

SKETCH OF  
THOS. FAUSETT  
THE SLAYER OF  
MAJ. GEN. EDWARD BRADDOCK

Who Fell in the Disastrous  
Defeat in the Battle of the  
Monongahela in the French  
and Indian War, July 9, 1755

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BY JAMES BADDEN

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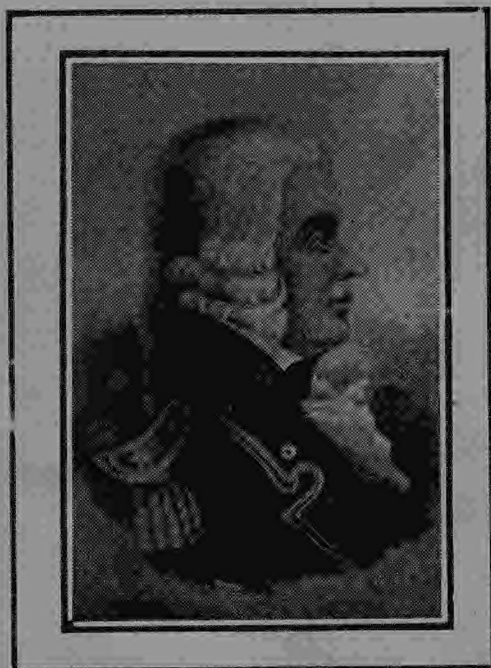
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MAJOR GENERAL EDWARD BRADDOCK

Who received a mortal wound at the  
hands of Tom Fausett at the battle of  
the Monongahela July 9, 1755.



**C**IRCUMSTANCES make strange bedfellows," and it was under peculiar circumstances that the name of Tom Faussett has become inseparably connected with that of the brave officer of the famous Cold Stream Guards, Major General Edward Braddock

When France began the erection of a cordon of posts along the Allegheny and Ohio rivers with the purpose of taking possession of the great Mississippi valley, England was aroused to the fact that unless active measures be immediately taken she must forfeit all her claims to this vast and fertile portion of the new world.

English traders had been driven from their trading posts on the Ohio, and others had been carried away as prisoners by the French, when Robert Dinwiddie, then governor of the pro-



**THE GREAT MEADOWS,**

Showing Fort Necessity outlined in the center. Photographed July 4, 1904, on the occasion of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the battle of Fort Necessity. The line of men and vehicles across the center of the picture is the parade of the day.

vince of Virginia, commissioned George Washington, then just twenty-one years of age, as an envoy to the French posts at the head of the Allegheny river to demand of the commandant of the French forces the purpose of their encroachment upon the territory claimed by the English crown, and to demand his immediate removal.

Being appraised of the intentions of the French, the governor of Virginia immediately dispatched a small force under the command of Captain Trent, Lieutenant Frasher and Ensign Ward, to take possession of the forks of the Ohio, and to hold the same against the intrusion of the French.

Ward began the construction of a small fort, but before its completion the French dropped down the Alle-

gheny in great numbers and Ward, who was the only officer present at the time, was compelled to surrender without a blow, and retraced his steps to Virginia, and the French began the construction of a fort which they named Fort Duquesne.

At Will's Creek, where the city of Cumberland now stands, Ward was met by Washington, who, in command of a small force, was on his way to the forks with reinforcements.

On reaching the Great Meadows, fifty-one miles west of Will's creek, Washington learned that a body of French had been seen not a great distance off, and by the aid of a few friendly Indians under the command of their chief, the Half-King, who were encamped at the Great Rock on the crest of Laurel Hill, he was enabled to surprise them in their se-

cluded encampment. Here an engagement took place at sunrise on the morning of the 28th of May, 1754, in which Jumonville, the commander of the French party, and nine others were killed, one wounded and twenty-one taken prisoners, among whom were M. La Force, M. Drouillion and two cadets; one, a Canadian, escaped.

This was the first battle in which Washington was ever engaged, and was the initial battle of the great French and Indian war.

When the news of the defeat of Jumonville reached Fort Duquesne great activity prevailed and a force was sent against Washington under the command of M. Coulon de Villiers, who was a half-brother to Jumonville. This force came up the Monongahela river in large canoes to the mouth of Redstone creek, thence passing the

place of the engagement with Jumonville to the Great Meadows, to which place Washington had retreated and erected a small stockade which he named Fort Necessity. Here on the third day of July, 1754, the French forces made an attack, and owing to the distressed condition of his little army, Washington capitulated; this being the first as well as the last time Washington ever surrendered to a foe.

