

The Draper's Meadows Settlement (1746–1756) **Part I: George Draper and Family**

Ryan S. Mays

Draper's Meadows was among the first tracts of land occupied by Euro-Americans in the colonial Virginia backcountry west of the Blue Ridge and south of the Shenandoah Valley. Documentary evidence suggests that the founders of this settlement were George and Eleanor Draper and their children, John and Mary. Most famous of these was Mary, who married William Ingles about 1750. Mary Draper Ingles (c. 1732–1815) is today one of the best known and most admired figures of the Virginia frontier for having made a remarkable escape from Indian captivity during the French and Indian War.¹

From records presented in this article, it appears that part of the Draper's Meadows settlement became Smithfield Plantation, the home of Colonel William Preston (1729–1783). Smithfield was a tract of land lying on the headwaters of Strouble's Creek, a tributary of the New River. It was located to the southwest of the present-day town of Blacksburg in what is now Montgomery County, Virginia. By 1774, two years after Preston is believed to have begun construction of his mansion house at Smithfield, his plantation consisted of 1,770 acres. He named the plantation in honor of his wife, whose maiden name was Susanna Smith.²

However, at least as early as 1756, Smithfield and vicinity were called Draper's Meadows (or Draper's Meadow), evidently for George Draper and his family, and for the luxuriant meadows, or glades, that had formed in the low grounds along Strouble's and Tom's creeks.³ The area was referred to as Draper's Meadows (and Draper's Glades) as late as the 1780s⁴ but a section of this land was already called Smithfield by March 1774, when Preston moved his family to the locale from their previous home at Greenfield in present-day Botetourt County, Virginia.⁵

Draper's Meadows formed a 7,500-acre tract lying on the waters of Strouble's and Tom's creeks in present-day Montgomery County, in what was part of Augusta County until 1770. On 20 June 1753, William Preston's uncle, Colonel James Patton (c. 1692–1755), received a patent for this tract,⁶ and early the following year Patton sold a total of 17 subdivisions of his 7,500 acres to 18 settlers, including John Draper and William Ingles.

Relying heavily on primary source documents, this two-part article provides an updated chronological review of the early records of Draper's Meadows through the year 1756. Part I reports primary information relating to George Draper and his family through about 1749. It includes analyses of several previously unreported primary records of the Drapers that shed new light on the activities of this interesting frontier family. Part II will report events that occurred in the Draper's Meadows community between about 1750 and 1756 and will include detailed descriptions of the tracts of land sold by James Patton in 1754, as well as information about the settlers themselves. The article will form the most complete contemporary account of the early history of Draper's Meadows.

The George Draper Family: Immigration from Ireland to Pennsylvania, circa 1729

George and Eleanor Draper were maternal great-grandparents of the western Virginia historian John P. Hale (1824–1902).⁷ In his 1886 publication, *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers*, Hale states: “George Draper and his young wife, whose maiden name had been Elenor Hardin, came from County Donegal, North of Ireland, in 1729, and settled at the mouth of the Schuylkill River, within the present limits of the City of Philadelphia. Here two children were born to them, John in 1730, and Mary in 1732. Between 1740 and 1744 they, with their two children, came to Virginia, and located at Colonel Patton's settlement (Pattonsburg), on James River.”⁸ All subsequent writings about the origins of the George Draper family appear to derive from this source. It must be noted, however, that Hale cited no documents by which this information can today be verified. Although his statement is probably based to some extent upon his own family's traditions and would seem to be fairly reliable, until documentary evidence becomes available it should not be regarded as the final word.

The Draper Family on the James River in Western Virginia, circa 1742–1745

The earliest extant documentation of the George Draper family living in Virginia comes from the early 1740s. Before the official establishment of Augusta County from Orange County in 1745,⁹ Orange County encompassed most of present-day western Virginia. James Wood was appointed surveyor of Orange County in 1734, and his deputy was George Hume.¹⁰ Among the James Wood Papers at the Handley Regional Library in Winchester, Virginia, is the “Index to [the] Orange County Survey Book c.1735–c.1740,” listing the names of settlers for whom James Wood

surveyed land.¹¹ Listed in the index and written in the hand of James Wood is “Geo Draper [page] 70.” That a survey was made for Draper around 1740 is, therefore, certain, but the original survey book to which this index belonged has been lost. Although many survey records from this period in Orange County are extant, there appears to be no further record of a survey made for George Draper at that early date.

George Draper; presumably his wife, Eleanor; and presumably their children were definitely living somewhere along the James River or perhaps the Roanoke River by 1742, when George’s name appears in the muster roll of Captain George Robinson’s militia company.¹² The site of their cabin was most likely somewhere within a 180-acre tract referred to in a 1765 lawsuit as “George Draper’s Place.”¹³ This tract was described as being located “on a [southern] Branch of James River called the Long Run,” which was a tributary stream of Looney’s Mill Creek and adjoined the land of Robert Looney, who had already settled and established a mill at his own settlement by 1739 or early 1740. Daniel Looney, a son of Robert Looney, received a patent for the 180-acre George Draper Place on 20 August 1748, having purchased the land from Draper sometime prior to that date.¹⁴

George Draper’s Place was located about three miles west of the present-day town of Buchanan in modern-day Botetourt County. Part of Buchanan was called Pattonsburg in the nineteenth century in honor of James Patton, who by the early 1740s owned a tract of land called Cherry Tree Bottom across the river from Robert Looney and George Draper. Patton’s son-in-law, Colonel John Buchanan (d. 1769), inherited Cherry Tree Bottom after Patton’s death in 1755.¹⁵

In the early 1740s, the Looney’s Mill Creek settlement was one of the westernmost settlements in Virginia. George Hume had surveyed land on Looney’s Mill Creek in 1740 for several settlers, including Robert Looney, but there is no surviving record of his having surveyed land for Draper while he was there.¹⁶

John Graham, assignee of Daniel Graham vs. George Draper, 1743

The next extant documentation about George Draper comes from a lawsuit. On 25 May 1744, a suit between John Graham (plaintiff), assignee of Daniel Graham, and George Draper (defendant) was dismissed by the Orange County Court.¹⁷ The author has been unable to identify Daniel Graham, but John Graham may have been the “John Graham” who had 696 acres surveyed for him on the Calfpasture River, a tributary of the James River, in 1744.¹⁸ The river flows through what are now western Augusta and Rockbridge counties.

In the file of this lawsuit from the Orange County Courthouse¹⁹ are four documents: two petitions, one court summons, and a promissory note. The two petitions say the same thing but with slight variations in the spelling of several words by the clerk, so only one is transcribed here, as follows:

To the Worshipful Court of Orange County, The petn [petition] of John Graham assee [assignee] of Danl Graham Humbly sheweth, That Geo: Draper by his bill dated ye 2d day of 9br [November]²⁰ 1738 was indebted to one Danel Graham in three pounds pensylvania Money of ye value of three pounds Currt [Current] Money of Virga [Virginia] wch [which] bill ye sd Daniel assigned over to your petr [petitioner] the day and year afs [aforesaid] of wch ye sd Draper was not ignorant Yet ye sd Draper tho' often required refuseth Payment; Wherefore your Petitioner prays Judgment against him for the same, with Costs.

In plainer terms, George Draper was indebted to Daniel Graham for the sum of £3:0:0 Pennsylvania money, which was equal to £3:0:0 in Virginia. This could mean that Draper incurred the debt in Pennsylvania in 1738.

The court summons in the file of this case commanded George Draper to appear before the justices of Orange County Court on the fourth Tuesday of "next Month." The summons note was dated "xxixth Day of 7br 1743" (29 September 1743), so Draper was to make his appearance at court in October 1743 to answer the charge of debt. On the back of this summons under the clerk's notation "Graham assee [assignee] Graham vs Draper Sums [Summons]" was written in two different hands: "Not to be found RY" and "May Dismiss." The notation "Not to be found" was presumably made by the constable, Richard Yarborough,²¹ who was appointed to find Draper or deliver to him the court summons. Evidently R. Y. was unable to locate him, which is understandable if Draper was living at what in 1743 was one of the westernmost settlements on the Virginia frontier. This may be the reason why the case was eventually dismissed in 1744.

