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**MY INGRAM FAMILY**  
**1651-1925**

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by Iona May Ingram Sowa  
1919-1997

## PREFACE TO THIS EDITION

This is a true copy of my mother's book, *MY INGRAM FAMILY, 1651-1925*. It has been scanned directly from her original manuscript, with two exceptions.

First, I have added this preface. Second, Mom had received some correspondence from a cousin, after publishing the first edition, which corrected some of the relationships shown on page 213. I prepared a corrected page 213 and it is included in both this version as well as any paper copies that I make.

From 1980 through 1992 my mother, Iona May (Ingram) Sowa, spent countless hours researching her family history and genealogy. She documented her efforts in three large volumes about her Phillips and Ingram ancestors. Iona had about 20 copies printed of each volume. She donated most to various libraries and historic societies, and gave the rest to close family members.

- *THE PHILLIPS AND ASSOCIATED FAMILIES, Vol. I, 1630-1810*,  
Published 1988, 433 pages
- *THE PHILLIPS AND ASSOCIATED FAMILIES, Vol. II, 1790-1920*,  
Published 1990, 404 pages
- *MY INGRAM FAMILY, 1651-1925*,  
Published 1992, 318 pages

Following the publication of the last book in 1992, Iona continued to correspond to other researchers. She routinely answered letters from people that had discovered one of her books. What is most amazing about her work, was that it was all done on an electric typewriter. Iona never owned a computer and never used a word processor. She would write out her drafts by hand, editing and scratching margin notes. When she was satisfied with the result, she would then type them into final form.

Iona loved history. Her writings include lots of information to "set the tone" and describe the circumstances around many of the events that motivated our ancestors. As one reader wrote to Iona in 1995, "I loved the way you interspersed history of the period with the goings-on of relatives." In addition, Iona was careful to document virtually all of her data sources. If she were not sure of the source, she would make sure she said so in the text. As Iona so succinctly said in one of her letters to a researcher "I want sources!" She also sprinkled all three volumes with copies of original documents, birth, death, and marriage certificates, census records, wills, property descriptions, local maps, etc. Her histories are more than just our genealogy. They are a true-to-life narrative of who we are, and how we got here.

Following Iona's death, on 16 March 1997, I obtained her original manuscripts, research notes and correspondence.

Copies of the books are available from me, in both paper and electronic media.

Richard P. Sowa, 425-255-3920  
18333-152<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE  
Renton, WA 98058

RPS... 7/27/99

MY INGRAM FAMILY

1651 - 1925

Compiled by  
Iona May Ingram Sowa  
1992

FOR MY BROTHER  
OSCAR VIRGIL INGRAM

and

THANKS  
TO MY SON  
RICHARD PHILLIP SOWA  
who introduced me  
to the joy  
of  
genealogy research

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## THE COLONIAL YEARS

My Ingram ancestors migrated from Great Britain to the Colony of Virginia around the middle of the 17th century.

The monarchs in Europe believed that the religion of the King should be the religion of his people. This theory followed the British into the Colony of Virginia. Every emigrant was expected to register in the local parish. Priests were assigned to these parishes and the organized church within his parish was his responsibility. The vestry (a committee of members) of each church was given the power to tithe and tax the people in the parish and to require certain duties of them. The funds were used to pay the minister and expenses incurred in building and repairing the church and buildings for the priest, as well as for the care of the poor, the sick and the orphans.

"One problem that arose with the church being under the authority of the state was that the clergy were not always the dedicated men of God that they should have been but were often appointed solely for political considerations. Throughout the colony people were becoming impatient with the payment of tithes to support lax ministry. Attendance at the church services was only token in some parishes, but one had to pay tithes in order to marry or be buried, or any of the sacraments." (page 88, "Brunswick County, Virginia" by Gayle Neale)

The religious policy of Charles I was more objectionable than his constitutional ideas. The puritans felt that the Anglican Church was no better than "Popery" (Roman Catholicism). They refused to accept the Book of Common Prayer. England drifted toward a civil war. By 1629, the Puritan Doctrine was spreading. Oliver Cromwell, a military man, a politician and an avid puritan, became the leader in what would become a civil war in Great Britain

Cromwell's "reign" lasted nine years, until his death in 1658. Throughout this period, he depended for support on the Protestant non-conformers; they were the backbone of his army. They were men who could win him battles and hold down the country by imposing a military government, but they couldn't make Oliver Cromwell's rule popular.

