

# Brentsville Neighbors



Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors  
April 2008



Welcome Neighbor!

Ron Turner is sharing with us another of his wonderful stories. As in other cases, we find the verdict was: "...to be sold as a Slave and banished without the limits of the United States." But exactly what does that mean? Ron was good enough to explain it further with this answer to our question: "When Slaves were given the sentence of Transportation outside the limits of the United States they were sent to the penitentiary in Richmond and put with others with the same sentence. Sometimes it would take years to sell the slaves to a buyer or a middle man who would transport the slaves south to be resold to slave traders from islands like Jamaica or any of the others. The State of Virginia also had a good money making thing going because I have seen records where the State signed contracts with companies like the James River & Kanawha Canal to supply these men. The contracts were usually for one year and paid around \$100 to \$200 for each depending on the condition of the slave. At times even though the sentence was Transportation the slaves could end up in the deep south. I think in my research I was taken back at the amount of Free People of Color in PWC that owned slaves. You would think that given freedom they would not do the same to anybody."

Following his receipt of the March newsletter, we received a call from Robert Beahm stating that his mother and father are both in the picture of the Prince William Academy and as good fortune would have it his father had identified everyone in the picture. Mr. Beahm was good enough to allow us to use the names and they are listed on page 5. We think you will be surprised at the number of names that are familiar. Thank you Mr. Beahm for sharing this information with us.

Check out page 6 for important information about volunteer opportunities with the historic sites.

The organization "Historic Prince William" held their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Prince William County History Forum on Saturday, March 8, 2008, at the Forest Park High School. "Brentsville Neighbors" was invited to participate along with others such as the Buckland Preservation Society, Historic Dumfries, The Manassas Museum, Friends of

Manassas National Battlefield Park and more. We are pleased to report that our display (it took two tables) was a big hit and we received very favorable comments from the large number of people who stopped by to look at your pictures and ask about Brentsville. And guess what? It is because of YOU that this is possible. YOUR pictures – YOUR stories – YOUR interest makes it happen. We have been invited back to the next forum and hope to have many new pictures and stories. Won't you help make this even better by letting us copy your old photos and giving us your memories?

When Nelson Bradshaw was up for his last visit from Florida on October 1, 2007, he left a precious gift — the Diploma his grandmother, Mary Catherine Kerlin, received from the Prince William Academy in Brentsville. She was issued a **Bachelor of Pedagogy** (*Pedagogy or paedagogy: the art or science of being a teacher. The term generally refers to strategies of instruction, or a style of instruction.* From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia) on 27 May 1904. [We note with interest that Howard University issued their first Degree of Bachelor of Pedagogy to one male and one female graduate in 1901, only three years earlier.] We have had this diploma preserved in a museum-quality mount and it will be displayed at the Brentsville Site. Thank you Nelson!

Very best wishes,  
Nelson and Morgan

## This month:

- A Brentsville Building ----- pages 2, 8 & 9
- Where Wild Things Live - pages 3 & 6
- Spring Planting ----- page 5
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***That Other Building in Brentsville:  
The Hall Cabin?  
Part Two – The Rest of the Story...***

Last month's article questioned the designation of the log structure now at Brentsville as the "Hall Cabin." Our research in preparation for the restoration work uncovered some interesting answers. We can say with confidence that the answer is both yes and no!

Since its relocation to Brentsville in 2000, the log building once owned by John Hall has been called the Hall Cabin. This is a common mistake that is made by most people when referring to this type of structure. Our building is a large, two-story, moderately sized house that would have been cheaply and easily built. Frame houses were more expensive and less common. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, most Americans lived in one-story houses that were half the size of our log house. Contrary to common preception, most log houses in the eastern United States were covered with siding. This protected the building from the elements and gave the impression of a more fashionable frame house. Log cabins were usually temporary consisting of only one floor and were far less architecturally significant.

We know that the house was used as a kitchen and storage building for a modern addition. This information and much more has been told to us by Mrs. Hazel Martino, a former resident. She has been essential in helping us put the pieces of the puzzle together.

Now that we have determined that our building is not a log cabin, but a log house, who built this house and when? To answer these questions, we have to look at all avenues of evidence.

