

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

The Making of A Scout

November 1784

The crisp November wind swept down the valley and over the three frontiersmen as they huddled close to the small fire. The three weary men were determined to stay warm on this cold, but otherwise beautiful night.



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky By Charles Heston

along the Kentucky frontier. He rose to his feet and began swinging his tomahawk at the warriors until one of them knocked him senseless by striking his face with a war club.

Due to his small size, the warriors thought he was only a boy and thus gave the job of scalping him to one of their younger warriors that was in training.

Cassidy was able to keep the scalping knife away from his head for a full minute before the older warrior stepped up and once again, struck Cassidy in the face with a war club. This blow landed just above his eye, cut a gash over a foot wide on his face, and gave him a concussion.

He made a mad dash for the cover of darkness and as he slipped between the trees near the campfire a thrown tomahawk struck his back, breaking two ribs and causing more loss of blood.

He was able to stagger blindly through the dark

Although the various clans of the Shawnee and Wyandotte tribes had tried mightily to dislodge the worrisome Shenanans (Virginians who carried long knives) they had been unable to destroy John Strode's Station (Winchester, Ky.) and it was from this fortified station that Bennett, Spahr and Cassidy had fled from.

The Shawnee warriors crept to within only a few feet of the sleeping trio and fired their muskets point blank into their bodies.

Spahr and Bennett were severely wounded.

Cassidy was not hit and sprang to his feet triumphantly. A warrior knocked him to the ground with a hard swing of his war club. Cassidy jumped to his feet again. He turned to fire his own musket into the warriors, but one of them had grabbed Spahr's musket and swinging it overhead as an axe, he splintered the stock over Cassidy's head in one brutal, yet smooth motion.

Cassidy sank to his knees as the hoofs of the other warriors filled the night air.

"Run!" Bennett was able to yell to Cassidy before being silenced forever by the knife of one of the Shawnee.

While trying to shake his head clear of the blood streaming down his face, Cassidy was repeatedly sicked, and during this hands happened to grasp a tomahawk he had always kept lying near where he slept.

Cassidy was no stranger to violence, having been born and raised as part of a tough Irish family, he had stowed away on "The Maryland Merchant" a cargo ship that sailed from Dublin to America, when Cassidy was only 14.

He'd been sold into indentured servitude to a tanner named Creighton in Virginia and later joined General George Washington's Army of Revolutionary soldiers.

He'd survived many battles during that war, including the Battle of Monmouth, Cowpens, the winter at Valley Forge and Yorktown. He'd almost single-handedly saved Capt. John Fleming's life during the Kentucky Battle of the Upper Blue Licks fought Aug. 12, 1792, a week prior to the more famous and disastrous Battle of the Lower Blue Licks.

Although standing barely five feet tall, Cassidy was among the bravest souls

until he fell into Plum Lick Creek and hid beneath the roots of a large Hawthorne tree.

He nearly drowned in the frigid water, but the cool water helped slow his pulse and stopped the continuous flow of blood from his wounds.

When he awoke later, long after daylight, the warriors were gone.

One can only imagine the anguish and physical pain Cassidy must have undergone. Regardless, within two days he was walking back home to Strode's Station, approximately 20 miles away.

James Beath, another fierce defender of Strode's Station, and who had only recently returned from his three-year captivity among the Shawnee Tribe, was breaking camp near the station.

Beath was unarmed as he had his two ferret "Toung Dogs", special trained bull-mastiff dogs that acted as guards against raiding Native Americans. Beath could not see the campfire a thrown tomahawk struck his back, breaking two ribs and causing more loss of blood.

He was able to stagger blindly through the dark

As Beath marveled at how the dogs were running from him with their tails between his legs he saw Cassidy

covered in blood as even being human such as the deformed and altered appearance of his dear friend, Cassidy, barely breathing and staggering unevenly, approached Beath who stood frozen. "My God it's you Mike," Beath finally ut-

tered, "What happened?" "They've killed Bennett and Spahr," Cassidy groaned before collapsing.

He would remain unconscious for over two weeks and would not be able to move from his bed for nearly four additional months such were the severity of his wounds.

Upon his recovery he learned that a man named Simon Butler had built a fort near the Ohio River and was looking for brave and heady suicidal men to assist him with his scouting duties. To

better combat the Shawnee, Wyandotte and other Native American Tribes.

