

OPINION

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Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

By Charles Mattox

I'm continuing with my historical research into matters surrounding the June , 1780, attack and subsequent surrendering of several hundred Kentucky militias soldier and their families from John Martin's blockhouse, (in present-day Bourbon County, on Stoner Creek, which was joined by several small cabins and named Martin's Station:. A neighboring station, located four miles away called Captain, Isaac Ruddle's Station. Originally built by avid frontiersman, John Martin in 1775, had been abandoned after 1776 due to the threat of attack from Native Americans. The station was re-occupied by Captain Ruddle in 1779 when other settlements were overcrowded, Ruddle's Station (in present-day Harrison County) was home to many British sympathiz-

ers or Tories, as they were called. Debate on the loyalties and the degree of those loyalties, of the frontier families of Kentucky Stations can be endless. It is believed there were approximately 350 people at Ruddle's, with another 50-60 at Martin's and about 40 at another small stockade blockhouse with cabins and which was known as Captain, John Grant's Station. Grant's Station was located in present-day Bourbon County. Ruddle's Station was the first settlement to be attacked, with hostilities going on for several hours until a British 6-pound cannon was dragged onto the field of battle to join the continuous fire from two smaller, two-pound guns.. After two shots from the six-pounder, which seemed to do the trick on destroying the stockade, as well as the moral of the occupants of the station, the families in an overwhelming majority voted to surrender. When the fort gates were opened, chaos turned especially deadly. Although Colonel Byrd had promised Captain Ruddle and other officers that they would be treated kindly, the opposite occurred and children were snatched from their mother's instantly, with children and mothers sometimes killed if they resisted.

It was a pitiful scene indeed and one Colonel Byrd could not control until he threatened to abandon the invasion on the spot. The chiefs and Sachems of the various Native Tribes finally promised to gain control of their warriors and Byrd ordered the force onward to Martin's Station. The occupants of Martin's Station could hear the gunfire and cannon fire at Ruddle's and they surrendered without a struggle or even a shot being fired. It had been Simon Girty who had carried a white flag into shot range and he led negotiation s at the locations. Girty and his brothers have been branded as traitors and there can be little doubt that their loyalties were strongly in line with British and Native interests. Two Kentucky frontiersmen, Alexander McKee and Matthew Elliot acted as sub commanders to Girty and high-ranking war chiefs, like Blackfish and Mol-untha. From Fort Detroit, they joined Colonel, Henry Bird, who led the enemy force of 600 men, accompanied by a 150 soldiers and militiamen (Regulars of the 8th and 47th Regiments, Detroit Militia and bombardiers of the Royal Regiment of Artillery), against the

settlers of Kentucky in June 1780. A small force of warriors attacked Grant's Station, burning the fort and killing two men of the Stucker family and one woman, named Mitchell who had married a Stucker were killed at Grant's Station and hunters from other stations who were found by the enemy British and Native Force were attacked also. James Beath, a leader of the Captain, John Strode's Station located in the region, was captured after being wounded in the arm with a small hunting expedition of other Strode's Station men who were hunting near Blue Licks Springs. With as many as 10 clans and tribes of Native Americans dividing up the prisoners from Ruddle's Station and the British taking custody of the former inhabitants of Martin's Kentuckians were scattered northward over a vast region. We still are missing many names of inhabitants who were marched north and simply vanished from the historical record. If the Good Lord is willing, we will see if we can't identify a few of those fine folks and provide more details to this fascinating segment of our history.

There is a lot to learn out there

When I was in the second or third grade, my mother volunteered herself, my brother, my sister and me to live on and take care of a family farm in southern Indiana. The owner was a client of hers, and was taking a vacation with her family in Florida for two weeks. Mom thought it would be good for us. Without doubt, it did change my life. There were cows to milk, hogs to feed, eggs to gather and clean, and one hundred acres to check out. From that time on, all I ever wanted was to be was a farmer. I was in my early thirties when I bought my old hill farm (I still own it today). I had always lived in the city, but still I thought I knew something about farming. I did not. But I became driven to succeed. I became pre-occupied with my farm. Picking up trash and debris and chopping and hand-spraying thistles took all my time at first. Then there were the

ruts. They were everywhere. I hated the ruts then, and I still do today. I asked an old farmer friend of mine what I could do about the ruts and his reply was simple, "Stop worrying about them and let nature take its course." When I looked confused, he explained that over time, freeze-and-thaw would take care of it. And it did. A lesson learned. Soon, the work on the trash, thistles and ruts moved on to wiring the barn and tearing out old fence and replacing it with barbed wire. Day and night my young sons and I worked at that. There was a small pile of sticks and limbs down by the creek bottom, and from day one I wanted to pick them up, but I just couldn't make time. I became somewhat ag-gregated with the presence of that old pile of sticks. It was then that my friend Kenton and I were walking around on my farm and we came to

that pile of sticks. I mentioned to him my frustration with not having time to pick them up. Kenton said to me, "I hear you Mark, but an old country boy like me wouldn't give them a thought. We would know that nature would take care of it, and that in time, the limbs would rot into the ground." And that is what happened. Another lesson learned. I began to see that Mother Nature is a real friend to the land owner, always working to resolve the problems and mistakes of man and to heal his blunders. May-

be it's time to give her a little more freedom and let her work. As the old farm-boy advised, "Let nature take its course."



