

The Central Role of William Preston and Other Smithfield Region Leaders in the Opening Up of Kentucky

Meredith Mason Brown

Editor's Note: Meredith Mason Brown is the author of *Frontiersman: Daniel Boone and the Making of America* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008).

It is not possible to study Daniel Boone and his contributions to the making of America without becoming acutely aware of the central role played by leaders of the Smithfield region in the opening of Kentucky between the 1740s and the 1780s. That central role resulted from the region's location and from the strengths of its leaders, in particular James Patton, his nephew William Preston, and John Floyd.

Smithfield Plantation lies in what now is Blacksburg, Virginia. It is about one mile west of the Appalachian Ridge, where waters start to run, not to the Atlantic but ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi — to the Ohio by way of the New and the Kanawha and to the Tennessee by way of the Holston and the Clinch. In other words, the Smithfield region is beyond the line of permitted settlements established by the British government in the Royal Proclamation of 1763, at the close of the French and Indian War. That proclamation sought to limit western settlements in Indian lands to reduce the risk of military expenditures of the sort that had badly strained Britain's finances during that war and its European counterpart, known as the Seven Years' War. But settlers had started to arrive in this region before there was a Proclamation of 1763 — and settlers in the region, including such men as William Preston, never paid much attention to the Proclamation, anyway.

The region is also on a natural route, parallel to the Clinch and Holston rivers, that leads to the southwest, between mountain ridges, into northeast Tennessee and to the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. The planners of the present Interstate 81 evidently saw the logic of following the route, as did the early settlers of the Smithfield region.

A third natural feature of the region is the presence of lead ore. In the 1750s, lead mines were developed near what is now Austinville, in Wythe County. These mines became an important source of lead for settlers — of vital importance in the Revolutionary War — and continued in production until the early 1980s.

Colonel James Patton Arrives

In the 1740s, the region attracted James Patton, a trader and ship captain who immigrated from northern Ireland and became the leading land speculator in western Virginia.¹ Patton in 1742 and 1743 sent out exploring parties to the New River and two rivers to the west, probably the Holston and the Clinch.² In 1745 Patton and his associates were granted 100,000 acres in western Virginia, on the condition that they settle one family on each 1,000 acres.³ In 1752 Patton was one of the commissioners who negotiated the Treaty of Logstown with the Iroquois, Delawares, Shawnees and Wyandots, in which Virginia asserted claims to lands south of the Ohio River. By 1755 Patton owned 17,007 acres in his own name, and was a colonel in the militia, a leading negotiator with the Indians, the lieutenant of Augusta County, president of the Augusta Court, county coroner, county escheator and county customs collector, and burgess from Augusta County in the Virginia Assembly.⁴ In short, Patton was the dominant political figure in Augusta County and a central figure in the British expansion to the west, into lands claimed by Indians. The British westward expansion also conflicted with French efforts to expand into the Ohio Valley, to gain control of the fur trade, and to forestall the possibility that British western settlement would sever trade between French Canada and French Louisiana.

Figure 1. A principal migration route into Kentucky in the late 1700s. (Map by Mary Lee Eggart based on material published in Mary B. Kegley, *Finding Their Way from the Great Road to the Wilderness Road 1745–1796* [Sheridan Books, Inc., 2008].)

There was bound to be a clash between the British settlers and the French and Indians. In 1754 the French had erected Fort Duquesne at the site of what is now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and had forced George Washington and his Virginia militia to surrender Fort Necessity in western Pennsylvania. In February 1755 the British, determined to drive the French from the Ohio Valley, sent two regiments of regulars to America under Major General Edward Braddock. Their mission was to capture a number of French forts, starting with Fort Duquesne and going on to Frontenac in Canada. Daniel Boone, then only 20 years old, was part of Braddock's expedition — not as a soldier but as a teamster, driving a wagon. Braddock's army of British regulars and American militia was cut to pieces by French soldiers and their Indian allies on July 9, 1755, in what is generally known as Braddock's Defeat.

