

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

CORNSTALK'S CURSE

Although there are many who say they do not believe in curses, others fear such mystical, supernatural forces. Such has been the case for centuries, and remains true even today in some rural cultures of Appalachia, including Kentucky.

Many tribes of Native Americans believed strongly in the power of a curse, especially if a curse was evoked under special circumstances. As I continue to delve deeper into the lives of many of the frontiersmen and the circumstances surrounding their activity in northeastern Kentucky, I am amazed at the physical, mental and spiritual fortitude they possessed while struggling to survive here.

Of late, I have been digging deeper into the lives of a group of approximately 30 Kentuckians who traveled to the Lower Blue Licks Springs along the Licking River in January of 1778 to boil the water from the salt springs in order to produce salt.

Historians have collectively referred to this particular group of frontiersmen as "The Salt Makers." The intrepid militia leader, legendary frontiersman Daniel Boone, led the salt makers on this particular adventure. Boone was intimately familiar with the terrain and in around the Lower Blue Licks.

He was a master of the woods and a quick study to all forms of life that inhabited the forests. He was particularly adept at improving and cultivating relationships where others may have been less than ready to do so.

As a premier leader of the fledgling settlements of Kentucky, Boone was intimately familiar with several groups of Native Americans who claimed Kentucky as their own. Among these groups were the Shawnee and Miami Tribes.

Only a few months before Boone and the 30 salt makers began their trek from Fort Boonesboro to the Lower Blue Licks, an event occurred at Fort Randolph (often called Point Pleasant), Virginia, where the Kanawha River joins the Ohio River. The event would ultimately change all of their lives forever.

Shawnee Chief Ho-ke-le-wa (Cornstalk) was a fierce protector of the Shawnee Nation. He was also a passionate leader and talented public speaker.

He was a strong advocate of peace between the Colonists, who were settling Kentucky, and his Shawnee brethren. That is not to say that he ever once shrank from his duty of defending Shawnee villages or leading war parties against any group of Colonists that threatened his people.

He led warriors during Lord Dunmore's War (1774) and was noted as a fierce foe while leading Mingo and Shawnee warriors during the Battle of Point Pleasant that same year.

In November of 1777 he traveled to Fort Randolph to initiate a progressive peace agreement between the Shawnee Nation and the Colonists, specifically Captain Arbuckle, the commander of the fort. Two Shawnee clan leaders accompanied Cornstalk and all was going well during the initial portions of the treaty negotiation. At one point Cornstalk began drawing a map on the company commander's floor, inside the fort, to assist with negotiations, but a commotion outside of the fort caused the negotiations to break down.

Ellinipico, a young son of Chief Cornstalk, had arrived at the negotiations moments before the confusion arose. Soldiers inside the fort excitedly explained to several officers that Shawnee warriors had killed two hunters,



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky By Charles Hentze

and they wanted revenge. Cornstalk, Ellinipico and the others, were quickly forced into the locked stockade.

To be thus insulted, while on a mission of peace, was shocking to Cornstalk and the others.

Cornstalk promised that if he were released he would immediately produce those responsible for killing the hunters.

The soldiers at Fort Randolph did not want to listen to reason. Cornstalk soon realized

that his fate, and the fate of his son and companions were sealed. Ellinipico climbed into the rafters of the jail and began punching a hole into the shingles of the roof to escape, but his father called to him to come down and accept his fate as a Shawnee warrior, as the Great Spirit had intended.

Cornstalk told Ellinipico that the Great Spirit had brought them to this place to die together.

Ellinipico and his father then sat calmly with the other Shawnee clan leaders and said their death prayers.

A group of angry soldiers soon burst into the jail and opened fire with their muskets.

Ellinipico, wounded, was then strangled to death in front of his father.

The haze of the gunpowder from the musket shots clouded the room.

When the smoke cleared, all of the Shawnee lay dead. All except for Chief Cornstalk, who lay on the floor, horribly wounded with eight musket balls in his body.

Before he died, Cornstalk struck the men in the room, the area around Point Pleasant and Fort Randolph, and the land in question during the treaty negotiations (Kentucky).

The curse has been a subject of much debate as the years went by.

Cornstalk's Curse remains the point of origin for the ongoing Mottman Prophecies reworking, which continues

to haunt that section of the country, as has been noted by many authors including John Keel who wrote "The Mothman Prophecy" in 1976 and which was later adapted into a major motion picture starring Richard Gere in 2002.

Many disasters that have occurred in the region around Point Pleasant have been attributed to Cornstalk's Curse by more than one researcher that believes in such paranormal powers.

Many debate if such powers exist.

