

## Getting Down to Business in Brentsville

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“The verdict was greeted with vociferous and long continued applause by the large number of spectators, who had assembled in the court room to await the closing scenes of this famous trial. After his acquittal the accused came out of the prisoner’s box and received the congratulations of many friends, who immediately hastened towards him. These formed an escort of honor and conducted him to Reid’s Hotel, where he supped, and was afterwards driven to Manassas.” (*Alexandria Gazette* 15 Nov 1872). Thus ended a lengthy trial that played out at the Brentsville Courthouse.

When you read the above description of the conclusion of the infamous trial of Rhoda Fewell for the murder of James F. Clark, did you wonder about Reid’s Hotel? Was this the tavern on “Tavern Square” or another establishment nearby in the Town of Brentsville? It appears, based on a document from the Clerk of the Court’s Loose Papers (1870) that Reid’s was across the street from the court house. This document dealt with a fence and stated, “...Public Square fence to be the same height and like the fence between Joseph Reid’s bar room and Kincheloe’s Store...” Since Kincheloe’s was across the street from the court house, so too must have been Reid’s.

Confirming this location is additional information supplied by the *Alexandria Gazette* as related to the trial and Fewell’s actual shooting of James F. Clark. It read, “About five minutes before the firing commenced a man was discovered by persons sitting on Mr. Kincheloe’s porch, stealing cautiously towards the front door of the jail and observed to enter. These persons paid no attention, supposing him to be the brother of the jailer. In a few minutes the firing and cries were heard, and Major Thornton and Mr. Lipscomb, Deputy Clerk, both hurried to the spot, and on entering the door, the Major, who was the first to get there, saw Fewell with a pistol in each hand in the act of firing through the iron grated door at Clark...” (*Alexandria Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1872)

The examination of records related to businesses can provide a great deal of information about life in the past. References to businesses in and around the Town of Brentsville are numerous. Many sources are available to the researcher to provide clues. Some of these sources are obvious, while others are somewhat obscure. The objective of this article is to help a researcher to learn how to research the history and records of a business using many different sources. For the purposes of this article, data that can be gleaned from such sources will focus on the Town of Brentsville.

A first step is to interview some longtime residents of the area who might remember a business. There is a good possibility that even if they can’t personally recall the business, they may have information that was passed down from others. Pertinent information such as names, possible dates of operation, location, and type of business should be noted.

Local library research should be the second step. The excellent librarians at RELIC in the Bull Run Regional Library, Tish Como, Beverly Vaness and Don Wilson, may be able to provide records that will expand the search and verify information from the interview. They also may provide advice on strategies to proceed that may not have considered. These librarians may even know of other researchers exploring the same topic or who could contribute additional knowledge.

Primary source documents should be the principle focus of one's research. A primary source is any document written during the time under study. It is the researcher's responsibility to be aware of bias and inaccuracy present in the source and also be aware of diverse perceptions of the author. Additionally, it is critical to record a complete citation for each source. For more information on proper citations, see <http://www.copyright.gov/>.

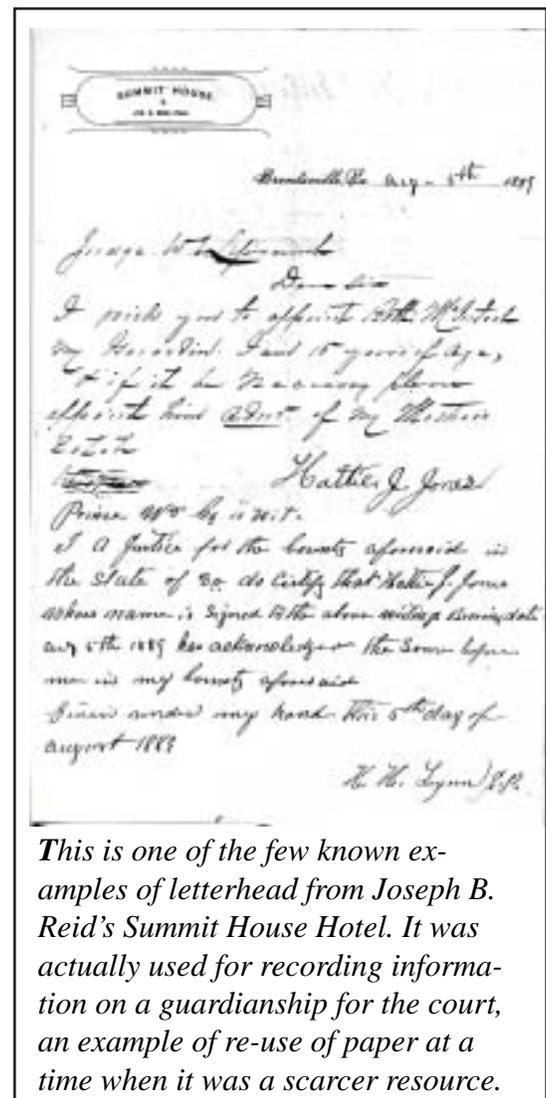
Below are some examples of primary sources available for use in historical analysis and interpretation. Wills and deeds have been omitted as there are simply too many examples for these common sources. Rather, some of the more unusual sources have been featured. When using sources such as those described, the best, most accurate historic interpretation is achieved when making use of a variety of documents to verify facts and create a well documented study.

