

# Brentsville Neighbors

“Preserving Brentsville’s History”

September 2014

Welcome Neighbors,

I freely admit that I am cursed with many faults, not the least of which seems to be gullibility. When I’m given something that is said to be true, I accept it without a lot of second guessing. Thus the problem. When you get to page 9 you will clearly see what I’m referring to. Or as one good friend from RELIC so politely put it, the Chinese may call it ‘Silver pockets full’ but perhaps it should be called “Pockets Full of Bull!”

The Letter From Brentsville got two very different comments. “About sixty five members of Brentsville’s younger set enjoyed themselves Sunday at a picnic at Johnny Earhart’s place” was, according to one who was in attendance, actually on the Croushorn farm. I’m not sure if I attended that picnic or not (very possible) but I remember several times Mr. Croushorn would put some hay on one of his farm wagons, hook it to his tractor, and everyone would ride from the house down to the run for the church picnic. Of course it MIGHT have also happened at the Earhart farm.

The second reaction to the “Letter” was from Lance Webster. He very graciously has filled us in on just who that cousin was and some very interesting facts about him. Now I must confess, not everyone in the family was particularly “proud” of this cousin. In fact, one member (who shall remain anonymous) was downright angry to learn about this. And as fate has a way of messing with our minds, I found a quote from the late Robin Williams that seems to fit perfectly. Well, that’s one opinion anyway...

I’ve also reneged on another point. I was supposed to have information on the Purcell family this month. That’s turning out to be a bit more difficult than was imagined. So don’t

bother looking for it—nothing to share—yet. I’m still digging and with just one lucky break might have some good information soon.

If you enjoyed the bluegrass music last year, make sure you visit the courthouse site again for **Bluegrass at Brentsville** on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the lively sounds of bluegrass bands on the grounds of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. Music will be held from 1-5 p. m. with additional activities on the grounds. Buildings will be open for tours and food available for purchase. Call 703-365-7895 for details. The cost for this event is \$10 per person with children under six free.

Very best wishes,  
Kay and Morgan



“A woman would never make a nuclear bomb. They would never make a weapon that kills. They’d make a weapon that makes you feel bad for a while.”

Robin Williams

## This month:

- |                               |             |                      |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| ➤ Letter From Brentsville     | page 2      | ➤ Brentsville Jailor | page 6      |
| ➤ Where Wild Things Live      | page 3      | ➤ When War Came      | pages 7 & 8 |
| ➤ I Didn’t Know That!         | page 4      | ➤ Why Five Fridays   | page 9      |
| ➤ The Mystery of the Cousin.. | pages 5 & 9 |                      |             |



We stood on the front steps in the early morning, watching the children go back to school after their summer vacation. There is something rather touching about the sight, they look so crisp and

shiny, like a brand-new dollar bill. There were the Golladay boys and the Whetzel boys, the Bradshaws and Stephens (assorted), little Ted Newton, starting off bravely to the first grade undaunted by the oppressive fact that he has everything, including the alphabet, yet to learn, and the rest of them, all scrubbed to within an inch of their lives. A sense of unwonted constraint seemed to hang over the youngest ones as they ventured out from under the parental wing for the first time, clutching their paper bags of sandwiches. The little girls giggled, and the older boys donned their most blasé air; they, you understand, have been through this great ordeal and know what to expect.

We think it was Lysistrata who, under different circumstances, made the classic remark, "Ah, what a thing it is to be a mother!" It really takes it out of you emotionally, she might have added, and sitting down on the top step we suddenly felt our personal antiquity. The previous evening had been hectic; the night before school opens always is. We had first to creep up on our wary offspring with stealth and a stout lasso, and after a furious struggle the capture was effected and we dragged him showerwards, protesting bitterly that he'd HAD two baths that day in Cedar Run. Strictly hit-or-miss affairs, and soapless, we decided, after one outraged look at the filial ears. The small brother and sister stood by, much impressed, fingers in mouths, only removing them to ask in an awed whisper if we were going to "shine Gill up with shoe polish to make him pretty?" The ceremonial attire, army pants and a T shirt, were carefully laid out on a chair, with the proper shoes and socks in a conspicuous position nearby, and the toothpaste squeezed on the brush as a gentle hint. Then last year's report card and other necessary documents were placed on the table in the front hall, and we all sat down and tried to think if we'd forgotten anything. Lunch money? Clean handkerchief? Everything seemed to be accounted for.