Mark Mattmiller, Mattmiller2143@gmail.com Author, Teacher, Commissioner

REQUEST FOR BID

The Nicholas County Board of Education will offer the following surplus items for sale through a sealed bid process:

- Samcom Two Way Multi Channel Radios (Quantity-24)

All sealed bids must be submitted to: The Nicholas County Board of Education, ATTN: Rob Hughes, 395 West Main Street, Carlisle, KY 40311 by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 16, 2025. All bids must contain the name of the bidder, address, and phone number. Bids will be opened at the May 19, 2025, Regular Nicholas Co. School Board Meeting at the Nicholas Co. Board of Education Office @ 6pm. If you would like additional information on these items, contact Rob Hughes at 859-289-3770. All Property will be sold "AS IS/WHERE IS". The Nicholas Co. Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 16-18
Revival
Ruddles Mills Method-ist Church
May 16, 17, 18
Evangelist – Ron Bo-dager
Services on Friday & Saturday nights at 7:00 pm
Services on Sunday at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm
Special music each service.
Luke Purvis – Friday
Mike King & Group – Saturday
Larry Tucker & Friends – Sunday
Everyone Welcome

NICHOLAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
will be holding their regular monthly meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month @ 1:00.

NICHOLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2nd Tuesday of the month starting at 6:00 pm at 110 S. Broadway St.

NICHOLAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT MEETING
The Nicholas County Water District monthly board meeting will be held at the water district 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m.

CARLISLE-NICHOLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Carlisle - Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce will meet the 1st Mondy of each month at 8:30am at the Neil Building.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
The EDA meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00PM.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Park and Recreation committee meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30p.m. in the Court house. Public is welcome to attend.

NICHOLAS COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT #2
Sanitation District #2 (Lake Carnico area) meets the third Friday of each month at 3:00 pm at the Nicholas County Courthouse.

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL
City Council meeting,

second Monday of each month at 7 PM, City Hall.

CARLISLE ROTARY CLUB
The Carlisle Rotary Club meets every Thurs-day evening at 6:30 p.m. at Carlisle Depot.

SATURDAY LUNCH & LEARN LECTURE –WORTHINGTON LODGE – ARLINGTON ROOM
Enjoy a first person interpretation of “Welcome to the Grand Opening of Kentucky by Dr. Thomas Walker” as portrayed by Andy Teasley, Park Manager at Dr. Walker State Park. Program is free, lunch can be purchased.

FREE DENTAL AND MEDICAL
About the FREE Den-tal and Medical Services available at The Post Clinic
15 Sterling Avenue
Mt. Sterling, KY
Phone: 859-498-0231

CHURCHES

MOUNTAIN ASSEMBLY CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD
You are welcome, Ev-eryone Inivted
Sunday morning wor-ship service @ 11 A.M.
Mountain Assembly Cornerstone Church of God
102 South Broadway
Sonny Gibson Pastor

MT. ZION CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Worship Service 11:00am
Pastor Johnathan Al-lison

GOD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER
156 Calcutta Road, Carlisle, Ky 40311
Sunday Morning: 11 AM
Thursday Evening: 6 PM

WESLEY CHAPEL CHURCH
You're invited to Wesley Chapel Church
604 N. Broadway Street, Carlisle, KY
Sunday Service starts at 10:30 am

CARLISLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
330 N Broadway Carl-isle, KY
Worship Sunday 10:45 AM
Rev. Jack Robinson, PhD
Facebook: Carlisle Presbyterian Church

NOTICE

No trespassing permitted of any kind on the properties lo-cated at 132 Myers Road, 1931 Myers Road or 1891 Myers Road, Carlisle, Ky. Any individual(s) caught trespassing on the mentioned properties listed will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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STOP!!!

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Come in and see Jim at one of the locations listed below or call for a personal appointment.
606-683-2104 or 859-948-4376

JIM WILL BE AT SOPER’S DRUG
(227 W. MAIN ST., CARLISLE, KY)
MAY 7TH, 28TH FROM 10A.M. TO 4P.M.

JIM WILL BE AT ROSS DRUG
(125 FOXGLOVE DR. #1, MT. STERLNG, KY)
MAY 1ST, 8TH, 29TH FROM 10A.M. TO 4P.M.

JIM WILL BE AT MED SAVE
(136 JESSICA LANE, OLIVE HILL, KY)
MAY 2ND, 9TH, 23RD, 30TH
FROM 10 A.M. TO 4P.M.

