

# Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

August 2013



U.S.C.G.  
Estab. Aug. 4, 1790

Annie Oakly  
Born Aug. 13, 1860



Welcome Neighbors,

We decided to do something this month that was thought about for a long time— voice an opinion on an action we think is wrong. On page three you will find our comments which we hope are supported by facts. But if they are not, then it is our opinion anyhow and is offered for what it's worth.

The "Letter From Brentsville" on page two really hit close to home. About two months ago as we were planning a small garden (with only two of us at home a small garden is quite sufficient) we made a conscious effort to limit both the variety and number of plants needed. So we chose two tomato plants (one each of two different varieties), one box (four plants) each of yellow and zucchini squash, four green peppers, four okra plants, and one box (four plants) of hybrid cucumber (burpless). Of these, the tomatoes, the peppers, two yellow and two zucchini squash, one okra plant and two cucumber plants survived. A sad ending? Well, no—on a typical day we get four or five tomatoes, four or five squash, a green pepper and up to a dozen cucumbers. Next year the garden will be smaller!!

Someone asked why so many Union Soldiers are featured in the series "When War Came to Brentsville." I confess, it's an accident— the luck of the draw— just

the way it works out. I try to have the story match the current month and when I find one that seems to work well, I use it. Just that simple.

When I first read Delancey Webster's comments in the "Feedback" section I immediately thought he was referring to Fair's Rock. Nope— there is another rock that got a lot of use back then. I'm not sure it had a name. Most people just called it "The Rock." So where is it, you ask? Well, if I told you to go down John Donovan's road to where Lee Flory lives and then turn right to where Pete Dickens lives, would you find it? It didn't actually belong to Pete Dickens but it was next to his home and it was a favorite swimming place on Cedar Run for a lot of people in Brentsville. Maybe both locations would make a nice story. Something to work on.

This might be a good time to mark your calendar for a future event— September 14<sup>th</sup> for Bluegrass at Brentsville featuring Page County Ramblers, Skystone and Wayne Fairfax. We'll give more detailed information in the next issue.

Very best wishes,  
Kay and Morgan

## This month:

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| ➤ The Lake Jackson Dam    | pages 5 & 6 |                               |        |
| ➤ When War Came           | pages 7 & 8 |                               |        |



We have spent the past three days surrounded by such unromantic objects as pots, pans, kettles, pressure-cookers, and mountains of vegetables. And at this point in our career we wish to confide to anybody who will listen that if we NEVER see

another bean, beet, or cucumber—but mainly cucumber—again it will be none too long.

The way it came about was this, and we hope it will be a stern lesson on the virtue of humility and the evil consequences that result from vanity: on Sunday last we were showing off the vegetable garden to a couple of innocent and admiring city-people. To be quite honest, we were laying it on a bit thick about the amount of skill and science required to raise even the lowly turnip, much more the noble ear of corn, when suddenly, peeking out from under a leaf, we espied a lumpy, cylindrical object which could only have been a cucumber. “Ye Gods!” we exclaimed, emotionally, “A cucumber!”

“But what is it doing there?” inquired our husband, advancing upon it suspiciously. And to tell the truth, it had no business there for the row was plainly labeled “cantaloupes.” We had a horrid foreboding as to what was coming next, but like a bird fascinated by a snake were irresistibly drawn toward that plot of ground which, so short a time ago, we had industriously hoed, fertilized, planted, weeded twice, and thereafter ignored—in the press of more important affairs.

“Here’s another!” called Delancy excitedly, “And another!” cried our guests getting into the spirit of the thing. “Come look, Baby’s found a MONSTER!” Soon we were all down on our hands and knees, crawling around between the entrail-like vines, brushing aside the sheltering leaves, saying “Look at THIS one” to each other. We measured the largest with a piece of string that didn’t quite reach, and then measured the string, plus what we imagined was left over, with a carpenter’s rule, and it came out nine and three-quarters inches, and about three and a half in diameter; a monster indeed!

“You couldn’t EAT a thing like this,” I gasped, staggering up to the house with it clutched in my arms like a baby boa-constrictor. “D’you suppose we could pickle it in alcohol like the specimens at the medical museum or something?”

