



# “Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

**December, 2023**

Vol. 31 No. 12 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss [Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com) & Tom Lacombe [tomlacombe@comcast.net](mailto:tomlacombe@comcast.net)

## **BCCA Board of Directors - 2023**

President	John Bell	540 635-9705
Vice Pres.	Linda Glavis	540 636-3802
Secretary	Gail Miller	540-622-4339
Treasurer	Ian Fisher	540-305-7957
Trustees	Allan Brockway	540 635-7783
	Jim Sylvester	540 636-7565
	Denny Pennington	540 635-5568

## **Browntown Calendar**

Dec, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Izaak Walton, Litter Clean up 1:00
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	BCCA Christmas Tree Lighting 6:00p.m.
Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	BCCA Public Meeting/Elections 7:30p.m.
Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Drive-thru Dinner, Baptist Church 4-6
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Play, Baptist Church, TBD
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Merry Christmas
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tues.. Deadline for January newsletter

## **Browntown Baptist Church**

[browntownbaptistva@gmail.com](mailto:browntownbaptistva@gmail.com)

Pastor: Sherman Kaipha Brown

Worship Service @ 11 a.m. Fellowship @ 12 p.m.

Baptist Church provides food at the Fellowship Hall.

Every Wednesday is “Free Food” day for Browntown residents who need help with feeding their families.

Hours are: 12:30 to 2:30 (for pick up).

## **Cool Spring Church of God**

Pastor: Jeff Fletcher

Sunday School at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30.

## **Limeton United Methodist Church**

Pastor: Taeshin Kim

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

## **C-CAP Needs YOU!**

Just one shift – 3 Hours a month

Please contact Joanne Koszyk 540-551-3815

Or email [ourccap@gmail.com](mailto:ourccap@gmail.com)

Thanks so much for your help.

Joanne



This year's **Christmas Bazaar** was a great success! A record number of crafters, volunteers, donors and shoppers resulted in a truly great day! Thanks to all who volunteered both in getting set up and working the day of the bazaar (Patsy has the list). If anyone missed the Bazaar we had some new items on the "Browntown Table" that you might be interested in for Christmas. They are available at O.J. Rudacille Gen Mdse. Tom generously donates space in the store for our community center items. In addition we will also have them available for our Christmas Tree Snowflake evening on Saturday, Dec 9, at 6 pm.

Cookies are always welcomed.

## **2023 Browntown Christmas Snowflakes**

This year's remembrance list of names and sponsors will be posted on snowflakes that will be placed on the inside of the community center hall, on the bulletin board. The list will also be published in the January newsletter issue. You may send in the names of loved ones and friends through the end of December.

Please send your check made out to BCCA, with your list of names to:

BCCA, 96 Browntown Road, Browntown, VA 22610 Or call Patsy 540-635-5568

This year we will be accepting donations of \$5.00 per name (snowflake).

**Paint Party** - Sunday, February 18, from 1-3:30 at the BCCA. Join Kelly Walker (The Studio for Learning) at the Browntown Community Center to paint a gorgeous landscape picture of Hogback Mountain, with a Redbud Tree Branch overhanging. Kelly is a great instructor and you will leave with a great piece of art that you have created yourself. Space is limited. There will be snacks available for purchase. All materials are provided. Cost for the class and a picture of what we will be doing will be posted on our Facebook Page and our January newsletter.

## Obituaries

**David "Buck" E. Tangen Jr.**, 73, of Browntown, passed away on September 12, at Blue Ridge Hospice Inpatient Care Center in Winchester, Virginia. Buck was born on March 7, 1950 in Alexandria, Virginia to the late David Tangen Sr. and Ada Freeman. He is also preceded in death by his wife, Anna Tangen. Surviving Buck are his children, Timmy Tangen, Tommy Tangen, Teddy Tangen and Tracie Tangen; and numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Buck spent many years drag racing at Old Dominion Speedway. He also loved antique hotrods. One of his favorite things to do was to go to car shows with his sons. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice at 333 W Cork St. Winchester, Virginia 22601.

