

*THE*  
**BULLTOWN  
COUNTRY**

1764-1940

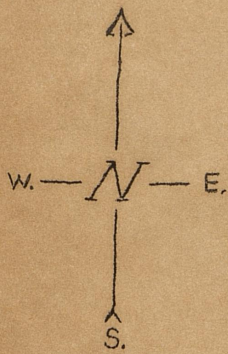
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**WEST VIRGINIA WRITERS' PROJECT**

202

Map of



The Bulltown Country

THE BULLTOWN COUNTRY

Number 10 - Folk Studies

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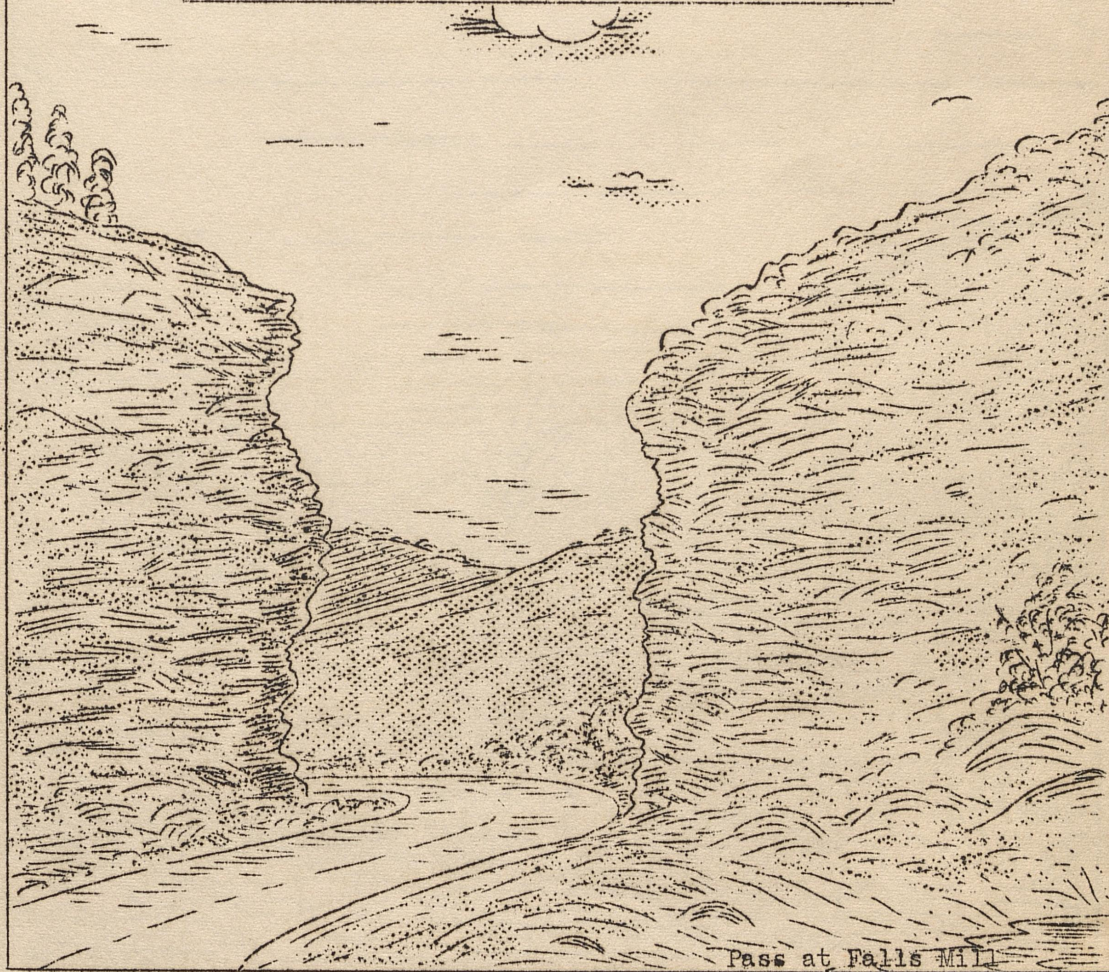
William H. Hyer and Benton B. Boggs, Jr.

November, 1940

FOREWORD

This booklet, as compiled and written by the West Virginia Writers' Project, deals with the story of Bulltown and the Little Kanawha valley region. It is the story of many episodes in Braxton County's history in the past two centuries occurring here. The Writers' Project feels that in presenting this somewhat brief historical sketch, it has brought to light many interesting facts and incidents connected with this particular section that were heretofore unknown.