Physical Evidence

There are several clues in our building that tell us the history of its construction. Though many changes and additions have

occurred over the past 150 plus years, much of the original fabric of the building remains. Looking at this fabric can give us an approximation of the time of construction. One main original component of the building is the logs themselves. We can see that they were shaped from felled tress with a broad axe. The broad axe was used to "square" or "hew" a log in a precise manner, not haphazardly. This hand hewn method was used throughout the early 19<sup>th</sup> century before mills were prevalent.

Another piece of evidence is the nails used in the original woodwork. Most of these are cut nails which began to be used in 1800. Looking at the head of the nail also tells us more about the date. Our nails are very flat, indicating they were stamped not hammered out. Stamped cut nails become prevalent after 1820.

Finally, most of the rafters for the second floor are original to the building. Looking at these boards closely, you can easily identify the cut marks. By matching the cut marks with the saw technology being used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, we have another clue to help us date the construction of the building. The cut marks on the rafters are fine and at a slight angle. These marks indicate that a pit saw was used to cut these boards. This practice was very common from the 1600's to 1860. After 1850, saw mills began to pop up in many locations, thus it became cheaper to take your lumber to the mill to be cut. Using these physical clues, we can determine that our log house was probably built between 1820 and 1860.

Documentary Evidence

County records can be a helpful source of information when tracing property ownership. Aerial photographs and historical

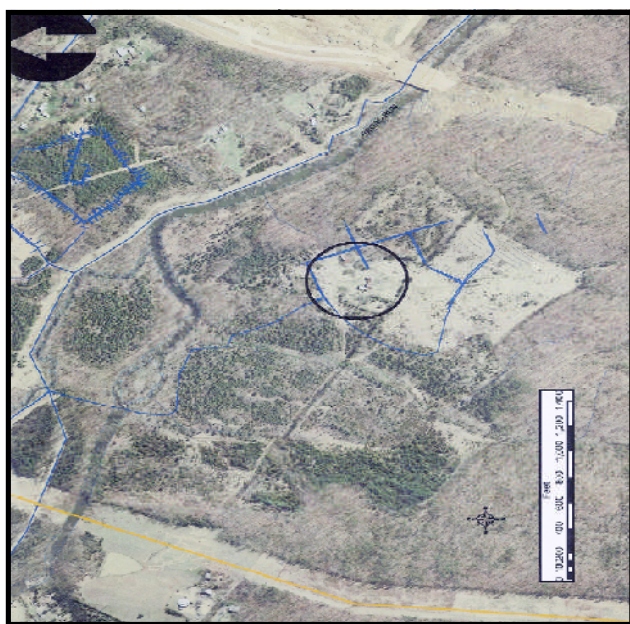




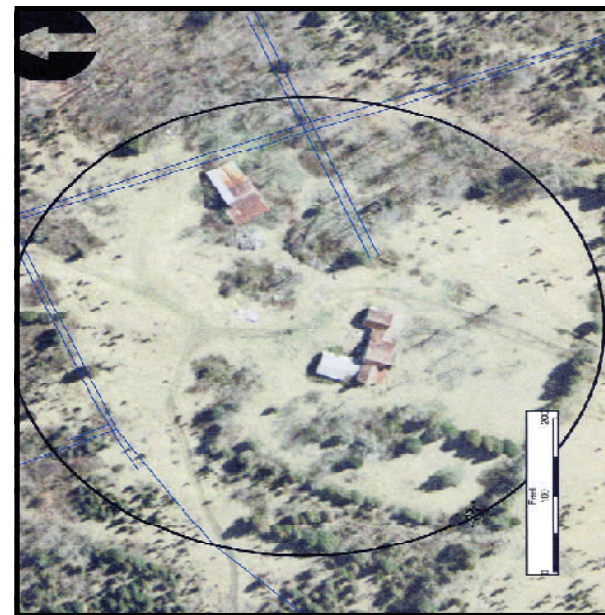
Joe and Ora Keys



Left - David Eanes and Earl Parker work  
on a fence to protect the garden from  
deer

