

BRENTSVILLE HISTORY NOTES

11 March 1998

Nelson Keys gave us a photo today (color xerox) blown up from a "postcard" showing "Brentsville-Kensington Homecoming / June 21, 1940". Some kind of social function outside the Brentsville Courthouse. Everyone standing around in their Sunday clothing. Looks like a pitch-in buffet dinner. Nelson isn't sure if he was there, doesn't remember the exact event. The only person he could identify was Isabel ("Bell") Keys, wife of his great-uncle James Mifflin Keys. She is standing the the right of a dark sedan (license plate #310843 [possibly 310943]). She is wearing a print dress and a white broad-brimmed hat.

Nelson says that kids went to school at the courthouse before the Brentsville School was built. He attended Brentsville School in the early 1930s. He thought the school was built ca. 1926-27. Older neighbors and family had attended school at the courthouse building. His father told him he attended a school near the intersection of Hooe and Providence streets, perhaps at the end of Providence Street, but Nelson is not sure. (Could have been further up Hooe Street.)

He located various homes on the plat that Jack Ratcliffe published in *This Was Prince William*. (Spellings below are phonetic.)

Brentsville Hotel was on lots 17-18.

The "new" Post Office was on lot 16. Formerly the post office was in a shack located nearby.

The tavern was on the SE corner of the tavern lot. When he was young he saw the foundation hole and stones. The Brentsville Union Church stands on the SW corner of the tavern lot.

Roy Molair ran a store [I did not record a lot number].

Bradshaw family was on lot 13.

Baptist Church was on lot 14.

James family on lot 40.

Holsinger family on lot 37.

Jesse Whetsel lived on lot 23, after WWI (while Nelson was a kid).

The White House is on lot 11. Nashley family lived there before Agnes Webster. [Charles?] Nashley's legs were cut off by a train running over him.

The bank at the White House had a board walk when he was a kid.

The big rock in front of the hotel was the mantel piece from the fire place. Walt Flory took it down there.

The Keys family did not live inside the town proper, but on the eastern edge. Their family cemetery touched the northeast boundary marker of the town.

Notes taken by Don Wilson during an informal interview at RELIC, Bull Run Library.