News of this defeat was soon heralded to England and preparations were immediately made to send two regiments of trained soldiers to recover what the provincial troops had failed to accomplish.

Major General Edward Braddock had entered the British army at the age of fifteen years as a member of the Cold Stream Guards, a very aris-

ocratic division of the army. He was commissioned general-in-chief of His Majesty's forces in North America and arrived at Alexandria in Virginia, February 20, 1755. Two regiments of the royal army, consisting of the Forty-fourth and Forty-eighth, to which were added such provincials as might be recruited from Maryland and Virginia were moved against the French at the Forks of the Ohio, where they had erected Fort Duquesne immediately after the surrender of Ward as before mentioned, and thence to Canada.

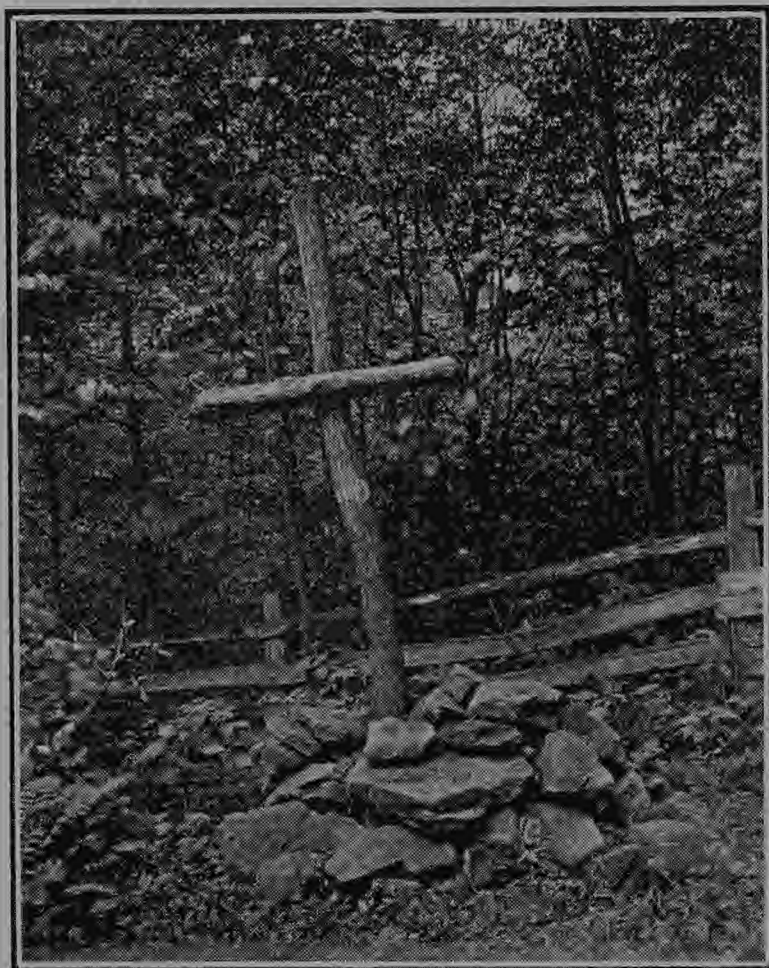
After a long, tedious and laborious march, consuming more than a month from the time he left Fort Cumberland, General Braddock arrived at the Monongahela river, a short distance below the present town of McKeesport. The army crossed

to the left bank of the river; here the maneuvers of the troops presented the grandest military display Washington claimed it was ever his privilege to behold. The burnished arms of the marching columns flashed in the light of the morning sun as they stepped to the strains of martial music, and the proud British general little thought that within a few short hours these disciplined troops in which he now reposed so much confidence would be fleeing in disorder before a horde of yelling savages.

The army had scarcely recrossed to the right bank of the river, just below the mouth of Turtle creek, and within ten miles of the fort which they expected to enter in triumph the following day, when a brisk fire was received from an unseen foe. Braddock's troops responded, but to little

effect, and the engagement which lasted for three hours was most furious.

More than half of the army was either killed or wounded, two-thirds of them being shot down by their own men. Braddock had four horses killed under him; at last, while on the fifth, he received a mortal wound which shattered his right arm and penetrated his lungs. He was wrapped in a silken sash taken from about his waist, which English officers were wont to carry, and by his aids, Captain Orme and Captain Stewart of Virginia, assisted by his faithful body servant, Bishop, whom in his dying moments he bequeathed to Washington, he was carried off the field. This silken sash was later presented to General Zachary Taylor and contains woven in its meshes the initials "E.



