

# Brentsville Neighbors

“Preserving Brentsville’s History”

November 2014

Welcome Neighbors,

November. A month for reflection and a month for rejoicing. Veterans Day is an official United States holiday that honors those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, also known as veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.) Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving.

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year. Prayers of thanks and special thanksgiving ceremonies are common among almost all religions after harvests and at other times. The Thanksgiving holiday’s history in North America is rooted in English traditions dating from the Protestant Reformation. It also has aspects of a harvest festival, even though the harvest in New England occurs well before the late-November date on which the modern Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated.

We take this opportunity to celebrate the service and final return home of one of our own—Private First Class Richard Norris Bean who lay in an unmarked grave on the Island of Saipan from June 1944 until he was returned to his native Virginia and laid to final rest in the Quantico National Cemetery in October 2014. As we go about our individual busy lives it becomes easy to forget those like Richard who served and gave their life for our country but who have



never returned to our soil. So let us take a moment to reflect as well as rejoice during this wonderful month.

Two events for your calendar: Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Salute our brave veterans who have contributed to our nation’s freedom! Join site staff for crafts and fun at Brentsville’s historic courthouse. In celebration of Veteran’s Day, write letters to current soldiers serving overseas. Learn about our military history through first-person interpretation vignettes of all major American conflicts starting with the American Revolution to current day. The event is free but a \$5.00 suggested donation is appreciated. Then, gear up for the Thanksgiving season by learning the skills of open-hearth cooking. Join an experienced open-hearth cooking historian and learn the basic skills needed to prepare food over an open fire. You will learn how to build a fire and will prepare and cook three different dishes. End the program by enjoying a taste of the food you cooked. Class will take place in the ca. 1850 Haislip Farmhouse. This event takes place November 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and there is a charge of \$30.00 per person. It is not recommended for children under 12. Reservations are required. For details on either of these events please call 703-365-7895.

Very best wishes,  
Kay and Morgan

## This month:

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I don't really know if the John Coxes are social property of Manassas or Brentsville, but inasmuch as they attended a party in our little metropolis Hallowe'en night I suppose it can be reported in this column.

It was a masquerade party, and Mrs. Cox easily won first prize for the most original costume. It is difficult to describe this sartorial masterpiece; A little bit of Salvadore Dali transplanted to Virginia comes closest. The piece de resistance of the outfit was a slightly mouldy birdcage which fitted snugly down over the head, and had a little trap-door in the front through which she daintily shoveled in refreshments. On top was precariously perched a dashing bouquet of chrysanthemums. There was also a feather fan, vintage of 1880, which gently wafted feathers all over the room when in motion. The hostess confided that she spent most of the next day frantically pursuing them about the house.

John Cox came as Doctor Livingston (I presume), complete with sun helmet, map, and antique black umbrella which flipped briskly inside-out when raised to ward off the rays of the tropical sun.

The host appeared as Father Time, carrying a ferocious looking scythe which came in handy midway through the evening when a host of small boys in assorted costumes converged on the windows, armed with ulterior motives and their mother's laundry soap. A truce was negotiated however, and war averted, thanks to the scythe and a box of oatmeal cookies.

[Missing text] ed into their new homes, the old Storch place, and are busy making things shipshape.

Mr. Hedrick is home from the hospital, and able to get up and about a little.

Mrs. Nina Orebough is staying with the Bells, having moved from Nokesville, and her daughter, Mrs. Vaughn, visited her Sunday.

Fay Golladay was home from Washington for the week-end.

On Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lowe, of Manassas, visited the Shoemakers; also Mr. and Mrs. Bob Armentrout, Grandparents of Jim Shoemaker.

Mr. Frank Griffith preached the sermon at the Baptist Church on Sunday.

Bill Brown, Jr. attended the State S.C.A. Convention in Richmond on Friday.

Mrs. Beard had a Hallowe'en party for her son Carl; Twenty two youngsters attended, games were played and apples bobbed for.

Bobbie Howe and Boyd Beard left Tuesday to spend the day in Charlottesville.

Troy Counts was in Lynchburg visiting his daughter, Mrs. Worsham, but returned home on Sunday.

Mrs. Joe Keyes is sick at her home in Brentsville.

In pursuance of my one-woman campaign for a poet's Corner in the Messenger, let me shyly contribute the following.

