

OPINION

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

The measure of a memory

I started doing a bit of winterizing over the weekend, dear reader.

I'm trying to stay warm, and since I have an electric furnace I'm trying to keep the thermostat set as low as possible.

I grew up around a wood-burning stove and plan to have my own installed and a good pile of seasoned wood laid up by this next time next year, if the Good Lord is willing.

During a couple of winters in the mid 1970s, while I was a young teenager, I actually thought my parents were going to have my name legally changed to "Get Wood."

I heard that phrase with a mind numbing frequency that was matched only by the intensity and the bitterness of the icy grips of the coldness of those winters of my youth.

I'm no "lumberjack" by any stretch of the imagination, but I do know how to handle the business end of an axe, thanks to those memorable win-



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky by Charles Hottel

ters. Don't try to split heged log wood.

Go with the seasoned log cut instead.

But back to the story at hand. As I was unfolding my late grandfathers wooden rule (he called it a rule, but I knew it as a ruler), to measure the length and width of a window to cut a piece of plastic, I let my mind wander to things of the past as my fingers slid across the ancient and polished ruler.

My late grandfather, Elvar Russell "Bugs" Mattox, ran a full Martha Mills in central Fleming and a blacksmith shop there during The Great Depression.

My father gave me the rule and a few other items that Grandpa had given him and I cleaned them up and gave them back to my mother after my father passed away. When my mother passed away, I

asked my brothers and sister if they would mind if I took the rule. They all said "take it." There were many items that meant more to me than did the other and we were amicable in honoring those wishes on special requests.

And so there I was, this weekend unfolding Grandpa's rule and thinking warm thoughts as the temperatures plummeted outside.

We take a lot for granted these days, even though we admittedly live in troublesome times.

We know about tough times, here in northeastern Kentucky.

I remember a time when my father told me once when we were in the frozen woods near the Licking River when I was complaining about the cold and misery of our situation. It was a thing passed on to him by his father, my grandpa.

I thought of it this weekend as my eyes looked at the faded numbers of that

trusted ruler. Grandpa had used the ruler to help neighbors build tobacco barns with, just the same as he'd probably used it to mark the growth of his children against a door frame of the mill as the years rolled by. My father had used it from time to time to measure my growth against a door jam in the kitchen doorway in our little house near where the old mill once stood.

The ruler felt good in my hands as I remember the words that had become a catch phrase even today. "Tough times don't usually last, but tough people usually do."

That philosophy has carried us forward, since before our land was part of the United States.

It seems that cold weather always makes life harder here and I began thinking of how Daniel Boone had survived a frozen and brutal beating while running naked through a Shawnee gauntlet along Johnsons Creek in Robertson County in 1778.

I thought of how Simon hadn't been for them, there could have been a bad accident.

Our thanks to the R.J. Corman Construction Company for raking, cleaning and seeding our yard.

James Guance Carlisle KY

Kentucky had kept from freezing to death many nights along the Licking River in 1773-1776, in what would one day become Nicholas, Beth and Fleming counties.

He'd dig a small hole and fill it with dry white oak bark and some dead limbs from a white oak tree. He'd get a small fire going and then cover most of the hole back over and sit crossed leg atop the hole. He'd then cover his body with a heavy buffalo skin and his two dogs Nip and Tuck would join him beneath the buffalo hide.

He lost both dogs along the Licking River in 1776

as they slid down a hill while fighting a buffalo bull. The two dogs and buffalo bull broke through the ice in one awful, and sickening instant.

And then Nip and Tuck were gone forever.

You see, dear reader, Simon Kenton understood the value of a good dog.

He also knew about surviving tough times and tough winters in northeastern Kentucky.

I imagine you do.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We want to say thank you to sheriff Dick Garrett. Our county and Sheriff received a lot of bad publicity over the last few weeks. As we watched from inside our house, the sheriff and his deputy directed traffic from 4:20 p.m. till 12 midnight. If it

hadn't been for them, there could have been a bad accident.

James Guance Carlisle KY



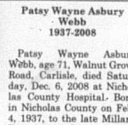
Jerry Scott Vanlandingham 1929-2008

Jerry Scott Vanlandingham, 78, widower of Virgie Russell Vanlandingham, died Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at Central Baptist Hospital. He was born on Jan. 25, 1929 in Nicholas County to the late Adrian and Lillian Bailey Vanlandingham, was a retired farmer and member of the First Baptist Church of Carlisle.

Survivors include his daughter, Susan (Benjy) Atkins, Cynthia; a brother, Billy (Katie) Vanlandingham; Farris, and a sister, Opal Bolton, Fairfield, Ohio.

Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Gayle Vanlandingham; and a sister, Helen Ruble.

Services were conducted at 11:00 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 2008 at Mathers-Guance Funeral Home by Rev. Darrell Sexton. Burial followed in the Carlisle Cemetery.