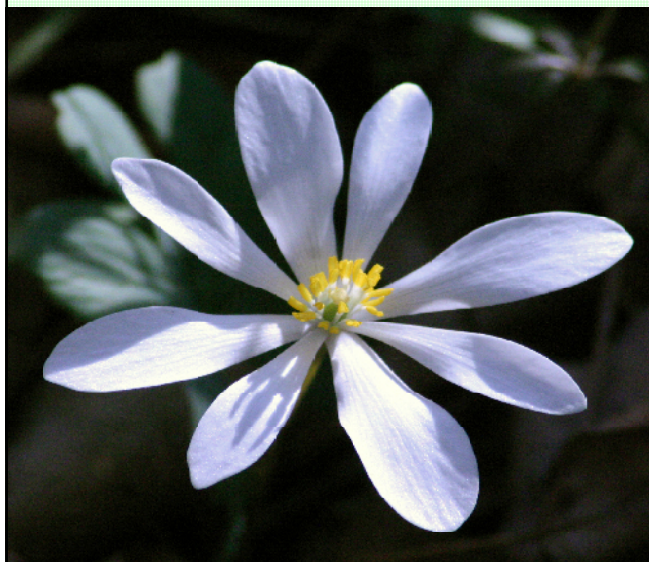


Aerial Map of Hall Home location



A magnified view of the circle in the map to the left

Where WILD  
things live..



## Bloodroot

*Sanguinaria canadensis* Linne

(See page 6)







The photograph on the previous page (courtesy of Howard Churchill) includes many family members of Robert Beahm including his mother (#9) and his father (#8). Robert's father, G.W. Beahm identified the people in this photograph. In the process, it seems one woman (#50) was accidentally overlooked and the first name of #44 could not be remembered. We are very grateful to both Howard Churchill whose grandmother is #22 and Robert Beahm for providing this information.

#### Front Row (Seated – L-R)

1. Robert Harnell
2. John Kerlin
3. Ira Flory
4. Saylor Diehl
5. Ben Hedrick
6. H. P. Miller
7. Elbert Kinzie
8. G. W. Beahm

#### Second Row (L-R)

9. Alverta Early
10. Ben Kerlin
11. Laura Kane
12. Sarah Beahm (child)
13. Ester Beahm (child on lap)
14. William Beahm (child in front)
15. Mrs. I. N. H. Beahm
16. I. N. H. Beahm
17. Anna Beahm (child)
18. J. C. Beahm
19. W. C. Reid
20. E. S. Hoon
21. Ethel Akers
22. Viola Davis
23. John Young
24. Fleta Hale
25. Ida Akers
26. Ella Baker

#### Third Row (L-R)

27. Lizzie Thomas
28. Mabin Thompson
29. E. C. Crumpacker
30. S. H. Flory
31. Ed Spittle
32. Lula Brigg
33. Adria Beahm
34. Daisy Hornbaker
35. Mary Kane
36. Ida Daniel
37. Eva Berryman
38. Ollie Hershberger
39. Mable Kincheloe
40. Lillie Collier

#### Fourth Row (L-R)

41. Nettie Sayers
42. Vernie Baker
43. Sam Conner
44. (Unknown) Shacklett
45. Jake Conner
46. Albert Seese
47. George Berkheimer
48. Conrad Hamp
49. Albert Roseberry
50. (Not identified)
51. Pocahontas Lynn
52. W. C. Moomaw
53. Katie Read

#### Fifth Row (L-R)

54. Joe Breeden
55. Yost Metz
56. George Bucher
57. Will Good
58. Walter Kincheloe
59. Harry Minnick
60. Claude Brawner
61. George Colvin
62. A. P. Bucher

When they had more than they could use right away, hours were spent picking, cleaning, preparing and canning whatever they could. This was squirreled away by my grandmother in neat rows on the ledge in the cellar for use during the autumn and winter months. Granddaddy always planted many rows of potatoes to be dug out, cleaned off, spread out to dry, then layered with lime in bushel baskets and stored in the cellar. Onions too were pulled, dried off, tied in bunches and hung from nails in the rafters. The entire garden was planted and always a whole row of whatever the seeds were. So, when the radishes were ready, we had a whole row of radishes to use all at once, or beets, etc. They used the same variety each year as well -- Black Seeded Simpson lettuce, Scarlet Globe radishes, Kentucky Wonder beans and Big Boy tomatoes. I always found it interesting that the garden contained an entire row of parsnips each year, even though no one apparently liked parsnips and they remained in the ground unused. My cousins and I enjoyed helping to plant the garden although we were sometimes admonished for being a little too generous with the seeds

## Spring Planting by Kay Breeden

When the little birds are chirping outside the window in the early morning, the crocus and daffodils are blooming, robins fill the yard searching for worms, the forsythia and cherry trees are budding and I finally hear the doves cooing to each other, it means Spring is here and with its arrival comes garden planting time.

