

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

THE FAITHFUL DOG

February 1788
The cold February rain stung his tattooed face, but he was oblivious to it.

He cradled the blood-croded hound dog just as he had Robert, his 16-year-old, first-born son, only moments before as they were burying him near the small stream and gentle glade they now rode away from.

Memories of his dead son flashing through his mind. He had never felt this depth of misery and he was a man who had a complex and deep understanding of sorrow.

Captured and raised by Seneca warriors as a teen, employed later as an interpreter for a French trader at Detroit and later serving as a crafty horse-master during the Revolutionary War, George Stockton was a man of considerable experience and knowledge on many levels.

A beautiful Maryland



Heaven to A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Fletcher

debutante, Rachel Dorsy, caught his eye before the Revolutionary War. They fell in love and married in September 1772.

Robert was born the next year. Only hours earlier they found Robert's body just where Beechum Rhodes said he had last seen it.

Rachel was pregnant with their third child when George came to Kentucky in 1776 to make improvements and build cabins as part of the claim staking and land acquisition process practiced at that time.

He brought his family with him on one of his frequent visits in 1787 and they moved into his wilderness fortress (present day Flemingsburg).

And now he had buried his son.

The bewildered look in his eye only added to the discomfort his companions felt and so they rode behind him at a distance, letting their esteemed leader have all the soli-

tude he needed as they slowly made their way home toward Stockton's Station.

His lamentations, which combined with the dog's whining, made a most distressful sound, and several of the men pulled away from the group so they too could weep in solitude.

Only hours earlier they found Robert's body just where Beechum Rhodes said he had last seen it.

Samuel Reed, a hunter, had found Beechum Rhodes approximately two miles from Stockton's wilderness fortress and carried him back to the fortress gates.

The first indication of trouble for many of them came when they heard the blast of the conch shell blown by an elder female servant of the Stockton family as Reed carried Rhodes into the station.

It was the standard alarm signal and was meant to let all in hearing distance know trouble was about and they

should come immediately to the fort.

Major George Stockton had nearly fainted when he beheld Beechum Rhodes. Several, including Rachel Stockton, did faint.

Rhodes was emaciated, his clothes in tatters. Beechum had ridden out of Stockton Station a week earlier with Robert and two of the Major's fine hunting dogs.

After establishing a base camp, near present-day Belle Grove, they had a successful bear hunt.

They might they were attacked in their sleep by two, perhaps three, Shawnee warriors who fired their muskets into the sleeping pair of young frontiersmen.

Robert Stockton was killed instantly. Rhodes was struck twice in the high but dove into a nearby stream and hid in a cave.

plunder, but the dogs attacked with such ferocity, that it drove them away.

Rhodes dragged himself into camp, he was half-frozen. From his stock plunges into the stream and sought heat from the campfire, but one of the dogs was lying on Robert's back and was fiercely protecting him and would not allow Beechum to get close or even retrieve his musket.

And so, dear reader, Beechum Rhodes died the only thing someone half-frozen and miles from home with two heavy lead slugs in their thigh could do.

He began to crawl back toward Stockton's Station.

On Nov. 15, 1790, George and Rachel Stockton became parents of Robert the Second, their ninth child. Dorsey Stockton, their tenth child was born in 1792.

Rachel died September 21, 1798. George Stockton died April 9, 1818.

The faithful dog, still lay astride its master, that it drove them away.

From the carcasses of wolves lying in a circle around the boy's body, and the amount of blood and torn earth near the body, it was evident to all that the severely injured dog had valiantly defended his master from several groups of ravaging wolves and other predators.

I try to spend a little time at Robert Stockton's grave each year, occasionally on the anniversary of his death, which happened on Valentine's Day, 1788.

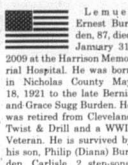
He's resting near a beautiful stream, still called Stockton's Creek.

Nine days after Robert met his death and two days after his burial, Rachel Stockton gave birth to Leaken Dorsey Stockton.

George Stockton led a group of men to the deadly campsite.

Obituaries

Lemuel Ernest Burden 1921-2009



Ann G. Harper 1926-2009

Lemuel Ernest Burden, 87, died Monday, Feb. 9, 2009, at his home. He was born Apr. 21, 1921, in Nicholas Co. to George and May Leake Burden. He was a member of the Harrison Memorial Church. He was retired from the Harrison Memorial Church. He was a member of the Harrison Memorial Church. He was a member of the Harrison Memorial Church.

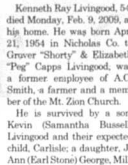
Kenneth Ray Livingood 1914-2009



Larry Frank Burton 1943-2009

Kenneth Ray Livingood, 94, died Monday, Feb. 9, 2009, at his home. He was born Apr. 21, 1914, in Nicholas Co. to George and May Leake Livingood. He was a member of the Harrison Memorial Church. He was a member of the Harrison Memorial Church. He was a member of the Harrison Memorial Church.

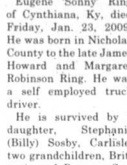
Eugene "Sonny" Ring



Bill R. Gadd 1931-2009

Eugene "Sonny" Ring of Cynthia, Ky, died Friday, Jan. 23, 2009. He was born in Nicholas County to the late James Howard and Margaret Robinson Ring. He was a self-employed truck driver.

Bill R. Gadd 1931-2009



Larry Frank Burton 1943-2009

Bill R. Gadd, age 77, husband of Patsy Tedder Gadd, died Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at Nicholas County Hospital. He was born September 23, 1931, in Fayette County, Kentucky, to the late John and Margaret Riggs Gadd. He was a member of Penn Avenue Baptist Church, an Air Force Veteran, and a retired electrician.

Courthouse Square Arts Guild elects officers and board members

Committee Heads Named

The Courthouse Square Arts Guild Board recently elected officers for two-year terms at its annual meeting. They are: Larry Mitchell, president; Juanita Hunt, vice president; Carol Pugh, Secretary; and Louise Zachary, treasurer.



Our special Valentine

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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 assigned editors will not be published. Phone 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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