

FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

PROOF OF AUTHORSHIP

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

*Death date was July 16, 1836.

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