#### Ode to Fall

Let us sing of the Autumn-time of the year  
 When the Fuel-oil bills begin to appear  
 The canning is done for another season,  
 And hens stop laying, for some strange reason.  
 The bugs have eaten your last Tomato,  
 It's time to dig up the sweet-potato,  
 And sweep the dust from the storage bin.  
 The sweaters come out, and house-plants go in;  
 A smell of moth-balls pervades the house,  
 And you set the trap for the hungry mouse.  
 The mornings are frosty, the evenings cool,  
 The children, —thank goodness— are back at school;  
 The air is so brisk I would feel quite gay  
 If I hadn't been raking up leaves all day!

With best regards,

Agnes Webster

Source: The Manassas Messenger – Letter From Brentsville, November 8, 1946

## Where WILD things live...

# Bald Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

The bald eagle is a bird of prey found in North America. Its range includes most of Canada and Alaska, all of the contiguous United States, and northern Mexico. It is found near large bodies of open water with an abundant food supply and old-growth trees for nesting.

It is an opportunistic feeder which subsists mainly on fish, which it swoops down and snatches from the water with its talons. It builds the largest nest of any North American bird and the largest tree nests ever recorded for any animal species, up to 13 ft deep, 8.2 ft wide, and 1 metric ton in weight. Sexual maturity is attained at the age of four to five years.

Bald eagles are not actually bald; the name derives from an older meaning of "white headed". The adult is mainly brown with a white head and tail. The sexes are identical in plumage, but females are about 25 percent larger than males. The beak is large and hooked. The plumage of the immature is brown.

It is both the national bird and national animal of the United States of America and appears on its Seal. In the late 20th century it was on the brink of extirpation in the continental United States. Populations recovered and the species was removed from the U.S. federal government's list of endangered species on July 12, 1995 and transferred to the list of threatened

species. It was removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in the Lower 48 States on June 28, 2007.

The plumage of an adult bald eagle is evenly dark brown with a white head and tail. The tail is moderately long and slightly wedge-shaped. The legs are feather-free, and the toes are short and powerful with large talons. The highly developed talon of the hind toe is used to pierce the vital areas of prey while it is held immobile by the front toes. The plumage of the immature is a dark brown overlaid with messy white streaking until the fifth (rarely fourth, very rarely third) year, when it reaches sexual maturity.

The bald eagle has sometimes been considered the largest true raptor in North America. The only larger species of raptor-like bird is the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), a New World vulture.

The bald eagle has a body length of 28–40 in. Typical wingspan is between 5.9 and 7.5 ft and mass is normally between 6.6 and 13.9 lb.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Keeping Watch Over Brentsville

# Lest We Forget

## Pfc. Richard N. Bean

U.S. Army Pfc. Richard N. Bean, of [Bradley Forest] Manassas, was one of 3,426 Americans killed when the United States fought Japan in the Battle of Saipan that raged between June 15 and July 9, 1944. He's finally coming home.

Bean's remains were recently recovered by Japanese archeologists on the Island of Saipan, in the Mariana Islands, and will be returned to the United States for burial at Quantico National Cemetery on Oct. 3.

According to the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, Bean fought with Company D, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division and was declared missing in action on July 7, 1944 after the intense fighting on the island in the Pacific Theater.

Near the end of the battle, enemy forces mounted a suicide, or banzai attack, that killed or injured more than 900 soldiers. In July 1945, the Department of Defense determined that there was no new information concerning Bean or 21 other service members missing after the attack and investigators issued a "presumptive finding of death." In 1948, the American Graves Registration Service reviewed the circumstances of Bean's loss and found that his remains were "non-recoverable."

Bean's remains were found on March 26, 2013, by Kuentai, a non-profit, non-governmental organization with the mission of returning the remains of American soldiers who died on the Island of Saipan. Archeologists working for Kuentai found one of Bean's dog tags, which bore the name "Richard N. Bean" along with the name of his mother, Rosie Bean, and listed his hometown as Manassas.

The archeologists visited Manassas Mayor Harry J. Parrish who referred them to Prince William County Library System's "Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center," or RELIC, to help them try to locate any living relatives. Tish Como, a librarian at Bull Run Regional Library, drew the assignment, researched the matter and found Richard N. Bean's nephew and namesake – Richard J. Bean – residing with his wife, Deborah Bean, in Nokesville.

Richard J. Bean said Como called him and asked if he and his family would be willing to work with Kuentai to verify that the remains belonged to his uncle. He said he would, and the archeologists visited his family in Nov. 2013. "They came to my house and showed me their evidence and what they found. It's

been quite a trip since then. It's a big surprise to all of us."

Deborah Bean said that Kuentai reported that Pfc. Bean, who was posthumously promoted to sergeant, was buried in a mass grave with at least 16 other American soldiers, four of whom have been identified.