My grandparents, Joe and Ora Keys of Brentsville, always had a fairly large garden. The front bordered on Bristow Road and stretched along the side of their property past the driveway with its grape arbor, the back yard, the tool shed, the outhouse, the rabbit hutch and chicken house to the back field beside the old barn. The garden was relied upon during the lean years of the depression and WW-II by rural families to provide fresh produce at the cost of their own time and labor. Jobs were scarce and money was used for the necessities.

and would have to go back and redo some of our work, especially with beans. Granddaddy would rake the ground smooth and then make his rows in the traditional old-timey way by running the tip of the rake handle through the earth. Cultivating, pulling weeds and then harvesting were not as much fun. Picking peas and beans was a tiring, back-breaking chore but necessary if we were to enjoy those fresh goodies. My favorite dish Nannie fixed was fresh-picked green peas and new potatoes creamed together. Nobody today makes them the way she did!

One year as Nannie was working in the garden, she lost her wedding ring. Search as they might, it was not to be found. As I said, they used the entire garden every year and wonder of wonders, after 25 years in the earth, surviving plowing, raking, planting and cultivations, Granddaddy found the lost wedding ring and returned it to its proper place on Nannie's hand. This event was newsworthy enough to make it into the local newspaper.

Although we've had large gardens in the past, Morgan now plants just a small patch of earth here with lettuce, squash, radishes, cucumbers, and a couple of tomato plants. We enjoy the freshness of our home-grown bounty and frequently have extra to share with our neighbors. That too is a time-honored tradition still practiced by those who plant gardens in Brentsville.

## Where W I L D Things Live

### Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis* Linne)

**Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) is a perennial, herbaceous flowering plant native to eastern North America from Nova Scotia, Canada southward to Florida, United States. It is also known as bloodwort, red puccoon root, and sometimes pauson.

Bloodroot is a variable species growing from 20 to 50 cm tall, normally with one large, sheath-like basal multi-lobed leaf up to 12 cm across. The flowers are produced from March to May, with 8-12 delicate white petals and yellow reproductive parts. The flowers appear over clasping leaves while blooming. Bloodroot stores sap in an orange colored rhizome, that grows shallowly under or at the soil surface. Over many years of growth, the branching rhizome can grow into a large colony. Plants start to bloom before the foliage unfolds in early spring and after blooming the leaves expand to their full size and go summer dormant in mid to late summer. Plants are found growing in moist to dry woods and thickets, often on flood plains and near shores or streams on slopes, they grow less frequently in clearings and meadows or on dunes, and are rarely found in disturbed sites. The flowers are pollinated by small bees and flies, seeds develop in elongated green pods 40 to 60 mm in length and ripen before the foliage goes dormant. The seeds are round in shape and when ripe are black to orange-red in color. Deer will feed on the plants in early spring.

Bloodroot is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants, a process called myrmecochory. The seeds have a fleshy organ called an elaiosome that attracts ants. The ants take the seeds to their nest, where they eat the elaiosomes, and put the seeds in their nest debris, where they are protected until they germinate. They also get the added bonus of growing in a medium made richer by the ant nest debris.

Bloodroot produces benzylisoquinoline alkaloids, primarily the toxin *sanguinarine*. The alkaloids are transported to, and stored in, the rhizome. Sanguinarine kills animal cells by blocking the action of transmembrane proteins. As a result, **applying bloodroot to the skin may destroy tissue and lead to the formation of a large scab**, called an *eschar*. Bloodroot and its extracts are thus considered *escharotic*.

In spite of supposed curative properties, and historical use by Native Americans as an emetic, internal use is inadvisable. Although applying escharotic agents, including bloodroot, to the skin is sometimes suggested as a home treatment to remove skin cancers, these attempts can be severely disfiguring. The plant was used as a dye and for an herbal remedy by the native population. A break in the surface of the plant, especially the roots, reveals a reddish sap. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloodroot>)

## flashback

### *In the Garden*

## Wedding Ring Found, Lost 25 Years Ago

BRENTSVILLE — Twenty-five years ago, Mrs. Joe Keys of Brentsville was working in her garden when she realized she'd lost her wedding ring. Frantically, she and her husband searched all over the garden, but to no avail. So Mrs. Keys gave up hope of ever seeing it again.

