



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 098**

**Name:** Ingles, Mary (Draper)

**Dates:** (1732 - 1815)

**Colonial Society:** VA

**Date added to ROA:** 2-6-2024

**Service:** Woman of Distinction: American Pioneer & Early Settler of Western Virginia, 1755

**Authority:** Steele, Roberta Ingles & Andrew Lewis Ingles, ed., *Escape from Indian Captivity*, 2nd edition (Radford, VA: s.p., 1982), 7-22; Smith, Conway Howard, *The Land That Is Pulaski County* (Pulaski, VA: Pulaski County Library Board, 1980), 30-31.

### **Biography:**

Mary was born in 1732 in Philadelphia to George Draper and Elenor Hardin who had immigrated from County Donegal, Ireland in 1729. Mary's family moved to the western frontier of Virginia in the 1740s. They settled in Pattonsburg on the James River. By 1746 they had established the settlement of Draper's Meadow near present-day Blacksburg.

In 1750 Mary married fellow settler William Ingles, and together they had six children.

On July 30, 1755, during the French and Indian War, Draper's Meadow was attacked by Shawnee warriors. Several settlers were killed, including Mary's mother. Mary, along with her two young sons, were taken captive and transported to a Shawnee settlement near present-day Chillicothe, Ohio. During her captivity, Mary was separated from her sons. Her son Thomas was taken to Detroit and George to an unknown location where he soon died.

After months in captivity, Mary and another captive woman made a daring escape, embarking on a perilous journey of approximately 500 to 600 miles through the wilderness to return home. Their ordeal lasted over 40 days, during which they faced numerous hardships, including crossing multiple rivers and traversing rugged terrain.

After her return to Draper's Meadow, Mary and her family moved twice to avoid more attacks by the Indian tribes. They settled near Robert Ewing's Fort near Montvale in Bedford County. William and Mary became business owners establishing the Ingles Ferry across the New River as well as the Ingles Ferry Hill Tavern and blacksmith shop.

Mary died at their home in 1815 at the age of 83.



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Mary's resilience and determination have cemented her legacy as a symbol of frontier courage. Her story has been commemorated through various means, including a bronze statue in the *Virginia Women's Monument* in Richmond, Virginia.