“I think you can pickle it in brine, period,” said the master of the household firmly. And added “Kosher style.”

In the amazement of learning that I had lived all these years in the same house with a man who cherished an illicit passion for kosher pickles, I forgot all about our guests, who, for all I know, may still be crawling around amongst the cucumbers, and hastened to get out a formidable array of cook-books, not one of which contained the desired recipe. At length we compromised on one that called for three days soaking and two changes

of brine, rather than four weeks with daily skimmings, but by this time our husband, who pops in and out of town with such frequency that he really doesn’t know what goes on in the vegetable department, decided to go and reconnoiter the garden. He was gone so long that we became quite uneasy, and when we came to track him down, found our nervousness justified; he was pulling beets and beans with gleeful abandon, and hurling them into the baby’s red wagon. “These things must be USED,” he announced, “while they’re young and tender.”

So .... Did we say it before? We reluctantly decided that canning season has come upon us, despite most strenuous efforts to stave it off and have now given up and moved, bag and baggage, into the kitchen. Where, if you come to call, you will find us, dealing, with great show of efficiency, with beans, beets and cucumbers. But mostly cucumbers.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bradshaw and family visited in Alexandria on Sunday; Mrs. Bradshaw’s niece, Nancy Frinks, is a guest of the Bradshaws.

Elmer Breeden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benny Breeden, and his bride, who was Miss June Shiply, of Washington, spent last week-end with their parents after returning from a two-weeks honeymoon. Mrs. Breeden entertained her brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Burke, and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Breeden and baby, on Sunday. Herbert Breeden and family were also guests on Sunday.

Mrs. Boyd Beard returned on Thursday from Richmond, where she spent last week with her aunt.

Miss Fay Golladay, and Miss Doris Stephens were home for the week-end.

The Brentsville Bible School has had an average daily attendance of sixty-one children; Mrs. Newton is now teaching one of the classes.

Among the distinguished visitors in Brentsville on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Owens, and family, and Col. and Mrs. Benjamin Muse, and family; the heat and the absence of swimming facilities in Manassas combining to make the Island of Brentsville a popular aquatic resort.

In the baseball game last Sunday Greenwich lost to Brentsville. The score was seven to six.

Mrs. Donovan has heard from her grandson, Johnney Melvin, who is stationed in Texas, but expects to be transferred to New Jersey, and Mrs. Brown reports that Bill, also in Texas, misses his many friends back home. We understand that General Eisenhower manages to keep the boys busy, but still there’s nothing like a nice long letter when one is far away, so why don’t some of you kids get busy and write? Here’s one address: Pvt. Bill Brown, R. A. 13241170 Sqdn. B. N. 10 FLET 2082 I.D.T.R.C. San Antonio, Texas.

Best Regards,

Agnes Webster

Source: The Manassas Messenger, August 1, 1947

# Very Happy, BUT Very Disappointed

Let me start with a confession—I'm not an archaeologist. I do not have a degree in historic restoration. I am not a mason. I am not an expert carpenter, although I enjoy working with wood. I have never been consulted in the restoration of any building. In fact, I probably know as little about historic restoration as any person on Earth. I am an expert telecommunications manager and have designed, installed and made operational telephone and data systems in the largest hospitals and benefit offices owned by the Department of Veterans Affairs which has absolutely nothing to do with this story except that with so many "am nots" I thought a positive thing would not be out of order. Back to the restoration, as stated in the movie *Home for the Holidays* (1995)~ "*Opinions are like a—holes. Everybody's got one and everyone thinks everyone else's stinks.*" So this is simply my opinion and I know there are people who think it stinks. But so be it. Thank God for the First Amendment.

