



# Brentsville Journal

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## ***CUPOLA CAPS COURTHOUSE CITADEL IN TIME FOR 180th YEAR***

Just in time to celebrate the New Year, the Brentsville Historic Courthouse was topped again with her newly refurbished crown after nearly four months standing without her peak. Last August, the cupola and the bell housed within were removed from the Courthouse summit for renovation.

The cupola sat on a platform in front of the 1822 Courthouse while renovation was underway. Most of the exterior wood had to be replaced due to excessive wear, but thick interior cross beams, complete with names of a few people who left a record of being at the top were left in tact.

Local citizens were also pleased to discover that the Courthouse Bell was still housed within the cupola. There were two schools of thought as to where the bell might have disappeared to, since no one had heard the chime for quite some time.

Brentsville's honored bell ringers on both the day the cupola descended and again ascended were Nelson Keys, who remembered ringing the bell over 50 years ago, during World War II and Gladys

Eanes, "2001 Brentsville Citizen of the Year."

A detailed series of photos were taken of the bell. We hope to research when and where the bell may have been cast. The bell stanchion (stand from which it hangs) casing bears an 1886 date and a "No. 22," but it is not known whether the bell was cast at an ear-

lier date as there are no markings on the bell. The bell diameter measures 8 1/2 inches at the top and 21 inches at the bottom. Height is 15 inches. The bell appears to be made of brass, however the patina is very weathered and covered with bird droppings.

The Brentsville Historic Trust decided to replace the bell "as is" back into the restored cupola. Funds do not exist at this time to restore and/or clean the bell.

Until such a time arises, the

Friends of Brentsville Courthouse will continue to research the history of the bell and consult bell restoration experts to get an idea about the best way to preserve this "ring" for the future.

Wouldn't it be nice to hear the bell once again ring on special occasions, or to summon citizens to Court Days? Stay tuned.



**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A POTLUCK LUNCHEON  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, NOON—2:00 PM  
*Please bring a dish to share!***



## GMU Professor to be Guest Speaker at February Meeting



Dr. Randy Lytton, Assistant Professor of History at George Mason University will be a guest speaker at our February General Membership meeting. Please feel free to invite your family and neighbors to join us for a pot luck luncheon on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from NOON until 2:00 PM in the Brentsville One Room

School House, 12239 Bristow Road. In honor of President's Day, Dr. Lytton's topic will be "Thomas Lord Fairfax."

Lord Fairfax was a friend and mentor to George Washington. In 1747, following the completion of his home "Belvoir," Fairfax enjoyed the distinction of being the only "peer" from the British House of Lords living in America. A year later, Fairfax employed a youthful George Washington to survey his land west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. He later became a patron to the future "Founding Father." Of interest to Prince William County residents, Lord Fairfax bestowed a land grant of 180 acres in 1731, to one of our county's earliest settlers and Clerk of the Court, Catesby Cocke.

Dr. Lytton will speak for about 45 minutes and take questions from the audience. Professor Lytton is President of "Historic Fairfax City, Inc." and curator of an exhibit at the Fairfax Museum entitled "Thomas Lord Fairfax, George Washington and the Fairfax County Courthouse." Following Dr. Lytton's presentation, a potluck lunch will be shared with attendees.



"We hope that people take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about our regional Colonial history in the classroom of our One Room School House," said Pamela Sackett, Chairman of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc. Visitors to the site can see the newly restored Courthouse cupola and view the extensive renovations underway at the Brentsville Courthouse and the Union Church.

### Schedule Of 2002 Winter Meetings Announced

*Please take the time to mark your calendar TODAY. We just don't have the time to personally remind each member—INCLUDING BOARD MEMBERS about upcoming meetings. Your regular attendance is deeply appreciated and encouraged. We've got lots to do in 2002!*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4th Mondays @ 7:00 PM

**Monday, February 25**  
**Monday, March 25**  
**Monday, April 22**

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

2nd Saturdays until May  
2nd Thursdays thereafter

Saturday, February 9th  
Pot Luck LUNCH  
Noon—2 PM

Saturday, March 9th  
Pot Luck SUPPER  
3:00—5:00 PM

Saturday, April 13th  
Pot Luck SUPPER  
4:00—6:00 PM

#### ANNUAL MEETING & 2002 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Thursday, December 12  
7:00 PM



## *Of Black Ice and Unexpectedly Warm Days*

2001, the 5th Anniversary year of the Friends of Brentsville seemed to end in a whirlwind of activity. Looking back, as we began to plan for our milestone celebration, we cautiously stepped out into the community, determined to keep raising funds, despite the uncertain restrictions that would be placed upon us by anticipated construction projects at the Brentsville Courthouse. Generously we were sheltered by the Manassas Moose Lodge where we joyously celebrated our 5th Anniversary toe tappin' our way to our best fundraiser yet.