George Draper's promissory note was written on 2 November 1738. Although Draper was living in Virginia by 1743 and probably at the Robert Looney settlement along the James River, it is not possible to ascertain where the Grahams were living at that time. The promissory note is now the earliest known extant primary record of George Draper. The fact that Draper himself wrote and signed it (as will become clear later in the present article) makes it especially noteworthy. It reads as follows:

I Doue [do] herby Promise to [pay or cause] to be paid to Danel Graham [illegible] for the Just and full sum of three pounds Corent [Current] and Lawful money of Penselvenea [Pennsylvania] all or before ye first day of march next insuieng [ensuing] for [illegible, value Received?] this day Novemb[er] [2,] 1738.

Geo: Draper

witness Present
[fargas?]²² Graha[m]

On the back of the note is written: "Danel Graham Geo Draper to John Graham
£3:0:0"



Figure 1. George Draper's promissory note to Daniel Graham dated 2 November 1738. Orange County Court Case, Judgment May 1744, *John Graham, assignee of Daniel Graham vs. George Draper*, OCCH, LVA microfilm reel 91, Judgments, January 1744–May 1744 (A–K).

George Draper and Family Settle on the Waters of the New River, circa 1746

The records mentioned above strongly suggest that by 1742 the Drapers were living along the James River in what is now Botetourt County. They were probably still living at George Draper's Place on Long Run, a tributary of Looney's Mill Creek, in 1744 and, likely, in 1745. However, by the fall of 1746, the family had moved nearly 50 miles farther west to the waters of the New River, which in the 1740s was also known as Wood's River.

The James and Roanoke rivers flow east into the Atlantic Ocean. In April 1745, Colonel James Patton, in company with 19 other men, received a grant from the Virginia Council of 100,000 acres on the New, Holston, and Clinch rivers, all of which flow west, being tributaries of the Mississippi River.²³ In October 1745, the agent and principal surveyor for the New/Wood's River Company, Colonel John Buchanan, made an expedition to the region to inspect the progress of its settlement. Buchanan kept a journal and land entry book of his tour and mentioned several of the settlers he met by name. He did not mention meeting George Draper, but Buchanan did note on the final day of his journey through the settlement that he met with "sundrey men about Ld. [Land]."²⁴ In a different memorandum book from this period, Buchanan recorded having surveyed land for George Draper on "5 January 1745" [1745/46].²⁵ Unfortunately the location of the tract is unknown because Buchanan's notation was left incomplete and provides no further description or clues about the acreage or boundaries of the tract he surveyed. In yet another memorandum from February 1746 [1746/47], Buchanan noted that George Draper was indebted to him for £0:12:0 in cash, which he had loaned to Draper, again providing no further details.²⁶

Nevertheless, George Draper was certainly living on the waters of the New River by 19 November 1746, when the Augusta County Court ordered that he and neighboring settlers clear a road from Adam Harman's settlement near the mouth of Tom's Creek, at present-day Whitethorne in Montgomery County, to the North Fork of the Roanoke River, about three miles east of present-day Blacksburg in Montgomery County.²⁷ On 21 May 1747, the court appointed Draper constable of this area, which may be defined as the broad valley through which Tom's and Strouble's creeks flow west into the New River.²⁸

George Draper vs. James Conly, August 1747

In the spring or summer of 1747, George Draper brought suit against a man named James Conly (Conley, Connelly, Connerly, etc.) for debt. Still preserved in the file of this lawsuit at the Augusta County Courthouse in Staunton, Virginia, is the financial account of George Draper, written and signed in his own hand on 18 August 1747.²⁹ Draper included on the same page as the account a letter to his attorney, Gabriel Jones.³⁰ The following is an exact transcription of this remarkable document, which has not heretofore been reported in the literature:

James Condly Dr. [Debit] to George Draper

	£b [sic] s d
1745 To keeping two Horses a year	1 0 0
to two of my maires [mares] and my son a week	
to carry in your skins att 3 S[shillings] pr day	0 18 0
to my son and a horse a week to Look [after] your	
horse at 2 S pr day	0 12 0
to washing and mending your Linnin [linen] a year	1 0 0
to making 3 course shirts at 1 S 6 pence	
Each Shirt	0 4 6
to making one fine shirt	0 2 6
1746 to keeping a stallon [stallion] and five maires	3 0 0
to 2 pounds of gun Powder and six pound of Lead	0 1 3 0
to a pair of shose [shoes]	0 6 0
to cash answred [answered] John Mills	3 0 0
to 4 Pounds of Tobacco	0 2 0
to a new hatt	0 4 6
to a new cutto [cuttoe] knife	0 2 3
to an Exicution out of the contrary creadit [credit] pd. [paid]	1 4 6
to constables fees 2 Bitts	<u>0 1 3</u>
	£b [sic] 12 10 0

Errors Excepted	George Draper	Cr. [Credit]
Pr. Contrary		4 5 6
by 85 Pounds and a half Deer skins		0 15 0
to an acer [acre] of Grubbin [grubbing]		0 1 10 1/2
answred Robart Rowland		0 1 10 1/2
to a pair of gun wippers [wipers]		<u>0 10 0</u>
to 4 yards of Linnin		5 14 3
by Ballance Due		<u>£b[sic] 6 15 9</u>
		12 10 0

Mr. Gabriel Jones Above is my account debt=or [debtor] and credit Balance due me 6-15-9 for which I Brought suiet [suit][.] I Desire you will appear for me as my attorney and I will pay you your fee and waite on you [at] any court you will opaint [appoint] for trial[.] Insist for special Beal [bail] in Reson [Reason] Conly is a Loose Idle fellow has noe [no] place of Resedence and as he has treatned [threatened] me and family I dare not well [will] be from home fearing the conciquence[,] he having theatned [threatened] the Death of my Daughter[.] write to me to the care of Cornl. [Colonel] Patton and you will oblige your very humble servant
 August ye 18 1747 George Draper

James Conly D ^r to George Draper		D ^r to Conly	
1745	To keeping two horses above	1.00	by 85 Bouds and a half Deer skins
	to two of my mares and my son wash		to an Ore of Grabbon
	to buy in your skins at 3/4 of a day	0.20	and a half of a half of a half
	to my son and a half wash to look your		to repair of gun weapons
	horses at 2/4 of a day	0.20	to 4 yards of Linen
	to washing and mending your Linen	1.00	by Ballance D ^r
	to making 3 Coarse shirts at 1/6 pence		
	each shirt	0.46	
	to making one fine shirt	0.20	
1746	to keeping Attention and five mares	3.00	
	to 3 pounds of gun Powder and six pounds		
	of Lead	0.20	
	to a pair of shoes	0.20	
	to Capt Anderson John Mills	0.20	
	to 4 pounds of Tobacco	0.20	
	to a new hat	0.16	
x	to a new hat	0.16	
x	to an Execution out of the Pathway	0.16	
	to Cartables for 2 Births	0.19	
		1.00	
	Errors Excepted George Draper		

Mr. Gabriel Jones, Above is my account sent
 on the Condition Ballance Due no 6-15-4
 for which I pray the Justice of Justice you
 will approve for me as my Attorney and
 I will pay you your fee and wait on you
 any Court you will appoint for trial
 In witness whereof I have signed this
 is a copy of the above had no place of
 and as he has treated me and family past
 will be for my and family past
 threaten the death of my children with
 me to the care of Capt L. Patton and you
 Oblige your very humble servant
 will sign 8-18-1747 George Draper

Figure 2. George Draper's account against James Conly with a letter to his attorney, Gabriel Jones, dated 18 August 1747. Augusta County Court Case, Judgment August 1749, *George Draper vs. James Conly*, Account of George Draper against James Conly, File 387, ACCH.

This single document provides a wealth of new information about the activities of George Draper and his family from 1745 through 1747. First, the manuscript clearly indicates that George was quite literate and familiar with legal terminology and functions, which may be one reason he was appointed constable. His handwriting is legible and his composition and most of his spelling are very good for the mid-eighteenth century. The handwriting and signature also match those on the 1738 promissory note described above.

