

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

December 2012

Welcome Neighbors,

A correction to the story “Yes, But It’s MY Name” is in order as pointed out by Gladys Eanes (Earle Wolfe’s sister). The bond was actually given by Lula (Smith) East, Earle’s first cousin (Lucinda’s granddaughter) who worked in Washington, DC and was able to purchase the bond with her salary. While this doesn’t change the flavor of the story, I feel better knowing the details are correct. I’m also pleased that so many of you found the story interesting. Don’t you have a story to share with us as well?

Holiday greetings are an expression of goodwill used around the world to address strangers, family, coworkers or friends during the Christmas and holiday season, which spans an approximate timeframe of late November through January. Holidays generally thought to be included in this season include Christmas, New Year’s Day, Hanukkah, Boxing Day or Saint Stephen’s Day, Epiphany, Thanksgiving and Kwanzaa. Some greetings are more prevalent than others, depending on the cultural and religious status of any given area.

Regardless how you say it, we sincerely hope your home is warm, your table is full and your heart is glad. If there’s hope for mean old Scrooge, Dickens is saying, there must be hope for each of us. Or, as Tiny Tim would put it, **“God bless us, every one!”**

Very best wishes,
Kay and Morgan



This month:

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Flashback

BRENTSVILLE SCHOOL

Dear Editor—

I suppose everyone thinks we are awful slow in sending in items from our school, but I guess this will be better late than never. Our school has been going along as smoothly as ever. All of us are studying real hard and trying to help our teachers as much as possible.

We are busy planning a Christmas program. We are trying to make it the best that has been had in the Old Court House. We hope it will be a success. We are planning to have it on Monday night, December 21.

Oh yes! A photographer came to our school the other day and snapped all of our pictures. I don't think any of us broke the camera. He was a Mr. Miller from Luray, Virginia. He had spent some years in Idaho. He gave us a very interesting talk on how they irrigate their land in Idaho and also about how they catch and can salmon. We enjoyed his talk very much. He also sang a song about "The Little Red School House on the Hill."

Say, Nokesville! We didn't think it was very "broad minded" of you in saying that we did not like it that you beat us in that ball game and that we were a little stingy. We didn't get "peeved" a bit because you beat us. We enjoyed the game as much as if we had won. We were simply stating the facts. Anyhow we believe in fair play.

We noticed that "Betsy Ross," of the Nokesville school, was asking which of their writers were the best. Well, we'll admit they were all pretty good, but we won't say which one was the best because if we did, the one we would decide on might get stuck on themselves and we don't want to make any more "swell heads" at Nokesville, because there are enough there already. Well as it is getting near Christmas, it is about time for Santa Clause to visit us. We will wish you all a Happy Christmas and hope that Santa will fill all of your stockings up to the brim.

MARTHA WASHINGTON

Source: The Manassas Journal-Brentsville School News, December 17, 1925

Where WILD things live...



Lucilia sericata

The common green bottle fly

The **common green bottle fly** is a blow-fly found in most areas of the world, and the most well-known of the numerous green bottle fly species. It is slightly larger than a housefly and has brilliant, metallic, blue-green or golden coloration with black markings. It has short, sparse black bristles and three cross-grooves on the thorax. The wings are clear with light brown veins and the legs and antennae are black. The maggots (larvae) of the fly are used for maggot therapy.

Lucilia sericata is common all over the temperate and tropical regions of the planet, mainly the southern hemisphere, particularly in Africa and Australia. It prefers warm and moist climates and accordingly is especially common in coastal regions but it also is present in arid areas. The female lays her eggs in meat, fish, animal corpses, infected wounds of humans or animals, and excrement. The larvae feed on decomposing tissue. The insect favours species of the genus Ovis, including domestic sheep in particular. This can lead to Blowfly strike, causing problems for sheep farmers, though *Lucilia sericata* is not a major cause of blowfly strike in most regions.

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Snippets from the County School Board Minutes

(abridged)



County School Board Meeting

Manassas, Virginia, May 8, 1929

The County School Board met as per adjournment with the following members present: D. J. Arrington, Chairman; Mrs. Annie G. Cline; E. S. Brockett; W. L. Lloyd; and C. B. Allen. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Board elected the following as drivers of transportation routes for session 1929-'30:

- Hickory Grove Route, Ewells Chapel to Haymarket, Nims Lightner, \$80 per month.
- Berry's Corner to Haymarket, A. M McCuen and Son, \$90 per month.
- Groveton to Haymarket, John Sweeney, \$80 per month.
- Buckland to Haymarket, W. H. Butler, Jr., \$80 per month.
- Waterfall to Haymarket, Stuart S. Pickett, \$80 per month.
- Kings Crossroads via Aden to Nokesville, B. F. Hedrick, \$35 per month.
- Greenwich to Manassas and return to Cannon Branch, George Spinks
- Brentsville via Bristow to Nokesville, left open.
- Buckhall to Manassas, John Hottle, \$23 per month.
- Hoadley to Occoquan, Walford Reid, \$20 per month.
- Holmes School via Joplin to Dumfries, Luther Carter, \$100 per month.
- Quantico via Triangle and Dumfries to Occoquan, Eastman keys, \$120 per month.
- Stone House to Manassas, George Ayres and Son, \$70 per month.

