

Escape from Indian Captivity

THE STORY

of

MARY DRAPER INGLES

and son

THOMAS INGLES

as told by

JOHN INGLES, SR.

Edited by

ROBERTA INGLES STEELE

and

ANDREW LEWIS INGLES

FOREWORD

The Mary Draper Ingles story has been told and re-told many times, sometimes with not enough regard for historical facts.

Our great great grandfather, John Ingles, Sr., wrote an account of these frontier days experiences as told to him repeatedly by his father, William Ingles, and mother, Mary Draper Ingles. His manuscript is preserved in the University of Virginia Library.

John Ingles, Sr., was *born June 18, 1766, some ten years after his mother's return from captivity. Since Mary Draper Ingles died in 1815, her son, John, had ample years to discuss these events with his mother from the viewpoint of a mature adult as well as learning these accounts as a child.

We have tried to decipher the original manuscript accurately — preserving the written style of the author as to spelling, choice of words, punctuation, and use of capitals. Certain footnotes have been added to support dates and facts, and in some cases to explain or add relative and new information to assist in understanding the narrative.

PROOF OF AUTHORSHIP

Master Graphoanalyst, Mrs. Myrtle McCleary Lednum, of Norfolk, Virginia, compared the signatures and other forms of the will and manuscript of John Ingles, Senior and made the following statement: "Having applied the principles of Graphoanalysis to the study of both manuscript and will it is my opinion that the manuscript signed by John Ingles Sn. and the will signed by John Ingles Senr. (codicil signed John Ingles Sn.) were written by one and the same person."** This statement greatly encouraged us to publish this manuscript.

*Death date was July 16, 1836.

**The abbreviations of the word, senior, appear in Mrs. Lednum's statement as written by John Ingles in his documents mentioned above.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

William Ingles was born in London, England, 1729, and his wife, Mary Draper, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1732. They were married at Draper's Meadow in 1750 and were the parents of six children. Thomas and George were born at Draper's Meadow and captured by the Indians, July 30, 1755. Thirteen years later Thomas was rescued by his father, but George, the younger son, died in captivity. Mary, Susan, Rhoda, and John were born at Ingles Ferry.

Thomas Ingles married Ellinor Grills of Albemarle County, Virginia. Mary married John Grills; Susan married Abraham Trigg; Rhoda married Byrd Smith; and John married Margaret Crockett.

John Ingles was born June 18, 1766, and married Margaret Crockett April 22, 1794. They had nine children: William, Mary, Samuel, Crockett, Malinda, Lockey, John, Margaret, and Thomas. John's first wife, Margaret, died October 26, 1810. January 27, 1814, John married Elizabeth Saunders—who lived until August 4, 1834. John died two years later—July 16, 1836 and was buried at Ingles Ferry.

When he was only fifty-three years old, William Ingles died and was buried at Ingles Ferry in 1782. His wife, Mary Draper Ingles, remained at the homeplace until her death in 1815.

INTRODUCTION

At the repeated solicitations of my relations and friends of which letters in my possession are sufficient evidence, I have consented to write the following short history. The application has been made to me as I am the only branch of my Father's family now in existence, who knows of the difficulties and sufferings my father's own family had to undergo at that early day, in attempting to settle this Western World. Though the greater part of the transactions to which allusion is made happened long before I was born yet having heard them so frequently repeated by my father and mother in my early days they made such deep and lasting impressions on my youthful mind that they will never be forgotten by me as long as I live and I believe are as fresh in my memory at this day as they ever was, I will therefore endeavour to give a short but correct narrative of the scenes through which they had to pass in their first settling on the Western Waters of Virginia so far as my recollection serves me at this time that a record of them may be preserved for the gratification of our friends and rising generation, However fabulous or romantick the narrative may appear in some of its parts to many persons they are stubborn facts that could have been abundantly established by many witnesses at an early day it been required.

John Ingles Sn

THE STORY OF MARY DRAPER INGLES

My Father William Ingles moved to the Western part of Virginia sometime about the year 1750 with my Grandfather his father in law George Draper and his family and settled nearley on the top of the Alleganey mountains at a place then called Drapers Meadows now called Smithfield and at this time owned by Col. James Preston¹ at that time there was but few familey if any besides their own on the west side of the alleganey in this section of country However other famileys shortly after emigrated to it and made scattering settlements at some distance from each other and continued to Injoy peace and harmoney among them for 3 or 4 years in the meantime there had been severale parteys of the northern Indians, to wit, the Shawneys passed by where my Grandfather lived on their way to the South and wood Commit depredations on the Cawtauba Indians but was still friendly to the Whites at that time however this hapey state of things did not last long the Indians found out that they (M.S. faulty) gratify their Hethan thirst for bloodshed and plunder much nearer Home and at length commenced a warfair on the fronteer settlements & at a time it was little expected a party of Shawneys fell in upon my fathers familey and an uncles familey John Draper which lived at the same place and killed severale and took the balance prisoners, to wit, my

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In 1934 Dr. Virginia O'Rear Hudson, Professor of English at Radford College (now Radford University) assisted our father, William Ingles (1877-1966), in transcribing this manuscript. Her efforts in this respect have been most useful to the editors. We also wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to: Edmund Berkeley, Jr., Curator of Manuscripts at the University of Virginia; Alfred K. Guthe, Editor of the *Tennessee Archaeologist*; Mrs. Mildred R. Shirk, past Regional Director of Montgomery-Radford Regional Library; Rev. Harold J. Dudley, Editor of the Third Edition of *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers* by John P. Hale; Dr. Elmer D. Johnson, Professor of History at Radford University; Cecil C. Lawson, certified land surveyor; and Mrs. Myrtle McCleary Lednum, Master Graphoanalyst, for their cooperation, research, and advice.

We also wish to express appreciation to Frances McCalla Ingles, Paul Warren Steele, Robert Perry Steele, and Anne Ingles for their interest, suggestions, and encouragement.

