

# Brentsville Neighbors



Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors  
March 2009



Welcome Neighbors,

We wish to start by thanking Billy and Joy Golladay and Mrs. Mary Flory for their generous support. Also many thanks to those of you who so quickly agreed to receive your newsletter through electronic distribution. This helps so much in the reduction of printing and postage. If there are others who are comfortable receiving this electronically, please let us know. As a side benefit, we are now able to reach more neighbors at no additional cost so our distribution is growing every month. To our new neighbors, welcome! We hope you find our newsletter interesting and informative concerning the history and culture of Brentsville.

We were fortunate to spend a few hours with Lucy Mae (Bean) Hartman copying pictures from her wonderful photo albums. Lucy just completed a more in-depth story of her life during the hard times and has given us permission to share it with you. The story will be in sections starting soon and her pictures

will start appearing with this issue. Thank you Lucy for your wonderful contribution!

March always makes us feel that Spring is just around the corner. This can be seen at the Courthouse Complex as well. Rob Orrison, our Site Manager, is busy building a fence around the garden plot as well as constructing the raised planting beds. He is looking for volunteers to help with the garden this year and we have heard that those volunteers who "take ownership" of one or more planting beds will be allowed to harvest the fruits of their labor. This sure sounds like a good opportunity to spend time with your neighbors, doing your part to reflect on history, and putting some nice organic veggies on your home table in one operation. Interested? Contact Rob at 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA 20136 or 571-641-0223 and he will get you started as an official volunteer!

Very best wishes,  
Nelson & Morgan

## This month:

**Circulation: 166**  
**(32 Electronic)**

- Where Wild Things Live ----- pages 2 & 3
- Flashback ----- page 2
- Remembering Brentsville ----- pages 5 & 6
- A Look Back in History ----- page 7
- A Brentsville Neighbor Remembered ----- pages 8 & 9

## Where W I L D Things Live

### **Augochlora pura (Say, 1837)** **“Green Metallic Bee”**

An abundant group of bees around farms, sweat bees tend to be small and bright metallic green/blue or a dull metallic brown on head/thorax with bands of hair on the abdomen (*Lasioglossum vierecki*). All carry pollen on special long hairs on their hind legs and nest in both cavities and in the ground. Some sweat bees are solitary, and often quite small in size. There is usually only a single generation per year. A few species are social and have one to a few queens, supported by a number of female workers and produce multiple generations per year. These bees are common and are good pollinators of crops and wildflowers. The common name ‘sweat bee’ derives from some species having an affinity for the salt in human sweat.

Adults of this species feed on flower nectar. Larva feeds on nectar and pollen. The female digs a nest of many branching burrows in dead wood or uses pre-existing burrows of other insects. The female supplies each cell with a pollen ball and nectar and lays an egg on each ball. The larvae or pupae overwinter with adults emerging in the Spring. These bees often can be seen visiting flowers, actively crawling among stamens to reach the nectar. These are short-tongued bees, which prefer composite flowers and “flat” individual ones. Returning bees carry impressive pollen loads on their hind legs as they enter the portal of the underground nest.

They can be found from Quebec and Maine to Minnesota, south to Texas and Florida, February to November (very early and late records in the South). Only 4 species are found in the U.S. They do not live in deserts.

Source: Various Internet locations

## flashback

The young people’s meeting of the Presbyterian Sunday school meets Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Egan.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Keys and family were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Troy E. Counts Sunday evening.

Mrs. Joe Keys’ sister of Rectortown is spending the week in this place.

Miss Dorothy Woodhouse spent Tuesday night with Mrs. Egan.

Mr. Maurice Keys was in Washington last week.

Miss Thelma Landis spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Fairburn.

Mrs. Allen Anderson is spending this week with her brother, Mr. William Golliday.

Miss Anna Vanner spent Sunday with the Misses Petersons.

The league meeting was postponed on Friday night last on account of the weather

Mr. and Mrs. Cash Keys attended their P. O. A. meeting in Washington Monday night. They reported a lot of fog from Bull Run bridge on.

Source: The Manassas Journal, September 27, 1934

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor’s office. “Is it true,” she wanted to know, “that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?”

“Yes, I’m afraid so,” the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, “I’m wondering, then, just how serious my condition is because this prescription is marked ‘NO REFILLS’.”