GRAVE OF JUMONVILLE,

Who was the first to fall in the French and Indian War May 28, 1754.

B." and is marked with the blood stains of that unfortunate general. It is still in the possession of Mrs. Bettie Dandridge, the daughter of President Taylor, of Winchester, Va.

Out of eighty-nine commissioned officers twenty-six were killed and thirty-seven wounded, and of the soldiers four hundred and thirty were killed and about four hundred wounded, the killed being in excess of the wounded. Every field officer and every one on horseback except Washington, who had two horses killed under him and four bullets through his coat, was either killed or carried off the field wounded. Washington, although enfeebled and emaciated from fever, formed and covered the retreat.

The officers endeavored in vain to rally the distracted troops, and to

intimidate others ran the fugitives through with the sword, and were in turn killed by others. One eye witness declared that the slaughter among the officers was not made by the enemy, but as they had run several fugitives through the body to intimidate the rest, when they were attempting in vain to rally them, some others who expected the same fate fired their pieces with deadly effect.

During the whole of the engagement Braddock raved and swore and cursed his troops as dastards and cowards. The provincials, being acquainted with the Indian mode of warfare, had taken to the trees and were doing good execution, but Braddock ordered them to stand out, as he said, "like English soldiers" and fight in the open. He struck many of them down with his sword, among whom

was Joseph Fausett, a brother to the subject of this sketch, and for which act he paid the penalty with his life.

Braddock was described as "desperate in his fortune, brutal in his behavior and obstinate in his sentiments." His secretary writes of him before the battle: "We have a general most judiciously chosen for being disqualified for the service he is employed in almost every respect."

Thomas Fausett and his brother, Joseph Fausett, were enlisted as privates at six pence a day, at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, by Captain William Polson, who had served under Washington in the expedition of 1754, into Captain Cholmondeley's company of the 48th regiment, and marched with the advance of Braddock's army to the fatal field.

During the engagement Tom wit-

nessed the fearful slaughter of the army by the unseen foe, the raving madness of his commander and the striking down of his brother for no other offense than that of fighting in the only successful manner against the Indians. This was too much for a man of his temperament to stand and he determined at once to have revenge and at the same time to put an end to the terrible carnage for which the officers had pleaded in vain. He raised his gun and sent the deadly missile crashing through the right arm and into the lungs of Braddock, who as he fell from his horse expressed the wish that the scene of his defeat might witness his death.

The wounded commander was borne along with the retreating army until 10 o'clock of the evening of the following day, when they arrived at Gist's plantation, in the exact geo-

graphical center of what is now Fayette county. Here he awaited provisions and hospital stores which he had ordered sent forward from Col. Dunbar, who was encamped on the summit of Laurel Hill, six miles distant. Braddock still persisted in the exercise of his authority, and on the 11th was removed to Dunbar's camp which he found to be in the utmost confusion. Here he ordered the provisions and ammunition destroyed lest they fall into the hands of the pursuing enemy. One hundred and fifty wagons were burned, the powder casks were staved and their contents, to the amount of 50,000 pounds, cast into the stream. Nothing beyond the actual necessities of a flying march was saved, and until recent years this has been a fruitful field for the relic seekers.

On Sunday, the 13th, the army re-

traced its steps to the Old Orchard camp where it had halted on its way out. The general softly repeated to himself: "Who would have thought it?" and turning to Orme said, "We shall better know how to deal with them another time." He breathed his last about 8 o'clock on the same night and was wrapped in his cloak as a winding sheet and was buried at daybreak on Monday morning at the camp in the middle of the road that the army in passing over the grave might obliterate every trace of its whereabouts, and thus avoid any desecration of the body by the Indians. The chaplain having been wounded, Washington read the Episcopal funeral service and the dead general was buried in the honors of war.

Abraham Stewart, father of the late Honorable Andrew Stewart, was road supervisor in Wharton township in

1812, and while repairing the old road at this place Tom Fausett, who had settled in this neighborhood after the retreat of the army, as will be related hereafter, came along where the men were at work and remarked, "If you will dig right there," indicating, "you will find the bones of General Braddock," and sure enough, Mr. Stewart dug as directed and exhumed the bones of the unfortunate general and his military trappings. A merchant happened to witness the discovery and carried off one of the largest bones which he placed in Peale's museum in Philadelphia where it was destroyed by fire. Mr. Stewart carefully reinterred the remainder of the bones at a distance of one hundred and fifty yards east of the place where they were found, at the foot of an oak tree and caused a board to be marked "Braddock's Grave," which was nall-

ed to the tree. This tree was broken off in a severe storm about 1868. Mr. James Mitchell, a blacksmith who lived at Mt. Washington, and Mr. Peter Hager, who was raised in the family of Mr. Stewart, with others witnessed the reinterment of Braddock's remains and often related the circumstances to others.

