groundhog typically measures 16 to 26 in long (including a 6 in tail) and weighing 4 to 9 lb. In areas with fewer natural predators and large amounts of alfalfa, groundhogs can grow to 30 in and 31 lb. Groundhogs are well adapted for digging, with short but powerful limbs and curved, thick claws. Unlike other marmots, the groundhog's spine is curved, more like that of a mole, and the tail is comparably shorter as well—only about one-fourth of body length. Suited to their temperate habitat, groundhogs are covered with two coats of fur: a dense grey undercoat and a longer coat of banded guard hairs that gives the groundhog its distinctive “frosted” appearance.

Survival

In the wild, groundhogs can live up to six years, with two or three being average. In captivity, groundhogs are reported to live from 9-14 years, with the original Warton Willie being said to have lived for 22. Common predators for groundhogs include wolves, coyotes, foxes, bobcats, bears, large hawks, owls, and dogs. Young groundhogs are often at risk for predation by snakes, which easily enter the burrow.

Diet

Mostly herbivorous, groundhogs primarily eat wild grasses and other vegetation, including berries and agricultural crops, when available. Groundhogs also eat grubs, grasshoppers, insects, snails and other small animals. Like squirrels they also have been observed sitting up eating nuts such as shagbark hickory but unlike squirrels do not bury them for future use.

(Continued on page 8)



Volunteers display their collection of WW-II items inside the Brentsville one-room school

Where WILD things live..



Groundhog
(Marmota monax)



Volunteers from the USMC Museum always provide a popular display



St. James' Church
Brentsville
Va.
A.D. 1852

Courtesy of
Rev. Stuart Schadt
Trinity Episcopal



Remembering Hatchers Memorial

By

Mary (Pearson) Pumphrey

Thanks so much for the article on Hatcher's Memorial Church. This church played a very important part in my life. I started attending with Mr. & Mrs. Breeden when I was about 5 yrs old; they would stop by and pick up my brothers H.L. and Sam (I think Bud was too young) and me every Sunday. It was just understood in our home that we kids would either be in church Sunday morning or in bed sick. This was the rule until I graduated from high school and moved away from home. My dad must have thought we were all going to grow up to be mail carriers; we walked to church no matter what the weather. A lot of times I really thought how unfair it was that we had to attend while he sat in the warm, dry house with his car in the drive. I guess he knew what he was doing (at least in part) because church still plays an important part in my life. So many of my childhood memories are connected to Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church. I had my first Tastee Freeze cone after Sunday night church when Mrs. Payne offered to take several of the children home. She dropped off the other children first. Boy, did I feel special when she asked if I thought my parents would mind if I went to Lake Jackson with her for ice cream. "Did I think my parents would mind?" Was she kidding? I wasn't taking the chance on finding out. I'm sure I had a smile on my

face that lighted up the neighborhood, along with a spot or two of ice cream when I returned home. Church to me was a place to make friends, a sanctuary when things were tough, my first job (cleaning the church), a teaching that formed the foundation of my life today, my wedding and Mom's funeral. I can still see all the orange Tiger Lilies growing in the field across from the church. Every time I see these flowers it's a reminder of times past. I watched the inside of the building change over the years: at first it had a very high ceiling with a wood stove right in the middle of the aisle (that was one Baptist church where the members didn't sit in the back, everyone wanted a center aisle seat), over time I guess we got an oil furnace and lower ceilings; the back room was added for Sunday School rooms (Sam & Bud will have to tell the story about the concrete floor); don't remember ever having air conditioning, just opened the windows in the summer. I can say without a doubt that Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church is just as much a part of who I am today as my family and growing up in Brentsville. A big thank you to all those churches and individuals, way back in 1913, who decided it was worth their time and money to keep that beautiful stone building in the service for which it was built. I can only imagine the number of lives that have been changed there.

When WAR Came
to
Brentsville

HISTORY
OF THE
Pennsylvania Reserve Corps:
By J. R. Sypher, Esq., 1865

(page 503–504)

On the 14th of February [1864], a scouting party from the Thirteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, consisting of one officer and thirteen men, left Bristoe station, and proceeded to Brentsville. Major Larimer, Captain Carle, Lieutenant Clover, and Lieutenant Scudder, of General Crawford's staff, accompanied the expedition. The outposts of the enemy, found at Brentsville, fled at the approach of the National troops. The party pressed rapidly to Cedar run bridge, where the advance guard, consisting of Lieutenant Early, commanding the cavalry, and six men, accompanied by Major Larimer and Lieutenant Clover, fell into an ambush. The enemy suddenly opened fire from a dense pine thicket that bordered the road; Major Larimer fell dead, pierced by five bullets, two of the men were killed and three wounded; Lieutenants Early and Clover, and one private escaped by a circuitous route, and returned to camp; Lieutenant Scudder fell into the hands of the enemy on his way back to headquarters. An additional body

of cavalry, and two companies of infantry were sent to the rescue; but the enemy had retreated, leaving the dead and wounded in the woods.

