

A sepia-toned photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a wooden fence and some trees. A river or stream flows through the middle ground, surrounded by more trees and vegetation. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky. The overall tone is warm and historical.

TREASURES IN THE ATTIC

Becoming a History Detective

What Sparked My Interest?



- ❑ Story-telling (incl. funny, sad, exciting, & implausible stories that have been passed down through the generations)
- ❑ Trips to visit relatives
- ❑ Curiosity...Are all those stories really true?
- ❑ Desire to get to know these people, whose voices are “in my blood”

Storytelling



- I remember Mother telling us about Mary Draper Ingles....I was about seven years old, and we were sitting in our pajamas beside the fireplace, in Erie Pennsylvania.
- My dad told us some of his childhood memories of wintertime trips to the North Country to stay with his Uncle John - about skate-sailing, ice-fishing, and skating on black ice...

Family Trips – to Lake George



- ▣ We loved to go to Lake George (in the Adirondack Mountains) to visit our great-uncle John
- ▣ It was a child's paradise... with swimming, fishing, hiking, berry picking, canoeing, and, in the winter, lots of snow on the frozen lake...
- ▣ Even after moving far away, to Charlotte, NC, we made long trips back to the lake each summer (driving about 800 miles each way)

...and Trips to Ingles Ferry



Mother loved to bring us to Ingles Ferry to visit her aunts (Minnie and Mary)

We stayed in a wonderful old Victorian house there (built by my great-grandfather Andrew Lewis Ingles), snoopied around in the old tavern (built in 1772 by William Ingles), and got a taste of rural farm life

Minnie taught me how to milk a cow. (My dad used to say that Minnie had the greenest thumb of anyone he had known!)

Looking through
a trunk of
letters...

When I had children of my own, I began feeling a sort of responsibility to learn about the people in all the old photographs.

One day I decided to examine a trunk full of Uncle John (Apperson)'s papers and found a document that caught my attention...

364

Schenectady, N. Y., 9/30 1918

IN CASE OF M. John S. Apperson

To THE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF SCHENECTADY, Dr. 15 106

ELLIS HOSPITAL

Bill rendered	\$	\$
Board and Care from 9/25 to 9/30 @ \$ per week	28 00	
Extras " " 9/25 to 9/30 @ \$ " "	6 00	
Operating Room Fee		
Obstetric Fee		
Ambulance	2 00	
Extras		
		36 00

Rec'd Pay't

ELLIS HOSPITAL, 9/30, 1918
Per M. C. Hughes

All Bills Payable Weekly in Advance

The family legend is true!



A bill from Ellis Hospital – confirmed the family legend (about how Uncle John was hospitalized with the flu, but decided to check out and go camping. He said he'd rather die in the woods than in a hospital)

The letters in that trunk introduced me to several generations of my father's kin. However, I was missing some key information. For example, I wondered what happened to my great grandmother, Ellen Victoria Hull Apperson, who died at age 48.

I found the answer to that question on a visit to my cousins in Richmond. It has become my "cigar box" story...

Determined to pursue my new calling
– I decided to go back to school for
another degree – or two!



I enrolled in a graduate liberal
arts program at UNC-
Asheville, in North Carolina

For every assignment , I kept
writing history papers .

In lieu of a thesis, I produced an
exhibition telling about my
uncle's work as a citizen
conservationist.