¹Thomas, John and William Ingles, of Ingles' Mill Creek of the North Fork of Roanoke, were among the most interesting of the early settlers . . . William Ingles came to the Roanoke with his father and Uncle John before 1746. The land on which they lived seems to have belonged to William. He appears first as a worker on the road and later as a constable and militia officer. In May, 1750, he reported that the county funds collected by him had been consumed by the fire when his house burned. The date of his marriage to Mary Draper is given as 1750, but he continued to live on the Roanoke until after 1753, when he purchased land at Draper's Meadows from Col. Patton. He was on the waters of New River in 1754 and 1755." F. B. Kegley, *Kegley's Virginia Frontier* (The Stone Press, 1938), pp. 194-195.

mother and her 2 children Thos. 4 yrs & George 2 & Aunt Draper & others² My grandmother Draper being a widow at that time & livin with my father was killed by (M.S. faulty) Col. Patton who was there who had a large claim of land in (Blot on M.S.) waters was killed, also, & some other persons not recolected My mother and her two children, Thos. the older 4 years old, and George abot 2 years old was taken as prisoners also my Aunt Draper who was wounded in her arm and Broke by a Ball which was shot at her in attempting to escape & severale others it so happened they made the attack on their harvest day and although there were severale men at the place the Indians took the advantage of attacking the Hows while the men (M.S. faulty) at their work in the harvest field and the field being some distance (M.S. faulty) the howse new nothing of the attack untill it was Intierly out of Their power to render any survice to the familey My father when Hearing the allarm run up verry near to the howse thinking perhaps he might render some survice in some way although entierly unarmed the Indians discovering him two stout active Indians took after him with their tome-hocks expecting to outrun him and kill him with their tome-hocks & was very near affecting their purpose & nothing but a providential act saved him while the Indians were persuing him & gaining on him very fast one on each sid at some distance running through the woods where it was a little thick with brush & undergrowth, fortunately in jumping over a logg fell The Indians being so eager in persuit over run him my father on rising amediately Tacked

² . . . the Draper's Meadow massacre in which Col Patton was killed came on July 30. In this massacre there were killed, besides Col. Patton, Casper Barger and Mrs. Draper and child. James Cull was wounded and Mrs. Ingles and two children, Mrs. Draper, Jr., and Henry Leonard were taken prisoners. Preston's Register." F. B. Kegley's **Kegley's Virginia Frontier** (The Stone Press, 1938), p. 210.

back the other way and by that means made his escape as there was no chance for what white men that was there to render any releaf to the prisoners The Indians securing all the guns they had which was in the howse & so few settlers in the Country and them so fare distant apart that They had to abandon all Idea of aney farther persuit after them. The Indians went off entierly unmolested they gathered up their prisoners & plunder and started & steared their cource down the New River They made but slow progress in getting on as their way was much Impeded by the thickness of the forrest & undergroath which covered the whole country However on striking New River they persued on down it. The Indians having several Horses along packed with their plunder which they Had taken & the prisoners mett with considerable Defiqualty in getting on & the prisoners very roughly treated However from some cause (M.S. faulty) my mother said that they always treated her with more respect (M.S. faulty) aney of the other prisoners and permitted her to ride on one of the horses the greater part of the rod and to carry her children though my Aunt Draper who had her arm broke was principally put under her cear and my mother had to dress her wound and to procure stuff to dress it and wood frequently send her off by herself into the woods to Hunt the wild comphisey to put to the broken arm and would be gone a considerable time and said she might had frequant oppertunteys of leaving them but could not think of leaving her children still Harbouring a hope that they might be persued or they might be all released togeather in some way or Other They still worked on in this way untill they got down some little Distance above the mouth of the great Kanawa They came to a little salt spring in the Bank of the river the Indians stoped there and rested for a day or

two there & with what kittles they Had with them boiled & mad some salt They then started on from there & per-sued this journey until they got to the nation where the Indians lived which was at the mouth of the Bigg Sioto & which took them about one month to performe from the time they were taken untill they arived at the nation. The next day after they got to the nation the prisoners had to undergo the Indian custom of running the gauntlett which was purformed by forming a two lines of all the Indians in the nation men women and children and the prisoners to start at the Head of the two rows formed & run down between the lines & every Indian giving them a cut or a pelt with switch sticks or such things as they could provide which was a very severe operation and espitally on my Aunt Draper whose arme had not got near well from the wound she had received when she was taken prisoner How-ever my mother said she was exempted from that punish-ment and although she was treated with considerable (?) more than the other prisoners met with all the comfort left her was the hope that she might keep her two children with Her and to render (M.S. faulty) such survice as occation might need However a few days Baffiled all Her hopes The Indians partey collected in a few days after (?) who took prisoners and made a division of all the prisoners and her children taken away from her and consigned to different owners & was not permitted to asoiate to geather a tall Though trying as this circumstance was to her she was obliged to bear it and wore on under her applications in the best way she coud It so happened that there was some french traders there from detroit with some good trading with the Indians and as linen or Check shirts was great articles among the Indians and as my mother was a very good sewer she undertook to make some shirts for the

traders at times when she was not Employed Otherweys and as shirts was a scarce article among the Indians & one very much prised among them as a dress her permance pleased them so that they wood do any thing for her to get a shirt made and the frenchmen finding it a consider-able advantage to them in selling their check & linnen to the Indians incouraged her very much & when she made a shirt for one of the Indians they would stick it upon a stick and run all through the town to show it & praise my mother what a fine squaw she was Then the frenchmen would make the Indians go to their store and pay her in goods to at least twice the value of the shirt She continued on in making shirts for them in this way while she stayed in this town which was two or three weeks & was making money very fast at about that time a party of the Indians started to the Bigg Bone lick which is now in the state of Kentuckey and took my mother & severale other of the prisoners to make salt³ my mother being so distressed in being seperated from her children & her situation such a disagreeable one that she came to the determind resolution that she wood leave them & try to get Home or dy in the woods & prevailed on an old duch woman that was there and a prisoner too to engage with her in the seemingly Hopeless & daring attempt and as my mother was determ-ined to make the attempt they arranged their plan which was to get leave of the Indians to go a peace from the Lick with a view to Hunt & geather some grapes & provided

³—In 1735, the Canadians who came to make war upon the Tchicachas (Chicksaws) found near the **fire river** or Ohio, the skeletons of seven elephants. x x x The place was near the **Ohio**, which in our maps of **Louisiana**, is marked with acrop."—Bossu's Travels (Lond. 1771—written "at the Illinois," 1756), Vol. I, pp. 179, 180. For other visits to these bones prior to the captivity of Mrs. Ingles, see, (1) Peale's **Account of the Mammoth** (London, 1802), pp. 8-10; Warren's **Mastodon Gigantens**, p. 1. (2) Gists **Journal in Pounall**, p.14." **Draper Manuscripts**. Series D. Vol. I. Chap-ter 6, p. 7 (The State Historical Society of Wisconsin).

