

Brentsville Neighbors

“Preserving Brentsville’s History”

July 2016

Welcome neighbors,

Shortly after the June newsletter was distributed I received the following: “Gosh you didn’t even mention the 49th in the newsletter for Court Days that is so not like you. Tony said they had a good amount watching the mustering in. The jail was a big hit except the people who spent the night in there. Long story for another day.” With head hung low I had to admit that this was correct BUT I was not able to personally attend the Court Days because my #1 granddaughter was graduating from college and after all, what grandfather worth his salt would have missed that! Thus the information I used was second hand (at best) and obviously not complete. I’ll try to do better next time. Honest.

Here are two events you may wish to consider for this month. First, on July 16th at 7 p.m. there will be a “Reptiles and Amphibians of Virginia” presentation by naturalist and reptile expert Tony Bulmer who will present a lecture on the native reptiles and amphibians that call Virginia home. Learn why having these species in your yard and our parks is a good thing. The lecture will be held at Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre and will include guest appearances by some of our local reptilian residents. Cost is \$5 per person. For more information on this one please call 703-365-7895.

Then on July 18 – 22 experience the Civil War Basic Summer Camp at Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. This event is geared for youth aged 8 to 12 and runs from 9 a.m. until noon each day. The cost is \$130 per participant. The Civil War Basic Camp is a unique, hands on approach to the history of the American Civil War. Activities include enlistment, drill and tactics, uniforms and equipment, flags, food ways and shelters used by both Union and Confederate Infantry. The camp includes a tour of the 1861 portion of Manassas National Battlefield. Registration for this camp can be done on line at www.pwcparks.org or by calling 703-792-8320 or 703-365-7895.

Page 9 of this edition announces that bees are coming to Brentsville! Faithful readers of our newsletter will no doubt remember that in the October 2010 section called Reader Feedback, Mike Janay told us about his experience keeping bees on the Woolly Booly Farm on Barbee Road. Beekeeping was practiced by almost every farmer but, like many other things, is slowly disappearing from our community.

Very best wishes,

Kay and Morgan

This month:

- Letter From Brentsville page 2
- Where Wild Things Live page 3
- Writing on the Wall page 4

- In Search of Civil War Canes pages 5-7
- When War Came page 8
- A Look Back in History page 9
- Bees Come to Brentsville page 9



People in the country GIVE you things.

It gets to be a perfect mania. Especially in the summer. Say from about April first until the end of August it is not safe to pay the most innocent call upon a neighbor unless you are prepared to stagger home under the weight of several bushels of wax beans, turnips, cabbage plants ...

"Hello, Mrs. Smith," you say, sticking your head cautiously around her kitchen door. "I just stopped in for a second to ask if you still have that recipe for watermelon pickle?"

"Come IN," says Mrs. Smith with a leer, rubbing her hands together. "You're JUST the person I wanted to see. I understand that you need some cabbage plants."

"Well, I COULD do with a few, ... to fill out a row," you admit, fearing the worst and trying desperately to think of a way to escape.

"FINE!" exclaims Mrs. Smith, getting a quick hammerlock on one arm and dragging you off toward the coldframe.

The cabbage plants are enormous, and she forces 3 or 4 dozen on you, despite your feeble protests that your family doesn't eat much cabbage. Visions of yourself bending over a hot stove making sourkrout flit across your anguished mind.

"While we're here," she says, "let's just go out and take a look at the turnips. How ARE your turnips doing?"

Caught off guard, you confess that you didn't plant turnips this year.

"Well, never mind," says Mrs. Smith consolingly, "I'll give you some of mine. They need thinning anyway. And seizing a trowel, off she goes; you bringing up the rear, reluctantly, with a basket.

And one thing leads to another. It's "How about some of these wax-beans for supper tonight?" And "I'm SURE you could use a little rhubarb chard, ... John won't touch it!" Or, "You'd better take a few plants of dill and cherry-tomatoes, I hate to see them go to waste ..."

And the last voice you hear before collapsing from heat, overwork, and the sheer weight of two tons of vitamins, is Mrs. Smith's saying cheerfully, "How did we EVER happen to miss the salsify ...?"