On Sept 24, 2014, the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that Bean's remains had been positively identified through DNA testing.

Deborah Bean said the family is grateful to the archeologists and anthropologists of Kuentai for finding and returning Bean's remains. "They felt an obligation to contact the family member. It's a very tedious task to make sure everything is intact and safe and sent back to our government for DNA testing. They did this for us. We want donations to go to Kuentai."

"They are great people," Richard J. Bean said. "I just think it's an incredible story. We're bringing him back home, and it couldn't have happened any better."

Bean's remains will arrive at Dulles International Airport on Oct. 1 where there will be a military escort and a ceremony to acknowledge his return to Virginia. A gathering time will be held between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 3 at Pierce Funeral Home, at 9609 Center St. in Manassas. The following funeral service will be conducted by a U.S. Army Chaplain and Bean will be eulogized by local dignitaries and veterans groups. Internment is scheduled at 2 p.m. at Quantico National Cemetery.

According to Pierce Funeral Home, the cortege will proceed from the funeral home along Va. 28 to Va. 234 south and continue to Joplin Road and on to the cemetery.

Bean's service awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, an American Campaign Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, a WWII Victory Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He was 24 at the time of his death.

Bean will be buried with military honors.

**Source:** <http://www.pwcgov.org/news/Pages/Soldier-Remains-Returned.aspx>

Tish Como has informed us that the Bean family asked that donations go to Kuentai. They may be reached at the following address: **KUENTAI-USA, 119 Eagle Trail, New Bern, North Carolina 28562**

# A Resolution



## 2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED  
REPRINT

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5181

Offered September 8, 2014

*Celebrating the life of Sergeant Richard Norris Bean.*

Patron—Anderson

INTRODUCED

HS181

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6 WHEREAS, Private First Class Richard Norris Bean of Manassas, who was killed in action on July  
7 7, 1944, while courageously facing an overwhelming enemy force, will be brought home and laid to rest  
8 with full military honors in 2014; and  
9 WHEREAS, learning the value of hard work and responsibility at a young age, Richard Bean  
10 supported his family as a farmhand in Montgomery County and later worked on a farm in Manassas;  
11 and  
12 WHEREAS, desirous to be of service to his country during World War II, Richard Bean enlisted in  
13 the United States Army on September 4, 1941, and deployed in March 1942, with the 105th Infantry  
14 Regiment, 27th Infantry Division, one of the first units sent into combat in the Pacific Theater; and  
15 WHEREAS, after participating in combat operations in the Marshall Islands, Private First Class Bean  
16 landed with invasion forces on Saipan in June 1944; he made the ultimate sacrifice on July 7, 1944,  
17 courageously facing over 3,000 enemy troops in the largest banzai attack of the war; he was promoted  
18 to sergeant for the ultimate sacrifice for his country; and  
19 WHEREAS, Sergeant Bean received the Bronze Star for his gallantry in the face of overwhelming  
20 odds and was listed as missing in action until 1947, when he was declared killed in action and listed on  
21 the Honolulu Memorial at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii; and  
22 WHEREAS, in August 2013, Sergeant Bean's remains were uncovered by a nongovernmental  
23 organization searching for the remains of Japanese soldiers; the group began work to repatriate Sergeant  
24 Bean to the United States, and his remains were identified by the Department of Defense in August  
25 2014; and  
26 WHEREAS, Sergeant Bean will be laid to rest at Quantico National Cemetery in October 2014; his  
27 family endured great distress in the nearly 70 years they waited until he was brought home for burial;  
28 and  
29 WHEREAS, Sergeant Bean's sacrifice is a reminder of the perils faced by the thousands of American  
30 men and women in uniform whose dedication to duty places them in harm's way; now, therefore, be it  
31 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby  
32 note with great sadness the loss of Sergeant Richard Norris Bean; and, be it  
33 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution  
34 for presentation to the family of Sergeant Richard Norris Bean as an expression of the General  
35 Assembly's respect for his memory and his sacrifice for his country.

9/19/14 11:49

# A Gay Gathering in Brentsville

## Miss Lizzie Nelson Weds Mr. Austin Weedon

### Matrimonial.

On Thursday last at the residence of the bride's father, in Brentsville, Miss Lizzie W. Nelson was united in wedlock to Mr. Austin O. Weedon, of Fauquier county, by Dr. Waters, of Maryland. There was a gay gathering of friends and relatives, who had been invited to witness the ceremony, which took place promptly at 11:30 o'clock a.m.

The spacious parlor had been handsomely and appropriately decorated. During the ceremony the bridal party stood beneath a massive bell of white chrysanthemums.