Within days of Braddock's defeat, Shawnees killed Col. Patton and killed or captured several other settlers at Draper's Meadows, which is now part of Blacksburg and the Virginia Tech campus.⁵ In light of Patton's prominence in exploring and developing western land, killing him was a good way for the Shawnees to seek to stop the westward push of British settlers into the Ohio Valley. Patton may have also distinguished himself to the Indians by the inept manner in which he had spoken in the preliminaries to the Logstown treaty meeting; the Indians there interpreted his request for a council as a threat, and were "greatly affronted."⁶ It is also possible that the French had put a bounty on Patton's scalp, as they did on the scalps of some other frontier leaders.⁷ In the Draper's Meadows attack, the Shawnees just missed killing Patton's nephew, William Preston, then 24 years old, who had been Patton's secretary and clerk at the Logstown treaty talks and who was to succeed Patton as a leading official and land speculator in western Virginia.

Early on the day of the Indian attack, Patton had sent Preston to a neighbor to seek help in harvesting. When Preston returned, he found the bodies of Patton and other settlers. According to family tradition, near Patton's body were two Indians he had killed with his broadsword before he was shot to death.⁸ In February 1756, Preston, as a militia captain, commanded a company of rangers as part of an expedition that marched from the settlements in southwestern Virginia, in bitter weather, intending to attack the Shawnees in their

own villages north of the Ohio River. The Virginians made it as far as the mouth of the Big Sandy River on the Ohio (in what is now the northeast corner of Kentucky), but were so debilitated by cold and hunger that they turned back without striking a blow.⁹

William Preston Succeeds Patton

William Preston eventually took James Patton's place as the most powerful figure in western Virginia and in the westward expansion of its settlers. He also played an important role in the career of Daniel Boone. During Lord Dunmore's War in 1774, Preston filled in the name of Daniel Boone, as captain in the militia, in a printed blank commission that had been signed by Dunmore, Virginia's last colonial governor. Preston also put Boone in charge of all the defenses on the Clinch Valley. These were giant steps forward in Boone's career.

By 1774 Col. William Preston was not only a substantial landowner, but also had an accumulation of official positions and titles rivaling those James Patton had held. Preston was colonel of the county militia, sheriff of the county, justice of the peace, and county surveyor. Because of all these positions, "practically all public business passed through his hands."¹⁰ But for all his prominence at this point in his life, William Preston understood from his own early years how useful it could be to promote talented people of modest origin. Preston's father John Preston had been a ship's carpenter in Ireland who eloped with a sister of James Patton. Patton had brought Col. Preston's family to America and helped them settle on some of the land Patton had been granted. William Preston himself had very little formal education and had risen in the ranks of the Virginia militia and in county office in large part because of help from Patton, who had no son of his own.¹¹ These factors in his own background may have influenced Preston's decision to appoint Boone a captain in the Virginia militia.¹²

Preston undoubtedly was also influenced by something Boone had already done in what has become Kentucky. Boone had sought to save a group of surveyors under John Floyd from Indian attack. Preston, as the county surveyor of Fincastle County (which then included what became Kentucky), had sent the men out earlier in 1774 to make surveys along the Kanawha and in Kentucky.¹³ Floyd was close to Preston, having taught Preston's children and acted as his private sec-

retary when he was not yet 20, before Floyd became a deputy surveyor of Botetourt County. When Fincastle County was organized in 1772, with Preston as its secretary, Floyd became deputy sheriff of the county.¹⁴

During the 1774 trip, after surveying land on the Kanawha River in what is now West Virginia, Floyd's party continued further west to the Falls of the Ohio.¹⁵ Near the Falls, at what was to become Louisville, they laid out 30 tracts for such leading Virginians as William Preston, William Christian (colonel in the militia of Fincastle county, and brother-in-law of Patrick Henry), William Byrd III (militia colonel and member of one of Virginia's first families), and Martha Washington's nephew Alexander Spotswood Dandridge.¹⁶ Floyd also laid out two 1,000-acre tracts for himself near Beargrass Creek, not far from the Falls.¹⁷ Over a period of 10 days, Floyd and his men surveyed more than 40,000 acres in and near the future Louisville.¹⁸

