

OPINIONS

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Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

By Charles Mattox

“Father (Michael Cassidy) was in seven close contact fights with the Indians and was in seven major battles with the British. He was also in 22 skirmishes with the British and 20 skirmishes with the Indians”

Francis Cassidy, the second-born son of Michael Cassidy. From the Draper Manuscripts volume 21 S page 184.

“It is infinitely better to have a few good men than many indifferent ones... We have this day no less than 2,873 men in camp, unfit for duty because they are barefooted and otherwise naked.” Letter to the 13 colonies from General George Washington’s Headquarters: Valley Forge, Dec 29, 1777

“I had drawn up my gun to shoot, but saw I could catch the Indian and so ran after him. I would be more certain to get him that way. As I ran, something caught my gun and it went off. I ran on thinking to punch the Indian in the face with my gun. He turned around and said ‘Whoo!’ He dodged my gun and caught the barrel with his hand. He pulled and I pulled. Captain (John) Constant came up and caught the Indian by the shoulder and jerked him down. James Beath came running from the

other side of the branch and said ‘Take care boys, take care!’ He poked his gun (against the Indian) and blasted a whole load through him.

William ‘Lazy Bill’ Clinkenbeard, on his participation in the skirmish of Knob Lick. Draper Manuscripts Volume 11 CC 62-67.

NOVEMBER 4, 1785

Near Plum Lick Creek, in Bourbon County Kentucky

James Beath was one of the old guard, one of the original Berkley County Virginia men who’d come to Captain John Strode’s Station in 1779, among its first settlers.

But the Shawnee had captured him the next summer while hunting at Lower Blue Licks. John Orchard had been killed and Cud Steele had been taken prisoner too.

Beath had been shot in the shoulder while he distracted the warriors so young Van Swearingin could make his escape.

Van made a heroic leap across a deep ravine, and though he dropped his musket in the process, he escaped the Shawnee.

Beath and Steele were made prisoner and marched back to Old Chillicothe by a splinter group from the British Invasion of 1780, when Ruddle’s and Martin’s Station had been captured.

The Shawnee let Beath’s wound go unattended until it was swollen and infected.

Then they made him run a long gauntlet, with each Shawnee participant who was armed with a club, taking particular close aim and striking Beath’s horrible shoulder wound.

But he had survived and was released following peace negotiations in

1783 when British agents also released many of the Ruddle’s and Martin’s captives.

But his captivity had hardened him.

One of the few men who could calm him had been that crazy little Irishman, Michael Cassidy, and so he was in an advanced state of depression on this day as only two days earlier, he had been several miles from Strode’s Station breaking hemp. He had carried no gun but had his two vicious guard dogs with him.

Something had scared the dogs and they ran past him toward home. That’s when he saw Michael Cassidy, who was half naked, covered in blood and it looked as if half of his face was torn off.

Cassidy muttered something about his companions before collapsing unconscious and Beath knew that Joshua Bennett and Mathias Spahr, along with Cassidy, had left Strode’s Station on a survey mission a week earlier. Beath picked up Cassidy and eventually carried him into Strode’s Station and the next day a small group of the Strode’s men had gone to the Plum Lick (so named by Daniel Boone, who had ate a hat-full of plums as he hunted there), where Cassidy had told them he was making surveys.

They buried the desecrated remains of Bennett and Spahr and found several large pools of blood, most of it, likely Cassidy’s, but it certainly did appear as if the small man had put up a very big fight.

“Here!” Captain John Fleming said as he smacked Beath’s arm with a whiskey flask.

Beath took the flask

and flexed his shoulder, reminding Fleming that his shoulder still hurt, from the abuse of his captivity among the Shawnee. Then he took a long swallow and handed the flask back to Fleming.

“It’s good to be riding with you again John,” Beath said, and with a sly grin poked him in his stomach, near where he’d taken his own terrible wound in the Battle of Upper Blue Licks, three years earlier.