The wedding was a genuine old-fashioned, Virginia wedding. The bride entered the room attended by her sister, Miss Effie Nelson, each of whom carried a beautiful bouquet of white roses, and were met in the centre of the room by the groom and Dr. R. O. Sinclair, of Washington, his best man, who had entered the room from an other door.

The ceremony was not only impressive and appropriate but beautiful. The bride was attired in a traveling dress with hat to match.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a magnificent breakfast was served and at 12:30 o'clock the happy couple left for Manassas where they took the F. F. V. train for a northern tour, carrying with them the best wishes of a host of friends. The bride was the recipient of many useful and valuable presents.

The bride is the daughter of Hon. Edwin Nelson, Prince William's popular clerk, and the granddaughter of the late Judge John C. Weedon, one of the



The Edwin Nelson Home in Brentsville

purest and best men who ever wore the judicial ermine in Virginia. The groom is the son of Mr. Robert Weedon and is one of the most popular and promising young business men in Fauquier.

Among the relatives of the contracting parties from a distance were Mr. Robert Weedon and Misses Mollie Weedon and Utterback, of Fauquier, Messrs. James Nelson, James Weedon, Eugene Weedon, and Misses Fannie and Lulu Weedon, of Washington; Mr. John H. Nelson, of Leesburg, and Mr. Paul Nelson, of Baltimore.

Source: The Alexandria Gazette,  
November 4, 1893

# When WAR Came to Brentsville

General [Lafayette C.] Baker is a native of New York, but at the outbreak of the war had been for some years a resident of California, where he was a prominent member of the Vigilance Committee in 1856. Immediately after the attack on Fort Sumter he went to Washington to offer his services to the Government. His experience as a detective in California suggested the nature of his employment, and having been introduced to General Scott by the Hon. Hiram Walbridge and the Hon. W. D. Kelley, he was authorized by the veteran Lieutenant-General to undertake a secret expedition to Richmond. It was essential to the success of the enterprise that his character should be concealed not only from the enemy, but from our own troops, and the passing of the Union lines was not the least difficult part of his task. He failed twice, but was more fortunate the third time, when he

crossed the Potomac near Dumfries, and after making his escape from two Confederate soldiers who had arrested him as a spy, pushed on afoot towards Manassas Junction. He was again stopped by the Rebels and sent to Brentsville, and after having been examined by Bonham and Beauregard, was forwarded to Richmond and imprisoned in an engine-house. On the way, however, he had managed to learn a good deal about the number and disposition of the troops.

General Baker proceeds to tell a very interesting story about an interview he had with Jefferson Davis during the war. As Mr. Davis is now in New York, and may see this narrative, we hope he may tell us how much truth there is in it. The tale is neatly told, however, and will bear perusal.

Source: The Evening Telegraph, PA, May 22, 1867



Lafayette Curry Baker

Lafayette Curry Baker (October 13, 1826 – July 3, 1868) was a United States investigator and spy, serving the Union Army, during the American Civil War and under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. Baker was born in Stafford, New York on October 13, 1826. He became a mechanic, moved to Michigan in 1839, returned to New York in 1848, moved to California in 1853, and was a San Francisco vigilante in 1856. He moved to the District of Columbia in 1861.

Baker's exploits are mainly known through his book *A History of the Secret Service* which he published in 1867 after his fall from grace. During the early months of the Civil War, he spied for General Winfield Scott on Confederate forces in Virginia. Despite numerous scrapes, he returned to Washington, D.C., with information that Scott evidently thought valuable

(Continued from page 7)

enough to raise him to the rank of captain. As Provost Marshal of Washington, D.C. from September 12, 1862 to November 7, 1863, Baker took charge of the Union Intelligence Service from the Scottish-American detective Allan Pinkerton. He was appointed colonel of D.C. Cavalry, May 5, 1863.

Baker owed his appointment largely to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, but suspected the secretary of corruption and was eventually demoted for tapping his telegraph lines and packed off to New York.

Baker was recalled to Washington after the assassination of President Lincoln in 1865. Within two days of his arrival in Washington, Baker's agents in Maryland had made four arrests and had the names of two more conspirators, including the actual presidential assassin John Wilkes Booth. Before the month was out, Booth along with David Herold were found holed up in a barn and Booth was himself shot and killed by Sgt. Boston Corbett. Baker received a generous share of the \$100,000 reward offered to the person who apprehended the president's killer. President Andrew Johnson nominated Baker for appointment to the grade of brigadier general of volunteers, April 26, 1865, but the United States Senate never confirmed the appointment. Baker was mustered out of the volunteers on January 15, 1866.