Draper's financial account provides important new information about aspects of daily life on the Virginia frontier. In the year 1745, when George and his family were perhaps still living on the James River, it is now known that James Conly kept two of Draper's horses for about twelve months. Draper's son, presumably John, helped Conly carry in his skins with the use of two of his father's mares, at an agreed rate of 3 shillings per day. This indicates that Conly was a hunter and that George Draper was involved in the skin trade. Conly was also indebted to Draper for having John look after Conly's horse for a week at a rate of 2 shillings per day, for washing and mending his linen clothing for a year, for making three coarse shirts at a rate of 1 shilling 6 pence per shirt, and for making one fine shirt. Draper's

wife, Eleanor, and their daughter, Mary, no doubt helped considerably with the mending, sewing, and washing.

In 1746, when the Drapers appear to have moved to the New River, James Conly kept George Draper's stallion and five mares for some period of time. He was indebted to Draper for two pounds of gunpowder and six pounds of lead, a pair of shoes, a new hat, a new "cuttoe" knife (probably a kind of small folding or spring knife), and four pounds of tobacco. In addition, Conly owed Draper for cash he had borrowed to pay John Mills.³¹ He also owed Draper for an execution Draper paid out of his contrary credit account and for 2 bits in constable's fees. The latter may refer to a debt of two bits (i.e., two pieces of a piece of eight, a Spanish coin) owed to Draper for some service he had provided as local constable.

Draper's credit account against Conly is undated, but may cover the same period of time from 1745 through 1747. The items listed had been paid to Draper by Conly. These included 85 ½ pounds of deer skins; grubbing (clearing) an acre of land; a pair of gun wipers (small metal, stub-like tools with a thick base and curled tines that could be attached to a ramrod for cleaning debris from gun barrels); four yards of linen; and cash paid to Robert Rowland, who may have been living on the waters of Looney's Mill Creek in the vicinity of the old George Draper Place.³²

George Draper's letter to Gabriel Jones provides the most intriguing information of all. Draper told Jones that he wished for him to be his attorney, that he would pay Jones's appointed fee, that he would agree to any court date Jones set for the trial, and that he wanted Jones to write to him in care of Colonel James Patton. He asked Jones to insist that special bail be enforced since Conly was a "loose, idle, fellow and has no place of residence." He then noted that Conly had threatened him and his family and that he dared not be away from home long because Conly had "threatened the death of my daughter." Unfortunately these statements are open to interpretation, and ultimately, we can never know more than what Draper wrote here unless further evidence comes to light. Yet this is certainly the earliest reference to Mary in any known extant primary document, and in 1747, she would have been no older than about 15.

At a court held at Augusta County Courthouse on 22 August 1747, the case of *George Draper vs. James Connerley [Conly]* was considered. The court decided that "at ye Deft's [defendant's/Conly's] Motion a Special imparlance [leave] is granted him till the next County Court & ye suit is till then continued."³³ The case was heard again on 17 February 1748/49, when "on ye plt [plaintiff's/Draper's] prayer Liberty is given him to prove his account[.] The's [There is] to be no barr to any discount the Deft [defendant/

Conly] can make good on the trial to contest the said account & ye suit is continued till the next court,"³⁴ meaning that if Conly could prove he had already paid something on the account then the total would be less.

Another document in the file of this case is a warrant for the arrest of James Conly, the sheriff being commanded to take him into custody to answer Draper's plea of debt. This warrant, dated "July the 11th 1747," predates Draper's 18 August letter to Gabriel Jones and suggests that he had already brought suit against Conly at least as early as the first of July 1747. However, someone had crossed out the warrant in lighter ink. On the back of the warrant is a bond in which James Conly and Joseph Love made obligation to Henry Downs, the county sheriff, for the sum of £15:11:6. But this was to be void if Conly made his personal appearance to answer the suit of debt presented by Draper, so apparently the bond was to guarantee Conly's appearance in court. James Conly made his mark on the bond but Joseph Love signed it. The document is dated "11th June [*sic*] 1747."

Three additional documents in the file provide more details about what transpired. In the first, dated 10 July 1747, the county clerk, John Madison, wrote a warrant for the deputy sheriff, John Braham,³⁵ to take Conly into custody. On the back of the warrant, Braham wrote that he had executed the order. John Harvie, the attorney appointed to defend James Conly, wrote a rebuttal stating that Draper should not have brought suit against Conly because, according to Conly, Draper was "Indebted to him . . . in a large Sum of Money that is to say sixteen pounds, five shil[ings] & ten pence by accot. [account] (which accot. He the said Defendant now pleads in discount & bar to the action of the said plaintiff) and he is ready to aver [affirm]." The date August 1748 is on the back of the document, and Harvie noted that Draper had, according to Conly, been indebted to Conly since 1 July 1748.³⁶ Attorney Gabriel Jones, however, summarized in a separate document Draper's complaint that Conly was still indebted in the sum of £6:15:9. Jones noted on the back of Draper's rebuttal document that the case "abates" in "[17]49 Augst [August]," which means the case ended. George Draper had died by May 1749.

The relationship between George Draper and his family and James Conly is significant, but extant records of this man are very sparse. Conly appears to have lived in the vicinity of George Draper's Place along the James River and then moved west to the New River settlement, probably by 1746. In 1751, he was murdered by his servant, Day Thoroughgood, who was executed in Williamsburg (the colonial capital) on 10 January 1752.³⁷

James Patton's 7500-acre Survey at Draper's, October 1747

On 21 October 1747, Colonel John Buchanan "Surveyed for James Patton Seven Thousand five Hundred acres of Land in Augusta County, part of an order of Council granted to ye said Patton &c. to take up 100,000 acres, Lying on the west side of the Ridge that parts ye waters of Roanoke from those of the new River (at a place called Drapers [sic])."³⁸ This is the first document to show definitively that George Draper and family were living within this 7,500-acre tract, although, as noted earlier, they were likely already settled on the headwaters of Strouble's Creek by the fall of 1746 (Figure 3).

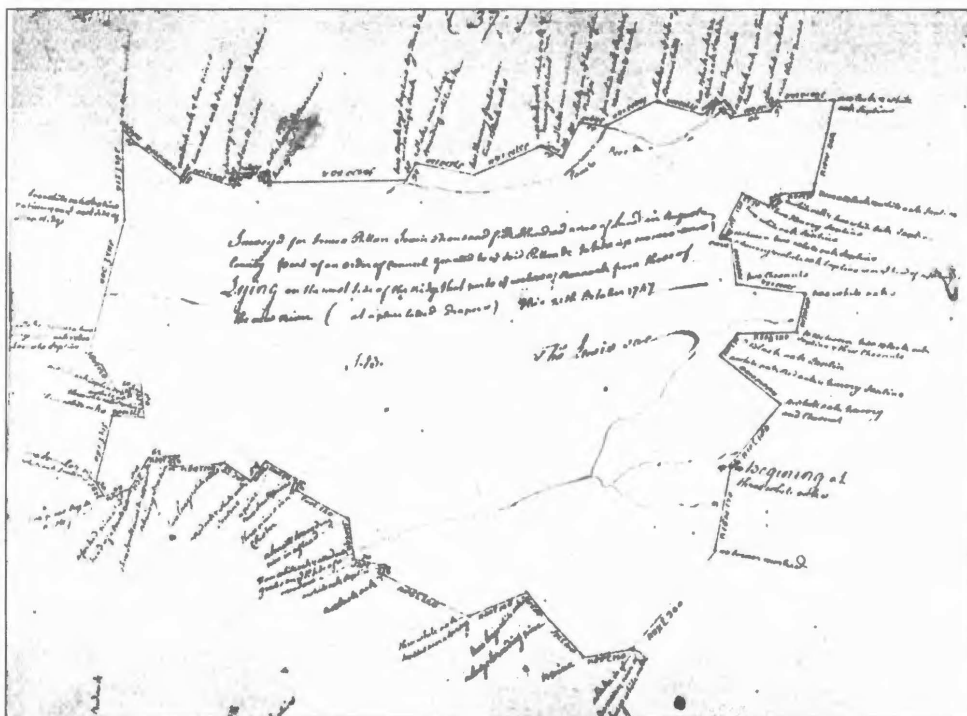


Figure 3. John Buchanan's survey of 7,500 acres for James Patton "at a place called Drapers" dated 21 October 1747. This is the official copy of Buchanan's original plat (which has not survived) made by Thomas Lewis, surveyor of Augusta County. Lewis recorded it in Augusta County Surveyor's Record No. 1, a book still located in Augusta County Courthouse, and noted that the tract was surveyed by "J.B.," meaning John Buchanan. Tom's Creek is drawn and labeled at the top of the plat; Strouble's Creek is clearly drawn in the lower (southern) portion.