Applications for the Brentsville-Bristow School Route and also for the position of janitor at the new Nokesville School were considered and referred to W. L. Lloyd and R. C. Haydon, a committee, with power to adjust as seemed most practical.

Owing to the small enrollment at the Woodlawn School the Board decided to reduce said school to a one-teacher, five-grade school for session 1929-'30 and to transport sixth and seventh grade children to Nokesville. The Board decided also to reduce the number of grades at Brentsville School to five grades and to transport sixth and seventh grade children from Brentsville and Bristow to Nokesville.

Several requests having been written in reference to the offering of Vocational Agriculture at the new Nokesville School for next year, the Board appointed D. J. Arrington, W. L. Lloyd, and R. C. Haydon a committee to go into the matter more fully and to bring recommendations to the Board at its next regular meeting.

Mrs. Janet Sykes Curtis having applied for a position in the Dumfries School for next session, the Board decided that she was not eligible owing to their ruling in reference to teachers marrying while in service.

A letter was received from miss Margaret Grammar in which she resigned her position as teacher at the High School, effective at the end of the present session. The Board accepted the resignation.

A letter was read from Attorney General Saunders in reference to the eligibility of School Board members who served as members of Town Council. His opinion was that it did not effect the eligibility of a member of the County School Board.

A letter was presented from Mrs. Ione C. Glascock requesting a years leave of absence as teacher at the Bethel School. The Board granted the leave of absence.

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A letter was received from Mrs. Florence Marshall, teacher at Fayman School, requesting that she be allowed to teach at Fayman for an additional year without attending summer school. The Board Authorized the Superintendent to take this matter up with the State Board of Education and if the State Board is willing, to allow Mrs. Marshall to teach at Fayman for next year.

A letter was received from Mr. W. S. Newman, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture, in which he suggested that the salary of J. P. Pullen, Agriculture Instructor in the Manassas High School, be increased by \$100 per year. Also that his traveling expenses be increased from \$250 to \$350 per year. The Board decided to allow the two above increases.

A letter was received from Mrs. Florence Wayland, asking that she be allowed to continue teaching at the Occoquan District High School for the next session without attending summer school. Her request being due to the fact that she has been in bad health for the present session. The Board decided that Mrs. Wayland could continue teaching at the Occoquan School provided the State Board of Education would allow her to do so.

A letter was received from Miss Lucy J. Hillsman, Principal of the Greenwich School, requesting that she be allowed to make up a day lost on Saturday by taking the children to Washington on a sight-seeing tour. The Board decided to make no general regulation in reference to this matter, but referred it to the trustee to adjust, with the suggestion, however, that great care should be exercised in granting any such permissions out of the regular number of days of instruction.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for additional land at the Occoquan School reported that it had not been successful thus far in making any satisfactory arrangements.

A letter was received from Mr. Thomas of Hickory Grove, requesting that the Hickory Grove School route be extended to Ewell's Chapel. The Board decided to grant this request.

A committee from the North Fork colored school at Thoroughfare appeared before the Board in reference to a new school building at Thoroughfare. The Board authorized the Clerk to notify the Secretary of the League that it would not be possible to do any work at Thoroughfare during the present year, since nothing had been placed in the budget for that purpose. It authorized him to say, however, that if it was possible to do so the Board would take some steps towards improving conditions during the following year.

The Board passed the following resolution in reference to school transportation: That it would be necessary for the person or persons contracted with to be the regular driver on the school truck and that substitute drivers only be allowed in emergencies such as illness, etc., of the regular driver.

The following bills were presented, read and ordered paid:

BRENTSVILLE DISTRICT

A. M. West, janitor service	\$5.00
George A. Wood, wood at Greenwich	36.70
W. L. Lloyd, attendance and repairs	5.50
J. L. Mayhugh, work at Greenwich	7.33
Nokesville Motor Co., Aden truck	30.59
S. G. Whetzel, Supplies at Aden	4.19
C. E. Fisher, paint, etc	5.87
R. E. Weeks, repairs at Bristow	7.58
Thomas H. Lion, services in sale of school buildings	<u>25.00</u>
	127.76

There being no further business the Board adjourned to meet Wednesday, June 5, 1929.