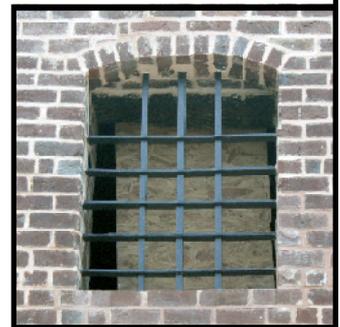
To be honest, I am very happy that the jail is being restored. This is something I've looked forward to for a very long time. The building has a colorful history since it was built in 1822 and, along with the other buildings on this historic site, holds a very important place in the development of Prince William County. It was, of course, built as a jail and served that purpose continuously until the county seat moved to that other place in 1893. Even during the war years, when the court system was suspended, it was in constant use, regardless of which side occupied the town. Between 1893 and 1897 I really don't know how it was used, if at all. But in 1897 the county sold to Rev. I. N. H. Beahm the courthouse and jail, both to become part of the Prince William Academy. He is believed to be responsible for the major renovation of the jail to convert it into a dormitory for the ladies who attended his school. This included the removal of wooden beams from inside the cells, the addition of windows, a modern stairwell to the second floor and an additional chimney on the eastern side to provide heat for the occupants there. For reasons not understood, he chose to leave two sets of original bars in place. These are in the rear of the building with the smaller one in a criminal cell and the larger in a debtor cell. Other windows that already existed were enlarged and new windows were added to effect a modern dwelling.

While in Brentsville the Prince William Academy changed its name to the Hebron Academy and eventually around 1910 moved to Nokesville with significant support from the Church of the Brethren members there. No longer needed by the county or the school, the old jail building was sold and became a private residence, an easy transition from dormitory to home. Thus it remained until about 1975 when the Prince William Park Authority purchased the entire site as their headquarters.

Now finally the jail is being restored back to the 1830's time period. So what is there to be disappointed about? During the early discussions it was acknowledged that the modifications made by Rev. Beahm should be removed to accurately reflect the original jail. A lot of people conducted research on the building structure and a lot of opinions were voiced regarding how best to proceed. Early in the process it was decided that the very large wooden beams needed to line the cells would be sawn on-site and these would be covered with thick planks, also sawn on-site. Large logs were brought in and the sawing operation went on for some time. We now believe that the very large beams will not be used in favor of pressure treated wood that will still be covered with 1¼ inch planks. It will look the same and I suppose what you can't see shouldn't be an issue. But what is an issue, if only to myself, are the windows. Everyone seems to agree that the two windows with bars in them are original and will be left intact. The window on the front (western side) that is in the second debtor cell will be restored to look like the one on the back of the building with bars. However, the windows in the other three criminal cells have been reduced to nothing more than square holes in the wall about 18" W by 17" T (See picture #1) instead of the one with bars (See picture #2).



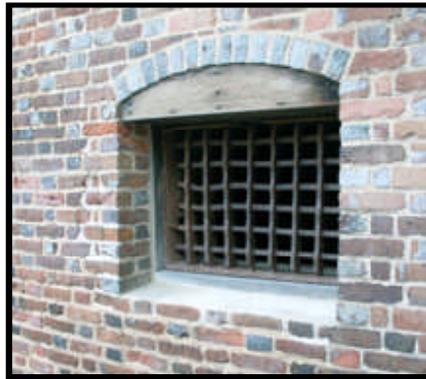
Picture #1



Picture #2

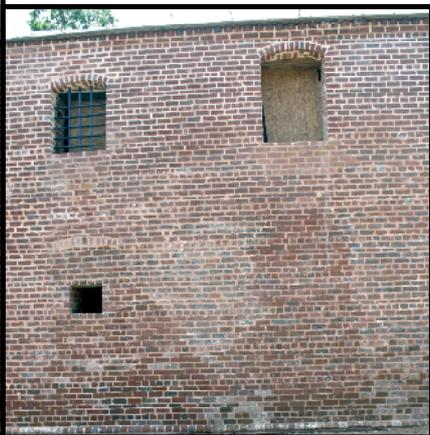
(Continued from page 3)

Why? From what I've heard, and I don't have documentation to prove it, the restoration contractor identified beams of wood in the walls and determined them to be window sills—thus dictating the size of the window. I believe that window sills are typically installed to support the window unit and to prevent rain from entering around the window unit. But this was an 1822 jail – it didn't have a window unit in the criminal cells and it was not until later, about 1839, that glass was even added to them. Did you notice the arch over the windows in the two previous pictures? They are both original to the building and both represent the top of the window. Back to those beams of wood—I believe these were installed as “deadman” supports within the brick walls, probably to reinforce the bars in the windows to make them more difficult to remove. Their location was not terribly important as long as they were within range of the bars on the windows. I even visited Williamsburg to see what the windows in their 1700's jail looked like (Picture #3). About what I had expected, complete with bars.