### Original business licenses

The Virginia State Library has the original business licenses starting with 1806 and continuing to 1928. These were supplied by the Commissioners of Revenue for each county. Local, Virginia court houses may have these records but not necessarily for all years. One example includes a document at the Library of Virginia recording a license issued to Joseph B. Reid in the Town of Brentsville in 1892 for the "Summit House." (Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County, Virginia 1805 – 1955 Businesses*, Manassas, VA, 1999, p. 193). Business license records help to bracket the years during which a business was in operation. However, a license was not required by law for all businesses. Businesses that did require a license may be found using the Code of Virginia, as it changed over time. Some examples of businesses requiring a license included ordinary, bar room, physician, merchant, retail liquor, store, and bowling saloon while some that did not include shoemakers, mills, and blacksmiths.

### Virginia Business Directories

Directories for the years 1851, 1877-1878, 1880-1881, 1893-1894, 1898, 1906, and 1917 may also be viewed at the Virginia State Library. These directories are generally arranged by county and then by location within the county such as Brentsville, Bristow, &c. These are rarely referenced, but provide valuable information including the business operator, nature of the business and years of operation. One example is that of Joseph B. Reid, who in the 1877-78, 1880-81, 1884-85 business directories is listed as operating a hotel and saloon in Brentsville. In the 1897/98 directory he is listed as selling lumber and shingles in Brentsville. (Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County, Virginia 1805 – 1955 Businesses*, Manassas, VA, 1999, p. 193). Today, libraries may also have town directories comprised of residents, their occupations and other related data.



*This is one of the few known examples of letterhead from Joseph B. Reid's Summit House Hotel. It was actually used for recording information on a guardianship for the court, an example of re-use of paper at a time when it was a scarcer resource.*

### The Record of Partnerships and Certificates of Ownership

The Record of Partnerships, archived at the Prince William County Courthouse, contains information about business partnerships for 1922 to present. These include documentation of ownership, location, and details of the specific venture. One example is that of the Nokesville Coal and Lumber Company (Book 1, p. 135). Certificates of ownership may also be found in some county archives, including Prince William's.

### Charter Books

The Charter Books are also at the Prince William County Circuit Court Archives. Businesses such as the Brentsville, Bristow and Manassas Telephone Company are included. The entry for this business states that the Brentsville, Bristow and Manassas Telephone Company – Brentsville, Va. included telephone lines between Brentsville and Manassas via Bristow. The office was at Brentsville and the president was Charles E. Nicol of Brentsville. The treasurer was John A. Brawner of Bristow, the secretary was J.B.T. Thornton of Brentsville, and the superintendent was G.F. Akers of Brentsville. The entry is dated March 26, 1885 and appears on page 12.

### Obituaries

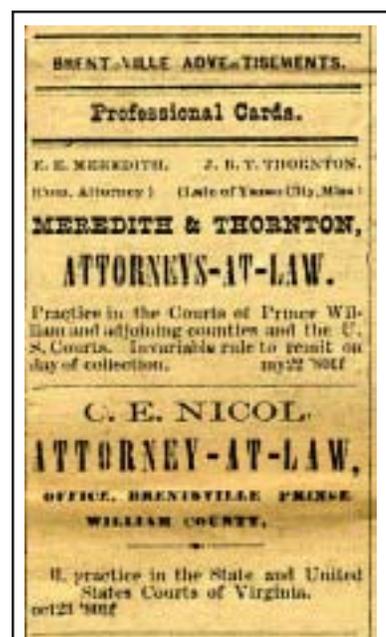
Newspapers regularly published death notices that often included the deceased's occupation or business. One good example of such an obituary is that of J. T. J. Davis dated April 10, 1914 in the *Manassas Journal*. It stated that "he was engaged in the mercantile business at Brentsville and Bristow" and that interment will be made in the Davis-Purcell Cemetery at Brentsville.

