

OPINIONS

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Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

By Charles Mattox

*“Then out spoke brave Horatius,  
The Captain of the Gate:  
To every man upon this earth,  
Death cometh, soon or late  
and how can men die better  
Than facing fearful odds,  
for the ashes of his fathers  
and the temples of his Gods’.*  
From ‘Lays of Ancient Rome,’ a collection of narrative poems, written by Thomas Babington Macaulay and published in 1842. *Horatius*, the first poem, recounts the 508 BC Battle of the Pons Sublicius, a bridge which spanned the Tiber River in Rome, Italy.  
**March 1809, rural Estill County**

I never grow weary of re-examining Kentucky hero pioneers, dear reader.  
Joseph Proctor remains a near-unequaled  
Joseph Proctor had built the small log church with his own hands and

though it was small, it was very special to him.  
He’d taken to strolling around the small church early, every morning and was excited when the dogwood trees blossomed with the coming of spring.  
He was almost 60 years old and had never considered the path of the righteous until he was 37 years old and then somewhat hesitantly.  
He’d been a soldier during and after the Revolutionary War and, more than once he’d been forced to kill his fellow man; in fact, more often than he cared to think about, he’d contemplated that very subject.  
Today was a big day and friends and family would be here soon to help him celebrate.  
But for now. As the morning sunshine had washed his, he wished to be alone, amid the sunshine and shade of the dogwood trees he’d planted along one side of the church.  
It had been Monk, the servant of his dear friend and his militia officer, Captain James Estill, who had told him about the legend of the dogwood so many years ago when his soul had nearly been lost.  
It had been during the infamous Battle of The Little Mountain, which was also known as Estill’s Defeat, when Monk had pulled him aside on their dreadful trip back to Captain Estill’s Station following that disastrous day when he had collapsed from despair.  
He had come to the Kentucky wilderness in 1778 as a soldier under Captain, Isaac Ruddle, to Fort Boonesboro. He was 28 years old and his newlywed wife, Mary Horn

Proctor, had accompanied him. Before long his father and brothers would join him as would his brother-in-laws: Mathias and Aaron Horn.  
Captain Estill had married one of Joseph’s kin folks, Rachel Proctor Estill.  
The Estill’s, Proctors, Horns and a few others, had built Estill’s Station four miles east of Richmond, Kentucky in 1780.  
In March, 1782 while Proctor was with Estill and others on the Kentucky River, 25 Wyandotte attacked the station and killed little Jenny Gass, the daughter of Captain David Gass, and had taken Monk captive.  
News of the attack reached Estill through two teenage curriers and Estill’s party tracked and confronted the Wyandots the next day near present-day Mt. Sterling.  
In a vicious battle, which ended in hand-to-hand combat for several of those engaged, Captain Estill was killed by a warrior who stabbed him in the heart, after Estill had been wounded several times.  
Joseph Proctor knew he had wounded, and likely killed, at least 7 warriors, including the warrior who killed Estill just before he and the crippled survivors retreated.  
Proctor had been shaken with it all; Estill’s death, the violent nature of the close and personal battle, the way his friend Adam Caperton had been struck in the face with a bullet, and had wandered deliriously across the battlefield before being killed, and particularly, the way that Lieutenant, William Miller had been ordered by Estill near the close of

the battle to protect their flank... and then when Miller’s lock mechanism on his muzzleloader had been blown off by a warriors bullet which had led to his panic, Miller had subsequently ordered his men to retreat blindly back toward Estill’s Station... even after Proctor and Monk had pleaded with them not too... Well, that on top of the rest of the God-awful day had left his soul empty.  
Five other men besides Captain Estill and Adam Caperton were killed during the battle.  
James Berry and William Irvine were so pitifully wounded that they could not even ride the lone horse that survived and certainly couldn’t walk and were thus hand carried by the two unwounded men: Monk and himself.  
It had been that first night of the trip back to Estill’s Station, still over a dozen miles from the nearest help, when Proctor had walked alone into the woods near a stream, just before sunset and sank into deep depression and wept.  
Monk had found him there and tried to encourage him to return to help him with the wounded.  
Proctor had opened up to Monk and shared his despair and how he believed God had forsaken them all.  
Monk was a unique character along the frontier, an extremely talented gunsmith who knew how to make gunpowder and a wise man on all fronts, Monk had served Captain Estill his entire life, had done more physical labor with a smile than had the rest of them put together. A quiet and jovial soul he was respect-