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Speaks, of Washington, spent Sunday evening in Brentsville attending Church

Services and visiting Mrs. Speaks' mother, Mrs. J. J. Whetzel.

Mrs. Ray Hedrick's daughter, Mrs. William Edwards, and children were visitors on Sunday.

Mrs. Eleanor Heflin, who has been a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wister Stephens, has given up her apartment in Alexandria and is moving to Philadelphia to live with her daughter, Mrs. Gladys Yeager. Visitors at the Stephens on Thursday were Mrs. Cleveland Fisher, Mrs. Eagle, Martha Ann Eagle, and Doris Anne Kline.

Mr. Benny Breeden's two nieces, Miss Alice and Cora Lane, from Washington, were guests for the week-end.

Mrs. Charles Kempton's sister who is visiting them spent Friday in Washington with Master Wayne Kempton. The Kemptons spent Sunday swimming and picnicking near Linton Hall.

Bible School will start on Monday morning at 9 o'clock at the Old Court House, and last until 12 noon every week-day morning.

The Reverend Frank Griffith, who recently resigned as pastor of the Baptist Church, has returned at the request of his congregation.

There was a family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Brown when Mrs. Brown's brother, Mr. J. E. Elam, of Newcastle, Indiana, and his son, Jackie arrived to spend several days. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Neff, of Baltimore, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bankert, of Friendly Town, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Davis, and child, of Harwood Park, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Simms, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Neff, Corporal Bill Brown, and George Melvin. While Mr. Elam was here he took the opportunity to go sight-seeing in Washington, and on Thursday visited Mt. Vernon in the company of Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Simms, and Mrs. Neff.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Fletcher, of Washington, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keys on Saturday.

A meeting was held recently at the home of Mrs. Ora Keys for the purpose of reorganizing the Baseball Club. Nelson Bradshaw was appointed President; Morris Keys, vice-president; and Jim Shoemaker, Secretary and Treasurer. Various committees were named to carry out plans, and the Club put on a businesslike basis.

Regards,

Agnes Webster

Source: The Manassas Messenger, July 16, 1948

Where WILD things live...

Cirsium vulgare Bull Thistle (Aster Family)

This plant is a biennial that forms a rosette of leaves during the first year, and bolts upward during the second year to produce flowers. It forms occasional side stems, but remains erect in stature, reaching 3-6' in height. The stout stems are light green, somewhat angular, and covered with dense white hairs. The alternate leaves are up to 7" long and 2" across. In outline, they are lanceolate in shape, but deeply pinnatifid. The widely spaced lobes narrow into points that are individually armed with a pale yellow spine. Some of the upper leaves near the flowerheads may be lanceolate or linear, but remain unlobed. Across the surface of the leaves, there are short white hairs and scattered small spines. The upper surface is dark green, while the lower surface is light green. At the base of each leaf, there are a pair of narrow wings that are dark green and decurrent against the stem. These wings are extensions of the leaves and arm the stems with spines up to ¼" long.

The upper stems terminate in flowerheads of purplish pink to purple flowers. Each flowerhead is 1½–2" across and contains numerous disk florets, but no ray florets. Each disk floret is long and tubular, but becomes divided into 5 long thread-like lobes. This provides the flowerhead with a showy hair-like appearance. At the base of each flowerhead, are numerous green bracts that taper into stiff points that curl outward and are quite prickly. Among these bracts are cobwebby hairs in the background. The blooming period occurs from mid- to late summer and lasts about 3-4 weeks, after which the florets wither away. The root system consists of a stout taproot that runs deep into the ground. This plant spreads by reseeding itself and occasionally forms colonies.

This thistle usually grows in full sun under moist to dry conditions. It prefers a fertile soil that consists of loam, clay loam, or that is slightly stony. Occasionally the foliage is affected by mildew during the summer or fall. Individual plants can produce a great abundance of seed, which have a high germination and survival rate. Thus, this plant can be quite aggressive. Because the seeds remain viable for only 1-2 years, one control strategy consists of destroying



individual plants before they reach the flowering stage. It is possible for a plant to reestablish itself if a portion of the taproot remains in the ground.

