# OPINION

## Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

BLOOD BROTHERS

Early August 1778, along the Licking River

Simon sat quietly in the woods with his back at the base of a huge oak tree.

He was completely frozen with his only movement coming very slowly from his eyes as they scanned the meadow and tree line in the distance.

He never even turned his face, which was camouflaged with dry mud and twigs, which were also stuck into his hunting shirt.

Survival on the Kentucky frontier, particularly in what would one day beotme Nicholas, Robertson and Bath, counties, was harsh.

There were basically two types of men that traveled in that, as-of-yet uninhabited section of Kentucky.

The first type of man was much, like himself he imagined; a person of unique physical endurance, strength, intelligence, and one who was able to handle an ax and knife with the same skill with which he could a musket.

All others were to be found buried among the hillsides, in soon-forgotten unmarked graves that lingered along the lonely ridges adjacent to the Licking River and many of its tributaries.

Raiding parties of Shawnee, Mingo and Miami, warriors had claimed dozens of early pioneers, explorers, trappers, surveyors and traders in this region.

They'd nearly taken his life too.

Simon was only 23 years old and yet, he was already the most trusted scout along the Kentucky frontier. He shook his head at the lunacy of his life with the knowledge that people didn't even know his real name.

They called him Simon Butler.

His real name was Simon Kenton.

He used the alias of Butler because he was certain he had killed a man in a jealous rage back east and was wanted for murder.

There was only one man who traversed the Ohio River Valley that knew his true identity.

That man's name was Simon Girty and he was nearly 15 years older than Kenton.

They'd met almost seven years ago at Fort Pitt (modern day Pittsburgh) where both were employed as scouts.

They quickly became best friends.

As their friendship deepened, Kenton learned much about Simon Girty and how he came to the frontier.

Indians killed Girty's biological father over a land dispute when Girty was young. His mother remarried John Turner and the entire family had soon been captured during a Native American raid during the French and Indian War.

Seneca warriors burned Turner to death at the stake.

The Seneca tribe then adopted Simon Girty.

Simon's younger brothers, George and James had been likewise adopted by the Shawnee and Delaware tribes.

Simon Kenton came to trust Simon Girty with his very life and Girty had never once failed him.

And now this conflict with Great Britain, this thing called the Revolutionary War, this great "turning round", had changed everything.

Kenton had learned only recently, after talking with Captain Daniel Boone, that Girty and Boone had spoke frequently to one another at the Shawnee village of Chillicothe, following his February captivity and subsequent surrender of the salt makers. Boone, who had only escaped in June, had said that his discussions with Girty revealed that Girty had left the American forces for the British and was working for Alexander McKee as an interpreter and Indian Agent.

Kenton remembered Girty fondly, especially the time, while they hunted in central Ohio and Girty had sworn his oath of protection and friendship to Kenton forever in a scared Seneca ritual.

Kenton still carried the small scar on his right wrist where Girty had cut him after making a similar incision upon his own right wrist and the two men grasped each other's right forearm. Girty had then taken a beaded belt and wrapped both their arms together while chanting an ancient friendship and protection prayer as the blood from their two wounds intermingled.

The two men would forever afterward be 'Blood Brothers' Girty had said.

Kenton, still under the assumed name of Butler, was now scouting for Boone along the Licking River, in preparation for a northern raid against the Shawnee whom he suspected were preparing for a greater southern raid against Fort Boonesborough.

Kenton would go on that raid.

Would he have to face his Blood Brother?

Would the two men be forced to try to kill one another?

He was pondering such things when movement caught the corner of his eye.

It was a lone Shawnee warrior skirting along the edge of the tree line across the open meadow.

Kenton slowly brought his musket to his shoulder, but then hesitated.

Perhaps there were others nearby.

Perhaps Girty was among them.

He eased his musket down to his side, got to his feet and slid away into a locust thicket before beginning that mile-eating trot of his back to Fort Boonesborough to report to Captain Boone and Major William Bailey Smith.

It was a long hot summer.

It would soon become even hotter, especially for the Blood Brothers.

## Conservative Columnist

Beshear's Town Hall too Crowded

The official title of Governor Steve Beshear's new "town hall" style tour of the state is "Beshear about Kentucky," the declared intentions of which are to give the Governor a chance to talk with constituents from Pikeville to Paducah face to face.

I applaud such a maneuver, but pardon me while I criticize how it is being executed.

Just three days after suggesting new ways that state employees should conserve fuel and other costs when traveling on state business, the Governor spent over $7,000 for the use of three planes to fly nearly all of his cabinet members and a gaggle of other aides and staffers to Pikeville for the first of these public forums.

The same trip in an SUV would have cost around $100 in fuel per motorcade vehicle. I estimate a total of $1000 for the round trip. The Governor's spokespeople issued a statement saying that using the airplanes saved about 100 working hours for the state officials who accompanied the Governor on the trip. They may think they've offered sufficient spin to create the illusion of efficient government, but that's not a good enough answer.