ed by all, even though his stature was that of a slave. He rarely spoke of religion but he placed one strong hand on Joseph’s shoulder and quietly said, “You listen to ole Monk now, Mr. Joseph.  
He then showed Joseph a nearby blooming dogwood tree.  
He held Josephs hand in one hand and in the other he bent down a branch of the dogwood tree and quoted a poem, which he and some of his other servants and slaves often recalled while working in the spring-time fields.  
He briefly talked about God’s will, The love of Jesus and his resurrection at Easter and then after a brief pause he spoke of the dogwood tree and recited the following poem.  
  
In Jesus Time, the dogwood grew  
To a stately size and a lovely hue  
‘Twas strong and firm, its branches interwoven  
For the cross of Christ its timbers were chosen  
Seeing the distress at this use of its wood  
Christ made a promise, which still holds good.  
“Never again shall the dogwood grow  
Large enough to be used so  
Slender and twisted, it shall be  
With blossoms like the cross for all to see.  
A blood stains the petals marked in brown  
The blossom’s center wears a thorny crown.  
All who see it will remember me  
Crucified on a cross from the dogwood tree  
Cherished and protected this tree shall be  
A reminder to all of my agony.”

And now almost 30 years later, Joseph read that same poem to himself outside that small log church and wept as he examined the beautiful petals of the dogwood blooms.  
In a few minutes the first guests started to arrive and soon enough Bishop, Francis Asbury, arrived to ordain Joseph as the first ordained reverend of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Kentucky.  
And a celebration worthy of the Lord was held that day, dear reader.  
  
Joseph Proctor, his wife, Mary and their seven children thrived in the smaller communities of Estill County, named in honor of Captain James Estill.  
Joseph was a steadfast and devout leader to all who sought his guidance.  
James Berry and William Irvine, both survived the arduous retreat from the battle over dozens of miles while being carried by Joseph and Monk.  
The town of Irvine is named after William Irvine and Irvine, a wealthy business man, bestowed some of his wealth to Joseph, who had surely saved his life following the battle.  
Monk was freed upon his return to Estill’s Station by Captain Estill’s family. Joseph died December 2, 1844 and was buried in the Scholl Family Cemetery in Irvine, Kentucky.  
Over 1,000 mourners attended his funeral.  
The author of the poem of the dogwood tree remains unknown.

DISTRICT COURT NEWS

Fleming Court News  
3/6/25  
Hon. Kim Leet Razor  
  
Rodney David Earlywine, no/exp Ky reg recpt, dismissed, no/exp reg plates, dismissed.  
Ramses Herrerramamolejo, no/exp other state registration receipt or plate, dismissed.  
Casey M Vice, no/exp reg plates, dismissed.  
Arnie Henderson, rear lic not illuminated, dismissed, no/exp reg plates, dismissed, fail of owner to maintain req ins/sec 1st, dismissed.  
Ricky Merrill, scip 9/4/25 at 9am.  
Trevor L Golden, scip, 3/20/25 9am.  
William J Tackett, scip 5/8/25 9am.  
Melissa Mattox, review, probation completed.  
Jarad Charles Castle, diversion completion, fta summons 4/17/25 9:30am.  
Christopher Lee Bettis, fail to wear seat belts, no/exp reg plates, no/exp Ky reg recpt, improper display of registration plates, fail to produce ins card, op on susp/rev ops lic, pc 7/17/25 9am for lic.  
Tony R Hamilton, no/exp reg plates, op on susp/rev ops lic, fail of non owner op to maintain req ins 1st, fta notice 4/3/25 9am.  
Rudolph Wickey, op on susp/rev ops lic, fail to surrender revoked ops lic, cont 4/3/25 9am for driver history record.  
Arthur Wayne Lofton, op mv u/infl alc .08 1st, pc 4/10/25 9:30am.  
Nicolas Rios, op veh with expired ops lic, 90 probated 2 yrs, \$100 fine, fail to notify address change to dept of transp, merged.  
Tandy Nicole Wallingford, no/exp Ky reg recpt, dismissed, no/exp reg

