

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

THE SPREADING LIMBS OF A STRONG OAK

December 1778



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Mattox

Two things were happening in the winter of 1778-79 that would have an immeasurable impact on the future of northeastern Kentucky.

Life in the secluded wilderness of that section of the frontier held its own fascination for the few inhabitants that would soon dare to dwell within the confines of David McGee's and John Strode's Station.

The stations had first been built as half-face lean-to camps in 1776 when the majority of the Berkeley County Virginia of Martinburg, came to Kentucky to mark their preemptions and plant their crops for the future corn rights to land.

The earnest migration to occupy those lands, located near present-day Winchester, Ky., began in fall of 1779.

At the same time that the future inhabitants of those two isolated stations were planning on their spring migration to the wider-

ness, where they would be learning to adapt to their new environment, one of the men that would help shape their destiny was healing from his wounds in Detroit, while being held as a British prisoner of war.

He was known along the frontier as his alias, Simon Butler, but his Christian name was Simon Kenton.

The inhabitants of John Strode's and David McGee's Stations would be the individuals who would later survey much of the land in what is now known as Nicholas, Robertson Bath and Fleming, counties.

Simon Kenton would be the salvation of many of them in one way or another in the future, but as he layed while otherwise languishing at Detroit, he thought of Simon Girty and Peter Drullman, and knew he would be forever in their debt.

Imagining he was wanted for murder back east, Simon had moved to Ken-

tucky as a very young man and had only recently endured a series of beatings from Shawnee captors.

Girty had intervened and saved him from being burned at the stake. Drullman had convinced the Shawnee leaders to "sell" him to the British Army for proper interrogation.

Simon amazed himself when he thought of all that he had endured as a Shawnee prisoner, and now his thoughts also dwelt upon an enigmatic war chief of the Mingo clans, named Logan. The Mingo were a loose-knit kinship group of western Seneca's, Shawnee and others who had intermarried between those clans of the Mingo, known by some Native American leaders as "The Spreading Limbs Of A Strong Oak" was a man that made a considerable impact on Simon's life.

Logan had lost his family in what has been called the massacre of Yellow Creek in 1774. His mother and pregnant daughter were among several killed in an unprovoked attack. Logan sought and achieved revenge, taking dozens of

scals until peace envoys and Shawnee and Mingo clan leaders declared peace following what has historically been called Lord Dunmore's War.

Logan would not attend the peace negotiations. Instead, he sent a war club with a lengthy note attached.

He ended the note with a defiance Simon Kenton came to admire and emulate in his older years.

"There runs not a drop of my blood in the veins of any living creature. This has called on me for revenge. I have sought it: I have killed many: I have fully glutted my vengeance. For my country, I rejoice at the beams of peace. But do not harbor a thought that mine is the joy of fear. Log never felt fear. He will not turn on his heel to save his life.

Who is there to mourn for Logan? Not one."

And so, as Simon Kenton regained his strength in Detroit he also planned his escape and his return to Kentucky. A place he intended on settling and a place he would make a better home for future generations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,
Well, I cleaned the lot on the river up, and with the help of two very good friends. We had the lot looking very nice. We picked up all the garbage after removing the old buses. The one friend made a very nice picnic table, which we dug holes and set it in concrete. I keep the lot mowed off regularly. I have electric on the lot. I have allowed several different ones to go camping there, with the "FREE" use of the electric. So, last but not least, I bought a dozen solar lights for the yard. GOD forgives you for taking the lights if you needed them more than I did, so I guess I forgive you also.

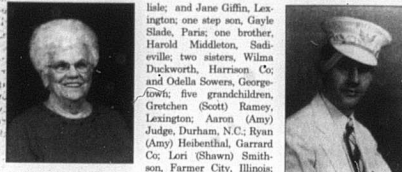
Clay Ritchie Jr.
Carlisle, Ky.

Editor,
This letter is a little late, but better late than never. As co-President of the Band Boosters I would like to thank EVERYONE for their support of the band this past season. The band members

1. JMHC activity Fund 2323 Concrete Road Carlisle KY 40311 Doris Eaton.
2. JMHC Auxiliary Fund 2323 Concrete Road Carlisle KY 40311 Attn: Doris Eaton.

Sincerely
Nancy Fichtmaster

OBITUARIES



Beatrice Middleton Giffin Slade 1924-2008

Beatrice Middleton Giffin Slade, 84, of Cynthia, died Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008, at Cedar Ridge Health Campus, Cynthia, Kentucky. She was born in Scott County, on January 22, 1924, to the late Egil and Dorothy Fields Middleton. Mrs. Slade was a member of the Connersville Christian Church, former member of the Eastern Star, Carlisle Women's Club and Women's Club of Harrison County. She was a Kentucky Colonel, commissioned by Ned Breathitt and Happy Chandler. She, along with her husband, the late Lonnie Giffin, established Giffin Manufacturing in Carlisle, where she served as secretary. She and her husband Gordon Slade owned and operated Cynthia Paint and Wallpaper for many years.