[signed] D. J. Arrington CHAIRMAN

[signed] R. C. Haydon CLERK

To Build a Jail

By Morgan Breeden

Part 4b - Lumber Requirements: Logs to Lumber

Now that the seasoned logs have been delivered to the Brentsville building site, they serve no purpose until they are converted into useful timbers or lumber. First, a bit of background.

A **sawmill** is a facility where logs are cut into boards. A sawmill's basic operation is much like those of hundreds of years ago; a log enters on one end and dimensional lumber exits on the other end.¹

- § Logging fells the trees, and log bucking cuts them to length.
- § Branches are cut off the trunk. This is known as *limbing*.
- § Logs are taken to the sawmill.
- § Logs are scaled (when logs are sold, in order to determine the basis for a sale price in a standard way, the logs are "scaled" which means they are measured, identified as to species, and deductions for defects assigned to produce a net volume of merchantable wood) either on the way to the mill or upon arrival at the mill.
- § Debarking removes bark from the logs.
- § The head saw, head rig or primary saw, breaks the log into cants (unfinished logs to be further processed) and flitches (unfinished planks) with a smooth edge.
- § Depending upon the species and quality of the log, the cants will either be further broken down by a resaw or a gang edger into multiple flitches and/or boards
- § Edging will take the flitch and trim off all irregular edges leaving four-sided lumber.
- § Trimming squares the ends at typical lumber lengths.

§ Drying removes naturally occurring moisture from the lumber. This can be done with kilns or air-dried.

§ Planing smooths the surface of the lumber leaving a uniform width and thickness.

Water-powered stone sawmills working with cranks and connecting rods, but without gear train, are archaeologically attested for the 6th century AD at the Eastern Roman cities Gerasa and Ephesus.

Sawmills became widespread in medieval Europe again, as one was sketched by Villard de Honnecourt in c. 1250. They are claimed to have been introduced to Madeira following its discovery in c. 1420 and spread widely in Europe in the 16th century.

In the United States, the sawmill was introduced soon after the colonisation of Virginia by recruiting skilled men from Hamburg. Later the metal parts were obtained from the Netherlands, where the technology was far ahead of that in England, where the sawmill remained largely unknown until the late 18th century. The arrival of a sawmill was a large and stimulative step in the growth of a frontier community.

Considering cost and the availability of water to drive a sawmill, it is unlikely that one was used for the construction of the jail.

Prior to the invention of the sawmill, boards were rived and planed, or more often sawn by two men with a whipsaw, using saddleblocks to hold the log, and a saw pit for the pitman who worked below. Sawing was slow, and required strong and hearty men. The topsawyer had to be the stronger of the two because the saw was pulled in turn by each man, and the lower had the advantage of gravity. The topsawyer also had to guide the saw so that the

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board was of even thickness. This was often done by following a chalkline. (See Figure 1) In 1820 slave labor would have been readily available and relatively inexpensive so it is highly likely this was one of the methods used to make the necessary lumber.



Figure 1

Another method of converting logs to usable lumber is by hewing (to cut or shape with hard blows of a heavy cutting instrument like an ax or chisel). This was particularly useful in applications where a finished surface was not needed.

Each log would be measured to determine the largest size beam that could be made from that log. Nails would be tacked into either end of the log and a chalk line stretched along the length of the log to show the cutting line.²

V-shaped notches would be cut in the log every few inches by standing on the log and chopping into it up to the chalk line. This will remove a large portion of the waste wood and prepare the log for the hewing process.

The log was then hewed from front to back using smooth controlled strokes. The worker would place his left foot on the log and his right foot on the ground about one and a half feet behind the left foot.

With the right hand he held the heel of the ax handle while his left hand was 8 to 10 inches from the ax head. He would then use the ax at an angle so that it smoothly whittled the wood but did not chop it. (See Figure 2) In some applications all four sides are hewed and for others only two sides are hewed. It has been suggested that a skilled craftsman could hew one timber into a two-sided beam in about one hour. Again, this is something that would most likely have been done by slave labor.



Figure 2

Now that the logs have been made into beams suitable for building the jail, they must be fastened together. At the time of our construction, nails would not have been the answer. But in the interest of space, the next step in the construction process will be discussed next month.