O. O. Sutton, County Supervisor

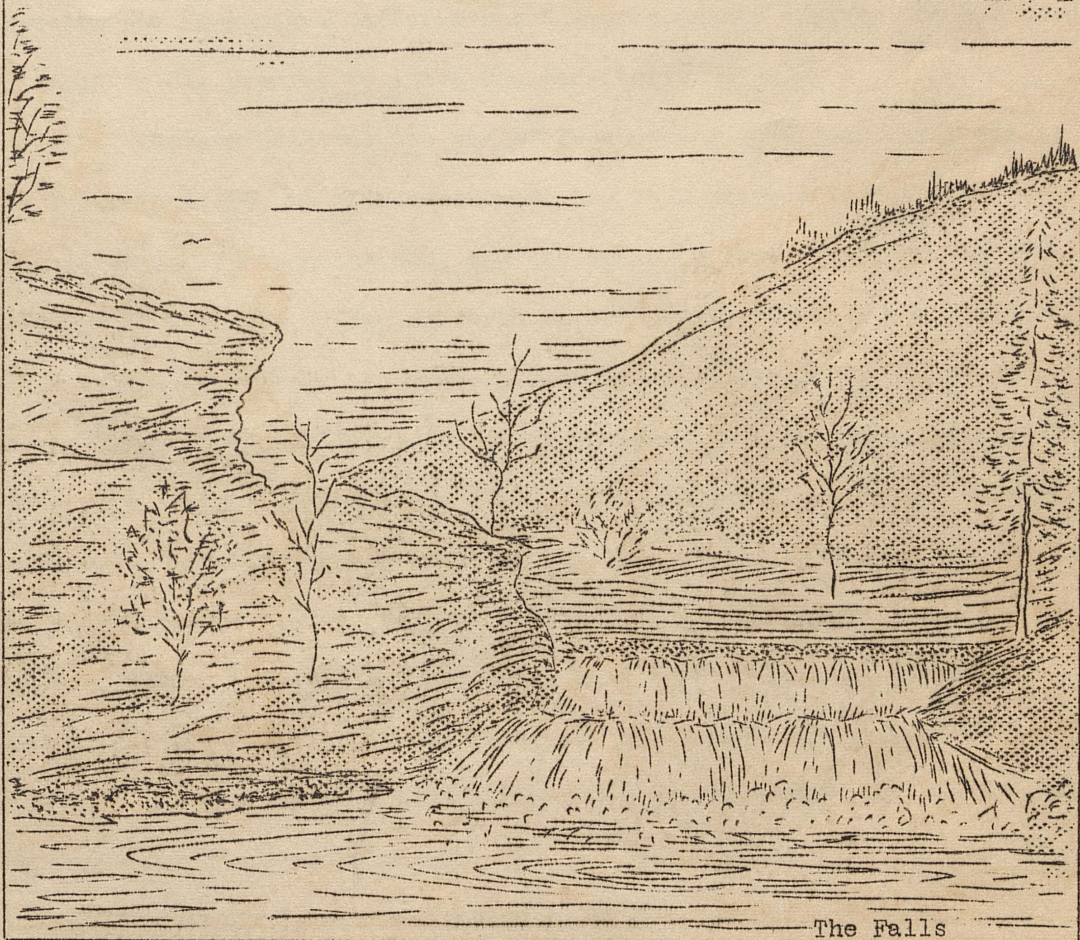


Pass at Falls Mill

C O N T E N T S

Captain Bull and the Delawares . . . . .	1
Pontiac's Conspiracy . . . . .	2
Stroud Family Massacred. . . . .	6
The Indian Massacre . . . . .	7
Settlers Arrive. . . . .	8
Salt Making. . . . .	11
County's First Mill, School and Church . . . . .	13
Old Postoffice . . . . .	14
Bulltown in the Civil Strife . . . . .	15
Battle of Bulltown . . . . .	16
The "Lost Vacation". . . . .	21
The Bulltown Country Today . . . . .	22

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The Falls

## THE BULLTOWN COUNTRY

**C**aptain Bull, the Delaware Indian chief whose name is perpetuated in Bulltown on the Little Kanawha, came to the hills of northwest Virginia as an exile from his homeland on the upper Susquehanna in New York State. In 1764, when he led his twenty relatives to the site of the present town, he was fleeing the wrath of the English Indian Commissioner, Sir William Johnson, who had become incensed against the Delawares after discovering Captain Bull's role in Pontiac's Conspiracy. Johnson had organized a band of English settlers and friendly Indians, and in March of 1764 this group had fought Bull and his adherents and captured a number of them including the malcontent leader, who was led in irons to New York City. After a short imprisonment, however, he had been released on his promise to leave the territory.

Captain Bull was the son of Teedyuscung, the last chieftain of the Delaware tribe, to whom a monument has been erected in Fairmont Park, Philadelphia, representing him, bow and spear in hand, plume of eagle feathers on his brow, stepping forth on his journey towards the setting sun. Teedyuscung, born at Trenton, New Jersey, about 1705, had been chosen Chief of the Delawares at about 50 years of age. He was burned to death on the night of April 16, 1764, when enemy Indians, either Senecas or Mohawks, set fire to his lodge in the Indian village at Wyoming in New York while he lay drunk. Unlike his father, Captain Bull was not friendly toward the English, but led a band of dissatisfied Delaware braves into the hostile camp of Pontiac. His arrest and exile, occurring at almost the same time as his father's death, prevented him from becoming Great Chief of the Delaware. The story of Captain Bull and the Pontiac Conspiracy is the background to the history of Bulltown.

### Pontiac's Conspiracy

At the time of the Conspiracy about 600 Delaware Indians had been included in the wily Pontiac's plans to overthrow the English, and restore the supremacy of the French and Indian races. (This estimate was made by Sir William Johnson in 1763, who calculated the entire Indian forces involved in Pontiac's plans were not in excess of ten thousand warriors.) Captain Bull led the Delaware group that joined the dissatisfied Iroquois, Shawnee, Wyandot, Miami, Kickapoo, Ottawa, and Ojibwa tribes who regretted the fall of Quebec and DeVaudreuil's capitulation at Montreal. Canada had passed from the control of France and Great Britain had, for a time, established military rule.

Though small English garrisons occupied the forts in the west, around the shores of the Great Lakes and the territory watered by the Ohio, the French still held posts on the Wabash and the Mississippi, and had considerable settlements around New Orleans. In the Ohio Valley and about the Lakes, discontentment smouldered among the Indians, most of whom preferred the casual French who had never disturbed their way of life in sharing their hunting grounds to the English, whom they dreaded as likely to drive them from their hunting grounds and treat them with injustice and neglect.

Their fears were worked upon and disaffection fomented by French traders from St. Louis and Montreal; the results were seen presently in the uprising of all the western tribes under the leadership of Pontiac, Chief of the Ottawa warriors. Captain Bull and the Delaware through the influence of Pontiac were, of course, as deeply involved in the scheme as any of the other tribes. When the English learned of the uprising,



Captain Bull became the first martyr to a hopeless cause. It is not known whether Bull and the Delawares that settled in the Bulltown Country planned to avenge their plight and misfortune, for unforeseen events decided their fate shortly after their arrival and settlement in the country west of the Allegheny Mountains.