What is not debatable is the fact that Cornstalk's death had an immediate and adverse impact on the Kentuckians.

Survivors include her daughters Patricia Clark (Harold) Burton, Lexington, and Harriet Clark (Charles) Frary Loring, Norwell, MA, four grandchildren, Chris Loring, Norwell, Kevin (Shelia) Burton, Hoover, AL, Patrick Loring, Westmouth, MA and Stuart Burton, Cincinnati; six great-grandchildren, Mitchell, Jonathan, and Courtney Loring; Kay-

la, Ali, and Adam Burton; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, a close friend and farm manager Mike Buswell.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Deborah Clark; a grandson, Michael Rhodes Burton; a brother, Charles Whaley; and sisters Pauline Clark and Elizabeth Stone.

Casket bearers were Malcolm Berry, Mike Buswell, and Doug Wooley. Honorary bearers were Harvey Crouch, Wanda Mathis, Dr. Orlan Villalobos, and the men of the church.

Visitation was on Mon. Jan. 7, 2008 at Moorefield United Methodist Church. Funeral services were Tues. Jan. 8, 2008 at Moorefield United Methodist Church.

Edna Mae Doyle, 88, passed away Mon. Dec. 31, 2007 at the Robertson Co. Health Care Facility in Mt. Olivet.

She was a 1938 graduate of Ewing High School and a lifetime member of Forman's Cemetery. Pallbearers were all of her grandsons. Honorary pallbearers were Wayne Gifford, Jerry Courtney, and Bonnie McConnell. Memorial services were Monday, Jan. 14, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow in Shannon Cemetery. Pallbearers were all of her grandsons. Honorary pallbearers were Wayne Gifford, Jerry Courtney, and Bonnie McConnell. Memorial services were Monday, Jan. 14, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow in Shannon Cemetery. Condolences can be made to www.palmer-funeralhome.net

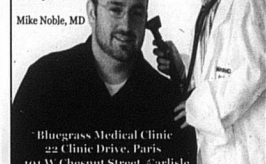
Randy Long, 45, died Tues. Jan. 1, 2008. He was born in West Union, Ohio on April 11, 1962, to Martha Hanshaw Minton and the late William Long. He was a construction worker.

Survivors include his mother, Martha Minton; stepfather, Charles C. Minton; three children, Chad Long of West Union, Oh, Rhonda Sue Long of Indiana, and Dusty Long of West Union; four grandchildren, two brothers, Dennis Long of West Union and Karl Kieckler of Carlisle; three sisters, Deborah Justice of Pike County, Oh, Karen Long of Carlisle, and Katherin Tipton of Carlisle. Graveside services were held Mon. Jan. 7, 2008 at the Henryville Cemetery with the Rev. Ernie Carmichael officiating. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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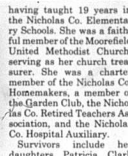
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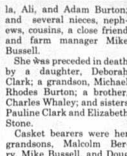
Lucille Clark 1912-2008

Lucille Clark, 95, widow of Wilson J. "Buster" Clark, died Fri. Jan. 4, 2008 at Nicholas County Hospital. She was born Sept. 25, 1912 to the late Claude S. and Mittie Wilson Whaley. She was a retired school teacher



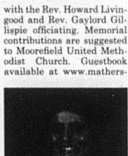
Edna Mae Doyle 1919-2007

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Philip E. Patrick

Philip E. Patrick of Carlisle, KY was sworn in as the newest member of the Kentucky Army National Guard at Carlisle, Kentucky. The Philip will attend nine weeks of basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina following his junior year in high school and followed up by six weeks of individual training at Fort Sil, Oklahoma upon graduation. Philip will be assigned to BTRY B/2138th FA BN in Carlisle as a 13B Field Artillery Cannonner when training is complete.



Edna Mae Doyle 1919-2007

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Randy Long 1962-2008

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Patrick enlists in local guard

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Hughes reenlists for six years

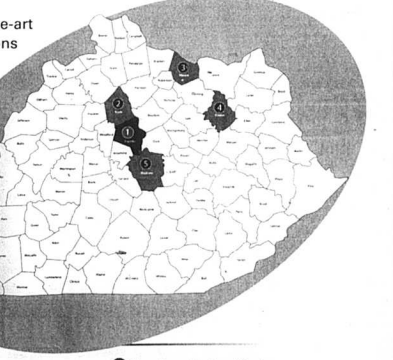
Hughes, a platoon sergeant, is assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Carlisle National Guard Station, Ky. He is the son of Jerry Hughes of Carlisle, and Gail Gardner of Hendersonville, Tenn.

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