Source

1: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawmill>

2: http://www.ehow.com/how_5968683_hand_hew-beams-log-home.html#ixzz2DGClrWUs

Note: Figures 1 & 2 courtesy of Dr. Carl Lounsbury

When WAR Came to Brentsville

SPECIAL } HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, ELEVENTH CORPS,
ORDERS. } ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
} December 6, 1862.

Colonel Wyndham will remain with his original brigade in Centerville, sending out a detachment of his men to Chantilly and Hunter's Mill. Colonel Di Cesnola will march early to-morrow morning with his entire command, including the First Virginia Cavalry, under Major Krepps, to Brentsville, and from there across Cedar Run, where he will remain until further orders, leaving a strong picket at Brentsville.

By order of Brigadier General Julius Stahel, commanding First Division:

A. G. LAWRENCE,
Captain and Aide-de-Camp.

Luigi Palma di Cesnola (July 29, 1832 – November 20, 1904), an Italian-American soldier and amateur archaeologist, was born in Rivarolo Canavese, near Turin. He received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the American Civil War. As the son of a count, he joined the Sardinian army at the age of 17, and served in the First Italian War of Independence, rising to the rank of second lieutenant. He was later dismissed



for unknown reasons, and subsequently served with the British Army in the Crimean War. In 1860 he went to New York, where he taught Italian and French and founded a military school for officers. He took part in the American Civil War as colonel of a cavalry regiment, serving under the name Louis P. di Cesnola. At the Battle of Aldie (June 1863), Colonel di Cesnola was wounded and taken prisoner. He received a Medal of Honor for his efforts during the battle. He was released from Libby Prison early in 1864 when the Union Agent for Prisoner Exchange offered a personal friend of Jefferson Davis as barter. He served in the Wilderness and Petersburg campaigns (1864–65) as a commander of a cavalry brigade but was not promoted to brigadier general. Although he was nominated for appointment to the brevet grade of brigadier general to rank from March 13, 1865 after the end of the war, the U.S. Senate never confirmed his appointment (contrary to the inscription on his grave stone).

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luigi_Palma_di_Cesnola

The life cycle of *Lucilia sericata* is typical of flies in the family Calliphoridae in that the egg hatches into a larva that passes through three instars, enters a prepupal and then apupal stage before emerging into the adult stage. The female lays a mass of eggs in a wound, a carcass or corpse, or in decaying tissue. The eggs hatch out in about 8–10 hours in warm moist weather but may take as long as three days in cooler weather. A single female may produce 100 to 200 eggs in its lifetime.

The larva feeds for about 3 to 10 days depending on temperature and the quality of the food. During this period the larva passes through 3 larval instars. After emerging from the pupa the adult will feed opportunistically on nectar or other suitable food, such as carrion, while it matures. Adults usually lay eggs about 2 weeks after they emerge. Their total life cycle typically ranges from 2 to 3 weeks, but this varies with seasonal and other circumstances. *L. sericata* usually completes 3 or 4 generations each year in cold temperate climates, and more in warmer regions.

L. sericata is an important species to forensic entomologists. The insect has been heavily studied and its life cycle and habits are well documented. Accordingly the stage of the insect's development on a corpse is used to calculate a minimum period of colonization, so that it can be used to aid in determining the time of death of the victim. The presence or absence of *L. sericata* can show a lot about the conditions of the corpse. If the insects seem to be on the path of their normal development, it is likely that the corpse has been undisturbed. If however, the insect shows signs of a disturbed life cycle, or is absent from a decaying body, this suggests post-mortem tampering with the body. Because *L. sericata* is one of the first insects to colonize a corpse, it is preferred to many other species in determining an approximate time of colonization. Developmental progress is determined with relative accuracy by measuring the length and weight of larval life cycles.

L. sericata has been of medical importance since 1826, when Meigen removed larvae from the eyes and facial cavities of a human patient. *L. sericata* has shown promise in several clinical approaches. Larvae have been shown to debride wounds with extremely low probability of myiasis upon clinical application. Larval secretions have been shown to help in tissue regeneration.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_green_bottle_fly