Picture #3

And just one more issue. Remember the door that was in the center of the back of the jail? It's gone (see Picture 4). When the framing was removed from this area all of the bricks on the top half were finished bricks (unbroken) while



Picture #4

the ones on the bottom half were clearly broken. This told me that the top half had been a window under the stairs going to the second floor. When the building was remodeled in 1897, it is likely that this window was enlarged into a door to give access

to an addition built on the back of the building. But the experts say no, the unbroken bricks are just a coincidence and so it's all bricked up now.

A quick reflection on history: During a 12 September 1836 Brentsville Jail Inspection conducted by James B. T. Thornton and J. H. Reid, they stated ***“That the jail is sufficiently large and strong, capable of being well aired and ventilated in summer, but requires some repairs to make it warm and comfortable in winter; the windows in the apartments for criminals being without shutters or anything else to protect the prisoners from wind, rain and snow, and so much exposed would they be, that on therein confirmed during the approaching winter, if as cold as the two last, would be in great danger of freezing.”*** Could they possibly have considered an 18 inch window provided that? It sounds to me like they were describing a much larger window that had bars but nothing else to protect from the elements. But then in May 1839, the county paid William Hughes for repairing 12 windows, furnishing materials and putting in glass. Does this mean that three years after the inspection they finally got around to correcting the problem of protecting the persons confined from the elements? But wait – the report said repairing 12 windows. Under the restoration plan I can only count 11 windows and two doors. I wonder why that is? Hummmm... . Maybe Mr. Hughes couldn't cypher very well.

So why am I very disappointed? I believe this beautiful building is being made to look more like a maximum security prison than a county jail. It was built as a holding jail while the individual was tried and if convicted, moved to a permanent holding facility in Richmond or, in the case of men and women of color, executed on the site. I've been told that Dr. Lounsbury is preparing a short document that justifies these small windows. If I'm allowed to have a copy I'll certainly share it with you.

Morgan

# The Lake Jackson Dam

A site observation of Lake Jackson Dam was conducted by Michael Baker Jr., Inc. staff on July 13, 2012, per the request of Prince William County in response to the activation of the toe drains in late May 2012. The following is an abbreviated copy of their report.

## **Background:**

An annual inspection of the Lake Jackson Dam was conducted by Baker on July 15, 2011 in compliance with the Virginia Dam Safety Regulations to supplement its re-certification application. During this inspection, it was determined that the concrete spillway of the dam has hollow cavities (chambers) between the piers, as opposed to being a solid concrete dam. Concrete repairs were being conducted at the time of inspection but were limited to the exterior concrete of the dam.

Subsequent to the inspection, an earthquake occurred on August 23, 2011 which resulted in cracking of the masonry mortar of the power house. The County did not document any damage to the structural concrete of the dam and the toe drains were not noted to be active at that time. Construction crews who were performing concrete repairs on the catwalk did experience the catwalk moving with the earthquake and refused to resume work that day on the catwalk due to the concern of aftershocks.

The pool level remained drawn down due to additional repairs to the tainter gate seals through January 2012. Refilling of the lake began in February 2012 with the pool level reaching the top of the concrete spillway (crest) around mid-February 2012. Pool levels fluctuated with storm events but do not appear to have dropped below the crest elevation for the concrete spillway until early-June 2012.

While removing debris from the spillway in late May 2012 in preparation for a forecasted storm event (forecasted for May 21, 2012), County staff noted the activation of the left (looking downstream) toe drain of the dam near

the power house. At that time, the flow from the toe drain was discolored and the second toe drain within the tainter gate section of the dam was not active. The May 21, 2012 rain event resulted in approximately 6.75 feet of water over the spillway crest. After the flow subsided to a point where the flow from the toe drains was able to be observed, it was noted that the flow in the left toe drain had increased and flow from the right toe drain had commenced.

