

# Brentsville Neighbors

Preserving Brentsville's History

September 2013



Grandparents Day  
September 8

Invented  
September 20, 1849



Welcome Neighbors,

I wish to apologize to Dr. Lounsbury for stating that he would be providing documentation on the jail in last month's newsletter. The statement was based on information I had received and believed but should have verified before it was used. We did not intend to put him in an uncomfortable position and for this I am sorry. Also a point of clarification dealing with that story. While researching background information we found several jails that did, indeed, have the small windows in question. What sets them apart is the location of the segmented arch above each window that serves as a support over the opening. In every case, except for Brentsville, that arch is, in fact, at the very top of the window. The point I was trying to make was whether these small windows are appropriate for our jail.

We wish to thank Lucy Hartman for her continued support. Over the years she has contributed stories, pictures, and other help for which we are very grateful. Thank you.

Now for this month. Starting on page three is the final installment of information about the Lake Jackson Dam. I found it extremely interesting while doing the research and hope it has shed some light on the subject to you as well. As of this writing we do not know when funding will be made available for the "fix." On page

seven and eight is another story that may be somewhat controversial. One can only wonder what happened to all of the missing documents from the time of the war.

You will certainly want to mark your calendar for September 14, 2013, from 1 – 5 p.m. to enjoy the lively sounds of local bluegrass bands at the Brentsville Historic Site featuring Page County Ramblers, Skystone and Wayne Fairfax. Guided tours of the buildings will be available from 1 – 4 on the hour. Food and children's activities will be available for purchase. Antique trucks and tractors will be on display and Greenwich Presbyterian Church's quilting group will have quilts on display in the schoolhouse! \$10.00. Children under 6 are free. Call 703-365-7895 for details. See you there!

The Bristoe Campaign impacted Brentsville both directly and indirectly. We believe you will find the information on page 5 of interest. Also on page 5 a look back into the past about an automobile we were not familiar with and which has absolutely nothing to do with Brentsville—unless you owned one.

Very best wishes,  
Kay and Morgan

## This month:

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## Letter From Brentsville



Like many other intrepid though unsung heroes of literature, we doubt if anyone will ever properly appreciate the sufferings and hardships we endured while compiling the statistics for this article. From the time when the matter was drawn to our attention, or perhaps we should say “thrust violently upon” our attention, despite sundry, ineffectual efforts to get it to go away, we have labored unceasingly and with great personal danger to life and limb to amass the information which we are now winding up to impart to the general public.

In the beginning, we felt that the Authorities should be notified, but after some pondering were unable to determine just WHICH authorities. It did not fall under the jurisdiction of Mr. Stanley Owens, as no criminal or overt act had been committed, unless the Taft-Hartley Labor Act could somehow be construed to cover Disturbing the Peace of Mind; And as the Church seemed tolerant, likewise the Un-American Activities Committee, we were left in a distinctly frustrated condition of utter impotence.

Perhaps I should here pause for a moment to draw breath and explain that the froth on these ruby lips is caused by the Resurgence of Hillbilly Music Amongst the Young. From morning till night my ears are assaulted by nasal whinings and horrid bellowings about hittin’ the trail, lonely coyotes, purty little gals, and heaven knows what-all, to the doleful accompaniment of fiddle, banjo, and harmonica, while the juvenile department hangs in enraptured trance over radio or victrola, — sometimes both at once, — with a glassy, hypnotized expression, tapping time with an assortment of foot-gear ranging all the way from hobnailed boots to just plain mud.

But let us hasten to present the facts for which we have risked getting electrocuted by the kitchen radio, and explosion of the pressure cooker (our researches having been conducted while canning tomatoes), and get to the point: For instance, did you know that 10 hours and 45 minutes of radio time per DAY is devoted to such musical classics as “Mountain Dew,” “Smoke, Smoke, Smoke,” “Keep Them Cold Icy Fingers Off’n Me,” “Chain to a Memory,” “Bats in Yer Belfreys,” and “Git Them Cold Feet Outa My Bed”. This, friends, is something to think about especially when you consider that radios and comic books are practically our only means of intellectual communication with the Young, these days.

