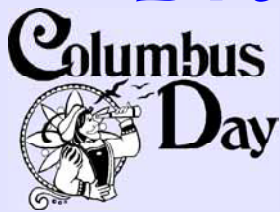


# Brentsville Neighbors



Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors  
October 2010



Welcome Neighbors!

As we start a new year of publication we want to thank the many Neighbors who sent their condolences, verbally and in writing, on the passing of Nelson. Yes, he was special in many ways and yes, he will be missed in many more ways.

Having just completed five years of newsletters, I thought it would be appropriate to make all of them available on a DVD along with a text index for the many new Neighbors who may not have been with us from the start but who would like to “catch up” on the Brentsville Memories and other areas of interest. Job #1 was making sure all of the copies existed in PDF format. That was the easy part. Job #2 was going through each newsletter and picking out every name that appeared in them which would be the basis of the index. That’s turning out to be the hard part! I had no idea how many names there were in just a single newsletter. In the first three years there have been over 2,600 names—not all different, of course—but names to be compiled in the index. And there is another two years to go before the real work starts. But we keep plugging along and hopefully, by next month we can offer the package. And you might note that we have changed the page numbers to include the edition number. This, hopefully, will make annual index listings much easier to use.

We are very grateful to Helen Ward, Benny & Jean Shoemaker, Bill & Joy Golladay and Robert Beahm for your wonderful support. It’s great to have Neighbors like you! And in response to the Flashback item on I.N.H. Beahm, Robert sent this very interesting information about his Uncle: “I.N.H. Beahm became a minister in 1881. In order to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ministry, he and some friends arranged a preaching “tour” where he would travel to 20 different churches preaching a different sermon at each one. Early on Sunday, July 26, several carloads of enthusiastic Brethren left Pennsylvania to go to previously designated churches. After several stops in PA, the entourage went into the Shenandoah Valley where Churches of the Brethren were quite plentiful, crossing the mountain (likely at Swift Run Gap). Moving northward through eastern Virginia, the group finally arrived at the Valley Church, (appropriately) located at Nokesville. Here I.N.H. preached his 20<sup>th</sup> sermon of the day in a voice that still remained strong and loud. Being summer, with all windows open, Walter Flory’s wife, LaVerne, who lived across the road from the church, listened to the service. LaVerne was in bed, about to give birth to her 2<sup>nd</sup> child.” What a wonderful story!

Very best wishes,  
Morgan.

## This month:

**Circulation: 194 - 75 Electronic**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ➤Where Wild Things Live - pages 2, 3 & 8 | ➤The John Williams Cemetery --- pages 6 & 8 |
| ➤Flashback ----- page 2                  | ➤When War Came ----- page 7                 |
| ➤Remembering Dorothy ----- pages 5 & 6   | ➤A Note From Rob ----- page 7               |
|  | ➤Reader Feed-back -----page 9               |

# Flashback

## BRENTSVILLE

Mr. Nicholas Webster has gone to Battle Creek, Mich., to make a movie for the Kellogg Co.

Mrs. Lovela Earheart, of Bridgewater, spent last week with relatives and friends.

Mr. Dave Hadly was taken to Mt. Alto Hospital. Several of our young people went to see him Sunday.

Frederick and Thomas Whetzel spent Sunday with their cousin, Chester Whetzel, in Washington.

Mr. Everett Speaks spent the weekend with his mother, Mrs. Alice Speaks.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Davis and son, "Pat," were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Breeden.

Miss Gladys Wolfe visited her uncle, Mr. George Wolfe, of Hoadly, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Henderson, of Washington, spent Sunday with Mrs. Henderson's brother, James Shoemaker.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lowe, of Warrenton, were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. James Shoemaker Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cheffield, of Alexandria, visited Mrs. Cheffield's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hedrick, Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Spencer and son, of Washington, spent Sunday with Mrs. Spencer's father, Mr. K. M. Bradshaw.

Pfc. William Brown spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and family, of Manassas, spent Sunday with Mrs. Edwards' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hedrick.

Source: The Manassas Journal, October 30, 1947.

## Where W I L D Things Live

### Mantis

Mantises have two grasping, spiked forelegs in which prey items are caught and held securely. The first body segment is commonly elongated and flexible allowing for greater range of movement of the front limbs, while the remainder of the body remains more or less immobile. The articulation of the head is also remarkably flexible, permitting nearly 300 degrees of movement in some species, allowing for a great range of vision (their compound eyes have a large binocular field of vision) without having to move the remainder of the body.

