

# Indian Old Fields

Harry G. Enoch

- A new interchange proposed for the Mountain Parkway at the crossing of Kiddville Road (KY 974) lies near the center of a noted 3,500-acre plain called Indian Old Fields, which has been recognized as a significant area of Native American occupation since the arrival of white settlers over 200 years ago.
- The interchange project creates a window of opportunity to conduct further research into a unique area of Kentucky that contains a rich record of our indigenous and early pioneer history. Although extensive evidence of Native American occupation and pioneer settlement has been found, a comprehensive archaeological survey of this area has never been conducted. Such an investigation conducted by a reputable organization will add immeasurably to our knowledge about human occupation of Indian Old Fields and will identify potential sites that might be developed for education, interpretation, restoration and preservation. This would not only benefit tourism in the area but would also increase property values for landowners.
- A timely survey of Indian Old Fields could be conducted without affecting interchange construction (the Interchange project site has already been surveyed), nor will it prevent future commercial or residential development. If this opportunity is missed, these invaluable places may be destroyed by development and lost forever.

## **Historical Significance**

- Over 50 significant prehistoric and historic archaeological sites have been identified within 1.2 miles of the proposed interchange. These date from the Archaic Period (8000-1000 B.C.), Woodland Period (1000 B.C. - A.D. 1000), Fort Ancient Period (A.D. 1000-1750) and Pioneer Settlement Period (A.D. 1750-1800). Several of these sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Prehistoric sites identified at Indian Old Fields include villages, camps, Indian fort earthworks/sacred circles, mounds and stone graves. The Goff Village Site is recognized as an outstanding example of a Fort Ancient village. The historic sites include one of the earliest occupied cabins north of the Kentucky River.
- Eskippakithiki is the only Indian town shown on Lewis Evans' 1755 map in the interior of Kentucky. Eskippakithiki was located at Indian Old Fields.
- The famous Shawnee chief Catahecassa (Black Hoof) visited Indian Old Fields in his old age and told pioneer residents that the Shawnee had a village there until the year before Braddock's War (1755).
- John Finley, who later brought Daniel Boone to Kentucky, had a trading post at Indian Old Fields.
- Pioneers who explored the Indian Old Fields area in 1775 reported evidence of old buildings, Indian fortifications, mounds and extensive areas that had been cultivated, which they took to be corn fields.
- These pioneers gave sworn statements about what they saw and directed the locations to be laid down by survey. They testified that a place they called the "gateposts" appeared to have been the area most recently occupied by the Indians. Comparison of their surveys to current topographic maps indicates that the gateposts were located about ¼ of a mile from the proposed interchange.

**Selected Depositions and Plats  
from  
*Cuthbert Combs v. Thomas Porter's heirs*  
Clark County Land Trials, Complete Record, 1812-1815  
pp. 484-523**

**Introduction**

In the early 1800s, the Clark County Court heard numerous lawsuits regarding the conflicting land claims of pioneer settlers. The maps and depositions prepared in these cases now provide a valuable historic record.

In *Cuthbert Combs v. Thomas Porter's heirs*, the contested land was located in an area known today as the Indian Old Fields. The deponents who testified in this case were the first white Americans to thoroughly explore this area; they were there marking and surveying land in 1775, the same year Boonesborough was established. Two of the deponents belonged to the company locating land (Benjamin Combs and Marquis Calmes Jr.) and two were surveyors (William Calk and Enoch Smith). They were strongly impressed by the evidence of Native American habitation in the area, which they concluded must have been in the recent past.

In 1813, these men returned to the land in question and gave specific statements about what they had seen there in 1775. They actually went to the various places referred to (supposed Indian town sites and corn fields, early cabins, springs, etc.), which were then surveyed and put down on maps (shown below). The depositions that follow include these observations and the plats show the features plotted in relation to Lulbergrud, Upper Howard's Creek and the patents of Cuthbert Combs and Marquis Calmes. These excerpts were transcribed from the original record book at the Department of Libraries and Archives in Frankfort.

It may be helpful to append to this record the Fayette County entry for Marquis Calmes' preemption warrant:

Marquis Calmes enters a preemption Warrant of 1000 Acres adjoining his Settlement on Lulbergrud Creek including part of Howards Creek and a mill seat upon lulbergrud creek, three buffaloe licks and the old indian towns.