We trust we are not too antique to recall certain musical passions of our own youth; there was a record with Dardenella on one side and Glow Worm on the other which got a tidy amount of wear and tear, and we

also remember sundry parental complaints about “Yes We Have No Bananas”, and “Yessir, That’s My Baby,” but never anything like what Grandpaw Jones and his Hillbilly Boys did to that touching sentimental ballad called “Temptation.” We herewith quote one of the more refined portions of the refrain: “You come ... a-leering me on .... Shucks, I shoulda knowed ... that yo wuz Timpation ...”!

Out-and-out profanity is something we can deal with, but this ritualistic butchery of English Grammar to the tune of a mouth-organ seems to require a new weapon ... Kaint somebody DO somepin afur we git thataway ourself?

There was a great deal of activity over the Labor Day week-end; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keys entertained Mrs. Keys’ brother, Mr. Heflin, and family, from Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, of Upperville, and Mrs. Payne of Manassas.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fogle on Monday evening were Mrs. Fogle’s father, Mr. Breeden, his son Paul, Herman Ruby, and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Breeden, of Bull Run.

Mrs. Harvey Wilson and her two children visited Mr. and Mrs. Eph Woodyard on the week-end.

Mrs. John Cox entertained the Executive Council of the Manassas Woman’s Club at her home, Moor Green, on Friday. A business meeting preceded the luncheon. Mr. Cox spent Friday in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bradshaw returned Sunday night from Pelham, N. Y., bringing their daughter, Shirley, home. Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw were fortunate enough to get a good view of the American Legion Parade while in New York, and said that it was very impressive, but the crowds and traffic snarls made travel precarious.

Mr. Nicholas Webster returned on Saturday from a week in Ithaca, N. Y.

Pvt. Johnny Melvin left on Wednesday for Korea via bus to California; he expects to be gone a minimum of eighteen months.

On Sunday Brentsville lost a baseball game to Manassas by a score of 14 to 3, despite Lester Keys striking out three men in a row in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. Monday’s game with Nokesville fared no better, 23, to 2, — not in favor of Us. Mr. John Donovan, who witnessed the game said that the boys didn’t seem to show the pep that the old teams used to have.

Miss Doris Stephens was home from Washington for the Labor Day week-end.

Yours,

Agnes Webster

Source: September 5, 1947 The Manassas Messenger

# The Lake Jackson Dam

## Part 3

During the past two months we have discussed the existing situation involving the Lake Jackson Dam. In summary, the dam's construction was started by the L. E. Myers Construction Company in about 1928. During construction, ownership was transferred to VEPCO, who used the dam to generate electricity until the mid-1950's. The original designers are unknown. In 1963, Prince William County acquired the dam with thoughts of recreation and water supply. Water supply facilities have never been built but the dam creates Lake Jackson, a high use recreational lake, with large housing subdivisions on either shore. It serves no other purpose.

The following information is taken from a report "Lake Jackson Dam – Phase II: Investigation and Concept Design" by Baker, October 22, 2012 (Revised November 29, 2012). These are the recommendations to correct the existing problems with the dam.

### Alternative A: Fill All Chambers with Concrete

This alternative includes the placement of moderate-strength, self-consolidating, non-shrink concrete within all the chambers of the dam. This would effectively repair the potential penetrations through the upstream face of the dam and seal the toe drains, making the dam a mass of concrete/rock rubble dam, as opposed to a shell over the existing rock rubble dam. By completely filling the chambers with concrete, the dam will essentially become a monolithic structure; this will eliminate the potential for future damage to the upstream face resulting in activation of the toe drains and this alternative requires minimal efforts in regard to water diversion/control. But this has the higher cost than the other alternatives, estimated to be \$870,000.

### Alternative B: Internal Structural Penetration Repair

This alternative includes cutting holes in Chambers 3 and 8 and the Tainter Gate to allow laborers and equipment access for an internal structural repair of the penetration. Structural concrete repairs will be formed and constructed at each penetration. This would effectively repair the potential penetrations through the upstream face of the dam and allow the chamber toe drains to remain as they were intended to function, historically. This would allow the dam to retain the "as-designed" function of the toe drains but access to plug the upstream penetrations is difficult, given the concrete is approximately 28 inches thick. The cost of this alternative is estimated to be \$260,000.