Despite hearing rumors that war was likely between the Shawnees and the whites, the Fincastle surveyors continued laying out tracts. In June and July 1774 they moved east to the bluegrass region of central Kentucky, surveying land around what would become Frankfort and Lexington.¹⁹ These surveys included one tract of 1,000 acres for Floyd and one of the same size for Preston, both near what was to become Lexington, and tracts aggregating 7,000 acres for Patrick Henry.²⁰ The land entranced the surveyors. One entered in his journal for July 1: "All the land that we passed over today is like a Paradise it is so good & beautiful."²¹

As the Fincastle surveys progressed, it became more and more dangerous for whites to be in Kentucky. This danger was particularly intense after whites brutally killed the relatives of the Mingo chief Logan at Yellow Creek, and the Mingos retaliated with raids on white settlers. In early June 1774, Preston had received reports that "an Indian War is commenced, and the out Inhabitants are all Forting [or] fleeing in."²² On June 10, Lord Dunmore began mobilizing British troops and American militia to defend the settlements, and began planning to invade the Shawnee lands north of the Ohio River and to "destroy their Towns & magazines and distress them in every other way that is possible."²³ (It may not be coincidental that Dunmore was personally interested in British title to lands in Kentucky, having invested in a large tract of land there.²⁴) In early July, after Shawnees

killed two settlers near Harrodsburg, its residents abandoned the station and returned to the Clinch River settlements.²⁵

Daniel Boone Is Sent to Warn the Surveyors

The imminence of what came to be known as Lord Dunmore's War put the Fincastle surveyors at great risk of their lives. Not knowing whether or not the surveyors were already aware of that risk, on June 20, 1774, Preston authorized Capt. Russell to engage two "faithful woodmen" to find the Virginia surveyors in Kentucky and warn them. Russell chose Boone and his friend, the German-American frontiersman Michael Stoner, telling Preston that Boone and Stoner were "two of the best Hands I could think of" and that "by the assiduity of these Men, if it is not too late, I hope the Gentlemen [the surveyors] will be apprised of the eminent Danger they are Daily in." In a later letter, Russell wrote Preston that if the surveyors were still alive, "it is indisputable but that Boone must find them."²⁶ Russell's letters testify to the esteem in which Boone was already held on the frontier — but they also suggest a class distinction: Russell was the militia captain, the leader of a frontier station, the college graduate; to Russell, Boone was an able "hand."

The trip to find and warn the surveyors was dangerous. Stoner later remembered that whenever they stopped to eat or rest, he and Boone would sit back to back to avoid the possibility of Indians coming up from behind. They managed not to be attacked by Indians, but Stoner, at one point, had to be nimble to avoid being gored by a buffalo he had startled at a lick.²⁷ Boone and Stoner went all the way to where the Kentucky River joins the Ohio, and then followed the Ohio downstream to the Falls, only to find that Floyd's surveyors had already started back for the settlements. Boone and Stoner then turned back themselves.²⁸

Floyd's group made it back safely to a station on the Clinch on August 9, 1774, after an exhausting trip. They traveled 25–30 miles a day, not knowing the way, with only about 15 rounds of powder among them, and over mountains "so steep, that we were obliged to throw away all we had, except our Knit Leggins & Mockasons."²⁹ Another group of surveyors Preston had appointed were less fortunate. On July

27, Shawnees fired on them as they were paddling a dugout across the Kentucky River, and killed two of the surveyors.³⁰

Floyd, deeply grateful to Boone for his efforts to warn the surveyors, sought to engage Boone to lead a militia company in Lord Dunmore's expedition against the Shawnees, but Boone could not accept the offer because he had been placed in charge of the Clinch River settlements. Floyd wrote Preston in August 1774, "you know what Boone has done for me by your kind directions — for which reason I love the man."³¹ Floyd's warm regard for Boone may have contributed to Preston's decision to commission Boone as a captain in the militia.