Mr. Josiah King, editor of the Pittsburg Gazette, frequently spent a few weeks' vacation at Chalk Hill in the vicinity of the grave of General Braddock, and noticing the dilapidated condition of this historic spot, made arrangements with Mr. Dixon, the proprietor of the land, to have it enclosed with a neat and substantial fence. In 1872, he procured from Murdock's nursery a willow whose parent stem drooped over the grave of the Emperor Napoleon at St. Helena and planted it over the remains of General

Braddock, but unfortunately it soon withered and died. He then planted a number of pine trees within the enclosure which still remain to indicate to passers by the last resting place of the unfortunate general.

The British government has never taken the slightest notice of the spot where sleep the remains of one who gave his service and his life for the English cause.

"Far from the land he called his own,  
Nor friends nor kindred o'er him  
weep,

A group of forest trees alone  
Stand sentinels around his sleep."

The situation is on the north side and a few yards from the national road and a few rods east of where Braddock's run crosses that road, about ten miles east of Uniontown.

Tom Fausett, the slayer of Braddock, was a large illiterate, muscular

man of great strength, rude habits and strong passions. His brother, Joseph, was doubtless the same, and, as before stated, both were enlisted and served in the same company during the expedition.

When Braddock's retreating army passed over the mountains confusion prevailed and many deserted from the ranks, among whom were Tom and Joe Fausett.

The next we learn of Tom Fausett we find him located on the summit of Laurel Hill at the junction of Dunlap's road, which led to the Monongahela river at the mouth of Dunlap's creek, with the Braddock road, which here turned abruptly to the north and on to Gist's and to Stewart's crossing of the Youghiogheny river a short distance below the present town of Connellsville.

This location has always been

known as Washington's Springs and was on a tract of 102 3-4 acres of land which was warranted the 17th of September, 1772, to Henry Hunt. Here Fausett conducted a tavern for some years, besides spending much of his time in hunting the wild game so abundant in those days. A writer in the National Intelligencer, supposed to have been the late William Darby, Esq., said: "When my father was removing with his family to the west one of the Fausetts kept a public house eastward from Uniontown, with whom we lodged about the 10th of October, 1781, and there it was made anything but a secret that he dealt the death blow to the British general. Thirteen years afterwards, 1794, I again met Tom Fausett and put to him the plain question, "Did you shoot General Braddock?" and his reply was prompt and explicit, "I did

shoot him," and then went on to explain that by so doing he had contributed to save what was left of the army.

The property rolls of Wharton township give Tom Fausett as located here and having in his possession horses and cows as taxables. How Fausett acquired the right to this tract is not apparent, but on April 29th, 1788, he disposed of it as the following abstract from the public records will show:

"Know all men by these presents that I, Thomas Fossit, of the county of Phayette and state of Pennsylvania for and in Consideration of the sum of Fifty Pounds to Mee In hand Paid by Isaac Phillips of the same Place the Receipt whereof I do acknowledge have Granted, bargained, sold, Releas'd, confirmed and made over all My rite tract of Land and Parcel of

Land I now live Upon at the forks of  
the Road on the top of Laurel Hill  
Known by the name of Washington's  
Spring adjoining the Lands of Jona-  
than Hill Els whereby Vacant Land  
Containing one hundred acres More  
or less To Have and to Hold the said  
tract of Land and premises and apper-  
tenances thereunto belonging unto the  
said Isaac Phillips his heirs Heirs and  
assigns warranting and defending it  
all, Every of My self My heirs or  
any Claim or Claiming by virtue of  
My Rite and title to said Land only  
nevertheless under and Subject to  
the States and it all other dues and  
Demands unto which the same are  
Liable.

In witness whereof I Have set my  
Hand and seal hereunto. Dated the  
29th day of April in the year of our

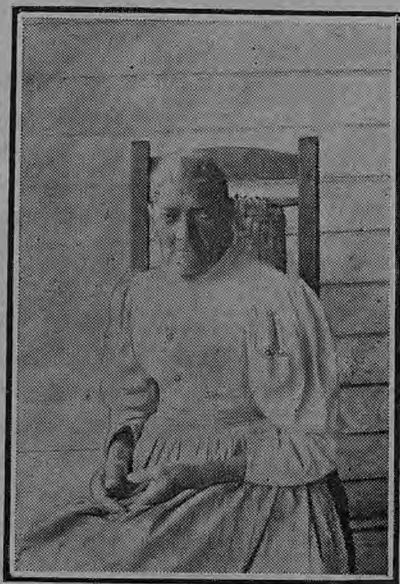
Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred  
Eighty Eight.

his  
THOMAS X FOSSET, seal"  
mark.