George Draper Selects 500 Acres, March 1747/48

In 1751, William Preston recorded in the Wood's River Land Entry Book several land entries which Captain Adam Harman had made on behalf of James Patton and Company in 1747.³⁹ One of these was for George Draper dated 19 March 1747/48, being "500 acres on Toms Creek above Lortons." Preston noted under the land entries that in 1747 Harman had "referred them to make their Bargain or price with Colo. Patton." He dated the memorandum 25 April 1751 and signed "Adam Harman," with "Israel Lorton" as witness. This may suggest that he either transcribed into the entry book a note he had previously received from Harman, or simply wrote the memorandum after consulting with Harman, signing for both Harman and Lorton. In any case, the record clearly indicates that by early 1748 Draper had selected a tract of 500 acres. Presumably these 500 acres extended west from the headwaters of Strouble's Creek and included land on the waters of Tom's Creek near or adjoining the land that Israel Lorton had selected, yet whether the tract was within or outside of Patton's 7,500-acres is unknown.

There is no record of the 500 acres ever being surveyed, but as noted by Frederick B. Kegley, Patton probably "anticipated a subdivision" of his 7,500-acre tract "and encouraged George Draper and others to settle upon it, promising them titles in time."⁴⁰ James Patton himself recorded a memorandum made by Adam Harman on a different page in the Wood's River Land Entry Book which stated that "Conrod Eakerd desired us to tel Colnel paton he gave up that Bargain of Land on drapers [George Draper's] survey & would not have it." The note was undated but signed "Adam herman" and "Jacob Harman," apparently by both men in Patton's presence, for their signatures are in slightly different hands beneath Patton's memorandum.⁴¹

George Draper and Israel Lorton, July–August 1748

Israel Lorton seems to have been associated with George Draper and probably on good terms with him as a neighbor. By October 1745, Lorton had already selected three tracts of land on lower Tom's and Strouble's creeks about six miles southwest of Draper's Meadows. These were located at (1) the mouth of Tom's Creek; (2) at the Beaver Dam Meadow on Tom's Creek just upstream, which appears to be the land said to adjoin George Draper's entry of 500 acres; and (3) around the mouth of Strouble's Creek at the Horseshoe Bottom about two miles southeast up the river. All were within present-day Montgomery County and formed a total of over 1,000 acres; none was located within Patton's 7,500-acre survey.⁴²

In 1751, Michael and Augustine Price brought suit against Israel Lorton and James Patton, accusing them of fraud.⁴³ The Prices exhibited two memorandums they had received from Israel Lorton in the summer of 1748 proving that Lorton had assigned to them by agreement at least portions of the lands he had entered in 1745 with James Patton and Company. The Prices were under the impression that Lorton had sold these lands to them in their entirety, but they now felt that Patton was threatening to eject them and that Lorton had made a dishonest transaction. Lorton argued that he had only assigned to the Prices his improvements, such as crop fields and cabins, and that the lands were actually still the property of James Patton, which was correct. Since Lorton, as a freeholder, had not yet procured a legal right or title to his lands, he told the Prices they would have to make their own bargain with Patton.

This lawsuit, *Michael and Augustine Price vs. Israel Lorton and James Patton*, was a chancery case in Augusta County Court. Their dispute was settled in 1754 (after Lorton's death in 1751) when Patton finally sold land to the Prices from his 7,500-acre tract, for which by that time he had received a patent from the government.

Among the court papers filed in this case were Israel Lorton's two original land assignment bills, or memorandums (Figure 4). Both were written for Israel Lorton by George Draper, and Draper indicated on one of them that he had acted as a witness to the transactions. By that time Draper was serving as a constable in the area. Because these two documents are new to the literature, they are reproduced here in full exactly as Draper wrote them:

I Assigne over my whole write and title of the Place I formerly Lived upon the Lower Survey on Toms Crick [Tom's Creek] with all the Improvements on sd. place only a nursery Excepted[,] and my part of the Crop of Corn on sd. place but for all Improvements I make over unto Michael Price and Phillip Harlaes as wittness my hand this 15th day of July 1748.

Wittness Present

Israell Lorton

Geo: Draper

I Assigne over my whole write and tittle of the Improvement I now Live upon with Half of the [Survey—marked out] Land that is Surveyed on the horse Shoue Meddow [Horse Shoe Meadow] on ye watters of Strooples Crick [Strouble's Creek] unto Ogiston [Augustine] Price where ye sd. price is to have his Land on the south side of the ye Survey as the new Road Runs[,] which Improvement I Assigne over unto Ogison Price as wittness my hand this 19th day of August 1748.

Israel Lorton



Figure 4. Israel Lorton’s assignments of land to Michael and Augustine Price and Phillip Harless written on 15 July and 19 August 1748 in the hand of George Draper. Augusta County Chancery Cause, LVA Index No. 1752-003, *Michael and Augustine Price vs. Israel Lorton and James Patton*, File 392, ACCH.

The Death of George Draper, 1749

George Draper had died intestate by May 1749. There appears to be no surviving contemporary record describing the circumstances of his death. John P. Hale noted in his book *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers* that his great-grandfather, George Draper, while living at his settlement at Pattonsburg (George Draper’s Place near modern-day Buchanan), “started out on a game-hunting and land-seeking expedition, westward. He never returned, and was never heard of by his family; it was supposed that he was killed by Indians.”⁴⁴ But this statement is greatly in error, since George Draper had undoubtedly already settled in what is now Montgomery County by the fall of 1746. The records clearly show that he lived there through at least the summer of 1748. That he died without having written a will might be an indication that his death was unexpected.

What is known for certain is that George’s wife, Eleanor, was granted administration of his estate by the Augusta County Court on 17 May 1749 during the non-age of her son, John, indicating that John was not yet 21

years old. Eleanor's securities were James Davis and Robert Looney Jr.; all three signed the bond by making his or her own mark.⁴⁵ At the same court, it was ordered that Thomas English (Ingles), William English (Ingles)⁴⁶, Ephriam Voss (Vause) and Richard Hall, or any three of them, appraise George Draper's estate.⁴⁷ On 4 August 1749, Richard Hall, William Ingless (Ingles) and Thomas Ingles appraised the goods and chattels of George Draper, valued at £63:12:8 (see Appendix).⁴⁸ George Draper owned 10 horses and 22 cattle, a branding iron, three bells and collars, four bridles, and two saddles. His farming implements included at least one plow iron (iron plow), plow gears and chains, a cart, two scythes, five sickles, and six hoes, at least three of which were weeding hoes. The presence of these items suggests that Draper had been growing crops. His building tools included three felling axes, maul rings (iron rings placed on a maul, or large wooden hammer, to prevent it from splitting), wedges, one froe, one crosscut saw, carpenter's tools, unidentified items of iron and steel, and nails. His weapons and accessories included two guns and a shot pouch. Textile tools consisted of one flax wheel (a spinning wheel used to spin flax, or linseed plant, into linen fabric), a pair of wool cards, scissors, one box-iron (a type of smoothing iron), and a washing tub. The Drapers' cooking utensils included two iron pots, an iron pot rack, two pair of pothooks, one frying pan, an iron skillet, three stone bottles, one glass bottle, one churn made of cedar wood, a pair of steelyards (or stilliards, a kind of portable balance used for measuring weight, the "steelyards" being used as weights on the scale), and two pails. Dishes and utensils included trenchers (wooden platters) and "other wooden ware," pewter, tin, and earthen wares, a little keg, knives and at least one fork. Household furnishings were apparently meager, with only a bed and bedding listed. Wearing apparel included two hats, three worsted (wool) caps, and a leather coat. Draper also owned shoemaker's tools. Miscellaneous and more personal items included books, two looking glasses (probably small mirrors), a hair sifter (a kind of sifter, or sieve, used in cow milking to prevent hairs from falling in the milk), a candlestick, and three bags.

