OPINION

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

Three Friends

"George Stockton was a famous Indian warrior and man who was highly esteemed," Robert Stockwell Interview, Draper Manuscripts volume 10 BB

"When my father was 19 he traveled with his Indian friends to Detroit to trade furs for blankets and ammunition. There he met a French trader who spoke English and with the Indians' consent he stayed there for three months to act as an interpreter," D.K.Stockton, son of George Stockton, Draper Manuscripts volume 12 BB

The friendship and devotion felt between the three men was astounding.

The three were bound by loyalty, blood and shared hardships.

The three men, who would have such a significant impact on Fleming, Nicholas and surrounding counties, were John Fleming, George Stockton and Michael Cassidy.

When we last left Michael Cassidy he was slowly healing from several wounds inflicted upon him at the hands of Shawnee warriors in the autumn of 1784.

A hardened veteran of the Revolutionary War and the savoir of Fleming at the Battle of Upper Blue Licks, fought in Aug. 1782, Cassidy would become the best of friends with Fleming.

Fleming, born in 1735, was the older half-brother of George Stockton. Fleming's father died shortly after John Fleming was born. The widow, Sarah Keith Fleming, who was John Fleming's mother, married Robert Stockton in 1740.

George Stockton was born in 1745.

Cassidy was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1755.

All were veterans of the Revolutionary War.

I have often tried to picture the trio as they stood at the entrance of either of the three fortresses they helped one another construct from 1786-1788 in what would one day become Fleming County.

Cassidy stood barely five feet tall, and his face appeared to be a spider web of vicious scars.

Fleming was slender, and handsome, standing approximately six feet tall. He was said to be a gifted fiddle player and reportedly had a very strong affection for whiskey.

Stockton stood six feet, three inches tall.

Those who knew him well said he was a man of uncommon muscular physique.

They also allude to his facial tattoos by saying he 'was strongly marked."

Iroquois warriors had captured Stockton when he was only ten years old and he lived with them near Niagara Falls until he was nearly 20-year-old, when he returned to his Martinsburg home.

Though he was unrecognizable by all of his family, he was embraced and lavished with attention by John Fleming.

Their friendship and loyalty knew no bounds.

Fleming and Stockton first came to Kentucky in the spring of 1776 with Samuel Strode and William McCleary.

Strode was a cousin.

McCleary had married Isabella Stockton, George's full sister and John Fleming's half-sister.

Fleming stayed in Kentucky in 1776 when Stockton, McCleary and Strode, returned east.

Stockton married Maryland socialite and debutante Rachel Dorsey in 1775.

Fleming married the widow of his dear friend Patrick Donaldson in 1782.

And although Stockton returned often to the Kentucky frontier, in 1782, after Fleming was wounded in the Battle of Upper Licks, when Stockton no doubt first met Cassidy, he did not stay long before returning east. He later returned in 1784 when the trio and a select handful of others, would embark on a massive land surveying expedition only a few months prior to Cassidy being dreadfully wounded.

Cassidy would eventually settle his station near a pristine fresh spring, only a few miles south along the Warrior's Trail from a similar fresh water spring, which entranced Stockton in 1776.

Stockton and Fleming first met the legendary Simon Kenton at the fresh water spring. With Cassidy's and Fleming's help and most likely Kenton's too, Stockton built his fortress and moved his family overland by packhorses from Kenton's Station (Mays Lick), in 1787. Several of the Stockton children, including the eldest son Robert and the second eldest George Jr., often rode the packhorses while their younger siblings were cradled in the packs astride the horses backs on the overland trail.

Rachel Dorsey Stockton even brought fruit trees down the river on a flat boat from Maryland, and these were also carefully loaded onto the packhorses and later helped form an orchard near Stockton's Station.

Fleming built his own station in 1788, but it remains unclear to historians if he ever occupied it before his death in 1791. It is known that his cousin, Thomas Jones, did live there.

They formed a triangulated nucleus of frontier settlements that would flourish and support the entirety of the other settlements of northeastern Kentucky.

And, as always, they remained constant companions and dear friends with their old neighbors, "The Berkley Men" who initially settled Captain John Strode's Station in 1779.

If the Good Lord is willing, dear reader, we will follow these three men on various adventures in the weeks and months to come.

And That's My Two Cents

Signs of the Season

Now that Thanksgiving has passed, Christmas is right around the corner, with all the family traditions that surround the holiday. Naturally, some of our traditions were passed on from our parents while others we have picked up along the way. Regardless of their origin, however, these traditions help to make Christmas our favorite time of the year.