From the letters of Sir William Johnson, the English Indian Superintendent in New York at the time, some light is shed on the life and character of Captain Bull. Writing in regard to the trouble with Pontiac, Johnson stated: "...among the prisoners taken is Captain Bull the head of their party & Son of Teedyuscung; he has been principally concerned in the whole War and has done much mischief..."

The story of Captain Bull's capture, and some further facts as to his character, is told in another of Johnson's letters--this one written to Thomas Gage, in 1764:

"Dear Sir

"I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the prisoners arrived here on the 15th of March & were yesterday sent down under a Guard of a Capt & 50 Provincials to Albany....The number of Prisoners I have sent to Coll Elliot are 14 men, with Capt. Bull, a villain of the first rank, the manner of their being taken agrees with that I first heard, Except that one of them was wounded, as he made a good deal of resistance when they Tyed him up, but it is with particular satisfaction I inform you that they are all of Kanestio and have many prisoners amongst them which Bull offered for his ransom, he told the party that took him that he had with his own hands killed 26 English since Spring & it appears that their design was to come here, make offers of peace, beg for a little ammunition & on their return destroy Cherry-Valley or some other of our settlements, they insulted the Indians of 2 or 3 Small Friendly villages & shot down their cattle, & took away their provisions by force. Capt Bull did not attempt to deny his behavior, and on my asking him on what account he became so inveterate an Enemy, he told me, he did not know, that he was advised to it, & his party followed his example; he is a fellow of great address, but feigns an ignorance & is full of prevarication, he is

very likely and remarkably active as are several others with him, which makes me dread their escaping, altho' I told him if he attempted to escape, those in our hands would be put to death immediately."

Thus ended forever the career of Indian Chief Bull in New York and Pennsylvania. He was released from his New York prison upon the one condition that he would flee from the State and never return. Like his father, Captain Bull was well known in the region around Philadelphia. He did not choose, however, to make his home there but instead sought out a wilderness section in the wilds of western Virginia. His reason for doing so is not known.

The new location where Bull and his people settled was indeed an ideal one. Game was plentiful, the rich, fertile land grew fine crops of corn, and there were no other tribes to molest them. Perhaps the main reason why the Bulltown location was chosen by the Indians was the presence of salt springs from which that much-needed commodity could be made. Salt was an important article then just as it is today, and the only sources were the eastern markets and the saline springs, the water of which could be boiled to obtain the white precipitate. These springs were plentiful in many sections of the State.

It is not definitely known if the presence of a spring at Bulltown determined Captain Bull's selection of the site for his village, but in any case, Captain Bull's people were the first to manufacture salt there. They are known to have begun making the article shortly after their arrival. They made it by collecting the saline waters of the spring in wooden troughs and heating it with hot stones dropped into the container. The brine from the Bulltown spring was weak, and the evaporation of

about 800 gallons of the brine was required to make a single bushel of salt. Under this method, employed by the Delawares, salt-making was a tedious process, and the production by the Indians was never great. They manufactured barely enough to supply their own needs and a small quantity for trade with the few whites who were close neighbors.

A number of white settlers from Randolph County visited the Bulltown village frequently as early as 1770 and traded with the Delawares for salt. The article was transported down the valley on pack horses, the only mode of transportation at that early date.

Eight years passed--eight years that bore a marked difference from any other eight of Captain Bull's life--in which the little village of Bulltown became known far and wide. Captain Bull, after coming to western Virginia, then called West Augusta District, was a different character; during the eight years that he and his people inhabited the Little Kanawha valley, he became peaceful toward the few whites with whom he came in contact, often hunting with them. He was in all respects a "good Indian," as was the rest of the little band that made up his camp. His tepee was always open to the hunter and the pioneer, and he was their friend. The Indians hunted the wild life in the virgin forests, fished, made salt, visited pioneer settlements in the country farther north; but a bare eight years after their arrival, in 1772, the evil deeds of the past resulted in death to the Indians and destruction to their village.

Ten years of peace on the Virginian frontier intervened between the close of Pontiac's War in 1764 and Dunmore's War in 1774. During those ten years a wonderful shifting of the frontier had taken place. Pioneers seeking homes farther in the interior of the mountain country had

established many settlements in the north central region, and as the number of settlers increased so did the concern of the Indians, resulting in many massacres and depredations.

Captain Bull and his band, however, became more and more friendly towards the ever-increasing number of whites in northwest Virginia. Elsewhere in the trans-Allegheny territory, Indian depredations were committed with an ever-increasing frequency, and by 1772 the threat of an Indian war occupied all minds. Tension between the western settlers and the Indians became constantly greater. The pioneers desired a final settlement and when they began to lay plans for forcing the issue war was assured.

Although the Bulltown Delawares took no part in the raids and murders and did not join the Indians along the Ohio River who sent out numerous raiding parties, killing the whites and plundering the unprotected settlements, this did not prevent the neighboring whites from suspecting them. Some even went so far as to suggest that Captain Bull and his people be forced to leave the country--Jesse Hughes, the noted border scout, was the greatest advocate of such action--yet the relations between Bull and the settlers, although somewhat strained, continued on friendly terms until 1772.

#### Stroud Family Massacred

Shortly after the treaty with the Indians, in 1768, Adam Stroud, a German, and his family, settled on what is now Stroud's Creek, near its junction with the Gauley River, and in what is now Webster County. Here he erected a crude log cabin and in the course of time cleared some land and planted crops. For four years he and his family enjoyed the freedom

of the frontier unmolested. Then, in the month of June, 1772, while Stroud was absent from his home, a party of Indian warriors, supposed to have been of the Shawnee tribe, murdered the entire German family of seven children and the mother. They also plundered the house and drove off what livestock the Strouds possessed.

Because the Shawnees, who were guilty of the Stroud massacre, left a false trail leading in a general direction of the Delaware village, suspicion at once fell upon Captain Bull and his warriors; even Stroud himself expressed the belief that the Bulltown Indians were responsible for the massacre. When he arrived home that June day and found his entire family murdered, Stroud sped to the Hacker Creek settlement in Lewis County and spread the alarm. An immediate cry went up to avenge the deed at once. Many, however, doubted that Bull or any of his band had any part in the killing. They held back because on frequent visits to the Little Kanawha village they had found the leader of the Bulltown Indians very friendly and were slow in being convinced of his guilt.