Both the Royalists and the Presbyterians regretted the simple pleasures suppressed by the grim Puritan masters. In the factionalism between King Charles' and Cromwell's men, 1649 through 1658, many Cavaliers migrated to the Colony of Virginia.

"Planters and Pioneers" by Parke Rouse, Jr., 1968

"In the 1660's, many Loyalists from Northern England fled to Virginia and named the Northern Neck counties for the Lancaster, Northumberland and Westmoreland they left behind." ("Planters and Pioneers" by Rouse, pg. 42)

Several Ingram families settled in these Northern Neck counties. My ancestor, John Ingram, settled in Northumberland County. Three generations later this Ingram family's descendants moved into southern Virginia, and the following generations moved into Virginia's land west of the mountains.

Less than thirty years after my Ingram family arrived in Virginia, there was an uprising caused by England's Navigation Act which undermined the prosperity of the colony. This rebellion was led by Nathaniel Bacon. He had a large plantation in Surry County across the James River from Jamestown. After Bacon's death the uprising subsided and Governor Berkely regained his authority over Virginia. It is written that Governor Berkely had stayed hidden on a large plantation not far from the Ingram's.

By the beginning of the 18th century, "Religious Enlightenment" had spread into the Virginia Colony. The Virginians began to demand the right to dissent from the established faith. Great Britain also began to feel the religious changes. By 1740, the "Great Awakening" had spread and it had weakened the Church of England, but it was 1779 before the official support of it ended in Virginia.

The Methodists, a society of the established Church of England, was started out by John Wesley in England. Soon this society flourished in Virginia and by 1784 they had become so strongly established that they formed their own church, the Methodist Episcopal Church. Isaac Ingram, my ancestor, joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in Amelia County, Virginia, before he moved his family to Pulaski County, Kentucky, about 1788.

As Mr. Rouse wrote in his "Planters and Pioneers," Virginia was not only the province of Englishmen. It was also from the sweat of thousands of Negro slaves brought in chains from Africa. Germans and Poles came in during the early years to blow glass; and two hundred workers from France in 1700. These French Huguenots fled to the James River to escape the axe of their Catholic king. The Scottish merchants settled in port towns. Then in Virginia's second century, came a flood of Scotch-Irish and the Germanic settlers in the Valley of Virginia. This story is a triumph of courage in this lush valley where the Indians lurked and were determined to halt with fire and tomahawk, the ever-moving tide of white settlers.

The Colonial British policy would only allow tobacco or pig iron to be shipped to Great Britain and no shipping to European countries. They didn't want any competition. If craftsmen immigrated to Virginia, they soon abandoned their craft and raised tobacco; they weren't always successful financially. There was no middle class in Virginia. There were no cities where craftsmen could gather; there was a slow trickle of men out of Virginia, which became a torrent after the Revolution.

Several historians have written that the tobacco economy in Virginia changed very little during the hundred years before the Revolution. Large firms owned by wealthy men had offices along the James, Rappahannok and Potomac Rivers. These firms were situated on the large rivers so the colonists could deliver their crops to them by boat. The British currency controls limited the circulation of sterling (silver), so the colonist would receive a bill of exchange for his tobacco, or corn. He would use this credit to purchase supplies.

Raising and harvesting tobacco made heavy demands on the planter, it required constant care from March through late fall. One man could only raise and harvest three or four acres by himself. Repeated tobacco plantings in the same fields would soon strip the ground of nutrients so the colonists were constantly clearing new land. Wheat and corn were raised on old tobacco fields, but there wasn't much money in it. This condition hastened the migration of the planters.