Another advanced degree – this time in history

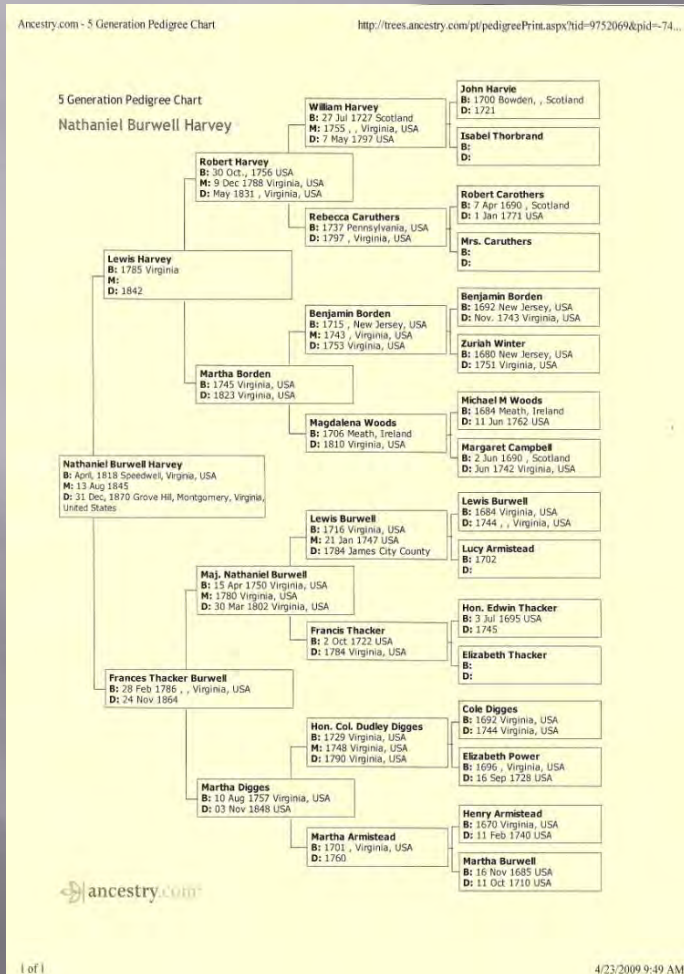
I came to Blacksburg in the summer of 2001, enrolling as a graduate student in history, and started writing research papers about Mary Draper Ingles



After finishing the course work, I worked at Glencoe Museum and absorbed more of the regional history

My next move was to Patrick County - to the Reynolds Homestead, the birthplace of R.J. Reynolds

After moving back to Radford, I took on a new challenge: to write a book about the Harvey and Ingles Families



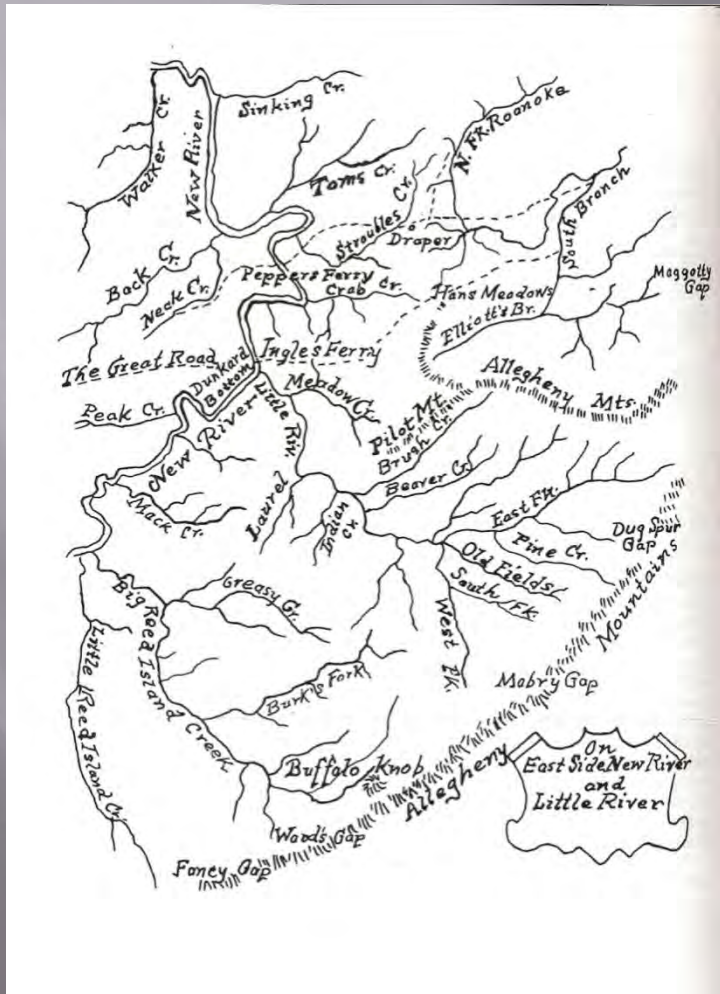
In the summer of 2008, at the annual Harvey picnic, I made a rash promise...to update the family tree (poster)

The Grove Hill Eleven



- ▣ Nathaniel Burwell Harvey and Elrica Rorer had eleven children
- ▣ Two of the Harvey siblings married Ingles siblings, making their children double first cousins.
- ▣ Two other Harvey siblings married Trolinger siblings, making their children double first cousins, too

Tracking Down the Homes



Grove Hill (home of Nathaniel Burwell Harvey) burned in 1906

Ingleside still stands (current home of Bud and Ann Jeffries)

Harvey House and La Rivière (the Castle), built by Captain Bill Ingles are now owned by A.C. Wilson

Ingleheim (and the historic tavern) are a well kept secret...on the Pulaski side of the river

Interviews & Oral History

Mary Barton Bullard – growing up on a farm that is now submersed under Claytor Lake

Ingles descendant was ‘full of spirit’

Mary Bullard, the great-great-great-granddaughter of Mary Draper Ingles, died Aug. 9 at age 93.