Cassidy joined immediately. When his good friend John Fleming asked him later why he would join such a dangerous man in such a dangerous place Cassidy said simply "I love to do."

If the Good Lord is willing, dear reader, we will learn of Cassidy's work with Simon Butler, alias Simon Kenton, in the weeks and months to come.

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OBITUARIES



Charles Clark Jones Jr. 1927-2007

Charles Clark Jones Jr., 80, died Nov. 7, 2007 at Fleming County Hospital.

He was born Oct. 20, 1927 in Kenton County to the late Charles C. Jones Sr. and Naomi Roe Jones Gaudin. He was a retired lithographer.

Survivors include two sons, Charles C. "Chuck" (Dawn) Jones, III, Hamersville, Ohio, and Mike (Mary) Jones; three daughters, Gloria Wesley Flemingburg, Judy Jones, Seattle, Wash., and Deanna Hill, Phoenix, Ariz.; his former wife, Jean Hollar; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Dorsey Jones.

Funeral services were held Sat. Nov. 10, 2007, at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by Bro. Chris Beckham, pastor, who was in Carlisle Cemetery.

Guestbook is available at www.mathersgaunce.com.

Arlene Frances O'Bannon 1943-2007

Arlene Frances O'Bannon, 58, died Sun., Nov. 4, 2007 at the Markey Cancer Center in Lexington.

She was born March 4, 1949 in Jefferson County to the late Thomas and Letitia Ann Williams O'Bannon.

She grew up in Carlisle and was a member of Wesley Chapel C.M.E. Church.

Survivors include a son, Michael (Shannon) French, Lexington; three daughters, Sharrota O'Bannon and her fiancé Stanley Fritts, Carlisle; Lori and Edith Brown, Louisville; one sister, Sharon (James) Compton, Carlisle; two brothers, Michael (Doris) O'Bannon, Gahanna, Oh, and Gregory O'Bannon, Carlisle; one grandson, Ayden French, Lexington; two step-grandchildren, Kory and Ashlynn Burgess, Lexington; three nephews, James Compton III, Joseph Compton, Lexington and Derrik O'Bannon, Gahanna, Oh; an aunt Ethel O'Bannon, Carlisle and a host of cousins.

Pallbearers are Ben Sharp, Ray Compton, Donnie Jackson, Charles Guthrie, David Young and James Bean.

Visitation will be after 12 p.m. Sat. Nov. 10 at the church. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Sat., Nov. 10, 2007 at the Wesley Chapel C.M.E. Church with the Rev. Darrell G. Bellins officiating with burial in the Henryville Cemetery.

Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Alma Jean James Dunn 1944-2007

Alma Jean James Dunn, 63, wife of Charles David Dunn, died Tues., Nov. 6, 2007 at Bourbon Community Hospital.

She was born April 19, 1944 in Bath County to the late George W. and Martha Mattie Ellen Jones James. She was a housewife and a member of the Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Cheryl (Mike) McFarland and Lisa (Willoughby) Parry; two sons, Michael (Michelle) Dunn and David (Clindy) Dunn; two sisters, Elizabeth French Carpenter, Mt. Sterling and Betty Chambers, Olympia; one brother, Jimmy Nelson James, Jeffersonville; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild; several nieces and

nephews and special friends, Allen and Donna Merideth. She was preceded in death by a grandson, Christopher Lee Dunn.

Funeral services were held Fri., Nov. 9, 2007 at the Herald & Stewart Home for Funerals Chapel, Mt. Sterling with burial in the Carlisle Cemetery.

Rita Kay Dotson 1946-2007

Rita Kay Dotson, 60, died Tues., Nov. 6, 2007 at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

She was born Nov. 25, 1946 in Nicholas County to Lorine Clark Dotson, Carlisle and the late Bradley Dotson. She was a member of Carlisle First Baptist Church.

Survivors include a son, Mike (Barbara) Cobb, Carlisle; two daughters, Darlene Kay (Paul) Jolly and Lisa Cobb, Millersburg; three brothers, Roy (Wanda) and Dennis (Sue) Dotson, Carlisle; and Mike (Suzanne) Dotson, Lexington; three grandchildren, Aaron and Allison Cobb and Brandon Jolly; and several nieces and nephews.