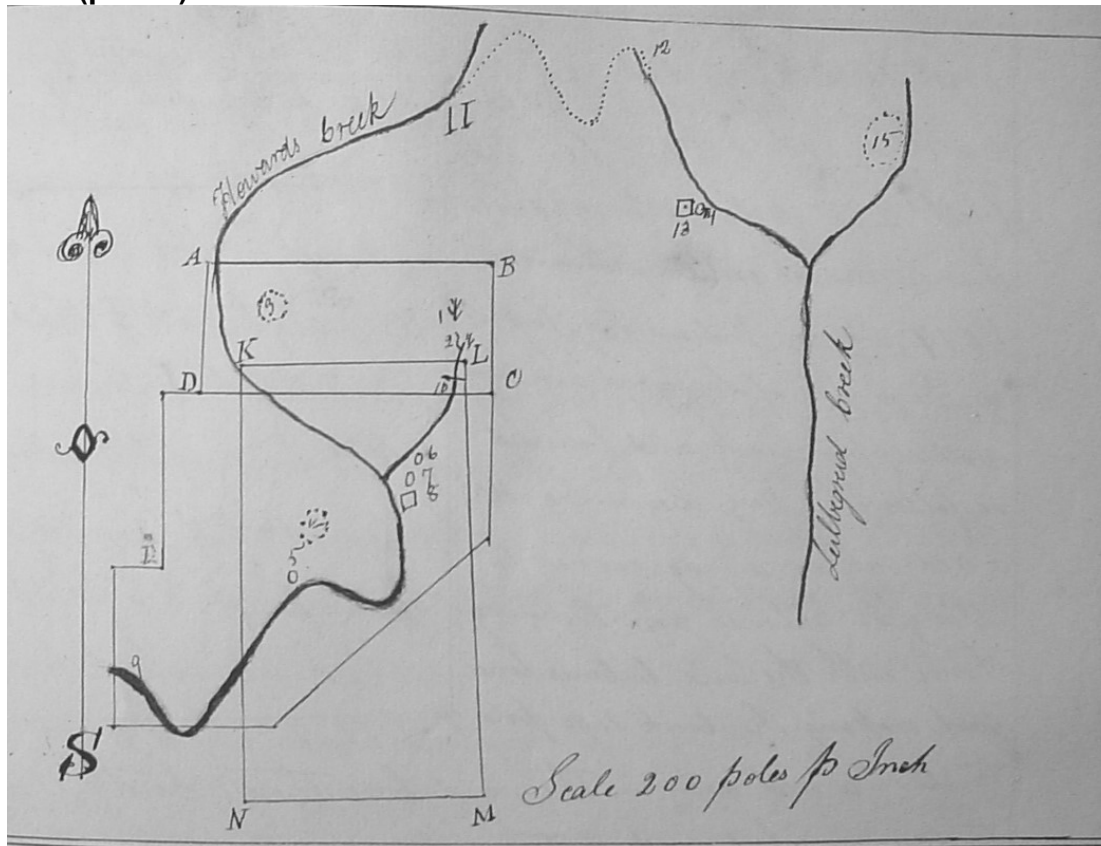
The depositions below mention evidence of a number of Indian town sites and old cultivated fields, as well as numerous references to the "gate posts" that other pioneers associated with the remnants of John Finley's trading post (see "Indian Old Fields in Shane interviews"). Furthermore, Lewis Evans' map of 1755 shows the Indian town Eskippakithiki in this location. It is hoped that the material may be a useful aid to archaeologists surveying the Indian Old Fields area in search of Eskippakithiki, John Finley's trading post, and other sites dating from the Contact Period.

Harry G. Enoch  
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## Plats

**Note:** Other researchers have examined a composite version of these plats in the Draper Manuscripts (7C 1), attributed to William D. Hixon, but dismissed any usefulness due to the late date (1886) and uncertainty of his sources. I recently discovered at the state archives the original plats and depositions upon which Hixon based his map.

### Plat 1 (p. 485)



### Legend to the figure on p. 485

1¥ — represents a white oak tree marked CC

2¥ — a white oak tree which by cutting into the wood and taking out blocks show plain marks of a Tomahawk (those trees was claimed by the Complainant as his improvement made in 1775)

③ — an old intrenchment that measures 13 poles in circumference [*this may be mistakenly located and may correspond to #3 on the next plat, which is shown on Calmes' preemption. There is a known "intrenchment" (sacred circle) in the latter location.*]

