
BULLS OF MESSONGO CREEK

A Supplement to Bulls of Accomack County, Virginia

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December 1981 to December 1996

Foreword

Bulls of Accomack County, Virginia, was researched and written in 1994. In preparing this booklet for a client whose Bull ancestors lived in lower Accomack County, in the Harborton area, a number of other Bulls were found, including those of upper Accomack County, in the area of Messongo Creek. No record was found connecting the latter to another Bull line. It was guessed they were descendants of a Richard Bull, who died in the poor house in 1838, and whose widow Margaret married John Stant in 1839, since the Stants also lived in the Messongo area.

Mr. Ed Bull, of Front Royal, Virginia, stopped in on 24 March 2000 to purchase a Bull booklet and indicated an interest in his Messongo Creek ancestors. Since then, this researcher has found new information that ties his line to the Bulls of Folly Creek, shown on pages 10 and 11 and on Bull Chart I in the Bull booklet.

This information was not available in 1994 and comes from a book still at the printers, to be called, Abstracts of Accomack County, Virginia, Wills and Administrations, 1800-1860, compiled by Moody K. Miles and Barry W. Miles. Since the writer helped them transcribe some of these records, they gave her a copy last fall of the first draft of their book.

In the older records, the area on both sides of Messongo Creek was called Messongo, usually spelled "Mefsongoes". It extended easterly almost to present-day U. S. 13, then called Wallops Road. The area north of it was called Pocomoke for the Pocomoke River, which empties into Pocomoke Sound at the Maryland/Virginia line, or for the sound itself. This name is today retained in the Pocomoke Methodist Church at Grotons, while Messongo became the name of a small village between present-day Sanford and Hallwood. There was a post office at Messongo from 1840 to 1963. Another post office in the area was Marsh Market which was changed to Belinda in 1889 and discontinued in 1940. Belinda was between Sanford and Messongo Creek, while the public boat ramp on the north side of the creek, south of Messongo

village, is now called Marsh Market. The marsh between Sanford and Saxis is still called Free School Marsh and running across it and through Sanford is a small Creek called Jacks Creek, which looks as if it originates near Messongo village. A small creek south of Messongo Creek is Cat Tail Creek and to the south of it, is a larger creek named Muddy Creek.

Undocumented data on present-day Bulls and their parents has been given by: Mrs. Hulda Anna Bull White and Mr. Norbert J. Bull, Jr., of Sanford; by Mrs. Agnes Bull Taylor of Sign Post; and by Mrs. Janie Mister Wright of New Church, who was raised by her grandparents, J. T. Marshall and his wife Delaney Bull Marshall. Mr. Marvin T. Bundick, of Crisfield, Maryland, could not give the names of his Bull first cousins, if any. His mother, Anna Taylor Bundick, was a sister to Willie Florence Taylor, who married William Carroll Bull in 1915.

A copy of this supplement is being sent to a first cousin, once removed, Miss Karen E. Simkins of Milford, Delaware. She is the daughter of William Lee Simkins (1928-1987) and his first wife, Dottie Bull, daughter of Wallace K. Bull. Karen has done research on her Simkins family in Northampton County, Virginia, and some work on the Bulls of Accomack County.

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April 18, 2000

Bulls of Messongo Creek

Smith Bunting died testate in 1770, naming among his children, a son George Bunting and a daughter Bridget Bull (Wills 1767-1772, p. 410). Bridget Bull, the widow of John Bull, died testate in 1805, will written 1791, naming her children as: Custis Bull, John Bull, Bagwell Bull, George Bull, Southy Bull, and daughters Rachel Grey, Nancy Mason and Sefier/Sophia Bull (Wills 1804-1806, p. 253).

George Bunting, obviously Bridget Bull's brother, left property to: his nephew Custis Bull and his eight children; to his nephew Southy Bull and his five children; to the children of his nephew George Bull; to the children of James Bull of Bagwell, \$25.00 each; and to other family members (Sup. Court Wills 1831-1853, p. 4). In the dispersal of George Bunting's estate, only two people were paid \$25.00 - Margaret Bull and James W. Bull, obviously the two children of James Bull of Bagwell. \$39. 25 was retained for their father James (pp. 28, 43, 106). James Bull, the progenitor of the Bulls in the Messongo area of Accomack Parish, Accomack County, was called James W. Bull by the 1860 census, in the Register of Deaths, and in his obituary in The Peninsula Enterprise.

