

Jonathan Preston Bullingto fought and was wounded in the Civil War. (Note the attached letter.) He was discharged at Richmond, Virginia, in June, 1864. He walked home from his farm in southwest Surry County, stoppped on the way near his home to bathe in a fresh water stream. Dust or mud, as the weather determined, was very deep. There were no paved roads. He wished to be clean when he greeted his family. Evidently, he was too hot for the cool water, as he developed pneumonia and died within two weeks on July 15, at the age of 38 years. He was buried on the farm in sight of the house.

The Bullington family name is of ancient English and Saxon origin. The name appeared in Virginia very early. There was a Nicholas Bullingto listed in the 1623 census of Virginia. He was unmarried and living on the ship "Maine" on the James River near Jamestown. The Virginia tax list showed Josia and William Bullington living in Henric County. Jonathan Preston Bullingto was a descendent of these.

According to notes from Arthur B. Clark's book, The Bullington Family, the family received grants of land from King Charles I. They were good fearing, thrifty, and honest farmers. Over a period of 300 years there was not found recorded a single misdemeanor. They served as jurymen, witnesses, highway surveyors, executors, administrators, guardians of neighbor's minor children, proccessioners of land, etc.

In colonial days they were loyal to the Revolution; in the War of Secession, 1861-1865, their descent rendered valiant services to their state and to the southern cause.

(The maternal great grandfather of Dellie P. Owens.)

Home of Jonathan Preston Bullington
(From Dellie P. Owens, May 1976)

This house pictured was already constructed years before 1849 when Jonathan Preston Bullington left Virginia (Henrico Co.) with his bride, Frances Thomas McDaniel, both having been in their 20's, and settled in this one-room log structure with a rock chimney. If the chimney has a date carved on it, as some did in those days, it was concealed when additions such as a porch and small rooms were built. Logs are visible at the back of the house.

It was in this house, in Surry County, so close to the Stokes line that part of the chimney is across the line, that Jonathan Preston Bullington's six children were born. The oldest was Anna Arbella (Matthews), grandmother of Dellie P. Owens, then came Phronia (Venable), Paton, John, Fannie (Venable) and during the time their father was away at war, Emily Preston (Venable) came into the world. At this time Anna Arbella was 14 years old, John was 4 years, Fannie 2, Phronia and Paton were somewhere between Anna and John. There was a separate kitchen on the south side, and slave quarters were not far away. Only the main house remains.

The oak tree shown in the picture has given shade for many long, hot summers. No one knows exactly how old it is. Miss Maggie Bullington of Pilot Mountain, a grand daughter, and a daughter of Joyn, says that she remembers playing under this tree seventy seven years ago and that it seemed a grown tree then. She was seven years old when she was sitting under the tree cooling and fanned with a poison oak twig pulled from the tree. Of course she was poisoned. Others remember the tree when they were small and some estimate the age to be 150 or more years old. It measures 19 feet and 9 inches around.

(As to directions in reaching the house: starting at Westfield Baptist church at the intersection of 89 and 1809, take 1809 for a short distance until you see sign for road 1810 on the left. Follow it for a few tenths of a mile across into Stokes County and the same road becomes No. 1201. Continue this road for a few miles past East's Service Station to an intersection with road 1199 on the right. Take it and you will find it runs into 268 West (straight ahead). In sight you can see The Antique Barn. Farther on Joyce's Service Station comes in view. Not far from there is a painter on the left for Sechrist Road No. 1181 on the right. Don't take the first one, but a short distance down the road, look for a like sign, Sechrist Road, No. 1181, which is also on the right. Follow this (check your meter here) for about .8 of a mile. All roads up to now are paved. The next one is dirt and you will have to look carefully to see it, as it looks like a private road. This turn is on the left just after passing a house, not a trailer home. Down the hill about .1 of a mile you take another left. You still can't see the house for the trees, but this road goes to the house just a short distance away. You shall recognize the house as unpainted, with a screened-in porch and the rock chimney in front. There are two house trailers near by, one on the left rear and another in the back, slightly to the right. The cemetery is just beyond the lawn at the back.

(Dellie P. Owens, May 1976)