#### The Indian Massacre

Five men, Jesse Hughes, William White, John Cutright, William Hacker, and a man by the name of Kettle, who would believe nothing but that the Bulltown Indians were guilty announced their intention of proceeding against the Little Kanawha village. Jesse Hughes like Lewis Wetzel, had a great hatred for Indians--whether friendly or not--and nothing delighted him more than an opportunity to kill a redskin. He killed at times, it would seem, merely for the sake of killing. It is therefore possible that Hughes, because of his feeling towards the Indians, and

because he lived only a short distance from their settlement, instigated the action against Captain Bull's people.

Hughes and his party went to Bulltown, and returned a day or two later. They denied having as much as seen an Indian, telling the Hacker Creek settlers that Bull and his people had left the country. What really did occur at the Indian village was not disclosed until several years later. On his deathbed in 1852 when 105 years old John Cutright, told the true story of the disappearance of Captain Bull and his fellow Delawares.

Cutright said that as Jesse Hughes and the four other men left the Hacker Creek settlement, and made their way toward the Bulltown colony, they became more and more embittered against the Indians. Hughes, it appears, goaded the men on, and planned the best way to attack the Indian village. With his usual cunning, Hughes planned to take the Indians completely by surprise.

He succeeded, and falling upon the Delawares before they were aware that any danger was near, the Hughes party killed every member of the Indian settlement, men, women and children alike. Realizing the extent of their malefaction, the men, fearful of possible unpleasant consequences when their deed became known, removed the last evidence of their crime by throwing the bodies of the Indians into the Little Kanawha River. Thus ended the career of the notorious Delaware chieftain whose name will not be forgotten so long as Bulltown exists.

#### Settlers Begin to Arrive

A period of more than thirty years elapsed after Captain Bull and his band of Delawares were massacred before the first permanent

settlements were established in the Bulltown country by the white men. Hunting parties and settlers in quest of salt, however, frequented the Little Kanawha valley during these thirty years. In 1792 Adam O'Brien, one of the first settlers in the Elk valley, blazed a trail from his cabin at the site of Sutton to the salt springs near where the Indian village had stood. The springs had been used for some time by settlers of Randolph, Harrison and Upshur Counties.

About the year 1800 three brothers by the name of Conrad brought their families into the Little Kanawha valley and established a permanent settlement near Bulltown. The Conrads, Benjamin, John and Daniel, were of German extraction and came from northern Harrison County. John erected his cabin one mile below Bulltown; Daniel erected his on the opposite side of the river; and Benjamin built his home at the mouth of Knowles Creek.

Many "squatters" came to the Bulltown country before the Conrad brothers, but only for the purpose of hunting and obtaining salt from the springs there. They laid no claim to the land, surrendering it to the rightful owners upon demand. Who erected the first cabin in this region cannot be definitely ascertained, but Jacob Conrad, father of the three brothers mentioned, held a patent for the land on which they located, and it is claimed that a man--name unknown--whom he sent into the wilderness to look after his lands, erected a cabin and remained in the valley for some time.

Three or four years after the Conrad settlement, in 1804 or 1805, a family by the name of Haymond moved from near Clarksburg in Harrison County to Bulltown. The group consisted of Colonel John Haymond,

and a brother-in-law, Benjamin Wilson, Jr., and their two families. They erected a large cabin near the salt springs. A year or two later Colonel Haymond was joined by his brother William Haymond, who also came from Harrison County. He built his home near the falls of the river at what is now Falls Mill.

Other settlers at this early period were Andrew Boggs, who made his home at the forks of the Little Kanawha, and David Atkin, who settled on the river below Boggs. William Bosely, an Englishman, came from Baltimore to Braxton County about the year 1810, and settled on the Little Kanawha, between Falls Mill and Bulltown. Descendants of this pioneer family still live in that section of the county.

The story of the early settlers in the Bulltown Country would not be complete without mention of Henry Cunningham, a pioneer, who at his own expense, erected the first church and schoolhouse in this section of the county. It was about the year 1812 that Cunningham moved his family from Harrison County to the Little Kanawha valley and erected his cabin on the ridge between the forks of Knawles Creek where he had purchased 1,500 acres of choice land. Descendants of Henry Cunningham are today prominent citizens of Braxton County.

Others who came to the Little Kanawha valley in the Bulltown and Falls Mill vicinities include John B. Byrne, Benjamin W. Byrne, and John P. Byrne, of Irish descent, between 1800 and 1822; Lewis Berry from Loudon County, Virginia, prior to 1825 (he was a soldier in the War of 1812); Moses Cunningham from Randolph County in 1825; John C. Taylor, Greenbrier County, 1847; John Warner, Randolph County, 1847; John Veith, Germany to New York in 1845 and to Braxton County, 1849; Thomas H. Lockard,



Lewis County, 1850; Laban D. Currence, Randolph County, 1850; James Walton, Pocahontas County, 1851; Addison McLaughlin, lawyer, Lewis County, 1851; Isaac Willoughby, Nicholas County, 1852; J. D. Armstrong, Lewis County, 1854; William L. Kelley, cabinetmaker, Bath County, Virginia, 1858; Aaron Bennett, Lewis County, 1859; John L. Prince and John G. Hardman, Lewis County, 1860; Isaac Forinash and Zebedee Brown, Lewis County, 1865; Edward Snoops, Ohio County, 1866; Demetrius Dougherty, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, 1870; Reverend W. B. Fisher, Missionary Baptist Preacher, Lewis County, 1871; John Benton Norman, Harrison County, 1872; Mifflin Lorentz, lawyer, Lewis County, 1872; John F. Bull, James Bull, and David Bull, brothers, Lewis County, 1873; Simon P. Radabaugh, Upshur County, 1878; J. W. Janes, Harrison County, 1879; S. J. Allen, Harrison County, 1880; Reverend W. T. Napier, Missionary Baptist Preacher, Upshur County, 1881; Clinton Johnson, Preston County, 1883; George S. Barrett, Greenbrier County, 1885; George W. Stalnaker, Lewis County, 1893; Dr. George G. Lovett, Lewis County, 1897.