Bagwell Bull, son of John Bull and his wife, Bridget Bunting Bull, was born circa 1765. He would have married his wife Molly circa 1790. Her maiden name is unknown. Bagwell Bull, F. C., was head of a household in the 1800 census at 26 to 45 (35) years of age, living on Folly Creek in St. George Parish. His wife was the same age. They had two sons under 10 years of age and one aged 10 to 16 years. As stated in the Bull booklet, Bagwell Bull died testate in 1804 and his land was divided for his children in 1817, after the death of his widow Molly in 1815. Molly Bull was head of a household in St. George Parish in 1810. She was still under 45 years of age and had living with her, two sons aged 16 to 26 and two daughters under 10 years. Son John was apparently deceased by 1810, having died underage and unmarried. Son William was evidently born circa 1790 and son James circa 1792.

James Bull, "son of Bagwell Bull", born circa 1792, married Polly Grinnalds, "daughter of William Grinnalds" by a bond of 6 November 1816 (Mar. Rec. 1776-1854, p. 44). The 1820 census shows James Bull head of a household in St. George Parish, aged 26 to 45 (28), His wife was 16 to 26 and they had two children, a son and a daughter, both under 10 years. His name does not appear in the 1830 census or that of 1840. Apparently he lost his wife before the 1830 census, for Henry Bagwell was named to administer the estate of Polly Bull on 25 January 1830 (Orders 1827-1832, p. 60). William Grinnalds had died testate in 1821, leaving 1/6 of "the remainder" of his estate to Polly "Boole", wife of James "Boole" (Wills 1821-1823, p. 66).

James Bull (of Bagwell) mortgaged his inherited 18 acres on 8 February 1821 in two separate deeds, one to Higgins & McCullen for \$28.56, the other to William P. Custis for \$62.00, land bound on the north by Folly Creek and on the south by William Grinnalds' land (Deeds 1819-1821, pp. 271, 273). An additional mortgage of the same land was made on 27 February 1821 by James Bull (of Bagwell) and wife Mary (Polly is a nickname for Mary), to John Bull, Jun^r for \$125.00 (p. 407), at the same time they mortgaged personal property to John Bull, Sen^r (p. 432). On 13 August 1821, David Watts, High Sheriff, had James Bull in custody for nonpayment of debts, when he deeded the sheriff his 18 acres of Folly Creek land, "on which James Bull at present resides", to be sold at public[^] ^{au}ction to satisfy his debts (Deeds 1821-1822, p. 147). It is not known what became of James Bull of Bagwell after 1821. The next, and last, record of him is in the distribution of George Bunting's estate in 1842, in which \$39. 25 was "retained" for James Bull, indicating he was not locally available at that time. Since Folly Creek was a seaside port of entry for ships plying the Atlantic Ocean, it is suggested that he became a seaman, and after his wife's death in 1830, his two children were likely raised by relatives.

James Bull's son, James W. Bull, was without a doubt born on his father's land on Folly Creek circa 1821 and likely grew up near-by. He probably became a waterman in early manhood, sailed up Messongo Creek or Muddy Creek, on the bayside of Accomack County, where he met Sally Mears, and took her by boat up the Pocomoke River to Snow Hill, Maryland, where they married on 2 January 1843 (Wor. Co. Mar. Rec. 1795-1865, p. 150). Maryland marriages do not give the names of parents of bride and groom. From Accomack County records, Sally Mears appears to have been a daughter of Robert Mears, son of Shadrack, who married Nancy/Ann Stant of the Messongo area in 1824.

James W. Bull settled in the Muddy Creek/Messongo Creek area, where James Bull was a 29-year-old farmer when the 1850 census was taken. By then he had had at least three children and had lost his first wife. He, a widower, married (2) 28 January 1850, Henrietta Bayly, "daughter of Zadoc Bailey, deceased" (Acco. Co. Mar. Rec. 1776-1854, p. 44). The children listed in their household in 1850 were: James H. Bull of 6 years; Robert L. Bull at 4 years (named for his grandfather Robert Mears?); and Louisa Bull of 11 years (11 months?). By 1860, James W. Bull, at 39 and a farmer, had four children in his household, in addition to his wife Henrietta: James H. at 17; Robert L. at 14; Hester A. at 10 years; and Drucilla of 5 years. Their neighbors were people of the Messongo/Sanford area. The 1870 census shows James Bull at 48, still farming, his wife and daughters Hester and "Drucilly" were living at home, with a son George Bull of 10 years. Drummond Ball of 14 years, a farm laborer, was also in the household. By 1880, James W. Bull, 60, was still farming. The only one of his children still at home was Drucilla Bull, at 25 years. She married 16 October 1881, Amos C. Corbin, at Messongo (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 96). Daughter Hester A. Bull had married Walter Broadwater on 21 August 1872 (p. 39).

