

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY DECEMBER 30



The Snow Hill Salt Company of Charleston was incorporated on December 30, 1876.

CSO: SS.8.17, SS.8.23, ELA.8.1

**Investigate the Document:** (Dr. John P. Hale Papers, Report of Jed. Hotchkiss, The Kanawha City Estates, Ms97-30)

1. Where are the Kanawha City Estates geographically?
2. The Kanawha City Estates consisted of how many tracts of land?
3. Using the map, specify the acreage for each tract of land?

**Think Critically:** What types of land improvements and resources are mentioned in the Kanawha City Estates document? Use the map for reference. What is significant about these resources? Are they still used today? If so, in what capacity?

The Kanawha City Estates

Situation

The Kanawha City Estates begin 1/2 miles above Charleston, the Capital of the important State of West Virginia (United States of America). They are on both sides of the navigable Great Kanawha River on which they have 3/2 miles of portage. They are crossed for some 2 1/2 miles by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, part of a main trans-continental line of trade and have, having superior advantages in grades, distances, climate &c.

Estates

The Kanawha City Estates are four tracts of freehold land located as shown on the accompanying Map, viz: No. 1 "Splint Coal" 3,223 acres No. 2 "Snow Hill" 500 acres, No. 3 "Lampbell Creek" 1,000 acres; and No. 4 "Charleston" 1,500 acres. A total of 6,223 acres, or nearly 10 square miles.

Condition

About 900 acres of the land are River plain, mostly between the Railway and the River, some 700 acres of this are now meadows, corn fields, nursery gardens &c. The remainder is occupied by salt furnaces, buildings, roads &c. On this are two salt furnaces, in operation, with suitable offices, stores, shops, warehouses &c. over a hundred dwellings (two of them large brick Mansions). Twenty three salt wells, a Ferry &c. here also are three free public schools, a Post and telegraph Office, and Kanawha City Railway Station. There are on Splint Coal No. 1

On the opposite side of the River, on Snow Hill No. 2, is a very large salt furnace in operation, nine salt wells, a Bromine Works, a Saw and a Grist Mill stores Offices, Warehouses and a large number of dwellings. The remainder of the land, about 5,323 acres, is hilly and hill land, mostly in forest, containing four coal mines now operated, underlain by several seams of rock Coals, above water level, quarries of building stones fire clays, iron ore &c.

(1) - See Note on Map of Estates

They are well adapted to grazing and fruit growing and will produce fine crops of excellent Tobacco

### Improvements

Three Salt furnaces, making nearly a Million bushels (50 lbs) of Salt annually. Thirty two Salt Wells, having a Capacity for two million bushels of salt yearly. Four Mines of Coal, furnishing annually some 40,000 tons of Coal to the Salt Works and for Geas and domestic purposes and capable of a very large extension: - A mile and a half of tramways connecting the furnaces, mines and Railways: - Many offices, store and ware houses, shops & nearly two hundred dwellings of various kinds - Bromine Works using a waste product, making from 100 to 120 pounds of Bromine a day - A Ferry, a promenade, acady. the River - A fruit and ornamental Nursery and Market garden, five free public Schools, and from 800 to 1,000 Inhabitants, employes and families &c - The various improvements have cost over £50,000 -

### Net Annual Income

The net annual profits of the Estates from Salt, Bromine, Coal, farm and garden products, merchandize &c average some £10,000 for a series of years, varying with the State of trade. -

### Resources:

(1) An abundant supply of salt brine: 32 Wells now on the Estate, on both sides of the River, only half of them now in use -  
 (2) Millions of tons of Splint, shop and gas Coals, above the Water level, where Coal can be mined, at a minimum of expense and no risk, Coal can be placed in the "Snow Hill" furnace for 4¢ a ton, according to the reports of eminent geologists, there is more Coal here, at a moderate depth, below than there is above the water level

All the lands are underlain by Coal as shown in the annexed Section across the Estate from north to south. -

(3) A stratum of good fire Clay

(4) Excellent building stones, (5) A seam of iron Ore. -