Resting chin on palm we watched him leave, incredibly for high-school; Youth, unaware of the

perils and pitfalls, innocently setting out to conquer a brave new world. Tears of sentiment were rising to our eyes as we suddenly looked again, rose from the step as though stung by a bee, and demanded in most unsentimental tones that he come BACK here this INSTANT!

Later, we tried but were unable to capture the same mood, and told ourself crossly, "Conquering a brave new world is all very well, but he needn't have tried to take a B.B. gun to school to do it with!"

Mr. and Mrs. Nogara, of Washington, spent last week-end at their summer home near Brentsville.

Mrs. Brown's daughter, Mrs. Maxine Sims, visited her on Monday.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Louise Burdette is ill at the home of her mother, Mrs. Joe Keys.

Miss Doris Stephens was home from Washington for the week-end with two friends, Miss Mary Lou Lipscomb, and Miss Marian MacMichael.

Mrs. Wister Stephens entertained her sister, Mrs. Nalls, from Alexandria, her niece, Marianne Crittenden, and relatives from Maryland, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, their son and daughter. They all attended the Homecoming Service on Sunday at the Grace Methodist Church in Fauquier.

Little Judy Wilson, who has been staying with the Knicelys, has gone back with her mother and new stepfather.

Mr. and Mrs. Troy Counts have left to attend a family reunion in Russell County. On their return trip they plan to stop and visit their daughter Hazel and new grandchild.

Mrs. Lucy Hartman, her two children, and little Dorothy Bean, have been visiting in Roanoke. Archie Bradford and family visited his parents for the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Petersen have been visiting in Charlottesville.

Mr. and Mrs. Rome Counts were week-end guests of Troy Counts.

The Brentsville Ladies Auxiliary more than cleared expenses on the lunch served at the sale on Saturday. Half of the money was donated to the new Health Center.

Best Regards,  
Agnes Webster

## Where WILD things live...

### Cornflower

#### *Centaurea cyanus*

*Centaurea cyanus*, commonly known as cornflower, bachelor's button, bluebottle, boutonniere flower, hurt sickle or cyani flower, is an annual flowering plant in the family Asteraceae, native to Europe. "Cornflower" is also used for chicory, and a few other *Centaurea* species; to distinguish *C. cyanus* from these it is sometimes called *common cornflower*.

It is an annual plant growing to 16-35 inches tall, with grey-green branched stems. The flowers are most commonly an intense blue color, produced in flower heads (capitula) just over an inch in diameter, with a ring of a few large, spreading ray florets surrounding a central cluster of disc florets. The blue pigment is protocyanin, which in roses is red.

In the past it often grew as a weed in crop fields, hence its name (fields growing grains such as wheat, barley, rye, or oats are sometimes known as corn fields in the UK). It is now endangered in its native habitat by agricultural intensification, particularly over-use of herbicides, destroying its habitat; in the United Kingdom it has declined from 264 sites to just 3 sites in the last 50 years. In reaction to this, the conservation charity Plantlife named it as one of 101 species it would actively work to bring 'Back from the Brink'. It is also, however, through introduction as an ornamental plant in gardens and a seed contaminant in crop seeds, now naturalized in many other parts of the world, including North America and parts of Australia.

It is grown as an ornamental plant in gardens, where several cultivars have been selected with varying pastel colors, including pink and purple. *Centaurea* is also grown for the cut flower industry in Canada for use by florists. The most common color variety for this use is a

doubled blue variety such as 'Blue Boy' or 'Blue Diadem'. White, pink, lavender and black (actually a very dark maroon) are also used but less commonly. It is also occasionally used as a culinary ornament.



Cornflowers have been used and prized historically for their blue pigment. Cornflowers are often used as an ingredient in some tea blends and herbal teas, and is famous in the Lady Grey blend of Twinings. Wild cornflower floral water is produced in Provence, France. It is obtained by steam distillation which can be

used as a natural mild astringent and antiseptic to prevent eye infections as well as an alcohol-free natural toner.

Light requirements: full sun. Water requirements: high-average water daily. Soil pH requirements: neutral (6.6-7.5) to mildly alkaline (7.6-7.8). It flowers from June until August. The cornflower is considered a beneficial weed, and its edible flower can be used to add color to salads.