themselves with a blankett and tomehock a peace & perhaps a knife and for fear of being Suspected took no other kind of clothing onley what was on them & those a good deal worn & started & as the Bigg Bone lick was 90 or 100 miles farther off than the camp and some little distance from the Ohio River they started in the after part of the day & steered their course to strike the Ohio River which was all the guide they had to direct them I have frequently Heard my mother say when she left the lick that she exchanged her tomehock with one of three frenchmen who was all sitting on One of the large Bones that was there and cracking walnuts at night the two women not returning the Indians became very uneasy thinking they had got a little of from the camp & were lost & used every exertions to find them not mistrusting their act and when they could not find them concluded they had perished in the woods or (M.S. faulty) killed by some wild beast. This last circumstance was related to my father by some of the Indians who attended the treaty at point pleasant after the battle at the point and was the first time the Indians had heard what had become of my mother & old Duch woman. However on their getting to the river persued on up it & in the course of 4 or 5 days reache the Indian town or rather on the opposite side of the Ohio river where there was a little corn raised & a cabbin They lay in the Cabbin all night and there was in the Cabbin some corn They ate of it and in the morning when they ware about starting ther Happened to be a (?) beast in the lot adjoining the cabbin They concluded to take it and pack on it what corn they could to help them a long They did so and then started on a gain with the beast & corn and steering on up the river & in sight of the Indian town & what was very extraordinary they saw severale Indian hunters that day &

They so secreted themselves that they never discovered them There was a little river emptid into the Ohio (to wit) Lyching river on the side they ware and was two deap for them to wade all their chance was to travell up it untill they could find a passage and after traveleing up Liching 2 or 3 days found a place where the freshes had Drifted up timber across that afforded themselves a passage but How to get their beast over was at a loss at length the old duch woman insisted she could take it over on the drift pile & made the attempt but after getting it on a peace the beast fell in among the logg & there they had to leave it They then took what corn they could carry themselves & then moved down untill they struck the Ohio again & then pursued on up the Ohio and thus was the Cource they had to persuee at every stream of water that came in Their way of any size & which there was severale & they could never have surmounted that defiqualty Had it not been at a season of the year when the water cources was very low & more so than common at the season eaven in this case was obliged to travele severale days Journey up severale of them before they could wade them & then down again to the Ohio which was their onley guide. They frequently in passing up & down those streams to find a passage when they found the river made a bend & point of ridges (M.S. faulty) in wood attempt to cross these points of riges to shorten their distance and by being woorn down by fateigue & starvation wood have to pule themselves up by the srubs & bushes till they got to the top and to decend they wood slide all the way down Under These defiqualteys and nothing to sustain nature but what they picked up in the woods such as black walnuts grapes pap-paws etc. & very often so pushed with hunger that they wood dig up roots & eate that they knew nothing of and

in all this extrematy the old duch woman getting disheartened & discouraged got very ill natured to my mother & made some attempts to kill her blaming my mother for perswaiding her away & that they wood dye in the woods and as she was a good deal stouter & stronger than my mother she used every means to try to please the old woman & keep her in a good Humer and at length get to the mouth of the great Kanawa & then had performed but very little more than one half of their Journey However They persevered on up the Kanawa in the same manner as they did the Ohio untill they got within 40 or 50 miles of where my mother was taken prisoner (from) & the old woman became more illnatured and made another attempt to kill my mother & she thinks wood have affected it Had she not by accident got loos from the old woman & being somewhat more active & out run her this happened in the evening Just before dusk my mother in making her escape slipped under the river Bank & hid herself untile after Dark and hearing nothing more of the old woman she crawled out & in looking about the moon giving little light espied a Cannoe at the bank of the river which was the same the indians had taken them across on their way down on examining the Cannoe found it pritey much filled up with leaves & Dirt which had blown into it but could not find a pole or paddle in it She crawled up on the Bank luckeley came a cross a thin slab which came off of a tree which had been Blown down & shattered by the wind She took the slab and went to the Cannoe & Cleaned out the leaves & dirt Then pushed off the cannoe from the Bank and got in it and although she never had any Knowledge of stearing or workin a Cannoe before after making severale tryals found she could stear her on & finiley crossed the river to the other side it being at a place where some Hunt-

ers had made a little Improvement & built a cabbin the spring before & had planted some corn but the Buffalows & wild beasts had destroyed all the corn However my mother got into the cabbin and slept in the morning when she got out in the morning was examining about the little corn pack to find some corn or some thing she could eat discovered a little turnip or two which had escaped the wild beasts She pulled them and ate and at that time the old woman who was on the opposit side of the river saw my mother and Hallowed to her and begged very hard of my mother to come over to her again That she wood not do her aney harme However loth as my mother was to leave her after reflecting on how the old woman had treated her she thought perhaps the old woman might kill her and concluded that as she was out of her reach she had best keep so and from the hunters who hade made the settlement where she was before she was taken had geathered some eiday of the Distance she still had to perform and that the balance of the way she wood have to travele was a very rough one and although the little clothing which she had started with was nearley or entierly worn out or dragged off of her by the Brush on her long Journey & her mocosans intierly worn out that she had become litteralery naked and the weather growing cooler that her prospect of succeeding was almost a Hopeless one However, her resolution bore her up & she pursued on and to add to her defiqualtey There fell a little snow and all the Chance she had for keeping herself from perishing at night was to hunt out in the eavening a hollow logg or tree and geather leaves & put in it and then crawl in amongst the leaves & lye & after pursuing on in this manner for 4 or 5 days after leaving the old woman travelling through the frost and wading waters & round cliffs of rocks that made in close

to the river She Became so frosted & her limbs so swelled that it wood have been imposible she could have got aney farther but that kind providence which had sustained her through a Journey estimated not less than from 7 to 900 miles the rout which she was nessesarily obliged to travele exposed to the Inclemancy of the weather & verosity of wild beasts Hunger & starvation for forty two days and a half in an unknown willderness still profided for her releaf it so happened that a man of the name of Adam Harmon and two of his Sones was at a place on New River where they had settled and raised some corn that sumer securing their corn and Hunting. When my mother got to the improvement not seeing aney Howse began to Hollow Harmon on hearing the voyce of a woman was a good deal alarmed on listening being an old neighbour of my mother and well acquainted with her voyce said to his sons it certainly was Mary Ingles voice & knowing that she was taken prisoner by the Indians was cautious there might be Indians with her him and his sons Caught up their guns and run on to where my mother was & you may expect it was a Joyfull meating especialey to my mother' However they got her on to their Cabbin entierly exosted & worn out by her expocers & starvation Harmon Having plentey of fresh venison & Bear meat began to have some cooked for her and having a pritey good knowledge of her situation wood not suffer her to eate more than a few mouthfulls at a time & by change her vituals in dif-