This inventory provides a very important glimpse into how George Draper and his family were living by the late 1740s at Draper's Meadows.⁴⁹

Eleanor Draper, Widow

There is no evidence that Eleanor Draper remarried after the death of her husband. Between May 1749 and her own death in 1755, she appears to have remained a widow at Draper's Meadows, possibly living with her son John at the cabin George had built. Only a few records survive of

Eleanor after May 1749. One set of records from a case filed in Augusta County Courthouse should be mentioned here because of its relevance to events that had occurred before George died.

The lawsuit, *John Baird (Beard) vs. Eleanor Draper, Administratrix* of George Draper, lasted from August 1749 until May 1750.⁵⁰ As described in a document in the case file written by John Harvie, acting as John Baird's attorney, George Draper, having died intestate, had been indebted to Baird in the sum of £6:3:11 since 17 September 1745, which sum by 1749 had reached £12:7:10. Baird complained that Eleanor refused to pay him the money George had owed, and thereupon, he brought suit against her. He showed the court George Draper's promissory note written in 1745, which reads as follows:

I do promise to paye or caus to be paid to John Beard of Brumsek [Brunswick?] county the Just and full sum of Six pound three shilens [shillings] & Eleven penc [pence] Courant and laawfull money of Virgina to be paid at or befur the twenty sixth Day of Desember nixt Enshuing for velo [value] Ric'd [Received] of him to the which payment well and truly to be maid I do bind my self my Ears [Heirs] Exts [Executors] Administrators or asings [assignees] in the penel [penal] sum of twelve pound seven shilens and ten pence in witness wherof I her [sic] herunto set my Heand and seal this 17th Day of Subtember [September] anadomeney [Anno Domini] one thousand seven hundrd and fourty five[.]

Geo. Draper

Two other names appear beside and to the left of Draper's: "John Thomson" and "Essabel [Isabel] Beard." However, the document was written by someone other than George Draper, for the handwriting, even in the signature, does not match that of other documents Draper is known to have written. This was not unusual since promissory notes were often written by someone other than the debtor.

The only other document in this case file is a writ issued by the county court on 25 May 1749 commanding the sheriff, William Lusk, to take Eleanor Draper into custody. Lusk was to bring her before the court on the fourth Tuesday in August 1749 to answer John Baird's plea of debt. Robert Breckinridge, Lusk's deputy, noted on the back of the writ that he had executed the order by 21 June (1749). Nothing more is known except that a judgment was confessed in May 1750, meaning only that she did not appear so the court took this as her confession that Baird's claim was valid.

Nothing is definitely known of John Baird. He may have been the “John Beard” who received two patents for lands on Cub Creek and the Falling River in January 1748/49 in what was by then Lunenburg County (formed from Brunswick), on the headwaters of Cub Creek and Falling Run. These lands later became part of Bedford County and finally Campbell County.⁵¹

A final document of interest relating to the period immediately following George Draper’s death is Colonel John Buchanan’s debit account against George Draper, deceased. Buchanan wrote the account in May 1754 but dated the debts incurred to 9 December 1748. He titled it “George Draper Deceast his Estate to John Buchanan[,] administrator on ye Estate of Phillip Smith.” Buchanan wanted to collect what George had owed Phillip Smith, since Buchanan was Smith’s administrator.⁵² The two items to which George Draper was indebted were one crosscut saw and old rags, the latter “Bought By Elenor draper.” Buchanan also included debts owed him on interest to these items “from the Ninth of Decbr 1749 till 22 April 1752” and the “Intrest on Nine shills. & six penc 3/4 [nine shillings, six pence, and three farthings] seventeen moneths.” The contrary credit of the account was cash Buchanan had received from William Ingles on 22 April 1752. The balance due “in favour of John Buchanan” was £0:10:7:½.⁵³

George and Eleanor Draper’s Cabin Site at Draper’s Meadows

As noted previously, George Draper entered 500 acres with James Patton and Company in March 1747/48. The 500-acre tract he selected may or may not have been within Patton’s 7,500-acre survey, although if it was within the 7,500 acres it seems likely that it would have included Draper’s homestead at Draper’s Meadows. However, there is no known record of the 500 acres ever being surveyed as a subdivision of Patton’s larger survey, even after the latter was patented. On 7 March 1747/48, George’s son, John, had 275 acres surveyed for him on Hazel Draft, a tributary of the New River in present-day Pulaski County, but there is no evidence that he ever lived there.⁵⁴ John presumably continued to live at Draper’s Meadows for several years after his father’s death, and he was probably still living there in February 1754 when James Patton sold to him 315 acres from the 7,500-acre patent.⁵⁵

John Draper’s 315 acres may have included the homestead his parents had built, so George and Eleanor’s cabin site might have been located somewhere within this acreage. On 24 May 1773, William Preston purchased the 315-acre tract, and it appears to have been within this tract that he built his mansion house.⁵⁶ Preston would probably have chosen to build at a location that had already been cleared and cultivated in recent

years and included a cabin or other standing structures near a spring. An ideal location might have been the old Draper cabin site.

According to John P. Hale's writings, "The Preston family residence [Smithfield] was not built upon the site of the original Ingles-Draper settlement and massacre, but a mile or so distant, nearly south."⁵⁷ However, in February 1754, James Patton had sold to William Ingles a tract of 255 acres adjoining John Draper's 315-acre tract on its northeastern boundary.⁵⁸ Adjoining both tracts was a 440-acre tract that John Draper and William Ingles had owned jointly in the 1750s.⁵⁹ William Preston later added this property, as well, to his Smithfield estate after it had been divided into two parts of 220 acres each. Preston's 1773 deed for the southern 220-acre tract mentions that it adjoined the tract where John Draper "formerly dwelt," apparently meaning Draper's 315 acres.⁶⁰ If Hale is correct, then the Draper cabin would have been within William Ingles' property (255 acres), which seems unlikely.

Although the locations of these and surrounding tracts, as well as who lived on them, will be explored further in Part II of this article, it appears possible that George and Eleanor Draper's cabin may actually have stood near the site of William Preston's Smithfield mansion.

Summary

This article has provided a comprehensive review of the George Draper family through the year 1749. The author has studied primary source documents and documented the information he has found about the family's experiences at Draper's Meadows. Part II will report additional information concerning the Draper family and the larger Draper's Meadows settlement through the year 1756.

Acknowledgments

I first wish to thank the Honorable John Davis, clerk of Augusta County Circuit Court, for allowing me full access to the court records, and I offer my special thanks to Vickie Arnold, deputy clerk of Augusta County Circuit Court, for her outstanding assistance to me during my visits to the courthouse. I thank Nancy Weaver and other members of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Interlibrary Loan staff. I thank the Library of Virginia Interlibrary Loan staff for their help, as well. I thank Jim Holmberg, curator of manuscripts at the Filson Historical Society, for his help in locating and sending me copies of manuscripts in the FHS collections. I thank Barbara Dickinson, archivist at the Handley Regional Library, for her help in locating and copying many primary source materials. I am very

grateful to Mary B. Kegley, Jim Glanville, and eight anonymous reviewers for their helpful suggestions for improving the manuscript. I finally wish to thank Deena Flinchum and Hugh Campbell for their continuing support.

Appendix

The following is a transcription of the inventory and appraisal of George Draper's estate dated 4 August 1749 (Augusta County Will Book 1: 247-248, ACCH). In the original document, the clerk (James Porteous) used short, double slash marks (similar to quotation marks), as well as dashes, to separate pounds, shillings, and pence. He also did not write zeros. For example, £1:10:0 would be written 1"10"- by Porteous. For easier readability, the author has omitted Porteous' double slash separator marks and inserted zeros, but otherwise transcribed the appraisal verbatim.