The following year, Baker was sacked from his position as government spymaster. President Johnson accused him of spying on him, a charge Baker admitted in his book which he published in response. He also announced that he had had Booth's diary in his possession which was being suppressed by the Department of War and Secretary Stanton. When the diary was eventually produced, Baker claimed that eighteen vital pages were missing. It was suggested that

these would implicate Stanton in the assassination.

Baker died in 1868, reportedly from meningitis.

As it was scarcely eighteen months after his explosive allegations, some suggested he was killed by the War Department to silence him. Using an atomic absorption spectrophotometer to analyze several hairs from Baker's head, Ray A. Neff, a professor at Indiana State University, determined that Baker was killed by arsenic poisoning rather than meningitis. Baker had been unwittingly consuming the poison for months, mixed into imported beer provided by his wife's brother Wally Pollack. The Lincoln Conspiracy by Balsiger and Sellier in 1977 cites a diary Baker's wife kept which chronicled several dates Pollack brought Baker beer; they correspond to the gradually elevated levels of toxin in the Baker hair samples Neff studied. Wally worked for the War Department, though whether he acted on orders or alone has yet to be determined. Nevertheless, Neff's studies, along with the information chronicled in Baker's diary, set forth an alternate history of the Lincoln assassination, one distinct from the chronology most commonly promulgated by mainstream U.S. historians.

Baker is buried in Forest Hills Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



## Brentsville One-Room School Opens

In 1929 the new one room school opened serving students in grades one through five. Sixth and seventh grades and first year high school children from Brentsville were transported to the new Brentsville District High School at Nokesville. No child living within two miles of the school would be provided transportation.

There are still a few of our readers who will reflect back and smile to recall the first teacher in the Brentsville one-room school—Miss Elizabeth E. Bradley, soon to become Mrs. Elizabeth Kincheloe. At the age of nineteen she had graduated from high school and attended the Wilson Normal School in Washington, DC [Note: The Washington Normal School was established in 1873 for white girls, and renamed the “Wilson Normal School” in 1913. In 1929, the United States Congress made this a four-year teachers’ college and renamed it “Wilson Teachers College”.] where she received an “Elementary” teaching certificate in 1929. This was her first teaching assignment. As was expected, she was a member of the State Teachers’ Association and subscribed to Virginia Journal and Normal Inst. And Primary Plans. She was married during the school term but did not seem to live with her husband while she taught as she paid \$20.00 per month room and board from her \$70.00 monthly salary.

The Brentsville School was open for nine months (180 days) and she was present 172 of those days. She taught 18 boys and 13 girls who combined for an average daily attendance of 23 students. No student had perfect attendance during the school year. At the end of the year 11 boys and 7 girls

were promoted; 3 boys and 4 girls failed; and 4 boys and 2 girls dropped from school. The school boasted a 75 volume library and was frequently visited by the Division Superintendent, Members of the School Board, the State Supervisor and Local Supervisors.

The following boy students were enrolled: Emory Cornwell, age 13; John Counts, age 8; Math Hensley, age 10; Philip James, age 9; Lloyd Keys, age 10; David Landies, age 7; Kenneth Redd, age 7; Clifford Reedy, age 7; Miller Reedy, age 8; Sidney Spitzer, age 8, Huffie Whetzel, age 9; Earle Wolfe, age 13; Eugene Wolfe, age 8; and George Wolfe, age 6.

The following girl students were also enrolled: Virginia Bradshaw, age 6; Anna Cornwell, age 6; Hazel Counts, age 6; Dorothy Keys, age 7; Thelma Landies, age 11; Helen May, age 6; Louise Mundy, age 6; Marg. Shoemaker, age 13; Ora Spitzer, age 5; Anna Varner, age 13 and Marye Wolfe, age 11.

Lester Keys (age 10) started the year but transferred to Bristow on January 14, 1930; Ben Shoemaker (age 9), James Shoemaker (age 11) and Annabelle Shoemaker (age 13) all transferred to Bradley on October 21, 1929; Marg. Golladay (age 15) moved October 18, 1929; and Robert Pierson (age 9) moved October 1, 1929.

Subjects taught included: reading, spelling, writing, English, mathematics, Va. history, U.S. history, geography and hygiene.

Source: TERM REPORT—Elementary and High Schools, 1929-30.

# **Brentsville Neighbors**

## **“Preserving Brentsville’s History”**

Contact us on:

[morganbreeden@aol.com](mailto:morganbreeden@aol.com)

All back issues on:

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

**IN GOD WE TRUST**

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