### Census Records

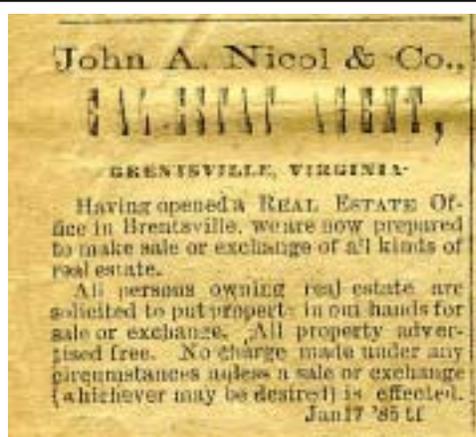
Census records maybe a useful source of information as they often give the occupation of household members such as retail merchant, store clerk, store manager, hotel, etc. RELIC is one repository for many of the census records for Prince William County, including some published in an annotated version.

### Newspapers

In the nineteenth century, newspapers were the only media available for widespread distribution of information. Newspapers such as the *Alexandria Gazette* published news related to the entire region, not just the town in which it was published. A Warrenton newspaper, *The Palladian of Liberty* published an advertisement seeking builders for the public buildings in Prince William's newly established county seat. Dated June 23, 1820 and July 21, 1820, the ads read, "...Commissioners will attend at the tavern of John Maddox." By January 30, 1826, the *Alexandria Gazette* published an advertisement for "...the tavern of William Clayton (an alternative or erroneous spelling for Claytor) in the Town of Brentsville." The tavern remained on the market as of November 22, 1828 when the "Brentsville Hotel" was offered for sale by Thomas R. Hampton. This establishment was mentioned under yet another proprietorship in December 1, 1834, as



*Brentsville advertisers in the "Manassas Journal Messenger" for September 25, 1886. This advertisement includes E.E. Meredith, J.B.T. Thornton and C.E. Nicol who were practicing in the town in Sept. 25, 1886.*



Ad from the “*Manassas Journal Messenger*” – this ad is for John A. Nicol’s services as a real estate agent in Brentsville. It was published on September 25, 1886. The ad includes the date January 17, 1885, indicating the ad had been running since this date.

occupied by Peyton Norville (LR, p. 75). Norville’s son-in-law, Benoni E. Harrison later advertised “my public house and lot in Brentsville...” in the September 17, 1849 issue of the *Alexandria Gazette*.

Newspaper searches are also valuable tools for tracing not only the business but observing local economic trends for a given time. The *Alexandria Gazette* for January 4, 1873 (and taken from the *Manassas Gazette*), included, “Mr. Goodwin has moved into the ‘White House’ Hotel, and we learn he will open it some time during the coming spring. We learn that another hotel is to be opened in Brentsville. If it is to be the equal of that of Mr. J.B. Reid’s, Brentsville will be able to boast two excellent hotels. We learn that one or two of our citizens contemplate making a business of butchering hereafter.” The Reconstruction era appears to have been well under way when the *Alexandria Gazette* published this statement on May 1, 1875, “Bristow Station is growing in business activity and attractiveness. Several families from the north and west are settling in that immediate vicinity.” Of course, Bristow Station, a mere two miles from Brentsville, had the benefit of the railroad depot.

Dr. William B. Leary, a physician in Brentsville, advertised his “Washington Hotel” in Brentsville, fancying it as a summer resort in the local newspapers (*Manassas Weekly Gazette*, January 5, 1869). In 1897, advertised was the “Prince William Normal School – Brentsville, VA – For Ladies & Gentlemen – Strong faculty. Full course of instruction. Preparedness for teaching, Practical life or for a broad and liberal education. Lively & thorough. Educative homelike. Best methods. Careful discussion. Beautiful & healthful. Well equipped buildings. Good Society. Terms low. Opens Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Runs 9 mo. Send for a catalog. Correspondence solicited. INH Beahm” (Turner, Ronald Ray, *Newspaper Transcripts 1876 – 1899*, Manassas, VA, 2001)

Brentsville had its own newspaper. A summons filed at the Circuit Court Archives, in Judgments for 1871 stated, “The Commonwealth of Virginia To the Sheriff of Prince William County – Greetings - We command you to summon Daniel Whiting to appear before the Judge of our County Court of Prince William County, at the Court House of said County, on the first day of February Court being the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 1871, to answer the complaint of George M. Goodwin that the said Daniel W. Whiting is in possession