By Tim Thornton
tthornton@roanoke.com
381-1669

RADEFORD — Mary Ingles Barton Bullard must have liked David Dickerson.

"She said she wasn't ready to die until she found a minister she liked," said Bud Jefferies, whose mother was Mary's cousin.

MARY INGLES BARTON

The Rev. **BULLARD** Dickerson stood in the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church of Radford on Wednesday celebrating the life of Mary Ingles Barton Bullard, recounting the significance of each part of her name. Great-great-great-granddaughter of William and Mary Draper Ingles. Daughter of David Cloyd and Laura Ingles Barton. Wife of Rear Admiral George C. Bullard.

Mary Bullard seemed to have inherited the gene that enabled her great-great-grandmother to survive a Shawnee raid and capture, then escape and walk through hundreds of miles of wilderness to get home, Dickerson said.

Bullard had an even longer trip to get to the safe zone of World War

from Yale.

The whole world was at war now, Ventor said, and he wouldn't be taking any rides with the top down for awhile. They would decide what to do with the car after the war was over.

More than half a century would pass before Ventor saw that car again.

Mary stayed in Hawaii for about a year, working with the Women's Air Raid Defense and helping to map the location of enemy warships. Then she shipped the Buick to the mainland and headed home to her family's farm that lay along the banks and under the water of Claytor Lake.

Mary drove from San Francisco to Los Angeles to pick up her mother-in-law, then they headed across country. That was long before Dwight Eisenhower got the idea to build an interstate highway system. It took the women 15 days to get home.

George became a fighter pilot, assigned to the aircraft carrier Intrepid as Allied forces worked their way across the Pacific. He was taking part in an attack on a Japanese base on Truk Atoll in February 1944 when his plane was shot down.

Two years would pass before Mary got a call from a ham radio operator in Canada. George, who'd been in a prisoner-of-war camp since his crash



Mary Bullard is shown last year sitting in the restored 1939 Buick convertible she drove cross country for a friend during World War II.

to know it would be preserved as the farm and forestland we inherited and have worked hard to maintain," she wrote on the application. "It is our heritage and our privilege to be good stewards of this beautiful land."

George died on that farm in 1966. Still on active military duty, he was building a fence when he collapsed. A heart attack.

supper at Mary's when she got up to bring a cake in from the kitchen. As she passed a window, she saw a groundhog out in the garden. She pushed open the window, stuck out a shotgun and killed the groundhog.

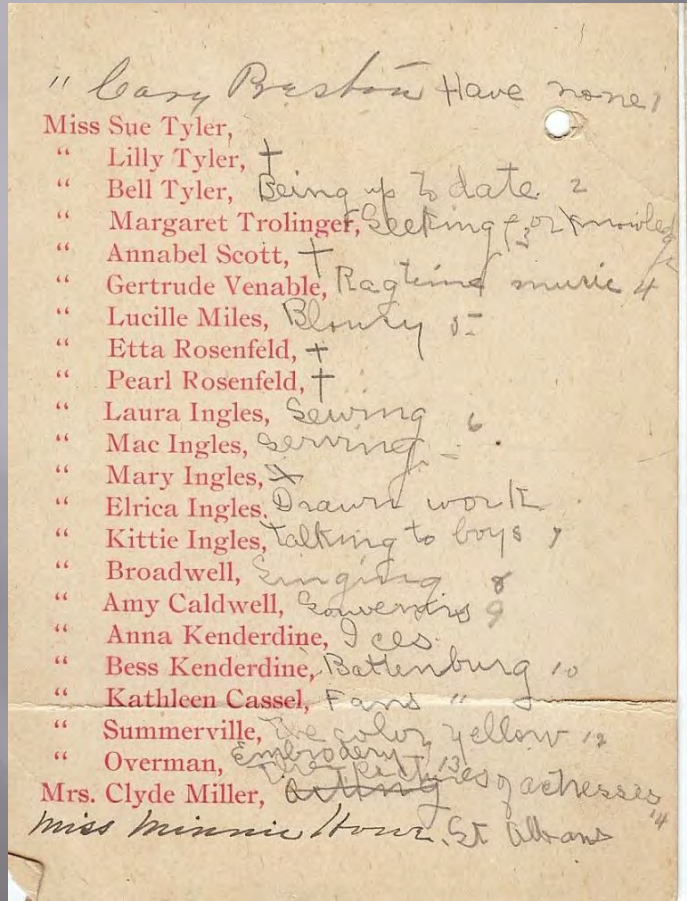
Then she brought the cake to the table and the meal continued.