"Adam Harman was born in Germany about the year 1724. He was the oldest son of Heinrich Adam, and was about twenty years old when he came, with his father, to New River. He and his next younger brother, Henry (later known as Henry, Sr.), were perhaps the two sons, who with their father in 1755, rescued Mrs. Mary Ingles, whom they found in their corn patch at Eggleston's Springs, where she fell exhausted from hunger and fatigue on her return from her captivity by the Indians." John Newton Harman, Senior, *Harman Genealogy (Southern Branch) with Biographical Sketches* (W. C. Hill Printing Co., Richmond, Virginia, 1925), p. 68.

ferent forms & soops giving her but a little at a time to nurishe her up my mother said although Harmon had even so much fresh venison & Bear meat in the House that he did on the next morning have a fine fat little Beef killed to make Beef soop for her and by Bathing her feet and leggs got her in a day or two that she could travell having severale Horses they got them fixed and one for her to rid brought her on up to the Dunkert Bottom where the fort was and the only one near, and where all the people that were in the country had collected. Thus ended her tryals and defiqualteys of nearly 5 month from the time she was taken prisoner & 42½ days of that time in her returning back in the wilderness when my mother fell in with Harman and his sons related to him the circumstance of leaving the old woman behind & what had transpired and tried to prevail on him to send his sons in persuit of her but from understanding the treatment which she had received from the old Woman he refused to go⁵ However the old woman was more lucky than my mother was alittle above where my mother left her the old woman fell in at a nother place where some Hunters had mad a settlement & built a Cabbin The Hunters had but just left the place & had left a kettle nearly full of cooked venison & Bear Meat that old woman feasted on it and rested herself for a day or two The Hunters had also left a pair of leather small clothes which she also got drawed on & In additton had left an old horse providence seemed to provide for her the old ladey getting some of what is called Leatherwood bark & making a kind of bridle or halter & caught the old horse & mounted him and persued on her Journey but there is one circumstance

⁵"1755. It is presumed that he and his oldest brother, Adam, were the sons who, with their father, the elder Adam Hermann, rescued Mrs. Ingles on her return to New River, after her four months' captivity by the Indians." Ibid, p. 72.

which occurred which may seem strange at the time they stole the Horse at the nation to bring off their corn the beast had on a bell and when they were obliged to leave the beast in the drift pile the old Dutch woman took off the bell & brought it the whole trip through all her extremity & distresses, However when my mother got up to the fort she prevailed on some of the men to go in pursuit of the old woman and after traveling 15 or 20 miles down New river met the old woman riding a leg aside on her old horse with the bell on him open & every once in a while wood Hallow that she might be discovered in case any person might be near However the men took her on up to the fort where my mother was and it was certainly a Joyful meeting where they were releaved of all their toyles & defiqualeys, at the time my mother got Back my Father and uncle John Draper had been gone sometime to the Cherokee Nation of Indians with a view to get some of them to go to the Shawneys & to try to purchace their wives & children or to try to procure their releas in some way or other Those two tribes being at peace with each other and thinking this plan might be the most favorable one they could devise, and on the very night after my mother returned to the fort at the Dunkerd Bottom my Father & Uncle Draper lay within a bout 7 miles of the fort on their return & you may guess what was the sensation and feeling of my Father & mother at his arriving at the fort the next day at so unexpected meting (my Aunt Draper did not get released untill about 6 years afterwards, the Circumstances of her Releas is not recolected) However my Father and mother continued at the Dunkert bottom untill the next spring and as the settlers in this country was likely to be Harrassed by the Indians again that season my mother became very restless and uneasy and could not be reconciled

to stay there. My father to gratify her moved her about 20 miles to another fort called Vauses fort on the Head of roanoak where there was more famileys collected & a much stronger fort and more men to gard it but as the Indians was making Depredations on the fronteers she still could not rest reconciled to stay there my father then moved Her down into Bedford Countey below the blue ridge and in the Course of that fall there was a strong partey of French & Indians came on to Vauses fort attacked it and finally took the fort & killed and captured all the famileys that was there and had it not been through the drection of a kind providence that my mother had gone from this fort she wood have fallen into their savage Hand again & wood have been killed or taken prisoner the second time There was some circumstances which I have frequently heard my father relate as respects two uncles of his and their familey which was at the fort when it was taken (To wit) John & Mathew Ingles The former being out from the fort when it was attacked Hearing the firing of the guns made towards the fort as fast as he could and on coming in sight found the fort Intirely surrounded by the Indians his familey being in the fort made an attempt to rush through the Indians to get to his familey but the Indians discovering him aiming for the fort got around him he still rushed on with his gun in his hand untill they closed in so near that he shot his gun off at them They then closed in on him still beating them off with his gun untill he broke it all to peaces & then with the Barrele untile he got very near to the fort before they overpowered & killed him^e The Other brother Mathew was taken prisoner and

^e"John was killed at Vause's Fort and his wife, Mary, was carried into captivity. When this Mary Ingles returned she married John Miller and went to Carolina." F. B. Kegley, *Kegley's Virginia Frontier* (The Stone Press, Roanoke, Va., U.S.A., 1938), pp. 194-195.