Preston Moves to Smithfield

In effect, William Preston, with his official positions, his connections, and his formidable drive, was running western Virginia, including what is now Kentucky, as James Patton had done before him. He did so initially from his strongly built home, Greenfield, on his plantation in what is now Botetourt County — a plantation of 2,175 acres when Preston died in 1783. After 1773, however, Preston moved his headquarters to land he had bought in Draper's Meadows, which had belonged to Patton. There Preston built the fortified house he called Smithfield, in honor of his wife Susannah, whose maiden name was Smith.³² It took courage for Preston to stay at Smithfield, exposed as it was by its western location to the risk of Indian attack. Preston's brother-in-law the Rev. John Brown in May 1774 wrote Preston: "I can assure you that I am no ways satisfied with your situation; you lay too much in the way of the Indians."³³ But Preston remained at Smithfield. The location made it easier for him to coordinate exploration and surveying in Kentucky and to send support to the settlers in Kentucky. Moreover, if Preston had pulled back east, many other western settlers would likely have followed his example.

Many letters survive that were sent to or from Preston at Smithfield from 1774 to the time of his death in 1783. Several letters written on the eve of the Revolution discuss Lord Dunmore's March 1775 Proclamation. On instructions from the British Ministry of Trade, the Proclamation stated that all land in Kentucky was to be auctioned off to the highest bidder, rather than sold at established low prices. In

April 1775, Floyd told Preston that the Proclamation greatly irritated the western settlers. Preston, knowing the unpopularity of the Proclamation, sought guidance from the increasingly anti-British Virginia Convention, which advised the surveyors to pay no regard to the Proclamation.³⁴ Through Boone, Preston directed Floyd and the other Fincastle surveyors not to stretch a chain to survey any land under Dunmore's Proclamation.³⁵

Other correspondence between Floyd and Preston related to the grandiose claim of Richard Henderson and his Transylvania Company that the company had purchased from the Cherokees title to most of Kentucky and a chunk of Tennessee.³⁶ Virginia drove a stake into the heart of the Transylvania Company's pretensions in December 1776, by carving a new county out of Fincastle County. The new county, Kentucky County, included most of the land the company had claimed.³⁷

Kentucky Settlements Grow

Floyd continued to keep Preston fully posted on developments in Kentucky, among them the chaotic state of land title in Kentucky. In May 1776, he begged Preston to try to get the Virginia Convention to do something about it "or there'll be bloodshed soon."³⁸ In July 1776, he urged Preston to support an armed expedition by Virginia against the Indians threatening Kentucky.³⁹ In 1780, Floyd, who by then was one of the original trustees of Louisville as well as the head of the militia for Jefferson County, wrote Preston how quickly the settlers were coming down the Ohio River to the Louisville area.⁴⁰ In November 1782, Floyd, as part of George Rogers Clark's retaliatory expedition after the Battle of the Blue Licks, led battalions from Jefferson and Fayette counties in destroying Shawnee villages, reducing the Indian threat to Kentucky. In March 1783, after reporting that Indians had just killed his brother-in-law, Floyd wrote Preston: "I have long expected something like this to be my own lot, & if the war is continued much longer I can hardly escape, tho' I am now determined to be more cautious than I have been heretofore, yet every man in this country must be more or less exposed to danger."

Floyd ended his letter by saying that he did not expect to have the pleasure of seeing Preston again "till the War is ended, if ever I

should survive that time. But let me see you or not, or let me enjoy all the Blessing of peace or be involved in every calamity of war & distress, I shall ever remain your very affectionate Friend & Servt."⁴¹ Within days of his sending the letter, Floyd's forebodings came to pass. On April 8, 1783, he was fatally wounded by Indians as he was riding to a salt lick not far from Louisville.