④ — represents an intrenchment that measures 21 poles in circumference

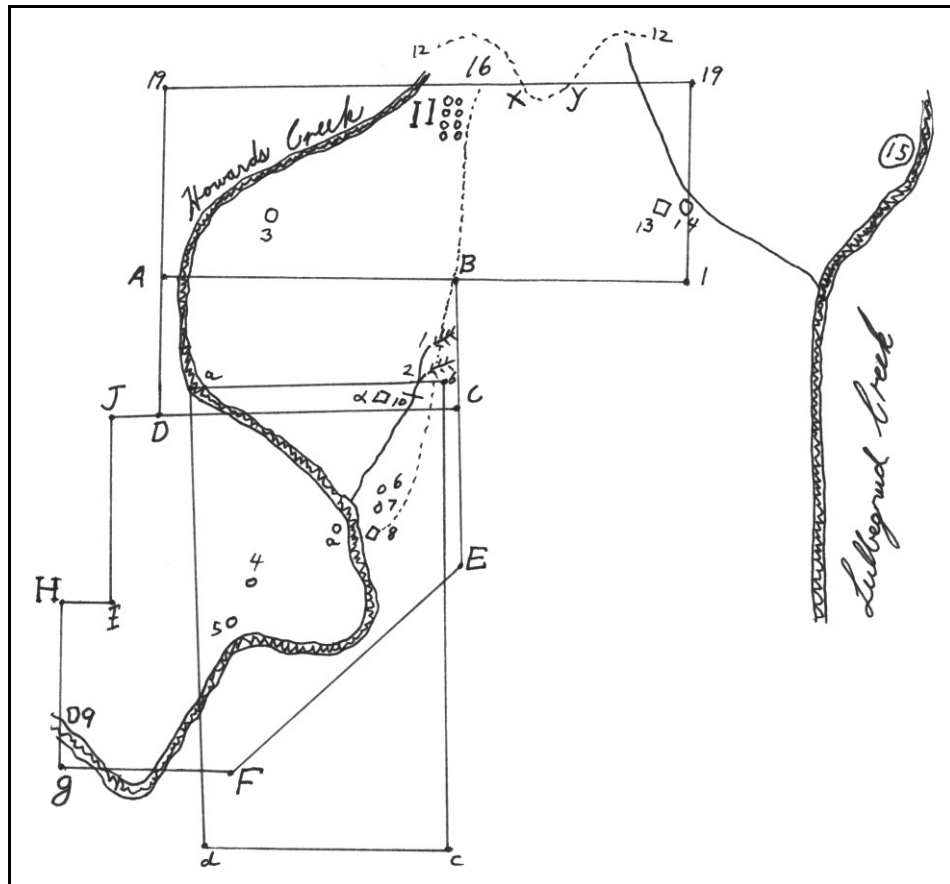
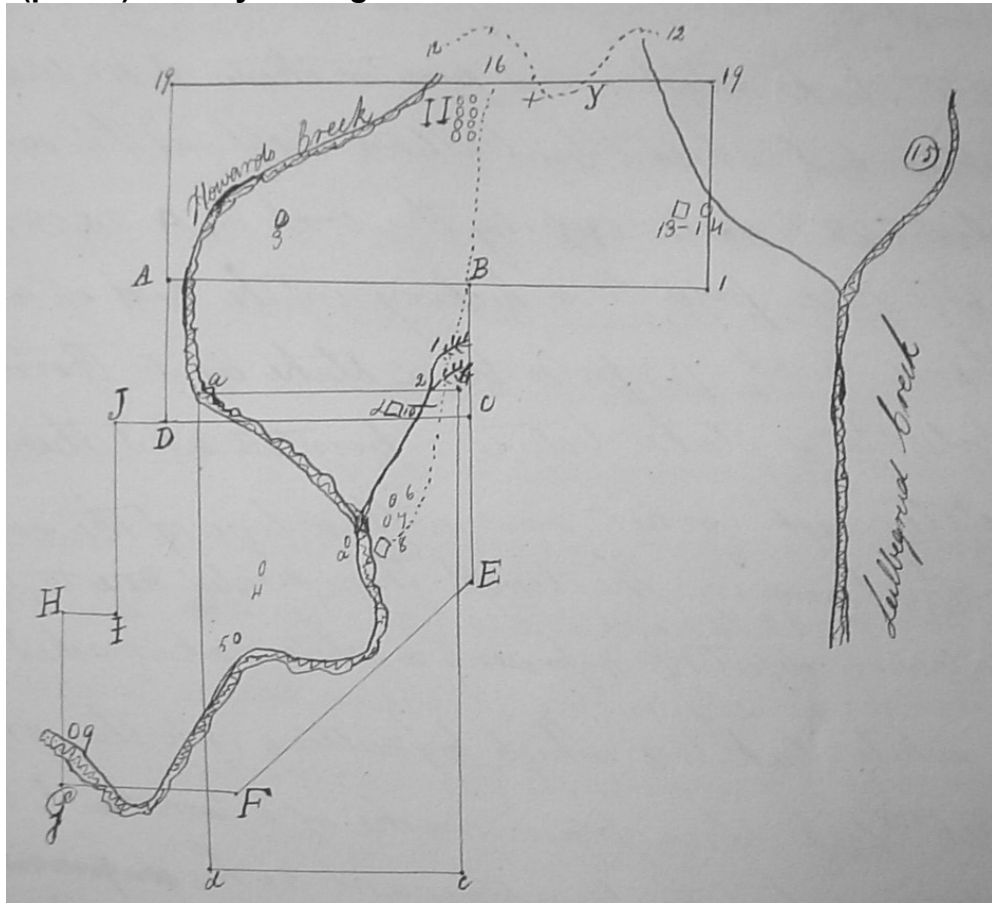
o5 — represents the lick claimed by the Defendants and is 15 poles from the bank of the Creek

o6

o7 — a place shown by William Frazier as a part of the old Indian Town

- 8 — shown by Enoch Smith, John Harper and William Calk as the place Beaslys cabin stood where there is a tree marked W.B.
- o9 — a lick shown by John Harper on the West bank of the Creek which he says was much used by wild game in 1779
- 10 — represents the fall in a branch that Marquis Calmes says he was near he was near the place where the Complainant shew him marked trees a few days after he had marked them and said it was his improvement
- I I — represents the gate posts or where they stood as shown by Marquis Calmes and William Calk in their several depositions taken in this suit
- ..... — dotted line from the gates posts to 12 shows the northern extent of the Indian Towns as shown by Marquis Calmes and others on the survey
- 13 — represents the place where the block house stood that the Beasly[s] lived in in the year 1775 or 1776 when they were employed by Marquis Calmes and Company to raise corn for them
- o14 — represents the spring they made use of at that time as shown on the survey by Marquis Calmes
- ⑮ — represents the place called the Pigeon roost

Plat 2 (p. 488) and my tracing of it below



## Legend to the figure on p. 488

- 1¥ — represents a white oak marked CC
- 2¥ — represents a white oak tree which by cutting into the wood and taking out blocks show plain marks of a tomahawk (those trees was claimed by the Complainant as his improvement made in 1775)
- o3 — an old intrenchment that measures 21 poles in circumference
- o4 — *[no description given]*
- o5 — represents the lick claimed by the Defendant and is 15 poles from the bank of the Creek
- o6 o7 — a place shown by William Frazer as a part of the old Indian Town
- 8 — shown by Enoch Smith, John Harper and William Calk as the place they understood the Beasleys had a cabin
- o9 — a lick shown by John Harper in the West bank of the Creek which he says was much used by wild game in 1779
- 10 — represents the falls in a branch that Marquis Calmes says he was near he was near the place where the Complainant shew him he had marked trees a few days after he had marked them and said it was his improvement
- I I — represents the place shown by Marquis Calmes, William Calk and others as the place the gate posts stood (see their several depositions taken to be read as evidence in this suit)
- oa — is a spring shown by William Frazer and others coming out in the West bank of Howards Creek and near the bottom of the same which spring is N 50 W 26 poles *[bottom of my page is cut off]* which spring was laid down by direction of the Complainant
- α □ — represents the Defendants dwelling house
- ..... — the dotted line from 16 to □8 was directed to be laid down by the Complainant as embracing all the appearances of old buildings in the bounds of what was considered the old Indian Town
- oo
- oo — represents the place shown by William Frazer, John Harper says there
- oo was the appearance of old buildings near the gate posts
- ..... — the dotted line from the gate posts to twelve [12] shows the most northern extent of the Indian Towns as shown by Marquis Calmes and others
- 13 o14 — represents the spring the Beasleys used and the cabin they lived in and the block house as shown by Enoch Smith, Marquis Calmes, William Calk and Harper (see there depositions in relation thereto taken at different times in this suit) being the spring that the Defendants contends where the Beasleys had their cabin &c
- 15 — the place called the Pigeon roost shown by Marquis Calmes and John Harper (see their depositions in relation thereto taken at different times in this suit)