Newly arrived settlers chose land on creeks and rivers, for these creeks and rivers were Virginia's streets. The goods and people moved by water. Most ferries were flat-bottomed scows or barges, up to thirty feet, with sloped ends and upright sides to keep the horses from going overboard. The ferryman poled or rowed, if the passage was narrow he might pull it by rope. A long distance was by sail. Few wagons could be used in early Virginia for lack of roads. Everyone rode horses.

The first Virginia Negroes had been captured on the Guinea coast of Africa, where warring Negro tribes had sold captives into slavery for centuries. A great many had been brought to Spanish and Portuguese colonies in South America. In 1670, slavery was recognized by Virginia law, before that the Negroes were called indentured servants. England had given to its Royal African Company a monopoly on slave trade in the English colonies. A rise in the tobacco prices spurred slavery's growth.

Slaves became a major source of England's riches. The Virginia Colony tried to halt the flood, but the crown forbade it. The colonists finally entered the profitable trade. By 1774, nearly half of Virginia's population was Negroes.

Not all slaves worked on large plantations. In Tidewater and Piedmont Virginia three fourths of all families held slaves,



including small farmers, shopkeepers, tavern keepers and shipmasters. Nearly half of the slave owners had fewer than five Negroes, often a Negro husband, wife, and children.

The Royal African Company, owned by Great Britain, bought slaves in Africa for four to six pounds and sold them in the colonies at prices ranging from sixteen pounds in the late 1600s to forty pounds in 1750 and one hundred pounds for each healthy adult Negro by 1775.

The tide of opinion began to turn against slavery in mid eighteenth century England. The effect of this in England was all but lost on the revolutionary Americans. The Revolution did not end slavery, but it halted it. No slaves were permitted to enter the colony after 1774, except those whose masters moved in.

In 1787, my ancestor, Joseph Ingram of Brunswick County, Virginia gave his son three slaves, legally deeded them, to Isaac Ingram so Isaac could take them to Kentucky.

#### The French Indian War

What happened at the forks of the Ohio River between 1750 and 1760 profoundly affected the course of world history. (The Allegheny and Ohio Rivers meet at Pittsburgh, Penn.) English is our language; it could have been French,

Young George Washington was one of the principal actors in this dramatic struggle for the Ohio Country. This twenty-one year old Major twice met the French on the battlefield, one in victory and one in defeat. It was difficult to get soldiers, the Colonials were not eager to risk their scalps in the Indian country for the paltry pay that was offered, "fifteen pounds of tobacco a day."

The Indian allies of the French were sadistic killers...they didn't take prisoners. It is said that the French officers did attempt to prevent these cruelties. When the English at last succeeded in gathering their own force of Indians, the necessities of survival forced them into a course of conduct no different from that of the French.

At twenty-three years of age, Colonel Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the Virginia military forces. He and Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania planned a line of forts and blockhouses along the slopes of the Alleghenies. Many of the settlers in the valley were being wiped

"Guns at the Fork", by Walter O'Meara

out by the Indians.

It was difficult for the army officers to understand why the frontier people were slow about taking revenge against the savagery. The frontier farmer had not yet developed the woodsman's skill, the rawhide toughness and cold hatred of the Indians that would one day make him as cunning and ruthless as the red man himself. That would come in the next generation.....after the "big leap over the mountain."

George Washington's recruits from the "backwoods" of Virginia would often desert, twenty or thirty at a time; and on occasion the troops took mass leave when rumors of approaching Indians threw the militia into a panic. The problem of drunkenness was second only to desertion.

With a total population of only about twenty thousand, the Five Indian Nations could not hope to hold back the coming surge of English pioneers.

The year of 1759 saw New France fast approaching their end. Quebec fell, they were bottled up in the Champlain Valley. Montreal fell...Canada became part of the British Empire.

At the end of the next ten years, two roads had been cut through Virginia. The first, paralleling the coast, had been built by the Tidewater men in order to connect them with the Carolinas and Maryland. The second trail was the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road blazed by the German and the Scotch-Irish settlers who pushed southward into Virginia from Philadelphia. This road was later called the Wilderness Road.

The Wilderness Road emptied into the west by way of the Cumberland Gap, discovered in 1774 at the tip of Virginia. After the Revolutionary War was won, the Cumberland Gap was the path that many pioneers took to reach Kentucky, as did my ancestors.

