

# OPINIONS

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## JACOB STUCKER



### Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

By Charles Mattox

#### June 1780

Inside Captain John Grant's Station, this was situated at the head of a small tributary of Houston Fork, which is located along a tributary of Houston Fork, in what will one day be known as Bourbon County, Kentucky

Jacob Stucker, 15, starred intensely, from left to right.

After reassuring himself that there were no enemy warriors within range, he once again focused his attention southward, toward a dirt path, which was the main avenue of approach to their isolated frontier fortress; their only avenue of possible salvation.

But Jacob realized soon enough that no help would be coming tis otherwise beautiful morning.

Jacob shifted the Kentucky Long Rifle from his crouched position, just inside the two-story blockhouse on the southwest corner of Grant's Station.

Smoke stung his eyes and he squinted hard and grimaced. The confines of the blockhouse were sweltering.

The fortress still smoldered and the other blockhouse had been completely destroyed by fire that had been set by a group of 60 Native American warriors who had attacked the fort the day before.

They had almost burned the entire fort.

They had managed to burn all of the cornfields and several cabins that dotted the landscape near the fort.

Several well-placed shots had kept them at a respectful distance, but fire danced through the ripened cornfield and soon engulfed the palisade.

All of the long hours of axe work that Jacob had toiled endlessly at in order to clear the fields and help build with the logs were now seemingly wasted.

His gaze shifted to the smoke-filled sky.

Turkey buzzards were circling overhead and Jacob knew with a sickening sadness that the buzzards

were there for his very own father and his uncle, George.

Jacob Stucker Sr., and his brother George, their wives, and their combined total of 14 children, were among the 30 inhabitants of John Grant's Station

The Stuckers were of Swedish descent. Young Jacob's grandfather had immigrated to Pennsylvania from Sweden. The Pennsylvania Dutch craftsmen were wonderful gunsmiths who perfected the accuracy of the Kentucky Long Rifle.

Jacob's father and uncle had arrived in Kentucky in January of 1780 at Bryant's Station. They immediately found their dreams in the Kentucky wilderness around the fields of the John Grant's fort, a haven for many Pennsylvania Dutch, including their kinsman Michael Stoner.

And now the Stucker brothers: Jacob Sr., and George, both lay dead, killed by Shawnee warriors that formed a splinter group away from a massive British and Native American invasion force, which was led by British officer, Colonel (also often identified as 'Captain' Henry Byrd.

The main enemy force under Byrd had destroyed

the neighboring forts of Isaac Ruddle's and John Martin's stations. They had taken approximately 300 prisoners from Ruddle's Station and 50 more from Martin's. They had killed dozens in the process. Many of those who were killed or taken prisoner were also of Dutch and Swedish descent and were very close friends of the Stucker family.

But Jacob was not yet aware of this added pain as he sat crouched in the blockhouse that terrible, June day.

Jacob would learn these additional sad truths from members of a relief party of 40 men from Bryant's Station that eventually came marching down the dirt path to their aid.

Jacob became extremely educated in frontier survival skills and became a local legend for his bravery, marksmanship and courage. And though he never learned to read or write, he was respected for his honesty.

I've let my fingers glide over his 'X', signed on court documents related to several land disputes filed among the ancient manuscripts, which were then found in courthouse archives and repositories across Kentucky.

His deposition appeared on page 505 of Land Book C, then located at the Fleming County Courthouse Genealogical Archives. He gave testimony to the court regarding a certain tract of land he was familiar with, in a case to determine rightful ownership of overlapping deeds, a very common occurrence in the early 1800s.