During the Revolutionary War Preston was involved not only in Kentucky's settlement, but also in guarding western Virginia and its vitally important lead mines and gunpowder works against possible attacks by the numerous Tory sympathizers in Montgomery County. He also sought to keep Loyalists from taking up arms against the Continental troops and supporters of the Revolutionary cause. In 1780 he acted as chief justice in the trials of 55 Loyalists accused of treason. In addition, Preston organized militiamen to join the American fight against Banastre Tarleton's rangers in North Carolina. In March 1781, while fighting alongside his men against British troops, Preston was thrown from his horse in the skirmish at Weitzel's Mill, shortly before the Battle of Guilford Court House.⁴² By then, Preston was in his fifties. He had been in bad health and, in his daughter's words, was "large, inclined to corpulency." He survived Floyd by only two months, dying in June 1783 from a stroke he suffered while reviewing the Montgomery County militia about three miles from Smithfield.⁴³

William Preston's descendants, who included three governors of Virginia, played an important part in the governance of Virginia and the nation.⁴⁴ However, the pre-eminent role leaders from the Smithfield region had played in the development of the settlements in western Virginia, including what became Kentucky, diminished soon after Preston's death, in large part because of changes in Kentucky and its governance. A new generation of leaders — lawyers and large land investors, men such as William Preston's nephew John Brown, Harry Innes, and George Nichols — moved to Kentucky from Virginia and assumed important positions in Kentucky's government. In 1792 Kentucky separated from Virginia and became a state. These events, which lessened the Smithfield region's direct involvement in Kentucky's ongoing development, were natural consequences of the important contributions the Smithfield region had made, from the 1740s to the mid-1780s, to the initial development of Kentucky.

Endnotes

1. Patton was the uncle of William Preston, an ancestor of the author. Patton's family, who were Protestants, had come from Fifeshire in Scotland. Patricia Givens Johnson, *James Patton and the Appalachian Colonists* (Charlotte, N.C.: Jostens, 3d ed. 1983), pp. 4–5; hereafter Johnson, *James Patton*.
2. Ted Franklin Belue, ed., *Lyman C. Draper, The Life of Daniel Boone* (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1998), p. 47; hereafter *Draper*. Johnson, *James Patton*, pp. 67–8, 77 n.3 (citing letter from John Madison to James Patton, June 4, 1753, Draper Manuscript Collection, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, p. 1QQ 75; hereafter *DM*).
3. Johnson, *James Patton*, p. 68; Kenneth P. Bailey, *The Ohio Company of Virginia and the Westward Movement, 1748–1792: A Chapter in the History of the Colonial Frontier* (Spokane: Arthur H. Clark, 1939), p. 24. Patton had petitioned the Virginia government in 1743 for “200,000 acres of land on three branches of the Mississippi and the Waters thereof, on which I proposed to settle one family for each 1,000 acres.” The Virginia council awarded Patton 100,000 acres in April 1745. Patton to John Blair, January 1753, *DM*, p. 1QQ 75.
4. Johnson, *James Patton*, pp. 108, 183, 185; Robert D. Mitchell, *Commercialism and Frontier: Perspectives on the Early Shenandoah Valley* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1977), p. 82; Peter J. Sehlinger, *Kentucky's Last Cavalier: General William Preston, 1816–1887* (Lexington, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 2004), p. 2.
5. A relative of Patton gave the date of the attack as July 8 — the day before Braddock's defeat. Letitia Floyd to Benjamin Rush Floyd, Feb. 22, 1843, *The Richmond Standard*, June 5, 1880; hereafter Letitia Floyd to B. R. Floyd. Other accounts, closer in time to the event, gave the date of the attack as July 30 or July 31 (Johnson, *James Patton*, p. 207 n.16). For arguments as to the inaccuracy of the July 8 date, see Richard C. Osborn, “William Preston of Virginia, 1727–1783: The Making of a Frontier Elite” (Ph.D. diss., University of Maryland, 1990), pp. 396–7.
6. For Patton's inept preliminaries at Logstown, see Thomas Cresap to Conrad Weiser, Feb. 20, 1752, quoted in Johnson, *James Patton*, p. 127; Michael N. McConnell, *A Country Between: The Upper Ohio Valley and Its Peoples, 1724–1774* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992), p. 94.
7. Johnson, *James Patton*, pp. 203, 207 n.12 (bounties for scalps of George Croghan and James Lowry).
8. Letitia Floyd to B. R. Floyd, Feb. 22, 1843.
9. Matthew C. Ward, *Breaking the Backcountry: The Seven Years' War in Virginia and Pennsylvania, 1754–1765* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003), pp. 104–6; Robert L. Kincaid, *The Wilderness Road* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1947), p. 62; Preston's journal of the expedition, *DM*, pp. 1QQ 96–123.
10. Reuben Gold Thwaites and Louise Phelps Kellogg, eds., *Documentary History of Dunmore's War, 1774* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1905), p. xv; hereafter *DHDW*.