Hester Broadwater reported the death of her father, James W. Bull, on 5 June

1882, at 55 years, of consumption (Reg. of Deaths 1854-1896) and of her mother, Henrietta Bull on 15 June 1882, aged 60 years, also of consumption (Reg. of Deaths). She did not know the names of her father's parents, but said her mother was a daughter of Zadoc Bailey and wife Ellen. His obituary in The Peninsula Enterprise, 15 June 1882 issue, gives James W. Bull's age as 62 and says he died on 7 June.

The only son of James W. Bull, who has been found in Atlantic District, was Robert L. Bull, born circa 1846 (1850 census), a son of his father's first marriage to Sally Mears. Robert Bull, 20, of Messongo, married Sarah J. Smith, "daughter of Valentine and Sally Smith", on 15 January 1865 at Messongo, "at the residence of James Bull" (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 16).

The 1870 census shows Robert Bull, 24, oysterman, and wife Sarah, 22, with two sons, John at 4 years and Floyd of 2 years. Robert was listed as a 35-year-old oysterman in 1880, when the family included two additional sons, Arcemus of 9 years and Allen of 4 years, and a 3-month-old daughter, Delana Bull. There is no 1890 census and Robert L. Bull has not been found in the 1900 census or that of 1910. He was apparently living as late as September 1887, when his youngest child was born, but no record of his death has been found.

Robert L. Bull bought 15.45 acres of "Sanford Charity" or "Free School Lands" from James A. Hall and John E. Wise, Special Commissioners, on 31 May 1875 (Deeds 1874-1876, p. 473). This was part of the land Samuel Sanford had left in 1712 for the education of local children and was sold after public schools were started, the land having first been surveyed (Surveyor's Record #7, p. 21). The part Robert L. Bull bought was Lot #2 of this section and he paid \$105 at public auction, at the "Store House of Messers Henry Hall and Son on Messongo Creek". The survey shows Robert L. Bull's 15.45 acres south of the head of Jacks Creek, on the Messongo Road and adjoining lands of Henry Hall and James H. Corbin.

Robert L. Bull and wife Jane sold 2 acres of their land "in the neighborhood

of Pocomoke Neck" on 12 June 1875 to William H. Cutler for \$50 (Deeds 1874-1876, p. 42). They sold 6 (??) acres to Zadock S. Mears on 22 June 1875 for \$50 (p. 475), another 5 acres for \$100 to Amanda Thomas on the same date (p. 477), and 1 acre to Henry A. Hall on 10 February 1876 for \$80 (Deeds 1876-1877, p. 28). A final 5 acres was mortgaged on 25 March 1876 to pay debts (p. 240). and sold for \$125 (Fid. Accounts 1880-1883, p. 46). Robert L. Bull did not keep his land very long, but he, an oysterman, apparently made money on it. He and his wife, Sarah Jane Smith

Bull had seven children:

1. John D. Bull, born circa 1866 (1870 census). His tombstone in Grotons Cemetery gives his birth in 1862 and death in 1922. His wife Drucilla M. Bull's Drucilla, gives her birth in 1866 and death in 1934. John D. Bull married circa 1886, daughter of Oscar R. Marshall, Sr. and wife Drucilla Taylor Marshall (Marshall files). Drucilla Marshall Bull "of Belinda" died testate 8 February 1834, naming two daughters:

A. May Bull, born January 1887 (1900 census). Her mother's will calls her Thirsa May Godwin of Cape Charles.

B. Drucilla Bull, born April 1896 (1900 census). Drucilla Bull, "daughter of John D. Bull and wife Drucilla", married Noah Smith at Hallwood, on 24 September 1913 (Mar. Reg. 34, p. 204). They were living in Chester, PA, when her mother died in 1934.

2. Robert Floyd Bull, born circa 1868 (1870 census). His tombstone in John W. Taylor Cemetery gives his birth in 1868 and death in 1943. His wife Alice was born in 1874 and died in 1921. Robert F. Bull married Alice A. Wilkerson, "daughter of Jehu and Martha Wilkerson", on 1 January 1890 (Mar. Rec. 1854-1895, p. 68). This couple had five sons in 1910, when they were living on Cat Tail Road:

A. Robert F. Bull, Jr., born circa 1892 (1910 census). His tombstone in Downings Church Cenetery at Oak Hall gives his birth in 1891 and death in 1918.

