

Brentsville Neighbors



Information About Brentsville
Shared Among Neighbors

March 2007



Welcome Neighbor!

First of all, we didn't mean to offend anyone last month by encouraging you to jot down your memories – it just seems like the right thing to do and we really, really hope you give it serious thought. During the course of the month we did receive two new ones – from Mary (Pearson) Pumphrey and Ardena Eanes – both of which are really great! We had planned to feature “The Home that Homer Pearson Built” this month and include the story from Mary but several good folk suggested they would like to see the “rest of the story” as written by our neighbor to the South (FAR South – as in Australia) so we will conclude his wonderful story this month and resume a more standard format in April. Also many thanks to Harry Visger for sending pictures (see page 3) and newspaper clips and Jehane Keys for sharing news articles.

So, DID YOU KNOW that March is Foot Health Month, Humorists Are Artists Month, National Furniture Refinishing Month, National Frozen Food Month, National Noodle Month, and National Peanut Month. From that selection we must now decide what to do first. Maybe a bowl of noodle soup would be good during this cold weather.

On page two we are giving the answer to our nickname list. We have not heard anyone say they knew them all but that's what makes it fun. Now we can learn more about our neighbors. And speaking of that, the PWC Historic Preservation Division is looking for volunteers to help at the Brentsville Courthouse complex. No experience necessary! They will be offering an orientation function at the site on March 24th from 10am until noon. Why not drop by and see what you can offer? I doubt they will need a mechanic but one of Life's Absolute Laws – the Law of Mechanical Repair – states that after your hands become coated with grease your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to use the bathroom.

Very best wishes,
Nelson & Morgan

This month:

- Names - the solution: -----page 2
- Pictures from Harry Visger-----page 3
- Where Wild Things Live - pages 2,4
- Flashback! ----- page 5
- Citizens at War - Final-----pages 6-9

Here are the given names matched with the familiar names from last month.

1 – 27	16 – 45	31 – 21	46 – 50	61 – 86	76 – 65
2 – 60	17 – 1	32 – 73	47 – 72	62 – 82	77 – 78
3 – 24	18 – 28	33 – 87	48 – 55	63 – 25, 44	78 – 53
4 – 41	19 – 35	34 – 77	49 – 64	64 – 88	79 – 80
5 – 19	20 – 34	35 – 42	50 – 4	65 – 66	80 – 57
6 – 20, 26	21 – 84	36 – 79	51 – 76	66 – 9	81 – 46
7 – 5	22 – 62	37 – 11	52 – 36	67 – 68	82 – 74, 92
8 – 57	23 – 59	38 – 23	53 – 89	68 – 68	83 – 29
9 – 16	24 – 31, 32	39 – 37	54 – 67, 91	69 – 67	84 – 40
10 – 17	25 – 43	40 – 47	55 – 30	70 – 7	85 – 6
11 – 12	26 – 85	41 – 93	56 – 83	71 – 69	86 – 10
12 – 54	27 – 70	42 – 93	57 – 71	72 – 90	87 – 15
13 – 18	28 – 81	43 – 48	58 – 58	73 – 8	88 – 13, 14
14 – 22	29 – 38	44 – 52	59 – 56	74 – 8, 75	89 – 3
15 – 2, 25	30 – 49	45 – 51	60 – 61	75 – 8, 39	90 – 3
					91 – 33

Where WILD Things Live

Eptesicus fuscus

(Big Brown Bat)

The Big Brown Bat, ranges from southern Canada, through temperate North America, down through Central America to extreme northern South America, and the West Indies. It inhabits cities, towns, and rural areas, but is least commonly found in heavily forested regions. It can winter in human dwellings and has been found to take up residence in barns, silos, and churches. Also, this bat has been found roosting in storm sewers, expansion joint spaces in concrete athletic stadiums, and copper mines. In presettlement times it is presumed the big brown bat roosted in tree hollows, natural caves, or openings in rock ledges. Occasionally groups of these bats are still found living in tree cavities.

The generic name *Eptesicus* is derived from the Greek, meaning “house flyer.” All this bat needs is a small hole or warped, loose siding to gain entry into a home. Once inside, it prefers to roost in double walls or boxed-in eaves rather than attics. It is reasonable to speculate that populations of the big brown bat have increased with an increasing number of human habitations.

