

OWEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On a steep hill above Severn Creek in Gratz sits a large stone fortification; and though it has suffered from time and the elements, a good portion remains, testifying to the craftsmanship and ingenuity of the ancient people who built it.



BONNIE STRASSELL

Some in the county believe the stone fort was built during the Civil War, although there is no historical evidence to support such a theory.

Several years ago, Dana Olson, an author and authority on ancient stone fortifications examined the stone fort, declaring the structure to be of ancient origin.

It was determined that an imposing stone tower had once stood near the fort, and from the lofty heights of the crumbling edifice, an extended view of the Kentucky River and the adjoining bottom lands was possible.

Downhill from this stone fort are the remnants of two stone walls traveling a great distance

and most likely built to slow the progress of enemy attacks.

In the 1770's Indian Chief Cornstalk, who had frequent conversations with the American commander on the Kanawa, asserted that Ohio and Kentucky had long ago been settled by white people who were familiar with arts of which the Indians knew nothing; that these whites, after a series of bloody contests with the Indians, had been exterminated; that the old burial places where the graves of an unknown people; and that the old stone forts had not been built by Indians, but had come down from a very long ago people, who were of a white complexion and skilled in the arts."

The forts which Cornstalk mentioned were stone fortifications erected on high cliffs along the Ohio and Kentucky rivers. These were believed to be strong bastions of defense against enemy attacks, and the remains of several are still evident today.

Several chapters in a 1928 Kentucky school history book (found in the trash) was devoted to the ancient people in Kentucky. One page included an interview from an army lieutenant stationed out west in 1891. Lieutenant Roberts told of a conversation he had with an Indian chief who spoke fluent Welsh and who told the lieutenant his language was that of his father and mother and his nation. When asked how they learned the Welsh language the Indian said that "his ancestors had come from a far distant country over the great water."

Recorded in newspapers and diaries of the 18th-20th centuries were numerous stories of ancient Welsh people who long ago built stone fortifications along the Mississippi, Ohio and Kentucky rivers.

In 1799, six ancient skeletons were found on the Ohio River near Jeffersonville, Indiana, each of which had a breast plate of brass inscribed with the Welsh coat-of-arms and an inscription written in Latin.

While a youngster growing up in Wheatley, Countian Sam Riley recalled sitting on the steps of the general store and listening to stories told by old-timers of "white Indians" who once lived in the Owen County area.

It has been documented that a final battle between white Indians and red Indians occurred on Corn Island near Louisville; and that the white Indians were completely exterminated.

However, in the 1830's when artist George Catlin traveled out West and painted many people from different tribes, he commented that some of these Indians had red hair and blue eyes and could speak the Welsh language.

In 1926, the University of Kentucky did extensive research on the so-called stone grave people of Kentucky; and reported their findings in a research paper.

Their research concluded that these ancients buried their dead in stone coffins and many were found throughout the

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Say you can't dance? Try whacking your thumb with a hammer

I heard a story not long ago about an entertainer who canceled at the last minute his appearance at a women's auxiliary meeting. The president of the auxiliary was frantic, wondering how she would find a replacement on such short notice. About that time, she glanced out the window and saw a man whirl across a nearby construction site doing a series of double flips and one-handed cartwheels before disappearing into some bushes.

She rushed outside and found the man's foreman. "That was absolutely incredible," she said. "Do you think that fellow would be willing to do that again at our women's meeting? I'll pay him \$100."

"Hey, Bubba," the foreman shouted. "This woman says she'll give you \$100 if you'll smash your thumb with a hammer again."

I expect it didn't take Bubba long to turn down

that job offer. We're not eager to repeat some things, like hitting our thumbs with a hammer. Proverbs 22:3 tells us a prudent man keeps an eye out for bad things that can happen and is careful to avoid them.

We certainly do all in our power to avoid pain and suffering. But, you know, Jesus did not. He gladly accepted the pain and suffering that came with being crucified. I was reminded of that when I toured the Holy Land. While there, I visited the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus spent time praying before He was arrested by an angry mob.