Mattie Speakes & Frederick Whetzel, April 15, 1951,  
the day Frederick came home on his boot leave  
(courtesy of Janice Speakes)

Where **WILD**  
things live..



**Augochlora pura (Say, 1837)**  
**"Green Metallic Bee"**



Lucy Bean, 1925



James Theodore Bean and his wife, Talithia with  
James's sister, Cora Fairburn

Photos courtesy of Lucy Hartman



Benjamin Wynnett Wolfe while a student in the Brentsville School held in the former courthouse



Wynnett Wolfe sitting on the porch of the Willard Fogle home in Brentsville. Date unknown.

# Becky Noonan Remembers Brentsville

My memories of Brentsville are very fond ones. I would, in fact, say that they are some of my favorite. I grew up in Brentsville, and have spent my entire life here. My parents are Morgan and Kay Breeden; I am their second of three children. My older sibling is my sister Martha and my younger sibling is my brother John. Martha is four years older than I; John four years younger. I consider myself both fortunate and proud to be able to say I come from a family that has such deep roots in Brentsville. Both sides of my family are from Brentsville. My parents both grew up here, met here, married and eventually settled here after my father's service in the Navy. Driving through Brentsville, the majority of the buildings and houses in the town have significance to either side of my family in some way, and many family members still live here as well. I intend and hope to stay in Brentsville as long as possible which, with any luck, will be forever.

Growing up in Brentsville was a treat. The town was small enough that you knew practically everybody at the various functions we would attend, but not so small as to feel like we were missing out on anything "big". I attended school at Nokesville Elementary for grades K-5 and what was then Brentsville District Middle/Senior High School for grades 6-12, graduating in 1998. These were the same schools attended by my parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, niece and even my grandmother! Coming from such a small town made it easy to know most of the kids in school, regardless of what grade they were in. It was also fun to go through school having the same teachers my older sister did, and my brother having many of the same as well. The teachers, other faculty, school bus drivers and coaches were able to get to know the students and their families on a level not often obtained. This environment was a very positive, beneficial one, as you had an opportunity to get to know such a diverse group of people, whether they were peers, teachers, or friends' parents. The school and community had a "small town" feel to it, and I embraced it. It was fun to walk through the halls and see familiar faces rather than strangers, and to go to an event such as the school's Halloween party, talent show, fall festivals and Nokesville Day and have so many friends and family in attendance.



Nokesville Elementary School had two "big" annual events during the year: a Halloween party and a talent show. The Halloween party was on Halloween each year, with the students, parents and teachers attending in their Halloween costumes. The majority of the classrooms would be transformed, with each room hosting a game for the students to play, or a Halloween-themed activity of some sort for us to participate in. The games varied in how

difficult or complex they were. Teachers and/or parents would be in the rooms running the games. The prizes for the games was usually candy, or a small Halloween related toy of some sort. There were games such as a beanbag toss, which involved tossing the beanbag through the windows of a wooden haunted house; a ring toss, with the object to land the ring around a witch's hat placed on the floor; a duck game, which was simply choosing a small plastic duck from a pool of water. Each duck had a number on it's underside that would

indicate how many pieces of candy the child would be awarded. There was usually a cake walk, and each year the school's gym, which was detached from the main building of the school, was transformed into a haunted house. Teachers and parents would all play a role in the haunted house, as a tour guide, ghost, zombie or a person in despair. The haunted house was the highlight of the night.

There would also be annual talent shows, which was basically a variety show showcasing the students performing magic tricks, telling jokes, singing songs or starring in short one act plays. My brother, sister and I all participated in the talent show during our respective tenures at the school. The year I participated in the talent show, a few of my friends and I accomplished putting together and writing a skit on saying "no" to drugs. At the time, the country was beginning it's "Drug Free Zone" campaign. The skit was noticed by somebody in the school system, and we were invited to perform at Brentsville District High School's program on saying no to drugs. That was a huge deal to us, and we were very excited and nervous about being on stage in the high school, in front of so many people. The program went off without a hitch and was a big success.

