

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

ON SACRED AND HALLOWED GROUND



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Mattern

The story of the events surrounding the Battle of the Lower Blue Licks; the battle recorded by historians past and present. I could almost feel the battle around me a time or two over the past few weeks as I became somewhat obsessed with the Battlefield Detective Project that was going on at the Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park.

The area of Blue Licks has been the scene of monumental historic activities for centuries, if not millennia.

The recent project focused on finding and precisely pinpointing artifacts used by combatants who fought for their lives during the August 1782 battle on ground now enclosed within the boundaries of the park.

The project was made possible by the dedicated folks that make up the Robertson County Tourism Commission, Park officials, Morehead State University History Professor Adrian

Mandy and BRAVO President Dan Sivlich. BRAVO worked well together and with the volunteers both brought to the park.

Department of Parks Project Manager John Downs and Park Naturalist Paul Terney jumped right in and were enthusiastic supporters and hand-on participants when needed.

The park has always been a special place for me, where history seems to vibrate from the very ground beneath my feet.

The title of my column "Heaven is a lot like Kentucky" is taken from a statement made by James

Morgan, a participant of the Aug. 18, 1782 battle. Morgan lived with his wife and daughter near Bryant's Station, near present day Lexington, during the summer of 1782. The cab-

in was attacked and Morgan made a desperate dash from the cabin with his infant daughter after hiding his wife in the root cellar beneath the cabin floor.

Though seriously wounded, he made his escape to his brothers, Mordeci and Andrew's cabin two miles distant. His infant daughter, whom he'd placed in a feed sack and tied around his neck, was unharmed.

He and his brothers returned to the cabin to find it in smoldering ruins. A disarticulated skeleton, burnt beyond recognition, lay in the rubble.

After burying the partial remains James spent the day scratching his wife's name "Eliza" in the dirt near her fresh grave with a small stick.

That same day, word came to him of the attack on Bryant's Station and how militia soldiers were gathering there.

James joined the 181 other soldiers that followed the Native American and British force.

They caught up with them at Blue Licks and the historic battle followed.

Out numbered nearly two-to-one, the frontiersmen suffered a crushing defeat.

James Morgan, like many was wounded and left on the battlefield. When a warrior grasped his hair he offered no resistance, ready to surrender his life now that his beloved Eliza was gone and his body was broken.

But as the warrior gave his fiercest battle cry and James happened to gaze upward and noticed the warrior was wearing his dear Eliza's kerchief about his head.

Rage overtook him and he quickly dispatched the warrior with his hunting knife.

For five days he survived after the battle, hiding on

the battlefield, as the torments of the Kentucky prisoners occurred, and later, as the wolves and bears and other vermin came to feast on what was left.

For five days James Morgan hid in the scorching August sun.

Finally, when his heart and soul could stand no more, he decided to let death overtake him and he was completely relaxed.

He was immediately comforted by what he thought to be an Angel, who was placing cool water upon his face.

He decided he must be in Heaven as his Angel was identical to his dear wife

Eliza. "Heaven is a lot like Kentucky," he whispered to the angel as he heard the songbirds and beheld the beautiful landscape along the horizon.

He then lost consciousness.

When he awoke his Angel Eliza was again by his side and he learned that neither he, nor her were dead.

She was a woman of uncommon beauty, and after being discovered hiding in the Morgan cabin cellar, two Native American warriors had fought over her for a prisoner.

One was killed and left in

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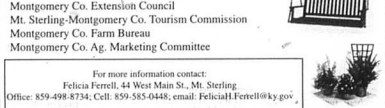
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OBITUARIES



George W. Fenical 1927-2008

George W. Fenical, 80, formerly of Columbus, GA, returned to Marysville following the death of his wife in 2000, passed away Sunday, April 6, 2008 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born September 15, 1927 in Harrisburg, the son of the late George M. and Alma (Black) Fenical. George was retired from the U.S. Military, serving in the Army Air Corp. during WW II, the Marines and the

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the burning cabin. It was the warrior's skeleton that James hid found and buried.

His wife had escaped from the enemy and searched the battlefield at Blue Licks for her husband.

She knew he was there. She found him and nursed him back to health, and Colonel Benjamin Logan and the members of the recovery party he led to the battlefield five days after the battle, comforted both Mr. and Mrs. Morgan.

Andrew and Mordeci had also survived the battle and the brothers were soon reunited.