Many of the descendants of these settlers live in Braxton County today.

#### Salt Making

The use of the Bulltown salines began with the Indians and when they had been driven westward was continued by the early white settlers, who employed the same primitive methods of obtaining the condiment. Until about 1809, the salt industry at Bulltown was not developed on a commercial scale; instead, each family who came for salt boiled the brine and manufactured their salt themselves.

Colonel John Haymond, upon his arrival at Bulltown, saw vast possibilities in the future for the development of a commercial salt industry. He and his brother-in-law, Benjamin Wilson, Jr., after acquiring the land upon which the springs were situated, made plans to erect a furnace and begin the large-scale production of salt, which they hoped to sell in the surrounding counties, especially Harrison and its county seat, Clarksburg, which was rapidly becoming densely populated.

By 1809, Colonel Haymond had a furnace erected and had set up evaporating kettles. The kettles were purchased in Pittsburgh and transported to the mouth of the Little Kanawha River by flatboat. From there they were taken up the river to Bulltown by smaller boats and canoes. When all was in readiness for the production of salt, the only obstacle to profitable trade was the difficulty of transporting the article from Bulltown to a market. Part of the condiment was transported down the river by boat, but by far the greater portion was hauled overland by packhorse.

After the furnace was erected and the evaporating kettles set up, Haymond and Wilson drilled several salt wells, and shortly the Bulltown salt works became the main source of salt supply for the surrounding territory. Bulltown was to the north central section of the State what Malden was to the Kanawha Valley. Bulltown salt long was quoted in Clarksburg market at \$2.50 per bushel.

About 1812, a rival company was established, on the West Fork River, near Clarksburg. John G. Jackson, at that time a representative in Congress, headed the new concern. Due to the fact that his transportation costs were very small, Jackson could afford to sell salt in

Harrison County at a much lower price than Colonel Haymond, who lost a great deal of trade in that section. The Haymond salt works continued in operation until 1823; during the War of 1812, a large quantity of salt was sold.

Many years before the War between the States, Asa Squires began the manufacture of salt in a small way near Salt Lick Bridge. He sank a hollow gum log to catch the salt water that came up in the edge of the creek, and with six large kettles made the salt. A few of these old kettles are still in possession of the Singleton family, who live in the Salt Lick section.

Some years after Colonel Haymond had ceased to manufacture salt at Bulltown, John P. Byrne and Addison McLaughlin made salt there. The brine was obtained from wells drilled on the lower flood plain of the Little Kanawha. Byrne and McLaughlin did not enjoy a large market, merely supplying the residents of the Little Kanawha region. Salt making on the Little Kanawha was finally abandoned in 1868.

#### The County's First Mill, School and Church

While Colonel John Haymond was developing the salt industry on a commercial scale, his brother, William Haymond, who had settled near the falls of the Little Kanawha, began the construction of the first water-powered grist mill and sawmill in this section of the State. The mill completed in 1810 utilized the water-power of the falls. The mill was of the tub-wheel type in which the wheel revolves horizontally in a round enclosure called a tub. This was among the first few to be built in the region west of the Allegheny Mountains. The burrs for this old mill were obtained from Millstone Run. The bolting was done by hand. This

primitive mill continued to operate until 1863, when it was razed and another built in its place.

The increasing number of settlers in the Bulltown region made the demand for better educational, religious and communication facilities more imperative. The first school ever taught in the vicinity was begun in the year 1823, by a man named Joseph Houze, in a small round log cabin, which stood on the lands then owned by William H. Berry. One end of the cabin was devoted entirely to a fireplace, from which smoke escaped through a huge chimney constructed of clay and sticks. A log was chopped from one side and over the aperture thus formed was pasted panes of greased paper. The seats were made by splitting small logs in halves and inserting pins for legs in the oval sides.

The first religious society, a Methodist group, was established in what is now Braxton County about the year 1815; this society worshipped for a number of years in the house between the forks of Knowles Creek erected by Henry Cunningham for church and school purposes. This was the first church erected in that section of the country. Constructed of logs from the near-by forest, the church was built at the expense of Cunningham and his son Elias, but the settlers for many miles around assisted in its construction. The crude building was not a large one. The members of this society numbered not more than a dozen at the time of its formation.

#### Old Post Office

The first post office ever established on the headwaters of the Little Kanawha River was Bulltown. Owing to the impossibility of traveling horseback, on the old Clarksburg and Charleston route, the mail was

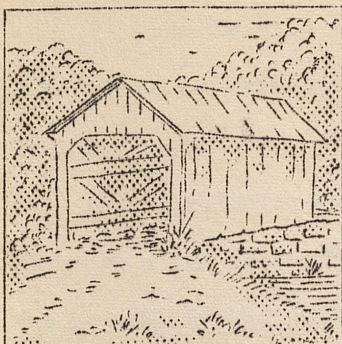
carried over the road once a month by a man afoot. The first carrier was John Thompson and the first postmaster was Colonel John Haymond.

#### Bulltown in the Civil Strife

The outbreak of the War between the States found Braxton, as it did most of the north central counties, almost evenly divided in its sentiment. This accounted for much of the local strife resulting in hardships and bloodshed. The fact that the Weston and Gauley Bridge Turnpike connected Braxton County with the northern and southern portions of the State accounted for much of the military activity in the area during the war. Bulltown, which was located on the "Pike," became a center or a "stopping off" place for the troops that were moved through the section. Federal troops, however, largely dominated the Little Kanawha valley region, and their domination became almost complete after the erection of a fort at Bulltown.

