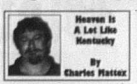


Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

THE EDUCATION OF JACOB STUCKER
By Charles Metzger
June 1969



Jacob Stucker, 16, stared slowly, yet intensely, from left to right.

After reassessing himself that there were no enemy warriors within range, he once again focused his attention intently southward toward a dirt path, which was the main avenue of approach toward their isolated frontier fortress; their only avenue of possible salvation.

Jacob shifted the Kentucky Long Rifle from his crouched position, just inside the two-story blockhouse on the southwest corner of Grant's Station. Smoke stung his eyes and he squinted hard and grimaced. The confines of the blockhouse were sweltering and the air was thick with the smell of gunpowder.

Several well-placed shots had kept them at a respectful distance, but fire danced through the ripened cornfield and soon engulfed the palisade.

All of the long hours of work that Jacob had toiled endlessly in order to clear the fields and help build with the logs were now seemingly wasted.

His gaze shifted to the smoke-filled sky. Turkey buzzards were circling overhead and Jacob knew with a sickening sadness that the buzzards were there for his very own father and his uncle, George.

The fortress still smoldered and the other blockhouses had been completely destroyed by fire that had been set by a group of 60 Native American warriors who had attacked the fort the day before.

The Stuckers were of Swedish descent. Young Jacob's grandfather had immigrated to Pennsylvania from Sweden. The Pennsylvania Dutch crafts-

men were wonderful gunsmiths who perfected the accuracy of the Kentucky Long Rifle. Jacob's father and uncle had arrived in Kentucky in January of 1780 at Bryant's Station. They immediately found their dream in the Kentucky wilderness around the fields of the John Grant's fort, a haven for the Pennsylvania Dutch, including their kinsman Michael Stoner.

And now the Stucker brothers, Jacob Sr. and George, both lay dead, killed by Shawnee warriors that formed a splinter group away from a massive British and Native American invasion force, which was led by British officer Colonel Henry Byrd.

The main enemy force under Byrd had destroyed the neighboring forts of Isaac Ruddle's and John Martin's stations. They had taken approximately 300 prisoners from Ruddle's Station and 60 more from Martin's. They had killed dozens in the process. Many of those who were killed or taken prisoner were also of Dutch and Swedish descent and were friends of the Stucker family.

But Jacob was not yet aware of this added pain as he sat crouched in the blockhouse that terrible June day. Jacob would learn these additional sad truths from members of a relief party of 40 men from Bryant's Station that eventually came marching down the dirt path to their aid.

Jacob Stucker became a frontier survival skills and became a local legend for his bravery, marksmanship and courage. And though he never learned to read or write, he was respected for his honesty.

I've let my fingers glide over his 'X', signed on court documents relating to several land disputes filed among the ancient manuscripts still found in courthouse archives and repositories in Kentucky.

Only five months after losing his father and uncle during the attack on Grant's Station, Jacob had become so skilled at navigating frontier survival that he was recruited as a scout and spy for Bryant's Station and neighboring communities. Boone also placed him as his third in-

command during a Nov. 1790 excursion through Nicholas, Fleming and Mason, counties in pursuit of another group of Shawnee warriors that killed Edward Boone (Daniel's brother). Edward Boone had been killed approximately 20 miles northeastward from Grant's Station, near the present border of Bourbon and Nicholas County. The 50-man army, which consisted of dozens of older veterans followed the orders of the young teen Stucker and try though they might, they could not catch the enemy, though they closely trailed them all the way to the Ohio River.

Grant's Station was also referred to as The Burnt Station after it was attacked in June 1780. It was eventually abandoned, but rebuilt in 1784 and reconquered.

Jacob Stucker married Elizabeth 'Betsey' Rodgers on June 30, 1789. Elizabeth Stucker died in 1811, shortly after giving birth to David Stucker, their 14th child.

Jacob Stucker died Jan. 11, 1820 in Soud County, Kentucky. If the Good Lord is willing, dear reader, we will visit with him again within these columns.

OBITUARIES

Roy E. Gaunce, Jr. 1939-2009
Roy Eugene Gaunce, Jr., 69, husband of Brenda Sue Mitchell Gaunce died Saturday, January 24, 2009, at a Nicholas County nursing home.