**Juanita Belle Hutchison Manuel**, 88, of Browntown, VA, went home to our heavenly father on November 20, surrounded by her loving family at Warren Memorial Hospital. Juanita was born on January 12, 1935 to Floyd A. Hutchison and Mary S. Painter Hutchison of Lantz Mills, VA. She married Claude Milton Manuel on October 10, 1953 in Front Royal, and made their home in Browntown. She enjoyed sewing, making dresses for her daughters and many beautiful things for the home. She was an avid gardener and canned a huge harvest every year. She was a wonderful cook and prepared every holiday meal with love. Juanita was raised in the church. Her faith in God was unwavering. She was a member of the Browntown Baptist Church and later the Browntown Agape Church. She had a strong love for family and community. She organized the Hutchison family reunion for years, sewed angel costumes for the church Christmas pageants and helped boil apple butter for South Warren Volunteer Fire Dept. Juanita was preceded in death by her parents; and three sisters and their husbands, Anna Margaret Fultz (Elwood), Ruth Rosenberger (Robert), and Betty Wolverton (Richard). Juanita is survived by her loving husband of 70 years, Claude Milton ("Red/Sonny") Manuel; her four children, Janet J. Manuel of Browntown, VA, Carl M. Manuel of Slainesville, WV, Vivian A. Manuel of Front Royal, VA and Nora M. Ramey (Roger) of Middletown VA; two grandchildren, Sara A. Smith (Frank) and Roger A. Ramey III (Catalina); two great-grandchildren, Marshall and Hudson Smith; and many nieces, nephews and friends. As per Juanita's final wishes, funeral arrangements will be private. In lieu of flowers, please give a donation to your local fire and rescue department.

## O.J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.

**Phone 636-2149**

**Sunday Noon till 4pm**

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### OJ's New Hours

O.J.'s will be open 9 till 5 Mon-Sat and Noon till 4 on Sundays. Look for the **Open** flag out front, and a sign on door in case we have to close up for unforeseen reasons. **Thanks again, Tom**

### Deadline for January News:

**December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Make A Note: Patsy Pennington is the person

to contact if you need to use the Center.

Patsy's number is 540-635-5568

### ***Leave Home a few minutes Earlier Please Slow Down, Enjoy the Ride***

Remember, our roads aren't designed for the amount of traffic they carry these days. I'm sure many of you have been going down the road and find an oncoming vehicle across the center line!!

**Don't forget -- area schools  
Are now in session**

# Gooney Valley History Club

## **Jedediah Hotchkiss, Stonewall Jackson's Mapmaker and his work in Gooney Manor**

In March of 1862, Stonewall Jackson was retreating from the Battle of Kernstown, and he noticed a civilian who seemed to have control over a battalion of men who were balking at Jackson's orders. Jackson inquired and found that this civilian, Jed Hotchkiss, had skills that would be useful to the confederacy. He summoned Jed and told him, "I want you to make a map of the Valley, from Harpers Ferry to Lexington, showing all the points of offense and defense in those places." During that process Hotchkiss did an incredible job of mapping the valley, to include Gooney Manor.

The finished product can be viewed in its entirety at the Strasburg Visitors Center at the Hupp's Hill Museum. The map is about 50" by 100", and packed with information that would be important to a military commander.

Recently our Club found Jed Hotchkiss's sketchbook, which is online and gives us more info about what Gooney Manor looked like in 1862. One takeaway for me was the fact that when Hotchkiss came through our village, he wasn't sure whether to call it Brownton or Brownville, (not Browntown). In his completed map he opted for Brownton. You can take a look at this map online at

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3880m.gcwh0001/?sp=40&st=image&r=0.379,0.416,0.716,0.431,0>

You'll also note, in 1862 the center of Browntown was south of what I like to call Downtown Browntown, with James and Angela Keller's house at 5671 Gooney Manor Loop being the center of the village.

The second most prominent area within the bounds of this map is Boyd's Mill, which not only is a crossroads, but also can boast of a church and a mill. The church known as the Manor Chapel, was where folks from many parts of Gooney Manor would come to worship. Becky Poe mentions this church in her history of the first hundred years of the Browntown Baptist Church. I will point out at this juncture that Jed has a legend on one of the first maps in his sketchbook. Small squares indicate houses, unless otherwise noted, small squares with a cross on top indicate a church, circles with four spokes sticking out, indicate a sawmill, and that circle with 7 spokes sticking out indicates a flouring mill. Keep in mind Mr.

Hotchkiss was on horseback while sketching and it appears to me sometimes his designation as a flouring mill might be wrong. I mention this in regards to a flouring mill being located near Win Smedley's house at 5811 Gooney Manor Loop, which we believe was the Brown Mill, which other documents suggest was a carding mill. Which is of some significance as this was the first carding or woolen mill west of the Blue Ridge.

Some other things about this sketch that interest me, are the two roadways on either side of the word Brownton, that lead to the east, then join as a bridle path. Then about halfway down that path, another bridle path heads east on a track that would pretty much match up with today's Smith Run Road. That bridle path heads to Gade's Gap, which today would be Jenkins Gap. One other name on the map that catches my eye is Grant. This name is associated with a store in later histories of Browntown. My guess, is that it was a store by 1862, and possibly the earliest store in Browntown.