County staff indicated that flow through these drains have historically been minimal and for the most part unnoticeable prior to May 2012. Since the activation of the drains, County staff increased its monitoring of the drains and the lake level. In addition, the County observed minor seepage through small cracks in the concrete on the downstream face of the dam. The County requested Baker to inspect the dam to evaluate its condition and to identify potential reasons for the recent activation of the toe drains.

## **2012 Site Observations:**

Below is a list of observations that were noted as part of the site observation conducted for Lake Jackson in July 2012.

### **Seepage through Downstream Face of Dam**

Seepage through the downstream face of the dam indicates that water is present within the spillway chambers. It was observed that the level at which seepage begins (where water is currently seeping out of the cracks and flows down on the face of the dam) is relatively uniform along the left portion of the spillway (looking downstream). This suggests that there may be cross connection(s) between the chambers which would

serve to equalize water levels within the chambers of the dam. The seepage appears to indicate that the water within the chambers is above the tainter gate invert elevation. While the seepage through the cracks does result in the wetting of the concrete and efflorescence staining, there is no measureable flow that was noted.

In addition to the measurements of the seepage on the downstream face of the dam, a CCTV camera was inserted into the air vent holes between Pier 1 and Pier 2. Through this investigation, it was determined that water was present and appeared to support the findings of the seepage measurements. In addition, the investigation did determine that concrete/rock was located approximately four (4) feet below the water level within that portion of the structure.

### **Investigation of Hydroelectric Turbine Chambers**

An internal investigation of the hydroelectric turbine chambers, which shares a common concrete wall with the concrete spillway, was conducted. This investigation was completed to assess if there was an access into the spillway chambers from that side of the dam. After this investigation, it was determined that an access to the spillway chambers does not exist from the hydroelectric turbine chambers and there is no apparent seepage through the common wall with the spillway. Overall the concrete is in good condition for its age. One crack was noted but there was no apparent seepage near the crack and the crack did not appear to have formed recently.

### **Toe Drains**

As described above, the activation of the toe drains was noticed by the County in late May 2012. Since that date, the flow rate has appeared to increase over time. The flow observed from the drains is in excess of 50 gallons/minute at each toe drain location (approximate - based on visual observation) and was clear water. The flow from the drains appears to be coming from the spillway chambers; however, additional investigations are

required to determine how the water is entering the spillway chambers.

### **Toe of the Dam**

It appears that undermining along the toe of the dam has occurred beyond the extent noted in the 2006 Inspection Report. The undermining is present along approximately 30 feet of the toe of the dam and varies in height and extent under the structure. The undermining appears to be from the removal of large portions of bedrock that had previously protruded up into the concrete at the toe of the dam in some areas. While most of the undermining is limited to removal of rock (or other material) below the concrete structure at the toe of dam for a horizontal distance of about two (2) feet on average, undermining of approximately six (6) feet horizontally under the structure was noted for a portion of the spillway between Piers 2 and 3.

### **Potential Issues Resulting in Toe Drain Activation:**

Based on the literature review and site observations, it appears that there may be three potential issues that may be resulting in water entering the chambers and the activation of the toe drains.

- Seepage through the foundation of the dam.
- Seepage through cracks/damaged concrete sections of the upstream face of the dam.
- Seepage through a former bypass pipe/orifice that was used during construction and sealed, but has been subsequently ruptured.

**[Continued next month]**

# When WAR Came to Brentsville

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, Washington, D. C., August 13, 1862.

Brigadier General L. THOMAS,  
Adjutant-General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

GENERAL: I have the honor to inclose the names of a number of Union prisoners taken at Savage Station and handed to me by Mr. Brunot, and I request that measures be taken for their exchange for an equal number now in confinement at the Old Capitol Prison.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. WADSWORTH,  
Brigadier-General.

I give a list of names I propose to exchange:

Thomas R. Love, sr. , Beverly M. Powell, James R. Powell, E. R. Ford, Thomas N. Williams, John R. Taylor, William R. Chapman, William H. Pettitt, Fairfax Court-House; Amos Fox, George Fox, Albert Fox, Fairfax County; B. D. Utterback, Centreville, Va; David Fitzhugh, Fairfax County; also A. Nicol, Minor West, Brentsville.