Although of minor importance to the armies of either North or South, the Little Kanawha valley section was the scene of numerous skirmishes between the Federal and Confederate troops, and one battle was fought at Bulltown. Across the old wooden bridge, still spanning the Little Kanawha today, marched the troops of both sides. The peace and solitude of this quaint village by the river was broken at frequent intervals as the bitter drawn-out conflict raged, and there was much destruction of farms and homes in the heretofore peaceful valley. William McKinley, who later became president, marched as a second lieutenant in the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteers of the Union forces and twice led his troops down the Kanawha Valley during the war. General Imboden, the noted Confederate, led his men by way of Bulltown to points farther north

and back during the struggle. Most noted of all the engagements was the so-called "Battle of Bulltown," a report of which was transmitted by



Old Covered Bridge

Captain William H. Mattingly to Colonel Wilkinson at Clarksburg, and forms the only record of the engagement.

Battle of Bulltown

"Bulltown, October 13, 1863

"Colonel N. Wilkinson,  
"Brigade Commander, Clarksburg.

"Sir: We were attacked this morning at 4:30 o'clock by Colonel William L. Jackson with about 1,000 men and two pieces of artillery. They charged our fortifications on the northeast side. We fell back to our main fortifications, when we poured it into them strong and repulsed them handsomely with a loss of not less than fifty killed and wounded. They then sent us a flag of truce, ordering us to surrender. I told them to come and take us. They continued fighting until 4:30 o'clock this evening, when they retreated. We gave them nine of their killed who were in our lines.

"We have taken one lieutenant and one private who are badly wounded. We captured two privates, but they are not wounded. Our casualties are myself wounded (it is thought mortally) in the thigh, the bone being badly broken early in the action. You will send by all possible dispatch a surgeon; send best that you can. Send reinforcements and ammunition.

"Rebels withdrawn in the direction of Sutton. Prisoners say they were expecting General Jenkins to assist.

(Signed) "Wm. H. Mattingly  
"Captain, Commanding U. S. Forces."

The "Battle of Bulltown" took place on what has long been known as the Moses Cunningham farm. On the north side of the Little Kanawha River at this point was a hill which had been fortified early in the war by entrenchments and called "The Fort." It overlooked the village of Bulltown, the Weston and Gauley Bridge Turnpike, and constituted a

very important post occupied mainly by the Federal troops throughout the war.

At the time of the battle, the hill was occupied by about four hundred men, a detachment from the Sixth and Eleventh West Virginia Infantry, commanded by Captain William H. Mattingly. The men were armed only with regulation arms, the fort having no artillery at the time, although a few days after the engagement a gun firing a six-pound ball was brought to the point from the post at Weston.

A few days before the battle, the telegraph lines to Weston were cut by unknown parties, and on the morning of October 12, a portion of Company G, under Captain H. C. Ransom, left to make repairs. On the morning of October 13th, about 4:30 o'clock, the Bulltown fortifications were attacked by Colonel William L. Jackson, whom someone designated as "General Mudwall" (this being due probably to the fact that he had the same family name as the great "Stonewall" Jackson), with about six hundred men, part of whom were under direct command of Colonel W. P. Thompson and Major J. M. Kessler. They were supported by two pieces of artillery, one of which was a howitzer, which shot a three-pound ball. Because it was carried through the rough country on mules, it was designated the "Jackass Battery," and the firing could be heard plainly as far north as Jacksonville in the Collins Settlement of Lewis County.

Jackson's command divided at Falls Mill, three miles above Bulltown, acting under a plan to attack the fort on both sides at once. Major Kessler was to command the right wing and come in from the northeast. Jackson, personally, was to come in from the southwest and take up a position on the opposite side of the river. Both were then to charge

following the firing of the first shell by the battery. Kessler and his command arrived first and proceeded to attack before Jackson arrived, thus destroying the effectiveness of the plan.

When Jackson arrived he took up a position on an elevation on the opposite side of the river, which he held throughout the battle. At eight o'clock in the morning, from "Headquarters within our entrenchments", he sent a note to Captain Mattingly in which he set forth that "my forces have surrounded you--is very largely superior to yours and it is useless for you to contend." Captain Mattingly set down his reply thereto, but several witnesses declared that he wrote back that he would fight "until hell froze over, and if I have to retreat, I will retreat on ice." This exchange of notes resulted in a continuation of the battle.

Late in the afternoon a musket ball struck Captain Mattingly in the leg, breaking the thigh bone. Command then fell to Captain James L. Simpson of Company C, Eleventh Infantry. A flag of truce brought another command to surrender, which again was refused by the Union forces, and the engagement continued until about 4:40 in the afternoon. The Confederates then retreated south on the Sutton road, encamping for the night at Salt Lick Bridge, five miles distant.

In the meantime, Captain Mattingly's report had reached Clarksburg and Weston. Major C. F. Howes was dispatched to the relief of the garrison and as the post surgeon was out of town, was accompanied by Frank M. Chalfant, a druggist at Weston, and Dr. T. B. Camden, who upon arrival at the scene of the battle rendered such medical assistance as possible to both sides.



On the morning of October 14th, the reenforcements attacked Jackson's command which had entrenched behind a stone wall on the south-west side of the Salt Lick bridge, forcing him to retreat, after which the command under Major Howes returned to their post at Weston. Of this engagement the following report from "Record of Events," Third Brigade, Second Division, Department of West Virginia, states:

"October 14th, the command at Bulltown, having been reenforced the previous night by a battalion of the Fourth (W.) Virginia Cavalry, under Major Howes and one company of the Sixth (W.) Virginia Infantry, started in pursuit. Came up with the Rebels at Salt Lick. Slight skirmishing ensued when additional reenforcements under Major Gibson, of General Averell's command coming up, the enemy retreated. Our troops returned to camp. A battalion of the Second (W.) Virginia Volunteer Mounted Infantry sent toward Addison, in Webster county, did not succeed in intercepting the enemy on his retreat."