In folklore, cornflowers were worn by young men in love; if the flower faded too quickly, it was taken as a sign that the man's love was not returned. In herbalism, a decoction of cornflower is effective in treating conjunctivitis, and as a wash for tired eyes.

It was also the favorite flower of Kaiser Wilhelm I. Because of its ties to royalty, authors such as Theodor Fontane have used it symbolically, often sarcastically, to comment on the social and political climate of the time.

It was the favorite flower of John F. Kennedy and was worn by his son, John F. Kennedy, Jr. at his wedding in tribute to his father. Cornflowers were also used in the funeral wreath made for Pharaoh Tutankhamun.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## I Didn't Know That!

While digging through old newspapers I recently found the following item:

*Miss Cary Nicol returned Tuesday from a visit to relatives in Brentsville. She is busy securing subscriptions for The Ladies Home Journal and Saturday Evening Post. Last October she sent in 60 subscriptions and renewals, and as she is the youngest member of the Girl's Swastika Club, they asked for her picture to publish. She won a beautiful gold Swastika pin set with a diamond and several other prizes amounting to over \$20. She is now trying for another prize.*

The Manassas Democrat, September 29, 1910

Are you kidding me?? A Girl's Swastika Club?? I really needed to know more about this so a bit of research was in order.

The Girls' Club of the *Ladies Home Journal* wasn't a club in the sense that there were meetings and uniforms. Around the 1900s, it was an idea promoted by *Ladies Home Journal* to encourage "girls" to be subscription agents to earn gifts, prizes, money and scholarships. Once again (as is seen in other vintage clubs) - the term girl meant young women, who today would be considered young adults. The "girls" were expected to network among their friends and family and sell subscriptions to earn money.

The Girls' Club tagline was "The One Idea" - that selling subscriptions was the one idea to make money. The one idea was noted on postcards and magazine clippings.

The design of the membership pin was a swastika. Prior to the rise of Nazism, this symbol did not have the negative view it still has today.



The Girls' Club Membership Pin

The **swastika** is a Hindu symbol that generally takes the form of an equilateral cross, with its four legs bent at 90 degrees. The earliest archaeological evidence of swastika-shaped ornaments dates back to the Bronze Age (3300–1300). It represents the principle originating the universe, or life, with the four swirling arms representing the four directions of the manifest universe. The swastika literally means "well-being."

The symbol has a long history in Europe reaching back to antiquity. In modern times, following a brief surge of popularity as a good luck symbol in Western culture, a swastika was adopted as a symbol of the Nazi Party of Germany in 1920, who used the swastika as a symbol of the Aryan race. A right-facing 45° rotated swastika was incorporated into the flag of the Nazi Party, which was made the state flag of Germany during the Nazi era, after Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933. Hence in many Western countries the swastika is stigmatized as being associated with Nazism and related concepts like anti-Semitism, hatred, violence, death, and murder. Notably, the swastika has been outlawed in Germany and other countries if used as a symbol of Nazism in certain instances.

So now I know...



# The Mystery of Cousin Francis Revealed

by  
Lance Webster

Morgan, thanks for Agnes Webster's Letter from Brentsville column last month. It's one I never saw, as I was only 4 when Mother wrote it. However, here's what I know about the mysterious "brainy Cousin Francis."

His name was Francis Birch. He was the son of Agnes Gill Webster's Aunt May Birch (nee Schley), who was a sister to Agnes' mother, Katherine "Mimi" Gill (nee Schley). I think that makes Cousin Francis my second cousin. I became aware of him in 1959 when I was trying to find a college to which to apply. Mother informed me that Cousin Francis was something or other at Harvard University, and perhaps I should call him. A little research uncovered that the mysterious Cousin Francis was a tenured Professor of Geophysics at that renowned institution, and was on the school's Board of Admissions. As it transpired, a friend and I had dated girls in Massachusetts on vacation that summer, and figured if we could get an appointment with Cousin Francis under the pretense of applying to Harvard, we could wangle from our parents a free trip to visit the girls up North. Which we did. Cousin Francis was distinguished, scholarly, and polite to his young nephew from somewhere near Manassas. He listened to my specifics, and in a most gentle way, suggested that I might want to consider Tufts University across the river, "A very nice school," he assured. My friend suffered a similar fate, but let it be said that we had a lovely visit with two comely Massachusetts girls and went home to our respectively disappointed parents. It was many years later, when the internet came along and Google and Wikipedia became such incredible resources, that I found out a bit more about Cousin Francis.