after the indians had started to move off with their plunder & prisoners after getting on some little Distance they all stopped to arraigne some of their fixings. This Mathew Ingles not being confined some of the Indians offended him in some way being a stoubt strong man there happened to be a frying pan lying near where he was he caught hold on the pan & put his foot in the Bowl of the pan & rung off the handle and fell to work on the Indians and knocked them down whenever he could get in reach of them untill they overpowered him and got the pan handle from him This bold darring attempt pleased the Indians so well that they treated him with more respect than any of the other prisoners while ever — he was with them & he got released some years after & returned to the Country again. My father & mother continued to live in Bedford County for severale years in the menetime the settlers was still moving to the Western Watters & extending the settlements to a considerable extent west of New River my father returned to New River with his familey and got himself settled again although the Indians still was harrassing the fronteer every season for many years after his return his familey escaped their depredations although the famileys in the neighborhood was obliged almost every season to collect in forts and there was one at his Own Hows when there was a good many collected every year at one time there was a partey of Indians about 8 or 10 passed by new river settlements & being no settlements untile they got belowe the blue ridge on the Head of Smiths River they there killed and Destroye a family or two & stole severale Horses to bring off their plunder that they had taken and also a woman and 2 or 3 Children prisoners and on their way back had camped within 6 or seven miles of my fathers fort to rest a day at a place where there had been a settlement and a Hows

built it so happened that one of the men from the fort went out the day the Indians was there on the Hunt of some of their Horses & happened to discover the Indians he returned amidiately to the fort & gave the alarm there being severale men at the place my father raised 15 or 18 men amediately & persued to attack them though it being too late in the day before the company could start to get where the Indians was to attack them that eavening were detained untile some time in the morning of the next day before my father & the men got to the place where the Indians had camped & the Indians had started from the place However they took their trail and followed as the Indians had not gone more than a half of a mile till they stoped & had kindled a fier and was kookking their Breach-fas they not suspecting any danger was Intierly off their gard my fathers partey Crawled up tolerable near & fired on them before they knew anything of them However they flew to their guns and mad every resistance they coud to save themselves & their propertey but being overpowered by the white (M.S. faulty) those that escaped being killed, run off leaving all they had behind them (M.S. faulty) was 6 or 7 Indians killed and they got severale Horses which was packed & the women & Children that was prisoners. There was one of the white men killed. This being the first and onley Defeat which the Indians ever met with in this section of Country and from that time never ventered so fare through the settlement again The Imigration to the West releaved the Settler about New River in a great measure of their Harrassed situation and at length Injoyed peace & prosperity (M.S. marked out; but the fronteer settlements was still Harrassed by the Indians every year for many years after my Father returned to New River with his Familey). My father and mother

lived and raised a small family of 5 children 2 sons & 3 daughters who sustained as respectable Characters as any in the whole country my father died in the year 1782 at the age of 53 years my mother still continued to live in New River & Enjoyed an extraordinary portion of good health after all her trials & Difficulties until the year 1815 & died at the advanced age of 83 or 84 years of age.

I now return to give a narrative of the life and occurrences which happened to the two infant children which was taken captive with my mother shortly after they were separated from my mother at the nation & my mother taken on to the big bone Lick or left the Indians the youngest brother George died in the nation the elder brother Thomas continued thirteen years & trained up in their savage state that he became entirely accustomed to their habits & much of an Indian as any of them I can recollect of his telling me of several occurrences that happened him while there & which I think deserves notice One especially was when he was still small his Indian father and one other Indian as was their usual custom to go off some distance from the nation to hunt & provide meat & his old father taking him on with them after being in the woods some time the Indian father took very sick the other Indian provided some wood and fixed it so that he could make fire for his sick father & gave him directions bringing him water etc started to the nation 40 or 50 miles to get help to convey the sick man home However the very night after the other Indian left him his old father died it also happened that a very deep snow fell and there he was a lone white the dead Indian it also took the other Indian several days to perform his journey & return However he had learned how to keep up his fire and to cook his provisions also at night he would steal by close up to the dead Indians back & cover himself with the blankets he had & slept very comfortable though it was so long before the other Indian returned that the dead one began to smell the wolves being very plenty they were likely to attack him and would come so near that he was frequently obliged to get up and throw a chunk of fire at them to keep them out of the camp The Indians gun was there but he had never

attempted to shot a gun However he thought he wood try and one morning after being very much pestered by the wolves all the night before got the old indians gun & ammunition & he had taken some notice of the Indians in the manner they had loded & put in a smale charge the first time and there being a good many wild pigeons about the camp he thought he wood try to shoot some of them & after severale tryals found he coud kill the pigeons he then concluded he wood be a match for the wolves that night loded his gun very well but not being strong enough to hold the gun with out supporting her on something to rest her on he got the Indians tomehock & Cut a forked stick drove it in the ground so that he coud rest his gun on it right in a direction of a path that he had made to the spring & which path the wolves always came along at night when they wood come to attact him and amidiately when night came on the wolves be gan to geather & Howl ale a round his camp he got his gun & placed it in his forked stick presently the wolves came Howling along up the path nearly up to his fier he fiered his gun at them and nocke one down dead The alarm of the gun drove off the others & by that means saved the dead carcas of the Indian and his own life untile the other Indians came to his releaf. another circumstance which happened while he was with them which proved somewhat Injurous to hissself it was a custom with the Indians to shoot with a Bow & Arrows One day in trying to shoot a woodpecker off of a tree it was near where the Indians had a large fier for the purpose of Barbacuing some meet in watching the woodpecker & going backward went into the Hot embers & fier and burnt his feet so much that they never grew after to their natural size those are the Only events that I now recolect of hearing him mention

My father had tryed many means to try to recover him failed in all untile there was a man of the name of Thos Baker who had been prisoner with the Indians & had lived in the same nation with my brother Thos Had by some means got redeemed & came home my father Im-plied Baker to go to the nation & purchase my Brother it being at a time when they were at Peace whith the Whites Baker undertook the business and went to the Indian town where my Brother lived & made a purchase of him from his Indian father for something like 100 or 150 dollars & started with him for home having him somewhat confined for fear of his running a way but Having to pass by severale Indian villiges on his way hame the squaws got a chance of talking with the little fellow & persuaded him to run away from Baker However Baker kep him confined untile he got 40 or 50 miles past ale the Indian viliges Thinking him intierly safe let him loos and at night when they lay dow to sleep Baker took little Thos. in his arms thinking in case he wood attemp to move that he wood awake but behold when Baker a woke the little fellow had sliped out of his armes & was gone Baker returned to the Indian vilege but could not get him the squaws keeping him conseald was obliged to come off and leave him & return home However my father stile being antious to get my brother released from his Heathen State of life a year or two after Bakers first affort my Father Hiered Baker to go with him & started the second time with ale nessesarey preperations for the Journey which was a very disastrous one in having to go by the way of Winchester thence on by pitsburg and down on the other side of the Ohio River & through severale of the indian towns to where my brother lived being the onley way that could be traveled with any kind of safety as it was an Intierly a wilderness nearley