Ad from the “*Manassas Journal Messenger*” – this ad is for a roofing company owned by A.P. Davis, who was also a purveyor of stoves, gutters and spouts. This ad appeared on September 25, 1886.

of, and unlawfully withholds from the said plaintiff, a certain tenement in the town of Brentsville in the said county, consisting of a three acre lot designated as the Tavern Lot and running parallel with the Public Square north to south which said tenement the said Daniel W. Whiting has been using and still uses as a dwelling and printing office. And have then and there this writ: Witness, Lucien A. Davis clerk of the County Court, at the Court House aforesaid, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1871 and in the 95<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth. L. A. Davis”

### School Year Books

Advertisements in school year books may also prove to be helpful. RELIC is a repository for many Prince William County school year books.

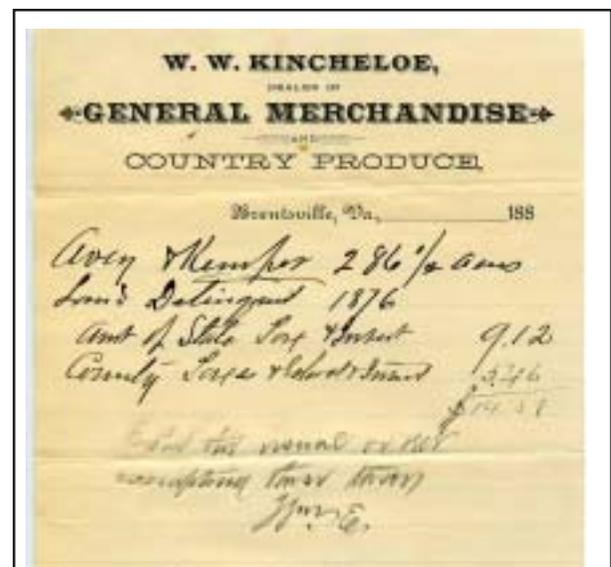
### Fee Books

The Fee Books are a bit obscure for most researchers, but can readily be used to supply clues about business licenses, deaths, law suits, and even land transactions. With a bit of decoding, ordinary licenses can be verified. One example is that of William Claytor, builder and initial proprietor of the ordinary on “Tavern Square.” The Fee Book dated 1823 – 1824 noted his \$1.26 payment for an ordinary license in April of 1823. The Fee Book for 1870 - 1873 indicates that Joseph B. Reid, proprietor of a large hotel across the street from the court house, paid for ordinary licenses each year from 1870 through 1872 (pp. 50, 177, 269). Another example of data garnered from the Fee Books comes from the recording of fees owed for judgments and rulings in law suits. The Fee Book for 1828 included fees owed by Thomas R. Hampton, second proprietor of the ordinary on “Tavern Square,” for an execution in the suit Wm. B. Croser v. T.R. Hampton & Co. in March and June. Various records indicate Hampton was in business alone and with his father, James, throughout the 1820s.

### Civil and Criminal Court Records

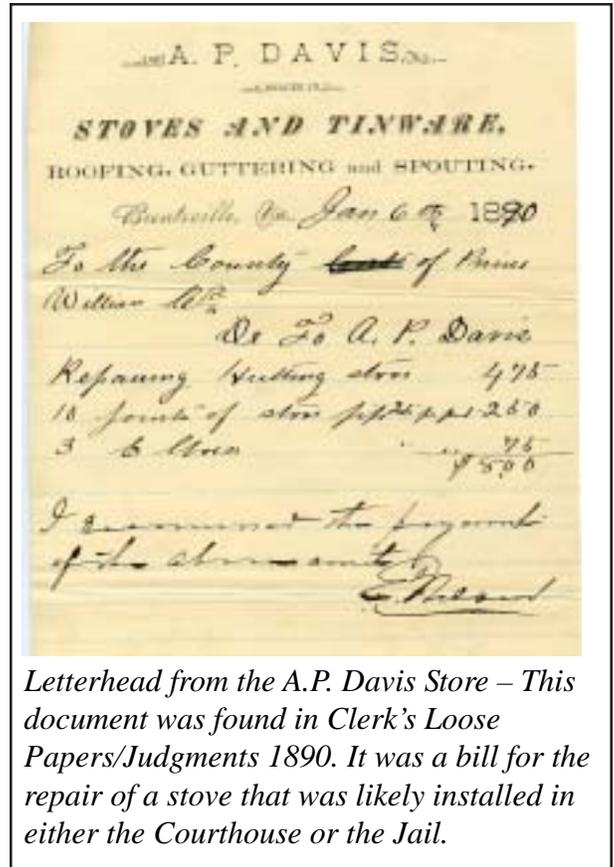
The Clerk’s Loose Papers archived for Prince William County are numerous, but hardly complete. They are comprised of an endless number of slips and bits of paper, some of which were “recycled” when paper was scarce. This re-use of paper as well as the great loss of records during the Civil War leave this collection largely incomplete. However, the bits and pieces remaining can be quite instructive. Judgments are a gold mine for researchers studying businesses because they detail the court cases of businesses taking individuals or other businesses to court seeking judgments for non-payment or non-delivery of items promised. In many cases, when times were economically challenging, the business itself was sued by various wholesale suppliers of goods.