From the corner at B to the gate posts = 248 poles [4,092 ft; *this puts the gate posts very close to Marquis Calmes' upper line*]

From the corner at B to the tree at 1 = 100 poles [1,650 ft]

From the tree at 1 to the Complainants house = 80 poles [1,320 ft]

From the Complainants house to 7 = 140 poles [2,310 ft]

From there to Beasleys Cabin on Howards Creek = 40 poles [660 ft]

From the gait post to the upper end of the improvement as shown by William Frazer and Harper = 48 poles [792 ft]

## Depositions

### **Benjamin Combs, July 12, 1813 (pp. 495-497)**

The Deposition of Benjamin Combs of lawful age taken at the house of Cuthbert Combs Senr. on the 12th day of July 1813 on behalf of the Complainant. . . .

That he the deponant, Marquis Calmes, Cuthbert Combs and others, in all eleven persons, formed a Company for the purpose of locating lands and in the month of May 1775 They, the aforesaid company, came to an Indian old Town that is situate between Howards upper Creek and Lulbegrud when on examination of the Land that is situated about the Indian old Town. finding that there was not so much valuable Land as would satisfy the calls of the eleven persons, five out of the eleven, viz., Marquis Calmes Junr., Marquis Calmes Senr., Benjamin Berry, Cuthbert Combs and this Deponant entered into an agreement with the other six persons, whom it is not necessary to name in this Deposition, that the aforesaid six men should not lay any claim or make any entry on any Land between Howards upper Creek and Lulbegrud, nor on either side of said Creek above the stone Lick that is not far from the West side of Howards Creek in a high bank, for which relinquishment, the five above named men agreed to give a consideration, but how much this deponant has forgotten, but is under an impression at present that the five above named men gave to the six men above alluded to fifty shillings each for their relinquishment to land contained in the above mentioned boundary, and this deponant further states that the above agreement was executed on their part.

This deponant also states that they, viz., Marquis Calmes Senr., Marquis Calmes Junr., Benjamin Berry, Cuthbert Combs and this Deponant made an encampment on a branch that empties in Lulbegrud and Cuthbert Combs left the last aforesaid company and encampment and was gone the greater part of two days and on his return the aforesaid company then proceeded to the place now called the Block [House], where they the aforesaid company, with the assistance of Major Beasley and William Beasley built a cabin not far from a spring and planted corn at the aforesaid place and left the two Beasleys there whom they hired to take care of the corn and make other improvements on their land. . . .

### **Enoch Smith, June 15-16, 1813 (pp. 501-503)**

The Deposition of Enoch Smith of Lawful age taken to be read as evidence in a suit depending and undetermined in the Clarke Circuit wherein Cuthbert Combs is complainant and the heirs of Thomas Porter deceased Defendants who being sworn deposes and saith, that he the deponant came into this Country in the year 1775 and in the spring of that year got acquainted with the two Calmes's and Combs's who formed a company and improved and settled two men, Major and William Beasly, which young men was settled on a branch of Lulbergrud and made corn that year and gathered it and continued at the place untill the fall of that year and then broke up and came to Boonsborough. these two men informed me that they had made other improvements in and about the Indian Town that was adjacent to their Cabbin and cornfield.

and there was a Cabbin that I was acquainted with in early times on the East side of Howard Creek where there was a tree marked WB but the Cabbin is now rotten but there is some appearance of the marks which I have on the 14th day of this month been with the Surveyor at, as I have reason to believe from the appearance of the marks.



This deponent further states that the Indian Town was very visible when the old company settled in 1775 and lay between a branch of Lulbegrud and Howards Creek and nearly extended from one water course to the other.

This deponent also states that Major Beasley was taken prisoner by the Indians at Boonsbur and William Beasley was, as I have been informed, killed there. These men informed me at different times that they were employed by the above mentioned company to improve for them and the Deponent also states that this Indian Town was a place of notariety amongst the first settlers in this country. That there were many remarkable licks adjacent and was much used by Buffalo and Deer.

This deponent further states that was counted a very dangerous part of the Country for Indians for some time after I settled with my family in this Country where I now live, which was in the year 1790.

Question by the Defendants: What time was the Cabin that the Beasleys occupied and raised corn at, at the place now called the block house, burnt down?

Answer: In the fall of the year 1775 or just before Christmas in that year.

Question 2nd: Was there not a very good spring at the last named place?

Answer: there was a Small spring but continued to run good water all summer.

Question by same: Did you ever discover any spring where the Beasleys had a Cabin on Howards Creek alluded to in your deposition above?

Answer: I never saw any spring there.

Question by same: where do you suppose the main Indian Town was between Lulbegrud and Howards Creek in the years 1779 and 1780?

Answer: North West from the block house near where the Beasleys raised corn, which was near the said Cabin that was burnt down.

Question by same: If you had been asked in the year 1779 or 1780 to show the spring at the place where the Beasleys had their Cabin, where would you have gone?

Answer: The spring above alluded to in my deposition near where the Beasleys raised corn in the year 1775 that runs into the waters of Lulbegrud.

Question by Complainant: How far do you suppose it is from Boonsborough to this place?

Answer: in the year 1779 and 1780 we supposed the distance the way we travelled about 20 miles.

Question by Defendants. How far do you suppose it is on a straight line from Boonsborough to the Stone lick on Howards upper Creek?

