

OPINIONS

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WHEN THE DOGWOODS BLOOM



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 newly-wed 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 carriers 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 Capterton 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 Capterton 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 respected 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 springtime 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.

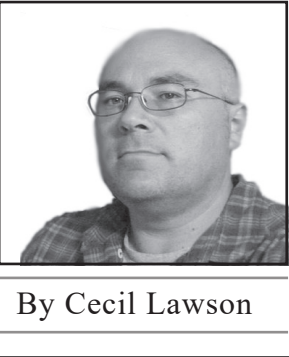
In Jesus Time, the dogwood grew
To a stately size and a lovely hue
‘Twas strong and firm, its branches interwoven
For the cross of Christ its timbers were chosen
Seeing the distress at this use of its wood
Christ made a promise, which still holds good.
“Never again shall the dogwood grow
Large enough 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 Episcopalian 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.

WHY I GO TO THE WOODS



By Cecil Lawson

When I head into the woods, I generally try to get away from my everyday life. I’ve had pretty good reasons to get away when I was young, because of the occasional unpleasantness of my home life. The woods were soothing, but there was also adventure. There was always something just around the next corner. I wore out a lot of shoe leather in those days. Every little creek, every ridge, every copse, I tried to visit.
As I look back over my travels, there were places that I never got around

to seeing. I’ve had hikes planned to those places in the recent past, but my life has changed a great deal in the last couple of years. I sold my parent’s homeplace after mom passed away, and I got married. I’m a lot busier these days with work and my wife’s business ventures. The hikes I’m able to take, I plan in advance. I have new places I want to visit now, and they are on this year’s agenda.
The available places to walk and explore have noticeably declined over the last decade. Many people today don’t particularly care about people “just passing through” their woods. Surveillance cameras are common now. I had a run-in with law enforcement while returning from a hike over a decade

ago that left a deep impression on me, triggered by someone’s concern brought on by the region’s drug problem. I feel “herded,” to a degree.
Even after writing about my appreciation for the wilderness over the past decade, it still feels odd to share that experience with others. Except for a couple of friends, I’ve usually taken to the woods alone. I’m out there, wandering alone, seeing where the

day will take me, following my natural curiosity. This column, in a sense, is me trying to make sense of that.
I feel pressure lifting off my mind when I go to the woods. I take that pressure to be the weight of social obligations and responsibilities, but it may also be something else. The fresh air, the trees, the hills, lift my spirit and refresh my peace of mind. The physical challenges

get my blood to pumping. My mind slows down, and my senses sharpen. It’s a very different state of mind from everyday life, and something I look forward to returning to.
Spring is on its way. The little frogs called peepers are calling out tonight from the neighbor’s pond. Early plants are starting to emerge from the cold soil and bloom. A deer isn’t just crossing the road; the road is crossing through the deer’s home. Just a

few weeks ago, it was near zero one morning before sunrise, and while shoveling snow from the driveway, I heard the hoo-hoo-hoo of barred owls in the holler below. Crows patrol the parking lot at my office early in the morning, in search of cast-off food near dumpsters.
Nature isn’t just in the woods; we live in its midst.



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

The Housing Authority of Owingsville 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, 28th 2025 at the following address:
Sealed Bid
Email Bid: jdpatrik@windstream.net
Housing Authority of Owingsville 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 Owingsville 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 Bath County News-Outlook 03.13.25

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CLAUDETTE FAUDERE
BATH COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK

Notice of Final Settlements filed in Bath District Court:

NAME OF ESTATE: Thelma Pugh
NAME OF EXECUTOR/ADMINISTRATOR: Rhonda Helton
DATE FILED: 03/07/25
Any exceptions to final settlements must be filed within 30 days from date said settlement was filed in Bath District Court.

Published in the Bath County News Outlook 03.13.25

The City of Frenchburg/Frenchburg Water will be accepting job applications until March 19, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. The job will be an entry level position. This will be a full time temporary position, without benefits. Pay based on experience. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must have a valid driver’s license and be able to pass a drug test. Backhoe experience is a plus. Examples of job duties and responsibilities include necessary work related to mowing of city property and maintenance of streets, including removal of snow. Routine work requires employee to work both indoors and outdoors in all weather conditions. Installs meters for new connections, cuts off water to delinquent customers. Replaces inoperable meters as necessary. Assist in repair or water and sewer lines. Performs related work as required. Applications are available at Frenchburg Water & Sewer/City Hall in Frenchburg, 28-B Bible Camp Lane, Frenchburg KY 40322, phone 606-768-3457.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

An ordinance amending the Menifee County budget for fiscal year 2025, to include unanticipated receipts and to increase expenditures for the General fund which totals \$4,653.80 was adopted by the Menifee County Fiscal Court on February 14, 2025. 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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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Gateway District Health Department
New Administrative Office Building
Owingsville, Bath Co., Kentucky

Sealed bids for the construction of the approximately 3,485 SF new Administrative Office Building and all work shown in the contract documents will be received on behalf of the Gateway District Health Department, Owingsville, KY, will be received in the office of Gregory Brewer, Executive Director, Gateway District Health Department, 42 Treadway, Owingsville, KY 40360, (606) 674-6396, until 11:00 AM, March 20, 2025 and then at said office will be publicly opened and read aloud. Faxed or electronic bids will not be accepted.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be reviewed at the following locations:
MSE Web Site: mselex.com under Bid Opportunities.

All Contract Documents and Addenda will be posted on our web page, mselex.com under Bid Opportunities and will be distributed via email to all plan holders from Lynn Imaging.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Lynn Imaging, 328 E. Vine St., Lexington, KY 40507, (859) 226-5850 upon receipt of a check made payable to Lynn Imaging in the amount of \$250.00 (non-refundable). All orders must be prepaid. There will be a 24-hour turn-around on all orders.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to Gateway District Health Department, government bonds, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and acceptable sureties in an amount equal to five percent of the bid shall be submitted with bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for the following: 1) 5% Bid Bond; and 2) A performance and payment bond for 100% of the contract price.

The Owner may consider informal any bid not prepared and submitted in accordance with the provisions of this advertisement and/or the specifications and may waive any informalities or reject any and all Bids. Any proposal received after the time and date specified shall not be considered and will be returned unopened to the proposer. The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Sealed bid should be labeled "Gateway District Health Department New Office Building Project".

Federal Wage Rates do not apply to this project.

No Bidder may withdraw the Bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Award will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. Bidding is for the sole benefit of the Gateway District Health Department. The Gateway District Health Department is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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