### Alternative C: External Structural Penetration Repair

This alternative includes external penetration repairs consisting of the construction of large concrete seals on the upstream face of the dam which will allow the dam to retain the "as-designed" function of the toe drains but again, is difficult and requires Portadam installation or a similar upstream diversion and stream bypass system. These types of diversions are vulnerable to overtopping in high-water events, which typically results in a loss of the diversion system as well as constant dewatering activities. The cost of this alternative is estimated to be \$455,000.

### Decommissioning Alternatives:

In addition to the alternatives presented above, two decommissioning alternatives were considered. These alternatives include either partial or complete removal of the dam as described below.

(Continued on page 4)

#### Alternative D: Partial Removal of Dam

This alternative includes the partial removal of the dam in order to safely convey flow and reduce the hazard of the dam until the required long term repairs can be made to the dam structure. In conjunction with partial removal of the dam, temporary seals would be required on the upstream face of the dam to inhibit flow from entering into the interior chambers of the dam. This would provide time to generate funding required to implement long term repair but this alternative is temporary and would not provide a long term repair to the dam. The cost of this alternative is estimated to be \$270,000.

#### Alternative E: Complete Removal of Dam

This alternative includes complete removal of the dam in order to decommission the dam which would eliminate potential hazard downstream by removing and decommissioning the dam with no future costs for maintenance and operation of the dam. However, this alternative removes the dam which will eliminate the lake, alter the aquatic ecosystem currently provided by the lake, impact recreational opportunities and reduce property values of the surrounding residents. The cost of this alternative is estimated to be \$1,215,000.

#### Alternative F: Do Nothing

This alternative includes no change to the current condition of the dam. In other words, no repairs will be completed to address the current safety concerns with the dam and the potential hazard downstream will remain. While there would be no initial cost with this alternative, it could potentially result in regulatory action given that the dam would not be in compliance with the conditions of its permit. This alternative was considered non-viable because of the potential failure of the dam, downstream hazard, and regulatory enforcement actions.

#### Recommendation:

Alternative A, filling all the chambers with concrete, is recommended to rehabilitate Lake Jackson Dam, based on the following reasoning.

Completely filling the chambers with concrete will eliminate the potential for future damage to the upstream face, this resulting in activation of the toe drains, given that the dam will become a monolithic structure. Alternative A has a clear advantage over the other two alternatives, which leave a portion of the chambers 'hollow' and thus vulnerable to future cracking or damage that would result in reactivation of the toe drains and the need for future repairs.

In addition, by increasing the mass of the dam through the placement of concrete, Alternative A will enhance the stability of the dam against sliding and overtopping, the two primary failure modes of a concrete dam. This is a secondary advantage, but it is important to note given that the stability of dams is of increasing concern as a result of recent changes in dam safety regulations.

#### Proposed Next Steps:

It is recommended that Phase III; Final Design be authorized in order to prepare contract documents to publically bid the rehabilitation alternative selected by the County. In the interim, the reservoir should remain drawn down, given that the upstream penetrations create a public safety concern as well as impacting the structural integrity of the dam. The flow of water and differential in head at these holes is enough to pin a person, or even pull someone through the penetration if they swim close enough to one of the holes. In addition, the flow of water is compromising the integrity of the rock rubble foundation within Monolith 3. This rock rubble foundation supports Pier 3, and continued erosion of the rock rubble foundation may result in structural damage and a potential loss of support for the pier/dam. Finally, the County should continue its surveillance and monitoring of the dam to document any changes that may occur.

[Comment: It is understood that alternative A has been selected by the Board of Supervisors. Contract action is pending final funding.]

