

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

UP NEAR THE OLD RIDGE TRAIL.

Do you believe in ghosts, dead deers? Do you believe in spirits and the supernatural? Simple enough questions, I suppose. You either do, or you don't. I have found that there are not many 'fence straddlers' on this topic. For the record, I know that lights and shadows can often play tricks with the eyes, and the imagination can run wild. On the other hand, I've seen what I've seen, and I know what I know.

There's many a slip, 'twixt a cup and a lip, 'the old saying goes. And I've found that saying can apply to many of life's mysteries and magical wonders. There's many a slip, indeed, and there's many a mystery, as well. Some perhaps, not meant to be completely understood, in this good and blessed life, by an ignorant mortal, such as myself. If the Good Lord is willing, I will turn 45-years-old over the weekend. I have plans on venturing back to one of my late father's old haunts, so to speak, and please, pardon the pun there if you would. I've got a date with the sacred kettle site on Campbell Mountain near Hillsboro, in south central Fleming County. It's a place I've been many times since first being introduced to the site by my father and Gary Harmon during one of their frequent goose-hunting escapades sometime in the autumn of 1976-77.



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Mather

The site consists of several stone, bowl-shaped, or "kettle"-looking anomalies that are six feet in diameter and made of sandstone.

Controversy regarding how the kettles were made continues among professional geologists, archaeologists and historians, to this day. All agree, however, that at the very least, the kettles have been modified from their original form and used by humans for several centuries. More than a few scholars have theorized, from the shapes of the bowls, that at least one of them was used as an altar for human sacrifices. But I'm getting off track to the story at hand. It's a story about three young brothers digging an Indian's Grave. I first heard the story from Tracy Hammonds, a lifelong friend, who turned 45 earlier this month, and with whom I've spent countless hours in the fields of northeastern Kentucky, while studying Native American village sites and artifacts. We've hiked up to the kettle site a time or two and have stumbled upon our fair share of mysteries along the way. Native Americans were very spiritual people who had an unequalled understanding of the many forces and faces of the natural world around them. Which brings us to the following poem.

It's a wonderful work entitled "The Christian's Spirit" by Henry Morton McGowan. McGowan was a second cousin to John Fleming Hammonds, who coincidentally happened to be a Great, Great, Grandfather to my old, dear friend, Tracy Hammonds. John Fleming Hammonds had two brothers; Will and Robert. The three boys grew up on a farm near where Nicholas, Fleming and Robertson County, all come together. Through the poetry of McGowan, we join the three boys as they make their way along the Old Ridge Trail.

Three boys were digging sandstone roots. To make tea from the tender shoots that lay beneath the snow

By digging in the cool damp ground They came upon some stones And underneath these stones they found, A pile of human bones. Among the bones a smoking pipe, of strange and ancient mold, And implements that showed they were quite old. "Let's take them home," one young chap said. "And hide them in the barn." For this old chief is now dead. As yonder stagnant tarn. Three brothers, going home in gloe

Had more than sassafras root. And took a path where none could see, to hide their precious loot. They hid the weapons; made of stone. And bones of skull and rib. And bones of what was left quit alone within an unused crib. They sneaked in, soft and easy like. "What's that?" one of them, said. "I'm sure that I heard something strike the ceiling overhead."

Three frightful boys. Descending like a rain. Before their parents, three boys stood. And told the fierce, full tale. About the grave, robbed in the wood. Up near the Old Ridge Trail. The mother said "Tomorrow get those things and go. You put them back, or all our corn, will die within the row."

"Oh shucks, you're afraid that's all." The oldest one began. Then they heard a weird and lonesome call, and homeward, all three ran. They did not sleep so well that night. The wind sang and low. At 12 o'clock their fear and fright turned into grief and woe. Down near the barn, a moaning noise and sounds of clanking chain, brought from the attic.

