

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

SEEKING THE THUNDER CHILD



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Matton

I knew George Stockton intimately from my childhood on. He was a famous Indian warrior and a man who was highly esteemed. He was six feet three inches tall and was a man of uncommon muscular powers.

Robert Stockwell interview, Draper Manuscripts volume 10B843-50

"Father had been captured, with his sister. They were taken to an Indian village near Niagara Falls. Father had to run the gauntlet under first entering the village. He was adopted by a widowed squaw and trained on the bow and arrow and then the musket. When he was 16 he accompanied the Indians on all their hunts and warfare expeditions. Father could speak most Indian languages."

D.K. Stockton, 10th child of George Stockton, Draper Manuscript volume 12B849

I spend walking along the Warrior's Trail, the more I need to know about the people who once traveled the same footpath.

Such are the woes of an obsessive researcher of history.

George Stockton was born July 20, 1745.

When he was 11-years-old, on Sept. 17, 1756, he went on a child's errand with his sister Isabella. They took some medicine to a sick neighbor who was inside Fort Neely, which was situated along the Opequon River, near present-day Martinsburg, West Virginia.

I've been studying an ancient Native American footpath that connected northern trade routes with southern routes hundreds, and in most cases, thousands of years ago. This path, the famous Atla-to-ami-nee trail, known to frontier families as the Warrior's Trail, extended through Mason, Robertson, Fleming, Nicholas, Bath and portions of Menifee County, in a network of connection trails.

It seems the more time

who was raised as her son.

George completely assimilated to the Seneca way of life and eventually became a respected, and "famous" Seneca warrior.

The Seneca's political system included a constitution, which many scholars believe to have been the model for the American Constitution. The Seneca were the largest of five tribes, which comprised the Iroquois League, or the Five Nations, along the majestic Niagara Falls.

Robert Stockwell told historians that Stockton was "strongly marked" where George Stockton built a small cabin in 1776, near a beautiful fresh water spring that burst forth from a hillside. It is very near where he would build his wilderness fortress in 1786 for his wife Rachel and their children.

George Stockton told his sons that when he was homesick for his pioneer family he would sit near the Niagara Falls and meditate.

The Seneca believed the Good Spirit of Thunder resided behind the falls, which indeed sounded like thunder.

The Seneca villagers that dwelt near the falls, near the Good Spirit of Thunder, were said to be Children of Thunder.

Their ferociousness in battle also lent credibility to their title.

And I believe the strange white boy, named George Stockton, became the Thunder-Child of the widowed Seneca squaw, there along the banks of the majestic Niagara Falls.

Another of those places is along Stockton Branch, near Plummer's Landing.

George Stockton's oldest son Robert and Robert's best friend, Beuchum Rhodes, camped at that place during February of 1789, while bear hunting.

It's the place where Robert Stockton lost his life to Native American warriors, and where his grave can still be seen today.

A place I've lingered before and will perhaps linger a while next week in this column, if the Good Lord is willing, dear reader.

Steve's Report



Steve's Report
By Steve Sealf

Years ago, one of the people I worked with - I'll call him Paul - started making fun of religion. Church, he claimed, was for superstitious people who are afraid to embrace the religion, as you claim," Paul nodded.

"Let's say, for argument's sake, that Christians are right. If a person embraces the Gospel of Salvation and follows the teachings of the Bible all their lives - if what Christians believe is true - what happens when they die? They enter into heaven and spend all eternity in a state of bliss," Paul rolled his eyes, but conceded that if what Christians believe were true, this would, indeed, be their eternal reward.

"But let's say you're right," I continued, "using the same logic, let's say this life is all there is - that man has no other life - that when we die, we die, and that's the end."

Let's look at the life of a true believer - one who truly lives his/her religion. They are good people who find purpose and meaning through their lives. If they live by the Ten Commandments, they don't cheat on their spouses. They don't do murder. They don't lie. They don't steal. They are good to take offense and are quick to forgive. They value their families and try to rear their children to become good citizens who are a positive influence on society.

And when things go wrong - when they experience tragic losses in their lives - they are better prepared to deal with it. Their faith sustains them by giving them strength and comfort.

At this point, Paul objected: "But if I'm right, then their faith is based on a myth. It's not true." I replied: "But if you're right, and it's all over when we die, whether it's true or not really doesn't matter, does it? Believers will have still enjoyed more productive, more fulfilling, happier lives. So you see, being a believer is the only logical decision - because believers win an eternal reward if they are right, and still end up getting more out of life - even if they are wrong. Believers can't lose."

I don't really think my arguments changed Paul's way of thinking, but I truly believe I am right - that if you live your religion, you can't lose.

And that's my two cents, Steve Sealf

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NCAWS
Nicholas County Animal Welfare Society will be having their monthly meeting on Feb. 9th at 6pm at the County Extension Office.
Day Time Red Hatters
The Nicholas County-Carlisle Day Time Red Hatters will meet February 26th at the Carlisle Christian Church Fellowship Hall. There will be a Chili Supper at 6:30 p.m., and a program on Collectible dolls given by Mary Ellen Pumphrey. This will take place of our February 11th meeting.

Girls Basketball
Feb. 6 Beres @ Home
Feb. 7 @ Fairview
Feb. 9 Fleming @ Home
Feb. 11 @ Harrison

Boys Basketball
Feb. 6 @ Harrison
Feb. 7 Paris @ Home
Feb. 10 @ Bourbon

Thank You!

I would like to say thank you to Benjie Buckler, John Sparks & Frank Allen Terrell during the time of the snow storm. With us being out of electric, these fine people came out our aid. Thank you for all your help!

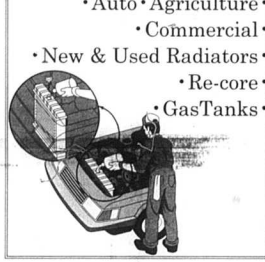
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However, if email is used, the reader should call 859-289-6425 to confirm that the letter was received.

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311
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