One example of a criminal record shedding light on the presence of a business is that of “5 September 1895 - Commonwealth vs George Posey - George

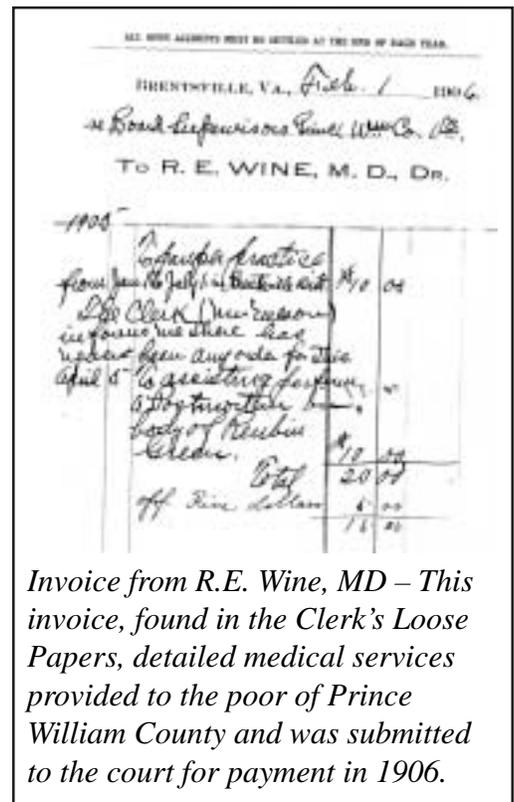


*W.W. Kincheloe was a general merchant, upon whose stationary the court recorded information related to delinquent taxes. This was an unattached document found in the Clerk’s Loose Papers for 1876 – this was originally misfiled under 1906.*

Posey who stands convicted for a felony was led to the bar in custody of the Sheriff, and the prisoner by counsel made a further motion to set aside the verdict and grant a new trial because of the misconduct of one of the jurors and in support of said motion introduced the affidavit of E. W. Cornwell as follows. 'I heard Robert A. Keys, one of the jurors in case of Commonwealth vs George Posey, offer to bet that both of the Posey's would go to the Penitentiary - this was before the trial, Viz: last night in the store of W. W. Kincheloe and in the presence of W. W. Kincheloe and W. W. Buckley,' and W. W. Kincheloe testified that there was a party of Gentlemen in his store the day before George Posey was tried and the question was asked as to the verdict in the Fred Posey case, the reply was that the jury had not agreed as to his term of imprisonment. Robert A. Keys, one of the jurors remarked that he would bet a dollar that George Posey would go to the penitentiary for five years, no person took the bet. My clerk Mr. Buckley said to Keys that he was a juror and ought not to talk that way and he would report him. Mr. Keys was then under the influence of liquor to some extent. Robert A. Keys the juror, testified that he does not remember that he offered to bet on the result of the verdict in the George Posey case, or saying anything about the case in Mr. Kincheloe's Store, that he had made up no opinion as to the guilt or innocence of George Posey, knew nothing about the case & had no prejudice whatever for or against the prisoner he was in favor of the lowest term, when in the jury room and those for a longer term came down to the term he favored. The attorney for the prisoner asked to protest against the jurors speaking about anything that took place in the jury room. The officiate states that he has known George Posey since he was a boy. That during the war, John Posey, the father of George Posey and Manassa Russell, had two horses taken from them and that they followed on after the Confederate Army to Gordonsville to arrest my brother and myself whom they charged with taking the horses. His brother took Posey's horse and he took Russell's horse, they took the horses to ride them, and were not arrested. Russell and Posey received the value of the horses from the Confederate Government. And the Court after considering the said motions doth order that the said verdict be set aside and a new trial granted because of the conduct of the juror Robert A. Keys."



Letterhead from the A.P. Davis Store – This document was found in Clerk's Loose Papers/Judgments 1890. It was a bill for the repair of a stove that was likely installed in either the Courthouse or the Jail.