One of the more recent additions is that we don't leave the house on "Black Friday." That's pretty much my fault. About six years ago I dragged Cindy out on the Friday after Thanksgiving to get a great deal on a Christmas present that our oldest son, Sam, had asked for. Finding the item wasn't a problem. They had plenty in stock, so it wasn't like we had to get in a wrestling match with other parents to get the last one. The trouble started when we got in the check-out line – that wrapped half-way around the store.

We were making the best of it, laughing and joking with the other customers in line. After about 30 minutes in line, however, my ring finger started really bothering me. The day before, I had gone to church early in the morning and joined in the annual "Turkey Bowl" football game. I was playing defense when I saw the opposing team's quarterback drop back for a pass. I jumped high enough to block the pass with my left hand but ended up jamming my ring finger badly. The next day as we stood in line, my finger started swelling. The wedding ring began cutting of the circulation and my entire finger was turning black. I ended up leaving Cindy in the check-out line and driving to a jewelry store to get the ring cut off.

And hour later, when I finally got back to the store, Cindy was still in the check-out line, not looking all that happy to be there. Remember that it had been my brilliant idea to go shopping the day after Thanksgiving and had dragged Cindy along with me. She didn't exactly blame me for having to leave her there, but she was frustrated enough that she made me promise NEVER to make her leave home on Black Friday, ever again.

Over the past 26 years of marriage, Cindy has endured similar situations more often than I would care to admit, patiently enduring and quickly forgiving me for all the things I've put her through. It was out of a sense of gratitude for Cindy and her sweet nature that gave rise to one of our favorite holiday traditions. In her honor, we get a Christmas tree and decorate the house on her birthday, Nov. 29.

This year, Cindy had her eye on a beautiful 7-1/2 foot artificial tree at Lowe's, but it cost quite a bit more than either of us wanted to spend. We noticed they had live trees for sale in the Garden Center and found a beautiful 7-1/2 foot South Pine for $17. Cindy was worried that we'd have a hard time keeping the cats out of the water (which is the case), but the difference in cost made it more than worth the inconvenience.

Decorating the home for Christmas is a nice birthday present, but obviously, that can't be the only present; there needs to be something personal. This year, knowing how much Cindy enjoys attending plays, I got her tickets to the murder mystery dinner theater at Blue Licks. The only problem with that present is that the play isn't until Dec. 11. I knew I needed to get her *something* she could enjoy on her actual birthday.

The previous Sunday, we were sitting in church when a little girl who was sitting beside Cindy started coloring. After a little while, Cindy was showing signs of agitation, finding it hard to sit still. I whispered, "What's wrong?" Cindy replied, "That little girl is doing it *wrong!* I want to grab that coloring book from her and show her how it's supposed to be done.

That was the only hint I needed: I went out and got Cindy her very own coloring book to take to church. I even got one with Bible stories so she could tell everybody that it counts as worship. A few other ladies who were sitting nearby noticed what Cindy was doing and couldn't avoid commenting, "I can't believe she's coloring in church!" But after a few moment's hesitation, the truth came out, "I wish I could do something like that..."

When it comes to presents, I have to be the luckiest man on the planet. How many other husbands could get away with giving their wife a $2 coloring book for her birthday? And truth be told, it was probably Cindy's favorite present.

Over the years, I may not have learned all the lessons I should have, but at least I have picked up this one pointer: a week or so before her birthday, anniversaries or Christmas, pay extra attention to everything your wife says. You're sure to hear some kind of hint to steer you towards the perfect present.

By the way, I'm convinced that the real present is not something you can wrap up in pretty paper. The thing that makes her happiest is evidence that her husband was actually listening...

And that's my two cents,
Steve Scalf

LETTERS TO SANTA

The Newspaper Wants to Help You Get Letters to Santa Out Some Address This Year!

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OBITUARIES

Pauline McVey Snapp

Pauline McVey Snapp, 89, widow of Robert S. Snapp, died on Monday, Nov. 30, 2009 at Johnson Mathers Nursing Home. She was born on June 7, 1920 in Nicholas County to the late R. A. and Mamie Miller McVey. Pauline was a longtime resident of the Barterville community and caretaker and treasurer of the Barterville Cemetery. She was a beloved mother and grandmother.