It seems that early in World War II, his friend and colleague Robert Oppenheimer had 'drafted' him to serve on "Project Manhattan" as director of engineering for the "Little Boy" atomic bomb which devastated Hiroshima and, according to popular legend, hastened the end of the War and saved millions of lives. In fact, in the closing days of the War Cousin Francis was on the island

of Tinian, the island air base in the Pacific from which Japan was being relentlessly bombed into submission. It seems that overloaded B-29 Superfortress bombers were regularly crashing on take-off. Amid nightmarish fears that a crash of the A-Bomb-carrying bomber Enola Gay might set off an explosion that would destroy Tinian (at the time, the world's largest, busiest, and arguably most important airfield). So Cousin Francis and his team quickly and on-site perfected the "Double Plug" system of arming the bomb after the plane was in flight. According to Wikipedia, Cousin Francis' post war Legion of Merit commendation reads, in part:

"...he was placed in charge of the engineering and development of the first atomic bomb. He carried out this assignment with outstanding judgment and skill, and finally, went with the bomb to the advanced base where he insured, by his care and leadership, that the bomb was adequately prepared in every respect. Commander Birch's engineering ability, understanding of all principles involved, professional skill and devotion to duty throughout the development and delivery of the atomic bomb were outstanding and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service." (\*)

There's more about Cousin Francis's highly distinguished career as a geophysicist, but frankly I don't understand much of it because it includes statements such as "In 1947, he adapted the isothermal Murnaghan equation of state, which had been developed for infinitesimal strain, for Eulerian finite strain, developing what is now known as the Birch-Murnaghan equation of state."<sup>[13]</sup> (For more information: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_Birch\\_\(geophysicist\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Birch_(geophysicist)))

Clearly a talented and important man — as my mother's column said, "brainy." I simply remember him as a kindly man who had mastered the art of the gentle let-down, who made possible two young men's 1959 date-weekend in Yankee-land.

(Continued on page 9)

# Brentsville Jailor

by  
Ron Turner

The Brentsville jailor was not the best job but certainly one with job security. His pay for the most part was regulated by the state of Virginia. Over the years, each jailor found creative ways to supplement his earnings.

In the 1830s, he was allowed 21 cents for every person he received into the jail when first committed, and another 21 cents when the prisoner was released from his custody. By 1887, his fees for these services had increased to 25 cents for both actions. Additionally, the jailor also received 40 cents per day for “dieting” each prisoner but only 30 cents each if he had more than three prisoners and 25 cents each if he had more than 10. The allowance to the jailor for the maintenance and care of a “lunatic” could not exceed 50 cents per day and not to exceed 30 dollars a year for clothing. This was a generous amount for clothing as there is nothing in the records to indicate the jailor ever spent more than 15 dollars a year on any inmate. Sometimes, these inmates were in the county jail for months and in some cases years as the state asylums were always filled to capacity. He also received pay for such services as providing ice to the court in the summer, wood for the stove in the winter, and unlocking the courthouse for church, as well as the maintenance and supplies used at the jail.

The jailor submitted his expense account monthly to the court to be verified and paid. These submissions were usually on small pieces of paper and not in any consistent format. As no ledger was provided and minimal auditing was performed, overpayments and duplicate payments were made. It is not known if the overcharges were creative bookkeeping or honest mistakes. The only times on record that the jailor’s expenses were challenged by the court were in 1856 and 1859. In 1856, a \$35.50 claim for the nursing and dieting of Mary Kehoe and Eliza Rainey in jail for lunacy and, in

1859, for the care of the condemned slave Lucy and slave Brent. In both cases, a sworn affidavit was signed by Mary A. Goodwin that she had provided the care for the prisoners. It appears that Mary had worked at the jail for years, when both her husband and son-in-law were jailors.

George Milan appears to be the first jailor at the Brentsville jail and John Tyler, the last. The first inmate, as far as this writer can determine, was Enoch Calvert, a man arrested for highway robbery. From that point on, for over 70 years, the jailor was not without work. In just the first four years of the jail, he housed four prisoners being tried for murder, slaves of both sexes accused of felonies, debtors, people adjudged to be lunatics, the often incarcerated Manassa Russell, and just the run-of-the-mill inmates. Milan and the other jailors who followed must have found it occasionally difficult to keep the races and genders separated, as there were as many as 10 or more prisoners at the same time but only six cells to house them.