A few years after Fausett had disposed of his claim to the Washington's Springs tract it came into the possession of John Slack who had previously kept a tavern in Uniontown. Slack's tavern stood some little distance south of the Washington's Springs and here he conducted his business for many years. This was a favorite stopping place and was extensively known and patronized by the wagoners on the old road. His daughters Tamzon, married Ephraim McClean who kept a public house on the summit of Laurel Hill in the palmy days of the old national road. Slack's place was considered a good stand for the entertainment of the traveling public until the completion

of the national road, at which time the old Braddock road was abandoned and quiet once more settled over the old Nemacolin trail.

Tom Fausett was said to have been married three times and that two of his wives were killed by the Indians, and that his favorite, as he termed her his "little Dutch wife," was tomahawked before his eyes. There is no tradition in this section of the country that he had a wife after settling here, but after retiring from the tavern business and disposing of his tract of land he remained a citizen of Wharton township, and for some time occupied a cabin on the old Braddock road back of Chalk Hill. This old cabin was west of what was long known as the Cushman house, the location of which is still visible, and still west of his old cabin is a group of immense rocks known as



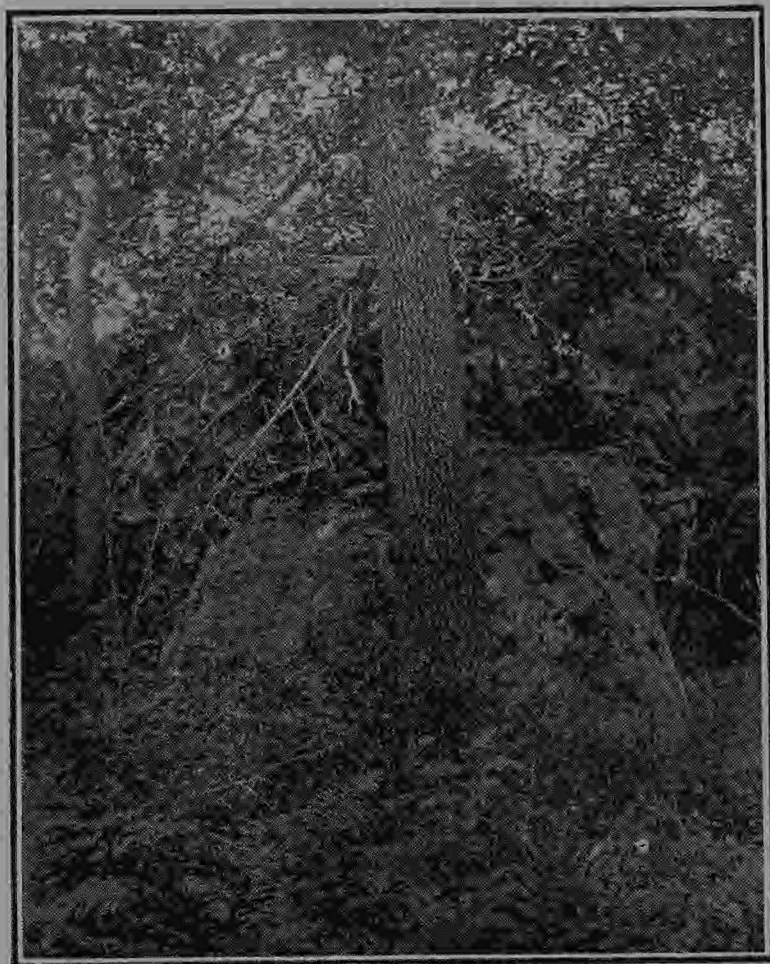
**REBECCA FAUSETT,**  
Descendant of Joseph Fausett, who  
was struck down by Braddock.

the "Peddler's Rocks." With this picturesque group of rocks is connected the legend that at one time a peddler was murdered here for his money and pack of jewelry and other valuables which he carried. His pack and other articles were found secreted among these rocks, but what became of the peddler was never certainly known, but suspicion rested upon more than one of the several persons living in the neighborhood of the rocks.