# Bristoe Station Campaign Mobile Tour



Starting the first week of September, the Historic Preservation Division will release an innovative way to follow along with the armies during the Bristoe Station Campaign of October 1863. The seven stop tour is accessible by cell phone or mobile device, and includes at each stop images, maps and a two minute audio clip explaining the history of each stop. The tour will allow us to share in depth historical information at each stop as it relates to the Bristoe Campaign. The Brentsville stop is the 5<sup>th</sup> stop on the tour and covers the immense supply train that was parked at Brentsville on October 14-15, 1863. To access the tour via phone, call 703-334-2544. For those with smart phones, you can scan the QR code on the Brentsville Civil War Trails marker and access the tour that way.

**Kaiser Motors** (formerly **Kaiser-Frazer**) Corporation made automobiles at Willow Run, Michigan, United States, from 1945 to 1953. In 1953, Kaiser merged with Willys-Overland to form Willys Motors Incorporated, moving its production operations to the Willys plant at Toledo, Ohio. The company changed its name to Kaiser Jeep Corporation in 1963.

What upstart Kaiser needed was a full line of cars, including a station wagon. What it had was a single four-door sedan body. What it got — the 1949-1953 Kaiser Traveler and Vagabond — was about as much as could be expected under the circumstances.

The official explanation goes like this: One day in July 1948, Kaiser-Frazer general manager Edgar F. Kaiser, ensconced in Willow Run, Michigan, receives a call from his father, Henry, the chairman of the board, in Oakland, California. "Come on out. I've got an idea," says Henry. The idea is the 1949 Kaiser Traveler, which looks like a sedan but has a folding rear seat and a gaping double hatch in the back that swallows everything from a coffin to a pup tent.

Edgar and his vice president for engineering, Dean Hammond, fly immediately to Oakland, where Henry announces that he and his wife are fed up with the station wagon at their retreat on Lake Tahoe. It rattles. It squeaks. It's a brute to drive. The wood body needs regular maintenance by a carpenter. The rear seat has to be unbolted and wrestled out to make any kind of cargo room.

"We can improve on this," Henry declares, marching them to a garage packed with products of his postwar wonder company, the leading independent and —

though a long way behind the "Big Three" — the fourth-largest car producer.

Drawing lines in the dust on the nearest Kaiser, Henry illustrates his idea: a utility vehicle in the shape of a conventional sedan. "Why not cut a door in the rear and divide it halfway down the trunklid," he asks. "Then hinge it here and here, find some way of folding down the rear seat, invent a license plate mount that can flip up or down under the lower lid. . . ." The result is the Traveler and its deluxe cousin, the Vagabond.

Source: <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/1949-1953-kaiser-traveler-vagabond.htm>

New K-F "Traveler" Is Two Cars In One

See The Traveler — It's Sweeping Prince William!

THE BEST CAR  
FOR FARM  
FOR SHOP  
FOR HOME

SERVICE **McMICHAEL** CENTER  
Nokesville, Va.

# When WAR Came to Brentsville

HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH CORPS,  
September 12, 1863.

Major-General HUMPHREYS,  
Chief of Staff, Army of the Potomac:

GENERAL: Last night I heard that Gregg's pickets were attacked. The peculiar manner of the citizens in this quarter, the lurking of spies and guerrillas in the neighborhood, and the extreme quiet of the enemy have excited my suspicion that a raid or larger movement of the enemy is contemplated. I have sent scouting parties through Thoroughfare Gap toward Salem, toward Aldie, to Brentsville, and that region. In case of a raid on Manassas Junction, Bristoe, Cattlett's or Warenton Junction, please remember I have a small force and much stationed; in fact, but three brigades and one regiment altogether.

Have you any specific instructions for me in either case?

O. O. HOWARD,  
Major-General.

**Oliver Otis Howard** (November 8, 1830 – October 26, 1909) was a career United States Army officer and a Union general in the American Civil War. As a brigade commander in the Army of the Potomac, Howard lost his right arm while leading his men against Confederate forces at Fair Oaks in June 1862, an action which later earned him the Medal of Honor. As a corps commander, he suffered two humiliating defeats at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg in May and July 1863, but recovered from the setbacks as a successful corps and later army commander in the Western Theater.