For 200 Years I have searched for information regarding the Battle of

Army, serving in Germany, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. After retiring from the Army he worked and retired from the Columbus International Airport, Columbus GA. He taught ROTC Marksmanship training at the Millersburg Military Institute in KY and was a member of the Bethany United Methodist Church, Marysville.

He is survived by his children, Eric, Richard, Nicole, Josh, Rachel, Jessi, Danielle, Erin, Mike, Amy, Dustin, Baby Brian and Chris, and 13 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, April 11, 2008 in the Michael J. Thomas Funeral Home, Marysville.

Burial will be in Indian

Blue Licks and the Kentucky, British, Canadian and Native Americans who participated in it.

If the Good Lord is willing, we will learn more about these men in the future within the confines of this column.

One of these men was Daniel Boone.

When we last left Captain Boone in this column, he was living comfortably with the Shawnees in Ohio.

We will join him again soon at that point in his life, three years before the Battle of Lower Blue Licks.

Three years before he lost his son Israel, his nephew Thomas and so very many of his dearest friends and companions during the battle there: There on that sacred and hallowed ground.

town Gap National Cemetery, Annville. Viewing will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. on Thursday and from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. on Friday both in the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bethany United Methodist Church, 400 Lanavale Street, Marysville, PA 17053.

Stanley Wayne Morris 1956-2008

Stanley Wayne Morris, 51, died Thursday April 10, 2008.

He was born in Bourbon County April 28, 1956 to the late Leonard and Almida Watkins Morris. He was a farmer.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Jean Stone Morris; two daughters Melissa Stone and Stacy Morris; two grandchildren, Christopher Hagan and Harley Bates; all of Carlisle; five brothers, Wendell "Chattie" Morris, Fleming County, James Morris, Carlisle, Leonard Morris Jr., Carlisle, Johnny Morris, Carlisle and Billy and Morris, Fleming County; two sisters, Lois Morris, Carlisle, Carolyn Morris, Carlisle; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Melissa Morris.

His funeral services were held at Tuesday April 15, 2008 at Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Ernie Carmack officiating. Burial followed in the Henryville Cemetery.

pallbearers were, Johnny Kearns, Bo Watkins, David Watkins, B.J. Williams, Fern Watkins, Mark Jones, Leonard Morris 3rd, Dick Garrett.

Brothers will serve as Honorary Bearers. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Wanda Bellamy White 1945-2008

Wanda Bellamy White, 63, of Fairview, died Wednesday April 9, 2008 at St. Joseph East after a long illness.

She was born in Fleming County on January 12, 1945 to Albert and Beulah Moran Bellamy.

She is survived by seven children, Ann (Terry) Kindy, Carla (Don) Wallingford, Vicky (Jimmy) Corbin, Maria (Chris) Jolly, Timmy Gray, Mark White and Chad White all of Ewing; three sisters, Jewel Porter, Flemingburg, Doris Rednour, Lexington and Carolyn Stuck, Cincinnati; two brothers, Robert Bellamy, Cincinnati and Tommy Bellamy, Flemingburg; and 10 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, G.W. White; brothers, Robert Bellamy, Bellamy; and sisters, Frances Mullins and Lois Botkins.

Visitation was held Friday April 11, 2008 at Peace Brothers Funeral Home in Elizaville. Her funeral services were held Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Fairview with Rev. Todd Wiley officiating. Burial was in Maylick Cemetery.

Irving L. Money 1928-2008

Irving L. Money, 80, of Lexington died Monday April 7, 2008, at Hospice Care Unit at St. Joseph Hospital.

He was born on March 10, 1928 to Arthur B. and Lodeana Gifford Money of Ewing and was the grandson of J.H. and Stelen Gifford.

He retired from Hiller

ick and Brlshaw Co. after 24 years of service and also served in the US Air Force during the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Faria Money, a sister, Marjorie M. Byron of Lexington; a brother, Jimmy Money of North Carolina; a special sister-in-law, Bilye P. Money of Aberdeen, OH; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was Friday, April 11, 2008, at Price Bros.

Funeral Home. Funeral services were Friday, April 11, 2008 at St. Charles Catholic Church in Flemingburg with Rev. Noel Zamora of Reiting. Burial followed in Elizaville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to Hospice of the Bluegrass, 2312 Alexandria Dr., Lexington, KY 40504 or St. Charles Catholic Church, 211 Mt. Carmel Ave. Flemingburg, KY 40414.

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