Total length is 110-130 mm with the tail less than half the total body length. The wingspan

is about 330 mm (13 inches). This species is sexually dimorphic in size, females being slightly larger than males. They have 32 teeth that are sharp and heavy and were described as capable of causing severe bites. The bat’s nose is broad and the lips are fleshy; the eyes are large and bright. The ears are rounded.

Big brown bats tend to mate right before they go into hibernation, but the female does not become pregnant until the spring, in the beginning of April. 60 days after the female becomes pregnant, she gives birth to one or two babies. The average weight of a pup is 3.3g. The babies are born blind and with no fur, but they grow quickly and are able to fly by early July. Males are not involved in parenting.

Females must eat at least their body weight in insects each night when they are nursing young. They leave the young in the roost while foraging.

Big brown bats can survive up to 19 years in the wild and males tend to live longer than females. Most big brown bats die in their first winter. If they do not store enough fat to make it through their entire hibernation period then they die in their winter roost.

Source: Mulheisen, M. and K. Berry. 2000. “*Eptesicus fuscus*” (On-line), Animal Diversity Web. at http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Eptesicus_fuscus.html.

Photographs Courtesy of Harry Visger



Mary Lou Lipscomb - her family lived on the "Old May Place"



Student Pastor Warren Moody and wife Kristy, Brentsville Presbyterian Church, June 1955 - December 1955



Pastor Ed Haney, wife Peggy and son Sammy. First full time pastor at Brentsville Presbyterian, started January 1956



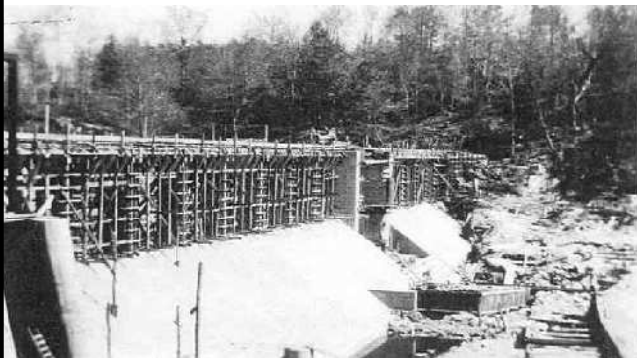
Student Pastor Sam Hope and wife Nancy, Brentsville Presbyterian Church, June 1954 - June 1955



Judy Storch. During the 1940's her family lived on what was later known as the "Kempton Farm"



Bucky, Nancy and twins, Johnny and Frankie Golladay. The little girl on the right is Virginia Keys.



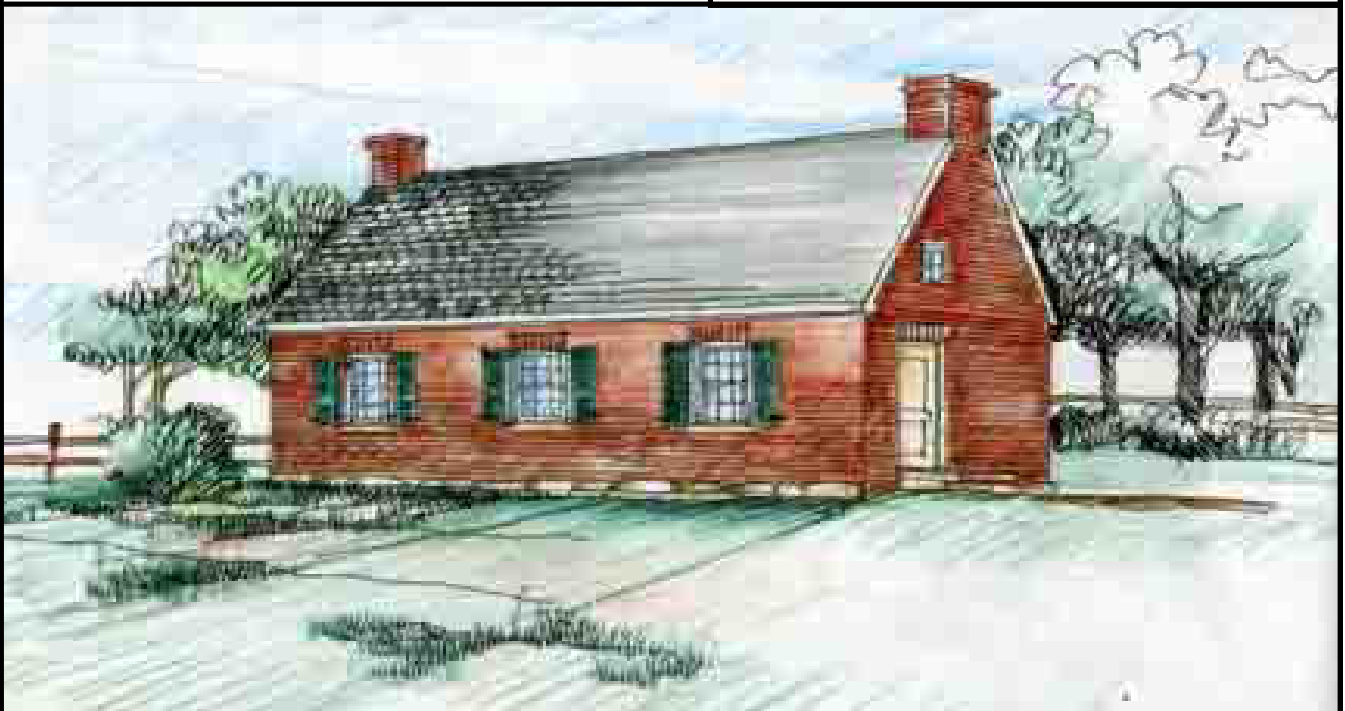
The Hydro-electric power plant on Occoquan Run (now called the Lake Jackson Dam), under construction by the Virginia Public Service Company in 1930. Water behind the dam would cause several fords (river crossings) in the Brentsville area to be too deep to use.