plates, dismissed, fail to produce ins card, dismissed.  
Mark Allen Thomas, speeding 10mph over limit, dismissed.  
Becki J May, speeding 10mph over limit, fta – notify dot.  
Thomas Bruce Toy, tics 1st degree 1st off (< 2 gms methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, ph 4/3/25 10am.  
Douglas Keith Stacy, driving dui susp lic 2nd off, criminal mischief 1st degree, possess open alc bev container in a mv, fail to produce ins card, fta notice 4/3/25 9am.  
Justin W Kennen, careless driving, dismissed, poss of marijuana, \$50 and cc, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, merge.  
Jason William Branhams, assault 4th degree domestic violence minor injury, endangering the welfare of a minro, cont 3/20/25 9am.  
Jessie Braden Vice, speeding 26mph over/greater, driving too fast for traffic conditions, agreed order will be tendered.  
Joshua Jimison, speeding 15mph over limit, 12 mos div, drive safe course, rev 5/8/25 9am for course completion.  
Derek Patton Harmon, no/exp Ky reg recpt, dismissed, no/exp reg plates, dismissed.  
Justin Cleveland Rawlings, fail to illuminated head lamps, no/exp Ky reg recpt, no/exp reg plates, fail of owner to maintain req ins/sec 1st, fail to surrender revoked ops lic, op on susp/rev ops lic, pc 5/8/25 9:30am.  
Benjamin N Fuller, op on susp/rev ops lic, no/exp reg plates, dismissed, cont 5/8/25 9am for lic.  
Brandon Leo Dubrulle Perritt, speeding 19mph over limit, 6 mos div, drive safe program, op

on susp/rev ops lic, dismissed, rev 5/8/25 9am for course completion, rev 9/4/25 9am for div completion.  
Andrew Tyler Watkins, fail of non owner op to maintain req ins 1st, pc 5/8/25 9:30am, restitution.  
Heather N Workman, diversion completion, dismissed/diversion completed, diversion completion.  
Ryan Clark Dials, fleeing or evading police 2nd degree on foot, pc 3/20/25 9:30am.  
Austin W Earlywine, disorderly conduct 1st degree, 90 probated 2 yrs, resisting arrest, 90 probated 2 yrs, consecutive, no new offenses.  
Anthony Wayne Kerr, violation of Ky EPO/DVO, fail of owner to maintain req ins/sec 1st, op on susp/rev ops lic, lic to be in possession, pc 5/1/25 9:30am for lic.  
Nicholas Merino Netzar-Omar, rear lic not illuminated, possess open alc bev container in a mv, no ops/moped lic, op mv u/infl alc .08 1st, 3/20/25 9:30.  
Dennis Ray Cooper, op mv u/infl alc 1st, pc 4/10/25 9:30am.  
Deshawn Desmond Deshazor, assault 4th degree domestic violence minor injury, rev 9/1/25 am for div completion, 6 mos div, no new offenses.  
Deshawn Deshazor, op on susp/rev ops lic, 90/10, cfts, bal cd 2 yrs, reckless driving, \$100.  
Joseph B Richardson, facilitation criminal mischief 2nd, agreed order to be tendered with a new court date.  
Joseph Richardson, assault 4th degree minor injury, criminal mischief 2nd degree, agreed order to be tendered with a new court date.  
Clarence Earl Little,

