

JOSEPH H. BRAMWELL (1846-1894)

Not everyone has a town named after him, but several of the founders do. Joseph Herbert Bramwell was sent to the first meeting by his boss Edmund Cash Pechin.

Pechin and Bramwell were working at Dunbar Furnace in Fayette County PA in 1871, and a town near there is "Pechin." Bramwell was postmaster, a job many of the founders performed in some of the small towns they worked in, at a town in West Virginia that needed a name, and so the story goes, voilà! He called it "Bramwell." It soon came to be known as "the town of millionaires" because of the money that was made in in the Pocahontas-Flat Top Coalfield, where Bramwell was a pioneer.

Bramwell later became President of the Virginia Steel Company. Bramwell and Pechin also were early investors in the Norfolk & Western Railroad, the Flat Top Land Association, and the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company which developed mines and ironworks.

