

THROUGH THE YEARS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

Searching for Ready Money Jack

When pioneers families who descended the Ohio River in the 1780s and 1790s, landed at the Limestone Point (present day site of Mayville, Ky.), many of them believed the most difficult part of their journey was complete.

For many of them however, especially those traveling overland to Fayette County, the perilous journey had just begun.

That is not to say that the river down the majestic Ohio River was a mere leisurely boat ride either.

The unpredictable current of the river and the ever-present Native American activity along either side of the river were matters to be taken into serious consideration, and hundreds of pioneers perished on the river.

Captain Spencer Records noted that in a 1785 exploration trip down the Ohio River to Kentucky with his father "Indiana called like wild turkeys in an attempt to lure us ashore."

Many pioneer family members breathed a heavy sigh of relief when they spotted the pleasant cove of Limestone and the seven hills rising in a semi-circle above it.

Within the pages of the Draper Manuscripts, in particular volumes 11 and 12 CC, which contain interviews of pioneers by Rev. John Shanc, and among the pages of Land Book C in the Fleming County Courthouse Archives, I have discovered a wealth of information about the dangerous jour-



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky By Charles Miller

inland to where present-day Carlisle is located, and began their own salt-making company. They also established a tavern and had a trading post. They traded with pioneer families and Native Americans alike.

I believe the head of that former slave household was many times that of the Lower Bricks Licks and were then two more weeks getting to Bryan's Station."

He later took the name of Ready Money Jack and often told those weary travelers who stopped at his dwelling that he could provide their every need.

"If you've got the ready money, then I'm your Jack," he would tell them.

Below are some quotes from early pioneer families who traveled from Limestone to Fayette County. They are short quotes as I did not want to bore you, dear reader, but there is much information to be gleaned from their limited words.

"There was no settlement from Drake's Station (May's Lick) to Blue Licks. About five or six miles from there, one Ready Money Jack had some cabins. He was originally from the Monongalia county and was less afraid of Indians... He kept a kind of tavern there and gave himself the name."

John Hedger Vol. 11 CC page 47 Draper Manuscripts. "Ready Money Jack was a black man set free by Col. Lyons."

Joseph Lucky Vol. 11 CC page 17 Draper Manuscripts. "The buffalo road (Trace) made three forks at Ready

Money Jack's Simon Kenton Land Book C page 493 Fleming County Courthouse Genealogical Archives.

"The hill at Limestone (Mayville) was so steep we had to haul the wagon up a piece at a time. We took a long buffalo road of a good many that led to the Lower Bricks Licks and were then two more weeks getting to Bryan's Station."

William Hardesty Vol. 11 page 71 Draper. "At Ready Money Jack's we got some hot corn cakes and milk. We ate admirably."

John Hedger Vol. 11 CC page 50 Draper. "Ready Money Jack had a double-cabin... John Troutman, Ralph Morgan and a good many others had gotten there before us. They had been out to bury the dead from St. Clair's Defeat (Nov. 1791), and were just returning."

James Hedger, brother of John Hedger Vol. 12 CC pages 110-120 Draper. "We spent some time with the illiterate but legendary spy, Jacob Shaker, last week and it should be noted that I found his 'X' above his deposition mentioning Ready Money Jack on page 505 of Land Book C in the Fleming County Courthouse Genealogical Archives. Student

noted that Flat Lick, on a branch of Brushy Fork, was a mile north Ready Money Jack.

I continue to search for the exact location of where Ready Money Jack had his cabins and where he offered help to so many weary pioneers amid the beautiful desolation of the northeastern Kentucky wilderness.

I often find myself wondering about the hardships our ancestors overcame as they settled this hauntingly beautiful land. I have found documentation of several hard-fought, desperate and deadly engagements be-

tween the pioneers and various Native American clans along the trails that led from Mayville to Lexington.

I will continue searching for information to share with you about our fascinating history.

I will try to present information to you from our ancestor's perspectives.

Like William Hardesty, who walked in circles through the landscape of what would one day be known as Nicholas County, lost for two weeks, I will continue searching for Ready Money Jack.

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OBITUARIES



Fierey Hogg Duncan 1921-2007

Fierey Hogg Duncan, 85, widow of Willie David Duncan, died Fri., May 18, 2007 at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home.

She was born June 25, 1921 in Letcher County to the late John and Mary Gilly Hogg. She was a retired teacher's aide and a member of Carlisle Christian Church.

