

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven is A Lot Like Kentucky

Findings of Comfort and Joy

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas, dear reader.

For those of you wearing the military uniform and serving in hostile territory I wish you were home.

Christmas is a time of year when all we pray for is the possibility of there being peace on Earth and good will towards men, but there have been truly beautiful very few moments throughout history when there has been peace across the Earth.

The story of Christmas, and for Christians across the globe, the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, has shaped our destiny for centuries.

Such was the case during Christmas along the Kentucky frontier between Washington and Limestone (present-day Maysville, Ky.) on Christmas Eve 1787, as dusk fell.

The Shawnee War Chief Snake-neo-to, or The Black Snake, Captain Snake, or simply Snake, as his Kentucky adversaries called him, was leading a band of warriors on a daring winter raid into the heart of what would one day be called Mason County Kentucky near the present-day site of the Mason County High School campus.

Captain Snake was striving to become the recognized war chief of all the clans of the Shawnee Nation. The role of war chief was not hereditary and he found himself frequently vying for the honor with other notable Shawnee warriors, such as Co-ta-wa-ma-go (Black Snake), We-ya-pier-sen-wah (Blue Jacket) and Tecumseh (The Panther in the sky).

I found this quote attributed to Tecumseh and it falls the same philosophy of life as that followed by other Shawnee clan leaders and high-ranking warriors.

"Love your life, that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion, respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, and beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people. Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide. Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and grovel to none. When you arise in the morning give thanks for the food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself. Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision. When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts

Heaven is A Lot Like Kentucky

By Charles Hester

are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and grieve for it. Little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and be done going home."

With that in mind, we like a group let the camp and began their journey toward the Ohio River to return to their Ohio homeland.

Snake was approaching and a soft snow began to fall

for several decades among the Shawnees, becoming totally immersed in their culture. Such warriors were called "renegades" and at any given time there were over three-dozen such renegades living with various clans and villages of the Shawnee Nation.

With a small rope around Criss's neck and his hands bound behind him, the group left the camp and began their journey toward the Ohio River to return to their Ohio homeland.

Snake was approaching and a soft snow began to fall

in earnest as the group approached the hills surrounding Mayville.

With a simple hand gesture Snake diverted the group to a lone cabin that stood near the summit of one of the ridges. Snake was familiar with this terrain and such journeys into Kentucky was becoming harder to bare with the abundance of white cabins being erected over their sacred lands.

Snake pointed to the small cabin and made several quick gestures before the group began moving again, directly toward the cabin.

As they approached the cabin they could see that it had only been erected a few days prior, and the chinking between the logs was not complete.

The renegade again warned Criss, in perfect English, to make no noise.

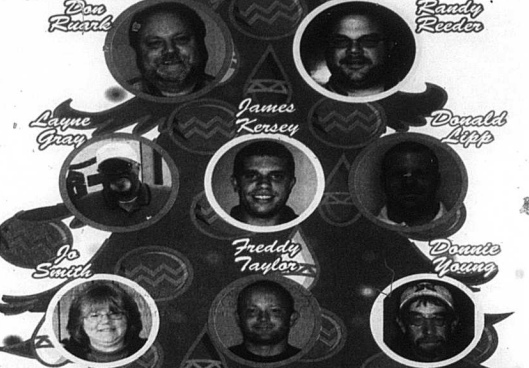
"We'll set the cabin on fire, kill everyone inside and take

their scalps. If you make a sound, we'll have to kill you too, only we'll take our time about it," the renegade said flatly and then moved toward an outposted Criss.

Snake positioned his warriors at the corners of the cabin and was about to give the signal to begin the fire that would be used to burn the small isolated structure, when a sound from inside made him look once more into the tiny dwelling.

Snake paused for a full ten seconds as singing re-

See MATOX Page 17



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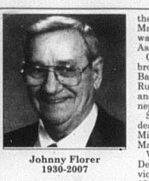


William Edmond Hunter 1928-2007

William Edmond Hunter, 78, husband of Margaret Reynolds Hunter died Wed. Dec. 12, 2007 at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home.

Survivors include a son, Billy Ray (Mastilda) Hunter, Carlisle; two daughters, Rita H. (Richard) Smart, Richmond, and Judy Baugh, Berea; five grandchildren, Angela (Miss) Penn, Ashby (Matthew) Tabb, Christopher and Jenny Hunter, and John Michael Baugh; a step-granddaughter, Teresa Baker; four great-grandchildren, Hunter and Taylor Penn, Courtney Tabb and Kylie Ockerman; and one step-granddaughter, Isabel Baker.