11. John Frederick Dorman, *The Prestons of Smithfield and Greenfield in Virginia* (Louisville, Ky.: The Filson Club, 1982), pp. 1–3, 14, hereafter Dorman, *The Prestons*; Johnson, *James Patton*, p. 81 (Patton in 1751 makes Preston his secretary, accountant, business assistant and surveyor), p. 197 (Patton makes Preston a captain). For Preston's career before and during the Revolution, see Patricia Givens Johnson, *William Preston and the Allegheny Patriots* (Blacksburg, Va.: Walpa Publishing, 1976; reprint 1992); hereafter Johnson, *William Preston*.
12. John Mack Faragher, *Daniel Boone: The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer* (New York: Henry Holt, 1992), p. 105; hereafter Faragher, *Daniel Boone*.
13. For an overview of the Fincastle surveyors, see Neal O. Hammon, "The Fincastle Surveyors at the Falls of the Ohio, 1774," *Filson Club Historical Quarterly*, vol. 47 (1973), p. 14; hereafter FCHQ; and "The Fincastle Surveyors in the Bluegrass, 1774," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, vol. 71 (Oct. 1973), p. 277; hereafter RKHS.
14. Years later Floyd's son John, who became governor of Virginia, married William Preston's daughter Letitia. Dorman, *The Prestons*, p. 68.
15. See letter of Alexander Spotswood Dandridge to Col. William Preston, May 15, 1774, DM, p. 3QQ 26 ("According to your instructions Mr Floyd Surveyed for Colo. Washington 2000 Acres of Land and Sent a platt of the Same in a letter to you. . .") and letter of Col. William Preston to Col. George Washington, Fincastle, May 27, 1774, DM, p. 15S 79 ("Agreeable to my promise, I directed Mr. Floyd, an assistant to survey your land on Cole river [Coal River, which flows into the Kanawha a few miles below Charleston], which he did."), printed in DHDW, pp. 22–4.
16. Sehlinger, *Kentucky's Last Cavalier*, p. 4.
17. Hammon, "Fincastle Surveyors at the Falls," pp. 19, 23.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 25.
19. Hammon, "Fincastle Surveyors in the Bluegrass," pp. 277–94.
20. *Ibid.*, pp. 283–6.
21. *Journal of Thomas Hanson*, DM, p. 14J 58–84, entry for July 1, 1774, printed in DHDW, p. 129.
22. Abraham Hite to Col. William Preston, Hampshire, June 3, 1774, DM, p. 3QQ 35, printed in DHDW, pp. 31–2.
23. See Lord Dunmore's circular letter to the county lieutenants, DM, p. 3QQ 39, Williamsburg, June 10, 1774, printed in DHDW, p. 33; for "destroy their Towns," Dunmore to Col. Andrew Lewis, DHDW, p. 86.
24. Barbara Rasmussen, "Anarchy and Enterprise on the Imperial Frontier: Washington, Dunmore, Logan, and Land in the Eighteenth Century Ohio Valley," *Ohio Valley History*, vol. 6, no. 4 (Winter 2006), p. 22 and n. 51.
25. Hammon, "Captain Harrod's Company, 1774: A Reappraisal," RKHS, vol. 72 (Oct. 1974), pp. 227–8.
26. Draper, pp. 306–7, quoting letters of June 26 and July 13 to William Preston, DM, pp. 3QQ 46, 3QQ 64. The letters are printed in DHDW, pp. 49–51, 88–91. The "best Hands" description is from the earlier letter.

