

COMMUNITY

# Museum Musings

By Brenda Plummer

I don't know about you, but the unpredictable weather we have been having is playing tricks with me. I don't know when to wear a short sleeved shirt and when to bundle up in a fleecy sweatshirt. I don't know when to plan even a short trip to Maysville or Morehead, because of what might or might not be going on outside. Last Sunday, when getting ready for church, the snow fell giving us a light covering. No big deal. Then during service, whiteout conditions occurred. The trees that I can usually see outside the window I sit near, were completely hidden by the snow. The snow eventually lightened, but then the wind seemed to pick up, whirling the snow around. By the time our service was over, the snow had moved on and by the time our Sunday School was over, the sun had begun to come out. The old saying about Kentucky's changing weather has certainly proved true during the last few weeks. It is because of the changing weather patterns that we usually have our Fleming County Covered Bridge Museum closed during January and February. While it may be warm and sunny one day, the next may bring accumulating snow. I have actually had times when I had to break up the ice which had built up at our back door, so that I could get in. At other times, the snow has been deep enough, that it had to be shoveled, before we could get in. So, although we are happy to arrange group tours during Janu-

ary and February, we always add that the tours are scheduled according to the weather. If your group is interested in touring, please call the Chamber office at 606 845-1223 for more information.

Several weeks ago I shared part of an article about the murder of Dee Clark. Clark was Chief of Police in Flemingsburg. He was shot in the head by John Burns in front of one of the local filling stations. It was reported that Burns was intoxicated and was riding his pony, lashing with his whip the workmen who were remodeling the station, threatening to kill a certain man, who apparently, he felt had infringed on his affairs. Clark was sent for and he tried to persuade Burns to go home and sober up. According to the article, Burns got angry and fired twice, "neither shot taking effect". Then Clark fired twice, with one bullet piercing Burns' left arm. "Clark then returned his pistol to his holster, thinking Burns had jammed his pistol when it clicked and failed to fire. Then Clark caught hold of the bridle attempting to lead the horse on, thereupon Burns placed his pistol; against the face of Clark just below the left eye and the officer fell to the ground mortally wounded. Burns fired again, but by-standers struck his arm and deflected it so that the bullet went into his own leg, inflicting a slight wound.

Dee Clark was taken to the offices of Garr and Garr, when it was

seen that he was so seriously injured, he was placed in an ambulance and started to Lexington with Dr. Clyde Garr in attendance. When Lexington was almost in sight, it was seen that he was rapidly passing, the ambulance was stopped and his soul winged its way to its maker while Charles Rankin and Dr. Garr prayed reverently by his side. They then turned back and his remains were brought back to his sorrowing family and home in this city.

Mr. Clark, aged 51, was very popular, having lived a life which his family can justly look upon with pride. Born in Mason County, his friends in both that county and this county are better for his having lived in it. He had been Chief of Police for 3 years and we think there never has been a squarer or more conscientious officer for many years.

To his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Collins Clark and only child, Mrs. Walter Lee Sousley, his mother, Mrs. Anna Clark, and brother, Lee, all residing in or near this city, we tender our sincere and heartfelt sympathy, since just one short year ago, we passed through the same dark valley but not in such terribly tragic manner. Funeral at the home Thursday afternoon and interment in the cemetery here. Rev. J.D. Odom, of the Mayslick Baptist Church, officiating.

Burns, who is 65 years old, was placed under arrest by Deputy Clarence Clary and Sheriff Clark Overton and conveyed to jail where

bail was refused him. He made threats against the arresting officers and said he'd "get" them as soon as he got out of jail. Burns was then formerly a respected citizen of Robertson County, at one time having been sheriff there and before moving to this county, resided at Sardis. Since coming here, he has been regarded as a tough customer, being a hard drinker and a bully.

After it became known that Mr. Clark had passed away, feeling became intense and crowds began to gather, not only here but at other points and Burns was quietly taken to Mt. Sterling and placed in jail there to prevent a lynching and possibly bloodshed.

We hope that justice will be quickly meted out to the murderer, and that none of the law's annoying delays may be allowed to wear out the patience of our good people."

John Dee Clark was killed in October of 1932. If you look him up on Find a Grave, you will find the article I shared as well as an earlier article.

In researching what happened to Burns, I found that he was convicted of murder and sentenced to the state penitentiary for life. However, Burns appealed his case. I'm sure there are articles out there detailing the funeral, and the trial of John Burns. If anyone has more information, please let me know. I'm always curious to find out the rest of the story.

## Fleming FFA Member Bowling event

FFA members recently went bowling together as a chapter on January 13th after school. Members spent the evening bowling, cheering on other members, and enjoying time with one

another. The event gave students a chance to participate in a fun activity together as a chapter. Our chapter had so much fun at the bowling together as a chapter event!

## FFA Column

KEEPING UP WITH KAYLA



The Season That Drags On

Winter always feel a lot longer than it should. It feels longer than any other season. Once the holidays pass, it loses it's charm and peoples interest very quick. All the days just seem to be dragging and blurring together. With little change in scenery or routine, time

feels slower, and makes spring and summer feel so far away. But maybe that's the point of winter. Winter forces us to take a pause before the busy seasons start up again. And even when warmer days finally arrive after that much waited long winter, they feel even better and mean more because of how long we have waited for them.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Ordinance 25-1438 amending the Fleming County budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, to include unanticipated receipts from General, Road, Jail, LGFA, Forest Fire, and ABC Funds totaling \$202,227.45 with offsetting appropriations in Reserve for Transfer, Sales Tax for Dept of Revenue, Forest Fire Protection Payment, and ABC Fees Eligible Expenses totaling \$202,227.45 was adopted by the Fleming County Fiscal Court at the January 13, 2026 meeting. A copy of the adopted ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the Office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

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