

# Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

-FOREFATHERS

"My wife and I had neither spoon, dish, or anything when we began married life, only I did have a good butcher knife. The wolves used to come and take the pigs and things close around (Strode's) Station, they and the bears, beyond we put so many traps out. Major (Andrew) Hood and Captain (John) Constant were as good as the wolves at tracking." William "Lazy Bill" Clinkbeard, Kentucky Frontiersman and early settler of Strode's Station, in an interview with Rev. John (Johnny) Shantz, located in the Draper Manuscripts volume 11CC.



Heaven is A Lot Like Kentucky  
By Charles Hester

"We moved to Strode's in 1779 and stayed five years, but only one cabin started and it had been built by Strode." Isaac Clinkbeard, brother of William, Draper Manuscripts volume 11CC.

"I bought a horse when I had been in the country three years to go back to the settlements, but the in-

terior life had hardened their souls, and while their hearts were filled with the incompe-

table beauty of the wilderness of northeastern Kentucky, the grimness of survival along the unforgiving wilderness was within itself, a force of nature to be reckoned with. The wilderness was filled with many predators of both the four-legged and two-legged kind. Wolves and bears made their presence felt everywhere, as did the cunning warriors from every clan of every tribe of Native American people that considered the ancient hunting grounds of Kentucky as belonging to them all. These Native American warriors came from the Smoky Mountains in the south, from the Mississippi River in the west, the Great Lakes of the north, and even beyond.

In many cases, each clan of any-given tribe exercised certain ethical codes of behavior, and each had to deal with in a certain manner to prevent insult. Personal insults, they read or imagined, were seldom pardoned without violence among most Native American cultures, especially when violence had been endured against them by various groups of English colonists for so very many years.

Feelings did not change following the Revolutionary War.

Few frontiersmen knew the subtleties associated with these codes of behavior and thus many personal grievances, which started off as communication

of culture, soon escalated beyond the control that any formal peace negotiations could respectably explain or hope to contain.

Robert Stockwell's family moved into the interior of northeastern Kentucky when he was a small child. The family resided near Miller's Station, which was located near the present border of Nicholas and Bourbon County, Stockwell's father died suddenly from an aneurysm when he attempted to move a heavy log.

The family then moved near the present border of Fleming and Mason County. Stockwell's family became good friends with the families of Simon Kenton, of Mason County, and George Stockton, of Fleming County.

The Stockwell home was never bothered by any of the Native American clans and he remembered this as being due to the Protection of the Lord.

The wolves and bears were as relentless as the Native Americans in their attempts to dislodge the Kentucky Frontier families.

Many of the young men of Strode's Station would later go on to settle other stations and fortified settlements in Fleming, Bath, Robertson and Nicholas Counties.

In many instances their family descendants still call northern Kentucky home.

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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. Those 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. Friday.

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Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@thecarlislemercury.com  
However, if e-mail is used, the sender should call 859-289-6423 to confirm that the letter was received.

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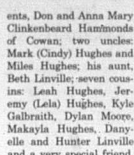
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## Obituaries



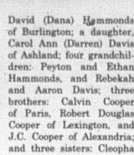
William Robert (W.R.) Hughes 1988-2009

William Robert (W.R.) Hughes, 20, of Carlisle, was taken from this life on Friday, Apr. 24, 2009. A 2006 graduate of Nicholas County High School, he was born on July 11, 1988, the son of Matthew (Penry) Hughes and Donita Hughes (Ty Proffitt). He was a devoted son, brother and friend and was loved by many. He was in business with his father, Hughes Construction. He is survived by his mother and father; three brothers: Jason Jesse, Justin Hughes and Cordell Watkins; one sister, Samantha Watkins; his paternal grandparents, Frankie and Marilyn Hughes of Carlisle; his maternal grandpar-



Mary Evelyn Cooper Hammonds 1938-2009

Mary Evelyn Cooper Hammonds, 70, wife of Rev. Julian C. Hammonds, passed away on Tuesday, Apr. 21, 2009 at St. Joseph Hospital. She was born on Nov. 16, 1938 in Nicholas County to the late Ed Lee and Etta Frances July Cooper, was a retired clerk for the Farm Service Agency Committee and the Nicholas County Conservation office, and was a member of the Carlisle United Methodist Church. Evelyn was a volunteer at the Carlisle United Methodist Church, the Carlisle United Methodist Women's Wesleyan Circle, and the Friendly Sunday School class. Her hobbies included spending time with her grandchildren, gardening, being a seamstress and collecting family photographs. She is survived by a son,



Esther Buckler Purvis 1940-2009

Esther Buckler Purvis, 68, passed away on Tuesday, Apr. 21, 2009 at Robertson County Health Care. She was born on July 7, 1940 in Nicholas County to the late Edgar and Beatrice Luckler. She is survived by her son, Michael L. Purvis, and one brother, Buddy (Irnas) Graves. Graveside services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, Apr. 24, 2009 at the Carlisle Cemetery with the Rev. Ernie Carnicle officiating. Pallbearers were Danny Watkins, Jeff Carpenter, Richard Emmons, Mark Hughes, Billy Gunn and Kevin Wells. Expressions of sympathy may be made to your favorite charity. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Clarence E. Gannon 1964-2009

Clarence E. Gannon, 45, of Carlisle passed away on Friday, Apr. 24, 2009. He was born on Feb. 14, 1964 to the late Jesse and Edith Mattingly Gannon. He is survived by his children: Joseph Gannon, Jordan Gannon, Adam Gannon and Tiffany Gannon; five sisters: Ramona Gatta, Anita Flynn, Ossie Reed, Jeanette Sexton and Key Stumbo; three brothers: Jesse Gannon, Greg Gannon and William Row; and one grandson, Noah Gannon.

Funeral services were held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Apr. 27, 2009 at the Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Josh Pollitt officiating. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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**(All donations will be greatly appreciated)**

**BIKE RUN:** Sign in time: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
leaving at 11:00 a.m. from Carlisle Army  
and going to Boonesboro  
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**Contacts: Dianna Ritchie (859-473-0033)**  
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Spaces are limited, so please call 289-5595 no later than May 5. Research Kits will be provided