"She was full of spirit," Wilson said. And though her body began failing her

“Reekie” Young – oldest living cousin in her generation (Her father, Moore, was one of the Grove Hill Eleven)

George Harvey – he and his wife, Juanita, loaned me a treasure trove of research collected by his son, Ken Harvey, in the seventh grade

My Grandmother's Trunk

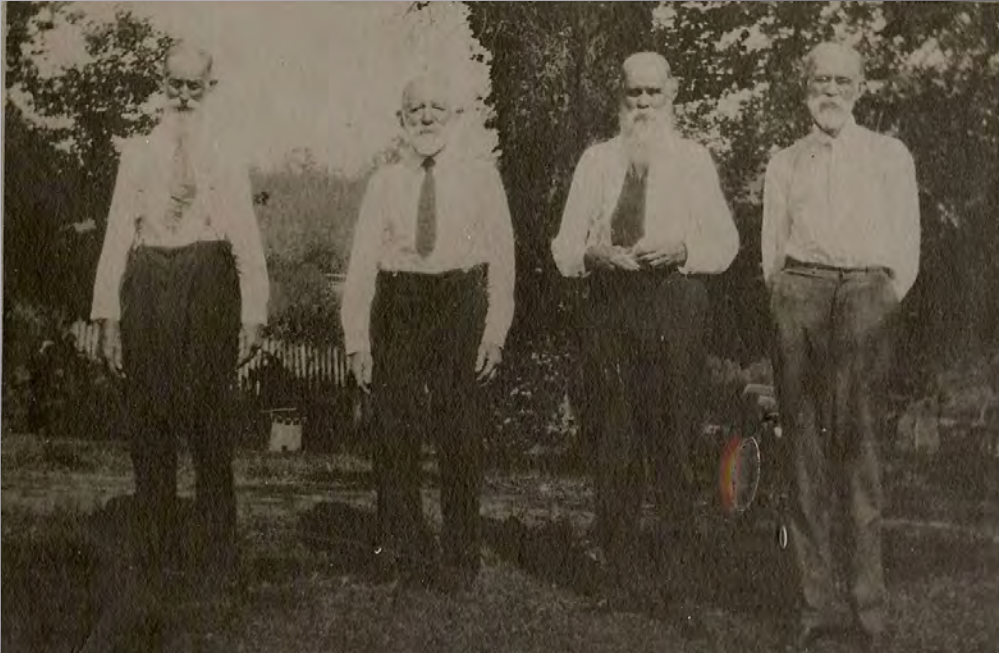


My grandmother, Katharine McClanahan Ingles, married William Palmer Hill, in 1912, and moved to Richmond. I had never taken the time to read through the letters in her trunk, but what a treasure! The collection includes letters from:

Margaret Trolinger, 1st cousin, a freshman at Hollins

The Rev. I. W. Irwin – the minister at the Radford Presbyterian Church...he was courting her!