Mantises are exclusively predatory. Insects form the primary diet, but larger species have been known to prey on small lizards, frogs, birds, snakes, fish and even rodents; they will prey upon any species small enough to successfully capture and devour. Most species of mantis are known to engage in cannibalism. The majority of mantises are ambush predators, waiting for prey to stray too near. The mantis then lashes out at remarkable speed. Prey items are caught and held securely with grasping, spiked forelegs.

Generally, mantises are protected simply by virtue of concealment. When directly threatened, many mantis species stand tall and spread their forelegs, with their wings fanning out wide. The fanning of the wings evidently makes the mantis seem larger and more threatening, with some species having bright colors and patterns on their hind wings and inner surfaces of their front legs for this purpose. If harassment persists, a mantis may then strike with its forelegs and attempt to pinch or bite. As part of the threat display, some species also may produce a hissing sound by expelling air from the abdominal spiracles (openings on the surface of some

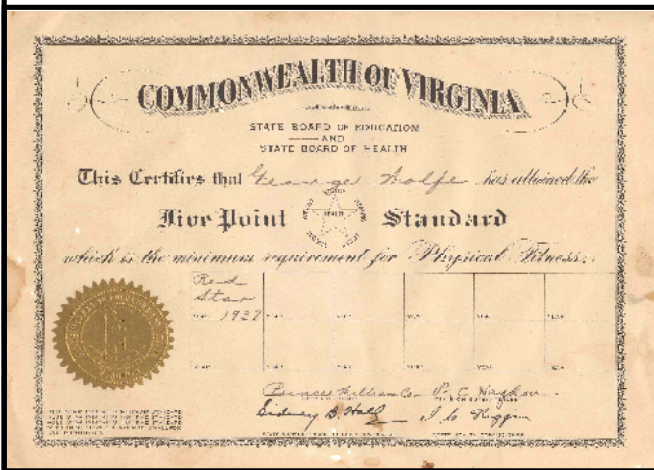


The Eanes Family-Late 1959 - Early 1960  
 Front: John Edward and Ardena Marye  
 Back: David Wolfe Eanes held by his mother,  
 Gladys Lanora, A.V. holding Cynthia Lenora

Where **WILD**  
 things live...



*Sphodromantis viridis*  
 Praying mantis



Five Point Standard Certificate for George  
 Wolfe, Red Star - 1937

Certificate and photos courtesy of Gladys Eanes.



George William Wolfe plays his guitar in the  
 front yard of the Wolfe home





Stone marking the grave of Capt. Lucien Davis in the John Williams Family Cemetery



Essie Cornwell (born July 1893), daughter of Edward Cornwell who was Emma (Cornwell) Cooksey's brother

Photo above and below courtesy of Janice Speakes



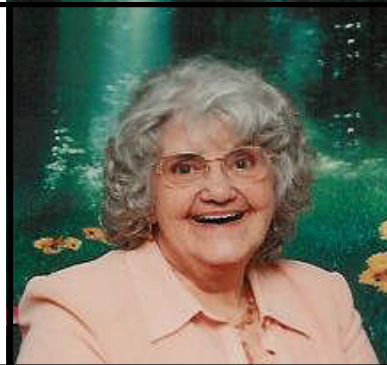
Believed to be Solomon Spitzer and two of his grandchildren, Sidney and Helen



## Remembering Dorothy (Foster) Pearson

By

**Bobbie (Boyd) Ratliff**



Living next door to Mrs. Pearson in Brentsville, Va., was like having kinfolks, as I am far from home in Buchanan County, Va. She was to me likened to a great-aunt. She was always wearing a smile, friendly and offering to help me in any way she could as I'm raising small children while Mrs. Pearson and husband Homer's four children are almost grown. The oldest one, a son named for her husband, Homer Lee, and nicknamed H. L. has married and moved to Manassas. The next in line to follow this pursuit is a daughter, Mary, also married and moved away. Mrs. Pearson had been married prior to marrying Homer and two children were added to that union. A son named Bob and a daughter named Pat. Mrs. Pearson and Homer moved from Ft. Belvoir to Brentsville before I moved there.

Mrs. Pearson is far from her family and childhood dreams in Georgia too. And she would talk endlessly of her upbringing in Baptist faith with a strict father and mother making sure she understood the "Good Word." She was fortunate enough to make a trip back to Georgia and while there on vacation, she mailed me a postcard that I still have in my memories. She would tickle me bragging about the trait she had of a rum with a bump and she called it the "Foster Rump" and proud of it!

