

\$100 Reward

for

John Wood - Wanted For Murder

About Twenty-Five Years Old

5 Foot 10 Inches High

Very Stoutly Made and Dark Complexion

A reward of One Hundred dollars will be paid to any person or persons, who shall apprehend and convey to the Jail of the County of Prince William, in the Town of Brentsville, the above mentioned John Wood. He escaped and went at large on the night of the 20th of December 1861. He is possibly in the company of John W. Park and thought to have joined the Confederate Army.

\$50 Reward

for

John W. Park - Wanted For Stealing

About Twenty-Five to Twenty-Eight Years Old

5 Foot 10 Inches High

Slender Man with Dark Complexion

A reward of Fifty dollars will be paid to any person or persons, who shall apprehend and convey to the Jail of the County of Prince William, in the Town of Brentsville, the above mentioned John W. Park. He escaped and went at large on the night of the 20th of December 1861. He is possibly in the company of John Wood and thought to have joined the Confederate Army.

The above postings were distributed to most of the court houses and many taverns in Virginia on or about New Years Day 1862. Both of these men were arrested the same day (30 November 1861) in Prince William County and brought before L. B. Butler, a Justice of the Peace. He charged both and had them conveyed to jail where they were housed until their escape.

The War Between the States was in full swing and the County and Country were in chaos. The only constant seemed to be that the jail was never empty in Brentsville. The condition of the jail during the war is unknown but there is no record of repairs.

Since neither Wood nor Park came to trial, the evidence against them is hard to find. But what is known is that John W. Park was charged with feloniously stealing two boxes of shoes, the property of E. B. Stuart. The residence of Stuart at this time was "Snow Hill" close to the current intersection of Route 15 and Route 234.

The only thing that is known about the case of John Wood other than his personal description is that he was brought before Justice, L. B. Butler and charged with the murder of William Tillett.

Ron Turner