

## ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF WAR, WEST VIRGINIA

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War, West Virginia is named after War Creek. State #16 was an old Indian War Path connecting the Catawbas of Waxhaw, NC with the Mingo and Shawnee of the Ohio River Valley. One can usually tell when a rural highway follows the route of an old war trail by the fact that it will keep the same route number across state lines. In this specific instance, the number '16' is used in North Carolina, Virginia, and in West Virginia.

The following is an excerpt from of the text for the Battle of Point Pleasant Tour of the Big Stone Gap Historical State Park and Museum. It is copyrighted.

"In Feb. 1756 the Augusta County Militia mounted a campaign to pacify the Shawnee Indians who were running amok in western Virginia. It is not known when it was built, but likely it was in response to the Draper Meadows Massacre. Fort Frederick was built "opposite the mouth of the Little River". Otis Rice quoting the Draper Manuscripts further states that Fort Frederick was "near Ingles Ferry, and "was up river from Ingles Ferry at Little River". This is all that is known of its location, but it is a reasonable supposition that it lay on the Wilderness Road, and guarded the western approaches to the ford which was just to the north of the mouth of the Little River. It is not known for whom it was named. Capt. Archibald Alexander of Rockbridge County or Andrew Lewis likely did the naming, as they led the Sandy River Expedition. Interestingly, Alexander's second wife had been a McClure, a surname tied to the Big Sandy River Valley.

Overall command of the expedition was under Major Andrew Lewis of Salem, Virginia. Capt. William Preston and Capt. Archibald Alexander were part of its officer corp. The expedition consisted of about two hundred militiamen, and one hundred Cherokee. William Ingles, husband of Mary, was in the party. They took 27 packhorses. The plan was to avoid the customary routes in order to avoid detection. They left Fort Frederick the 18<sup>th</sup> or the 19<sup>th</sup>, and cut across Burke's Garden and into Ab's Valley. They reached the headwaters of the Big Sandy River Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. The rivers were flooding, and on March 12<sup>th</sup> Major Lewis's canoe, and also another, sank with many of their provisions lost. Game was scarcer than they had imagined. Their provisions were cut in half. They refused the order to kill and eat their horses, and on March 13<sup>th</sup> there was something of a mutiny, as the men refused to go further. They had gotten as far as the general vicinity of Logan, West Virginia. They boiled and ate the rawhide

laces that held their harnesses together. These strips of rawhide were called 'tugs', and thus the place where they ate their tugs became known forever more the 'Tug Fork of the Big Sandy'.

The party broke up into small units, and on the way home many froze to death, and many were killed by Indians. They returned to Fort Frederick. The House of Burgesses held a formal hearing, but cleared Lewis of any wrongdoing."

Note that the stream in War is the Tug River Fork of the Big Sandy. Somewhere along here is where it all happened.