The body of Major Larimer was brought into camp, and on the following day was sent to Pennsylvania. On the 16th of February General Crawford issued an order, in which he said:

“It is the painful duty of the general commanding the division to announce to his command the death, at the hands of the enemy, of Major James H. Larimer, acting assistant inspector general of the division. Major Larimer entered the service in June, 1861, as a first lieutenant in the Fifth regiment Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, from which position he rose to the rank of a field officer. Ever zealous in the discharge of his duties, faithful in camp, fearless in the field, Major Larimer united with a reserved and unobtrusive deportment, the highest qualities of a soldier. His loss to his brother officers and the division will be keenly felt.”

Four Pieces of Silver

by
Morgan Breeden

In the short span I've been working to uncover and preserve information on the history of Brentsville, I've found that much of the time is exercising patience while searching through countless documents trying to find something special. In my case, I've been most fortunate to have friends like Ron Turner who have already done the work and all I have to do is copy their information. But once in a great while I get lucky. Pure dumb luck is awfully hard to beat and such was the case earlier this year when I obtained a copy of the Trinity Episcopal Church of Manassas History, "Trinity Church, Dettingen Parish" (undated) which had been in the possession of The Honorable Arthur W. Sinclair before his death. It was passed on to me by his daughter, Cay, for the information it contained about Brentsville.

As indicated by the title, Trinity traces its roots from the Dettingen Parish and more specifically from the St. James Episcopal Church in Brentsville, now the Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church. I have always been particularly interested in this church, partially because of my family association and partially because of the history it seems to hide.

This "new" document reads in part: "*Some facts in connection with our church furnishings may be of interest. The alms basins used each Sunday are a part of an original silver set from the old parish church at Brentsville. Tradition has it that this silver was purchased by practically all the people of Brentsville irrespective of creed, even some of the older colored people contributing. There are several other pieces of the set still in*

existence. They are being carefully cared for until such time as the Rector and vestry see fit to restore them to their original dignity as Dettingen Parish silver. It is said that in the conflict of the 60's the entire set was several times lowered into an old well for safety."

I could hardly believe my eyes—the alms basins used in Brentsville still exist! In March of this year I shot off a quick note to The Very Rev. Stuart E. Schadt, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Manassas, asking if it were possible for me to obtain photographs of these items and explained that I am also interested to learn if their church historian may have copies, or would be able to make copies, of any documents that originated during the time Trinity (St. James) was located in Brentsville? He replied that they, unfortunately, have no records older than the early 1900's in any of their files but that he would work on getting photos of the offering plates along with details of any engravings.

As sometimes happens, things seem to get lost in the shuffle and it was in late August when I finally received photos of the Brentsville Silver, two chalices and an offering plate. They are all three engraved "**St. James' Church, Brentsville, Va., A.D. 1852.**" About a week later he sent yet another photo of a flagon that was also part of the Brentsville set and is inscribed the same as the other pieces, stating it is about a foot tall. The photo of the offering plate is a bit blurred and not used here but for the first time ever (as far as I can tell) the chalices and flagon are shown here on page four. What a wonderful addition to our growing Brentsville history!

(Continued from page 2)

Burrows

Groundhogs are excellent burrowers, using burrows for sleeping, rearing young, and hibernating. The average groundhog has been estimated to move approximately 35 cu ft, or 710 lb, of dirt when digging a burrow. Though groundhogs are the most solitary of the marmots, several individuals may occupy the same burrow. Groundhog burrows usually have two to five entrances, providing groundhogs their primary means of escape from predators. Burrows are particularly large, with up to 46 ft of tunnels buried up to 5 ft underground, and can pose a serious threat to agricultural and residential development by damaging farm machinery and even undermining building foundations. Groundhogs hydrate through eating leafy plants rather than from a natural water source.

Behavior

Groundhogs are one of the few species that enter into true hibernation, and often build a separate “winter burrow” for this purpose. This burrow is usually in a wooded or brushy area and is dug below the frost line and remains at a stable temperature well above freezing during the winter months. In most areas, groundhogs hibernate from October to March or April, but in more temperate areas, they may hibernate as little as 3 months. To survive the winter, they are at their maximum weight shortly before entering hibernation. They emerge from hibernation with some remaining body fat to live on until the warmer spring weather produces abundant plant materials for food. Despite their heavy-bodied appearance, groundhogs are accomplished swimmers and excellent tree climbers when escaping predators or when they want to survey their surroundings. They prefer to retreat to their burrows when threatened; if the burrow is invaded, the groundhog tenaciously defends itself with its two large incisors and front claws. Groundhogs are generally agonistic and territorial among their own species, and may skirmish to establish dominance.

Outside their burrow, individuals are alert when not actively feeding. It is common to see one or more nearly-motionless individuals standing erect on their hind feet watching for danger. When alarmed, they use a high-pitched whistle to warn the rest of the colony, hence the name “whistle-pig”. Groundhogs may squeal when fighting, seriously injured, or caught by an enemy. Other sounds groundhogs may make are low barks and a sound produced by grinding their teeth. When groundhogs are frightened, the hairs of the tail stand straight up, giving the tail the appearance of a hair brush.

