

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

COMMON MEN

"Many heroic exploits and chivalrous adventures are related to me, which exist only in the regions of fancy. With me the world has taken great liberties, and yet I have been but a common man. It is true that I have suffered many hardships and miraculously escaped many perils, but others of my companions have experienced the same."

Daniel Boone

I draw strength from the words and experiences of our Kentucky forefathers like Daniel Boone and other such "common men, most of whom, have blood lines that continue to this day, in the region. And as I've studied their struggles at specific places and times while analyzing their quest to live within northeastern Kentucky, I've gained a greater appreciation of the liberties and comforts I have always enjoyed here.

And the land speaks to me with a clearer voice now that I better understand its history and that of the people who once fought tenaciously for possession of it.

William Sudduth first came to Kentucky in 1783. He would later conduct countless military and surveying expeditions through what would one day be known as Robertson, Nicholas, Fleming, Bath and Me-



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Hester

nice counties. He was 18-years-old when he first came to Kentucky with the families of Charles Morgan, Caleb Masterson and Thomas Brown, and initially lived with Morgan's family at David McGee's Station, near present day Winchester.

Sudduth taught school to the children and young adults of Strode's Station, also near Winchester, in the weeks surrounding Christmas that winter. The lucky few children that survived into adulthood would later help populate northeastern Kentucky.

The following spring, Sudduth explored and surveyed along Slate Creek in Bath County. Later, in May of 1784, he joined Major Andrew Hood in chasing Shawnee horse thieves from Winchester to near present-day Sharpburg, and recovered all of the horses.

On the first of June, Sudduth set out from Strode's Station to the present site of Mayville and was witness to the Williams Massacre at Tanner's Station at the Lower Blue Licks.

It was there that he probably met Simon Kenton, John Fleming and

Thomas Jones, as historical interviews indicate that Rebecca Donaldson Jones, the wife of Thomas Jones and the stepdaughter of Fleming, treated the two survivors of the massacre. Kenton was at Tanner's Station with a different surveying party at the same time.

A few days later Sudduth joined a company of oarsmen who paddled back up the Ohio River from Mayville. In 11 days they traveled back to Wheeling in a large canoe.

Sudduth then traveled 200 more miles on foot to his family home.

That November, the large Sudduth family began their move to Kentucky, but the wagon hauling all of their worldly possessions broke down in the late autumn as they traveled through the Allegheny Mountains. "We had to sell our wagon and resort to pack horses," he later recalled in an interview with John Shane. "With great difficulty we arrived at the Chest River, a branch of the Monongahela River."

The family plan was to buy a boat and float down the Cheat, to the Monongahela, to the Ohio and back to the small cove at Mayville.

The boat they purchased, however, crashed and was destroyed after they traveled only two miles. They were then forced

to meticulously build another boat and completed the exhaustive task at the end of February, when they again launched themselves into the river.

Their hand-built boat crashed after going ten miles.

They laboriously repaired that boat and finally launched again without incident and landed where Mayville now stands on March 20.

In Sudduth's absence from Kentucky, Edward Walker, Josiah Collins and others had built a log cabin at Mayville.

The cabin had no roof, fireplace, nor any chinking between the logs, but it did offer some protection against the elements and raiding Native Americans.

Three-year-old Benjamin Sudduth, who was William's brother, died in the Mayville cabin.

The despair that engulfed the large family on its travel to the interior of Kentucky changed William Sudduth forever, though he later admitted that their luck finally changed upon reaching the stockade fortress known as Major Andrew Hood's Station.

But those are other stories, dear reader, which involve other "common" men. But we will examine their stories closer in the future, if the Good Lord is willing.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

State. Over the next two months, the group met every Thursday to share the work of the two committees with the remainder of the group. Finally, the steering committee approved the schedule for the annual investment and the Chamber's Mission and Vision statements and it was time to get the word out.

The steering committee has produced a tri-fold brochure that includes some brief information about the Chamber, the service it provides, its mission and vision statements, the annual investment schedule for the various types of memberships, and an application. Members of the committee have been hand-carrying these applications to various businesses throughout the community.

A general membership meeting has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009 at the Neal

Building

The purpose of this meeting is to nominate/approve a Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the Chamber, Commerce and have not yet seen an application, or simply have questions or would like additional information, please contact any of the steering committee members, or write to:

The Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 304
Carlisle, KY 40311

*Robert Barker 473-0552
Duane Kenney 289-2251
Greg Wilson 289-2205
Woody Dugan 289-5039
Joseph Conley 289-8339
Harold Soper 289-8301
Carlton Jones 473-3838
Ed Taylor 289-4040
JoAnn Garrett 289-2308
*Stephen Scalf 289-3005

*serving as interim Secretary/Treasurer

WEDCO helps stop smoking

WEDCO District Health Department will be sponsoring a new Cooper-Clyde Method to Stop Smoking Class starting January 8th, 2009 at the Nicholas County Health Department Robert Sparks Community room at 5 p.m.