The successful conclusion of the French Indian War (seven years) in 1760 was quickly followed by a serious economic depression from the Carolinas to New Hampshire, in which farmers found markets tight. The mother country badly needed new revenue after an expensive war, she chose this time to inflict upon her colonies a new levy, the Stamp Act.

There arose a group calling themselves Sons of Liberty, who were dedicated to securing the repeal of the Stamp Act. It is written that these men were largely controlled by gentlemen of the upper class.

"Roads of Destiny" by Douglas Waitley)

So the British Parliament retaliated with the Coercive Act.....their troops occupied the city of Boston.

Delegates from all the colonies met in Philadelphia.

George Washington accepted the appointment as commander of the "hodgepodge mass of armed men besieging the British in Boston."

In July of 1775, Virginia began the process of raising 26,678 men and boys for the Continental Army and over 4,000 for the militia. It is written that Virginia sent so many men that later in the war the state was all but defenseless against the British army's stragglers.

Normal outlets for Virginia crops were now (1776) all but closed, there were severe shortages and the price of goods skyrocketed. To meet the costs of the state government, Virginia printed paper money and backed them.

"Yet during the years from 1776 into 1779, life went on. It is difficult for a modern reader to visualize the extent to which, because of the slowness of communications, the rarity of roads and infrequency of travel, the rural areas were out of touch with the war. Planters and politicians might talk of freedom from tyranny, and of pledging one's life, fortune and sacred honor to the cause of liberty. But for the most part, the farmer went about his business, tried to earn enough to pay his taxes, and the war to the north seldom entered his life. Not until the British troops actually invaded the state in May of 1779 did he feel the direct impact of the war of independence." ("Virginia, A History" by Louis B. Rubin, Jr.)

Historians now estimate that one third of the American population supported the revolution, one third loyal to the crown (shown by action or complete inaction) and one third indifferent.

The British conducted numerous raids along the coast of Chesapeake Bay. Many people loyal to England (loyalists), particularly merchants and planters, especially the first generation here, departed, but many remained. Treatment of the Tories (loyalists) was mild at first, but became harsher as the war heated up. The death penalty was carried out on those who aided the enemy, and the property of the Tories was confiscated.

On October 18, 1781, Cornwallis and his British and his Hessian (German professional soldiers) were at Yorktown. His escape was cut off by Washington's ten thousand Continental and militia and eight thousand French troops along with their French fleet at the mouth of the York River. The British army surrendered.

