

HEADSTONE HIGHLIGHT

By Sarah Connor

This week's Headstone Highlight is going to venture out a bit to the Lamar Cemetery in Lewisport to tell the story of William Lamar. William Warren Lamar was born in Hancock County on April 3, 1877 to Edward Lee Lamar and Susan Ann Lambert Lamar. He was the oldest of 11 children born to the couple. While he was growing up, his family resided in Hancock County and his father was a farmer. At some point around 1900 his family would relocate to Troy, In. This is where they would live when his father would pass away on March 28, 1912.

He would marry Lida L. Pate on September 14, 1914, they would go on to have one child, a daughter named Martha Sue Lamar on December 18, 1917. William worked as a farmer at their farm near Utility, which would unfortunately be where

William would meet the end of his life. On the morning of September 19, 1918, William would go outside around 6am that morning, as he did every morning, to feed his livestock. While inside the barn, somehow the barn door had blown or fell shut and locked. While he was inside feeding, something would cause the barn to catch fire, with William inside. Lida would glance out her window and see the flames, she "gave the alarm" as the Owensboro Messenger stated, and a large crowd gathered. Unfortunately the fire had made such headway that it was too late for William. He would pass away inside the barn and when the fire diminished he would be found near a large door where he had attempted to get out of the barn. His body would be buried the following day in the Lamar Family Cemetery near Utility.

Williams Mother never remarried after his fathers passing, she would go on to pass away on September 3, 1930 at age 75 of a hemorrhage of the brain. She was buried alongside her husband in the Lamar Family Cemetery. His wife would go on to remarry a man named George Blanford on February 14, 1924 in Hawesville, KY. They would not have any children and would remain married until George passed away in his sleep at age 68 on October 12, 1950. He would be buried in Saint Columbus Cemetery in Lewisport.

Lida would live for another 18yrs, passing away at age 91. William and Lidas daughter Martha would marry Henry Hall on November 27, 1941 in Hardin County. The couple would have 3 children. The couple would remain married until Marthas passing in 1987 and Henrys passing in 1998. They were laid to rest in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Hawesville, Ky.

Thank you to everyone who reads this column for your continued support!

The Invisible American

By RobRoy Herzog



High School Daze

Most people have fond memories of their high school days. They are remembered as carefree days spent with friends and learning a few things. I went through all 12 years of primary and high school with mostly the same students that had joined me on day one of first grade. I can even recall when my dad took us over to the school site to see the progress being made on building the structure that was to be my high school. And I used to amuse some work colleagues by stating that I could still remember the names of every student in my graduating senior year. All eight of them. Five of us had been together since day one of year one.

Some of what I learned was of little use but other things proved invaluable. Even my two years of Latin served me well as even now I tidy up some shoddy English usages. I was amused more than once at work to hear younger analysts with degrees say that they had not had the advantage of my classical education. If only they knew!

One tremendous advantage we had in the years I was in high school was that students were still being taught to read. Sometime in the 1970s that changed to

students being taught how to read. There is a world of difference in those two sentences. I recall we had to do book reports, about nine or so per year with some being assigned books and others being what we chose from stipulated categories. I still insist that when you graduate from high school or university you find yourself in a great position to begin your education.

This stress on reading outside of the classroom stayed with me. I just about exhausted the books in the tiny Hancock County library and along the way made book buying a major expense in my budget. Science Fiction grabbed my imagination but history became the lasting passion. Pity I never realized that history was being made all around me. Not all of it good.

During my high school years as many as 45 million people died of starvation in China. Mao Zedong was more of a cult leader than a statesman and once the Communists had control of China he was surrounded by worshippers who 'protected' him from hearing anything bad about conditions in the country. He instituted silly policies such as requiring country people to kill so many birds per day to stop them eating

crops. Naturally much of their diet was insects who multiplied out of control and devastated crops. Such silly policies and other factors combined to create a savage famine.

Cadres in the field who controlled villages and districts could not tell Mao of this so instead gave him inflated reports of how farms in their area were exceeding quotas. Mao actually encouraged people to eat as much as five meals a day. Kitchens in Beijing cooked and discarded so much rice that the sewers were clogging up entire villages out in the countryside were becoming ghost towns with the populace dead from starvation. Details only came to light decades later as the government declassified documents and granted access, even to foreign scholars.