To 1 Sorrell Stallion	[£-s-d] 9-0-0
To 1 bay Mare and colt	7-0-0
To 1 black two year old Stallion	3-0-0
To 1 bay mare and colt	4-0-0
To 1 bay horse	2-10-0
To 1 rone [roan] Mare and a bay yearling	4-0-0
To 1 Two Year old black Mare	2-10-0
To 2 cows and calves	5-15-0
To 1 Steer	1-10-0
To 6 Yearling calves	3-0-0
To 4 Two Year olds	3-0-0
To 1 cow and calf	1-10-0
To 2 cows and calves	2-10-0
To 1 cow and a bell	1-10-0
To 1 cow and calf	0-15-0
To 1 cow and calf	1-0-0
To 1 cow and calf	1-2-0
To 2 old Gunns [guns]	0-15-0
To carpenters Tools	0-10-0
To Shoemakers Tools	0-2-0
To 1 brand Iron	0-1-6
To 2 pr of Iron plow Chains	0-7-0
To 2 bells and collars	0-4-0
To 3 old bridles	0-1-0
To 1 sadle	0-10-0
To a box Iron [box-iron][,] Shot pouch and other things	0-4-0
To an Iron pottracks & an old frying pann	0-4-0
To one crosscut saw	0-4-0

To 2 old siths [scythes]	0-2-0
To 3 old weeding hoes	0-1-0
To 3 More old howes [hoes]	0-3-0
To 3 old falling axes	0-6-0
To Maul Rings, Wedges & frow [froe]	0-4-0
To Iron and Steel	0-2-4
To 2 Small looking glasses	0-1-6
To 3 old sickles	0-1-0
To books	0-5-0
To 1 hatt and 3 woostred [worsted] capps	0-4-0
To 2 Stone bottles & one Glass bottle	0-1-6
To an old Iron Skillet & an old Candle Stick	0-1-0
To a flax wheel	0-3-0
To nails	0-4-0
To a pr of wool cards	0-0-6
To 2 Iron potts	0-10-0
To 2 pr of pothooks	0-1-0
To one cedar churn & two pails	0-3-0
To trenchers & other wooden ware	0-3-0
To a washing Tubb	0-0-6
To pewter[,] Tin & earthen ware	0-18-0
To bed and bedding	1-0-0
To 3 old baggs	0-3-0
To a little old cagg [keg]	0-4-0
To 1 hair sifter	0-0-6
To Knifes[,] Sissors [scissors] & fork	0-1-6
To old plow Irons and Geers	0-3-6
To a cart	0-10-0
To an old Sadle & bridle	0-5-0
To an old hatt & Leather Coat	<u>0-15-1</u>
	[£]63-12-8

At a court held for Augusta County the 22d day of May 1750 This Inventory and Appraisment of the Estate of George Draper being returned into court is admitted to record.

Endnotes

Abbreviations and symbols:

ACCH = Augusta County Courthouse, Staunton, Virginia
DM = Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collection (Draper Manuscripts), State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Microfilmed by the Department of Photographic Reproduction, University of Chicago Library
FCCH = Frederick County Courthouse, Winchester, Virginia
FHS = Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky
LC = Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LVA = Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia
MCCC = Montgomery County Courthouse, Christiansburg, Virginia
OCCH = Orange County Courthouse, Orange, Virginia
QQ = Series QQ, Draper Manuscripts, Preston Papers. Citations include the series between volume and page number (i.e. 1QQ38).
PP-DM = Preston Papers, Draper Manuscripts, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
PP-VHS = Papers of the Preston Family of Virginia (Preston Family Papers), 1727–1896, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia. Microfilmed by the Library of Congress
VHS = Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia

1. The best general accounts of the George Draper family are in: Mary B. Kegley and Frederick B. Kegley, *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters: The New River of Virginia in Pioneer Days 1745–1800*, vol. 1 (Orange, Va.: Green Publishers, Inc., 1980), 212–13, and Patricia G. Johnson, *James Patton and the Appalachian Colonists* (Pulaski, Va.: Edmonds Printing Inc., 2nd ed., 1983, first printed 1973), 94–95. Mary Draper Ingles has been the subject of many books and articles through the years. The best accounts of her life include: Roberta I. Steel and Andrew I. Steele, eds., *Escape from Indian Captivity: The Story of Mary Draper Ingles and son Thomas Ingles as told by John Ingles Sr.* (Radford, Va.: Roberta Ingles Steel and Andrew Ingles Steele, 2nd ed. 1982, first printed 1969); Patricia G. Johnson, *James Patton*, 201–208; Ellen A. Brown, “Portrait of a Survivor: The Long and Eventful Life of Mary Draper Ingles,” *Smithfield Review* 8 (2004), 55–69; Marion C. Harrison, “The Charmed Life of Mary Ingles,” *Virginia Cavalcade* 10 (1960), 34–41; Letitia P. Floyd, “Recollections of 18th Century Frontier Life by Letitia Preston Floyd. Introduction by Wirt H. Wills, Transcription by June Stubbs,” *Smithfield Review* 1 (1997), 3–16.
2. Patricia G. Johnson, *William Preston and the Allegheny Patriots* (Blacksburg, Va.: Walpa Publishing, 1976), 108–134; Kegley and Kelgey, *Early Adventurers*, 1: 245, 247, 249; Richard Osborn, “William Preston in the American Revolution,” *Journal of Backcountry Studies* 3 (2008), 1–97, see especially pages 69–70.
3. Governor Robert Dinwiddie wrote two letters on 8 September 1756 in which he described having ordered that a stockade fort be built at “Draper’s Meadow.” These are the earliest surviving records of the locale being called Draper’s Meadow(s): Robert Dinwiddie to Colonel Clement Read, 8 September 1756 and Dinwiddie to Captain [Peter] Hogg, 8 September 1756, Brock, R. A., ed., *The Official Records of Robert Dinwiddie, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Virginia, 1751–1758, Now First Printed from the Manuscript in the Collections of the Virginia Historical Society*, vol. 2 (Richmond, Va.: Virginia Historical Society), 502–505.
4. Some of the early references to Draper’s Meadows are as follows: Fincastle County Court ordered on 7 September 1773 that William Preston et al. view and make a report on the “conveniency and ill conveniency” of the road which in one section passed through “the Glades by Draper’s Meadows.” Fincastle (Montgomery) County Order Book 1: 107, MCCH, LVA microfilm reel 20. (Note that Montgomery County was formed from Fincastle County in 1775 and that all Fincastle County court records are today located in Montgomery County Courthouse.) The report on the road was submitted to the court on 2 November 1773 and again mentioned “the Glades

