

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

TWO LITTLE GIRLS

June 1781: Becky and Polly are with them. Samson is out in the fields.

The corn has been planted, like the tobacco and hemp. Large gardens have been planted also, yet everyone is concerned over the lack of live stock.

All of the cows and all but one of the sheep have been killed. Samson, a mountain cat, is one of the few dogs that the Shawnee and Wyandotte raiding party also didn't kill back in the spring, during the attack against John Strode's Station.

Samson still walks with a limp, but the arrow wound has healed well enough so that he escorts the young larvae out into the corn field each morning to chop weeds. Then he sits at the end of the



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Hester

patch and watches over them. Samson belongs to Becky's family: The Spahr family.

Polly's last name is Donaldson. The spring raid has strengthened their friendship.

The raid occurred early one morning when Becky's father, Jacob Spahr, had driven the milk cows out of the family farm plot near the fort.

Becky and Polly had skipped along behind Jacob as he continued to shoot the cows.

John Judy and another young man were cutting barbeque sticks on the opposite side of the fort.

Eight of the men who lived in Strode's Station had been ordered to Bryant's Sta-

tion to act as guards and had not yet returned home.

Some men were still inside the fort however, and among these men were Isaac Clinkenbeard, Thomas Jones, his uncle Capt. John Fleming, Joshua Bennett, Jacob Spahr, Thomas Kennedy, and a handful of others including Polly's father, Patrick Donaldson.

Becky's uncle, Mathias Spahr, Benjamin Duiway and two of his companions from David McGee's Station were also present. Their old friend James Beath yet remained a captive to the Shawnee.

Almost all of the families of McGee's and Strode's Station were former neighbors from the eastern communities of Berkeley County Virginia.

Several dozen warriors sprang their attack simultaneously.

A female servant who lived with Thom-

as Kennedy was captured while out in a maple grove.

Judy was shot in the back, but he and his companion managed to half crawl back to the station.

Capt. John Fleming was killed. Becky and Polly ran with all their might, toward the small opening of the stockade as they saw the heavier main fort gates being closed and barred.

Shawnee warriors chased and grabbed them when they were only 20 feet from the gate, but the dogs of the station, including James Beath yet remained a captive to the Shawnee.

Patrick Donaldson climbed onto a barrel near the small gate and just as he fired into the warriors, James was him self struck in the forehead by a Shawnee bullet, and he crumbled to the

ground. The girls ran wildly into the station, and Jacob Spahr was struck by one of the bullets near the railing.

She received a deep gash across the forehead and fell unconscious near her father.

This one incident compelled me to learn the names of the people who were involved in this attack, including Polly's father, Rebecca Donaldson, who married soon after.

Polly Donaldson, who was married into the Craig clan and no doubt helped distill some of Kentucky's first bourbon whiskey.

I continue to seek information on Becky Spahr.

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Excerpted from my book, "The Battle of Blount's Station, 1781."

They also scalped Spahr), and others.

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Obituaries

Helen Pauline Miller Crump
Mary Lois Gray Riggs
Johnny Logan Marshall, Sr.

Helen Pauline Miller Crump, 82, of Pompano Beach, FL, formerly of Covington, Kenton Co., KY, died Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at North Broward Medical Center in Pompano Beach, FL. She was born in Carlisle, Nicholas Co., KY. She was preceded in death by her parents, George Dewey Miller and Pearl Ritchie Miller Brantley, a sister Frances Miller Gutsikill, her husband, Sherreted from the Harold Clay Crump; and a son Harold Clay Crump Jr. She retired from the First National Bank of Cincinnati, OH where she worked for twenty years. She is survived by a son George Clay Crump, Covington, KY; Rachel Kay Crump, Covington, KY; One sister, Barbara O'Neil, Pleasantville, KY. One brother, James Morris Brantley, Fairborn, OH; a niece Jackie Chaykovsky, Mantua OH; a nephew Robert Mattingly, Paris, KY; and several great-grandchildren. Burial will be in Linden Grove Cemetery, Covington, KY.

Mary Lois Gray Riggs, 77, of Carlisle passed away Tuesday May 26, 2009 at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home in Carlisle. Mary Lois was born in Cowan, Jan. 14, 1932 to Edsel and Emma Gray and was a member of the Nazareth Church of Paris. Mary Lois is survived by a son, Dennis Jolly of Cowan (Oscar) Hunt of Tolleboro and Sue (Keith) Kelley of Paris. Six grandchildren: Kristen (Richie) Frye of Tolleboro, Jamie Frye of Tolleboro, Nettie Rose Jolly of Flemingsburg, Olivia Beary of Paris, Samantha Beary of Covington, and Keith Alan Kelley of Paris. Also surviving are five great-grandchildren, Ashley Nicole Frye, Emily Brooke Frye, Erica Layne Frye, Jaden Beary, and Micah Olson. Also a special friend Tommie Bales and a special niece Rhonda Tabbs. Funeral Services will be at 100pm Friday will be at 100pm Friday at Price Bros. Funeral Home in Elizaville by Rev. Vernon Adams. Burial will be in the Elizaville Cemetery, Vinton. Burial will be from 6:00 until 9:00pm Thursday at Covington, KY.

Johnny Logan Marshall, Sr., 58, of Lexington, formerly of Carlisle died Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at his home. He was born September 13, 1950 in Nicholas Co. to Corinne Bean Adair of Carlisle and the late Thomas Marshall and was a member of the Wesley Chapel C.M.E. Church. Other survivors include a son, Johnny (Monica) Marshall Jr., Flemingsburg, 2 brothers, Charles Marshall, Cincinnati, & William Bean, Carlisle, 2 grandchildren, Taylor & Hunter Marshall, and a special friend, Ethel Locke. Services were conducted 12:00 P.M. Saturday May 23 from the Wesley Chapel C.M.E. Church by Rev. Randy Taylor and Rev. D. Wayne Rogers. Burial was in Henryville Cemetery. Casketbearers were James, Ernie & Raymond Compton, Ben Sharp, Harry Sparks and Gary Williams. Arrangements were under the direction of Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home. Guestbook available at www.mathersgaunce.com

Ockerman

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Ockerman was a very close-knit, one-of-a-kind group. Ockerman was chosen with Gilkerson in 2008 as Governor's Scholars, and he says the Governor's Scholar program has helped prepare him for college. His other high school experiences have prepared him as well. With two years of track one year each of basketball and football and four years each of tennis and golf, Ockerman has represented Nicholas County strongly in sporting events. He's also been on the Academic Team for four years, has been on the Debate Team and Chess Club for two years and is the current class president. Chad enjoys listening to "Hard Rock" music and describes himself further as being "big into computers."

A favorite book is "American Psycho" a psychological thriller and a novel written in 1991 by Bret Easton Ellis, remains a favorite, along with other works of Ellis. "I enjoy all of his works," Ockerman said of Ellis. "He writes about a side of society that no one wants to talk about."

Ockerman is also fan of Stephen King literature, with his favorite movie being King's critically acclaimed work titled, "The Shawshank Redemption." Ockerman is optimistic in general, especially so for the future. "I feel like I've been blessed to have grown up in America. I think we've continued to advance as a society and I think these are blissful times. America will always be alright."

Chad spoke about his view of the future of education in Nicholas County. "If you are seeking a good education then you can get one at Nicholas County," he said. "I think our school has an exceptional staff and excellent teachers. I feel like the school is going in a good direction. Nicholas County is a great place to live and has the potential to become greater."

"I'm going to miss school and being around all the people I grew up with. This has really hit hard for me in the past few weeks."

Chad said he had a simple solution for that problem. "I'm going to come home as often as I can."

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