(Continued on page 6)

During my time at Brentsville District, I ran track all three years of middle school. While in high school I ran track for all four years, and cross country in my sophomore, junior and senior years. My first year of cross country was a historic one as it was the first year the Brentsville girl's team won the Virginia State Cross Country Group A Championship. The team was (and still is today) coached by Rob Dulin. We were a small team, but we had an amazing coaching staff, supportive parents and a lot of heart and determination. Winning the state meet was indescribable, and a highlight of my high school days. We went on to win the State Championship my junior and senior years as well, and the team has repeated as champions (on both the boys and girls sides) for most of the past ten years since I've graduated, even after becoming a Group AA school.

As a child, my family and I attended church and Sunday School at the Brentsville Presbyterian Church, located on Bristow Road next to the Jailhouse. My brother, sister and I would also look forward to the week-long "Bible School" that was held during the summer. For the majority of our time attending the church, our Reverend was Bob Cumming. We adored Reverend Cumming; he would allow us to climb on a chair in his office and ring the church bell when services were over. This was quite a thrill to us! In later years, we had a few different Reverends who led our church, but the only other one I have a significant memory of is Reverend Carol North. She was very kind, and seemed to take well to our small community. She lived nearby, a few doors down from the Union Church. Everybody in the congregation was sweet, easygoing and friendly, and friendships were easily formed with members of all ages. As a kid, I always looked forward to the annual Christmas Program, as I was usually selected to play the part of an angel. I loved my angel dress and halo, and looked forward to putting it on each year. I would also look forward to standing in front of the congregation to sing songs, or recite the bible verses I had worked on memorizing that morning. These things were all a big deal to a young girl, and I liked having my verses and songs memorized, and having a dollar to add to the collection plate each Sunday.

Once the church services were over, the children would go outside and play until it was time to go home. Many friends from school and family members also attended this church, so there was never a shortage on playmates. We would play games such as "Duck Duck Goose", "Mother May I?", "Red Light, Green Light" and "Simon Says", all in the shadow of the Brentsville Courthouse. The Courthouse was also the site of Easter egg hunts, kite flying and the occasional picnic. Little did I know that later, the Courthouse, the site of so many childhood memories, would be a major part of my adult life as well.

As I mentioned earlier, much of my family is in and around Brentsville, and because of that, we would often be at somebody's house, visiting or celebrating birthdays and holidays. On Halloween, before attending the school's party, my parents would take us trick-or-treating through town, stopping at everybody's house along the way. Christmastime was always busy, as we would celebrate at many different people's houses over several days. One tradition was to go to Aunt Dinny and Uncle Shorty's house on Christmas Eve. Aunt "Dinny" was Virginia Braden, my mother's aunt, and Uncle "Shorty" was her husband George. We would gather with my mother's cousins and our cousins during this time, having a large dinner and opening presents. My paternal grandmother, Olive M. Breeden, lived on Izaak Walton Drive, and we would also see her. My cousin Tama and I would play hide-and-seek in her house during our visits. The house wasn't very big, so hiding spaces were limited to no more than two or three, but somehow we managed to play for long periods of time. We would also have the occasional family get-togethers at Grandma Breeden's house, with the family members sitting outside chatting or playing horseshoes. We would also see my maternal grandmother, Louise (Keys) Bell during the holidays. My uncles, Doug and Nelson Keys, would also be at her house, so there was a lot of activity and never boring. I would assist my grandmother whenever and however possible, which was usually limited to simply setting the table or pouring iced tea for everybody.

As an adult, I am still making memories of Brentsville and the people who live here. In May 2000 I was married to Brian Noonan in the Brentsville Courthouse. The original plan was for the wedding to be an outdoor one, held in front of the Jail. Nature had other plans though, and rain forced the ceremony into the Courthouse. Though I wasn't very happy about the last-minute change at the time, I am now. I'm thrilled that my wedding was held in not only a historic building, but of all things, the Brentsville Courthouse. The same building that was the background of so many childhood events and memories was now the most significant building of my adult life. I have the privilege of looking through my wedding album and seeing the Courthouse as it was before the renovations began. The fact that both the interior and exterior of the Courthouse are now different and restored to their original look makes my wedding even more special than it was already. I visit the Brentsville Historic Site frequently. It's one of my favorite places to visit for some quiet relaxation time and to enjoy the outdoors. The events held at the site are also fun, and I attend them whenever possible. My father works for the county at the Brentsville Historic Site, normally as a tour guide of the buildings and grounds, and on days when there is an event, my mother volunteers her time as the gift shop attendant.