Saturday a week ago, she was in her kitchen puttering around, when her husband came in with his hand outstretched but closed,

and said he had something for her. Figuring it was just an odd looking bug or worm, she automatically held out her hand. When she saw her long-lost wedding ring, she was so stunned she couldn't speak.

The ring is in perfect condition despite the fact that the garden had been plowed, limed, dug up, hoed and heaven only knows how much manure had been put on it in all those years!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Did you know ... there are between 15 - 25 volunteers supporting the Historic Preservation Division each month? This represents a substantial augmentation of the work force and allows many programs to be successful that could not otherwise happen because of a lack of funding for qualified staff. And this includes our own Brentsville site as well as others. So it is only natural that new volunteers are always being sought and are always very welcome. Are you interested? No special skills are required. Just a willingness to help in whatever capacity you can offer. If so, the PWC Historic Preservation Division will be holding a volunteer recruitment/orientation event on Thursday, April 10, 2008, at the old Manassas Courthouse (9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas) from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Volunteers are needed for positions in historic research, interpretation, tour guides, leading school groups, collections management, archaeology, gardening and landscape maintenance. With many of the sites recently opening to the public for the first time, this is a great opportunity to get involved on the ground floor. Make a difference in the community and help preserve this area's great history and heritage. For more information call 703-499-9812.

# Brentsville

## A Look Back in History by Ronald Ray Turner

### The Murder of Sukey Gray

William Winkfield was a Free Man of Color and Sukey Gray was a Free Woman of Color. Both lived in Prince William County and both were Slave owners. Each, in the two years prior to 1826, had charged each other and their Slaves with criminal conduct. Hard feelings finally culminated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 1826 when Will Winkfield beat Sukey to death with his fists.

An inquest was held on the body of Sukey Gray, and the evidence presented to a Grand Jury who returned a "True bill" and ordered that Will Winkfield be indicted for premeditated murder or murder in the first degree. He was also ordered held in the Brentsville Jail until the outcome of the trial.

The case was scheduled for trial, and the usual eighteen fit and discreet legally qualified freeholders were there as prospective jurors. All the eighteen were questioned as were the legal freeholders there as bystanders, and only six were elected to hear the case. These six jurors were then ordered to be sequestered in Brentsville. A deputy sheriff was ordered to stay with the six and keep them together "without separation except on occasions of indispensable necessity." The deputy was also directed to "not hold any communication with them or permit others to do so." He was also to bring the six back to court tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

The next day September 26, 1826, in the Superior Court the prisoner was again led to the bar in the custody of the sheriff. The deputy sheriff along with the six jurors also reported to the court. Another eighteen prospective jurors were brought into court and again the case had to be continued until the next day because the defendant and his lawyer would only select four out of the second

group of eighteen freeholders. A deputy was mandated to take the selected jurors, now numbering ten, and to sequester them again with all the same rules as yesterday. He was also ordered to present them at the court the following day.

On the next morning, Winkfield was again brought into court along with the sheriff and twelve more prospective jurors. Out of this jury pool, two jurors were selected and with the others from previous days made up the jury: John Kincheloe, Charles Chick, Benjamin Dyer, Richard Philips, Moses Mathews, Benjamin Pridmore, George Copin, Moses Arnold, Rowland Florance, John Lee, William Abel and William Bridwell. With the jury finally set, all twelve were again sequestered with the same rules as stated above on the first day.

On the fourth day of the trial, the case was finally started, and the evidence presented to the jury. William was found guilty of murder in the second degree; his punishment would be the infliction of ninety stripes on his bare back. The first thirty stripes were to be inflicted a day after the trial at the public whipping post between the hours of ten a.m. and two p.m. The second thirty stripes were to be well laid on his bare back on the fourteenth of the next month. The thirty last stripes were to be inflicted sixteen days after the second thirty, and further, when the corporal punishment was completed, he was to be sold as a Slave and "banished without the limits of the United States."

The distribution of the punishment by stripes was made at the request of the prisoner and his counsel. Because of the present infirm state of his health, his life might be endangered from the infliction of the whole number of stripes at one time.