No mention was made of fatalities on the Federal side in the report of the attending surgeon. Captain Mattingly's wound did not prove as serious as his report indicated, the ball was removed from his leg, but he was lamed for the remainder of his life. In later years he became sheriff of Wood County. Lieutenant J. Holt was wounded by a shot in the shoulder, but recovered.

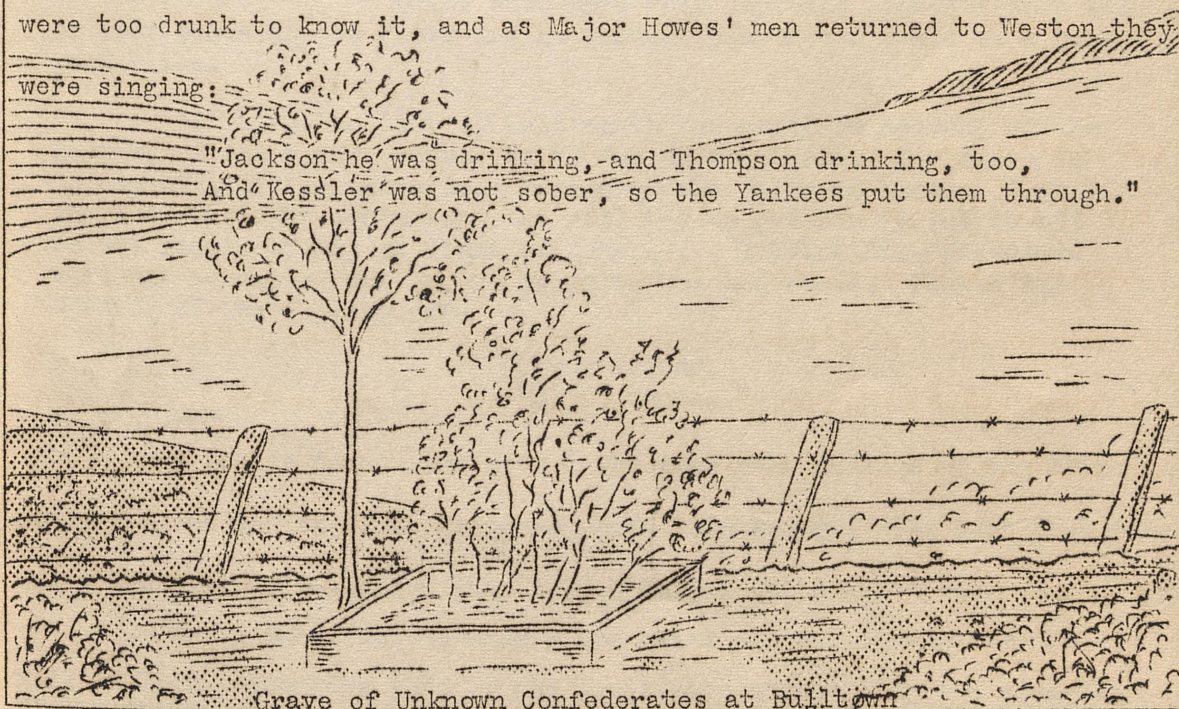
On the Confederate side, seven men were killed, one of whom was Benjamin Schoonova, from Sand Fork of the Little Kanawha, and all of the dead were buried on the battlefield. In 1889, Milton Butcher, a farmer of that section, had the bodies exhumed and reinterred on his farm on the west side of the river. In the solitary grave, marked in later years by a rough-cut stone wall donated by a former Confederate officer, rests the Confederate dead of the battle.

Possibly six Confederate soldiers were wounded, and Allan L. Wells, a private, who was wounded early in the action, died during the

retreat and was buried on Big Run, three miles from Bulltown. John Sumpter suffered a broken leg and was cared for at the home of Moses Cunningham, a non-combatant, who also was shot through the back. Lieutenant Norris, who was shot in the elbow, was cared for at the home of John Lorentz, who lived at the end of the bridge over the river at that point. William Benson also received a broken leg and was taken to the home of P. B. Berry, and several others, whose names are not known, were taken to the home of Colonel McLaughlin at the salt works. Practically all of the wounded men were taken to Weston as prisoners of war as soon as they were able to be removed.

Much local tradition has been handed down concerning the battle. One tale relates how a Confederate on a white horse would ride up to the lines, cheer the men on and then disappear. It is also said that Colonel Jackson's command ran into a distillery before they arrived at Bulltown, and that when Captain Mattingly at one time surrendered, the Confederates were too drunk to know it, and as Major Howes' men returned to Weston they were singing:

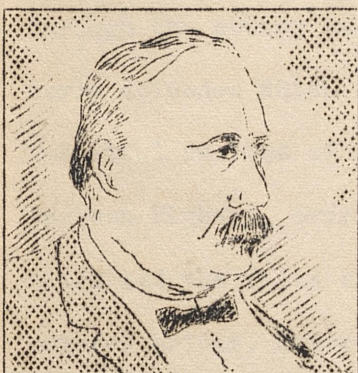
"Jackson he was drinking, and Thompson drinking, too,  
And Kessler was not sober, so the Yankees put them through."



Grave of Unknown Confederates at Bulltown

### The "Lost Vacation"

What might be called a President's "lost vacation" were the plans laid by President Grover Cleveland to spend a month at Falls Mill on the Little Kanawha River, only to be thwarted in his quest for peace and quiet and denied the pleasure of indulging in his favorite pastime, fishing. An unruly Congress locked in debate over a question of taxation prevented the president from spending a vacation away from Washington in April, 1888.



President Cleveland

In a letter dated Clarksburg, April 11, 1888, written to Mifflin Lorentz, then residing at Falls Mill, the first plans for the vacation were discussed by G. C. Camden. The letter says in part:

"I was in Washington recently--I saw Pres. Cleveland and he would like, the last of this month to take a fishing trip into West Virginia in a quiet place for about a month, where but few persons would know where he was, he desiring quiet rest more than anything else. I told him

of your place at the Falls and he thought your house would be a very good place.