- near Drapers Meadows.” Fincastle (Montgomery) County Order Book 1: 144, MCCH, LVA microfilm reel 20. On 4 January 1774, Thomas Lewis wrote a letter to William Preston in which he said Preston would find the decisions made by the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg to be “as various as you will [find] the weather at Drapers meadows in April.” Thomas Lewis to William Preston, 4 January 1774, PP-VHS, Folder 780, LC microfilm reel 4. Michael Woods wrote a letter on 5 July 1774 addressed to William Preston “Living in fincastle County on Dreapers Medows.” Michael Woods to William Preston, 5 July 1774, Preston Papers, PP-DM, 3QQ56. During the Revolutionary War, Governor Patrick Henry wrote to Preston in May 1778 authorizing him to station a sergeant and twelve men “at your House at Drapers Meadow.” Patrick Henry to William Preston, 12 May 1778, PP-DM, 4QQ168. In 1782, Dr. Thomas Walker wrote to Preston and addressed his letter to “Colo. William Preston at Drapers Meadows.” Thomas Walker to William Preston, 21 August 1782, PP-DM, 5QQ109. Finally, on 29 November 1785, Montgomery County Court ordered that John Preston (son of William) “be appointed overseer of the Highway from Drapers Glades to hands [Hans] Meadows [now the town of Christiansburg].” Montgomery County Order Book 1: 277, MCCH, LVA microfilm reel 20.
5. Osborn, “William Preston in the American Revolution,” 69–70.
 6. Virginia State Land Office, Patents 32: 178–81, LVA microfilm reel 30. See also Kegley and Kegley, *Early Adventurers*, 1: 174–78.
 7. Charles H. Enicks, a biographical sketch of J. P. Hale reprinted in “Publishers Preface to the Second Edition,” iii–viii, in John P. Hale, *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers: Historical Sketches of the First White Settlements West of the Alleghenies 1748 and After* (Charleston, W. Va.: The Kanawha Valley Publishing Co., 2nd ed., 1931). The sketch is said to have come originally from Laidley’s *History of Kanawha County*.
 8. John P. Hale, *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers: Historical Sketches of the First White Settlements West of the Alleghenies 1748 and After* (Cincinnati, O.: The Graphic Press, 1886), 13.
 9. Journal of Council, 29 October 1745, CO 5/1415, LVA microfilm reel 16; Wilmer L. Hall, ed., *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, vol. 5 (Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Library, 1945), 190–91; Augusta County Order Book 1: 1, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62. Augusta County had been formed in November 1738 from Orange County. See: William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia*, vol. 5 (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1969; reprint of 1819–1823 edition), 78–80.
 10. James Wood, Gentleman, Sworn Surveyor of Orange County, 1 January 1734, Orange County Order Book 1: 2, OCCH, LVA microfilm reel 30; George Hume, Sworn deputy surveyor of Orange County, 22 November 1739, Orange County Order Book 2: 84–85, LVA microfilm reel 30.
 11. Index to Orange County Survey Book, Surveys c. 1735–c. 1740, James Wood Sr., James Wood Family Papers, Stewart Bell Jr., Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, Winchester, Virginia, 173 WFCHS, Box 2.
 12. “List of all the Musterabels in August[a] County,” Capt. George Robinson’s List, Undated, PP-DM, 1QQ17; Joseph A. Waddell, “Militia Companies in Augusta County, in 1742,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 8 (1901), 278–283. Waddell notes that “The date is not given in the manuscript, but I ascertain it from the fact that John McDowel, one of the captains, was commissioned in the summer of 1742, and was killed by Indians in December following. The roll must, therefore, have been made in the late summer or fall of that year.” Waddell is probably correct, for John McDowell was sworn a captain in the Orange County militia on 26 August 1742: Orange County Order Book 3: 197, OCCH, LVA microfilm reel 31. He was killed on 19 December 1742: See, for example, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 31 March 1743, No. 746, and Johnson, *James Patton*, 37–47. The men in George Robinson’s company lived on tributaries of the James and Roanoke rivers, in what are now parts of Botetourt and Roanoke counties, and were thus the “vanguard of the western migration at that period” as described by Frederick B. Kegley, *Kegley’s Virginia Frontier: The Beginning of the Southwest; The Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740–1783* (Roanoke, Va.: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1938) 90–91.

13. Augusta County Chancery Cause, LVA Index No. 1765-003, *Margaret Looney vs. Robert Looney and John Bowyer*, File 409, ACCH.
14. Patent of 180 acres to "Daniel Luney" 20 August 1748, Virginia State Land Office, Patents 26: 535-36, LVA microfilm reel 24; Augusta County Chancery Cause, LVA Index No. 1765-003, *Margaret Looney vs. Robert Looney and John Bowyer*, File 409, ACCH; Madge L. Crane and Phillip L. Crane, *Most Distinguished Characters on the American Frontier: Robert Looney (b. 1692-1702 d. 1770) of Augusta (now Botetourt) County, Virginia and Some of His Descendants With Histories of the Great Road, Looney's Ferry, Crow's Ferry, Anderson's Ferry, Boyd's Ferry and Beale's Bridge*, vol. 1 (Apollo, Pa.: Closson Press, 1998), 103-117, 218-226, 320-323, 346. See especially pages 113-14, which include detailed maps of George Draper's Place prepared by the Cranes from the original survey records, thereby definitively identifying the tract's location on Long Run, which was a tributary of Looney's Mill Creek on the south side of the James River.
15. Patricia G. Johnson, "Cherry Tree Bottom, Crossroads of the Centuries," *Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society* 9 (1973), 63-72; Johnson, *James Patton*, 60-61; Will of James Patton, 1 September 1750, PP-DM, 1QQ63-66, Microfilm reel 110; Will of James Patton, Proved 26 November 1755, Augusta County Will Book 2: 131-34. Harry Fulwiler, *Buchanan, Virginia: Gateway to the Southwest* (Radford, Va.: Commonwealth Press, 1980).
16. George Hume Survey Book, 1740-1741, PP-VHS, Folder 9, LC microfilm reel 2. Hume's survey book is unsigned, but the present author has made a careful study of Hume's handwriting in numerous Orange County Court documents which Hume did sign. The handwriting in the survey book matches that found on the court documents. Many of Hume's surveys were also recorded by James Wood in the Frederick County Survey Book 1736-1758, FCCH, LVA microfilm reel 116, and in a list of "Surveys made in Orange County between June 1740 and June 1741"; Orange County Miscellaneous Papers, 1724-1874, OCCH, LVA microfilm reel 565. While it is possible that Hume surveyed George Draper's land in 1740, since he certainly surveyed in the vicinity of it, there still appears to be no record of the survey in any of these three sources, so Draper's survey remains a mystery.
17. Orange County Order Book 4: 115, LVA microfilm reel 31.
18. PP-DM, 1QQ9, LC microfilm reel 2.
19. Orange County Court Case, Judgment May 1744, *John Graham, assignee of Daniel Graham vs. George Draper*, including one directive dated September 1743, two undated petitions, and one promissory note dated 2 November 1738, OCCH, LVA microfilm reel 91, Judgments, January 1744-May 1744 (A-K). The author has determined that the petitions and summons were written by deputy clerk James Porteous for the principal clerk Jonathan Gibson, based on his handwriting. George Draper wrote the promissory note. Unfortunately, the ink on Draper's note is badly faded, making several words difficult or impossible to decipher.
20. According to the Julian Calendar used by the English until 1752, the new year began on 25 March, not 1 January. Therefore, the ninth month of the year was November. See also endnote 25 below.
21. Richard Yarborough was appointed a constable of Orange County on 25 March 1742. Orange County Order Book 3: 113, OCCH, LVA microfilm reel 31.
22. The name's spelling may be "fargus," which could be Fergus or some variation thereof.
23. Journal of Council, 26 April 1745, CO 5/1415, LVA microfilm reel 16, VCRP; Hall, *Executive Journals of the Council*, 172-173. For a history of Patton's grant and the New River Company see: Johnson, *James Patton*, 67-80, and Kegley and Kegley, *Early Adventurers*, 1:8-9. The present author has undertaken an extensive study of the New River Company, alias Wood's River Company or James Patton & Company, surveys (c. 1746-1753) and will include a thorough, updated analysis of the company's activities and its surveyors in his forthcoming biography of Colonel John Buchanan.
24. Colonel John Buchanan's "Memorandum Book 1745: Memorandams Relating Sundry passages With Respect to my Journey To wood's River comencing ye 4 octobr 1745," 4-29 October 1745, PP-DM, 1QQ38-48, Microfilm reel 110; Wood's River Land Entry Book 1745-1781, Preston Family Papers, 1658-1896, Davie Collection, Folder 52, Mss A P937d, FHS.