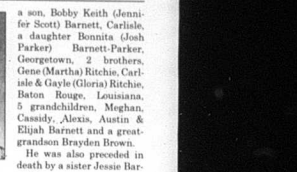
Survivors include her husband of 37 years, Gordon Slade, two daughters, Judy Giffin (Charles) Judge, Car-



Cleary Preston Fightmaster 1913-2008

Cleary Preston Fightmaster, 95, widower of Martha Bruce Williams Fightmaster, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2008, in Bourbon County to the late Annie Preston and Cleary Fightmaster, Sr.

He was a graduate of Paris High School, attended the University of Cincinnati, and was a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. After graduation from the Conservatory, he returned to Paris High School as the band director and worked there for several years until he was asked to come to Carlisle to start a band in the late 1930s. After several years as the band director at Carlisle High School, he changed careers and went into real estate where he was an agent



Bobby L. Barnett 1944-2008

Bobby L. Barnett, 64, husband of Brenda Kay Ishmael Barnett died Friday, Nov. 28, 2008 at Hospice Care Center. He was born January 12, 1944 in Nicholas Co. to the late Henry & Nancy Ritchie Barnett, was a U.S. Army veteran, a retired employee of Stamler Corporation, was a former Carlisle City Council member, a former Chief of the Carlisle Volunteer Fire Department a former member of the Nicholas Co. Lions Club and was a member of Myers Christian Church.

Other survivors include

son, Bobby Keith (Genni for Scott) Barnett, Carlisle, a daughter Bonita (Joeh Parker) Barnett-Parker, Georgetown, 2 brothers, Gene (Martha) Ritchie, Carlisle & Gayle (Gloria) Ritchie, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 5 grandchildren, Meghan, Cassidy, Alexis, Austin & Elijah Barnett and a great-grandson Brayden Brown. He was also buried in death by a sister Jessie Barnett.

Services were 11:00 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1 at Carlisle Christian Church by Rev. Steve Smith. Burial was in Carlisle Cemetery. Casket bearers were Arthur & Woody Buzzard, Eddie Carter, Douglas Gates, Larry King and Jeremy Warner. Honorary bearer was Bobby Berry. Arrangements were under the direction of Mathers-Guany Funeral Home.

Memorial Contributions are suggested to Carlisle Christian Church or Hospice of the Bluegrass. Condolences and video tribute available at www.mathers-guany.com

See OBIT Page 5

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The Carlisle Mercury is published every Wednesday by M.C. Investments d/b/a The Carlisle Mercury, 218 N. Locust Street, Carlisle, KY 40311. Periodicals Postage Rates are paid at Carlisle, KY 40311.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Carlisle Mercury, PO Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311

Members of the Kentucky Press Association
The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors

2008 SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$24.00 for year in Nicholas County, \$38.00 elsewhere in Kentucky and \$50.00 out of state. Subscriptions include sales tax where applicable. All subscriptions payable in advance.

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WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Carlisle Mercury welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for confirmation. Unconfirmed letters and unsigned letters will not be published. Phone numbers are not published. We reserve the right to deny publication of letters that contain threats for content.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Monday.

Send letters to:
Editor, The Carlisle Mercury
P.O. Box 272
Carlisle, KY 40311

Letters may also be e-mailed to: editor@thecarlislemercury.com
However, if e-mail is used, the sender should call 859-235-0316 to confirm that the letter was received.

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DEADLINES: Editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Advertising copy proof deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Advertising copy without proof, 10 a.m. Tuesday. Classified advertising deadline is 10 a.m. Tuesday.

PHOTOS/ELECTRONIC ADVERTISING: Color, black and white and digital photos are all accepted. Digital photos should be submitted in the jpg format and can be emailed. Old photos will be accepted at any time. Please do not send newspaper clippings or photocopies. Photos may be picked up after they are published in the newspaper. Electronic Advertising must be submitted in e-format and can be emailed to the above address.

LEGAL ADVERTISING: Font-Arial, Size-7. Deadline 5 p.m. Monday.
All submitted copy must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

The Carlisle Mercury reserves the right to reject any submission to this newspaper. While it is the policy of this newspaper to accept all advertising, it is necessary to make this right. We reserve the right to not accept advertising. The publication reserves the right to use the most favorable advertisement submitted. An advertising contract shall hold without date. The Carlisle Mercury is not responsible for the return of unsolicited materials. The Carlisle Mercury is not responsible for the return of unsolicited materials. The Carlisle Mercury is not responsible for the return of unsolicited materials.

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