Three of the first four murder cases generated a lot of press and changed Brentsville into a place where the hotels and barrooms were always full when the court was in session. James Burgess, the first person to be charged and tried for murder, has the dubious distinction of being the first and only white person hung in Brentsville. The second murder trial was Dennis McCarty, a wealthy and controversial man from Loudoun County. He killed a very likeable James Beatty and was sentenced to the penitentiary. The other two people charged with murder were Edward Potter and William Winkfield.

In the hundreds of cases of the people who occupied the jail as prisoners in the years that followed, not much was written about the jailor. He was just a man in the shadows who submitted his expenses about every month to the court for payment.

# When WAR Came to Brentsville

September 3, 1862.

No. 46. Report of. Colonel O. B. Willcox, First Michigan Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, Third Division.

DETROIT, MICH., September 3, 1862.

GENERAL: My brigade, the Second, of Heintzelman's division, marching in rear of Franklin's brigade, arrived at the Sudley Ford at about 12.30 p.m., July 21, 1861. The brigade now consisted of the First Michigan, Eleventh New York (Firew Zouaves), Thirty-eighth New York, and Arnold's battery. The Fourth Michigan had been left at Fairfax Station and Fairfax Court-House by the order of General McDowell. Halting for rest and water, I obeyed the general's orders to post Arnold's battery on a hill commanding the ford, with the First Michigan for support, and at 1 o'clock pushed forward with my two remaining regiments up the Sudley and Brentsville road. We marched about two miles, and came upon the left of what I supposed to have been Franklin's line, near the junction of the Warrenton and Sudley roads. The troops on our left were engaged in a desultory fire with the enemy, posted in the thicket and ravine across the Warrenton road, not far from the Robinson house. The Thirty-eighth New York was quickly formed in order of battle, and the zouaves were hastening into line, when I received an order to detach a regiment for the support of Rickett's battery (of

Franklin's brigade), posted on a hill a quarter of a mile to our right and front, near Dogan's house. I led up the zouaves for this important service, leaving the Thirty-eighth under its gallant and experienced colonel, Hobart Ward. Ricketts was soon ordered to take a new position near the Robinson house. The zouaves followed in support, and finally formed line on the right flank of the battery, with two companies in reserve.

Up to this time the enemy had fallen back, but now he formed the remains of his brigade engaged with Hunter in the morning, viz, Bee's, Barton's, and Evans', in a new line, upon Jackson's brigade of fresh troops, making altogether 6,500 infantry, 12 pieces of artillery, and Stuart's Cavalry, according to General Beauregard's report. This force was posted in the belt of woods which skirted the plateau southwardly, and lying in the angle formed in that direction, between the Warrenton and Sudley roads, about a mile from the Warrenton road, and with its left resting on the Brentsville and Sudley road.



Orlando Bolivar Willcox (April 16, 1823 – May 11, 1907) was an American soldier who served as a general in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

Willcox was born in Detroit, Michigan. He entered the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, in 1843. Following graduation in 1847, he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the 4th U.S. Artillery. He would subsequently serve in the United States Army in various capacities over a period of forty years. Willcox served in the Mexican-American War, fought against the Indians on the frontier, and again in the Third Seminole

(Continued on page 8)

War. Following the latter conflict, he resigned from the Army in 1857.

When the Civil War began, Willcox was practicing law in Detroit. He was appointed colonel of the 1st Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded and captured in the First Battle of Bull Run while in command of a brigade in Maj. Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman's division. He later received the Medal of Honor in 1895 for "most distinguished gallantry" during the battle.

After his release and exchange more than a year later, on August 19, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Willcox a brigadier general of volunteers, to rank from July 1, 1861. The President had to submit the nomination three times, the last on March 7, 1863, before the U.S. Senate finally confirmed the appointment on March 11, 1863. Willcox commanded the 1st Division of Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's IX Corps in 1862. He led the division at the Battle of Antietam and the corps at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

During the 1863 draft riots, Willcox commanded the District of Indiana and Michigan. He again led a division at Knoxville and during Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign. On December 12, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln nominated Willcox for appointment to the brevet grade of major general of volunteers to rank from August 1, 1864, and the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment on April 14, 1865. Following the Siege of Petersburg, he led the first troops to enter Petersburg, Virginia, before ending the war serving in North Carolina. He was mustered out of the volunteers on January 15, 1866.