She is survived by a son, James (Juanita) Snapp of Carlisle; two daughters: Barbara Snapp of Carlisle and Carolyn Snapp of Cynthiana; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Judy Vaughn; a daughter-in-law, Carolyn Snapp; two brothers: Leslie and Lester McVey; three sisters: Jeanette Ritchie, Louise Platt and Ethel Dotson; a great-grandson, Anthony Petitt; and a great-great-granddaughter, Jay Lynn Frederick.

Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009 at the Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by the Rev. James Gaunce and Rev. Howard Livingood, with burial to follow in the Barterville Cemetery. Visitation will be after 5:00 PM Wednesday at the funeral home. Condolences may be left at www.mathersgauncefuneral.com.

Willa Bea Whitaker

Willa Bea Whitaker, 91, widow of Lee Chalmer "Chad" Whitaker, died on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009 at Bourbon Heights Nursing Home. She was born on June 26, 1918 in Nicholas County to the late George Thomas and Anna D. Hay Sosby. She was a former member of Marie Chapter O.E.S., a former member of the Moorefield Christian Church and a current member of the First Christian Church in Paris.

She is survived by the daughters: Norma Ann (Innes) Feeback of Carlisle, Bonnie Faye Compton of Richmond and Judy (Jimmy) Shaw of Paris; a sister, Gertrude Randolph of Lexington; eight grandchildren: Steve Vice, Debbie Woolsey, Mark Vice, Gregory Lee Compton, Kimberly Beth Lakes, Lisa King, Tracy Walters and Jimmy A. Shaw, Jr.; seven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers: Estill and Kenneth Sosby; and a sister, Ethel McCall.

Services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009 at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by the Rev. Jeff Bell, with burial to follow in the Carlisle Cemetery. Casket bearers will be Mark Baker, Greg Comptón, Jimmy A. Shaw, Jr., Mark Vice, Roger Vice, Steve Vice and Greg Walters. Honorary casket bearers will be Frank Cartmill, Jim Cartmill, George Emmons, Deloris Howard, Randall Manley, Jackie Randolph and Eddie Sosby. Condolences may be left at www. mathersgaunce.com

The Carlisle Mercury publishes Obituaries Birth Engagement Wedding and Anniversary Announcements free of charge as a public service.

Carol Walker Garvin

May 4th, 1934 to December 6, 2007

Yet by your courage in tribulation, by your cheerfulness before the dirty devices of this world, you have won the love of those who have watched you. All we remember is your living face, and that we loved you for being of our clay and our spirit.

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Thank You

Thank you from the Brewer Family.

We would like to thank everyone who sent food, flowers and cards during the loss of our mother, Alberta Brewer.

A special thanks to Carma Brown and the East Union Christian Church.

Carolyn, Robert, Barbara, Larry, Kathleen and Donald

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Bread of Life

Matthew 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

When Jesus bore away our sins, He also bore away our diseases. When Jesus went to the cross, He paid for more than just salvation. He also took the stripes for our healing. He came so that we could have life and have it more abundantly. The cross pronounced a complete cure for the ills of mankind.

The Church of Jesus Christ has been made just as free from sickness as it has been made free from sin. A Christian may continue to sin after he has been born again, but he does not have to. A Christian may continue to be sick after he has been born again, but he does not have to. He has been redeemed from sickness. The price had been paid for his healing. Sickness can no longer have dominion over him unless he allows it.

Most believers has only known part of their redemption. They could have begun to live in divine health long ago if they could have gotten revelation knowledge of the word of God, that says healing belongs to us.

Isaiah 53:4,5 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

God is telling us in *Proverbs 119:105* that He wants us to get revelation knowledge of the word of God. *The word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* The light of the word of God will destroy Satan's grip in your life, in the area of physical suffering. The truth makes you free from Satan's dominion when you realize that your healing has already been purchased by the sacrifice of Jesus. Because that God so loved the world, He engineered the substitution of His only begotten Son, to redeem man from the curse of Satan. He redeemed the whole man - righteousness for his nature, peace for his mind, and healing for his body. Jesus completely destroyed the works of the devil in the lives of men.

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God's House of Prayer

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Thank You

Thank you from the Stone Family

We would like to thank everyone who called, sent food, flowers and cards during teh loss of our father, Allen Kash Stone.

A special thanks to Brother Alvin Eckler and all the wonderful people at Johnson Mathers Nursing Home

Allen Clay and Marjorie Stone, Davie Stone, and Mary Ellen Stone Bramel

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