Fleming, Beath, the Clinkenbeard boys, John Donaldson Jr. and a few others continued looking for signs of what had occurred here in recent days.

“Ok, looks like there was four, probably five, Shawnee involved, so you gonna’ stand there staring at that tree all day, or tell us what is says?” Lazy Bill Clinkenbeard, asked Beath.

Fleming added, “My brother George, who was raised by the Iroquois showed me some paintings like that once, near our base camp, north of here, and said it was some warrior’s name. Is that was this is James?”

Beath turned back and stared at the painted tree.

The ancient oak was easily 20 feet in diameter and had been carved and

painted upon dozens, perhaps hundreds of times, by members of various clans of Native American tribes as was common along the Alanant-O-Wamiowee, or Warrior’s Trail, the centuries-old, Native American footpath that meandered across the landscape.

Beath starred at what appeared to be the freshest painting on the tree, and his grimace was seen by all.

“It’s a name of a bad, bad Injun I know,” Beath said as he pointed to the tree. “One of the war captains by the name of Wayah-piers-en-wah or The Whirlpool, is what the British call him.

“Never heard of him before,” Captain Fleming had.

“Yeah you have,” Beath said. “He’s the one I told you about from my captivity. The one we call ‘The Blue Jacket.’

It was a name feared by all present and so they quickly mounted their horses and rode back home.

They imagined they would be arriving in time to dig another grave for Michael Cassidy.

But they ended up being wrong about that.

Nancy Donaldson Fleming, the widow of John Donaldson Sr. and

the wife of Captain John Fleming, had worked with the widow of Mathias Spahr, and the two women had stitched Cassidy up, more for his appearance at his pending funeral than anything else, but, miraculously, Cassidy survived. Many things could be said of Michael Cassidy and among them was that he was indeed, a survivor. He had survived indentured servitude, all those battles in the Revolutionary War, including the horrible winter at Valley Forge. So, down deep, not many were surprised in the end when Cassidy eventually healed; and though scarred horribly across his face, he eventually became an even more-fierce Indian Scout.

He often scouted and hunted with James Beath.

And they, with a handful of others, would run into the great Shawnee War Chief, named Blue Jacket, one autumn day, about this time of year, in 1786.

But that’s another story, dear reader, and one I’ve visited in the past and will most likely visit again, in greater detail, in the future, if the Good Lord is willing.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
FLEMING CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00027
ELECTRONICALLY FILED

ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC

PLAINTIFF

VS.

NOTICE OF
MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE

AARON KRAMER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF AARON KRAMER;
and COUNTY OF FLEMING, KENTUCKY

DEFENDANTS

In obedience to an Order of Sale entered in the above action on May 19, 2025, I will, as Master Commissioner proceed on:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025
FAMILY COURT ROOM
28D FLOOR, FLEMING COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
FLEMINGSBURG, FLEMING COUNTY, KENTUCKY
AT 10:00 A.M.

to sell the real estate located at 2739 Farris Branch Rd., Wallingford, Fleming County, Kentucky 41093. This property is described in a Deed of record in Deed Book 288, Page 15, Fleming County Clerk's Office, with the PVA calling for 6.57 acres. Parcel Mapping number: 085-00-00-046.02

This sale is to satisfy Judgment in the sum of \$3,236.62, plus interest, taxes, court costs and attorney fees. The purchaser may pay in full at the sale if he/she chooses to do so. Otherwise, the purchaser immediately after the sale shall pay not less than 10% of the purchase price, and execute bond with surety, who is a Kentucky resident with net worth of greater or equal to the amount of the bond and who is approved by the Master Commissioner, and who must be present at the sale and execute the sale bond and affidavit of surety at the sale, for the balance of the purchase price, payable to the Fleming Circuit Court Clerk within thirty days with interest at 6% per annum on the balance from date of sale until paid in full. The bond shall have the force of a judgment and a first lien shall be retained on the property as security for the payment of said bond and interest. The purchaser shall at his/her own expense carry fire and extended coverage insurance on all insurable improvements located on the real property from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full, with loss payable to the Master Commissioner. The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed against the property for 2025 and all subsequent years. The title interest of the parties to this lawsuit will be conveyed without warranty by the Master Commissioner to the purchaser and the purchaser shall be entitled to possession upon payment of the purchase price in full after confirmation of the sale by Fleming Circuit Court, subject to any equity of redemption if the property does not sell for two-thirds of its appraised value.

