Eastwood Paula S. Reed & Assoc. March 2008

1793 – Superior Court Deed Book 3, page 97 (Frederick County, Virginia): Ralph Wormeley to Ezekiel Bull, 334 acres for £1,000. The attached plat of the tract shows that this was indeed the additional acreage between the Page and Wormeley lines shown on the Geertsema (O'Dell map 6) plat, including a sliver of land that went all the way to the Shenandoah River. The survey plat (Wormeley to Bull) referred to a Chancery case between Wormeley and Ferdinando Fairfax. (this document and plat are posted on the Frederick County Virginia USGenWeb site)

1793 Berkeley County Land Tax record, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (later Jefferson County) listed Dr. Ezekiel Bull with just 375 acres "of his Father." This is likely the 375 acres listed under the name of Col. John Bull in 1788, but it is not known where this acreage lies. The purchase from Wormeley was apparently not yet recorded.

Dr. Ezekiel Bull was described in <u>Contributions to the Annals of Medical Progress and Medical Education before and during the War of Independence</u>, by Joseph M. Toner (1874), page 12, as a "surgeon in the Revolution" who died in 1819 (GoogleBooks).

- 1798 Berkeley County House Tax listed Ezekiel Bull with a house on Bullskin valued at \$525. This indicates a nice house but probably not new or extraordinary.
- 1801 Ezekiel Bull mortgaged his property to Robert Turnbull. This transaction was recorded in a much later deed, the mortgage was reportedly recorded in the District Court at Winchester (ref. in JC DB 18, p. 74).
- 1815 house tax? Could not find an entry for Bull, Turnbull, or Harding. Could be under a different name but given its 1798 value of \$525 it may not have been considered for this tax (value over \$500).
- 1819 Dr. Ezekiel Bull died but apparently no longer owned the property.
- 1820 The 334-acre tract was listed on the JC land tax under the name William Harding heirs, adjoining J.W. McCurdy, with \$1,000 building value (total property value of \$11,022, including buildings).
- 1831 William Harding heirs assessed for 334 acres with \$100 building value. This building value was a typo however, as the total value of the property was still \$11,022, as it was in 1820. The typo continues for many years although the total value, and therefore the tax, remains the same.

1832 – A deed of conveyance recorded from Richard H. Henderson and Edmund Lee, commissioners for the Chancery Court in Jefferson County, to John Humphreys for 334 acres. The property was sold at public sale in the Chancery Case of the administrators of Ezekiel Bull's estate vs. the administrators of the William H. Harding estate.

I believe the case came about because Bull either defaulted on his mortgage or died before paying it off and Turnbull sold the property to Harding and when Harding died Bull's estate contested the sale (or something like that).

Humphreys purchased the 334-acre farm for \$15,613 indicating the farm was pretty well improved.

1833-1835 – John Humphreys was assessed for two tracts:

310 acres, adjoining Henry Garnhart, (N3), building value of \$1,410 334 acres, adjoining James W. McCurdy, (S4), building value of \$100 [\$1,000], with the notation "Trans from trustees of Wm. H. Hardings heirs." This was the **Eastwood** property.

1836 – Humphreys' building assessment on the 334-acre farm was back up to \$1,000 with no comment (since it was just correcting a typo) and stayed at that level through 1839 (1840 is missing).

After 1838 Humphreys no longer owned the 310-acre farm.

1841 - Humphreys' building assessment on Eastwood fell to \$800.

1842 – John Humphreys was assessed for his 334-acre Eastwood farm with a building value of \$3,138 with the notation "\$2,338 added for new House."