Where WILD
things live..



Eptesicus fuscus
(Big Brown Bat)

See page 2



Conceptual drawing of what the Brentsville Clerk's Office might have looked like.
Courtesy of Ray Goodrow, PWC Historic Preservation Division.

Flashback

Elmer Daniel Breeden
March 8, 1928 – November 11, 2006

Elmer Daniel Breeden of Stevensville, MD died at his home Saturday, November 11, 2006. He was 78.

Born on March 8, 1928, in Washington, DC, he was the son of the late Benjamin Jackson Breeden and Ethel Burke. He was raised on a small farm in Brentsville, VA until he enlisted in the Merchant Marines in 1945. During his enlisted time he would meet and later marry June Shipley in 1947. After he was honorably discharged he would return to the Washington, DC area and soon establish his own plumbing company, Breeden Plumbing and Heating in Mt. Rainier. Over the years they resided in Silver Spring, Hyattsville, and Annapolis, MD, but Mr. Breeden especially enjoyed the summer months at their home along the Chester River on Kent Island, where they would eventually make their permanent residence. He would retire in June of 1998. Always to be remembered as a handyman, Mr. Breeden enjoyed his seasonal trips to the east coast of Florida, playing cards, gardening and especially antiquing with June.

He is survived by his beloved wife June Breeden of Stevensville, MD; a daughter Peggy Hollidge of Beltsville, MD; three sons Ronald Breeden of Flintstone, MD; Daniel Breeden of Bethesda, MD and Bruce Breeden of Asheville, NC; three sisters Hazel, Charlotte and Vivian, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Source: Family Announcement

Virginia Obituary

Mr. W. W. Kincheloe, ex-treasurer of Prince William County, died at his home at Brentsville, at 1 o'clock yesterday morning, of heart disease. Mr. Kincheloe was about sixty-four years old. He was the first treasurer of the county after the war, a position which he filled continuously by successive elections until 1891, when he voluntarily resigned. He had been twice married, and leaves a wife and six children, three of whom, Mr. Edward Kincheloe, Mrs. William Hedrick, and Mrs. Willard Green, reside in Washington. The interment will take place Monday in Washington at Greenwood. The following are the pallbearers: Judge C. E. Nicol, of the Circuit Court; Judge W. E. Lipscomb, of the County Court; Capt. E. Nelson, clerk of the court; A. W. Sinclair, Esq., of the Manassas bar; Dr. P. B. Bowen, and Mr. Redmond Foster.

Source: The Washington Post, Mar 16, 1902, pg. 9

Will Present Flag to School

Alexandria Council of the Junior Order of American Mechanics will this afternoon present an American flag to the school trustees of Brentsville, Va. John H. Trimyer will deliver the presentation address.