From Gethsemane, Jesus could watch those angry people walk down the hill from Jerusalem, cross the valley and make their way up to where He waited. It's a relatively short walk. Jesus didn't run away. He didn't hide. He allowed them to take him into custody. He



ROGER ALFORD

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Found and forever

My husband and I have been watching "Major Crimes," a standard murder-of-the-week show with a tough police captain, a squad of detectives — and, tucked inside the crime investigations, a surprising story about being found and made family.

This series also centers on the relationship between the captain, Sharon Raydor, and Rusty, a teenage boy she adopts when he turns 18.

His birth mother and her abusive boyfriend abandoned him years before at the zoo. He ends up in and out of foster homes and eventually becomes homeless, living on the streets of Los Angeles.

After witnessing a murder and then getting beaten by the murderer, Rusty is placed in Sharon's protective care before he testifies as a witness in the murder case.

The court case drags on

throughout the series, which gives Rusty and Sharon lots of time to bond.

In Rusty's storyline, he struggles with mistrust of everyone and fear of abandonment. He also wants his birth mother to want him, but she can't. She wants her drugs more.

Eventually, she relinquishes her parental rights, freeing Sharon to adopt Rusty — if he wants her to.

He does, but he's afraid, so it's put on hold.

Then in one episode, Sharon and the entire Major Crimes unit search for a missing girl, and Rusty sees the lengths Sharon goes to find her. Later, he tells Sharon he does want the adoption, even though he's 18 and about to go off to college and become an adult.

"I like the idea of knowing someone will look for me if I'm ever missing," he says.

Sharon replies, "Oh, I

will look for you. And I WILL find you."

I love that!

Last week I attended an adoption ceremony of a little girl who was abandoned shortly after her birth and spent the first two weeks of her life in the hospital NICU in withdrawal from the fentanyl, methamphetamines, and other opioids her mother used during her pregnancy.

The couple who adopted this little girl knew the obstacles they faced when she came to live with them as foster parents when she was 3 weeks old, but their love for her and God's love for them overcame them all.

They named her Jianna, which means "God is gracious."

At the adoption, the judge told them, "You are now Jianna's forever parents. She is your daughter."

In ancient Roman culture, once someone was adopted, it was legally irrevocable. You could, however, disown or even sell your biological children.

The Bible says those who trust in Jesus are adopted by God and that he will never "unadopt" us, no matter what.

"His (God's) unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did it because he wanted to!" (Ephesians 1:5, The Living Bible)

He sent Jesus to look for us, find us, and then bring us into God's one big forever family.

As one of his adopted kids, I like the idea of knowing someone not only looked for me, but found me, forgave me, redeemed me — and then called me "daughter."

Permanently. No returns, no exchanges, no "we've decided it's not working out."

Just forever.

Contact Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 (leave a message) or email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.



NANCY KENNEDY

OWEN COUNTY SENIOR CALENDAR

The Owen County Senior Center has a variety of events scheduled this month.

The center is located at 118 N. Main St. in Owenton.

Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Options available daily include cards, Wii, cornhole games, puzzles, color therapy, TV, and walking and exercise equipment.

Individuals can call 502-484-3139 for more information. All trips require an RSVP by a certain date. Individuals can call the center for information on the dates.

MONDAY, AUG. 25
9 a.m. coffee and chat; 11 a.m. book club; 1 p.m. walking club; 1:30 p.m. Wii bowling

OWEN COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS

The Meals on Wheels menu, Aug. 25 through Aug. 29 is as follows:

MONDAY, AUG. 25
Meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, slice of bread, mixed fruit cup, Lorna Doone cookie.

TUESDAY, AUG. 26
Salisbury steak with gravy, parslied potatoes, mixed vegetables, slice of bread, sun butter, diced peached

THURSDAY, AUG. 28
10 a.m. Yoga with Esmee. Esmee leads this week's yoga

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TUESDAY, AUG. 26
9 a.m. coffee and chat; 11 a.m. cornhole; 1 p.m. walking club; 2 p.m. computer lab for seniors with David Hill and Richard Sellnow

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27
9 a.m. coffee and chat; 11 a.m. Bible study with Margina; 1 p.m. walking club; 1:30 p.m. presentation on Life at Bradford Square with Samantha Yount

THURSDAY, AUG. 28
9 a.m. coffee and chat; 11 a.m. crafter's club (RSVP); 1 p.m. walking club; 1:30 p.m. cleaning hour

FRIDAY, AUG. 29
9 a.m. coffee and chat; 11 a.m. color therapy; 1 p.m. walking club; 1:30 p.m. arthritis exercises; 5:30 p.m. game night at the center

FBC NEWS

BY BRO. BRAD BANKS
Our series on "The Little Foxes that Spoil the Faith" continued with a message from II Timothy 1:7 entitled, "Fearless in a Fear-Filled World." The message dealt with the reality of fear, the power of fear, and our victory over fear. We also kicked off our Sunday evening services with a message from Colossians 1:1-8 with a message on the Marks of a Healthy Church.