Mrs. Pearson and Homer sold their house in Brentsville and moved to Dumfries, Va., and I missed her sorely as she was my guide to Conversion and being baptized, along with my daughter Judy. We walked together with our children to Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church and mine and Judy's membership was added to

the list. I was saddened to learn that my dear neighbor and friend became a victim of illness and is incurable—she loses her battle with life while I'm still in Brentsville. I had named one of my sons Avis and Mrs. Pearson had a niece with the name too but pronounced different.

To honestly describe my friend and neighbor—Mrs. Pearson—she was fair, with white hair, baby blue eyes and knowing her origin of birth and her love for the birthplace—I see a daintily lady dressed neat with light make-up and color coordinated jewelry to match wearing a smile—I would call her a Georgia Peach!

### WHEN IDIE

Today, I'm one among the Earth's creatures as yet alive;  
Being of sound mind and body, I have a testimony to give.  
Since early childhood there were questions with unknown  
Answers to explain the mystery of my journey going HOME.  
Words of Praise, Beauty, Grace, and Love in written song;  
Describing all the human mind comprehends of no wrong.  
Taking steps along a path of sand, sticks, stones and mud;  
Trying to reach a destination-not far—but far as I could....  
Go to pick a bunch of flowers, chase the wind, feeling odd;  
That I can hold and touch a pet, and free to laugh out loud.  
A day came I'm no longer an innocent child, but I'm grown;  
And meeting another Earth creature who made me his own.  
I gave my heart to this man, and eight children are my pride;  
My youth, my innocence, and my anxiety took on another side.  
Losing the One—My partner, gave way to much distress;  
Causing an inner self to emerge, and struggle to do my best.  
I cannot boast of as: Great Deeds, but hold my head up high;  
That I can travel another road that's being built as I die.  
It reaches a purple mountain, sitting beneath clear skies;  
Where all Earth creatures must yield, and close their eyes.  
The road thus far is smooth as silk, and barefoot I walk;  
And listen to the Angels voices, with whispers of talk.  
Assuring me of Love and Beauty, and now I can surely fly;  
To see the Mansion built for me as I prepared to die.

Written by Bobbie Boyd Ratliff, October 27, 2001



# The John Williams Family Cemetery

## Brentsville, VA

by Howard Churchill

The John Williams Family Cemetery was established for the family and descendants of John Williams. The John Williams Family Cemetery is located at 12324 Bristow Road, Bristow, Virginia 20136. The GPIN number is 7693-84-8087 and can be accessed through the [www.pwcgov.org/countymapper](http://www.pwcgov.org/countymapper) website.

This became a family cemetery sometime in the early to mid 1800's after the John Williams family moved from Dumfries to Brentsville around 1820. The first readable dated markers in the cemetery show up in the 1860s, although there are stories that the cemetery had been vandalized and robbed of some of its stones. There were family burials there into the 1960s. The cemetery was cared for by family members into the 1950s.

The cemetery has been known by at least four different names – the John Williams Family Cemetery, the Nicol Cemetery, the Brentsville Public Cemetery, and the St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery. The original name given the cemetery, and the current one reestablished, is the John Williams Family Cemetery. The Virginia Historic Inventory of 1936 identified it as the Nicol Cemetery. In ER Conner, III's book, "100 Old Cemeteries of Prince William County, Virginia", published in 1981, it was referred to as the Brentsville Public Cemetery. The Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks of 1987 identified it as the St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery; it appears that someone misinterpreted the book "Prince William – The Story of its People and Places", published in 1941 and revised in 1988.

Research was done on the status of the cemetery and it was learned that Prince William County had attached the cemetery to an adjoining piece of property on Bristow Road, and it was

no longer identified as a cemetery as it had been in earlier maps from the 1930s. Deeds were checked until two were found in 1899 that concerned the legal establishment of the cemetery. JBT Thornton had sold the land surrounding the Cemetery, but had excepted the Cemetery itself from the sale. This deed was on March 1, 1899. And then on September 20, 1899, JBT Thornton and all the other owners from the first deed executed a second deed to Charles Edgar Nicol, Thomas W. Lion, and Arthur W. Sinclair, therein named as Trustees of the John Williams Family Cemetery, and it was deeded expressly as the burial grounds for the family of the late John Williams and his descendants. This information was furnished to the County, and they agreed that it seemed as though it should be a separate property, but they still needed further information. So the probate records for the original Trustees were researched to see if they named successor trustees for the Cemetery, which they didn't. It took several years and working with a number of different people in the County to get them to agree to the change, but they finally did, and it is now listed separately as a cemetery, and includes the access road owned by the Cemetery, to Bristow Road. The Prince William County Historic Commission has been requested to change the name back from its most recent name as the Brentsville Public Cemetery to its original name- the John Williams Family Cemetery. New Trustees needed to be appointed for the Cemetery. As of June 25, 2010, the John Williams Family Cemetery has four new Substitute Trustees. The current Trustees are Howard L. Churchill, Catherine M. Sinclair, Karl K. Churchill and Joshua W. Vincill, all of whom are direct descendants of John Williams.