Source: The Washington Post, Nov 8, 1907, pg. 5

Citizens at War - Final Section

by

Paul Spencer

As the war continued there was a mass displacement of Southerners – “refugees who crowded the roads, trains, towns and cities...in a futile search for sanctuary from the Yankee invader.” (32) It is known that Miss S. Somerville Williams relocated to Culpeper with friends. Her first letter home was given to a Southern soldier to post – but somehow was not posted till 6 months later in Louisiana. It is not known how long it took to arrive at Brentsville. (33) We also know that the town of Brentsville was all but destroyed. Whether the townsfolk moved out to the surviving farms, or went further afield to Richmond or other places seen as safe havens is unknown.

As the Army of Northern Virginia, fresh from its crushing victory at Chancellorsville started to head north, on the road that would eventually lead to Gettysburg, Ellis A. Deats, youngest of the “Yankee settlement” brothers who had joined the 4th Virginia Cavalry was killed in a skirmish near Aldie on the 17th of June. He was described in the regiment roster as “a minor.” (34) One of the previously mentioned Towles brothers wrote home – “Of the young men in our neighborhood, no-one has been killed recently except young Deats of our Co. who was killed fighting bravely.” (35)

Robert Carter from the US Regular Army whom we heard from earlier reported on the 15th June 1863. “We marched at 5.30am through Catlett’s to near Bristoe Station, about 5 miles – over a cleanly swept tract of Bull Run country, which bore all the unmistakable evidences of war’s destructive hand. It was terribly hot and dusty. Little or no water ... we remained in camp during the 16th in a miserable, unattractive field, low and flat.” (36)

It was during the Battle of Gettysburg, nearing sunset on July 2, 1863 that Joseph Latimer, Brentsville resident and “Boy Major” was severely wounded by shrapnel, and his horse killed. Latimer

was trapped under the animal. Captain Dement, in charge of one of the batteries later stated...” I was with Major Latimer on the field of Gettysburg, assisted in taking him from under his horse, and carried him from the field. His bravery during the day was most gallant, showing the greatest coolness and bravery under the most trying circumstances. While under his horse he continued to give orders, and he seemed to think only of his command.” (37) Although Latimer’s left arm was immediately amputated, he died from complications on the 1st of August 1863 still three weeks short of his twentieth birthday.

Still at Gettysburg, during Pickett’s charge, Eppa Hunton, was forced to lead his men on horseback, making a conspicuous target. (Hunton’s fistula prevented his marching.) Hunton suffered a severe wound to the leg and his horse was killed. (38) Whilst recovering, he was promoted to Brigadier General on August 9 1863.

Lee’s army pulled back beyond the Rappahannock, and again the County was home to the Yankees. Rufus R. Dawes, a major in the 6th Wisconsin Volunteers relates - July 25, 1863. Near Warrenton. What a calamity to a country to even have an army camp in it! The beautiful country about Warrenton, without fences, without crops, without even garden enclosures, is little better than a desert....It is the home of Virginia aristocracy, but you see literally nothing but black veils and mourning dresses.” (39)

However, the rebel attacks in Prince William continued. On 27 July a patrol from the New York Cavalry was attacked near Brentsville. Pennock Huey, Colonel of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade reported that a squadron had been immediately dispatched to catch the culprits. “Every possible effort has been made to discover these men. Houses were searched, and all citizens and Negroes minutely interrogated, but no information obtained ... the impression

prevails ... that the rendezvous of these guerrillas is some point in the vicinity of Brentsville.” (40) Research is still continuing on the role that African Americans played in the Brentsville story. It is apparent from the above that those that had remained were loyal to their masters. As a generalised comment, during the war field hands often fled to the Union troops which they viewed as the path to freedom, whilst House Slaves often remained loyal to the Master’s family.