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Celebrate Spring
at the 4th Annual Gateway Regional Farm, Home and Garden Show
Gateway Plaza • Mt. Sterling
(Former Food Lion Building)
Saturday, April 26 & Sunday, April 27
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & 12 to 5 p.m.
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For more information contact: Felicia Ferrell, 44 West Main St., Mt. Sterling, Office: 859-498-8734; Cell: 859-583-0448; email: FeliciaH.Ferrell@ky.gov

Auction
Saturday May 10, 2008 • 10:00 a.m. • Bald Hill Road, Carlisle, KY
From U.S. 68, turn on to Sugar Creek/Old Blue Licks Road at Allison's Concrete; left on Sugar Creek Road; left on Bald Hill Road. Farm is on the left.
Larry and Laura Estebos of Double I Farms, LLC have contracted for the sale of their fantastic country home, and have authorized the sale of this remaining portion of their 256 acre Nicholas County farm. An exceptional opportunity to purchase a farm that offers great potential as pasture for livestock, is the perfect habitat for all types of wildlife, and gives you an opportunity to relax by your shared stocked lake.
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Shown by appointment, or visit during one of our Open House Inspections on Sunday, April 27, Friday, May 2, or Sunday, May 4 from 2 to 5 p.m.
TERMS: 10% down day of auction, with the balance due on or before June 25, 2008.
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OBITUARIES



Juanita Hope Duncan Fryman
1925-2008

Juanita Hope Duncan Fryman, 79, widow of Clin Fryman, died Tuesday April 15, 2008, at Johnson Mathers Nursing Home. She was born October 18, 1928 in Mason County to Arthur and Jean Clark Duncan. She was a retired local employee and attended the Mays Lick Baptist Church. She is survived by two brothers, Eugene (Bub) Duncan, Sharpshurg, and John (Wilma) Duncan, Maysville; four sisters, Bess (Ronnie) Stewart, Mt. Olivet; Barbara (Wavel) Fryman, Carlisle; Helen Shannon, Flemingsburg, and Shelby (Charles) Adamson, Nepton. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Kenneth Duncan and Arthur "Bob" Duncan, and a sister, Audrey Tufts. Services were held Friday, April 18, 2008 at the Carlisle Cemetery Chapel by Rev. David Cheek. Guestbook is available at www.mathersnursinghome.com
James B. Ledford II
1929-2008
James B. Ledford, II, 79, died Saturday April 19, 2008 at Nicholas Co. Hospital. He was born January 30, 1929 in the small community of Sledge in Anderson Co., to the late Lee Ledford

of Bethel and Elsie Gibbs Ledford. He grew up in Bethel and Millersburg and graduated from the former Millersburg Military Institute. He attended the University of Kentucky. He was retired from the Carlisle National Guard. He worked as a U.S.D.A. pest inspector, serving at several plants in Central Ky. He retired after several years at Webery of Cynthiaina. He is survived by his wife, Mary, two sisters, Charlene Hill, Nicholasville and Linda Berry, Lexington, and several nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Nancy Eichman. Graveside services were held Monday April 21, 2008 in the Langview Cemetery at Bethel by Rev. James Gaunce. There was no visitation. Arrangements were under the direction of Mather-Gaunce FH Memorial contributions are suggested to Lexington Humane Society, 1000 Old Frankfurt Pike, Lexington, KY 40511. Guestbook is available at www.mathersnursinghome.com

Goebel White
1927-2008
Goebel White, 80, Cynthiaina died Friday, April 18, 2008. Born in Nicholas County, October 15, 1927, to the late Johnnie Thomas and Daisy Livingood White, he was a farmer and worked for the Harrison County School system for fifty-one years having several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Kenneth Duncan and Arthur "Bob" Duncan, and a sister, Audrey Tufts. Services were held Friday, April 18, 2008 at the Carlisle Cemetery Chapel by Rev. David Cheek. Guestbook is available at www.mathersnursinghome.com

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The Carlisle Mercury

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Friday Night 3/25 Frog Legs Baked Potato Mixed Vegetables \$11.95	Saturday Night 3/26 Carved Pork Loin over stuffing topped with au jus gravy Broccoli Casserole Yeast Rolls \$11.95

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