They say home is where the heart is, and my home is Brentsville, now and forever!

# Brentsville

## A Look Back in History

by  
Ronald Ray Turner

### The 1863 Election

One of the most difficult elections and certainly the one with the smallest participation in Prince William County history would have to be the election of May 28, 1863. This was an election in the Union controlled area to elect a state senator and member of the Virginia House of Delegates from the Third District, comprised of the counties of Stafford, King George and Prince William. Only 21 people voted in this district, and all had lived at one time in Prince William County and considered it home. At the time of the election, all considered themselves refugees and lived in Alexandria and the Federal City. To be eligible to vote in the election, you had to be a white male, be a freeholder, prove you lived in the district, provide proof you were loyal to the Union and, most of all, be willing to travel a long distance in a war zone.

G. W. Joy, A. M. Arrington, James Draney and Jno M. Stewart filled the above requirements and agreed to act as commissioners, conductor and clerk. They were to certify that they and all the loyal persons voting were recorded in the poll list. On the day the planned vote was to be held, they hired a steamboat and headed for Dumfries. A place selected to be the voting precinct because it would be easier for the refugees to return without risking a long trip by land. But when the party reached the mouth of Quantico Creek in Prince William County, they were prevented from landing by the military authorities of the United States even though all had obtained passes. Consequently, they were not able to open a poll at Dumfries Precinct and were compelled to return to the City of Alexandria, the first place in Virginia where they were permitted to land to exercise the right of suffrage.

Twenty-one people from the Third District, encompassing the counties of Stafford, King George, and Prince William, voted; all voted for C. H. Snow for state senator and John Underwood for the Virginia House of Delegates. All the voters were apparently from Prince William County.

The following are the twenty-one voters with their places of residence in Prince William County and their places of birth.

NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH
John Depue	Brentsville	Pennsylvania
Jacob Depue	Brentsville	Pennsylvania
J. M. Stewart	Bristoe Station	Pennsylvania
J. Curl	Buckland	New Jersey
John H. Cornwell	Dumfries	Virginia
Hiram T. Eastman	Dumfries	New York
James B. Seymor	Dumfries	England
Joseph Seymor	Dumfries	England
W. Mattox	Haymarket	Maryland
W. C. Avery	Independent Hill	New York
J. G. Draney	Occoquan	New Jersey
A. M. Arrington	Occoquan	Virginia
Thomas C. Frazier	Occoquan	Delaware
T. Selectman	Occoquan	Virginia
E. Duvall	Occoquan	Virginia
Edward Chamberlin	Occoquan	Pennsylvania
John Berry	Occoquan	District of Columbia
John G. Horner	Occoquan	New Jersey
William Turner	Occoquan	Virginia
G. W. Joy	Occoquan	Vermont
J. C. Kelly	Occoquan	Vermont

It is interesting to note that the only Virginia born of the voters were John H. Cornwell, A. M. Arrington, T. Selectman, William Turner, and E. Duvall. These twenty-one men went to so much trouble to vote. I wonder how many of us would vote in such difficult times.

## A Brentsville Neighbor Remembered

Last month we discussed the Brentsville School #1 that was located in the old courthouse. During the 1926-27 school term, this two room arrangement featured Miss Naomi C. Pearson (whom we have covered) teaching grades 1 – 4 and Miss Katherine D. White who taught grades 5 – 7. All information is based on the Virginia Daily Attendance Register and Record of Class Grades.

Miss White was a graduate of Amherst High School (located along route 29 north of Lynchburg) and received her elementary teachers' certificate at the Farmville Teachers College in August 1923. She was a member of the State Teachers' Association and subscribed to The Virginia Journal of Education on Normal Instruction. She did not state her age, salary or amount paid for room and board. She did indicate her home address was in Goodes, Va., believed to be Goodes Branch, Va., located just south of Farmville.

She did not indicate visits to pupil homes but did report her class was visited once by the Division Superintendent, once by members of the School Board and 16 times by local supervisors during the year. She also attended four formal teachers' meetings.

During this school year Miss White taught eight months or 160 days. Her responsibilities were for grades 5 – 7 in which there were 8 boys and 11 girls. On average there were only 14 students present on any given day. Only two of the seven boys (one dropped) and seven of the eleven girls (two dropped) were promoted.