Only five months after losing his father and uncle during the June, 1780, attack on Grant's Station, Jacob had become so skilled at primitive frontier survival that Lt. Colonel, Daniel Boone, recruited him as a scout and spy for Bryant's Station and neighboring communities. Boone also placed him as his second-in-command during a Nov. 1780 excursion through Bourbon, Nicholas, Fleming, Mason and Lewis counties, in pursuit of another group of Shawnee warriors that killed Edward Boone (Daniel's brother). Edward Boone had been killed approximately 20 miles northeastward from Grant's Station, near the present border of Bourbon and Nicholas County. The 50-man army, which consisted of dozens of older war veterans followed the orders of the young teen Stucker and

try though they might, they could not catch the Shawnee, though they closely trailed them all the way to the Ohio River.

Boone would later testify in court depositions, that the only positive aspect of the pursuit had been showing his son Israel Boone the Ohio River for the first time and taking him and several other family members away from the group and killing a buffalo near Stockton's spring (Flemingsburg) on the return home.

Grant's Station was also referred to as 'The Burnt Station', after being attacked in June 1780. It was eventually abandoned, but rebuilt in 1784 and reoccupied, with some then calling it The Irish Station.

Jacob Stucker married Elizabeth 'Betsy' Rodgers on June 30, 1789.

Elizabeth Stucker died in 1811, shortly after giving birth to David Stucker, their 14th child.

Jacob Stucker died June 11, 1820 in Scott County Kentucky.

If the Good Lord is willing, dear reader, we will visit with him again within the confines of this column.



By Cecil Lawson

As far back as I could remember, Mom and Dad would load up the truck with wreaths and flowers, a lawn mower, and a cooler full of pop, potato chips, and bologna sandwiches, and drive on Memorial Day to the Lawson Cemetery located in the Big Woods community in Menifee County.

My Dad, Kenny Lawson, lived in Menifee until he was 7 years old, and his father and mother, Cecil and Ora (Rainey) Lawson, both grew up there, in the Big Woods and Cold Cave Creek communities, re-

spectively.

It was almost always hot and humid at that time of the year. Nowadays, the trip doesn't seem like that long of a drive, but back then, when I was young and impatient, I felt like it took forever. That said, I was always fascinated by traveling along 1274 and all of rock cuts as we neared Longbow Marina and Bangor Hill. I have several pictures from over the years of me and my folks at the old cut at Bangor Hill.

We would turn onto Dan Ridge Road, and at some point, turn left onto the cemetery road. The area is now heavily populated, but back then, I think there was one house just past the cemetery, and maybe a barn. I was told back then that an older lady lived alone in the house.

The cemetery is situated on a lovely little hill over-



Photo by Cecil Lawson Mom and Dad and Max, at the Lawson Cemetery, Memorial Day, 2013.

looking the surrounding ridges and hollers. The air was always hot, and the pine trees planted around the cemetery were fragrant. My grandmother was still living at the time,

but my grandfather had died in a car accident in 1970, just a few months before I was born (hence why I'm named after him), and he was buried there, along with my great grand-

mother and great grandfather, Martha and George Lawson.

We would park on the roadside by the cemetery, which had a little wood fence around it. Dad would get busy mowing the cemetery and picking up limbs, and when he was finished, we would sit on the truck tailgate and eat lunch. Mom placed flowers on the family's graves. Later, she would go look for "poke" growing in the area, to make "poke salad" (which I thought stunk to high heaven when it was being cooked).

My parents still called the holiday Decoration Day, a name many people still used back then even though the holiday was officially called "Memorial Day" in 1967.

Following the visit to the cemetery, we would continue our road trip along

the various byways in and around Menifee County. Traffic was a lot less busy back then, and the roads were curvy (many still are). Dad would drive Mom crazy talking about all the places in the area he worked on construction, how many dump truck loads of dirt he would fill on a site. He did, in fact, do a lot of work over the years, along US 640, in and around Cave Run and Clear Creek, on 801, and on 519. He moved a lot of dirt in his lifetime.

This is what I remember when I think about Memorial Day, the warm, early summer days, the excitement of a road trip, and quiet time with my parents. I'll remember them both this coming Monday.