The class is free and open to the public. The only cost is the book, which is \$5.00.

See a related essay by Nicholas County student William Rawlings on page 11.

OBITUARIES



Dorothy R. Neal
1921-2008

Dorothy R. Neal, widow of Eugene Neal of Carlisle, passed away Dec. 28, 2008 at her home. Born June 23, 1921, in Fayette County, she was the daughter of the late J.Q. and Margaret Virgil Rowe. She was a graduate of The University of Kentucky College of Home Economics in 1943

and taught in Richmond, WV. Upon leaving high school, she established the Homemakers program, and 4H clubs in Nicholas County, Carlisle, KY. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Carlisle where she was a Sunday School Teacher, WMU Director and member of the Decorating committee for a number of years. She was President of the Nicholas County Garden Club and a member of the Nicholas County Historical Society. After the death of her husband, she donated their store building to the historical society to be used as a museum and community center, called the Neal building.

She is survived by one sister, Virginia Rowe Cable, Mayville; one sister-in-law, Mrs. James Ben

Rowe, Lexington; three nieces, Mrs. Bonnie Cable (Tom) Metcalfe, Carlisle; Mrs. Dorothy Cable (Pierre) Houser, Mayville; and Mrs. Lydia Rowe (Steve) Wainwright, Lexington; and one nephew, Mr. Karim (Irmal) Adipour, Fairfax, Virginia.

Services will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at First Baptist Church of Carlisle by Revs. Gus Peters, Gerald McNeely and Rev. Adam Schell. Burial will follow in Carlisle Cemetery. Visitation will be 5:00-8:00 P.M. Tuesday at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Nicholas County Historical Society, Hospice of the Bluegrass and the First Baptist Church of Carlisle.

George Howard Johnson 1918-2008
George Howard Johnson, 90, widower of Mary Walton Johnson died Monday, Dec. 22, 2008 at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home.

He was born October 16, 1918 in Chicago, Illinois to the late George and Teresa Tamborine Johnson and was a retired pipefitter. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II. Survivors include two sons, Curtis (Linda) Johnson, Jacksonville, Florida; and Chris (Dill) Johnson, Carlisle; a daughter Sandra (Tom) Lichtenstein, Geneva, Illinois; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a grandson.

Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home, Carlisle. Burial will be at www.mathers-gaunce.com

Walter C. Hovernalle 1915-2008
Walter C. Hovernalle, 93, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008 at Harrison Memorial Hospital. He was born Aug. 9, 1915 in Nicholas Co., the youngest of six children of the late Henry & Lottie Givens Hovernalle.

He was a lifelong resident of Nicholas Co., a retired farmer, a member of Orient Lodge #500 F.A.M. and a member of Carlisle Christian Church. Survivors include his wife of 69 years Minerva Shrove Hovernalle, one son, Don H. (Linda) Hovernalle, four daughters, Donna (Gary) Fowler, Sandi (Jeff) Bailey, Julie Hovernalle and Adam M. (Emily) Hovernalle; and six great-grandchildren, Cole & Lauren Fowler, Tyler & Brooke Bailey, David Will and Adam M.A.J. Hovernalle Jr.

He was also preceded in death by a grandson, Matthew Howard Hovernalle; three brothers, Oscar, Edgar and Howard Hovernalle; and two

sisters Carrie Hovernalle and Elizabeth Eden. Masonic Rites were at 12:00 Noon, with services at 1:00 p.m. Monday at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. Steve Smith. Burial followed in Carlisle Cemetery.

Donald C. Cameron II 1964-2008
Donald C. Cameron II, 44, died Dec. 21, 2008. He was born in Montgomery County, Md. in 1964 to Donald C. & Marie Fernandez Cameron Sr. and made a living as a farmer. He is survived by his children, Cameron, Donald Cameron III, and Amy Cameron, two brothers, Mike (Sherry) Cameron and David Cameron, and four sisters, Kim Hutchison, Deborah Cameron, Becky (Johnny) Walford, Cindy (Gary) Harmon, and several nieces and nephews. Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Dec. 23, 2008 at the Clintonville Cemetery. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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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 and to edit letters for content.
The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Monday.
Send letters to:
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P.O. Box 272
Carlisle, KY 40311
Letters may also be e-mailed to: editor@thecarlislemercury.com
However, if e-mail is used, the reader should call 859-289-6425 to confirm that the letter was received.

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