While Tom Fausett occupied this old cabin, making a precarious living with his gun, he had as his housekeeper an old colored woman who had been a slave. One morning upon calling his housekeeper and receiving no response he went to her couch and found her cold in death. She was buried in a field some distance away between two apple trees, as markers,

and as there was no minister present to conduct the funeral service one of the neighbors deeming it appropriate that some remarks should be made at the grave, ventured the following: "Earth to earth and dust to dust, If the Lord wont take her the devil must."

Joseph Fausett, although struck down with the sword of the enraged Braddock, survived, and also became a resident of Wharton township, and left descendants. One of his sons, Joseph Fausett, Jr., married Amella Lynch, daughter of Cornelius Lynch of Uniontown, who at one time owned and occupied the ground now covered by the Thompson-Ruby building, corner Main and Morgantown streets. This son, Joseph, owned a farm north of Chalk Hill and died young, leaving a wife and two small children, Joseph and Elizabeth, the latter of whom



**PEDDLER'S ROCKS,**

On the old Braddock road near the old cabin of Tom Fausett.

is well remembered by the older citizens of Uniontown. The widow, as administratrix, sold the farm, September 28th, 1800, to John Chaplin who in turn conveyed the same to Jonathan Downer. Another son of the original Joseph Fausett was Uriah who left quite a family of which one daughter, Rebecca, is still a resident of Wharton township, having made her home for more than forty years with William Smith and is now the housekeeper of Isaac Spiker a short distance east of Farmington.

Tom Fausett never denied that he fired the shot that killed Braddock, but upon repeated occasions, especially when in his cups, did he relate the circumstances which prompted him to commit the deed. Besides the confessions already recited, Mr. Freeman Lewis, who assisted Judge Veech in collecting data in compiling

his "Monongahela of Old," recites that he at one time taught a country school and one day when the children were at play he heard the cry of "There's old Tom Faussett, the man who killed Braddock." The children feared him, his appearance and noisiness, especially when intoxicated, being rather terrifying. I knew him and got him to sit down by a tree. He at once began fluttering his fingers over his mouth to imitate the roll of a drum, he soon got at his old rigma-rolé, which ran about thus: Poor fellows—poor fellows—they are all gone—murdered by a madman—Braddock was a madman—he would not let us tree, but made us stand out and be shot down when we could see no Indians;—Yes, Braddock was a madman. He said, "No skulking, no tree-ing, but stand out and give them fair English play." If he had been shot

when the battle began and Washington had taken command we would have licked them,—yes, we'd a licked them." "How could you have done that?" I asked. "Why, we'd 'ave charged on them, and driven them out of the brush and peavines,—then we would have seen their red skins and could have peppered them—yes, we'd have peppered their red skins." He would then repeat his "boo-oo-oo my old Virginia Blues—poor fellows— all gone," &c, &c, and tears would roll over his rough cheeks.

Fausett often related the circumstances of the killing of Braddock to the late Hon. Andrew Stewart, who served eighteen years in congress, who when a young man and a resident of Wharton township was intimately acquainted with Fausett, then in his old age. Peter Hager, who was raised as a member of the family of Abraham

Stewart, and who assisted in removing the bones of General Braddock, repeatedly heard Fausett relate the circumstances of the killing of what he termed the madman.

The late Basil Brownfield of South Union township, who was born near the present site of Smithfield, related that Tom Fausett frequently visited that locality on hunting expeditions, and that by frequent interviews with him he learned that the Fausetts were at one time residents of the South Branch valley, in the present state of West Virginia, from the neighborhood of the site of Moorefield, and that Tom's principal occupation was that of a hunter.

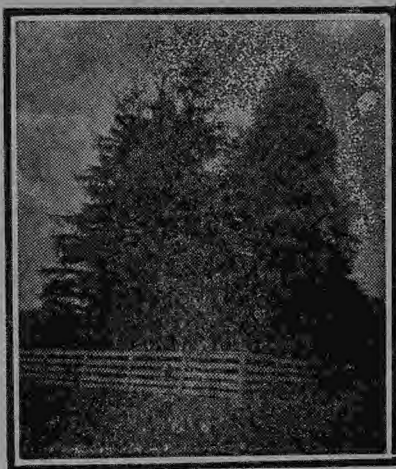
One time on returning from a hunting expedition he was horrified at finding his cabin in ashes and the dead and scalped bodies of his wife and children a short distance off

where they had been overtaken and slaughtered by the Indians. He could never refer to this incident without manifesting great emotion and tears would roll down his rugged cheeks. He said he could not remain in the vicinity where his family had been killed, and removed to Pennsylvania where he and his brother enlisted in Braddock's campaign.