Beshear took all but two of his cabinet officers on the trip – and they didn't even participate in the program. Which begs the question, why would so many people need to accompany the Governor to a town hall meeting?

Since they are not elected officials, shouldn't they be back at the office tending to state business?

I don't have a problem with the Governor traveling the state to speak directly to the people. But I see no need for cabinet officials to participate in these meetings. Not that there aren't occasions for them to travel in the course of their normal duties, but I really hope we are not watching a disturbing pattern of flamboyant government expenditures and "do as I say, not as I do" behavior emerge.

For one thing, this is not the first time the Governor has used a plane for such a short excursion. Another instance involved breaking a promise not to use the

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# OBITUARIES

Robert Eli Poline
1932-2008

Robert Eli Poline, 76, husband of 51 years to Nell Wilson Poline died Sunday, July 20, 2008 at his residence.

He was born July 21, 1932 in Ottumwa, Iowa to Eli and Eva Barnett Poline.

He graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1950 and the University of Iowa in 1955 with a DC in Business Administration. He was in advance Air Force ROTC. After graduation he served his country for four years in the US Air Force. He then moved to Rockville, Maryland where he spent 18 years in civil service in the US Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation in Washington DC. In 1978 he moved to Carlisle and became a stock broker for Dean Witter and J.C. Bradfor until his retirement.

In addition to his wife, Nell, he is survived by a brother, Donald (Gail) Poline, Denver, CO; a nephew, Michael Robert (Abbe) Poline and their son, Nicholas, Alphretta, GA; and a niece, Amy (Douglas) Kinney and their children, Gabrielle and Jack of Denver, CO.

His funeral was held Tuesday July 22, 2008 at Clark Funeral Home with Jack Robinson and Mark Folio officiating. A private burial will be in Crown Hill Cemetery, Sharpsburg,. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Carlisle Presbyterian Church.

Ilene McKee
1918-2008

Ilene McKee, 90, widow of John Edward McKee, of Lexington, died Saturday, July 12, 2008.

She was born in Fleming County, the daughter of the late Norman and Elizabeth Mitchell Jolly. She was formerly of Nicholas County and a member of the Moorefield Christian Church.

She is survived by her daughters, Kathleen (Jimmie) Judge, Frankfort and Patsy (Garner) Ritchie, Lexington; sisters, Wilma (Reese) Anderson, Christine Anderson and Geneva Anderson, all of Mt. Sterling; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her brothers, Edward, George, Kenneth and Jimmie Jolly and sisters, Susan Hawkins, Sally Richardson and Dora Fryman.

Graveside service was held Tuesday July 22, 2008 at Carlisle Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Moorefield Christian Church. Mitchward-Southland in charge of arrangements. www.mitchwardfuneral.com

Dan Rich
1918-2008

Dan Rich, 90, widower of Edythe Morgan Rich and Lola McCarty Rich, died Friday, July 18, 2008 at Nicholas County Hospital.

He was born January 27, 1918 in Casey County to the late Lat and Mattie Cundiff Rich and was a member of the Carlisle First Baptist Church. He was a previous owner of Hopkins Drug and a 50 year member of the Carlisle Rotary Club.

Survivors include a brother, Theodore (Betty)Rich, Louisville and a sister, Faye McAninch, Somerset.

He was preceded in death by 3 brothers, Harris, Sam and Bill Rich.

Services were held Monday, July 21, 2008 at Mathers/Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. Kevin Thomas and Rev. Adam Schell. Burial followed in Carlisle Cemetery.

Casket bearers were Bob Markham, Harold Letton, Gene Kelley, Derek Zachary, Franklin Jolly and Allen Ray Sparks. Honorary bearers were the P.O.F.F. Club of the Carlisle First Baptist Church.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Carlisle First Baptist Church.

Guestbook available at www.mathers-gauncefuneral.com.

Kathryn Buring Knapke
1911-2008

Kathryn Buring Knapke, 96, of Bellevue, died Friday July 18, 2008.

She was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Church, Bellevue.

Her husband, Frank B. Knapke, died in 1981.

Survivors include sons, Michael Knapke of Fort Wright, Frank Knapke Jr. of West Chester, OH, James Knapke of Bellevue, and Kenneth Knapke of Carlisle; a brother, Robert Buring of Cincinnati; a sister, Lorraine Heist of Crescent Springs;14 grandchildren, Connie Spotts, Kathleen Welch, Michelle McDonald, Pat Knapke, Laura Stutler, Mary Beth Hunt, Nicole Crowe, Alison Heitmeyer, Jamie Burkart, Chris Knapke, Todd Knapke, Matt Knapke, Emily Berling, and Erin Knapke. and 19 great-grandchildren.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Entombment will be at St. Stephen Cemetery in Ft. Thomas, KY.

Memorials are suggested to Carmel Manor Nursing Home, 100 Carmel Manor Road, Fort Thomas, Ky. 41076; or the Ronald McDonald House, 350 Erkenbrecher Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45229.

A.C. Dobbling and Son Funeral Home, Bellevue, is handling the arrangements.

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