from where my father lived to the nation and intierly unexplored by any white man they persued on to pitsburg but when ariving there found that the Indians had brok out in ware against the Whites & was driving all the fronteer settlers before them and was obliged again to return without accomplishing his purpose & had to wate untile war subsided my father & Baker again started and went on my Father thinking it wood be a good article and One that might add in the inducement in the purchase of his son from his Indian father though a very impruend One took severale smale Keggs of rum When getting a mong the Indians their great thirst for the rum Induced my father to let them have some not thinking of the Consequances by their getting drunk They attempted to kill him and would certainly have affected their purpose had not the squaws hid him & kept him hid until they got sober However they persued on through many other defiqualteys untile they got to the Town my brother lived which was at the mouth of the Siote when gettin through he found that my brother had gone with his old Indian father to Detroit and his onley chance to get him then was to wait there untile they returned his situation was a very dangerous one but fineley Determined to wait their return by Baker Having severale acquaintance in the nation having been prisoner with them before & also my Father Having a verry good natural turn to please those whome he was among the Indians became very friendley & very much attached to them and after wating there about 13 days the old Indian & my brother returned and on my brothers lerning who my father was he took an attachment to him and was perfectly willing to come home with him and after paying his old Indian father a pritey round price for him again started on toward home the little fellow never showing any Disposition to leave him

& becoming more & more attached to my father tile he got home it is hard for me to express the feelings of a tender mother of Once more receiving to her armes her Affect-ionat child that had been absent 13 long years from her little Thomas as he might be Justly called so altho 17 years old at that time was very much under the common size of common boys of his age & an entier Indian in his manner & apearance & could not speake one word of English and although he was restored to his friends a relatives his heathen customs & manners was so different to (?) that he became very restless & uneasy and it was with considerable defiqualtery he could be reconciled to stay though my Father & mother both using ale means of reconciling him & Humouring him in their power he wood take pets at times and wood start off and be gone 2 or 3 days at a time which occasioned his parents great distress for fear that he wood not return However by Indulging him & Humouring him in all his little fits become more and more reconciled it was with considerable defequalty in getting him to change his Indian custom of wearing his clothes & shooting with his Bows & Arroes & such amusements as he had been accustomed to but by using a good deal of pains to Improve him & to lern him to speak the English language and got him some what sivolized my father sent him down the Country to Abemarl County to old Dr. Walkers to go to school after being there a while he Improved very much in manners & also in learning & became a very good English schollar but never became entierly broke of some of his little Indian actions after remaining there 3 or 4 years returned home quite sivolized, not long after his return home he engaged in the campaign which was going Out against the Indians under Gen'l Charles Lewis who Had the battle with the Indians at point Plesent Mouth of

the Great Kanawa Thos. Ingles was in the detachment which was under Col Wm. Christian which was a little in the rear of the main Army and was not present in the time of the inguagement but got up to the place the same night after the action He was One of the troops which was stationed there the winter following and when the treaty of peace was confirmed & the Indians came to the point he fell in with a great many of his old acquaintances & went on home with them to the town & stayed some time with them The season following the troop at the Point was discharged & he returned home Some time after his return he got maryed to a Miss Elliner Griles He then settled on a Creek called Wolf Creek a branch of New River⁷ After living there a few years moved to a valuable tract of land his father gave him on the head of the Blue stone, a nother Branch of New River and continued there 1 or 2 years⁸ But finding his family was so much exposed to the perpetual depredations of the Indians & being one of the most frunteer settlements and nearley right on a tract where the Indians passed repeatedly to kill & plunder not thinking himself nor familey safe there moved about 15 or 20 miles more to the Heart of the settlement into a place called Burks Gardain it was a situation which there was settlements all around but none within 10 or 12 miles⁹ This Burks Gardain is a large tract of land intierly surrounded by a large Mountain and no Other familey living in the place but his own excepting an old Batcheler and his negro boy

⁷ "Shortly after his marriage his father gave him a tract of land on Wolf Creek, in the present Giles County." William C. Pendleton, *History of Tazewell County and Southwest Virginia 1748-1920* (W. C. Hill Printing Company, Richmond, Virginia, 1920), p. 444.

⁸ "He and his family remained a year or two on Wolf Creek, and then removed to Abb's Valley, where he settled on the one thousand acre tract his father had purchased from the Loyal Company." Pendleton, p. 444.

⁹ "He then located with his family in Burke's Garden on the tract of land where James Burke had once lived, and occupied the house Burke had built." Pendleton, p. 444.

of the name of Joseph Hix that lived a bout two miles from him and his situation might have thought to have been safe as to the excurtions of the Indians being so localey situated & settlements all round and more exposed to danger However after living there severale years in the spring of 1782 a partey of Indians found their way into Burks Gardain and one morning after my brother had gone out into his plantation where a negroe fellow was at plow my brother was alarmed by hearing an unusual noise towards the Hows Ran towards the Hows and when he came in sight saw his Hows surrounded by a partey of Indians and having no chance of rending any releaf to his familey returned to where the fellow was plowing Cut loos the Horses and each of them Mounting a horse took of for the nearest settle-ment on the Head of the north fork of Holston in what is called the Rich Valleys¹⁰ it so hapened that there was a Capt (?) had called a muster of men on that day He got to the muster ground a little after the middle of the day being nearley 20 miles from where he started On giving the alarm there was 15 or 20 men amediately volunteered to go in persuit of the Indians However as each man had to go home or to get his necessary aquipments for his (?) it was night before they could meet to Persue. There was 12 or 15 men started & it was sometime in the morning of the next day before they could get to the place¹¹ when my brother got back to his place could not find any appearance of any part of his familey & his Hows burnt up and all in

¹⁰ "Though Ingles had moved to the Garden for safety, in April, 1782, a large party of Shawnees, led by the noted chief, Black Wolf, entered Burke's Garden." Pendleton, p. 444.