This thistle is adventive from Eurasia, and it has existed in the United States since the 19th century, if not earlier. Habitats include pastures, abandoned fields, fence rows, areas along roadsides and railroads, cut-over woods, and miscellaneous waste areas. This species prefers disturbed areas and it is not common in high quality natural areas.

The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract many kinds of long-tongued bees, including bumblebees, leaf-cutting bees, long-horned bees, and cuckoo bees. The flower nectar also attracts butterflies (especially swallowtails), skippers, and bee flies. Green metallic bees and other Halictid bees may collect pollen from the flowers, but they are non-pollinating. The caterpillars of the butterfly Painted Lady feed on the foliage. There are also many moth species with caterpillars that consume various parts of thistles. The seeds are eaten by the American Goldfinch and the Clay-colored Sparrow. Goldfinches also use the tufts of hair as construction material for their little nests. Mammalian herbivores don't eat the Bull Thistle because it is heavily armed with spines. Even in overgrazed pastures where cattle and sheep have little to eat, the Bull Thistle is one of the few plants that is left alone.

Comments: This is a very spiny thistle that can become quite tall. The leaf undersides of the Bull Thistle are light green or whitish green, while the leaf undersides for some native thistles, such as *Cirsium discolor* (Pasture Thistle) and *Cirsium altissimum* (Tall Thistle), are powdery white in appearance. Other native thistles, however, don't have this latter characteristic. The Bull Thistle also has spines on its stems (from the decurrent extensions of the leaves), while the stems of native thistles are spineless.

Source: http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/bull_thistle.htm

Writing on the Wall

By Morgan Breeden

Not long ago I was invited to the former Eddy and Roberta Nestor home in Brentsville (they now live in Strasburg) to see old coins that had been found under the floor dating back to the mid-1800's. They were discovered while Eddy was working on "fixing the place up a bit" prior to putting it on the market. I took my binocular stereo dissecting microscope hoping to get a better look at the dates and details that were sometimes quite worn. It worked just fine and we spent a bit of time looking at them and wondering how they might have ended up under the floor.

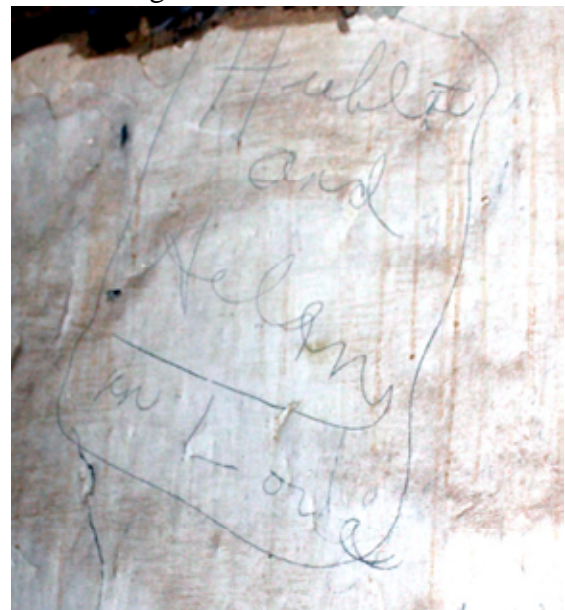
It's been a very long time since I've been in this historic home where Edwin Nelson, Clerk of the Courts, lived just prior to the county seat moving from Brentsville to the near-by town. Thus, Eddy offered to show me around which I happily accepted. Over the years the house has been changed a bit here and there—new rooms added, stairwells changed. But it remains a beautiful old house with small winding stairs leading to the spacious attic as well as to the damp old basement where we explored antique door locks, mason jars, medicine bottles and such. But perhaps the highlight of the visit to the basement was the writing on the wall. In legible script it was written "Hubert and Helen—in Love" (see photo). Eddy asked if I might know who it was and while the names were familiar, it would require some exploring in an attempt to find who Hubert and Helen really were.

Later that evening while talking with my wife it seemed obvious—Hubert Michael and Helen Spitzer. Long time residents of Brentsville (Helen more so than Hubert) who were married and had three children. But I could not help but wonder—if that was true, why was it written here? Time to start digging through records.