Interested? Read Frank Dikotter's book "Mao's Great Famine," Bloomsbury Books. And be grateful to live in a nation built on a democratic constitution with a system of checks and balances on government actions. History, learn it or repeat its mistakes.

On a lighter note, I am reminded of the young lad called to see his grandfather who said, "Johnny, your dad tells me you are failing in history at school. History is very important. I got very good grades in history when I was at school."

Johnny replied, "But grandfather, when you were in school there wasn't nearly as much of it!"

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RiverValley Behavioral Health Children's Hospital Receives 2026 KHA Quality Award

Owensboro, KY — March 12, 2026 — RiverValley Behavioral Health (RVBH) Children's Hospital has received the 2026 Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) Quality Award in the Psychiatric Hospitals category, marking the first time in the organization's history it has earned this prestigious statewide recognition.

The KHA Quality Team selected RVBH for the creation and development of the BIRCH Program, recognizing both the innovation behind the program and the hospital's strong commitment to quality, leadership, and excellence in psychiatric care. According to KHA reviewers, RVBH distinguished itself through measurable outcomes and a clear dedication to advancing behavioral health services across Kentucky.

"Receiving this recognition is an incredible honor and a moment of pride for our entire team," said Katie Demko-Day, Administrator of RVBH Children's Hospital. "Since opening The BIRCH in August 2024, we've seen youth who once faced repeated placement challenges successfully transition to less restrictive levels of care with greater stability and hope. This award affirms that when we work together with clarity and commitment, we can raise the standard of care and strengthen Kentucky's behavioral health system for the youth who depend on it."

The BIRCH Program is a specialized long-term treatment program for high-acuity youth. Developed in partnership with and funded by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the program is the first of its kind in Kentucky and serves male adolescents ages 12-17 who require six to nine months of inten-

sive, trauma-informed treatment. BIRCH supports youth who have struggled in previous placements or experienced repeated crises by helping them build stability, confidence, and hope for the future.

RVBH President and CEO Dr. Wanda Figueroa-Peralta emphasized the broader significance of the recognition. "This award represents the young people who have found healing, the families who have found renewed hope, and the dedicated professionals who make this work possible every day," she said. "It underscores RVBH's leadership in advancing behavioral health care across Kentucky through strong infrastructure, meaningful collaboration, and a shared commitment to raising the standard of behavioral healthcare.

"Our partnership with the Kentucky Cabinet

for Health and Family Services demonstrates what is possible when vision, funding, and clinical expertise align to address critical gaps in the behavioral health system. Ensuring every youth and family has access to the care and support they need is a complex responsibility, but through collaboration, meaningful and lasting change is achievable."

RVBH Children's Hospital will be formally recognized at the 2026 KHA Quality Conference on Monday, March 23 at 3:45 p.m. ET at the Louisville Marriott East.

This milestone reaffirms RiverValley Behavioral Health's mission to deliver exceptional psychiatric care and improve the lives of individuals and families across the region.

For more information about RiverValley Behavioral Health and the BIRCH Program, visit rvbh.com.



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Riddle of the Week

Last Week's Riddle: Balancing with grace, yet vanishing soon without a trace. Day and night in perfect tune. This measured shift will happen soon. Diane Perkins and Chris Sterett guessed it! **ANSWER:** spring equinox. **This Week's Riddle:** I'm born of green but die of gold, and bundle up before the cold. I keep the herd through winter's stay, though I myself have gone away. Send guesses by Monday to: jenniferwimmer7@outlook.com.

Be Kind TO YOUR MIND

Youth Mental Health Art Contest

Students in grades K-College throughout our 7-county region in Kentucky (**Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, & Webster**) are invited to create and submit a visual art piece (drawing, painting, sculpture, poem, etc.) to promote Mental Health Awareness and how to, **"Be Kind to Your Mind."**



For more information or to view the art submission form, scan the QR Code to visit www.rvbh.com/artcontest

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded for project of the year winner in each division!



DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS **APRIL 16, 2026**