¹¹ "It happened to be muster day for Washington County militia and the settlers on the North Fork of Holston River had assembled, and were being drilled by Captain Thomas Maxwell, who had formerly lived at the head of Bluestone, in Tazewell County. Maxwell, with a party of fifteen or twenty volunteers, went with Thomas Ingles to Burke's Garden to pursue the Indians and rescue the captives." Pendleton, p. 445.

it except what the Indians had taken off He was then in hopes that the indians had not killed any of the family and had taken them all as prisoners The men then agreed to persue them The Indians had taken his wife and 3 Children a negroe fellowe & a negroe wench his eldest child a little daughter about 5 years old called Mary a little son about 3 years old named William & a little daughter at the mothers bres 6 or 9 months old The Indians after plundering the Howse & taking such things as they needed or coud carrey off set the Hows on fier and Burnt it up and then packed the two negroes with what they could carry and each one taking what he could started off with their prisoners it so happened that at the very time the Indians attacked the Hows the old man Wm. Hix & His negroe who lived about 2 miles off was going to the hows but in getting in sight of the Hows discovered the indians he amediately took back and both him and the negroe boy ware a fot the old man ran on However across the mountain another direction from where my brother went to another settlement and gave the alarm & raised 5 or 6 men & came on back and got to the place shortley after my brothers partey got there They all Joined in the pursuit They were all men well trained in following indians trails The Indians being some what suspitious that they might be pursued and every precaution on leving no sign that they coud prevent and as they were obliged to pass through some part of the settlement of What is called Clinch Settlement They moved on very causiously & but slowly The white men got their trail & persued it on to the settlement of Clinch it so happened that there was at the very time a campane of Malitia stationed on the frontear as a gard to the settlers & when my Brother and His partey got to Clinch there was some more men Joined his partey

& strenghened his partey to a bout 21 men & getting some more supplys in provisions etc persued on after the indians had got clear of the settlement intierly and not being persued as they thought began to be a little more negligent putting out their signs However the persuing partey using all diligance and after 5 or 6 days persuit discovered they were gaining upon the Indians and persuing with much caution & the indians begening to think themselves nearley out of danger became still more tarder & ceardless However on the 6 or 7 day that the had been in persuit the spies who kep a hed discovered the indians in the eavening where the Indians had taken up Camp They returned to the partey and gave the information The company concluded that they wood lay back and try to asertain the situation of the ground & incampment that night & not to attact them untile dayligh the next morning They arraigned their plan and a Capt Maxwell who had the command of the company was to crole round in the night with one half of the me to the apposit sid of the camp from where they were & bring on the attact at day light my brother Thos was to crawl up with his partey on the near sid & ly in wait till Maxwell attacked them on the other unfortunately Maxwell in trying to get to his pint got off from the Camp & Coud not find it My Brother & his partey got up within a few feet of the Camp under a bank & was lying waiting every moment for Maxwell to fall on them daylight beginning to break the indians beginning to wake up & to move about the men was at lenth discovered¹² The Indians took the allarm & began to tomehock

¹²"On the fifth day after the capture the advance scouts of the white men discovered the Indians, who were encamped for the night in a gap of Tug Mountain. A consultation was held by the pursuers, and it was agreed that Captain Maxwell should take half the men, and, during the night, get around to the front of the Indians, and Thomas Ingles should remain with the other half at the rear; and that at daybreak a simultaneous attack upon the savages be made by the two divisions. The night was very dark and the ground exceedingly rough and brushy. Consequently the party with Maxwell lost their way and did not reach the front by daylight." Pendleton, p. 445.

the prisoners my brothers party Jumped in upon them as quick as they possibly could my brother Jumped into the Camp and got Hold of his wife While the Indians was trying to tomehock his wife it was a most unlucky surcumstance all though my Brother was well aware in their being discovered that their firs effort wood be to kill the prisoners & mentioned it to all the men that they might be apprised although with all the exertions they could use the Indians accomplished their end They tomehocked his wife & two of his children the two elder the one at the breast escaped & the two negroes his little son was so badly wounded that he dyed before they left the ground his little Daughter lived 3 or 4 (M.S. faulty) and then dyed His wife was very badly cut in two or three places in her Head but recovered after extracting 13 pieces of her scule bone before it got well It is astonishing to think althou the men Jumped into the Camp a mediately they found they ware Discovered & shot severale guns at them that the indians all escaped & with most of their arms & another unfortunate circumstance Maxwells party had got a half a mile off at the time & the Indians on making their escape run right through Maxwells men & Maxwell Having on a White Hunting shirt one of the Indians shot him through the Boddey & Killed him it was always thought by the party that they had killed some of the Indians but if they did they got off and so secretted themselves that they could not be found They were obliged to Continue on the ground untill late in the day on the account of my Brothers little son dying & Maxwells being killed to try to Bury them in some manner While they were detained there they frequently Could hear a noise like a person groaning in the agoneys of death and still serched to find it thinking it to be one of the Indians who was shot but the Lorrell & Brush being

so thick they could not find him after getting all fixed they all started back for the nearest settlement of Clinch which took them about 4 days to purform on account of my Brothers wife and little daughter being both Badly wounded and weak about the time the party got to the Head of Clinch my father who had gone on there from New River and luckiley had taken on with him a Doctor met them but my Brothers little daughters scule being so much fractured with the tomehock that she dyed the next day after they returned to the settlement However the Doctor rendered infinite survice to my brothers wife and after proper application for a few days rendered her able to travell and all the familey there was left started for New River and in the cource of a few month my Brothers wife got intirely well. My Brother continued on New River that season with his family though at that time the Hoolston Country was for settling and the Eastern part of Tennessee & my Brother Thos still inclining to be on the frunteer settlements on account of rainge & raising stock moved to Tenn. and settle on the Wakaugua a branch of Holston River at a time that there was but few settlers in that country & a good deal exposed to the depredations of the Cherokee Indians who frequently committed Depredations on the frunteer settlements & killed the settlers he continued there 5 or 6 years untill he got himself tolerable comfortably fixed so as to live in plenty the people beginning to settle tolerable thick around him he began to get uneasy & restless to get farthur on to the west where he could have more room, sold out & moved about 50 miles lower dow the Holston River and settled on a creek called Mossey Creek then almost an intier frunteer is a country affording a delightfull summer rainge and plenty of corn for winter range for stock but laboured under the same defiqualteys as to the