His obituary, in the 2 November 1918 issue of The Peninsula Enterprise, stated he died at his home at Sanford on 11 October 1918 of pneumonia following influenza, aged 27 years. It said his widow was formerly "the popular Miss Nona McCready". He was also survived by his parents and four brothers but no children were mentioned. A small tombstone beside his reads: Robert F. Bull, son of R. F. and Nona Bull, born 27 February 1819, died 6 August 1920. Nona Bull married (2) 2 August 1924, Franklin Pierce Wilkerson (Wor. Co. Mar. Rec. 1917-1936, p. 381).

B. Finny R. Bull, born circa 1894 (1910 census). No local record of his marriage or a tombstone have been found. He was living in Baltimore when his brother died in 1918. Family members say he was buried in Harrington, DE, with his wife, Ethel Camper Bull, who was from Harrington. They had two sons, both of whom were preachers: William Bull, who died young in Houston, TX; and Robert Bull.

C. James W. Bull, born circa 1896 (1910 census). This son was called Winfred Bull in the 1900 census. A tombstone in Downings Cemetery reads: Winfred J. Bull, husband of Hattie M. Bull, born 9 December 1895, died 24 June 1959. No marriage record nor obituary for him has been found, but he married Hattie Marshall, daughter of Sylvester and Lillie Martin Marshall of Saxis (Hattie Bull obituary in 31 May 1974 issue of The Eastern Shore News). Mrs. Hattie Bull kept a foster home at Makemie Park for many years. She had two daughters: Rose Marie Bull Smith and Faye Bull Hill.

D. Wallace Kinsey Bull, born circa 1898 (1910 census). His tombstone in Downings Cemetery gives his birth in 1897 and death in 1975. His wife, Dorothy T. Bull was born in 1901 and died in 1988. Wallace K. Bull married Dorothy Thornton on 26 June 1919 (Mar. Reg. #4, p.268). They lived at Oak Hall, where Mr. Bull was station agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad and loved to go fishing. Their children were: Nina Bull Phillips; Wallace K. Bull, Jr, born 1921, died 1989, unmarried; Agnes Bull Taylor; Audrey E. Bull, born and died 1936; Frances Bull Belote; Dottie

Bull Simkins Ferrell; and Avery S. Bull.

E. Richmond M. Bull, born circa 1900 (1910 census). His tombstone in Fairview Lawn Cemetery at Onancock, gives his birth in 1899 and death in 1969. He married 29 August 1918, Ida Mae Mason (Mar. Reg. #4, p. 260). Richmond Bull was also an agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad. He worked in their offices in Cape Charles, Exmore and Pocomoke City, MD, where he died. His children were: Harold Bull, Herbert Bull, Dorsey Bull, Alva Grace Bull, and Jeanette Bull.

3. Arcemus Thomas Bull, Sr., called "Sem" Bull, born circa 1871 (1880 census). He and his wife, Anna J. Bull, have tombstones in Knights Cemetery, Messongo, but there are no dates on them. Arcemus Bull, 20, oysterman, "son of Robert L. and Jane Bull", married Mary A. Marshall, "daughter of John W. and Amelia Marshall" on 11 October 1893, at Temperanceville (Mar. Rec. 1854-1895, p. 68). The 1900 census states he was born in March 1874 and had been married to his wife Anna, born July 1876, for seven years. They had had three children, all living. In 1910, the family was living on Belinda Road and there were two additional children in their household. Arcemus Bull died 25 August 1923 in Peninsula Hospital, Salisbury, MD (obituary in The Peninsula Enterprise, 8 September 1923 issue). He was 49 years of age and had lost his wife on 4 October 1922. The obituary continues by naming five surviving children. Their children were:

A. Janie Bull, born August 1893 (1900 census). Janie B. Bloxom, born 1895, died 1980, has a tombstone in John W. Taylor Cemetery beside her husband, John W. Bloxom, born 1894, died 1970. They lived in Jenkins Bridge and Oak Hall and had three children; Grace Bloxom Taylor, Richard Bloxom and Estel Bloxom.

B. Arcemus Bull, Jr., born October 1896 (1900 census). His tombstone in Downings Cemetery gives his birth on 26 November 1896 and death on 25 January 1974. His obituary, in 31 January 1974 issue of The Eastern Shore News, stated he was survived by his wife, Mrs. Estelle Mae White Bull and three daughters: Mrs. Marvin

White (Hulda Anna), Mrs. Coley Williams (Doris May , who later married John John Fulcher) and Mrs. Elmer Kelly (Mary Arcemus or Peaches) of Salisbury. Estelle Bull died in 1996.

C. Willie B. Bull, a daughter born April 1900 (1900 census). Willie Bernice Bull married William Spencer Godwin on 24 December 1916, in Pocomoke City, MD (Wor. Co. Mar. Rec. 1906-1917).