Buyer is advised to have a title search completed on the property and must file any exceptions to the sale within ten (10) days. The purchasers will be required to have any persons evicted or property removed from the premises. The sale is subject to any terms and conditions that may be announced on the day of sale.

JOHN C. PRICE, MASTER COMMISSIONER
FLEMING CIRCUIT COURT

Published in the Flemingsburg Gazette 07.23.25, 07.30.25, 08.06.25

CITY OF FLEMINGSBURG, KENTUCKY
(ORDINANCE NO. 7-24-1)

AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE PAY SCALE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF FLEMINGSBURG, KENTUCKY; AND ADOPTING AN AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT TO THE RATE TABLE ONLY BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE CITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY IN EARLY SPRING OF EACH YEAR, BEGINNING WITH THE ADJUSTMENT PROVIDED IN EARLY 2026; AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 9-05-2 IN ITS ENTIRETY.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Flemingsburg, Kentucky, has adopted new Employment Policies and Procedures by Municipal Order 25-6-1 in 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to statute, the Compensation Plan for all city employees must be set by Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has deemed it necessary to now adjust the Compensation plan of the City of Flemingsburg to approximately cover COLA increases since the adoption of Ordinance No. 9-05-2; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is appropriate to automatically adjust the compensation Plan table of the City of Flemingsburg in future years by the COLA adjustment rate provided to the City by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the early spring of each year, the next such notification to be in early 2026.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF FLEMINGSBURG, KENTUCKY:

SECTION I:

The City of Flemingsburg does hereby adopt the Compensation Plan attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated by reference as though fully set out herein.

NOTE: (1) 3% progressive difference between grades

(2) 50% from minimum to maximum with each grade

(3) Annual salary based on 40-hour work week, 2080 hours per year

SECTION II:

A. The rate table above-adopted shall be adjusted each year after 2025 by the amount of the COLA adjustment rate provided to the City of Flemingsburg by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in early spring of each calendar year.

B. The COLA adjustment applies only to the City Compensation Plan table of rates for the minimum and maximum rates for each grade classification. The adoption by this Ordinance of said COLA rate adjustment shall not be deemed a grant to any City Employee of an automatic annual cost-of-living raise. The specific intention of the Flemingsburg City Council is to allow such increase to employee pay only if specific authority is granted by separate action of the City Council during the annual Budget process, or through Budget amendment as provided by law.

SECTION III:

Ordinance No. 9-05-2 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION IV:

This Ordinance shall be effective upon two (2) readings thereof, passage by roll call vote adopting same, mayoral approval, and publication in full.

COUNCIL ACTION #7-25-1

FIRST READING of this Ordinance was had on June 30, 2025.

Katie Adamson, City Clerk

SECOND READING of this Ordinance was had on July 14, 2025, and upon roll call vote was adopted by the City Council of the City of Flemingsburg, Kentucky.

Katie Adamson, City Clerk

MAYORAL APPROVAL #7-25-1

I hereby accept and approve the foregoing Ordinance No. 7-25-1 and direct same to be published in accordance with applicable law this 14th day of July, 2025.

Van Alexander, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katie Adamson, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Darrell K. Ruark
City Attorney
Suit, Price, Price, & Ruark, PLLC
207 Court Square
Flemingsburg, KY 41041
606-849-2338

Published in the Flemingsburg Gazette 07.30.25

RETIREMENT

ARE YOU RETIRING OR HAVE YOU RETIRED?

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