Answer: I think about 14 or 15 miles. Farther this deponent saith not.

[s] Enoch Smith

### **William Frazer, June 15-16, 1813 (pp. 503-504)**

Also the Deposition of William Frazer of lawful age being first sworn deposeseth and saith, That he came to the state of Kentucky in the month of December 1793 and settled on the Lands now in controversy between Cuthbert Combs, Senr, Plaintiff and Porters heirs Defendants. and in the month of april 1795 he discovered the appearance of the same old improvements which is now in Cuthbert Combs's clearing and where he supposed had been an Indian old Town which place he shew to the surveyor on the 14th of June 1814, and directed him to note it.

from thence we proceeded to a place shown as Beaslys Cabin, where this deponant saith he was present in the year 1796 when said Cabin was proven by William Calk, John Harper, and Nicholas Anderson. and this deponant further states that the aforesaid Cabin stands about seven poles East of Howards upper Creek near an old oak marked WB.

Question by Defendants: when did you first discover anything like an Indian old Town between Lulbegrud and Howards upper Creek?

Answer: In the year 1793.

Question by same: Did you ever see Beaslys Cabbin on Howards Creek?

Answer: I saw the place called Beaslys Cabbin but there was only a few logs at the time I saw it.

Question by same: Did you in the year 1795 discover any logs like they had been put up in a Cabbin at the place you have shown to the Surveyor as having the appearance of an Indian Town?

Answer: I did not. all that I discovered was in tilling the ground, after It had been cleared, some round places like it had been dug up.

Question by Complainant: what was the sign of an Indian Town you saw at the gate posts?

Answer: Stumps, corn hills, the appearance of a number of old houses, where bullets had been cut out of trees, &c.

Question by same: how much land did you clear for Cuthbert Combs in the year 1795?

Answer: about six acres on which there was the appearance of four places such as I first described in my deposition.

Question by same: How large was the round places you have described in my clearing?

Answer: I think about twenty feet across and further this deponant saith not.

[s] William Frazer

### **John Harper, June 15-16, 1813 (pp. 503-507)**

Also the Deposition of John Harper who being of lawful age deposeth and saith, that in the year 1779 he came up Howards Creek and pass thru near where Gate posts were and down to the spring at the block house.

and that in the year 1782 or 1783 he knew the place that is called the Beaslys Cabbin on Howards Creek, and that whenever he came up the Creek to the said place he supposed the Indian Town commenced.

and that he saw the sign of old improvements at the place shown by William Frazer to the surveyor, on the 14th instant, [in] the year 1796 after the land bout said place had been cultivated.

this deponant further saith that he knew a Lick at the place in the edge of the creek shown by him to the surveyor, on the 15th instant, in the year 1779.

This deponant further saith that about that time the extent of what was called the Indian Towns was as the same was shown to the surveyor by myself and others, on the 14th instant, commenceing at the place called Beaslys cabin and ending at the extremity of the line run to ascertain the same beyond the Gate posts and to the block house and the pigeon roost.

This deponant further saith there was a Lick on the East side of the Creek about one half a mile above the stone Lick in the Edge of the Creek.

Question by the Defendants: did you ever consider the appearance of old fortifications, such as was shown by Cuthbert Combs to the surveyor on the 14th instant on the West side of the Creek and the others of that kind in this neighbourhood, to be any part of the Indian Town?

Answer: we did not at that time call them such or consider them part of Indian Towns.

Question by same: was not the Lick called the stone Lick, as shown to the surveyor near Howards Creek the largest and most noted one you knew on Howards Creek, about 15 or 16 miles from Boonsborough in the years 1779 and 1780?

Answer: It was the largest lick.

Question by the same: was the said Lick not in the first big bank that raised from the bottom along the Creek, and was it not fronting the Creek in such a manner that a person could easily see it when traveling up the Creek?

Answer: It was and could easily be discovered in the years 1779 and 1780 when travelling up the Creek.

Question by same: Do you know [if] the Beaslys ever owned or occupied the place called Beaslys Cabbin?

Answer: I did not, only by report.

Question by same: where did you conceive at that time the main Indian Town was?

Answer: From the appearance of the stumps &c I thought the last improvements were made near the Gate posts.

Question by same: were you not informed in the year 1779 or 1780 that the Beasleys raised corn at and lived for a short time at the spring shown to the Surveyor near the Block house?

Answer: I understood so, and was likewise informed the Cabbin they lived in was burnt down.

Question by same: Did you ever see any thing like a spring near where it is said the Beaslys had a Cabbin on Howards Creek?

Answer: I did not.

Question by same: was there not a good spring where it was said the Beaslys had their Cabbin near the Block house?

Answer: there was.

Question by Complainant: describe the improvements you saw in the year 1782 and 1783 as shown to the surveyor by William Frazer on the 14th Instant.

Answer: Several, such as described by William Frazer in his deposition.

Question by Complainant: How far did you call it from the stone Lick to Boonsborough in the year 1779 and 1780?

Answer: between 15 and twenty miles. but the way was rough and crooked.

Question by Defendants: How far do you think it is now on a strait line?

Answer: I do not think it is more than 14 or 15 miles on a straight line, and further this deponant saith not.

[s] John Harper

**William Calk, June 15-16, 1813 (pp. 507-509)**

Also the deposition of William Calk of Lawful age deposeth and saith that he passed up Howards upper Creek and thro the place called the Indian old Towns in the year 1775.

Question by Complainant: was it not dangerous about the Indian old Town from the latter part of the year 1775 untill the year 1795?

Answer: I would have thought it dangerous from the latter part of the year 1775 for some years after, how many I do not now recollect.

Question by same: what time did the Beaslys come to the place where they raised corn at or near where the Cabbin stood that is said to have been burnt down as shown to the surveyor and where it is said the block house stood?