(Continued from page 2)

maps help determine the original location of our building. By using the County Mapper on Prince William County's website, you can determine the address or parcel number of all properties located in the County. With this information, you can do a reverse deed search at the County Archives located at the Bull Run Library or at the Judicial Center. Other sources are court cases and wills. A deed search can help you identify who owned the property, but not necessarily when a building was built on that property. Our "cabin" was located in the Dumbarton section of the Braemar Development. With the research experience of Prince William County's Virginiana Librarian, Don Wilson, the deed search identified a chain of ownership from 1837. Samuel Haislip owned the property and deeded it to John Hall in 1885. John Hall married Samuel Haislip's daughter, Sofia, in 1874 and it seems that John Hall acquired the "cabin" through her family. This information refutes the belief that John Hall's father built the "cabin" in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

So, now that we know the property was in the Haislip family, when was our "cabin" built? By knowing the owner of the property, we can go through the tax records and try to identify when the property was upgraded significantly, indicating construction of a building. When looking at the tax records for Samuel Haislip and this property, we can determine that between 1850 and 1853, the property saw a large increase in value. The value of this land (197 ½ acres) in 1850 was \$740. By 1853, this same land was valued at \$1769, indicating a large improvement, i.e.

a house. It is with certainty that we can say our log house was built by Samuel Haislip, on his 197 ½ acre farm between the years 1850-1853. So, to answer our question, is this the Hall Cabin, we can answer that for one, it is not considered a log cabin, but rather a log house. Furthermore, though John Hall did own the building at one time, its original owner was Samuel Haislip, the father-in law of John Hall and he built the house around 1853.



**A hand drawn map showing Hall Property**

### What's Next?

The next step in creating a historically accurate space is to furnish the building. Using tax records of farms the same size as this one; we can determine what may have been in the house in the 1850s. Common furniture, tools and implements will be added over time which will all be reproduction allowing the

building to be an interactive learning space for the public. This summer the Historic Preservation Division will undertake a more scientific process of dating several of our buildings. This process, called Dendrochronology, dates the tree rings in the timber of buildings to determine a 10 year window of construction. Feel free to contact the site if you are interested in learning more or to help us with this exciting project, now called the Haislip-Hall Farm!

Thank you to Don Wilson, Becky Cumins, Justin Patton, Mrs. Hazel Martino and Morgan Breeden. Without their help and research the true story of this building never would have been known.



(Continued from page 8)

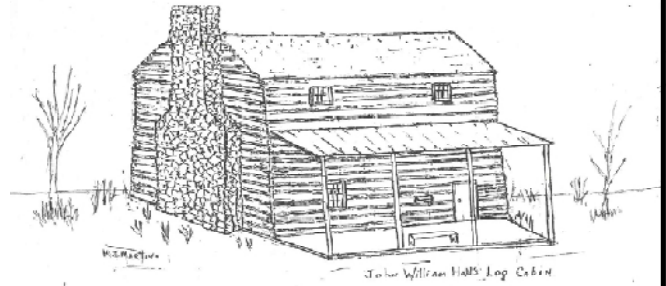
*For More Information:*

*Bomberger, Bruce. The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings. National Park Service Preservation Brief 26. Washington DC: 1991.*  
[www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief26.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief26.htm)

*Sloane, Eric. A Museum of Early American Tools. New York: Dover Publications, 1992.*

\_\_\_\_\_, *A Reverence for Wood. New York: Dover Publications, 2004.*

*Prince William County Deed and Tax Records, 1838-1983.*



**Chain of Title on the Haislip-Hall  
Farmhouse at Brentsville**

1961 - 1983 – Fred Chalupsky  
1950 - 1961 – Lloyd Dalton  
1946 - 1950 - William Spitler  
1930 - 1946 - Edward Hansborough  
1885 - 1930 – **John W. Hall**  
1838 - 1885 – **Samuel Haislip**  
1837 - ??? – Margaret Lee

## Prince William County Prepares for War

### **Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre**

April 19 – 20, 2008

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In April of 1861, residents of Prince William County met in Brentsville and voted to endorse secession from the United States. That same month, several military units were formed in Brentsville to prepare for the defense of Virginia.

Join Civil War living historians to learn how average citizens mustered, trained, drilled and made the ultimate decision to separate from the Union. Civil war encampments with drills and demonstrations offered periodically throughout both days. Admission is FREE!

**Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre**  
1229 Bristow Road  
Brentsville  
(703) 365-7895

# *Brentsville Neighbors*

Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors

IN GOD WE TRUST

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