27. Neal O. Hammon, ed., *My Father, Daniel Boone: The Draper Interviews with Nathan Boone* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1999), pp. 42–3.
28. Deposition of Daniel Boone in *Boofman Heirs v. James Hickman*, Circuit Court Records, Fayette County, *Fayette County Complete Book A*, pp. 604–42, quoted in Neal Hammon and Richard Taylor, *Virginia's Western War: 1775–1786* (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 2002), p. xxix.
29. Journal of Thomas Hanson for July 25 and July 28, 1774, printed in *DHDW*, p. 132.
30. Hammon, "Fincastle Surveyors in the Bluegrass," *RKHS*, p. 292.
31. Letter of August 28, 1774, *DM*, pp. 33S 254–6, reprinted in Neal Hammon and James Russell Harris, "'In a dangerous situation': Letters of Col. John Floyd, 1774–1783," *RKHS*, vol. 83 (1983), p. 209. *Draper*, pp. 277–78, 305–11; Faragher, *Daniel Boone*, pp. 100–2; *DHDW*, p. 168.
32. Dorman, *The Prestons*, p. 17.
33. Rev. John Brown to Col. William Preston, May 28, 1774, *DM*, p. 3QQ 29, reprinted in *DHDW*, p. 26.
34. Preston was advised that a resolution had been adopted that until receipt of a report from a committee appointed by the Convention to consider whether the King acted properly in increasing the terms for the sale of land, all surveyors "be & they hereby are Directed to make no Surveys under [Lord Dunmore's] Instructions, nor pay any regard to the Said proclamation." Thomas Lewis to Col. William Preston, Richmond, August 19, 1775, *DM*, p. 4QQ 29, printed in Reuben Gold Thwaites and Louise Phelps Kellogg, eds., *The Revolution on the Upper Ohio, 1775–1777* (Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society, 1908), p. 21.
35. John Floyd to William Preston, April 21, 1775; *Draper*, p. 385.
36. E.g., John Floyd to William Preston, May 1776, *DM*, pp. 33S 294–5.
37. George W. Ranck, *Boonesborough: Its Founding, Pioneer Struggles, Indian Experiences, Transylvania Days, and Revolutionary Annals* (Louisville: The Filson Club, 1901), p. 54; Otis K. Rice, *Frontier Kentucky* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1993), p. 84.
38. *DM* 33S296-97, reprinted in Michael A. Lofaro, *Daniel Boone: An American Life* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2003), p. 75.
39. Floyd to Preston, July 21, 1776, *DM*, p. 33S 300–3. Part of the letter is printed in Hambleton Tapp, "Colonel John Floyd, Kentucky Pioneer," *FCHQ* 15 (1941), p. 9 and in *Draper*, p. 423.
40. John Floyd to William Preston, May 5, 1780, *DM*, p. 17CC 125–48, reprinted in Hammon and Harris, "Letters of Floyd," *RKHS*, vol. 83, p. 234.
42. Richard Osborn, "William Preston — Revolutionary (1779–1780)," *The Smithfield Review*, vol. 12 (2008) pp. 5, 7–20. See also Johnson, *William Preston*, pp. 217–92.
43. Dorman, *The Prestons*, p. 21.
44. One son, one son-in-law, and two grandsons of William and Susanna Preston were governors of Virginia. Their son, James Patton Preston, was governor from 1816 to 1819. Two of their grandsons, James McDowell and John B. Floyd, were governors from 1843 to 1846 and from 1849 to 1852, respectively. Moreover,

William and Susanna Preston's daughter Letitia married Dr. John Floyd, who served as governor of Virginia from 1830 to 1834; Letitia and John were the parents of Governor John B. Floyd. Dorman, *The Prestons*, pp. 64, 69–70, 228, 290.