J. S. W.

## **James Samuel Wadsworth**

(October 30, 1807 – May 8, 1864) was a philanthropist, politician, and a Union general in the American Civil War. He was killed in battle during the Battle of the Wilderness of 1864.

Despite his complete lack of military experience at the outbreak of the Civil War, Wadsworth was commissioned a major general in the New York state militia in May 1861. He served as a civilian volunteer aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell at the First Battle of Bull Run on July 8.

McDowell recommended him for command and, on August 9, Wadsworth was commissioned a brigadier general; on October 3 he received command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in McDowell's Division of the Army of the Potomac. He then led the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, of



the I Corps of the army until March 17.

From March 17 to September 7, 1862, Wadsworth commanded the Military District of Washington. During the preparations for Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, Wadsworth complained to President Abraham Lincoln that he had insufficient troops to defend the capital due to McClellan's plan to take a large number of them with him to the Virginia Peninsula. Lincoln countermanded McClellan's plan and restored a full corps to the Washington defenses,

generating ill feelings between McClellan and Wadsworth. Seeing no prospects for serving in McClellan's army, Wadsworth allowed his name to be put into nomination for governor of New York against antiwar Democrat Horatio Seymour, but he declined to

(Continued from page 7)

leave active duty to campaign and lost the election.

After McClellan left the Army of the Potomac, and after the serious Union defeat at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Wadsworth was appointed commander of the 1st Division, I Corps on December 27, 1862, replacing Brig. Gen. John Gibbon, who had been promoted to command of the 2nd Division in the II Corps. He led this division until June 15, 1863, with two brief stints commanding the I Corps in January and March for about ten days combined.

Wadsworth was widely admired in his new division because he spent considerable effort looking after the welfare of his men, making sure that their rations and housing were adequate. They were also impressed that he was so devoted to the Union cause that he had given up a comfortable life to serve in the Army without drawing pay.

Wadsworth and his division's first test in combat was at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. He made a faltering start in maneuvering his men across the Rappahannock River below Fredericksburg and they ended up being only lightly engaged during the battle. His performance at the Battle of Gettysburg was much more substantial. Arriving in the vanguard of Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds's I Corps on July 1, 1863, Wadsworth's division bore much of the brunt of the overwhelming Confederate attack that morning and afternoon. They were able to hold out against attacks from both the west and north, providing the time to bring up sufficient forces to hold the high ground south of town and eventually win the battle. But by the time the division retreated back through town to Cemetery Hill that evening, it had suffered over 50% casualties. Despite these losses, on the second day of battle, Wadsworth's division was assigned to the defense of part of Culp's Hill. When most of XII Corps was ordered to the left flank of the army, Wadsworth sent three regiments to reinforce the brigade of Brig. Gen. George S. Greene, which was holding the summit of the hill.

I Corps had been so significantly damaged at Gettysburg that, when the Army of the Potomac was reorganized in March 1864, its surviving regiments were dispersed to other corps. After an eight-month leave of

absence, much of it spent inspecting colored troops on duty in the Mississippi Valley, Wadsworth was named commander of the 4th Division, V Corps, composed of troops from his old division and that formerly led by Maj. Gen. Abner Doubleday. This speaks well for his performance at Gettysburg, because a number of his contemporaries were left without assignments when the army reorganized or were sent to minor assignment elsewhere.

At the start of Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign, Wadsworth led his division in Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren's V Corps at the Battle of the Wilderness. On this day Wadsworth was Grant's oldest divisional commander at 56 years old, about nine older than the next oldest. On May 5, Wadsworth was ordered to counter march and help defend the left of the Union position. However, he had lost his direction in the dense Wilderness underbrush and drifted to the north, exposing the left of his division to a sudden and harsh attack, which in turn led to the same treatment of the Union division next to Wadsworth.

Wadsworth was mortally wounded on May 6, trying to turn his two intact brigades (his other brigade had collided with the Federal units on his left and lost cohesion) when he was shot in the back of his head. Wadsworth fell from his horse and was captured by Confederate forces that were pursuing his retreating men. He would die two days later in a Confederate field hospital. Wadsworth's son-in-law, Montgomery Harrison Ritchie, went into the Confederate camp to retrieve his body.