By Tim Bailey

Well, sitting here at one of our local eating establishments, I got to thinking about a couple nights ago. I would like to blame the weather for waking me, but my 3 AM short trip happens more often than not, no matter the weather

or not. After fighting with the covers, including stumbling over running shoes and bumping into the side of the door facing, I finally made it to my final destination. Which many of you reading this know what I mean, and those who don't just wait a few short years.

After returning to bed

## From the Table

watching for all the obstacles, I thought, why didn't I turn on a light to get up? Luckily I got to sleep quick, something I got from dad. He could sleep anywhere, although he always said he was just resting his eyes))). I think he could sleep while he was working 'cause for years he would do 12 to 14 hour

days on the farm. Well after my mid-morning stroll, it felt like a blink, and I was woke by the alarm as well as my YouTube thunder storm crashing in on the beach.

I drugged myself out of bed watching for things such as shoes and other things that seem to jump out at me. As I

went through some of my stretching routine, feeling like a pump handle in January, I thought I might get a cup of coffee. After a few minutes of trying to break loose the ole joints and feeling like a pump handle in July, I poured myself a cup of joe and slipped out on the porch to sit in my favorite red chair. When I opened the door I thought I was under attack. It sounded like the gas company was releasing pressure, but it was our 17 yearly visitors. They

were loud, and I could only enjoy my porch setting for a few minutes until I headed back in to listen to my storms on YouTube. I just hope the visitors don't stick around as long as I had to stay at my sisters', and if so I might to invest in some good earmuffs. I guess this is a way mother nature gets back at us.

That said take care of yourself and mother nature, and above all, always be kind.

### Notice

The Menifee County Fiscal Court held the 1st reading of a dog leash law in Menifee County was held on Friday, May 9, 2025. The 2nd reading will be held on Friday, June 13, 2025 during the regular monthly fiscal court meeting.

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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 \$44,798.56 was adopted by the Menifee County Fiscal Court on May 9, 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.

Published in the Bath County News Outlook on 05.22.25

Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Bath Circuit Court  
Division: II  
Civil Action No: 25-CI-90080

The following are hereby advised that they have been named as Defendants in a civil action filed in Bath Circuit Court on May 9, 2025: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF THOMAS S. MCKEE. I, Chris Ring, was appointed as Warning Order Attorney on May 9, 2025, by the clerk of the Bath Circuit Court to notify you of the pendency of this action.

For your information, you are deemed summoned on the thirtieth (30th) day after the entry of the Order appointing me Warning Order Attorney, and the action may then proceed. In the event that you wish to defend this action, or are under any legal disability preventing such defense, you have twenty (20) days thereafter to enter your appearance by serving a written response to the Plaintiff's attorney:

Earl Rogers, III  
Campbell Rogers & Stacy, PLLC  
154 Flemingsburg Road  
Morehead, Kentucky 40351  
(606) 783-1012

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The following are hereby advised that they have been named as Defendants in a civil action filed in Bath Circuit Court on May 9, 2025: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF DIXIE A. MCKEE. I, Chris Ring, was appointed as Warning Order Attorney on May 9, 2025, by the clerk of the Bath Circuit Court to notify you of the pendency of this action.

For your information, you are deemed summoned on the thirtieth (30th) day after the entry of the Order appointing me Warning Order Attorney, and the action may then proceed. In the event that you wish to defend this action, or are under any legal disability preventing such defense, you have twenty (20) days thereafter to enter your appearance by serving a written response to the Plaintiff's attorney:

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### Attention: Bath County Property Owners:

If you have moved or have had a change of mailing address, please contact the PVA office at 606-674-6382, to change your mailing address on the PVA records.

If you are 65 OR older OR totally disabled, you may qualify for the homestead exemption on your property taxes. For 2025-2026, the homestead exemption will reduce your assessment by \$49,100. You must contact the PVA Office to complete the application. For more information call 606-674-6382

Jacky S. Watson  
Bath County PVA

Published in the Bath County News-Outlook 05.22.25