Reproduction

Usually groundhogs breed in their second year, but a small proportion may breed in their first. The breeding

season extends from early March to mid- or late April, after hibernation. A mated pair remains in the same den throughout the 31–32 day gestation period. As birth of the young approaches in April or May, the male leaves the den. One litter is produced annually, usually containing 2–6 blind, hairless and helpless young. Young groundhogs are weaned and ready to seek their own dens at five to six weeks of age.

Range

The groundhog prefers open country and the edges of woodland, and it is rarely far from a burrow entrance. Since the clearing of forests provided it with much more suitable habitat, the groundhog population is probably higher now than it was before the arrival of European settlers in North America. Groundhogs are often hunted for sport, which tends to control their numbers. However, their ability to reproduce quickly has tended to mitigate the depopulating effects of sport hunting. As a consequence, the groundhog is a familiar animal to many people in the United States and Canada.

Human relevance

Groundhogs raised in captivity can be socialized relatively easily; however, their aggressive nature can pose problems. Doug Schwartz, a zookeeper and groundhog trainer at the Staten Island Zoo, has been quoted as saying “They’re known for their aggression, so you’re starting from a hard place. [Their] natural impulse is to kill ’em all and let God sort ’em out. You have to work to produce the sweet and cuddly.”

Woodchucks are used in medical research on hepatitis B-induced liver cancer. When infected with Woodchuck Hepatitis B virus they are at 100% risk for developing liver cancer, making them a good model for testing Hepatitis B and liver cancer therapies.

Groundhog burrows have been known to reveal at least one archaeological site, the Ufferman Site in the U.S. state of Ohio. Although archaeologists have never excavated the Ufferman Site, numerous artifacts have been found because of the activities of local groundhogs. They favor the loose soil of the esker upon which the site lies, and their many diggings for their burrows have brought to the surface significant numbers of human and animal bones, pottery, and bits of stone.

Etymology

The etymology of the name *woodchuck* is unrelated to wood or chucking. It stems from an Algonquian (possibly Narragansett) name for the animal, *wuchak*. The similarity between the words has led to the common tongue-twister.

(Continued from page 2)

The Women of the Presbyterian Church have divided into two Circles. One meets on the first Monday of the Month and the other, the first Friday of the month.

The adult group of the Presbyterian Church will go bowling on Nov. 14; they will meet at the church at 7:00 p.m.

The Presbyterian Choir will sing at the Brentsville District Council of Churches fifth-night Sunday Service at the Evangelical United Brethren in Aden on Nov. 9. The Rev. Eugene Baker will preach at the 8 p.m. service.

The Men of the Church will serve the Women of the Church a supper on Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. We will have a lay speaker for the occasion.

Ben Shoemaker, Frank Golladay and Jack Pannell have been ordained as Deacons in the Presbyterian Church.

Miss Loretta Clayborne and Edward Croushorn will be married in the Presbyterian Church on November 15 at 3 p.m.

The officers of the Brentsville-Bradley Forest Ruritan Club will be attending the National Convention in West Virginia on Nov. 13.

The Adult and Teenage Choir will meet together every Tuesday evening for practice at 7:30. The Junior Choir will continue to meet on Saturday mornings at 10.

The community extends its congratulations to Mrs. Hannelore Powell on becoming an American citizen. Mrs. Powell formerly resided in Germany.

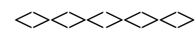
The adult Bible Class has begun its new series, "The Mighty Acts of God." This class meets every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Source: The Journal Messenger, Brentsville News, November 12, 1964

F e e d b a c k

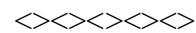
Thank you so much for another wonderful newsletter. I am so pleased that there are folks like you who work so hard to bring our history alive. The story on Hatcher's Memorial was especially interesting to me. My sister-in-law's half sister and her family are members there and I have attended a couple of services there.

Jeri Brooks



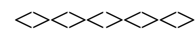
Great job including that CW account of Bville....goes to show there was a paper there in town before the war.

Rob Orrison



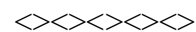
Thanks so much for continuing to send me your newsletter. Every month I am struck by how much effort you put into this newsletter and how good it looks on my computers.

Charlene Carey



Thanks again for all the work that you put into the paper. I especially enjoyed the history of Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church. I'm sending along some thoughts I had after reading the article. (See page 5)

Mary Pearson Pumphrey



You are almost a Sherlock Holmes Grade 2 for your sleuthing on the Church - I know how chuffed you must feel for being able to put all of the pieces together.

Isn't it amazing the language used by the Northern reporter! Still in between the bits of blathering racism and degeneration there is some good detail as you point out - especially regarding Hunton's original home which was of course destroyed later.

Thanks for such an informative newsletter.

Paul Spencer
Australia

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

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IN GOD WE TRUST

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