A Visit to Brentsville

by
Cathy (Wolfe) White

We're sorry that we missed you on our visit home for Daddy's 80th birthday. We were able to secure a full historic property tour on Saturday with Mike & Amy. It was very exciting for me to see the buildings refurbished to their historical beginnings. As a kid growing up in Brentsville, the old courthouse was used for occasional dances, social gatherings, etc. the jailhouse was an office building occupied by Parks & Rec, the old schoolhouse was used as a teen gathering place by Parks & Rec with ping-pong, pool, and air hockey tables etc. The old church was abandoned most of my life. As a small child I remember the last group that occupied the church. The cars would line Bristow Rd. (because there was no parking lot at the church), and you could hear the joyful music accompanied by the playing of "spoons" up & down the road. Richard (my husband) is Cherokee and has recently started playing a handmade, Native-American flute. He played it in the courthouse and was so excited about the sound & acoustics that Jon set up his recording equipment for him on Sunday and he was able to make a "professional quality" recording of his own flute music. He was thrilled beyond words !! So I guess the moral of the story was that you don't need to have grown up in Brentsville to love & appreciate its history & beauty ... people from all backgrounds and walks of life can connect to their inner spirit while there. My (now grown) kids (who have the fondest memories of visiting Brentsville & hiking to the creek & back), their friends, my husband & grandson were all able to enjoy the tour. A couple of the "kids" said that they wished they could spend the night in the log cabin as a Halloween treat. While that was not an option, they joined Mike & Amy for the bonfire & ghost stories Saturday night which concluded with "added suspense" from Grandpa who was hiding behind the Jail house. Daddy was more than happy to assist in scaring them as payback for giving his baby girl gray hair ! hahaha It was a great weekend enjoyed by all Especially the birthday boy!

F e e d b a c k

That's a great story about your name & Uncle Earle.

Esther M. Turner

✂✂✂✂✂

I had to laugh out loud that I was the inspiration for your article this past month! You can bet that now that I know the whole story it won't ever happen again. Unless I have a senior/blonde moment. Then you'll just have to excuse me. Thanks for all that you do for Brentsville and for keeping my Daddy (the self-appointed Mayor), occupied when he's not fishing or hunting.

Cathy (Wolfe) White

✂✂✂✂✂

Thanks for the newsletter; really interesting read! I especially liked the article about the jailhouse and the one about your name. Thanks again....

Madelyn Winslow

✂✂✂✂✂

Thanks Morgan for all the work you do to support Brentsville and document it's history. I always learn something from your newsletter - not just about the town but about history and how our ancestors made things happen. I've seen "belted" trees, but had no idea why it was done. I knew it was to kill them but thought it was only to clear the land.

I'm interested in your old cemetery near the town - read in some Patton genealogy that they had family burying grounds somewhere in that area. Do you know things that might make that your "Halloween" story? Or, perhaps you might get the "elders" to tell you how (if?) they celebrated Halloween. I know we soaped car windows (never the paint) and turned over fodder shocks, sometimes carved a pumpkin still in the patch - nothing that was actually destructive. My cousin used to tell us ghost stories that scared the devil out of us! What did they do before the 1940s?

Jeri Brooks

✂✂✂✂✂

I loved the story about your Uncle Earle! I once was told your name didn't have an 'e' on it but I was certain I knew correctly. Thanks so much for keeping me on your mailing list.

Today I still think of Mother each month it comes out....she so enjoyed getting that newsletter...and no, I have not forgotten my story needs to be continued.

Dorothy (Bean) Furrow

Thanks, Morgan. I look forward to reading this!

For your info., the Thanksgiving article I wrote should be in the [Bull Run Observer] Nov. 16 issue. I submitted the wonderful black & white pix of your family with the Wolfes, and the photo of the painting you did of the old Wolfe's home (that is no longer standing except for the chimney). So be sure and look out for it in a couple of weeks—just in time for Thanksgiving!!!!

Thank you for all that you do to keep Brentsville in the news so people can learn more about your home town!!

Heidi Baumstark

✂✂✂✂✂

.Loved the story of your name and Uncle Earle's. You write so well and it's a great story!

Julie Webster

✂✂✂✂✂

Morgan, thank you so much for the newsletter. I have really enjoyed the articles about the jail. I hope the storm wasn't, very bad in Brentsville as we don't get very much news here.

Ron Turner
(islands)

✂✂✂✂✂

You never cease to amaze me with your work and dedication to Brentsville! Please keep it going.

Howard "Lit" Churchill

✂✂✂✂✂

Good job on the newletter as usual. Thanks for all the informative info on the jail. My brother Sam and I were just talking about all the Halloweens we had in Brentsville. It was the one time of the year that we had a lot of candy; it wasn't kept around the house like it is now - it was a real treat. No store bought costumes, they were "homemade" from whatever we could come up with around the house. Part of the fun was planning for weeks ahead. Our parents didn't have to worry about our safety or whether or not the goodies were safe. I'm sure my brothers have their own "adventures" about what they did after trick or treating that they could tell. Hey brothers, care to confess? I'm sure the statute of limitations has passed.

Mary Pearson Pumphrey

Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

Contact us on:

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All back issues on:

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

IN GOD WE TRUST

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