

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

Resolutions and Resiliency Along The Licking River

Dec. 31, 1776, in what would one day be Millersburg in northeastern Nicholas County.

Simon could not stop weeping. The pain in his heart was overwhelming.

He had silently endured countless heartaches without having ever uttered the slightest whimper while he struggled to survive along the harsh Kentucky frontier, but he simply couldn't contain his emotions any longer. He lay in the snow, softly heaving his head against the frozen ground as he wept uncontrollably.

The remote frozen wilderness along the Licking River, though beautiful, only intensified his sorrow as he realized how lonely and sad he had instantly become.

He had survived without family. He had survived without love. He didn't know if he could survive without hope.

His deep despair began only moments before he made his way along the ancient Warrior's Trail. Simon had discovered the trail nearly two years ago when he first began living in northeastern Kentucky. The trail was used for centuries by various tribes of Native Americans who left their facial features had become hardened after four years of brutal survival on the western frontier.

The only company he regularly kept of late was that of his two prized hunting dogs, Nip and Tuck. They had saved his life a dozen times and he had saved them likewise.

He didn't fully trust any man he met on the frontier yet. Not William Thomas. Not even Boone. But he trusted Nip and Tuck completely.

Together they had survived several Native American warrior raids, bear and wolf attacks, snakebites, hunger, and even stampedes from buffalo herds.

They shared both heat and kept them from freezing on many winter nights as Nip lay curled on one side of Simon and Tuck snuggled close on the other beneath a buffalo hide blanket.

Earlier this very day, this New Year's Eve, the two had been skirting the edges of the woods on the northern side of the Licking River searching for just the right buffalo calf to shoot, butcher and carry back to the makeshift camp before later returning to the Kentucky River and Fort Boonesboro.

When Simon and the dogs had served in on just the large buffalo bull had intervened.

Daniel Boone and others befriended him, and he was currently acting as an advanced northern scout for Boone.

Liked being alone. Liked the beautiful wilderness, where a hunter could make a good living and stay hidden from possible Virginians looking to punish him for his perceived murder of a neighbor. Although his birth name had been Simon Kenton, he had changed his name to Simon Butler to avoid suspicion in the event that any of his old neighbors came west and recognized him.

It was doubtful that they would recognize him now, however, as he had grown tall, muscular and let his hair grow very long. His soft facial features had become hardened after four years of brutal survival on the western frontier.

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cracked and the two dogs and the buffalo bull plunged beneath the ice before being quickly swept away by the current.

Swept away to their frozen death. Nip and Tuck were gone forever.

Now Simon was so all alone in the vast and empty wilderness.

The strain of the incident hit him with such a shock that it literally crippled him, and thus after crawling the frozen river, he had simply fallen to the ground.

For an eternity he lay in the snow, overcome with grief and sadness.

Finally, after he was all cried out, he got on his feet. He was a survivor at heart, and he was determined to continue to survive in this hauntingly beautiful place called Kentucky.

One day, he promised himself, as he dusted the snow from his hunting shirt, one day he would allow himself to become close to his fellow man again, after he had redeemed his past secret murder act in Virginia.

One day he might even open his heart and find love again.

Perhaps he would even have a family of his own. The father he walked the more resolute he became.

He spotted another buffalo calf, killed and butchered it, and with his laden back, continued on to his makeshift camp and later on to Fort Boonesboro, uninterrupted.

Indeed, as the years drifted by, Simon would survive unbelievable hardships.

He saved Daniel Boone from certain death in 1777 in hand-to-hand combat during a Shawnee attack on Fort Boonesboro.

He later survived the harshest treatment Shawnee warriors and villagers could dish out to him during his captivity by them in 1778-1779 before they sold him to British officers.

In 1782, he met William Leachman, the man his thought he had earlier killed, but who had actually survived his Virginia beating.

He then immediately changed his name back to Simon Kenton and returned to Virginia to his family.

In 1784 the returned by boat to Limestone (present day Maywilde, Ky.) with several Kenton family members, and other families, including those with the last name of Wood, Edwards and even Medcox. Together they would build Kenton's Station along Lawrence Creek in present Mason County Kentucky.

Simon Kenton did eventually find love, married and raised a family.

Through it all he was a tireless defender of his neighbors, and from 1784-1795 established the famous militia unit known simply as Kenton's Scouts.

He spoke of the incident along the Licking River when he lost Nip and Tuck only once in his long life, and then only in his twilight years as an older man while visiting the Finley family at Battle Run in southern Fleming County and mentioning the incident to Fielding Belt, and early inhabitant of Battle Run.