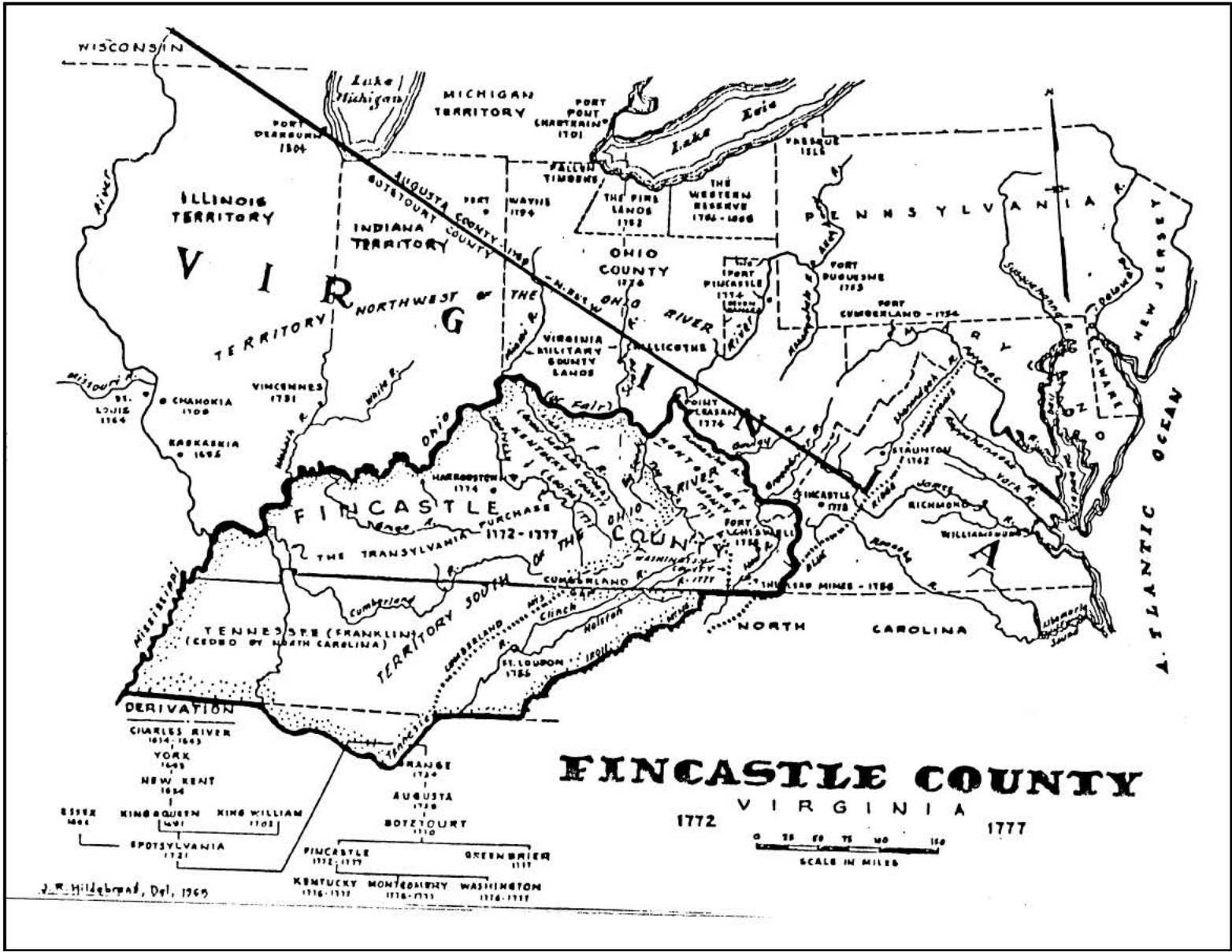
In 1784, Virginia ceded to the United States the Northwest Territory. The year 1787 saw the meeting of a convention in Philadelphia which drafted a constitution for the United States, approval by nine states being required for its acceptance. In June 1788, a state convention met in Richmond, and on the 26th ratified the document. Washington was unanimously elected the first U.S. President in 1789. Virginia ceded a portion of its Potomac land to the new government, it became known as the District of Columbia.

The Virginians didn't wait until the Revolutionary War was settled to begin moving into the territory beyond the Alleghenies. Up to 1775, land in Fincastle County, Virginia, had been surveyed principally for French Indian War veterans in accordance with the laws of Virginia.

In 1773, the McAfee brothers made their way cautiously down the Ohio River and up the Kentucky to the open valley site of Frankfort, which they surveyed. At about this time Thomas Bullitt with another party surveyed the area around the Falls of the Ohio, where Louisville now stands. John Floyd, another daring surveyor, arrived in 1774 to lay out lands for a number of leading Virginians, In June of this same year James Harrod laid out Harrodstown, now Harrodsburg, the oldest settlement in Kentucky. The scramble to secure the rich agricultural lands of central Kentucky was well under way. ("Kentucky Land Grants" by W. Jilson)

Fincastle County became Kentucky County, Virginia in 1776.





**DERIVATION**

CHARLES RIVER 1614-1643  
 YORK 1609  
 NEW KENT 1654  
 ESSEX 1601  
 KIMBRIDGEM 1601  
 KING WILLIAM 1703  
 SPOTSVYLVANIA 1721

RANGE 1724  
 AUGUSTA 1728  
 BOTZCOURT 1710

FINCASTLE 1772-1777  
 GREENBRIER 1777

KENTUCKY MONTGOMERY WASHINGTON 1776-1777 1778-1779 1778-1779

J. R. Hildebrand, Del., 1905