Known as the "Christian general" because he tried to base his policy decisions on his deep religious piety, he was given charge of the Freedmen's Bureau in mid-1865, with the mission of integrating the freed slaves into Southern society and politics during the second phase of the Reconstruction Era. Howard took charge of labor policy, setting up a system that required free slaves to work on former plantation land under pay scales fixed by the Bureau, on terms negotiated by the Bureau with white land owners. Howard's Bureau was primarily responsible for the legal

affairs of the freedmen. He attempted to protect the Negroes from hostile conditions, but lacked adequate power, and was repeatedly frustrated by President Andrew Johnson. Howard's allies, the Radical Republicans, won control of Congress in the 1866 elections and imposed Radical

Reconstruction, with the result that freedmen were given the vote. With the help and advice of the Bureau, they joined Republican coalitions along with "carpetbaggers" and "scalawags" to take political control of most of the southern states. Howard was also a leader in promoting higher education for freedmen, most notably in founding of Howard University in Washington and serving as its president 1867–73.

After 1874, Howard commanded troops in the West, conducting a famous campaign against the Nez Perce tribe. His leadership against the Apaches in 1872, against the Nez Perce in 1877, the Bannocks and Paiutes in 1878, and against the Sheepeaters in 1879 all add up to an impressive record, although he was outshone by George Custer and Nelson Miles.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver\\_O.\\_Howard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_O._Howard)



# Deed Book “A”

**Receiving Stolen Property:** *The offense of acquiring goods with the knowledge that they have been stolen, extorted, embezzled, or unlawfully taken in any manner.*

The earliest statute that made receiving stolen property a crime was enacted in England in 1692. It provided that the receiver—the person who accepts the property—should be deemed an accessory after the fact to the theft. The crime became a separate substantive offense in 1827, and it has been similarly treated in a majority of U.S. jurisdictions.

Receiving stolen property is defined by statute in most states. Generally it consists of four elements: (1) the property must be received; (2) it must have been previously stolen; (3) the person receiving the property must know it was stolen; and (4) the receiver must intend to deprive the owner of his or her property.

A person receives stolen property by acquiring or taking manual possession of it. Physical possession, however, is not always required. Under some statutes, it is sufficient if the accused has exercised control over the property. For example, a statute may declare that paying for the property constitutes control, regardless of whether the accused has handled it. In many jurisdictions a belief that the property is stolen satisfies the knowledge element. It has been held that a mere suspicion does not constitute knowledge. Some statutes provide that a person has knowledge if he knows, or has reason to know, that goods are stolen. Another test is whether a reasonable person would suspect that the property was stolen. Knowledge is commonly proved by the circumstances surrounding the receipt of the property. For example, unexplained possession of goods that were recently stolen raises a presumption that the possessor received them illegally. In order to be guilty, the receiver must intend to deprive the owner of the property. The crime is committed even if the receiver intends to obtain a reward for returning the property because she has gained a benefit from depriving the owner of possession, even temporarily.<sup>1</sup>

We are well aware of the damage and losses that occurred during the war including papers and documents from the courthouse in Brentsville. So many losses, in fact, that Prince William County was designated as a “Burned Records County” meaning records being sought during the time of the war, or before, may not be found as a result of intentional and/or unintentional damage or the unauthorized removal during periods of occupation. Lincoln authorized Grant to destroy the civilian infrastructure that was keeping the Confederacy alive, hoping thereby to destroy the South’s morale and weaken its economic ability to continue the war. This allowed Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and Philip

Sheridan to destroy farms and towns in the Shenandoah Valley, Georgia, and South Carolina.<sup>2</sup> But it did **not** include public or private documents or property that did not support the war movement. When this happened, simply put, the documents and/or property were stolen.