Invoice from R.E. Wine, MD – This invoice, found in the Clerk's Loose Papers, detailed medical services provided to the poor of Prince William County and was submitted to the court for payment in 1906.





April, 1870.” Kincheloe’s store, just across the street from the jail, provided the lock-up with supplies such as blankets and a stove pipe, as seen in papers dated March 8, 1870 and January 25, 1871. Another paper, dated May 4, 1896, included a “Brentsville Petition & Liquor Application to the State of VA,” for applicant R.H. Keys for the Keys Building at Brentsville.

### Chancery Records

Chancery Suit files often make mention of businesses to which money is owed. One example is the case of Philips vs. Williams. In the final months of her life, Jane Williams purchased sundry goods from several creditors including Philips, Camper, and Gray. She died intestate, and her estate was then sued by these establishments. What is most interesting about the information contained in these records is the items purchased and at what cost. Most of the accounts record purchases from 1860 – 1861. Some of the purchases included 3 lbs sugar (.30), soda crackers (.10), cheese (.30), dozen eggs (.20), candles (.20) ½ gallon molasses (.23), 12 yards blue cotton (1.68), vinegar (.20), 1 bottle of Cannon’s Bitters (.38) soap (.15) and a ½ pound of tobacco (.37). These prices are amazing when compared with those of today. In addition to Chancery Loose Papers, some Chancery order books for the county are extant. In the suit Thomas M. Farrow vs. William S. Fewell & others, dated October 19, 1842 and recorded on page 168 of the Chancery Order book for 1837 – 1852 stated, “...the court doth further adjudge, order and decree that the report of Commissioner Reid be recommitted with instructions that they state, settle and adjust the partnership accounts between said Farrow and Fewell so as to show the present condition of said accounts and report the same to this court...” Another mention of a business appears on page 185 of this same book. It was for a restraining order for John Williams and Ferdinand A. Weedon, “...late joint merchants and partners trading under the firm Weedon & Williams and Berkley Ward from selling the goods and wares...”

### Maps

A variety of maps are available to the researcher including the Plat Books, Map Books, Land Causes, and sundry plats appended to the deed books. Long before the Town of Brentsville was established, a 30,000 acre tract of land was granted in 1687 to Giles Brent, Richard Foote, Robert Bristow and Nicholas Hayward by James II. Robert Bristow’s 7500 acres surrounded what later became the Town of Brentsville. Very few documents are extant that verify tenants’ leases for specific lots. Particularly instructive is a map created by A.P. Williams in 1823 (PWC Map Book 1, p. 2, A.P. Williams 1823). Deed Book 19 contains descriptions of Bristow lots appearing on this map. It mentions a Dunnington’s shop on a road with a stone bridge that also led to Lot 7. The description for Lot 4 also mentions “Dunnington’s B.S. Shop.” (PWC Deed Book 19, p. 399). Additionally, Strother Renoe leased Lot 1 in 1823. Renoe’s blacksmith shop is mentioned in the Deed Book 19 description of Lot 1. (PWC Deed Book 19, p. 398)

Another pre-Brentsville business is the tavern of John Maddox, who leased many Bristow lots. It was at Maddox’s tavern that the committee met to create the town. An Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia passed on January 25, 1820 stated,  
“1. *Be it therefore enacted*, That Robert T. Thompson, Thomas Moss and James Triplett, of the County of Fairfax, John P. Smith and Thomas Hunter, of the county of Fauquier, and Benjamin Ficklin, Alexander F. Rose and William Moncure of the county of Stafford, shall be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, who, or a majority of them, are hereby authorized and required to meet at the house of John Mattox, in the said county of Prince William, in the fifth day of May next... to fix on and ascertain the most central position in the said county... to lay off, and assess the

value of six acres of land ... for the purpose of erecting there-on a court-house, jail and clerk's office... (Acts of the General Assembly, 1820, Ch. 87, p. 76). Mattox's "house" meant tavern.

A map of the "Plan of the Prison Bounds," dated March 11, 1825 appears on page 25 of Deed Book 10. "Hampton's" is labeled on the plat, indicating Thomas R. Hampton was proprietor of the tavern on "Tavern Square" by this date.

One more important map is a survey for a route between Warrenton and Occoquan. This "engineer's survey summary," drawn by Peter Scales, was ordered to be created in 1834 as part of a Board of Public Works project that included sections of road that passed right through the Town of Brentsville. While the map is difficult to read, the courthouse, jail and Clerk's office are easily identifiable, as is the L-shaped tavern on the adjacent lot. This map confirms the location of many other Brentsville buildings that previously had been theorized only based on documents uncovered at the archives. In fact, it includes at least 23 buildings along Main Street alone for the year 1834.