The effect of war on Brentsville is apparent in this letter dated Oct. 7th, 1863 from Elisha Hunt Rhodes of the 2nd Rhode Island. “I have got the best hotel that a soldier ever lived in. Last Monday morning I took my company and a six-mule team and went into the country on a foraging expedition. After marching about 3 miles we came to the village of Brentsville. I placed guards about the town to prevent being surprised by guerrillas and then marched down the main street ... The town is deserted by all the white people and left to the care of the Negroes. One house in the process of building is owned by the Rebel General Hunting.” (Note: Rhodes means Eppa Hunton.) “Here I loaded our wagon with boards, doors and windows and started back to camp. Since then the men have built me a house ... eighteen feet long, ten feet wide and the peak is 12 feet high ... so I am living in style.” (41)

Hunton’s original house was burnt by Yankee troops, along with other homes in the area. However, the White House was still habitable. Between 1863 and 1865 a British subject, Mrs. Hollands was living there, and it was used as a safehouse for Southerners making their way to and from Washington. (42)

The changes wrought by war to this entire area were massive. Union Major Rufus Dawes related – “Near Catlett’s Station. November 1st, 1863. ...20 months ago we came here, the advance of the army, and more pleasant homes are seldom found. ... Now nothing but charred ruins and ghostly looking chimneys mark the places of those pretty looking cottages. Not a fence, barn, nor scarce a vestige of timber remains to identify the spot. In place the country is covered with the bones of dead horses and mules, and the debris of abandoned camps. Unsightly stumps mark the places of pleasant groves. It is hard for one who has not seen,

to imagine the horrid desolation wrought by war.” (43)

Further evidence is provided from the 13th Pennsylvania, this time by Capt. Andrew H. McHenry dated March 8, 1864 “... Came to Brentsville, examined the place, found five houses occupied, including the jail. But two men reside in this town; the court-house has but part of the roof remaining on; the houses generally are in ruin.” (44)

Near the end of the war the old foe of the “Iron scouts”, the 1st Michigan Cavalry returned to Prince William County. On April 2, 1865 as the Confederate authorities were evacuating Richmond, Brentsville was still being used as a base by Confederate scouts. The same day Capt. Pierson of the 1st Michigan reported - “...went on a scout toward Brentsville... we returned bringing seven prisoners, guerrillas. The pickets reported all quiet.” (45) It is probable that some of these were deserters from the Army of Northern Virginia, who seeing no further opportunity for Confederate victory had returned home.

Eppa Hunton, still commanding the 8th Virginia, was captured with many others at Sayler’s Creek in the last days of the war in Virginia. (46) However, even Robert E Lee’s surrender at Appomattox did not end the sight of Union soldiers for the Brentsville residents. Following the Confederate surrender by Lee, and later Joe Johnston in North Carolina, the Union troops through the South were recalled to the area of Washington DC for a grand parade through the streets of the capital in late May. Brentsville as things panned out was perfectly placed for camping as thousands of Yankees converged on Washington. About half of these troops were ordered to march via Fredericksburg. However, the rest went on a slightly more circuitous route, via Ashland, Spotsylvania, Chancellorsville, Brentsville, Fairfax and Alexandria, generally marching thirteen miles a day or until a suitable camping area was found. Judging from the Official Records it appears that nearly every Brigade that was ordered that way camped near Brentsville between May 17 and 19 - generally they left their previous camps between 4.30 am

and 6 am, arriving at Brentsville in the early afternoon, most about 2pm. They then camped until the next morning before moving on. Being at the confluence of 3 runs would have made the town an ideal camping spot.

With peace restored to the Union, it must have been a real shock for the citizens and soldiers to return to this once proud town. War had not been kind to Brentsville. The Courthouse and much of the town were in ruin. The Courthouse records had been destroyed. It would take many years for things to be returned to the state they were in prior to the war.

Eppa Hunton following his capture was interred at Fortress Warren in Boston Harbor, moved to nearby Warrenton, where he resumed his law practice. Entering politics after the reconstruction period he became a prominent member of the Democratic Party serving in Congress between 1873 and 1881, and in the Senate between 1892 and 1895. (47) He died in Richmond in 1908 and is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery there. (48)

Whilst Brentsville remained the County Seat of Prince William County its prominence in the community was assured. But nearby Manassas aided by the railroad started to rival Brentsville for its position. Until 1858 Manassas Junction was just another small railroad siding on the Orange and Alexandria line. Another line to the Shenandoah Valley known as the Manassas Gap Railroad was being built. When this ran out of funds, it was decided to share the existing line to Washington between Manassas and Alexandria, substantially increasing the importance of the town. (49) (It was the unused railroad cut for the Manassas Gap line that was used to great effect by Stonewall Jackson at the Battle of Second Manassas.) In 1872 and again in 1888 attempts to move the county seat were defeated. However in 1888 it appeared that the main reason for retaining Brentsville was that many of the prominent men of the County resided there, and they had influenced the vote. (50)

Manassas continued to grow, and a third election in 1892 saw a popular mandate for the transfer to take place. When a new Courthouse was completed, on New Years Day 1894 the county seat of Prince

William County was officially changed to Manassas. This signaled the end of Brentsville's prominence. Without the regular influx of visitors for Courthouse business the town slowly fell into decay.