Such was the case of many records taken from Brentsville, including Deed Book “A,” the first recording of deeds after the establishment of Prince William County. Over the course of time some of this material has been recovered—much has not. Some has even been recovered and is located in Virginia but has not been returned to the archives of the Prince William court system. An example follows:

On March 31, 1936, Wilmer L. Hall, State Librarian, Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA posted a letter to George G. Tyler<sup>3</sup>, Clerk of the Courts, Prince William County, stating: “... a book dealer of Providence, Rhode Island, has written me that he has just secured a large folio volume of original Virginia records, bound in vellum and containing 404 pages. He states that the following is lettered on the backstrap: “Liber A, Deeds, Beginning May 1731, ending March 1732”; that on the front cover is lettered: “Prince William County Deeds, from May 1731 to March 1732” that the volume contains records of deeds, bonds, etc.; and that each recorded document is attested to by Catesby Cooke, clerk. He offers this volume for \$250. In all probability, this book was taken during the War between the States and that the recent possessors have no legal claim to it. However, it would cost more to maintain a suit to recover than the price at which the book is offered. Do you think your Board of Supervisors would be willing to appropriate the money to purchase this volume and return it to the county?”

About two weeks later Thomas H. Lion, the Commonwealth’s Attorney, posted a letter to James Tyson, the book dealer in Providence that included the following passage: “This book is missing in our Clerk’s Office and contains deeds and records of land beginning with the organization of this county... . Therefore, I make an appeal to you in behalf of Prince William County, which has the legal right to the possession of this volume, if you will not be patriotic enough to present said back to Prince William County.” Just over a week after Lion posted his letter, Miss Lulu Metz of Manassas received a letter from E.G. Swem, Librarian, College of William and Mary who advised “Legally, of course, the volume should be returned without paying for it, but whenever that has been tried before, such volumes disappear and the trace of them is lost altogether.”

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

On May 4, 1936, Wilmer Hall, Virginia State Library, again wrote George Tyler advising that "... *this book dealer promised me that he would hold the volume for a short time pending such arrangements as we might make to raise money for its purchase.*" He went on to say "*I have also been trying to enlist the financial help of some of our patriotic societies and believe that a part of the purchase price may be raised in this manner.*" Mr. Tyler replied on May 21, 1936, "*I filed your letters with the papers of our Board of Supervisors so that they might take any action they regarded reasonable about the matter, but they have taken no action. Of course, I understand that my opinion in the matter has not been asked for but if I may be allowed to state I am not in favor of paying anything for this book as it belongs to us already and anyone in whose possession it is is in honor bound to return it to us.*" To which Mr. Hall immediately replied: "*Fearing to lose this book by delay, I have written to Mr. Tyson this week asking that he send the Prince William book to us and agree to accept payment after next July 1 when the appropriation for the next fiscal year of this library becomes available. We do not have the funds now to buy it and may not purchase it for the sake of the county. If the various persons interested, including some of our patriotic societies, will raise the money, as I hope they will do, we will be glad to use the funds for the purchase of the book and turn it over to the county.*" But George Tyler was taking a hard stand and replied to Mr. Hall: "... *while I am not replying to it [the previous letter] as Clerk of the Court, but simply as a citizen and a son of a confederate veteran [his father, Robert H. Tyler, a farmer in Gainesville District served with Co. C, 8<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry during the Civil War], I think we of the South are making a moral surrender whenever we buy back public records which were unlawfully taken from us and which belong to us just as much as they did during and before the war.*" He went on to say: "*Of course we were overpowered and compelled to make a physical surrender, but I think that our loyalty to our cause should prevent us from submitting to what is actual blackmail. I should certainly like to have the book back where it belongs, but much rather do without it forever than to pay for it under such circumstances.*" So it would seem his lot was cast. A position from which he refused to budge.

Not giving up without a fight, George Tyler sent a letter to Judge Howard W. Smith, House of Representatives, Washington, outlining the situation and presenting the following: "*The book was no doubt taken when the Northern troops had possession of our court house in Brentsville. Do you think that a bill in congress could be offered that would attract the United States Government to its duty to see that all such records which were taken by the Union troops in the War between the States be returned to their proper places in the several Court Houses of the South?*" To which Representative Smith replied: "*I am not sure just how it could be reached by Federal legislation, in any event, it*

*would be too late to get any action at this session of Congress.*"

On June 15, 1936, George H. S. King of Richmond sent a card to Rev. Murry Taylor of Manassas stating: "*I am happy to inform you that a gentleman aided by others interested, including myself, purchased the Deed Book in question, and that this valuable record is now on the way to this state, but not to Prince William county if I can possibly prevent it. I am indeed sorry that Mr. Tyler took the attitude he did concerning the matter and that the other officials so closely followed his leadership*".