Answer: In May 1775 as well as I recollect, for some time in June after I was at the Cabbin and the Beaslys were living in it and corn was growing there.

Question by same: what was the sign of an Indian Town at Gate posts, pigeon roost, block house &c?

Answer: there was posts but I did not think them gate posts at the place called the gate posts, and the ground appeared like it had been cultivated around in several places with intervals between, and the largest place in one body that I seen was around the place called the gate posts and recollect of seeing one large stump particularly, and at the pigeon roost there was a small part that appeared like it had been cultivated also, and also near the spring where corn was raised, it appeared like it had been cultivated in a small part with intervals between the different places mentioned that did not appear to have been cultivated.

Question by Complainant: what sign did you see of an Indian Town at the place shown by William Frazer to the surveyor on the 14th Instant in the lower part of my plantation?

Answer: when crossing of Howards upper Creek about the Cabbin called Beaslys Cabbin on Howards Creek, as soon as I got up the hill I considered myself in a part of the old Indian Town. there appeared the same appearance of its having been inhabited and cultivated as in the upper parts of said Town before described, excepting posts and stumps and a large interval that appeared not to have been cultivated from this part to the upper, but I concluded it all to be in the Indian Town in my mind.

Question by same: do you recollect to have seen any round places such as described by William Frazer at the place shown by him?

Answer: I do not recollect of seeing any such places but the ground appeared to have been cultivated there in former times.

Question by same: where did the Cabbin stand called Beaslys Cabbin?

Answer: It stood on the East side of Howards upper Creek at or near the place shown to the surveyor by myself and others on the 14th Instant, and there was a tree marked near the Cabbin with the letters WB, and the W is there plain to be seen yet.

Question by same: did you understand by Cuthbert Combs and company that the Beaslys were employed by Cuthbert Combs and Company to improve their lands and raise corn?

Answer: I always understood so from the information of the company or a part of them.

Question by same: Do you consider the Stone Lick to be in the bank of the Creek?

Answer: I consider the Lick called the Stone Lick on said Creek to be on the side of the hill some small distance from the bank of the Creek.

Question by Defendants: Is not this Lick in the side of the first bank that raises from a small bottom on the Creek?

Answer: It is in the side of the first hill adjoining the bottom.

Question by same: Was it not well known as a Lick in the years 1779 and 1780 and was it not easily seen in going up Howards Creek at that time?

Answer: I believe it was.

Question by same: Do you know that the Beaslys lived at the Cabbin said to be the Beaslys Cabbin on Howards upper Creek or that they ever were there of your own knowledge?

Answer: I never seen them there that I remember.

Question by same: Did you ever see any thing like a spring at or near the place?

Answer: I do not recollect of ever seeing any spring there.

Question by same: was there not a good spring at the place shewn by you to the surveyor on the 14th Instant, near where the Cabbin stood that is said to have been burnt, near where the block house stood?

Answer: there was and is now.

Question by same: how many of the Beaslys lived at the place last described?

Answer: two, towit, William Beasly and Major Beasly. And further this deponint saith not.

[s] William Calk

### **Marquis Calmes, June 15, 1813 (pp. 509-512)**

The deposition of Marquis Calmes being of lawful age taken at the house of Cuthbert Combs, Senr, in Clarke County . . . and taken on behalf of the Complainant. The said Calmes being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he came to this country in the year 1775 in company with Marquis Calmes, Senr, Cuthbert Combs, Benjamin Combs, Benjamin Berry, and others for the purpose of taking up lands and that this deponant with the before mentioned persons employed Major Beasly and William Beasly to improve for them for the term of twelve months, and that the said company with the said Beaslys encamped at the place now called the block house between Howards upper Creek and Lulbegrud where we the said company built a Cabbin and planted corn with the assistance of the aforesaid hired men and left the aforesaid hired men to cultivate the corn and take care of the same, which they did and occupied the Cabbin as this deponant believes.

This deponant further instructed the said Beaslys to make improvements for him on his settlement which this deponant believes they did.

and this deponant further states that they balance of the above named company had an equal right to the services of the said Beasleys, and supposes they instructed the said Beasleys to make improvements for them.

this deponant further saith that there was much danger apprehended at the above place from the time they made the improvements untill the year 1794 from the savages.

Question by Defendants: Did you in the year 1779, 1780 or 1781 know any place as part of the Indian Towns on Lulbehrud and Howards upper Creek on Cuthbert Combs settlement or preemption?

Answer: In the year 1775 I discovered an Indian Town at the house where Cuthbert Combs now lives and in the year 1779 I was under the belief that the Indian Town continued as far as the place where it is said Beaslys Cabbins was on Howards Creek.

Question by same: where did you in the above year consider the main Indian Town to be between Lulbehrud and Howards upper Creek?

Answer: in 1775 and 1779 I considered the main Indian Town and last Indian improvements to be at the gate posts, and the Indian improvements extended across my preemption.

Question by same: was there not Indian Towns at the block house and the place known as the pigeon roost?

Answer: there was a small Town at each place.

Question by same: does not the main Indian Town extend across your preemption to where you showed the surveyor?

Answer: It does.

Question by same: Was there not an Indian Town at the place shown by you on yesterday to the surveyor on your preemption line East of the Indian Town at the Gate posts?

Answer: there was.

Question by same: Was you not well acquainted with the spring shown to the surveyor on yesterday in the year 1779 and was there not a good spring at the place where the Block house stood?

Answer: there was.

Question by same: Did you in the year 1779 or 1780 know any spring at or near the place where it is said the Beaslys had their Cabbins on Howards Creek?

Answer: I did not.

Question by same: Do you know that the Beaslys lived at the place last mentioned in the year 1779 or 1780?