Our students and children meet each Wednesday at 6:30pm. Our Children's Church Ministry is offered during the 11:00am worship service.

The FLC is open Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 1:00pm, Satur-

day from 9:00am – 1:00pm, and Monday/Tuesday/Thursday from 4:00-8:00pm.

Our weekly service times are Sunday at 9:00am, 11:00am, and 6:30pm. The Sunday School gatherings start at 10:00am. Our Wednesday service begins at 6:30pm.

Our church would like to remind you that you can connect with us through our website at owentonfbc.com, Face Book at FBC Owenton, download our church app, join us on twitter or Instagram. You can also call the church office or email us at office@owentonfbc.com.

God bless you, your family, and our community. See you Sunday!

OWEN COUNTY LIBRARY CALENDAR

Owen County Public Library calendar of events.

MONDAY, AUG. 25
10 a.m. stretch and strengthen. Do you want to stretch and strengthen for better health? Come participate in all standing exercises. Move every muscle to prevent muscle atrophy. Join Miss Julie and follow the video on the big screen.

TUESDAY, AUG. 26
6 p.m. Painting. Join us for an evening of acrylic painting using basic techniques. All supplies will be provided. This class is for adults only. Registration is required.

THURSDAY, AUG. 28
10 a.m. Yoga with Esmee. Esmee leads this week's yoga

UK Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences
Owen County – RE51152
Deadline: 08/24/2025
Bachelor's Degree Required
<https://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/593153>

The University of Kentucky is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from minorities and women.

LEGAL NOTICE

ESTATE TO BE ADMINISTERED: Joyce S. Lafferty
ADMINISTRATOR: Tara Lafferty Vandt, 2565 New Liberty Rd Sparta, KY 41086
DATE OF ADMINISTRATION: 8/14/2025
6 MONTH DEADLINE FOR CLAIMS: 2/14/2026
ATTORNEY: Ruth H. Baxter, PO Box 353 Carrollton, KY 41008

ESTATE TO BE ADMINISTERED: Pauline Shelton
ADMINISTRATOR: Kathleen Haskell, 115 Old Sweet Owen Rd Owenton, KY 40359
DATE OF ADMINISTRATION: 8/14/2025
6 MONTH DEADLINE FOR CLAIMS: 2/14/2026
ATTORNEY: Charles E. Carter, PO Box 307 Owenton, KY 40359

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order of July 31, 2025, scheduling a public comment meeting to be held on September 8, 2025, at 5 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, at Jefferson Community & Technical College: Hovarth Auditorium, 1000 Community College Dr., Louisville, KY 40272 for the purpose of hearing public comments on Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company applications for adjustment of its electric and gas rates and approval of certain regulatory and accounting treatments in Case Nos. 2025-00113 and 2025-00114.

Tri-State Land Company
Real Estate Development
Walton, Ky. • 859-485-1330

22 Ac. Owen Co., Greenup Road, open ridge top to build on, woods and hills to play on, city water, \$141,900, \$8,000 down.

6 Ac. Near Long Ridge, Hwy. 36, pasture, scattered trees, double wides welcome, view, city water, \$52,900, \$2,500 down, \$520 per mo.

8-1/2 Ac. Owen Co., gently rolling pasture, large pond, restricted homesite, on paved dead end road, \$86,900, \$3,000 down.

5 Ac. New Liberty, rolling pasture, single wides welcome, approved for septic, city water available, \$51,900, \$2,500 down.

2-1/2 Ac. Glencoe area, just off Hwy. 127, mostly open, some woods, 5 miles off I-71, city water, \$2,500 down, \$275 per mo.

Check our website for more properties.
www.tri-statelandcompany.com