Survivors include a son, Norman (Bonnie) Duncan; Carlisle, two daughters, Charlotte (Gerald) Newton, Winchester and Ellen (Duncan, Decatur, Ala.); five grandchildren, Lealey Newsum, Anthony Hobbs, Tara Holland, Devon Graham and Ross Taylor and six great grandchildren.

Casketbearers were Doug Fryman, Charles Guthrie, Willie Gayle and Penny Hogg. Charles House and Randy Newman.

Services were held Monday, May 21, 2007 at Matthews-Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. Steve Smith. Burial followed in Carlisle Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Carlisle Christian Church Building Fund.

Guestbook is available at www.mathergaunce.com.

William Curtis, Sr. 1935-2007

William Curtis, Sr. 69, died Mon., May 14, 2007 at the Harrison Memorial Hospital after a long illness.

He was born in Nicholas County September 17, 1938 to Tom and Mary Donahoe Curtis. He was a farmer.

Survivors include one son, William Curtis, Jr.; Bracken County, one daughter, Juanita Vice, Mt. Sterling.

Funeral services were held Thurs., May 16 at the Carlisle Cemetery with the Rev. Harold Ray Cochran officiating.

Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.



Tempa T. Gaunce Endicott

Tempa T. Gaunce Endicott, 92, widow of H.M. "Hub" Endicott, passed away at home on Sat., May 19, 2007.

She was born in Carlisle and was a long-time resident of Midway. She was the treasurer of Midway College for many years. She was a graduate of Kentucky Females Orphan School (now Midway Junior College) and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at Transylvania University.

She did graduate work at the University of Ky. and Ky. State University. She was a retired teacher from Midway Elementary and Midway High School and also taught in Nicholas County before coming to Midway. She was a dedicated and devoted life member of the United Methodist Church of which she served with its local, district and conference organizations.

She was an active participant in Midway affairs, particularly the Midway College Alumni Association and the Midway Woman's Club.

Survivors include her son, Malcolm (Marcia) Endicott; a brother, S.M. "Mac" (Margaret) Gaunce; three grandchildren, Sean (Erin), Beau (Christina) and one great-grandchild, Will; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thurs., May 17, 2007 at 272 Saltwell Rd. with the Rev. Bobby Holman officiating.

Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his parents, Danny and Jackie McCarter; Miller Brock; his fiancée, Cynthia Goodson; one daughter, Trysten Miller; four brothers; four sisters and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thurs., May 17, 2007 at 272 Saltwell Rd. with the Rev. Bobby Holman officiating.

Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

John Clyde Lawrence 1925-2007

John Clyde Lawrence, 81, Flemingsburg died Fri., May 18, 2007 at his residence.

He was born Dec. 8, 1925 in Fleming County to the late Russell and Nettie Lawrence. He was a retired florist and co-owner of Lawrence Florist.

Survivors include his wife, Maria Buggles Lawrence; Flemingsburg; three sons, Rusty (Bredpa) Lawrence, Carlisle, Ken Dye, Flemingsburg and Frankie (Sanddy) Dye, Bristol, Del.; four daughters, Cindy Middendorf, Cincinnati, Oh, Debbie Perrone, Bristol, Conn., Becky Caudill, Georgetown, and Joy Muse, Flemingsburg; 11 grandchildren, Nancy Ann Lawrence, Katie Rosenbach, Kimberly, Erin and Sara Middendorf, Lindsey Perrone, Cara Hudgins, Heather Barnes, Amanda Muse and Tiffany and Stephanie Dye; five grandsons, Matthew Lawrence, Brandon Dye and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Ann Cropper Lawrence.

Funeral Services were held Tues., May 22, 2007 at St. Charles Catholic Church with Rev. Verne Hogan officiating.

Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Interment followed in St. Patrick Cemetery, Mayville.

Denton Workman Funeral Home, Flemingsburg was in charge of arrangements.

Jack "Jackie Blue" Miller 1975-2007

Jack "Jackie Blue" Miller, 31 of Covington died Tues., May 15, 2007.

He was born October 25, 1975 in Campbell County. He was a carpenter.

Survivors include his parents, Danny and Jackie Miller; Brock; his fiancée, Cynthia Goodson; one daughter, Trysten Miller; four brothers; four sisters and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thurs., May 17, 2007 at 272 Saltwell Rd. with the Rev. Bobby Holman officiating.

Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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