Delaware Wright owned the property up until the end of 1924 but he was unmarried and none of the names

seemed to fit. He sold the home to H. H. James on 6 January 1925, a man with a fairly large family. At least three of the children attended school in the old courthouse, Hubert, Taylor and Philip. Wait! Did I just say Hubert? So off to the school records and sure enough, Hubert James and Helen Spitzer were in school together from 1925 until 1929. During the 1928-29 school year Hubert was 15 and Helen was 12 years old so it sure seems a young love was possible. The note is written in script with a pencil so it is also likely that a young man of 15 could have written it. 1929 was the last time school was held in the old courthouse with the construction of a new one-room school serving grades one thru five just to the west of it and a new Brentsville District High School in Nokesville serving all grades. School records do not list him as attending either place so it is likely that he either transferred to Manassas (I don't have those records) or left school to work.

Was this actually Hubert James and Helen Spitzer? I honestly don't know but it sure seems likely. If it were, we know for sure that it didn't last because Helen eventually married Hubert Michael in January 1935. But the writing remains on the wall. . .



In Search of Civil War Canes

by Phyllis Feigenbaum

I have been asked by Morgan Breeden to write a story about my search for artifacts and how I came to find a cane identified to A. A. Lynn of Dumfries, VA. Everybody collects something at some time. Childhood hobbies are often an outlet for creativity, with youthful interests shifting and becoming more refined with time. Through our hobbies and collections we discover a bit more about ourselves, our interests and aspirations, and our place in the world. I've been a collector for as long as I can remember. As a child, my dolls were left unloved as I was far too busy looking for rocks and fossils in the nearby fields. As a college student in the early 1970's, I began collecting old bottles and railroad date nails, inexpensive treasures easily found at flea markets or walking along abandoned railroad tracks, a perfect pastime for one with limited means. During that time I learned the joy of arrowhead hunting walking cornfields in Southern Illinois. Over the years I have collected demitasse cups, Victorian Majolica (I love the jewel colors of the translucent lead glazes and the organic shapes of the pottery) and other shorter lived interests.

I began collecting bisque and china head dolls before the birth of our first son; out from storage came Tiny Tears and Ginny. Motherhood and a full-time work schedule shelved my collecting impulses until 1998, when I was given a book, "Canes Through The Ages" by Francis Monek, and discovered the world of canes. I have been a cane collector every since. At some point we collectors experience an epiphany, an "ah ha" moment where we realize we are motivated by a deeper calling, an internal drive to collect a particular object or objects; "I collect, therefore I am." Other reasons why we collect: nostalgia and a connection to history, social interaction with other collectors, appreciation of beautiful and/or interesting objects, knowledge and learning, relaxation—and it's FUN. Most of all, we are inspired by the "thrill of the chase!"

In 2009, I moved to Colorado. Shortly thereafter I began studying the history of western expansion and the great movement west. The Oregon Trail was laid by fur trappers and traders in the early 19th century, with the first migrant wagon train organized in Independence, Missouri in about 1836. Wagon trails were cleared increasingly further west and by 1842-1843, the number of emigrants skyrocketed. Were any of your ancestors part of these amazingly resilient groups of pioneers?

Gold was discovered in early 1848 in the Sacramento Valley which sparked the California Gold Rush, turning California into a truly global frontier. More than 300,000 gold seekers flooded California by 1850. As I researched this fascinating period and its intersection with my new home state, I discovered that on 1/5/1859 during the Pike's Peak Gold Rush, a prospector discovered placer gold at the present site of Idaho Springs, the first substantial gold discovery in Colorado, only 30 miles from my home!

A couple years ago I was digging through a box I had long packed away and uncovered two Civil War bullets. Neither my husband nor I could remember where they came from, but their discovery reminded me that years before I had bought my son a book on the Civil War, and although he had only a passing interest, I was fascinated. I filed this budding interest away for a later time. Discovering two Minie Balls rekindled my interest. As a cane collector, I have enjoyed expanding my hunt to include Civil War connected canes.