Answer: I do not.

Question by Complainant: Did you not think that the Indian Town passed thro my preemption and settlement from your preemption to the place said to be where the Beaslys Cabbins was on Howards?

Answer: It passed thro my preemption and small distance into the Defendants [Complainant's] settlement to a piece of wet Marshy land, which the deponent believes was not under cultivation by the Indians, and after passing thro said Marshy place, the improvements commenced again not far from the Complainants house.

Question by same: what sign was there of Indian Towns at the block house, Gate posts and pigeon roost?

Answer: at the Gate posts appearance of large fields being cleared, stumps standing with large sprouts growing out from the roots, corn hill, marked trees &c. at the block house and pigeon roost I saw no corn hill, but from the appearance of the ground

and small timber, I was convinced it had been under cultivation, there being large timber around.

Question by same: Did you see any signs like there had been Cabbins or huts built at either of those places?

Answer: I do not remember that I did.

Question by the Defendants: what was the sign of Indian Towns you saw on Cuthbert Combs settlement or preemption in the year 1779?

Answer: a small tender growth of timber in some places not entirely grown up, surrounded with large heavy timber.

Question by same: Did you see at the Towns last described any thing like huts or corn hills?

Answer: I did not. and further this deponant saith not.

[s] Marquis Calmes

### **William Calk, June 17-18, 1814 (pp. 514-520)**

Also the deposition of William Calk . . .

Question by Defendants: Was not there fresher sign of an Indian Town or what was supposed an Indian Town near the place called the Gate posts than any other place in the neighbourhood thereof in said years, that is 1779 and 1780?

Answer: I think it nearly all alike. I think there was some places nearer there where the timber looked younger between the Gate posts and the spring near the place above alluded to called the block house, which I considered at that time as part of the Town.

Question by Complainant: was not the interveneing land between the place called the gate posts and Beaslys Cabbin on Howards Creek called the Indian old Town in the years 1775, 1779 and 1780 and was it not well and generally known in those years by that name:

Answer: as far as my knowledge extends, It was called the old Town from above the Gate posts to about opposite the Cabbin called Beaslys Cabbin on Howards Creek, which I suppose to be nearly the distance of two miles with some intervals of poor land that did not appear to have been cultivated.

Question by same: Did you not consider that there was much more land called the Indian Town at that time included in where Marquis Calmes's preemption now is than what is included now in the bounds of Cuthbert Combs settlement and preemption?

Answer: I think the larges[t] part in a body was included in Calmes preemption, being the same that the Gate posts stood in.

Question by same: How wide do you think is the space generally called the Indian Town, the extent in length of which has been before described by you as being from opposite the place called Beaslys Cabbin on Howards Creek to the Gate posts and from thence to the Block house?

Answer: from the place about where the Gate posts stood across the Town, I think it between the distance of half a mile and three quarters, perhaps three quarters of a mile. and I think the widest place I saw on the settlement or preemption of Cuthbert Combs to be some thing upwards of a quarter of a mile.

[s] William Calk

**William Frazer, June 18, 1814 (pp. 520-521)**

Also the deposition of William Frazer being first sworn deposeth and saith. That the improvements which he discovered in the year 1795 in Cuthbert Combs clearing, and which he supposed to have been the place of habitation for the Indians, were the lowest of any Indian improvements on Howards Creek except the appearance of cleared land.

and also that the improvements at the gate posts, being similar to those in said clearing which he shewed the surveyor on yesterday, were the highest up of any improvements where he supposed the Indians had actually inhabited, or where they had their places of residence.

this deponant further saith that the land had the appearances of its formerly being cleared some small distance above the gate posts.

Question by Defendants: where did you see the most sign of places that you supposed the Indians had Inhabited?

Answer: I think near the Gate posts where I shewed the Surveyor on yesterday.

[Question]: When were [you] acquainted with the place called the pigeon roost, [and] were there any appearances of Indian improvements at said place, and is not the land verry poor around said place?

Answer: I was acquainted in 1794, and there was a small tender growth of timber where it is said pigeons destroyed timber, and the land is verry poor around said place.

Question by Defendants: Is no[t] the land poor on the Eastern boundary the whole length of what is generally called the Indian Town?

Answer. It is. And further this deponant saith not.

[s] William Frazer



# Excerpts from the Interviews of Rev. John Dabney Shane

## Thomas Eastin, Miriam Calmes Eastin and William Calmes Draper MSS 11CC 95-97

### Thomas Eastin

The Indian old fields is a 5,000 acre tract extending from Howard's upper creek to Lulbegrud. The gate posts were something near the centre. The fields extended over Howard's [Upper] Creek.

**Gate posts.** The gate posts were *on the east side of Howard's upper creek, three or four hundred yards from the bank*, in the centre of the old fields on a high and very level plain, about 12 miles southeast from Winchester, and 10 miles south of Mt. Sterling, 6 miles from Red river and 10 from mouth of Lulbegrud on the farm of the late Marquis Calmes Sr. It is now Martin's. He has a tenant on it. It can be seen (the barn) *on the north side of the road leading from Winchester to the Red River Ironworks, about ¼ mile from the road.*

### William Calmes

**Silver spring, Block House.** The Block house was at the Silver Spring. Supposed to be a silver mine there.

**Gate posts.** There was where the gate posts were, at the far corner of the orchard towards the barn [and] grave yard. In the old fields were found and plowed up gun barrels, squaw axes, british mortising axes, pieces of hoes, silver broaches, bucket bails &c. The Indian fortification was near a mile off from where the gate posts were, on the other side of the road.