Casket bearers will be Elva D. and Danny Clark, Darrin, Nick and Chad Dotson, Gene, Kelley, Charles Pope and Allen Ray Sparks.

Honorary bearers will be Aaron Cobb, Billy and Patrick Dotson, Franklin Jolly and Tom Metcalfe.

Funeral services were conducted Fri., Nov. 9, 2007 at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. Gary Conner and Rev. Adam Schell. Burial followed in Carlisle Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Carlisle Cemetery. Guestbook is available at www.mathersgaunce.com.

Edwin Earl "Hands" Hamilton 1951-2007

Edwin Earl "Hands" Hamilton, 56, Cynthia, died Monday, November 12, 2007, at the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer in Lexington.

He was born in Nicholas County on March 29, 1951, to the late Robert and Merle Jenkins Hamilton. He was a United States Marine Corps Veteran.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Byron Hamilton and two sisters, Mary Hamilton Hunt and Sandra Hamilton Jones.

He is survived by a life long friend, Martha Whitaker, Cynthia; two grandchildren, Shawna Whitaker and Brandon Holbert; sister brothers, Don (Grace) Hamilton, Fort Walton, Fla.; Clifton Hamilton, Bourbon County and Mitchell (Karen) Hamilton and Paul (Sandy) Hamilton, both of Nicholas County; three sisters, Helen (Joe) Small and Lois Mitchell (Layne) Hollier, both of Nicholas County; and Linda (Jerry) Wright, Harrison County; two step-brothers, Bobby (Leatha) Feaback, Clark County and Dennis Feaback, Nicholas County; a step-sister, Mary (Doug) McCord, Nicholas County; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at the home of Martha Whitaker, 114 North Walnut Street, Carthage. Memorial contributions may be made to the Markey Cancer Center, 800 Rose Street, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40536-0283.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ware Funeral Home, www.warefuneralhome.com

Virginia Stockdale 1927-2007

Virginia Stockdale, 80, a

former resident of Ewing, widow of Hanley O' Dell Stockdale, died Mon., Nov. 12, 2007 after an extended illness.

She was born in Mays Lick April 15, 1927 to the late Edward Franklin "Stater" and Virginia Mullins McCord. She was employed as a nurse's aide by Fleming County Hospital.

Survivors include her children, Barry, Donna, Ricky and Conner; son-in-law, David West; daughter-in-law, Brenda; one brother, Douglas "Bubber" (Connie) McCord; two sisters, Helen Thomas and Juanita (Helen) Smith; seven grandchildren Dawn Stockdale, Daphne Stockdale, Tyler Proffitt, Josh Perkins, Profitt, Seth Stockdale and Bethany West; and great-grandsons, Justin Applegate and Joey Perkins.

She was preceded in death by a stillborn son, Marty Joe; son-in-law, Kenny Perkins; brothers, Carl, Charlie, Woodrow, Betram and Edward McCord, Jr. and sisters, Ethel, Catherine, Lorraine, Myrtle and Bessie Mae.

Visitation will be 6-9 p.m. Wed., Nov. 14 at Price Bros. Funeral Home in Elizaville. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 15 at Price Bros. Funeral Home in Elizaville by Rev. Elizabeth McMeans with burial in the Elizaville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to Hospice of Hope in Massville.

Herbert Devon "Yonnie" Gray 1919-2007

Herbert Devon "Yonnie" Gray, 58, Ewing, died Mon.,

Nov. 12, 2007, in Fleming County Hospital after a long illness.

He was born in Mason County on May 28, 1949 to Herbert and Anna Hunt Gray. He was a farmer and an Employee of Fleming County Road Dept.

Survivors include his father, Herbert Gray; wife of 40 years, Elaine Jones Gray; two daughters, Lisa (Timmy) James and Susan Guthrie; two grandchildren, Devin

and Haley Corbin; one brother, Jeff Gray; and a sister, Tammy Jones.

Visitation will be 6-9 p.m. Thurs. Nov. 15, 2007 at Price Bros. Funeral Home, with Rev. Dee Whitaker and Bro. Troy Scogg officiating. Burial will be in Elizaville Cemetery.

See OBIT Page 10

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