Other Civil War canes I have collected:

- § Several Gettysburg veterans' canes carved from branches culled at the battlefield sites. The names of the particular battles, at times Union Corps badges and other designs, are poker burned (called "pyrography") down the shafts. These canes were probably first made in the 1880's by the Danner Brothers, prominent Gettysburg cane makers, and sold to returning veterans after the war. Later, souvenir canes were made by battlefield guides to supplement their paltry veterans' pensions.
- § A walking stick with original appliqué that reads, "Confederate Home of Missouri."
- § A relic cane made from a single piece of wood with an attached silver plaque that identifies it as the steamer "Havana." During the Civil War years, the steamer "Havana" was called "The Cosmopolitan," and was used as a transport ship as well as hospital ship
- § A cane identified as belonging to a Union soldier who enlisted on 2/6/1862 in the PA 107th Infantry.

Attached to the shaft are two plaques, one with his name and the other reads "Antietam."

§ A relic cane made from the remains of The Old Long Bridge in Washington D.C. Old Long Bridge was the main bridge from D.C. to Arlington, VA and was the primary jumping off point for Union forces entering Virginia during the war. It was demolished in 1906, most likely when this stick was made.

§ A twig cane, the shaft reads: "Cut in the center of Malvern Hill Battle Field where 13,000 soldiers **were killed** July 1st, 1862 Battle fought by Lee and McClellan." Sometimes these are signed by the maker, sometimes not; the same maker Captain James E. Lyne, made sticks commemorating the Seven Pines battle, as well as Antietam. Captain Lyne sold artifacts, served as a battlefield guide, and fought in the battle of Antietam on the Confederate side.

Most recently, I came across and purchased a cane ID'd to a Confederate Civil War cavalry soldier by the name of

Abner Ashby Lynn. It is made of wood, with the initials A.A. Lynn carved in shallow relief on the 5" in diameter ring-shaped handle. Also carved in shallow relief on the handle is a wooden hand which is holding the ring. The shaft is made from two pieces of wood into which the carver (A.A. Lynn?) chose to incise a stylized organic pattern of leaves and flowers. The stick is stained dark brown. The collar is missing. The part that touches the ground, the ferrule, is made of brass, which might have started its life as a piece of something else.

ABNER ASHBY LYNN

Abner Ashby Lynn, son of Alexander P. Lynn and Mary Jane (Ashby) Lynn, was born November 10, 1842 in Prince William County. He had several siblings: Benjamin F. Lynn, Leonard Lynn, Julia Frances Davis, Edward Norman Lynn, Florence E. Kincheloe, Estelle J. Clarke, and Mary M. Lynn (once held the family bible)

Civil War Years:

Along with the cane, I received a folder containing history researched by the previous owner. I, in turn, researched as far as I could, hoping to learn as much about the man as possible. If only I could have discovered a photo!



Abner Ashby Lynn enrolled for active service in Brentsville, VA on 5/20/1861 and was mustered into active service as a private 5/28/1861, into Captain William W. Thornton's Prince William Cavalry Company, formed in January of 1860, three months after the John Brown Raid and over a year before Virginia would leave the Union. He was 19 years old at the time of his enlistment. On July 21, 1861, as an independent company, they participated in the First Battle of Manassas. On September 19, 1861, the Prince William Cavalry Company became Company A of the 4th Virginia Cavalry. The 4th Virginia Cavalry participated in 475 battles, many of those considered major, and mustered out on April 9, 1865.

The following men sharing the Lynn surname also served at one time or another in Company A: Absalom T. Lynn, Benjamin F. Lynn-brother, George H. Lynn, Henry Fairfax Lynn, John Currell Lynn, John H. Lynn, Joseph Lynn, Leroy W. Lynn, Luther Lynn, Milton Lynn and William W. Lynn

In an article from *The Progress-Index* dated April 2, 2015 entitled "The Waterloo of the Confederacy," Richard Garrison, a direct descendant of Abner Ashby Lynn, traveled from his home in Black Mountain, N.C. to Five Forks Battlefield in Dinwiddie County to attend the Five Forks anniversary event on 4/1/2015, reliving the day when the Union army marched to the intersection of Five Forks to attack Confederate forces. This battle was a critical victory for Union troops because it opened up the path to the South Side Railroad, which led to the "breakthrough" of Petersburg. Lee surrendered to Grant only seven days later.

According to 4th Virginia Cavalry by Kenneth L. Stiles, Mr. Lynn was "absent April 1865 with wounds; at home surrender; paroled 5/1/1865; wounded 7 times."