Her students were: Grade 5 – Hubert James, age 13, lived in Brentsville with his father, Mr. H.H. James.

Grade 6 – Frank Egan, age 11, lived 1-1/2 miles away with his father, Mr. Frank Egan; Maurice Keys, age 15, lived in Brentsville with his father, Mr. R.H. Keys; George May, age 13, lived one mile away with his father, Mr. F.H. May; Wynnett Wolfe, age 10, lived across the street with his father, Mr. C.W. Wolfe; Beulah Beavers, age 13, lived in Brentsville with her father, Mr. Sam Beavers; Edna Boley, age 16, lived one mile away with her father, W.H. Boley; Kate May, age 11, lived one mile away with her father, Mr. F.H. May; and Daisy Shoemaker, age 11, lived 1 ½ miles away with her father, Mr. G.B. Shoemaker.

Grade 7 – Murray Bradshaw, age 11, lived in Brentsville with his father, Mr. K.M. Bradshaw; John Maury, age 13, lived 1 ½ mile away with his father, Mr. L.P. Maury; Robert Varner, age 16, lived one mile away with his father, Mr. W.E. Varner; Ethel Golladay, age 16, lived in Brentsville with her father, E.D. Golladay; Mary Shaffer, age 13, lived one mile away with her father Mr. S.B. Shaffer; and Pauline Shaffer, age 16, lived one mile away with her father Mr. S.B. Shaffer; Clara Holsinger, age 13, lived in Brentsville with her father, Mr. A.S. Holsinger; Lucille James, age 14, lived in Brentsville with her father, Mr. H.H. James; Verneader Pound, age 16, lived 1 ½ mile away with her father, Mr. W.L. Pound; and Marie Shoemaker, age 12, lived 1 ½ mile away with her father, Mr. G.B. Shoemaker.



The daily class schedule for the session was:

<b>Hour</b>	<b>No. Mins</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Grade or Class</b>	<b>Books Used</b>
9:00-9:15	15	Opening Exercises	All grades	
9:15-9:30	15	Reading	5 <sup>th</sup>	Child World V
9:30-9:55	25	Arithmetic	6 <sup>th</sup>	Smiths' Advanced
9:55-10:15	20	Arithmetic	7 <sup>th</sup>	Smiths' Advanced
10:15-10:30	15	Spelling	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Test & Study
10:30-10:40	10	Recess	All grades	
10:40-10:55	15	Spelling	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Test & Study
10:55-11:10	15	Arithmetic	4 <sup>th</sup>	Smiths' Primary
11:10-11:25	15	Arithmetic	5 <sup>th</sup>	Smiths' Advanced
11:25-11:45	20	English	6 <sup>th</sup>	Smith-McMurry
11:45-12:05	20	History	7 <sup>th</sup>	Our Republic
12:05-12:45	40	Recess	All grades	
12:45-1:00	15	English	7 <sup>th</sup>	Smith-McMurry
1:00-1:20	20	History	6 <sup>th</sup>	Our Republic
1:20-1:40	20	English	7 <sup>th</sup>	Elson Book VII
1:40-2:00	20	History	5 <sup>th</sup>	Wayland
2:00-2:20	20	Hygiene	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Winslow
2:20-2:40	20	Reading	6 <sup>th</sup>	Elson Book VI
2:40-2:50	10	Recess	All grades	
2:50-3:10	20	Civics	7 <sup>th</sup>	Hughes
3:10-3:25	15	Geography	5 <sup>th</sup>	Frye-Atwood Book I
3:25-3:40	15	Geography	6 <sup>th</sup>	Frye-Atwood
3:40-4:00	20	Geography	7 <sup>th</sup>	Frye-Atwood

# *Brentsville Neighbors*

Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors

Contact us on:  
[morganbreeden@aol.com](mailto:morganbreeden@aol.com)

The 2009 free history lecture series continues on March 26th at 7:00pm in the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas, VA. The Life and Times of John Singleton Mosby should be of particular interest to many. Historian and owner of Mosby's Confederacy Tours, David Goetz will lecture on the famous Confederate partisan raider, John S. Mosby. Mosby's many exploits took place throughout Northern Virginia and Prince William County (but not in Brentsville). Mr. Goetz will present an encompassing look at Mosby's life and some of his most famous adventures. Come early and get a good seat!

IN GOD WE TRUST

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