Willcox returned to Detroit to resume his

career as a lawyer but when the United States (Regular Army) was expanded in July 1866, he accepted appointment as colonel of the 29th U.S. Infantry Regiment.

On March 26, 1867, President Andrew Johnson nominated Willcox for appointment to the brevet grade of brigadier general, USA (regular army), to rank from March 2, 1867, and the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment on April 5, 1867. Also, on the same dates of nomination, rank and confirmation, President Johnson nominated and the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Willcox to the brevet grade of major general, USA (regular army).

Willcox transferred to the 12th U.S. Infantry Regiment in 1869 and served in San Francisco, except for brief periods, until 1878 when he became Commander of the Department of Arizona. In this capacity, he put down the raids of Apache Indians. For his service in the West, he was awarded a Vote of Thanks by the Arizona Legislature. Willcox was appointed a brigadier general, USA (regular army), October 13, 1886. From 1886 to 1887, he was head of the Department of the Missouri. He retired April 16, 1887 as a brigadier general. After his retirement, Willcox was governor of the Soldiers' Home in Washington, D.C. from February 27, 1889 to July 8, 1892.

Willcox moved to Canada in 1905. He died in Cobourg, Ontario, at 84 years of age but was buried in Section 1, Grave 18, of Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orlando\\_B.\\_Willcox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orlando_B._Willcox)



(Continued from page 5)

I also remember his younger bachelor brother Robert Fairfax Birch — a frequent visitor to our Brentsville home in my youth and also “brainy” — who wrote esoteric music for New York’s Metropolitan Opera, with musical scores available online to this day. [Results for ‘Robert Fairfax Birch’ > ‘Robert Fairfax Birch’ \[WorldCat.org\]](#)

(\*) In retrospect 80 years later, it is clear that the Atomic Bomb needed to be developed because similar development was under way by both Germany and the Soviet Union. Popular history tells us the A-bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the war to a quick close and saved more than a million American and Japanese lives. But there is controversy about its use on these two Japanese cities, rather than via a public demonstration – perhaps in Tokyo Bay. We now know from historical records that Japan was on the verge of surrendering (wanting only to keep their emperor, which we eventually allowed); and that an insecure and under-informed President Truman, supported by the overpowering presence of Winston Churchill and facing the looming threat of Russia under the brutal dictator Joseph Stalin, felt the need to demonstrate America’s newly developed awesome deterrent power. Also, it is now known that many scientists involved in the Bomb’s development were horrified by the prospect of use of the Bomb on actual people, and tried to reach President Truman with their concerns and with more humane options, but were prevented from doing so by the Manhattan Project’s powerful and determined director Col. Leslie Groves. Historical records also show that following the Bomb’s use and the War’s end, Truman and his Cabinet members quickly began inflating the estimates of numbers of American and Japanese lives which might have been saved by the Bomb’s use in hastening the war’s end...from under 80,000 to over a million. Nearly every soldier in the Pacific Theatre had reason to believe that the Bomb’s use saved their lives and enabled them to return home to their families and to a victorious nation. I do not know where Cousin Francis stood on these issues, but at the time he answered the call of his nation with determination, brilliance and dedicated service.

## **Why 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays don’t occur every 823 years**

The Truth is...

The first three weekdays of any 31-day month are repeated 5 times within that month. So, any month that has 31 days and begins on a Friday has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays, and 5 Sundays. And this happens much more often than every 823 years.

### **Repeating Calendars**

August 2014 has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays, and 5 Sundays. The next time that the 2014 calendar repeats itself is in the year 2025, which is only 11 years later. What’s more, a calendar month that contains 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays occurs nearly every year: after August 2014, the next occurrence is in May 2015.

### **It does not repeat after 823 years at all**

Not only does a month with 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays, and 5 Sundays occur much more frequently than the urban myth wants us to believe, the calendar for any year does not even match with the calendar for the year 823 years into the future. For instance, August 2014 has 5 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. 823 years later, August 2837 has 5 Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. That is a 5th Monday instead of a 5th Friday.

# **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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