Several of the wartime homes of the area survive, including the Cockrell, Foster and Howison's plantations. On the main street one can still see the White House, which was earmarked for demolition in the late 1930's but was fortunately saved.

And across the street, proudly and serenely, the Court House still casts its shadow over its long and at times tragic history. It surely stands today as a reminder of days gone by. It has seen the good times from its building in 1823 as the centre of a small but bustling town, later 4 tragic years of Civil War that tore the nation apart and left it in ruins. Rebuilt after the war, it later fell into decay again. However it has again been recently renovated thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Friends of Brentsville Court House.

The former splendour of this building is thankfully restored. It surely has been a witness to history.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Prince William. The Story of its People and its Places. The Bethlehem Good Housekeeping Club, 1976. p112
- (2) Ratcliffe, R. Jackson. This was Manassas. Privately printed 1973. p2
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- (4) Stiles, Kenneth L. 4th Virginia Cavalry. H.E. Howard Inc, 1985. p1
- (5) Report of the Virginia Works Progress Authority sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission, April 5, 1937. Report PW-99
- (6) Report of the Virginia Works Progress Authority sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission, April 5, 1937. Report PW-99

- (7) Internet. 8th Virginia Regiment. <http://www.8thvirginiareg.org/regimentalcommander.htm>
- (8) Jorgensen, Jay. Joseph W. Latimer, "The Boy Major" at Gettysburg. Gettysburg Magazine. Morningside Bookshop. Issue number 9, July 1 1993. Page 30
- (9) Ibid. p35
- (10) Carter, Robert Goldthwaite. Four Brothers in Blue: Or Sunshine and Shadows of the War of the Rebellion, a story of the Great Civil War from Bull Run to Appomattox. University of Oklahoma Press, 1999. P11
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- (15) ibid
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- (20) Ibid
- (21) Ibid p. 89
- (22) Ibid p. 93
- (23) Unpublished diary of Robert Towles. As quoted in the Potomac News July 20 2000. p4
- (24) O.R. Ser 1. Vol. 21, Part 2. p749
- (25) Henderson, E. Prioleau. p73
- (26) Warriner, Retta Dickinson. Scout for the Confederacy. UDC Magazine. June/July 1997. P25
- (27) Confederate Ordeal. The Southern Front. Time Life Books, 1983. P43-44
- (28) Soldiering. The Civil War Diary of Rice C. Bull. Berkley Publishing Group, 1988. p111
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- (30) Unpublished diary of Robert Towles. As quoted in the Potomac News July 20 2000. p4
- (31) Ibid
- (32) Confederate Ordeal. The Southern Front. P110
- (33) Report of the Virginia Works Progress Authority sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission, April 5, 1937. Report PW-99
- (34) Stiles, Kenneth L., p107
- (35) Unpublished diary of Robert Towles. As quoted in the Potomac News July 20 2000. p4
- (36) Carter, Robert Goldthwaite. P110
- (37) Jorgensen, Jay. p29
- (38) Internet. John Singleton Mosby Museum <http://www.mosbymuseum.org/history/eppahunton.html>
- (39) Dawes, Rufus R. Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers. Morningside Bookshop, 1984. P191
- (40) O.R. Ser. 1 Vol. 27, Part 1 p110
- (41) All for the Union. The Civil War Diary and Letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes. Edited by Robert Hunt Rhodes. Orion Books, 1995. p127
- (42) Report of the Virginia Works Progress Authority sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission, April 5, 1937. Report PW-99
- (43) Dawes, Rufus R. p218-219
- (44) O.R. Ser. 1 Vol. 51 Part 1 p216
- (45) Ibid. Ser. 1. Vol. 46 Part 3 p541
- (46) Internet. John Singleton Mosby Museum
- (47) Ibid
- (48) Warner, Ezra J. Generals in Grey. Louisiana State University Press, 1986. p146
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- (50) Ibid

Brentsville Neighbors

Information About Brentsville
Shared Among Neighbors
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