The day before he was wounded, he was promoted to major general, but this appointment was withdrawn and he received instead a posthumous brevet promotion to major general as of May 6, 1864, for his service at Gettysburg and the Wilderness.

Wadsworth's remains were brought back to Geneseo, New York, and buried there in Temple Hill Cemetery.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_S.\\_Wadsworth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_S._Wadsworth)

## Ex-Hitler Soldier to Preach At Two Churches Sunday

Walter Hartmann, once a soldier in Hitler's army and now a student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, will speak next Sunday at the Brentsville and Greenwich Presbyterian Churches.

Mr. Hartmann, now 22, was drafted into the German Army in 1944. "I went in," he says, "feeling that they wanted me to defend a system that was the worst thing that could happen to Germany, yet there seemed nothing else to do."

Following V-E Day, Hartmann was interned as prisoner of war in Norway. It was there that a young Norwegian pastor led him to Christ. He determined to become a minister and is now in this country on an exchange scholarship furnished by the Myer-Park Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, N.C.

He was flown to this country by the United States Army, and finds himself much impressed by America, though he feels that the U.S. policy toward Russia has been far too weak.

He will speak twice at each church on Sunday. At Brentsville he will preach the morning sermon at 10 A.M. and then address the Sunday School at 11 A.M. At Greenwich he will address the Young People's Fellowship at 6:30 P.M. and then preach at the Evening Service at 7:30 P.M.

He is being brought to Prince William County by the Presbyterian Larger Parish, which consists of the Brentsville, Greenwich, Catlett, and Bealeton Presbyterian Churches. All interested citizens are cordially invited to attend these services.

Source: The Manassas Messenger, January 14, 1949

## F e e d b a c k

Thanks for another wonderful issue of *Neighbors* — the article on Lake Jackson dam brought back a ton of memories for me — I had an uncle and aunt (my step-mother's brother and his wife) who lived in one of those year-round cottages, and we were there a lot. My Dad preferred George's restaurant for family celebrations, so I remember a lot of special occasions being right there next to the dam.

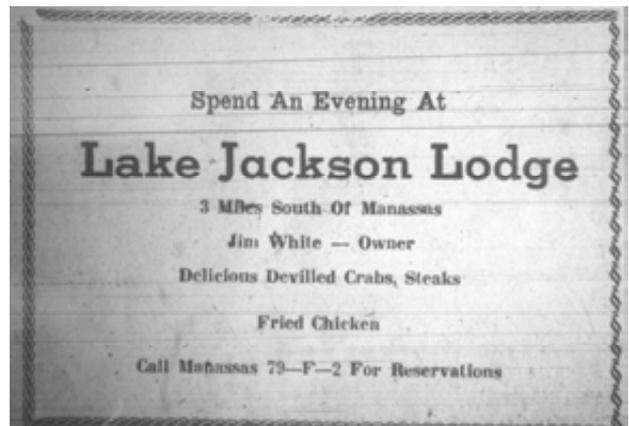
I also really enjoyed the story and picture of the vintage base ball game — I would love to be there to catch one of the games.

And... GREAT idea to run the old *Letters from Brentsville* columns from the "Messenger" — even just this first one conveys what a small tight-knit community it was back then.

You and Kay are doing such a great service for all of us with Brentsville connections — muchas, muchas, gracias!

Best,

Mike Simpson



The Manassas Messenger  
June 3, 1949

Best newsletter yet! I know the late Agnes Webster would be so honored to know that her writing is reaching yet another generation, and she would be so proud of you for the Newsletter. Her columns burst with warm country humor, universal truisms, and the minutia of country living — who did what and when.

You cleverly paired her baseball-themed column with "Baseball's Back". Buddy's story is a delight. Lots I didn't know about the Lake Jackson Dam, and a great update on the jail. Another fascinating war story. By the way, we swam more at 'The Rock,' than 'The Log'. How about a story about 'The Rock'. I'm sure I can dig up a photo.

Delancey Webster

# **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**

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