(Cont. on page 8)

## When WAR Came to Brentsville

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,  
October 12, 1863-11 p.m.

Brigadier-General BUFORD,  
Commanding First Cavalry Division:

GENERAL: You will cover the rear and flank of the trains of the army to-morrow on their march to Centreville by the way of Brentsville. Headquarters to-morrow night will be at Centreville. Send an officer to report your position to-morrow night.

Very respectfully,  
A. PLEASANTON.  
Major-General, Commanding.

The division remained in camp watching the river and resting until the trains were well under way, and then moved to camp near Warrenton Junction, the trains being near Catlett's and Weaverville.

On the 14th, the rear of the trains was delayed in getting under way and it was several hours before the division was in motion. At Brentsville the trains were found parked, and little disposition to move was displayed by the few quartermasters that I could find, until toward night, when General Warren's firing was seen. The division stood to horse, and during the whole night every effort was made to keep the wagons in motion. Shortly after General Warren's firing had ceased, my pickets were fired into, but no further molestation was offered. During the night General Gregg, with his division, came to my assistance, and remained until it was thought prudent for him to continue his march.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. BUFORD,  
Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Commanding.

## A Note From Rob Orrison

I wanted to write a quick note to show my appreciation for all the help, support and dedication everyone has shared for Brentsville during my time as Site Manager here. I started here nearly five years ago and I think we have come a long way. Brentsville has always been a special place to those who have or still call it "home." I think with the restoration of the Union Church, Courthouse and Haislip-Hall House (or the log cabin); along with the overall opening of the site to the general public, the general awareness of Brentsville has increased. Brentsville has a wonderful story and it is great to see total strangers make a connection while on tour or to have a visitor from California learn that an ancestor once called Brentsville home. All that we have accomplished here at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre could not have been possible without the help of so many people. So to everyone, I say a big "Thank You!!" for making my job easy and the most fulfilling I have had in my career.

Finally, even though I can not list everyone who has been a great help to me as I have worked here at Brentsville, I do think that I need to send a special "thank you" to Morgan Breeden for not only putting together this great newsletter, but in assisting me in everything from lighting candles, vacuuming, leading tours, historic research, sharing his history books and even building an outhouse! His help, knowledge and dedication to Brentsville and its history is something that should not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Thank you Morgan! Though I am not from Brentsville, I will always consider it my second home. I will be leaving to take over Bristoe Battlefield and Ben Lomond, so I won't be far away. Mike Riley will fill in nicely, though he has been warned that I will have a hard time "letting go" of this place. Thanks again to everyone and I look forward to seeing all of you at the events and programs at Brentsville in the future.

Robert Orrison  
Historic Site Manager  
Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre  
Prince William County Historic Preservation Division  
703-365-7895 - Office  
571-641-0223 - Mobile  
[www.pwcgov.org/brentsville](http://www.pwcgov.org/brentsville)

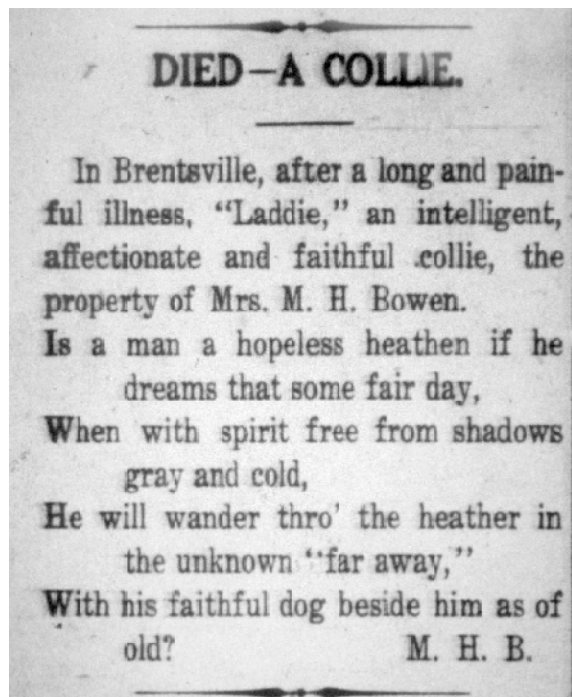
(Continued from page 6)

The Cemetery is currently being maintained by the Trustees and work has begun to clear the road owned by the Cemetery to Bristow Road.