But we hit some "Black Ice" on September 11th, when many members paused in the midst of our national tragedy to think seriously about what was really important in our daily lives. As we looked ahead to the future, it became clear to us that we would continue to rebuild and restore a little Virginia community— and that we would do it together. Somehow, it just seemed the patriotic thing to do.

We warmly welcomed the addition of many new student members from Hylton High School. The enthusiasm these young adults have for American history is as energizing as a spring day in January.

With renovation projects still under way, 2002 may be just as slippery, but we've got a few new pairs of hands to join hold of — and a warm hand of welcome held out to YOU! Somehow, together, we feel confident that we'll weather any changes and challenges ahead.

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

## **COOKBOOK PROJECT PLACED BACK ON FRONT BURNER**

We have made a firm commitment to revive our cookbook project in 2002. Admittedly we lost a little steam last year, but with good reason. Our beloved member, Virginia Bear, passed away last spring. Virginia was the driving force behind this major Friends undertaking. She was such a vital member of our organization that her passing honestly took our breath away.

But, in Virginia's memory, we are determined to get this project back on track. We would like to compile a recipe book of favorites from the region. We hope to capture the finest examples of Prince William County's gourmet cuisine and bind them together into a cookbook. Once edited and printed, we will have a real treasure that we can sell to raise funds for the Brentsville Historic Centre.

We hope that contributors will also jot down an anecdote about the recipe, or about a time it was served, or people who may have partaken the culinary delights in the past. In addition, if you have any old photos of the Brentsville area, we would like to include some of them as well. We can make photocopies of your pictures, so you don't have to loan us your originals.

Our goal is to collect one hundred recipes — beginning with our pot luck supper series scheduled this winter. Each Saturday, we've set up a "pot luck" meal to coincide with our monthly membership

meetings. We thought it might be a fun way to "taste test" potential cookbook entries.

If you can bring a dish to share at one of our upcoming meetings, will you please take just a few minutes and jot down the recipe to the dish? We think it will be fun to include a conglomeration of potluck contributions in our new cookbook. If the contributions to our last potluck supper are any measuring stick, future readers of our cookbook will have a hard time deciding what recipe to make first.

Please print, or type your recipes, clearly — including measurements — so that we don't make any mistakes when we transcribe them for the cookbook. We unfortunately won't have time to test EVERY RECIPE in the book, so we're counting on the cook to make sure that the recipe is easy to read.

I know a few Friends who had the good fortune to be in attendance at our November pot luck are looking forward to the next meal on February 9th. If you do bring a dish to share, please be as generous as you can in your portions.

Word seems to be going around that the Friends of Brentsville have some wonderful food and fellowship at their monthly meetings! Could that be the secret ingredient to our success?



# Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc.

A non-profit, 501(c)3 volunteer organization  
Established in 1996

To support the restoration and preservation of the

## **Brentsville Historic Centre**

ENCOURAGE community involvement;  
CREATE volunteer opportunities for citizens of all ages  
RAISE FUNDS and/or accept any gifts of property or artifacts  
To benefit the Brentsville Historic Centre  
SUPPORT educational and historical programs;  
PROMOTE acquisition and management of historical artifacts  
significant to the Brentsville Historic Centre site  
SHARE discovered artifacts and uncovered research  
with visitors and tourists  
COMMUNICATE effectively to raise public support for the  
Brentsville Historic Centre.

**[www.brentsville.org](http://www.brentsville.org)**

### ***ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:***

**INDIVIDUAL: \$15.00**  
**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT: FREE**  
**CORPORATE: \$125.00**

A Friends Membership includes a subscription to our monthly newsletter.  
Corporate fees include promotional opportunities. To join, simply write a check to

**"FBCHC" and mail it to: P.O. Box 732, BRISTOW, VA, 20136.**

High School students who desire to be on the newsletter mailing list should send  
us a note requesting to be put on the list to the same address.

For more information about the Friends of Brentsville  
Courthouse Historic Centre,

call: 703-361-2318, visit our web site, or write:

**P.O. BOX 732, Bristow, Virginia 20136**



### **2002 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:**

Pamela Myer Sackett  
*Chairman*

Morgan Breeden  
*Vice Chairman*

Fran Hibbs  
*Treasurer*

Sally Chetwynd  
*Secretary*

### **2002 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Norb Beville  
Marie Caton  
Brenda Counts  
Gladys Eanes  
Miles Friedman  
Wilkie Leith  
Betty Machen  
Gary Moody

### **HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Dave Mabie  
Clerk of the Court

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Pamela Myer Sackett

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Agnes Webster  
Jean Dunn  
Virginia Bear