Services were held Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007, at Mathers-Gaucher Funeral Home by Rev. Kevin Thomas, chaplain Dave Cooper, and Rev. Gary Gillespie. Burial was at Bluegrass Memorial Gardens.

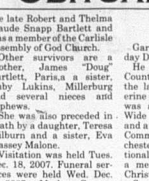


Johnny Florer 1930-2007

Johnny Florer, 77, husband of Betty Hughes Florer died Sun. Dec. 16, 2007 at the VA Medical Center in Lexington.

Survivors other than his wife include two daughters, Julie (Tom) Chi, and Lori (Tom) Leddy, both of Lexington and seven grandchildren, Leo, Zach, Nick, Samantha, Stephen, Tristan, and Jonah.

Funeral services will be held at 12:30 p.m. Thurs. December 20, 2007 at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home, 3421 Harrodsburg Rd., Lexington, Ky. by Rev. Garyford Gillespie.

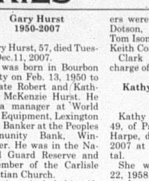


Gary Hurst 1950-2007

Gary Hurst, 57, died Tuesday Dec. 11, 2007. He was born in Bourbon County on Feb. 13, 1950 to the late Robert and Katharine McKenzie Hurst. He was a manager at World Wide Equipment, Lexington and a Banker at the Peoples Community Bank, Winchester. He was in the National Guard Reserve and a member of the Carlisle Christian Church.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie Curtis Hurst; two sons, Bryan Curtis (Katy Bruce) Hurst, Mt. Sterling and Alex Tyler Hurst, Carlisle; and one step-granddaughter, Sydney Claire Hurst, Mt. Sterling.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Fri. Dec. 14, 2007 at the Carlisle Christian Church with the Rev. Steve Smith officiating with burial following in the Carlisle Cemetery. Pallbearers were Randy Todd, Jim Dotson, John Hamilton, Tom Ison, Bill Danovan and Keith Courtney.



Kathy Farley Harpe 1958-2007

Kathy Farley Harpe, 49, of Paris, wife of Dean Harpe, died Mon. Dec. 17, 2007 at St. Joseph Hospital.

Survivors include her daughter, Emma Newell, Clay City; two sons, Justin Bowles, and Josh Bowles, Moorefield; two grandsons, Zachary and Matthew Newell; one granddaughter, Sarah Smith; and one step-granddaughter, Julie Bowles.

Funeral services were held Mon. Dec. 17, 2007 at the Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Roy Stacey officiating with burial in the Longview Cemetery. Bethel Pallbearers were Luke Newell, Billy Gilvin, Ronnie Clark, Rick Crump, Michael 'Satch' Smith, Mark Allen, Dailey. Honorary bearers were Justin Bowles, Josh Bowles, Zachary Newell, Matt Newell, Earl Razon, Mike Razon, Bobby Bowles, Anthony Gilvin, Jared Clark, Travis Dailey, Mick Dailey, Donald Dailey, David Dailey.



Gary Wayne Bowles 1958-2007

Gary Wayne Bowles, 50, husband of Deborah Clark Bowles passed away Wed. Dec. 12, 2007 at the St. Joseph Hospital.

He was the manager at the Marathon Station in Carlisle. Survivors include his wife, Deborah Clark Bowles; a daughter, Emma Newell; Clay City; two sons, Justin Bowles, and Josh Bowles, Moorefield; two grandsons, Zachary and Matthew Newell; one granddaughter, Sarah Smith; and one step-granddaughter, Julie Bowles.

Funeral services were held Mon. Dec. 17, 2007 at the Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Roy Stacey officiating with burial in the Longview Cemetery. Bethel Pallbearers were Luke Newell, Billy Gilvin, Ronnie Clark, Rick Crump, Michael 'Satch' Smith, Mark Allen, Dailey. Honorary bearers were Justin Bowles, Josh Bowles, Zachary Newell, Matt Newell, Earl Razon, Mike Razon, Bobby Bowles, Anthony Gilvin, Jared Clark, Travis Dailey, Mick Dailey, Donald Dailey, David Dailey.

Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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