**Land Tax Books**

The Land Tax Books for Prince William County record assessments for town lots in Brentsville beginning in 1824. The listings consist of the lot's owner (not always by the specific lot number), the value of any buildings or improvements, the combined value of land and any improvements, and sometimes, a note as related to the purchase or condition of the lot. Some examples include:  
 "1830 – Dawe, Philip D. – No. 11, 12 – 2 lots - \$2800/  
 \$3000 – Tavern lot included, purchase of Millan & Wiggenton."  
 "1831 – Hampton, Thomas R. of Claytor – 1 lot - \$5000/  
 \$6000 – Tavern lot containing 3 acres."

**Personal Property Tax Books**

Prince William's residents were taxed on personal property including slaves, livestock, wheeled conveyances and stud services. Bristow tenant Strother Reno, whose blacksmith shop is mentioned above, also provided stud services in 1811 at \$4 per cover. In addition to this tax data, many years include lists of retail licenses granted.

**Induction Records**

Induction records for conflicts such as the Civil War and World War I may also lend clues to businesses. One example, taken from the records at the Circuit Court Archives includes the World War I Draft Registration data for "Davis, Eugene - born 2 May 1891 Brentsville VA, residence Manassas, employed as a clerk in the clothing store of Hibbs and Giddings at Manassas,

*Prince William County*  
*In Account with*  
**R. H. KEYS**  
 DEALER IN  
**DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, GENERAL MERCHANDISE**  
**AND COUNTRY PRODUCE**

1927			
Feb.	4	flour 100 meal 22	1.63
"	1	coffee 25 coffee 40	1.10
"	1	sugar 75 cream 40	1.10
"	1	lard 16 best quality 41	4.10
"	1	corn 22 hb 70	4.20
"	1	beans 16 family 12	2.80
"	18	flour 100 meal 22	1.63
"	1	coffee 40 meal 20	8.00
"	1	beans 20 meal 10 salt 10	3.50
"	1	lard 16 best quality 41	4.10
"	1	corn 22 hb 70	4.20
"	1	beans 16 family 12	2.80
"	1	flour 100 meal 22	1.63
"	1	coffee 25 coffee 40	1.10
"	1	sugar 75 cream 40	1.10
"	1	lard 16 best quality 41	4.10
"	1	corn 22 hb 70	4.20
"	1	beans 16 family 12	2.80
"	1	flour 100 meal 22	1.63
"	1	coffee 25 coffee 40	1.10
"	1	sugar 75 cream 40	1.10
"	1	lard 16 best quality 41	4.10
"	1	corn 22 hb 70	4.20
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"	1	flour 100 meal 22	1.63
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"	1	sugar 75 cream 40	1.10
"	1	lard 16 best quality 41	4.10
"	1	corn 22 hb 70	4.20
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"	1	coffee 25 coffee 40	1.10
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"	1	sugar 75 cream 40	1.10
"	1	lard 16 best quality 41	4.10
"	1	corn 22 hb 70	4.20
"	1	beans 16 family 12	2.80
"	1	flour 100 meal 22	1.63
"	1	coffee 25 coffee 40	1.10
"	1	sugar 75 cream 40	1.10
"	1	lard 16 best quality 41	4.10
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"	1	coffee 25 coffee 40	1.10
"	1	sugar 75 cream 40	

dependents listed as mother and sister, Caucasian, single, tall, slim build, brown eyes & hair, registered by W. F. Merchant 5 Jun 1917.”