One of the major concerns of the Trustees is to identify burial sites and who is interred in the Cemetery. Another concern is that all of the descendants of John Williams be made aware of their rights as they relate to the use of the Cemetery. If anyone has any information of this nature we would appreciate hearing from you. The Trustees are missing a fair amount of information on the entire family, and we would appreciate any help in filling in the blanks in the family genealogy. You may contact the Trustees at:

The John Williams Family Cemetery  
Howard L. Churchill, Trustee  
PO Box 36512  
Richmond, VA 23235-8010

Email: hchurchill1@verizon.net  
Phone: 804/378-7828



Source: The Manassas Journal, March 12, 1915

(Continued from page 2)

animals that usually lead to respiratory systems). When flying at night, at least some mantises are able to detect the sounds produced by bats, and when the frequency begins to increase rapidly, indicating an approaching bat, they will stop flying horizontally and begin a descending spiral toward the safety of the ground, often preceded by an aerial loop or spin.

Mantises are camouflaged, and most species make use of protective coloration to blend in with the foliage or substrate, both to avoid predators themselves, and to better snare their victims. While mantises can bite, they have no venom. They can also slash captors with their raptorial legs (which is often preceded by a threat display wherein the mantis will rear back and spread its front legs and wings (if present), often revealing vivid colors and/or eyespots to startle a predator).

The mating season in temperate climates typically begins in autumn. The female lays between 10 and 400 eggs, depending on the species. Eggs are typically deposited in a frothy mass that is produced by glands in the abdomen. This froth then hardens, creating a protective capsule with a further protective coat, and the egg mass is called an ootheca. Depending on the species these can be attached to a flat surface, wrapped around a plant or even deposited in the ground. Despite the versatility and durability of the eggs, they are often preyed on, especially by several species of parasitic wasps. In a few species, the mother guards the eggs.

In tropical species, the natural lifespan of a mantis in the wild is about 10–12 months, but some species kept in captivity have been sustained for 14 months. In colder areas, females will die during the winter (as well as any surviving males).

Organic gardeners who avoid pesticides may encourage mantises as a form of biological pest control. Tens of thousands of mantis egg cases are sold each year in some garden stores for this purpose.

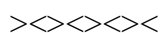
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



# Reader Feedback

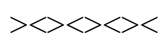
Another excellent edition. What an amazing endeavor you and Nelson took on when you started this newsletter. A wonderful accomplishment much appreciated by so many of us. Thank you for all of your dedicated work. Keep up the good work.

Jan Cunard



You do an amazing job. Please keep up the wonderful work to keep Brentsville alive in all our hearts.

Howard Churchill



I always read your excellent publication. To the best of my knowledge, I am Brentsville's sole functioning Beekeeper.

I have been keeping bees for the past 6 years on the Wooly Booly Farm on Barbee Road with my wife Barbara. I started with 2 medium hives which grew to 3 hives.

Beekeepers are a unique segment. They have been around for thousands of years. The

greatest concentration of bees in the world can be found in between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in present day Iraq.

The big question for me was how to get started. I joined the PWRBA (Prince William Regional Beekeepers Association, [www.PWRBeekeepers.com](http://www.PWRBeekeepers.com)), which meets monthly (generally in the Manassas area).

Beekeepers are individuals from all segments of society - the common denominator is their interest in bees. Beekeepers learn by classroom instruction and demonstration, followed by outdoor hands-on time (always in a Bee Suit!). Every novice beekeeper has a Master beekeeper as a mentor. Mine was Ted Pratt (Wild Mountain Honey) from Lake Jackson.

Is Honey good for you? You betcha! It is good for cooking, baking, and eating! The only exception is that it should not be given to babies under 1 year old. The best place to purchase pure natural local honey is at the Farmers' Markets. The honey bee is good for mankind in many ways.

Michael R. Janay

The Brentsville Honey Bee's (Girls softball team), played their first game last Friday evening against the girls team of the Greenwich Presbyterian Church at the Brentsville District High School field. The score was 25 to 8 in favor of the Honey Bee's. When we stopped playing, the score was 34 to 8, but it was too dark for the other team to have their last inning, so we subtracted the 9 runs we made in the last inning that we played.

We were so proud of ourselves that we all went to the Birmingham Dairy Milk Bar and celebrated. The treat was donated by Mr. Bob Hevener who organized our team and Mrs. Hazel Wolfe our Captain. We expect to play another game with Greenwich next week.

Source: "The Brentsville Weekly" August 15, 1956

# *Brentsville Neighbors*

Information About Brentsville  
Shared Among Neighbors

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

IN GOD WE TRUST

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