Mr. Garrison offered some additional information about his great-grandfather:

"He was a cavalryman for the 4th Virginia cavalry. He was probably dismounted cavalry...we don't know the specifics, but somewhere along the course of the day he was wounded and carried from the field." [Referring to the Battle of Five Forks]

Mr. Garrison further added that Mr. Lynn was well suited to join the cavalry, "The family was in the blacksmithing (trade), primarily in wheelwrights, so they knew a lot about horses." He added, "And the cavalry was the most romantic thing to be doing."

Mr. Garrison shared that following the war, his great-grandfather returned home to his family and got a job working on a railroad. "He went back home to his family in Dumfries. He got a job with the railroad, probably the Central Washington Railroad, and he was a custodian of a railroad bridge."

After the war, Mr. Lynn married Sarah Harrison Speake, on 12/17/1873. From their union the following children were born: Abner Harrison Lynn, Aldwin Speake Lynn, Alvin S. Lynn, Anderson Lynn, Andrew Norman Lynn, Annie Jane Lynn, Earl Lynn, Elsie Virginina Lynn, Lilly Powell Lynn and Lucy Chapman Lynn (1889-1978)/John Milton Smith

Mr. Lynn applied for pension benefits on May 26, 1915. According to that application, he earned a living as a railroad bridge-watchman. The application filled out by Mr. Lynn states, "I served from May 1861 to April 1865 and was wounded four times. One ball is still in my body." Interestingly, this account differs from what is found in Mr. Stiles' book indicating that Mr. Lynn was wounded seven times. Mr. Lynn died on January 30, 1929 and is buried in Dumfries Cemetery.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information regarding Mr. Abner Ashby Lynn. I will continue my search for additional information regarding this brave soldier. Please feel free to contact me with further information! Bleubyr1@gmail.com



When WAR Came to Brentsville

MANASSAS JUNCTION, July 22, 1863. (Received 12 m.)

Captain A. J. COHEN,

A. A. G. , Cavalry Corps, Hdqrs. Army of the Potomac:

I have placed one brigade at Gainesville, to protect the Manassas Railroad. There is no water at Manassas Junction. One brigade will be at Broad Run, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. This will protect the bridges and Broad Run and Kettle Run, and can look after Mosby in the direction of Brentsville and the Occoquan. If it can be spared, McIntosh's brigade at Cedar Run would protect the railroad to Warrenton, covering all the bridges. Getting along well. Will get forage to-day. I have sent for clothing and ammunition. One regiment will be at Thoroughfare.

D. McM. GREGG

David McMurtrie Gregg (April 10, 1833 – August 7, 1916) was a farmer, diplomat, and a Union cavalry general in the American Civil War. He was born in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the United States Military Academy (West Point) in 1855 and was given a commission as a brevet second lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Dragoons Regiment (heavy cavalry). During his tenure at West Point, he interacted with two classmates who would become great cavalry generals—an opponent and a commander, respectively: J.E.B. Stuart, class of 1854, and Philip Sheridan, class of 1853.

At the start of the Civil War, Gregg returned to Washington, D.C., where he was promoted to captain in the 3rd U.S. Cavalry, followed soon by a transfer to the 6th U.S. Cavalry. He developed typhoid fever and barely escaped death when his Washington hospital caught fire. In January 1862 he became colonel of the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

Gregg and the 8th Pennsylvania fought in the Peninsula Campaign, where he distinguished himself in the Seven Days Battles, expertly screening retreating Union infantry. The Battle of Antietam was his next engagement, but cavalry played little role. He received a furlough and married Ellen F. Sheaff on October 6, 1862, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania; the couple honeymooned in New York City.

Gregg was promoted to brigadier general just before the Battle of Fredericksburg. As at Antietam, the cavalry was underutilized and held in reserve. Gregg was sent to assume command of another cavalry brigade when its commander, Brig. Gen. George Dashiell Bayard, was killed by an artillery shell that reached behind the infantry lines. After Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker assumed command of the demoralized Army of the Potomac, he shook up the cavalry organization,



because the mounted arm had not been used effectively. He removed cavalry units from corps and divisions, and consolidated them as a separate Cavalry Corps, under Maj. Gen. George Stoneman. Gregg assumed command of the 3rd Division in February 1863. (Although infantry divisions are typically commanded by major generals, few Union cavalry division leaders rose above brigadier general, and Gregg was no exception.)