Too late to help, Mrs. Mary Hoss Headman of Knoxville, Tennessee, communicated to Mr. Tyler that she might find people willing to purchase the book and return it to Prince William but George advised her that the book had already been purchased and restated his position, "*I, as an individual and a son of a Confederate Veteran, regard the proposition of the dealer who offered the book for \$250.00 as a matter of blackmail and would rather do without the book than to submit to such a moral surrender.*"

In what may have been the final communications by George Tyler to Mrs. Headman on August 11, 1936, he said: "*I understand the book has been bought from the dealer and is now in the State Library at Richmond, Virginia. We have not made a demand upon the librarian for the return of the book to us, but it belongs to us and is still stolen property until it is returned to Prince William County.*"

Has Deed Book "A" ever been returned to Prince William County? I'm told a copy was made by the State Library and sent to Prince William but the original book has yet to be returned. Should it be returned? Without question! As Mr. Tyler stated, "... *it belongs to us and is still stolen property until it is returned to Prince William County.*" Will it be returned? We certainly hope so but until such time as the proper pressure is brought to bear, it might be a long time in the coming. I would love to see Prince William County send the copy of Deed Book "A" back to the Library of Virginia and demand (ask) for the original to be returned. It was nice they were able to purchase the book but it belonged to the residents of PWC when stolen and the years haven't changed that fact.

Note 1: <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Receiving+Stolen+Property>

Note 2: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency\\_of\\_Abraham\\_Lincoln](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency_of_Abraham_Lincoln)

Note 3: George G. Tyler was the son of Robert H. Tyler, a farmer in Gainesville District who served with Co. C, 8<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry during the Civil War. Robert married Sallie Sophia Chinn, daughter of Benjamin and Edmonia Chinn who built Ben Lomond.

# F e e d b a c k

Mr. Breeden:

After reading your newsletter essay about the jail restoration, let me clarify a point. I am not preparing an essay or justification for the small apertures of the criminal cells. That is the job of the restoration architects on the site who saw in the detail the physical evidence. However, what I can show you are examples from another prison, that might convince you of the existence of such small apertures in certain rooms. The attached examples are from the jail in Lancaster County, which is nearly contemporaneous with the one in Brentsville. It doesn't mean that your jail had such apertures, but it does show that small ones were used in the criminal cells and larger ones for the debtors.

Carl Lounsbury



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Thanks very much for the - as always - very interesting Newsletter. I certainly know very, very little about the jail, but I must say the last several times I have driven by it, I have been shocked to see the exterior of the restoration. It does not look anything at all like it used to, and I must say, I am greatly disappointed also. I certainly hope it can be put back in a more authentic way, but I doubt that that will happen. Thank you for expressing and sharing your disappointment. I'm sorry it was necessary. Again, thank you for all your work on the Newsletter. It's a historical treasure.

Brad Kelley

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I completely agree with you regarding your comments in the August Newsletter regarding the cell windows in the jail. Keeping the brick arches above the small windows is quite strange.

It is hoped that when there is interpretation of the restored jail, that an explanation is provided to visitors as to this strange combination of windows, and perhaps including a minority report with critique of the window restoration.

It may be that there is a positive side of this issue. It may add to interest in the jail restoration by pointing out the controversy.

Bill Olson

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Well, here is another DUMB old Brentsville man that thinks that what is obvious can't be all wrong. When the first PEEP HOLE was in place on the front of the building this old country bumpkin told everybody that that couldn't be correct. Nothing was done so now there are 3 PEEP HOLES. Show me any person that does not occasionally make a mistake and I will show you a person that DOES NOTHING. I love the court house complex and volunteer there and will continue to do so as long as I am able.

SINCERELY,  
THE OLD MAN ACROSS THE ROAD

*"Friendship isn't about who you have known the longest. It's about those who came and never left your side."*

# **Brentsville Neighbors**

## **Preserving Brentsville's History**

Contact us on:

[morganbreeden@aol.com](mailto:morganbreeden@aol.com)

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**