He was preceded in death by a sister Anna Lee Lawson Harvey. Services were conducted 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 27, at the Carlisle Christian Church by Rev. Steve Smith and Rev. James Douglas.

Survivors include two sons, Roy E. 'Reg' Gaunce, III (Natalie), and abhs" indicated that electronics and computer chips were not necessary to keep these young ladies' attention.

Also in November the Jemima Johnson chapter of the D.A.R. visited their treasures, and there were no ordinary dolls among these vintage and antique gems.

The curator along with guest expert, Karne Deane of Georgetown, Kentucky was able to answer questions about these women's childhood possessions in a duffer advice and direction for needed repairs. Several went home with plans to rescue dolls from damp basements and attics with vastly fluctuating temperatures. It took only a brief glimpse at what many value as worth collecting to increase their appreciation of what they had held on to.

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UK Helps Improve Life in Nicholas County

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Jan. 5, 2009) - Residents of Nicholas County may not realize the ways the University of Kentucky continually touches their lives, by providing education to 16 young Nicholas County students in the 2008-09 academic year, assisting business people, advising homemakers and agricultural enterprises and offering guidance on health care.

The 2008-09 academic year began with one Nicholas County freshman, one sophomore, one junior and three seniors attending classes, along with 10 others pursuing graduate degrees or professional degrees in nursing, medicine, pharmacy and law.

Meanwhile, Nicholas County already benefited vital parts of their lives to professionals who learned their skills at UK. The county has five lawyers, three nurses, three physicians and three pharmacists who earned their degrees at UK, but the university's impact stretches beyond those who have studied in its classrooms by assisting regional and local economic development efforts.

The education students receive from UK turns them into more productive workers and citizens," Troake said. "In turn these students help

improving competitive. The advice offered by consultants of UK's Kentucky Small Business Development Centers (KSBD) resulted in an average annual increase of sales by its clients of nearly \$546,329. Statewide, KSBD's services helped generate more than \$92.6 million in sales and helped create 806 jobs and save 295 others.

Nicholas County's men and women who work in area manufacturing plants may have benefited from increased job opportunities created by improved efficiency and productivity resulting from the consulting services of UK's Industrial Extension Service. This program, and UK's Center for Manufacturing, advises nearly 320 companies a year on ways to lighten their financial burden, and most of these companies are in Kentucky.

UK's future economic impact also will extend into Nicholas County, as coming generations seek their degrees both on the extension service, and their health care costs by \$24 million. Meanwhile, Business people in Nicholas County obtained better methods of

of German porcelain antique dolls, vintage commission dolls, 1960's G.I. tin wind up toys and dolls' houses of several styles will contain something for everyone. We are available also for appraisals, repairs or recommendations and advice on storing and caring for your collections. Visit us by check or appointment (289-4040).

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy 1st Birthday Jordynn
From: Nanny Papaw, Sissy Ryan and Uncle KK

NCHS Graduate, Roger Cole Trussell, Brings Japanese Students to Kentucky



Roger Cole Trussell, a graduate of Nicholas County High School and Eastern Kentucky University, has been visiting family and friends in Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky students, and another Japanese teacher stayed with host families in Beres. Beres is a sister city to Oketo, Japan where Roger is an English teacher. While here the students have toured some sites of interest.

After departing from Kentucky and before returning to

Japan the group will visit San Francisco, California, where Trussell and Mr. Shany Takeda, the Japanese teacher, have scheduled tours and events for the students. It is Trussell's hope that those students will take some of their experiences here in America back to the classroom in Oketo, Japan and it will help with their studies.

Trussell really enjoys his job in Japan and hopes his knowledge and experience will benefit the students in Japan that he works with. He is also grateful to his students because he is learning their language and customs as they are also his teacher.

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The Carlisle Mercury
The Carlisle Mercury is published every Wednesday by M.C. Investments and is 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.
Send letters to:
Editor, The Carlisle Mercury
P.O. Box 272
Carlisle, KY 40311
Letters may also be emailed to: editor@carlislemercury.com
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