## Nancy Hedges Goff 11CC 97-98

**Gate posts.** Mrs. Gough had seen the gate posts. Only one. Had an iron band on it. My idea was that the band was to hang the gate to. I rather think the post was not standing when we came. Have heard Mr. Thornton say he saw it. Old Mrs. Daniel, John H. Combs and wife, old Mrs. Dunahoo suppose all saw it. Also old Mr. [William] Risk.

**Old fields.** Old father [Thomas] Gough said when he came here first, fall 1789, before Harmer's campaign, the place was covered with the finest Buffalo clover, that there was no timber on the place thicker than a man's thigh. Old General [Marquis] Calmes said the cane was so thick you could hardly ride through it. Many places couldn't see more than ten feet.

**General Calmes.** Seven weeks, I think, General Calmes was here [in 1775]. Lived six weeks on meat without bread. Benjamin Berry, Cud Combs Sr., Cud Combs Jr., and two Calmes each took up a 1,000 acres. The fort and gate posts were on General Calmes tract.

**The kettle bail.** A kettle bail was found in the gate post old field. It was plowed up. It was found at the end of a row on the plough. It had dragged so hard when he took the bail off the kettle that his horse was stopped. The man thought it was a root. When he got to the end of the row and found the bail, he went back in the row and searched

with great pains, but never could find the pot, which was so heavy with money, the bail broke off before it would come up.

**Stone pipe.** Mr. Gough found a stone pipe on our place which he gave to his sister, who moved to Indiana.

## William Risk and Polly Risk

11CC 86-90

### William Risk

**Calmes.** [Marquis] Calmes lived in Fayette [County]. He put one Marchant on the place. Marchant put the cabin there, about 200 or 250 yards from Howard's Upper Creek. The gate posts were nigh to it. Marchant and Bishop were brother-in-laws. Marchant married Bishop's sister. I was at the raising of the cabin that Marchant put up by the gate posts.

**Indian old fields.** I heard one of the Partners, General [Marquis] Calmes, say the old fields were all covered with Blue grass when he first saw it. And when I first saw it, it was very high, with grass as high, some, as a horse's back and with a head to it. I believe this was a white oak valley at first and cultivated.

**Trees and stump.** There were sprouts of white hickory, and cherry tree, and black Locust, and black walnut all through the old field. There was a place where there were stumps sawn off as high as a chair back, and around these stumps were trees, some of them would make six rail cuts. Now about three rail cuts high, low and bushy top. I could not tell whether the trees were sprouts of the stumps or not. If they were, why had not the stumps rotted out. I did not know whether the trees were of the same kind with the stump. It was very singular how they had come to grow so close around the stumps.

**Cabin.** Suppose some of the trees had been cut down to put up a white oak pole cabin that was there close by on a point. The trees also were on a point. Saw them about a year after I came. On that point was a cabin that was there and looked old when the partners were taking up the land. The white oak point joined to the old fields. Known as the "cabin on white oak point." Now on Leonard Bell's [Beall's] land, joining to Mrs. Gough's, down on Howard's Creek. The cabin was hardly ½ mile from the gate posts. The point was on this side of Howard's Creek, east side, north side of Indian old fields. *Logs in the cabin were very old when I saw it. About five feet high.*

**Gate posts.** The Posts were two, of black locust. About as far apart as a gate would be, from 4 to 4½ feet. Were hewed. I saw the gate posts standing there. *The gate and cabin were then old when these men went to make their entries there.* So I heard them say.

**Things found.** A squaw axe, queensware, axe all eye[?], gun barrel—which I think I saw—&c were ploughed up.

**Poisoned field.** Ebenezer Corn swore to it establishing some claim there. In his oath, he called it so. This was down where [Thomas] Easton's mill is. Was in his settlement of 400 acres. There was a sign of corn hills there. It was down by Lulbegrud. As if the fence had all rotted down, and the place overgrown with weeds. Enoch Smith was of the same opinion with Corn, I think. They called the place, at the mouth of the Branch where the Oil Spring is, Lulbegrud, as Boone swore.

**Mounds.** If the mounds were of the same date with the gun barrels, we would find appearances of the implements with which they were made. The one would last as well as the other.

## Cuthbert Combs Jr.

11CC 80-81

**Blackbeard.** Old Blackbeard [Black Hoof ?] once camped near Clay Lick, near where my mother-in-law, Mrs. [Mary] Daniel, lives. Clay Lick up one fork of the old field branch, in sight of the road that goes up that branch. Old Blackbeard was called the oldest Indian anywhere. Said this was all his country once. Could give no account of the mounds. Had been up Copper [Copperas] Creek, a company of them, but after what, we didn't know.

**Block house spring.** Block house spring was *½ mile up the Old field Branch*. Houses were built there for Captain Jacob Dooley's regulars. Was then the outside settlement to Virginia. Captain Dooley's regulars hadn't been gone but a week or two before my father came out and moved into them. My father lived there about a month till he could get new cabins at Frazier's Station. Moved to Frazier's about Christmas.

**Callamees' place, Old fields.** General [Marquis] Callamees lived in Woodford. Had two overseers, John Marchant, then Elisha Bishop. Bishop's children were out playing—making play houses—under a wild cherry tree and found five dozen silver broaches buried at the root. The cherry tree was within ten yards of two gate posts that were found there in the first settlement of the country. They were of cherry tree or mulberry, with rabbets hollowed down at the corner of each, as if planks had been nailed on. There were other stumps of cherry tree and walnut. Oil flints were picked up about there, and pieces of musket barrels, looked like there might have been twenty or thirty, eaten up by the rust.

## Jesse Daniel

11CC 92-95

**Cornfields.** I think the first time I was on that ground—Easton's Mill place, 1½ miles from oil spring—was about forty-five or -six years ago. I saw corn hills, as I would say them to have been, and thought they looked too regular for Indian's work.

**Gate posts.** I never saw the gate posts, but heard of them. Suppose Locust posts were planted there.