## DECEMBER 2023 UPDATE - THE BEARR GROUP "KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE"

THE BEARR GROUP IS NOW ONLINE at BEARRGroup

Facebook: BEARR Group Instagram: @bearr\_group Twitter: @b



### 911 REFLECTIVE SIGNS -- HAVE YOU GOT YOURS? SURPRISE YOUR NEIGHBOR OR FAMILY MEMBER WITH A GREAT XI

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### PLEASE SLOW DOWN & DRIVE SAFELY

There have been several reports of tailgating, driving on the wrong side of the road, and speeding in our neighborhood over the last month. One family lost a speeding car that did not stop and a young man was seen driving his late model car on the wrong side along the Browntown road at dusk, putting his and others at risk. **Latest report is of 2 cars drag-racing on the Browntown Road**

**madness! LETS MAKE DECEMBER A SAFE MONTH FOREVERYONE !**



### OUR NEXT WILDFIRE EMERGENCY: HOW WILL WE RESPOND?

The Quaker Run Fire in Madison County was declared an emergency on October 25 and burned over 3,000 acres before it was brought under control. Unlike the smoke we experienced earlier in the summer which was from fires in Canada, the smoke that has drifted across the Gooney area in the last 3-4 weeks, obscuring the mountains and creating a health hazard for vulnerable people, came from several wildfires in nearby counties. In 2023 we experienced abnormally high fire activity due to above-average drought conditions and below-average humidity. There is a strong possibility that a high risk of wildfires will be with us again in 2024. Some lessons learned from the recent fire that volunteers can play a key role in establishing firelines and supplying food and water to firefighters. That limited cell phone and internet service are one of the key challenges for those fighting wildfires in mountainous areas (like ours!).

The BEARR Group is proposing to make Wildfire Risk Management a top priority for 2024 beginning to collect ideas and information. Questions we hope to address will likely include:

- How to prevent wildfires and make our homes more fire resilient?
- How to prepare our community for a wildfire?
- How to protect yourself and your family during a wildfire
- What can we do to help our neighbors and community during a wildfire emergency?
- What to do after the fire: community recovery/returning home?

*We would love to hear from anyone who shares our concern about this issue*

Please contact Brian Wilkinson ([bwilkinson57@verizon.net](mailto:bwilkinson57@verizon.net)) or Chris Lewis ([chris@BEARRGroup.com](mailto:chris@BEARRGroup.com)) to learn more and/or join us in helping to keep our community safe from wildfires.



Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving holiday.

Dec. 11th is the next BCCA meeting. If you, (or someone you know), would like to be considered for nomination to an officer or to a trustee position, please send in your name, and the position for which you are interested, to Brian Wilkinson or to Jackie Hodgkiss. Nominations/elections will take place at the Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> BCCA meeting at 7:30

Currently considered candidates are as follows:

President: Martha Buracker

Vice President: Mary McKenney

Secretary: **[Vacant]**

Treasurer: Ian Fisher

Trustee: Denny Pennington, Allan Brockway,  
**[Vacant]**

## IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE

The Warren County Izaak Walton League is conducting a litter pickup on Browntown Road, Sunday Dec 3, at 1:00pm. We meet in the parking lot of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, at the Highway 340 end of the road. I have orange bags, reflective vests and pickup tools. We put out two VDOT "Litter Pickup Crew Working" signs to alert drivers to our presence. Children are welcome if accompanied by a parent. You do not need to be a member of the IWL to participate.

I am stepping down as the IWL Anti-litter Coordinator. Bill Lacy will be replacing me. We did not do our Sep Pickup, so the road really needs a good cleanup.

Dennis Mosher

# Browntown Baptist Church

DRIVE-THRU  
DINNER

DECEMBER 16TH | 4-6  
PM

\*SPAGHETTI, GARLIC  
BREAD, DESSERT \$12

\*CHILI MAC, CORN BREAD,  
DESSERT \$12

CALL OR TEXT 540-671-0125 TO  
PRE-ORDER. ALL PRE-ORDERS  
SUBMITTED BY 12/11/23 WILL BE  
ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE TO WIN  
FREE MEALS!

(3 WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED)

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR THE  
COMMUNITY.



## Thanks to Jim Sylvester for the pictures of the Christmas Bazaar



### Christmas Bazaar Results:

Silent Auction	\$900
Merchandise	\$1200
Bake Table	\$600
Kitchen	\$978
Crafters Table Rent	\$500
Total	\$4,178.

Browntown is always looking for volunteers to help keep the Community Center alive and active. We would be more than happy to add your name and telephone number, so we can call you for future events.





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**Check Page 3 for Gooney Valley History Club Story  
on this Hotchkiss Civil War Map of Browntown**