dangerous situation as to his family exposure to the depredations of the Indians though he continued unmolested and improved Another very good plantation & comfortable fixed but the settlers still followed him & settling thick all around him as usual began to get restless & uneasy & about that time there was a parcele of troops sent down the Holston River & built a fort at this place where Knoxville now is & called fort Knox for the purpose of Having some check on the Indians in committing depredations on the frontiers and not long after Fort Knox was erected my Brother Thos sells out his possessions on Mossey Creek and moves his family down to the neighbourhood of fort Knox & settles again intierly exposed to the depredations of the Indians and although there were frequant Hostile parteyes of Indians passing and committing depredations on the settlements his family escaped & the country soon became settled & the town of Knoxville began to Improve However my Brother Thos continued on the place which he settled near Knoxville & Improved it as usual and got himself Comfortably fixed again & procured severale other Tracts of land in that neighbourhood and had got his family pritey well raised up and one of his daughters marryed & rather seemed to be settled for the remainder of his life but Hearing of a man who was owing him a considerable sum of money & run off being at Natches & understanding that he might secure the debt in case he went there (M.S. faulty) His Head that he wood go and see him at any rate and as it was a long and teadious rod to travell by land & mostly through an indian Country though friendly, the Chicasaws, he concluded rather to run the risque of going by watter & although there was freequantly Boats running down the river from Knoxville to Natcheys & Orleans he concluded it wood expedite his journey to go in a smale Boat and pro-

cured a Bote for the purpose. Ther was 2 or 3 other men to accompany him on a trading expedition They got ale ready & started & went on very well untile they came to the Mustle Shoals in the Tennessee River They attempted to pass them without a pilot The sholes being more defiqualt & rougher than they expected and after getting nearley through their Bote upset & threw the men and all their (M.S. faulty) into the river & all the chance for their own escape was by swiming or holding to the Bote as it so happened where they were upset was not fare from the shore my brother Thos though an exolent swimmer stile Hung to the Bote & the current stile drifting him near on to the bank at length he was so near that by the assistance of some friendly Indians which was in view aiding him got him and the Bote stoped but what was most remarcable when the Bote upset my brothers saddle baggs which had all his clothes & what money he had with him in it somehow or other in the scuffele caught in one of his armes & he hele to it & also with the other to the Bote untile they got to the shore which was everything that was saved Their situation was truly a distressing one Severale hundred miles from home & right in the midst of Indians all their clothes & provisions (M.S. faulty) & everything lost or nearly so onley what my brother saved by holding (M.S. faulty)—and was at a considerable loss to know what to do but However the Indians were friendly & agreed to furnish them with provisions & some other things that they stood in need of & they finalley concluded to pursue on their Journey mad the nessessary preparations & started on again & purformed their Journey. My brothers getting to Natches made some Inquiry for his man that he went and at length found him but intierly unable to pay him. That his Jorney at the risque of his life was ale for noth-

ing thought my brother after viewing this country he became so pleased with it that he would move his family to it and on his returning home immediately sold off all his property at a considerable sacrifice to get to a nother new country as he had formerly done and moved his family & settled near Natcheys

This last narative was related to me by my Brother himself on his return from that countrey & before he moved his family after his moving to that countrey I have little or no knowlage what traspired only from Hearsay

1982 NOTES

Location of Draper's Meadows

The present location of Draper's Meadows is on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic and State University at Blacksburg, Virginia. "The Draper's Meadows Massacre July 8, 1755" is inscribed on a small bridge directly across from the Pro Shop of the campus golf course. Another marker, erected by the Allegheny Chapter, D.A.R., Blacksburg, Va., can be seen by the campus road to Smithfield, the Preston's ancestral home. David E. Johnson in his *History of the Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory* wrote, "The Ingles-Draper settlement was called "Draper's Meadow's," but we are told that the name was changed by Colonel William Preston to "Smithfield," in honor of his wife, who was a Miss Smith of Louisa County, Virginia."¹³

"Old Dutch Woman"

The editors would like to point out that the hardships of the journey home were shared equally by the "Old Dutch Woman" and acknowledge her efforts and courage.

Accurate Measurement of Part of the Route Home

Mr. Cecil C. Lawson, certified land surveyor, using U.S. Geological survey maps found the total distance of the river route from Bigbone, Kentucky, to Eggleston, Virginia, to be 449 miles. No one knows how many miles were added to this total by the detours which Mary Draper Ingles and her companion, the "Old Dutch Woman" were forced to take.

Since the three rivers, the New, the Kanawha, and the Ohio all flow toward the Mississippi, Mary Draper Ingles and her companion were traveling upstream and so could not utilize the currents of these streams to speed their return home.

13. Johnson, David E. *A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory*. Huntington, West Virginia: Standard P.T.G. and Pub. Co., 1906, p. 9.

Subject: River Routes From Bigbore, Ky To Eggleston, Va.
Total Distance of 445 Miles

MILES	LOCATION	MILES	LOCATION
0.0	Bigbore, Ky.	374	Terry
2	Ohio River	377	Laurel Creek
10	Rabbit Hash	386	Meadow Creek
20	Aurora	398	Hinton
44	Ludlow	399.5	Greenbrier River
52	Foithomas	428	Rich Creek
65	New Richmond	432	Narrows
87	Augusta	444	Fembroke
88	Edge Map	449	Eggleston, Va.
91	Ripley		
105	Maysville		
117	Manchester		
130	Rome		
140	Buena Vista		
156.5	Scioto River		
158	Forks mouth		
162	New Boston		
166	Wheatersburg		
186	Russell		
189	Coal Grove		
191	Ashland		
197	Kenova		
203	Huntington		
219	Green Bottom		
242	Gallipolis		
245.5	Kanawha River		
254.5	Edge of Map		
260	Arbuckle		
281	Plymouth		
292	St. Albans		
303	Charleston		
322	Cedar Grove		
334	Alloy		
340	Quincy Bridge		
346.5	Hawks Nest		
357	Edge Map		

Note: - This data is from maps
of U.S. Geological Survey.
Scale: 1:250,000

U.S. Geological Survey-Reference Maps
Louisville NJ 16-6 - 1956
Cincinnati NJ 16-3 - 1964
Huntington NJ 17-4 - 1966
Charleston NJ 17-5 - 1966
Bluefield NJ 17-8 - 1967



Cecil E. Lawson, C.L.S.
Oct. 12, 1970

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