During the start of the Gettysburg Campaign, Lee's stealthy troop movements away from the Fredericksburg area caused Union consternation and

Pleasanton was ordered to find out where they were going. Launching a surprise attack on Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at Brandy Station resulted in the largest predominantly cavalry engagement of the war. The initial assault crossed the Rappahannock River at Beverly Ford under command of Brig. Gen. John Buford. While Buford attacked, Gregg led the 2nd and 3rd Divisions across Kelly's Ford to attack the flank and rear of the Confederates on Fleetwood Hill, where Stuart's headquarters were located. The fighting was fierce, saber-wielding, and hand-to-hand. The Confederates managed to repulse Gregg. The battle overall was essentially a draw, although it surprised and humiliated Stuart, and orders left behind provided valuable intelligence about Lee's intentions to invade Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Gregg died in Reading, Pennsylvania, one of the oldest survivors of the war in the state, and is buried there in Charles Evans Cemetery. He is memorialized with a bronze equestrian statue in Reading, and the city's American Legion Post is named "Gregg Post" in his honor. The Gregg Cavalry Shaft, on East Cavalry Field in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, honors both Union and Confederate forces who fought there.

Brentsville

A Look Back in History

by
Ronald Ray Turner

Commonwealth of Virginia vs Henry Thomas

5 December 1878

Prince William County to wit:

To the Clerk of the County Court of said County.

I G. G. Galleher a justice of the said county do hereby certify that I did on the 2nd day of December 1878 on the oath and information of George W. Gardner issue my warrant to Robert L. Lynn (deputized) constable to arrest and bring before me or some other justice of the said County the body of one Henry Thomas (colored) charged with stealing and carrying away one axe of the value of one dollar the property of Miss Margaret Gardner and that on the 5th day of December 1878 the said warrant was executed and the said Thomas being brought before me was on the testimony of Westwood Hutchison and R. C. Latham found guilty and adjudged to receive ten lashes on his bare back and R. L. Lynn was ordered to execute the said judgment and that the costs for the same are as follows: Justice costs for issuing warrant .50 cents, trying same .50 cents, Constable's costs for making arrest .50 cents, executing judgment .50 cents.

Given under my hand this 5th day of December
1878

G. G. Galleher J.P.

We're excited to announce that bees are coming to Brentsville! June will see the installation of a beehive on the property next to the wildflower garden. The bees will get to work building their hive up and foraging for nectar and pollen from as far as 3 miles away. The queen will be laying upwards of 2000 eggs a day in her peak and gathering enough food to feed the quickly growing hive will keep all the workers very busy. In this first season for the hive our main goal is to let the colony get established and strong before winter, if the hive is strong the bees will have enough stores to make it through winter successfully. Come spring the colony will grow quickly and should even start producing enough honey that it can be harvested without risking the bees' health. In addition to making honey, bees play a very important role in the ecosystem as a major pollinator of plants. Unfortunately honey bee populations have been in decline all over the United States for over a decade due to pesticide use, parasites, lack of forage and various other pathogens. Many gardeners and home owners are trying to help by planting bee-friendly gardens and avoiding pesticide use. Planting a garden that will bloom through spring into fall is a great way to help native pollinators and honey bees. In return, the pollinators will help your plants continue to thrive and will even give vegetable gardens a boost in production.

The Carolinian-Russian hybrid bees at the Brentsville hive are known to be very mild mannered so don't be alarmed if you see a couple visiting your property, they keep to themselves and are not prone to stinging. When visiting the Brentsville property there will be signs up around the hive to alert passersby to the hive's location so those with bee allergies can steer clear. If you are interested in getting more information about the hive or our bee friends in general you can send an email to Bill Backus at bbackus@pwcgov.org.

Technician I Semyon Podobed
Engine 507

Brentsville Neighbors

“Preserving Brentsville’s History”

Contact us on:

morganbreeden@aol.com

All back issues on:

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

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

IN GOD WE TRUST