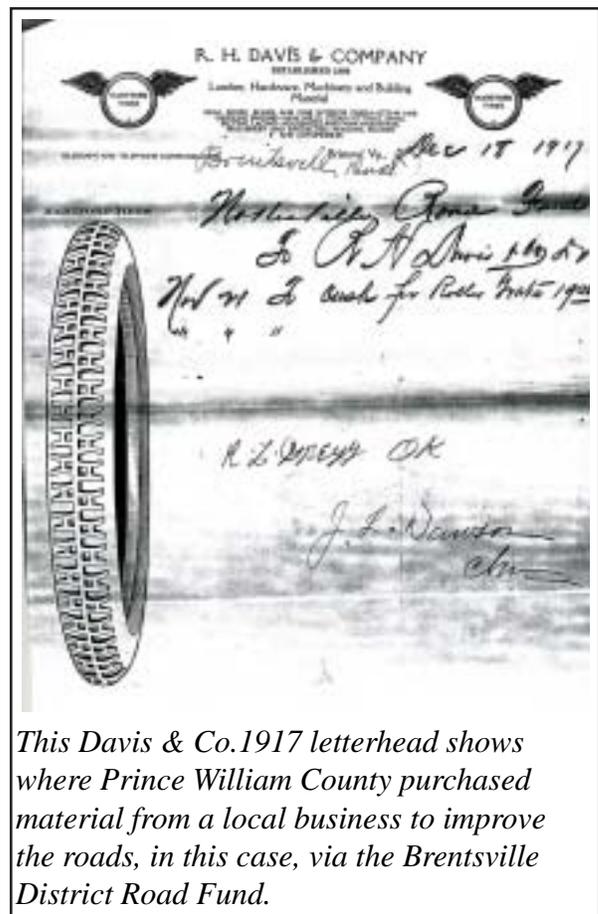
**The Minute Books and Loose Papers of the Board of Supervisor**

The Minute Books of the Board of Supervisor and the Supervisors Loose Papers consist of accounts billed and accounts paid for general stores doing business with the overseers of the poor and also physicians providing medical care for the indigent. The records also contain the county road accounts which conducted business with a variety of enterprises such as garages and other like companies. Additionally, when the tavern lot was to be sold, an advertisement for its sale was to be made. According to the Supervisor’s Minute Book entry for May 17, 1860 an advertisement had to be placed thirty days prior to the sale in the *Prince William Democrat*, a newspaper published by businessman Daniel W. Whiting in Brentsville.

MONTHLY STATEMENT.  
Brentsville, Va. May 20<sup>th</sup> 1913  
M Prince William County  
To R. H. KEYS, Dr.  
DEALER IN  
DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, GROCERIES, BOOTS, SHOES, Etc.  
Highest Price Paid for all kinds of County Produce.  
FRONT SETTLEMENTS (MONTHS)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Posting notices of Registration	1.00
" 26 <sup>th</sup>	Boys Service as Registrar	2.00
Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup>	posting notices of Registration	1.00
Octo 4 <sup>th</sup>	Boys Service as Registrar	2.00
		<u>\$6.00</u>
	Allowed Nov 15	1.00
		<u>\$7.00</u>

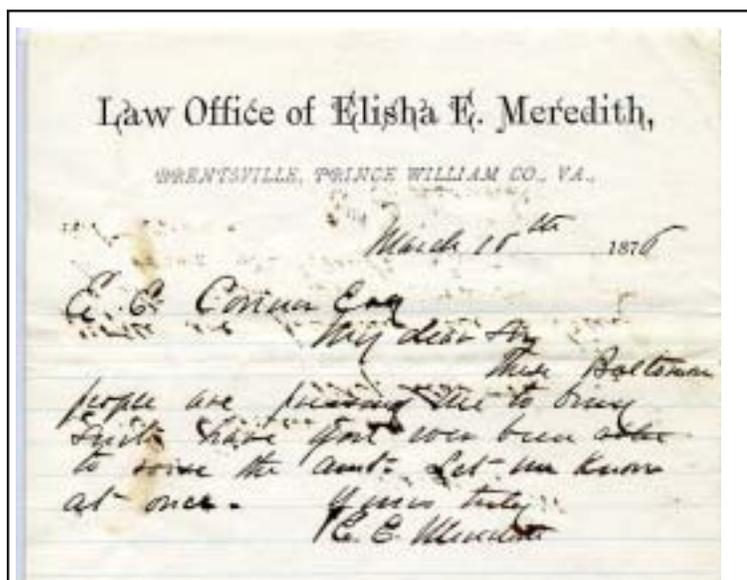
R.H. Keys’ submitted this request for payment to the court for the posting of voter registration notices in his store in 1913.



This Davis & Co. 1917 letterhead shows where Prince William County purchased material from a local business to improve the roads, in this case, via the Brentsville District Road Fund.

The possibilities for tying together a combination of these types of sources is mind boggling. It can be time consuming and require a great deal of analysis, but it is only in this way that we can weave a clear picture of the past.

*Special thanks are extended to Van E. Turner of Manassas for contributions and technical support.*



*This letterhead of attorney E.E. Meredith is dated 1876, indicating the period during which he practiced in Brentsville. This particular letter is related to a law suit involving a business in Baltimore. This document is held in a private collection.*



*This Cushing & Meetze receipt serves as evidence of a business located in Bristow. This document is held in a private collection and includes goods and services provided by this general merchandiser in the early 1900s.*