D. John W. Bull, born 1903 (1910 census). No other local record of him has been found after having been named as a son of Arcemus Bull, Sr. in the latter's obituary in 1923, when he was called Johnny. Family members say he married a northern woman and lived in Washington, DC, and that he had sons John Bull, Ed Bull, _____ Bull, and two daughters, one of whom was May Anna Bull.

E. Norbert J. Bull, born 1909 (1910 census). His tombstone in Downings Cemetery gives his birth in 1909 and death in 1974. His wife Winnie M.'s stone gives her birth in 1913, but no death date. Norbert Bull married Winnie M. Godwin, sister to William Spencer Godwin, on 25 March 1930 in Somerset County, MD (Som. Co. Mar. Rec. 1821-1937). Norbert Bull was living in Sanford when his brother Arcemus Bull, Jr., died in January 1974. Norbert and Winnie Bull had one daughter, Louise A. Bull Fulcher, wife of Ronnie Fulcher, born 1931, died 1990 (tombstone at Downings) and three sons: Norbert Bull, Jr., of Sanford, Harvey Eugene Bull of Salisbury, MD, and Russell Allen Bull, born 1937, died 1928 (tombstone at Downings).

4. Henry Allen Bull, born circa 1876 (1880 census). His tombstone at Downings gives his birth in 1876 and death in 1913. Henry A. Bull, "son of Robert L. and Jane", married Cora McCready on 11 June 1899 (Mar.Reg. #4, p. 40). An item in the Hallwood news, 24 May 1913 issue of The Peninsula Enterprise, states that Mr. Henry A. Bull of Sanford died on the 15th, leaving a wife and two children. The 1910 census gives Henry A. Bull, 36; wife Cora, 38; married 10 years, had two children, both living; Henry R. (Riley) Bull at 10 years and Lizzie M. Bull of 3 years. On

3 January 1915, Cora Bull, widow, "daughter of Riley McGready", married Elmer Trader (Mar. Reg. #4, p. 224). Her obituary in the 30 July 1959 issue of The Peninsula Enterprise, calls her Cora Augusta Trader. She was survived by her second husband, Elmer Lee Trader, a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Linton of Sanford, and a son, Mr. Riley H. Bull of Hampton, VA. She was buried in Downings Cemetery, where a stone gives her birth in 1875 and death in 1959. Nearby stones: Elizabeth M. Linton (1907-1975) and Frank F. Linton (1900-1943).

5. Delaney Jane Bull, born 1880 (1880 census). On 29 December 1897, Delaney Bull, "daughter of Robert L. Bull and wife Susan", married John T. Marshall, oysterman, "son of Oscar Marshall and wife Drucilla" (Mar. Reg. #4, p. 22). Her husband was a brother to Delaney's brother John D. Bull's wife Drucilla. The 1900 census shows the two families living in the same household. The Marshall's then had a one-year-old daughter, Reva Marshall, who was their only child. Reva married Harley Mister and they were the parents of Janie Mister Wright of New Church, a daughter Audrey and a son Tilton Mister.

6. Annie Bull, born 19 February 1885 to Robert and Sarah Jane Bull (Register of Births). Anna J. Bull, 16, married George F. Spencer, 23, on 24 July 1901, in Somerset County, MD (Lower E. S. Mar. Rec. 1865-1906, p. 60). Family members say this couple lived at Parksley. Their tombstones, in Liberty Cemetery there, gives her birth in 1885 and death in 1966, his in 1877 and 1960. They had two daughters and a son, Kenneth Spencer.

7. J. W. Carroll Bull, born 5 September 1887 to Robert and Sarah J. Bull (Reg. of Births). William Carroll Bull, "son of Robert and Janie", married, 14 March 1915, Willie Florence Taylor, "daughter of William and Jeannette Taylor" (Mar. Reg. #4, p. 226). The 1920 census calls him a 32-year-old sailor, living near Knights in the Messongo area, with wife Willie, 26. There were no children in their household. Family members say he moved to Newport News and worked in a shipyard there. There is a tombstone in Knights Cemetery with the name Willie T. Bull, with no

dates or other inscription on it. Carroll Bull's wife Willie was a daughter of William H. Taylor by his first wife, Eugenia (Jeannie) Knight Taylor (Knight files). William H. Taylor died intestate in 1944. There were no Bulls listed among his heirs (Wills 24, p. 388), indicating his daughter, Willie Florence Taylor Bull was then deceased, without children. Her husband could have remarried.

BULL CHART IV