25. Colonel John Buchanan, Memorandum Book 1745–1747, PP-VHS, Folder 34, LC microfilm reel 2. Note that the English dating system before 1752 was based on the Julian rather than the Gregorian Calendar. The beginning of the year was 25 March, known as Lady Day, so January, February, and March (to the 25th) were the last three months of the year. The colonists usually wrote dates during these months to distinguish between their English dating system (Julian, Old Style) versus that already being used in Continental Europe (Gregorian, New Style). The date February 1745/46, for example, would have been written 1746 in Europe at the time, because 1 January was the start of the new year according to the Gregorian Calendar. Here Buchanan did not double date the year, but it is presumed to be 1745/46. See also footnote 20 above.
26. Colonel John Buchanan, Memorandum of February 1746, PP-DM 1QQ52, Microfilm reel 110.
27. Augusta County Order Book 1: 130, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62; Patricia G. Johnson *Kentland at Whitethorne: Virginia Tech's Agricultural Farm and Families That Owned It: Harmans, Buchanans, Triggs, Cloyds, Kents, Cowans, Bells, Adams* (Blacksburg, Va.: Walpa Publishing, 1995); John Kern, "Kentland Farm, A New River Plantation," *Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society* 13 (1996), 45–52.
28. Augusta County Order Book 1: 198, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62; Turk McCleskey, "The Price of Conformity: Class, Ethnicity, and Local Authority on the Colonial Virginia Frontier," in Michael J. Puglisi, ed., *Diversity and Accommodation: Essays on the Cultural Composition of the Virginia Frontier* (Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1997), 213–226.
29. Augusta County Court Case, Judgment August 1749, *George Draper vs. James Conly*, Account of George Draper against James Conly dated 18 August 1747, File 387, ACCH.
30. A good biography of Jones is: Stuart E. Brown Jr., Eileen M. Chappel and Lorraine F. Myers, *Gabriel Jones (1724–1806) and Some of His Descendants* (Berryville, Va.: Virginia Book Company, 1990).
31. Colonel Buchanan stayed at John Mills' cabin in October 1745 after he had left the New River settlement and was traveling back eastward. He noted that he reached Mills' place the day after he had camped on the head of the North Fork of the Roanoke River, which indicates Mills was probably living either on a tributary of the Roanoke River or more likely a southern tributary of the James River in present-day southern Botetourt County (not far from the Looney settlement and the old George Draper Place). Colonel John Buchanan's "Memorandum Book 1745: Memorandams Relating Sundrey passages With Respect to my Journey To wood's River comencing ye 4 octobr 1745," 4–29 October 1745, PP-DM, 1QQ38–48, Microfilm reel 110.
32. Kegley, *Virginia Frontier*, 165; Crane and Crane, *Most Distinguished Characters*, 1: 107, 123.
33. Augusta County Order Book 1: 282, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62.
34. Augusta County Order Book 2: 100, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62.
35. John Brahm was sworn under-sheriff on 19 March 1746/47 on the motion of Henry Downs, Sheriff: August County Order Book 1: 173, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62.
36. Harvie wrote 1 July in the "xxi" reign of King George II. The king began his reign in June 1727: Andrew C. Thompson, *George II: King and Elector* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press), 68.
37. Augusta County Order Book 2: 370–371, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62; *Virginia Gazette*, 10 January 1752, No. 54.
38. Augusta County Surveyors' Record 1: 37a, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 107.
39. Wood's River Land Entry Book 1745–1781, Preston Family Papers, 1658–1896, Davie Collection, Folder 52, Mss A P937d, FHS. The present author has identified the handwriting as that of William Preston.
40. Kegley, *Virginia Frontier*, 117.
41. Wood's River Land Entry Book 1745–1781, Preston Family Papers, 1658–1896, Davie Collection, Folder 52, Mss A P937d, FHS. It is unclear whether "drapers survey" refers to (1) the 500-acre tract Draper entered in March 1747/48; (2) another survey whose record has been lost; or (3) the larger 7,500-acre survey, "at a place called Drapers," run out in October 1747. Draper's entry for 500 acres "on Toms Creek," which may or may not have been within Patton's 7,500-acre survey/

patent, leaves open the possibility that he and his family actually lived somewhere on the waters of Tom's Creek—not Strouble's Creek. This possibility cannot entirely be ruled out because no record has yet come to light of a survey for George Draper on the waters of Strouble's Creek. And it seems odd that apparently no early entry was made for George Draper on Strouble's Creek, as might be expected. However, the balance of available documentary evidence, all of which is presented in this article, suggests that the Drapers did, in fact, live on the headwaters of Strouble's Creek, on land called Draper's Meadows that is known to have later formed the central part of Smithfield Plantation. Therefore, until further evidence becomes available, the author considers George Draper's entry for 500 acres on Tom's Creek to mean that Draper had either chosen a parcel of land (including his homestead) that he wished to have surveyed out of Patton's 7,500-acre patent, or that he had chosen additional acreage on Tom's Creek immediately west of his settlement on Strouble's Creek: It was common practice at the time for settlers to make entries for tracts of land near or sometimes some distance from their home tract. It is also possible that this entry, although describing the 500-acre tract's location as lying on Tom's Creek, might have included land on the waters of both Tom's and Strouble's creeks, considering the proximity of the creeks and the vagueness of many eighteenth-century land parcel descriptions. However, if it included land only on Tom's Creek, there is simply no way to determine at the present time whether this land was or was not within Patton's 7,500 acres. If the 500 acres were near Lorton's land on Tom's Creek, which was close to the mouth of Tom's Creek and outside of Patton's 7,500 acres, then this tract might well have been outside the 7,500 acres, as well, and thus would probably not have included the site of George Draper's settlement.

42. Wood's River Land Entry Book 1745–1781, Preston Family Papers, 1658–1896, Davie Collection, Folder 52, Mss A P937d, FHS; Augusta County Chancery Cause, LVA Index No. 1752–003, *Michael and Augustine Price vs. Israel Lorton and James Patton*, File 392, ACCH. The author is preparing a detailed study of Israel Lorton's lands based on these records. For a biographical sketch of Lorton, see Kegley and Kegley, *Early Adventurers*, 1:236–238.
43. Augusta County Chancery Cause, LVA Index No. 1752—003, *Michael and Augustine Price vs. Israel Lorton and James Patton*, File 392, ACCH.
44. Hale, *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers*, 14.
45. Augusta County Will Book 1: 127–128, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 41.
46. William Ingles married George and Eleanor Draper's daughter, Mary—it is said during 1750: Hale, *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers*, 27. In 1749, William Ingles is believed to have been living on his 25-acre tract of land on “Inghish Mill Creek” a tributary of the North Fork of the Roanoke River, about three miles southeast of Draper's Meadows. The tract had been surveyed for him on 9 April 1748: Augusta County Surveyors' Record 1: 29b, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 107. See also Kegley and Kegley, *Early Adventurers*, 1: 352–359.
47. Augusta County Order Book 1: 104, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62.
48. Augusta County Will Book 1: 247–248, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 41.
49. For an excellent analysis of George Draper's goods and chattels in the context of other settlers' appraisals from the New River settlement during this period, see Mary B. Kegley, “Pioneer Possessions, A Study of Wills and Appraisals of Southwest Virginia 1745-1786” (M.A. thesis, Radford University, 1975).
50. Augusta County Court Case, Judgment May 1750, *John Baird vs. Eleanor Draper, Administratrix*, File 388, ACCH.
51. Virginia State Land Office, Patents 28: 474–475, 477–478, 478–479, LVA microfilm reel 26.
52. Augusta County Court ordered Colonel Buchanan to administer Phillip Smith's estate on 21 August 1747: Augusta County Order Book 1: 261, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 62.
53. PP-VHS, Folder 132, LC microfilm reel 2.
54. Augusta County Surveyors' Record 1: 33b, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 107. John Draper sold this tract of land to John Die in 1754: Augusta County Deed Book 6: 116–117, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 4.

55. For a biographical sketch of John Draper, see Mary B. Kegley, *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters: The New River of Virginia in Pioneer Days 1745–1800*, vol. 2 (Wytheville, Va.: Kegley Books, 2003), 379–382. Kegley notes that John’s 315 acres at Draper’s Meadows were “probably where his parents had been earlier established” (379).
56. Fincastle (Montgomery) County Deed Book (A): 43-45, MCCH, LVA microfilm reel 1; Kegley and Kegley, *Early Adventurers*, 1: 247; Sara Beth Keough and Blaine Adams, “Smithfield Plantation: The Original Land Parcels,” *Smithfield Review* 6 (2002), 71–73; Johnson, *William Preston*, 108.
57. Hale, *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers*, 100.
58. Augusta County Deed Book 6: 31–33, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 4.
59. Augusta County Deed Book 6: 37–39, ACCH, LVA microfilm reel 4.
60. Fincastle (Montgomery) County Deed Book (A): 43–45 (see especially p. 44), MCCH, LVA microfilm 1.