"I think the last of this month too early on account of the badness of the roads, either as to mud or roughness. For there is no way of avoiding going from Weston to the Falls in hacks. I will see the President again soon and will try to get him to put it off to the middle of May or first of June . . . I think Mrs. Cleveland will not accompany the party, owing to the bad roads. Please say nothing of these plans now.

"Your friend,  
"G. C. Camden."

A letter dated some days later goes over details of the trip, accommodations and the hope Congress would soon recess. The fact that 1888 was a presidential election year helped defeat the planned vacation.

Molly Gabe, Negro, ninety-one years old and living near Falls Mill in 1940, remembers some of the excitement surrounding the expected

visit of the President. Molly was the general maid of the Lorentz household, and plans were made for her to continue as such during Cleveland's visit. Others in the Presidential party were to stay at the old Johnson homestead, still standing.

#### The Bulltown Country Today

Unrivaled for its natural beauty, the little village of Bulltown and the surrounding section of the Little Kanawha valley is comparatively unknown to the general public although thousands of motorists pass through the county each year. There is little to indicate the many historic episodes which occurred in the area. Winding its way through this beautiful section of Braxton County is U. S. Route 19, the "Stonewall" Jackson Highway, over which passing tourists thrill to the beauty of the hills and the falls on the Little Kanawha, and are intrigued by the old covered bridge, unused but yet standing.

Ages ago when the Little Kanawha commenced cutting its bed, the waters flowed past where the falls are and, turning sharply at a point about a quarter of a mile below, flowed back in the opposite direction paralleling for some distance its previous course. The river gradually cut downward until a thin intervening ledge of rock was left standing. Finally the ledge took the shape of a gourd. At the neck the rock was cut away until it got so thin that the river broke through, and the beautiful waterfall, now attracting thousands of tourists annually, was the result.

This is one of the few waterfalls formed in this manner and is, so far as is known, the only one in West Virginia. Within the memory of men living in the vicinity, the river has three times risen to such a

point that, in addition to going through the narrow gap and down the cataract, part of it has gone around the old channel and joined the river below the falls.

The water at the falls has a drop of twelve and a half feet. At the time the water broke through the ledge, the drop must have been much greater, probably about twenty feet. The wearing away of the rock where the river has cut through is steadily lowering the height of the falls. The rising of the river bed below the falls by the deposit cut out and the consequent raising of the surface of the river below also decreased the height of the falls to some extent.

The falls of the Little Kanawha are only one of the interesting scenic features of the Bulltown Country. At the falls, the highway leaves the river and winds its way up Falls Creek. The scenery along this creek is most unusual. The hills present a sight of wildness that is striking after the even and gently rolling hills along the highway either to the north or south. The creek itself does not flow--it tumbles down its narrow, sinuous, and rock-strewn course.

The narrow Falls Creek valley, despite its wild ruggedness, is not uninhabited. All along it are homes, some of them very old. Quaint little bridges cross at frequent intervals. No two of them are alike. Here will be a miniature of the Brooklyn Bridge, the next one a single span, and the next a duplicate of the Eads Bridge. In addition to the bridges along the Falls Creek, there is a concrete arch just below the falls, a steel truss bridge where the highway crosses the river about two miles below the falls, and a quarter of a mile below this bridge, the

old Bulltown covered bridge, where the Weston and Gauley Bridge Turnpike crossed the river.

The picturesque old covered bridge erected in 1850 as the building of the turnpike neared completion is to all appearances as strong as it was the day it was built, although traffic is no longer permitted to pass over it. It has been repaired several times, but most of its timbers are the original. Some of these were hewed and others whipsawed. One of the big arch timbers had indubitable documentary evidence of its age and part of its history registered on it, for two soldiers carved their names and regiments into the wood at some time during the five years of civil strife in the 'sixties.

Some of the county's finest farmlands add to the scenic and historic beauty of the Bulltown Country. The fertile, rolling land stands out in marked contrast to the rough, rocky slopes just southwest of Laurel Fork, near Sutton. The pastoral beauty of the section probably reaches its peak in the spring, although the rainbow colors of the autumnal season almost eclipse the wonders of the spring's beauty. The vernal equinox brings with it the pale and deeper-toned greens of the meadow and field, which here and there are broken by dashes of the deep red of the clay earth, providing a contrast that captivates the eye. The beauty of the low-lying hills, with occasional gorges of unusual depth to obviate monotony, the charm of the Little Kanawha, now a placid clear expanse, now an angrily foaming torrent, and the undertones of history that give each hill and eddy and tree an additional interest make the Bulltown Country a natural retreat for the romantic. And, the time-honored memories of the barbaric Indians, the hardy, toiling pioneers and the

soldiers of the Blue and the Gray--all those who made this valley a sepulchre of history and tradition--will always linger with those who have come to learn and to know Bulltown and the Falls Mill country.



"Stonewall" Jackson Highway and Falls Creek

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## *West Virginia Writers' Project Activity*

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A COMPLETE PORTRAIT OF BRAXTON COUNTY BEING WRITTEN  
BY THE WRITERS' PROJECT WILL BE PRESENTED IN A NEW  
HISTORY OF THE COUNTY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

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### **Works Completed**

West Virginia Guide (1940)	Mountain State Tintypes (1940)
Historic Romney (1938)	My Memory Book (1940)
Hampshire County Census (1938)	Oceana and the Cook Family (1940)
Your Vacation in West Va. (1939)	Plant Life of Braxton County (1940)
Smoke Hole and Its People (1940)	The Bulltown Country (1940)

### **County Histories in Preparation**

Barbour	Mercer	Pocahontas
Braxton	Mineral	Putnam
Gilmer	Mingo	Raleigh
Mason	Monroe	Summers
Tucker	Wyoming	

### **Other Works in Preparation**

The Negro in West Virginia	inelle
Charleston—A City Builds	Women of West Virginia
West Virginia Factbook	Pineville: Wyoming Crossroads
Of Stars and Bars	West Virginia: Profile in Pictures