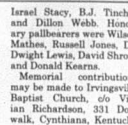
Patsy Wayne Ashby 1937-2008

Patsy Wayne Ashby Webb, age 71, Walnut Grove Road, Carlisle, died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008 at Nicholas County Hospital. Born in Nicholas County on Feb. 4, 1937, to the late Millard Francis and Carrie D. Hill Ashby, she was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, a member of Irvingville Baptist Church and a Nicholas County Farm Bureau Director.

She is survived by her husband, Bobby Allen Webb, a son, Mike (Melissa) Webb, Nicholas County; a daughter, Marilyn (Darryl) Stacy, Nicholas County; six grandchildren, Israel Darryl (Michelle) Stacy, Karl Beth Stacy, Brittany Lynn Davidson, Jessica Wayne Webb, Hall Brooks Webb and Dilan Webb; and four great grandchildren, Zachary Tyler Stacy, Hannah Michelle Stacy, Kayla Beth Stacy and Lancelotti Brock Stacy.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by a grandson, Derek Tyler Stacy.

Funeral services were conducted 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008 at Wars Funeral Home in Cynthia by Bro. Albert Simmons and Keith Blodsoe. Burial followed in Millersburg Cemetery. Active pallbearers were Glen Aubrey, Emory Richardson, Jeff Doyle, Jeff Howard,



Israel Stacy, B.J. Hinchey and Dillon Webb. Honorary pallbearers were Vernon Mathes, Russell Jones, Dr. Dwight Lewis, David Shront and Donald Kearns.

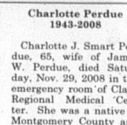
Memorial contributions may be made to Irvingville Baptist Church, 300 Vivian, Richardson, 331 Dewalk, Cynthia, Kentucky 41031.

Trienzi Vice Horn 1933-2008

Trienzi Vice Horn, 75, died December 3, 2008. She was born in Nicholas County on November 6, 1933 to the late Ora Samuel and Mary Elizabeth Florence Holzer. She was a school teacher after attending Ashby College, where she graduated in 1955. She was a member of the Carlisle United Methodist Church in Carlisle.

She is survived by her children, Paula Minton, Lexington; Samuel Vice, Moorefield; 4 grandchildren, Dierdre Vice, Chloe Vice, Holton Vice, and Brett Glass, two sisters, Tressia Sampson, Carlisle; Brenda Hance, Florida; one brother, Oral Hollar, Versailles; several nieces and nephews; and a very special friend, Patricia Fredrick.

Private services were held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, 2008 at Clark Funeral Home. Interment was in the Carlisle Cemetery. Clark Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Charlotte Perdue 1943-2008

Charlotte J. Smart Perdue, 65, wife of James W. Perdue, died Saturday Nov. 29, 2008 in the emergency room of Clark Regional Medical Center. She was a member of Montgomery County and the daughter of the late George L. and Ruby Cooper Smart, who survives in Nicholas County. She was a member of the Baptist faith.

Other survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, James A. (April) Perdue of Winchester; on daughter and son-in-law, Cindy (Anthony) Fountain of Winchester; two brothers, Oliver Smart of Florida, Robert Smart of Lexington, and Richard Smart of Richmond; one sister, Linda Livette of Carlisle; and four grandchildren, Katie Fountain, Kristen Fountain, Michelle Townsend and Joshua Fountain.

Funeral Services were Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at Rolan G Taylor Funeral Home by Rev. Jerry Hutton. Burial followed at 1:30 p.m. in the Bowman and Prentiss Cemetery in Lee County. Pallbearers were friends and family.

Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospital, 1900 Richmond Road, Lexington, KY 40508.



Rosa Jewell Myers 1932-2008

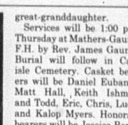
Rosa Jewell Myers, 76, widow of Walter Elmo Myers died Monday, Dec. 8, 2008 at her home. She was born July 27, 1932 in Nicholas Co. to the late Leonard and Inez July Watkins, was a former employee of Jockey International and a member of Cassidy United Methodist Church.

Other survivors include three sons, Darrell (Kathy), Mike and Luke (Becky); Myers; three daughters, Judy (Eugene) Hall; Sandy (Charles) Ishmick; and Missy (Timmy) Fryman, all of Carlisle; a daughter-in-law, Susie Myers, Carlisle; three granddaughters, Sanford (Maxine) Melvin, and Foster Watkins; two grandsons, Billie (Ernest) Gray, and Patty (Ed) Jefferson, all of Carlisle; 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Steve Myers; two brothers; two sisters; one granddaughter; and one great-granddaughter.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008 at Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Darrell Sexton officiating. Burial following in the Carlisle Cemetery.

Visitation Wednesday 8 p.m. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.



Steve Edward Finch 1954-2008

Steve Edward Finch, 54, died Dec. 8, 2008 at his residence. He was born in Nicholas Co. Mar. 21, 1954 to Clarine Sexton Finch and the late Earl Finch. He served his country in the U.S. Navy.

He is survived by his mother, two sisters, Donna (Bobby) Hughes; several nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008 at Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Darrell Sexton officiating. Burial following in the Carlisle Cemetery.

Visitation Wednesday 8 p.m. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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