Mr. Brownfield further related that Fausett was a man of rugged frame, of uninviting features, distant in his manners, rarely associating with others, was not communicative when sober but inclined to be boisterous and boastful when intoxicated. He frequently related to Mr. Brownfield that he fired the fatal shot at Braddock in revenge for striking his brother and for other offenses.

Writers upon this unfortunate expedition are wont to cast a doubt as to

the manner in which Braddock received his death wound, and produce conflicting rumors to dispute the statements made by Fausett. No one



**BRADDOCK'S GRAVE.**

who was acquainted with Fausett, knew his disposition and habits, doubted his statement as to the death of

the British general, Freeman Lewis, previously referred to, stated that his last interview with Fausett was in the month of October, 1816, and that Fausett then claimed to be one hundred and four years of age, and that his appearance bore him out, and that some of Fausett's statements were "wholly irreconcilable with well ascertained facts." Who would expect an illiterate man at that extreme age to relate circumstances in detail with perfect accuracy that had transpired a half century before?

Winthrop Sargent in his "Braddock's Expedition" goes some length to disprove the statements made by Fausett, while at the same time he adduces the evidence of William Butler who had served as a private in the Pennsylvania Greens at the defeat of Braddock, and under Forbes in 1758, and under Wolf in 1759, at the Plains

of Abraham, who when interrogated as to the killing of Braddock unhesitatingly declared that he was shot by Fausett for striking down his brother. The Millerstown (Perry county, Pa.) Gazette of 1830, mentions the fact that Butler was in that town in company with another who had served under Braddock and that both concurred in saying that Braddock had been killed by Fausett.

The Colonization Herald (Philadelphia) of June 20, 1838, contained the notice of the death of William Butler at the age of one hundred and eight years, and further states that he had lived at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut streets, which was then in woods and leaning on his crutch, often entertained visitors by a recital of the unfortunate expedition and the circumstances of the death of Braddock.

The evidence of Billy Brown, a ne-

gro living at Frankfort, Pennsylvania, taken in 1826, when he was ninety-three years of age is also adduced to confirm Fausett's story. He was born in Africa and brought as a slave to this country at an early age. He was present at Braddock's defeat as a servant to a colonel in the Irish regiment. He relates that Braddock's character was obstinate and profane and he also confirms the report that Braddock was shot by an American because he had killed, or was supposed to have killed, his brother, and that none seemed to care for it.

Daniel Adams of Newberryport, Massachusetts, states that in 1842, it had been told him by one who had it from another who was present at the occurrence that the principal officers had desired a retreat which the general pertinaciously refused and upon seeing the rashness of the command-



**GRAVE OF TOM FAUSETT,**

The slayer of Major General Edward Braddock. It is located on the Patton Rush farm, two miles west of Ohiopyle Falls.

er a brother of one who had been stricken down fired the fatal shot, which several of the soldiers witnessed but said nothing.

Historian Sargent in his effort to disprove that Braddock met his death at the hands of Fausett not only admits but certainly establishes the fact that such was the current belief at the time among those in position to know.

A still further witness who heretofore has entirely escaped the notice of the historian is James Edwards, who was a captain in one of the Associated Companies of Kent county, now Delaware, in August, 1748, in the service of the Province of Pennsylvania. He enlisted in Braddock's campaign, and in the defeat was wounded in the leg by a musket ball, which he carried to his grave. He subsequently served in the Revolu-

lutionary war in Colonel Thomas Proctor's celebrated artillery regiment, choosing the artillery in preference to infantry on account of his wounded leg, and served at Brandywine, Chadd's Ford, Newtown, Germantown, Bergen Neck and Trenton. Mr. Edwards finally settled at Barnegat, New Jersey, where he was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He too lived to an advanced age and frequently related the scenes of Braddock's defeat and always positively asserted that the unfortunate general was killed by one of his own men by the name of Fauset for striking down his brother and, as he thought, uselessly sacrificing the lives of his soldiers. Mr. Edwards was an ardent admirer of Washington and in his old age expressed his willingness to depart and join his "dear old General, Washing-

ton," whom he believed to be "one of the brightest stars in the region of glory." Mr. Edwards is buried in the Methodist church yard at Tuckerton, New Jersey.

It will be remembered that Braddock's army precipitately fled from the fatal field and scattered like leaves before the hurricane, but Sargent does not account for the fact that William Butler of Philadelphia, and Billy Brown of Frankfort, Pennsylvania, and Daniel Adams of Newberry, Massachusetts, and James Edwards of New Jersey, and many others, having no communication whatever with each other all concurred in relating substantially the same story as Fausett unless they had gotten these facts before the army was disbanded at Fort Cumberland on the retreat.