He told Belt that losing his two dogs were among the greatest heartaches and losses he endured throughout his long life.

If the Good Lord is willing, dear reader, we will visit with Simon and his companions frequently within the confines of this column in the weeks and months to come.

The above story was extracted from volumes 108B and 19-21 S of the Lyman Copeland Draper Manuscripts with particular attention given to the interview of Fielding Belt, Draper 21 S 208.

It bears mentioning that the incident might have occurred in 1776, rather than 1778.

However in his book "Simon Kenton Kentucky Scout" the renowned Kentucky historian, Dr. Thomas C. Clark, was of the same opinion as I, in that the incident occurred in 1776.

OBITUARIES



Jerry Wells McCall 1949-2007

Jerry Wells McCall, 58, of Bowling, died Wed. Dec. 19, 2007 at the Fleming County Hospital.

She is survived by one daughter, Mayne Hudgens of Somerset; two sisters, Gladys burden of Millersburg and Carrie Mezone of Millersburg; two brothers, John Willoughby of Carlisle and Earl Willoughby of Louisville; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents John and Maggie Willoughby; three sons, Paul L. Setters, Harry-Jr) Jones, a son Jeremy (Leba) McCall; a grandson, Carson McCall; and two sisters, Bonnie (Jack) Burden and Jeanie (Carl) Evans, both of Carlisle.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father and brother, Spencer McCall. Visitation was Fri. Dec. 21, 2007 at Price Bros. Funeral Home in Millersburg. Burial followed in Millersburg Cemetery. Visitation was held on Thurs. Dec. 20, 2007 at the funeral home.

Funeral services were Saturday at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Fairview, with Rev. Todd Wiley officiating. Burial was in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery with full military honors.

Survivors include six sons, Eddie (Gerardine) Gates, Cynthia, Douglas (Lena) Gates, Carlisle, Jimmie (Pat) Gates, Salt Lick, David (Annie) Gates, Carlisle, Billy Joe (Tina) Gates, Falmouth, and Rickie (Linda) Gates, Fleming Co.; a daughter, Geneva (Billy) Gilvin, Carlisle; three brothers, Randy Johnson, Kettering, Oh., Sam Johnson, Ypsilanti, Mich., and Henry Johnson, Sr., 17 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

He was a member of the Mt. Pisgah Church, Fairview. He was a self-employed welder and a truck driver for Hinton Farm Stores.

Funeral services were Saturday at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Fairview, with Rev. Todd Wiley officiating. Burial was in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery with full military honors.

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Ordinance aimed to quiet the city

By Charles Mattox News Editor charles@carlislemercury.com

If you play loud music, have a barking dog, like to drive the motor of your vehicle as you cruise through town, or you use power tools after dark, you are probably not going to like the city's newest ordinance.

Noise ordinance, as defined in the ordinance, is defined in meaning "any sound or vibration exceeding the level of ordinance related to noise and noise abatement.

Those who are caught in violation of the ordinance will face fines up to \$500 for each infraction, according to the "penalty for violations" section of the ordinance.

The ordinance was created to try to eliminate noise disturbances. Noise disturbance, as defined in the ordinance, is defined in meaning "any sound or vibration exceeding the level of ordinance related to noise and noise abatement.

Card of Thanks

The family of Gary Bowles would like to thank the Nicholas Co. Ambulance Service, Officer Michael Kiskaden, Dr. Jose Loranzo and the Nicholas Co. Hospital Emergency Room Staff for everything they did for Gary.

We would also like to thank all of the family and friends for the gifts, food, flowers, love and support they gave in our time of grief.

Thank you to Billy Clark and Staff at Clark's Funeral Home for caring for us in this sad time.

Also to Bro. Stacey and Bro. Newell for their kind words and wonderful service.

And a special thanks to Hank Bond and Family.

Again... Thanks for Everything! Debbie, Justin and Josh Bowles Emma, Linka, Zach and Matt Newell

Have a Happy New Year

from all of us at



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Advertisement for Sannie O'Law featuring a photo of Sannie O'Law and text: 'Have A Safe And Happy New Year. As you may know, our State Representative Carolyn Belcher was elected Bath County Judge Executive, creating the need for the Special Election on January 8th. While I have been very active in the community, this is my first race for public office. As your Democratic nominee, I am very excited about this opportunity to help our community in the Kentucky House of Representatives. Special Election Tuesday, January 8th Sannie O'Law DEMOCRAT STATE REPRESENTATIVE www.SannieOverly.com sannieo@law.com (859) 748-4597 340 Main Street • Paris, KY 40361'

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