tbut or disp shoplifting, pc 4/10/25 9:30am.  
Clarence Little, 3 counts endangering the welfare of a minor, pc 4/10/25 9:30am.  
Nathaniel Ian Ruthersford, other hearing, agreed order of conditional discharge tendered and signed.  
Kandice Meade, endangering the welfare of a minor, pc 3/13/25 10am.  
Levi O Tapp, fugitive warrant not required, 3/19/25 deadline, review 3/13/25 10am.  
Timothy McCord, in-cest, ph 3/13/25 10am.  
Eddie Wallace, enhancement tics 1st degree 1st off (>=2 gms methamphetamine), enhancement tics 1st degree (>10 d.u. drug unspecified), drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, convicted felon in possession of a handgun, ph 3/13/25 10am.  
Jamie M Miranda, poss cont sub 1st degree 1st off (methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, pc 3/13/25 10am.  
Ronald Jacob Creecy, speeding 18mph over limit, harassing communications, violation of Ky EPO/DVO, violation of KY EPO/DVO, pc 3/13/25 10am  
Kayla Collins, public intox controlled subs (excl alc), resisting arrest, terroristic threatening 3rd degree, disorderly conduct 2nd degree, pc 3/13/25 10am.  
Hayden Hall, op on susp/rev ops lic, 90/30, cfts, bal cd 2 yrs, no ops/moped lic, merged, lic to be in possession, merged.  
Hayden Hall, op on susp/rev ops lic, 90/30, cfts, concurrent, no brake lights (passenger vehicles), dismissed, fail to produce ins card, dismissed.  
Hayden B Hall, crimi-

nal mischief 2nd degree, 12 mos conditions discharged 2 yrs concurrent, assault 4th degree minor injury, 12 mos conditionally discharged 2 yrs, completed treatment, no contact w/ victim.  
rev 3/20/25.  
Georgette Little, poss cont sub 1st degree 1st off – cocaine, poss cont sub 1st degree 1st off (methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, ph 3/13/25 10am.  
Georgette S Little, poss cont sub 1st degree 3rd or > off (methamphetamine), poss cont sub 1st degree 1st off (drug unspecified, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, ph 3/13/25 10am.  
Jason Anthony Reid,  
  

Notice of Meeting  
Fox Valley Lake Recreation  
Annual Board Meeting  
March 26,2025

Notice is hereby given that The Annual Fox Valley Lake Recreation Board of Directors meeting will take place on March 26, 2025. The location of the meeting will be The Fox Valley Lake Recreation Park Shelter House. The meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting). In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be moved to the location of the Fleming Co Fiscal Court located at 100 Court Square (2nd floor) Flemingsburg, Ky 41041. The notice will be posted at the Shelter House and on the Facebook Official Page if it must be moved.  
We hope to see you at the meeting and appreciate your continued support of the Fox Valley Lake Recreation Board. Thank You.

Published in the Flemingsburg Gazette 03.12.25

HOUSING AUTHORITY  
OF  
MOREHEAD/OWINGSVILLE/FLEMINGSBURG

200 Heritage Place Morehead, Kentucky 40351  
(606) 784-4314 Fax# (606) 784-7032

The Housing Authority of Flemingsburg will be accepting sealed bids for Lawn mowing services for the 2025 mowing season. All Bids must be clearly marked “Mowing Bid 2025” and submitted by 4:00 PM on March, 14th 2025 at the following address:  
Sealed Bid  
Email Bid: jdpatrick@windstream.net  
Housing Authority of Flemingsburg 200 Heritage Place, Morehead KY 40351  
Attention: Executive Director  
Bids should be submitted on a per mowing basis and should include picking up garbage prior to mowing, weed eating, and blowing off of sidewalks and parking lots. Leaf removal should also be quoted as a separate line item. Mowing should be calculated on a 10-day basis thru the 2025 mowing season. It may vary at the discretion of the Executive Director depending on the weather conditions.  
The successful bidder must provide and list the Housing Authority of Flemingsburg as additional insured on general liability and workman’s comp insurance.  
The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Jeffrey Patrick, Executive Director  
Housing Authority of Morehead/Owingsville/Flemingsburg  
200 Heritage Place  
Morehead, KY 40351  
Phone: 606-784-4314 Ext. #103

Published in the Flemingsburg Gazette 03.05.25 and 03.12.25