The evidence here adduced is cer-

tainly all that would be necessary to warrant conviction in a court of justice were Fausett on trial for firing the fatal shot at the British general.

For some years before his death Tom Fausett became a charge upon the township of Wharton, and it was the custom to sell out paupers to the lowest bidder. In an old book still extant, kept by the overseers of the poor for that township, are the following entries:

"March 20, 1812, Be it remembered that James Wear has undertaken to keep Thomas Fausett for the space of one year for the sum of thirty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents exclusive of finding him any clothing.

March 19, 1813, Samuel Spaugh undertakes to keep Thomas Fausett one year for thirty-six dollars and forty cents, exclusive of finding him clothing.

April 4, 1814, For the keeping of Fausett for one year, fifty-seven dollars. For selling Fausett in 1814, \$1.00.

For the keeping of Fausett for the year 1815, \$39.80.

March 15, 1816, Be it remembered that Thomas Mitchell undertakes to keep Thomas Fausett, one of the poor of Wharton township, for one year for forty-eight dollars, exclusive of finding him clothing.

March 21, 1817, Be it remembered that Edward Tissue undertakes to keep Thomas Fausett, one of the poor of Wharton township, exclusive of finding him clothing, for one year for \$37.50.

March 20, 1818, Be it remembered that Thomas Mitchell undertakes to keep Thomas Fausett, one of the poor of Wharton township, exclusive of finding his clothing for twenty-eight dollars and fifty cents, the time

not to commence until the 24th of April.

April 24, 1819, Be it remembered that Thomas Mitchell undertakes to board, lodge and wash and mend and find tobacco for Thomas Fausett for one year from this date for the sum of fifty dollars.

Auditors' report for 1819. By noticing the sale of Fausett for the present year, 50 cents, tobacco for Fausett, 25 cents, paid for keeping Fausett twenty-eight dollars and fifty cents.

April 24, 1819. By one day selling Fausett and settling with auditors, \$1.00.

1820, Contra. Moses Mercer and John Bolin, overseers of the poor, Cr. By keeping Thomas Fausett, fifty dollars.

By Fausett clothing and Mercer, his attendance, sixty-two dollars and seventy-five cents."

From this last entry it would appear that poor old Tom had been deprived of clothing until he had no further use of the same. Then the township furnished a suit in order that he might appear the more respectable in the happy hunting grounds and everybody would not holler "Wharton township" at him.

This last entry in this old township book would indicate that Tom Fausett died in 1820, and that Moses Mercer was in attendance at his death and burial, and that the overseers of the poor settled the bill of expenses. From the fact that Fausett's name does not again appear on the book the inference would be reasonable that he died during the year 1820.

For some years before his death Fausett made his home in a little log cabin which stood on what was subsequently the Frederick Nicolay farm

about one mile and a half west of  
Ohiopyle Falls. Here he cultivated  
among other things a little patch of to-  
bacco for his own use which he hus-  
banded with the greatest care. This  
old cabin, like its tenant, has long  
since passed away, but after nearly  
a half century had rolled away since  
the death of its distinguished occu-  
pant, Mr. Nicolay was plowing near  
the site of the old cabin, a few stones  
of the old chimney only remaining,  
near which his plow turned up a  
small box containing a quantity of  
silver coins and jewelry. He took his  
find to Pittsburg for the purpose of  
ascertaining its value, the coins be-  
ing in different denominations of for-  
eign money such as was current in  
those early days, and placed it in  
charge of an old acquaintance and  
well known banker of that city, but  
notwithstanding his frequent inquir-

les he died before he ascertained the value or recovered his valuable discovery.

The finding of this box of jewelry and coin revived the story that was current in the mountain region of Wharton township many years before, as previously related, that a peddler had been murdered at the Peddlers Rocks near the cabin of Fausett, and the discovery of this box with its peculiar contents would indicate that Fausett might have known somewhat of the missing peddler.

Fausett's last home was in the family of Thomas Mitchell, about two miles west of Ohtopyle Falls. He was buried in a small burying ground on what was known as the Jacob H. Rush farm, since occupied by the late Patton Rush, where also rest the remains of many of the old residents of that neighborhood. Some years after

his death a rude headstone was erected to his memory on which is inscribed the following:

**THO FAUCET**

died

March 23

1822

Aged 109

9 mos

Thus is marked the last resting place of the slayer of Major General Edward Braddock, and on each recurring memorial day a flag and a few flowers are placed on the little mound of earth to keep his memory green.