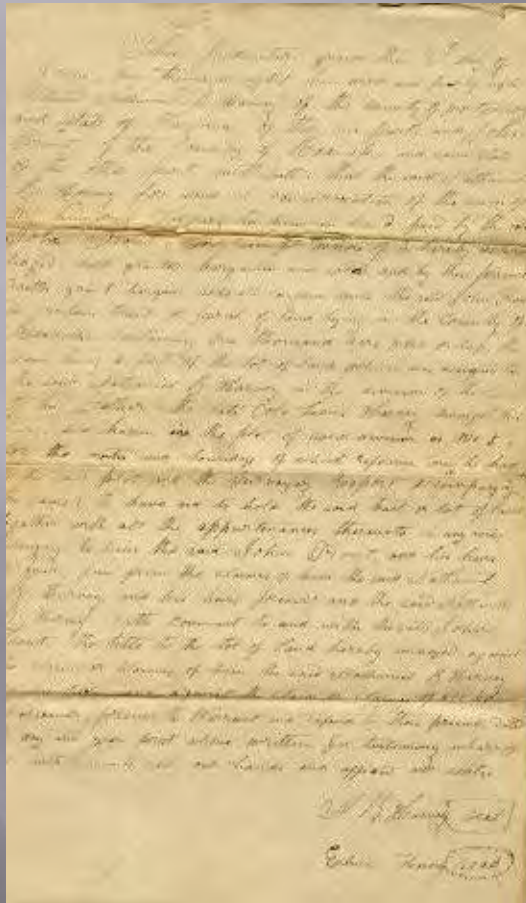
Finding another missing piece of the puzzle - Jim Micou



This is a photograph with three Ingles brothers (Elijah, William and Andrew) but I didn't know what the connection was with the fourth man identified as Jim Micou

As it turned out, his mother was a McClanahan, and he was raised by his aunt and uncle, Katherine (McClanahan) and Thomas Ingles

Family Portraits



I've worked on several projects for "outside clients," doing some research on line, and transcribing some old diaries and letters

For one friend, I've transcribed two journals left by her grandparents. In the first, we were touched to learn that her grandfather worked as a clerk in the 1880s, making a salary of \$100 (a year!!!)

Years later, her grandfather was diagnosed with TB and took a long train ride to Lake Saranac, NY to stay at the famous Trudeau Hospital

On-Line Research

Now I'm hooked on Ancestry.com (it is definitely addictive!) I've found names and dates for grandparents going back about 15 generations.

11		46	92
B		47	93
D		48	94
		49	95
		50	96
		51	97
		52	98
		53	99
		54	100
		55	101
		56	102
		57	103
		58	104
		59	105
		60	106
		61	107
		62	108
		63	109
		64	110
		65	111
		66	112
		67	113
		68	114
		69	115
		70	116
		71	117
		72	118
		73	119
		74	120
		75	121
		76	122
		77	123
		78	124
		79	125
		80	126
		81	127
		82	128
		83	129
		84	130
		85	131
		86	132
		87	133
		88	134
		89	135
		90	136
		91	137
		92	138
		93	139
		94	140
		95	141
		96	142
		97	143
		98	144
		99	145
		100	146
		101	147
		102	148
		103	149
		104	150
		105	151
		106	152
		107	153
		108	154
		109	155
		110	156
		111	157
		112	158
		113	159
		114	160
		115	161
		116	162
		117	163
		118	164
		119	165
		120	166
		121	167
		122	168
		123	169
		124	170
		125	171
		126	172
		127	173
		128	174
		129	175
		130	176
		131	177
		132	178
		133	179
		134	180
		135	181
		136	182
		137	183
		138	184
		139	185
		140	186
		141	187
		142	188
		143	189
		144	190
		145	191
		146	192
		147	193
		148	194
		149	195
		150	196
		151	197
		152	198
		153	199
		154	200

Last year I could only name about 15 grandparents, but now I have located hundreds more, not to mention hundreds of aunts, uncles and cousins, with names tracing back to Wales, Cornwall, Alsace Lorraine, England, Scotland, Ireland.....

A World Wide Data Base



Census Records, plus deaths, births, marriages, military records, & Family Trees

Accuracy issues – same as with traditional methods...requires a combination of skepticism and hard work, but the search really brings history to life

Implications...



- It is becoming much easier to track down ancestors, and also much easier to print out data in useful formats
- The work can be done from a laptop computer, or a library, and it is no longer necessary to travel great distances to spend extended hours in dusty archives
- Many archives are providing transcribed and scanned documents over the internet, in digital form

So What Could We Do?

We could get organized... and get busy: researching, scanning, transcribing and donating copies of family information to local libraries and museums

We could offer assistance (as volunteers) to local libraries and museums.

We could create (or expand) a local family archive, gathering together scattered information about key families

How Could We Do That?

We could hold workshops, attracting interested people to learn some of the finer points of research and genealogy

We could develop some sort of club (called History Detectives, or Ancestry Club) that could go through training (similar to Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners), with a curriculum and a series of classes, and eventually start offering helpful services to the local community...