

American by luck?

Nearly 400 years ago, a young indentured servant was one of 102 passengers to board a ship out of Southampton, England, bound for a land unseen.



MARY JANE EPLING

George Soule, my 10th great-grandfather, ran ashore “the New World” months later, where he and fellow Mayflower passengers established the Plymouth Colony in 1602 — the land already long-occupied by the native Wampanoag people.

Although he belonged to the prestigious Winslow family during the colonial founding, 13 years later, Soule had worked off his debt, married, had children and relocated his family to coastal Duxbury, Massachusetts. Upon his death in 1670, Soule had found success as a planter and was able to leave his children with a home, barn, orchard and parcels of land, exemplifying the modern-day American Dream long before the signage of our Nation’s independence. My father’s lineage in the “country” began sometime after Soule’s journey with Sir Thomas Landon’s relocation from Herefordshire, England, to Middlesex County, Virginia.

Available records describe Landon as a practicing attorney under his brother-in-law in New York City, managing various mills and businesses for his family still residing in England.

Prior to Landon’s departure from England, he married Mary St. Legar in 1666, the daughter of Capt. Thomas J. DeLaval, the second documented mayor of NYC.

Thriving from inheritance left behind by his well-positioned family name, Robert “King” Carter, my ninth great-grandfather, earned his nickname as the wealthiest man in all of colonial Virginia.

Born in 1699 upon the Corotoman Plantation, King would become a member of the governor’s council and eventually served as acting — more like interim — Governor from 1726-1727.

King, a land baron, also amassed the majority of his wealth in slavery, acting as an agent during the peak of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

Corotoman Slave Histories document more than 4,000 plantation records of slaves from 1653-1862.

Only 1,200 of those records result in individual “names” of slaves held at the plantation.

Those identified during King’s ownership include 20-year-old Abraham and 25-year-old Anthony, both valued at 30 shillings, “Blind Doll” and her 5-year-old child, with a combined value of 10 shillings and

White files to allow Ten Commandments in public schools

STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT Earlier this month, Rep. Richard White of Morehead filed House Bill 116, a measure that would allow the Ten Commandments to be read or posted in public schools.

“The Ten Commandments have had an indelible impact on our nation’s founding and society as a whole,” White said. “I filed HB 116 to allow our teachers or administrators in

public school districts the opportunity to post or read the Ten Commandments, if they so choose.”

This measure would allow local boards to allow any teacher or administrator in a public school district of the Commonwealth to read or post in a public school building, classroom, or event any excerpts or portions of the Ten Commandments, according to a press release.

Unlike other pieces of legislation that have been filed and passed in other states, like Louisiana, that would require the Ten Commandments be posted in public schools, this measure would simply give public school teachers and administrators the option to exercise the freedom to post or read any excerpts or portions of the Ten Commandments, if they so choose. This year, a similar bill has been filed in Tennessee

that would give public schools the option to display the Ten Commandments.

“Allowing public school teachers or administrators the option to post or read any excerpts or portions of the Ten Commandments will allow our students to be exposed to a historically significant document that has influenced our nation, informed our principles, and shaped our legal system,” White said.

Staff members collect nine KPAs

STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON *The Daily Independent’s* editorial team hauled in nine Kentucky Press Association awards at the organization’s annual convention on Friday in Lexington.

Five awards were for exceptional sports journalism.

Matthew Sparks, sports editor, and Aaron Snyder, editor, enjoyed a clean sweep in the “best sports feature” category. Sparks earned a first-place finish with his emotion-stirring piece on a student-athlete whose late mother put forth a courageous



MATTHEW SPARKS



AARON SNYDER



MARY JANE EPLING

battle against cancer.

Snyder placed second and third in the category.

Judges picked Snyder’s entries for both the first and second positions in “best sports story.”

Snyder reeled in a top prize with a story headlined “Bass LeMaster: Russell senior signs with KCU.” The article featured a remarkable young man who lost his father at a young age and mastered one of his dad’s favorite hobbies



KATELYN JONES

as he landed a spot on a college fishing team.

Snyder also grabbed a top spot in the “best lede” category with this opening sentence in his “Shaking it up in the city” story:

“One could say it was a marathon meeting, but people have completed 26.2 miles faster than the duration of Thursday’s Ashland city commission noon gathering.”

Reporter Mary Jane Epling claimed second place in two categories: “best general news story” and “best enterprise/analytical story.”

Katelyn Jones placed third in “best front page.”

GOP lawmaker files bill to ensure Ky. schools have ‘gender-specific’ restrooms

BY MCKENNA HORSLEY
KENTUCKY LANTERN

A Republican lawmaker is hoping to close what he calls a “potential loophole” in a state law governing school restrooms in Kentucky.

Rep. Matt Lockett, R-Nicholasville, has introduced House Bill 163, which would require at

within a school building to be designated for “a specific biological sex.”

It comes after a few Republican lawmakers, including Lockett, grilled Fayette County Public Schools officials last summer about the new Mary E. Britton Middle School, which is set to open later this year. However, a school district spokesperson said the bill wouldn’t apply to the proposed design.

The school’s restroom design features private stalls with floor-to-ceil-

ing doors and an open communal sink area as a way to allow students to be supervised by adults and potentially curb situations of bad behavior.

Lockett’s bill has not been assigned to a committee; lawmakers return to Frankfort next week to resume the 2025 legislative session.

When asked for comment on the bill, Lockett said in an email to the Kentucky Lantern that he filed the bill “to provide a statewide, clear policy regarding biological sex-specific restroom

facilities after concerns were raised about a potential loophole in previous legislation passed during the 2023 Regular Session (SB 150).” That law was omnibus legislation that included several anti-transgender measures, such as requiring schools to create policies keeping people from using bathrooms, locker rooms or showers that “are reserved for students of a different biological sex.”

Lockett said preserving “gender-specific bathrooms based on biological sex ensures privacy, safety, and comfort for all users.”

“While the issue was brought to my attention by constituents in Fayette County, the measure would address concerns that parents and students have regardless of what school district they attend,” he said. “We have an obligation to respect personal boundaries and accommodate biological differences.”

Dia Davidson-Smith, a spokesperson for FCPS, said in a statement to the Kentucky Lantern that the school district did not have a comment on the bill at this time, but the restroom plans for the middle school “have remained unchanged since last year.”

“The restroom designs at Britton Middle School are gender-specific and this bill has no impact on them,” Davidson-Smith said.

Last year, the school district said the restrooms would not be “gender-neutral” as the pods would be designated for boys or girls. It also added that Lockett’s district does not include the part of Fayette County where the new middle school would be, so his constituents would not be impacted.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE BOIL WATER ADVISORY GREENUP WATER DEPARTMENT

Due to a 6 inch water line break and a fire hydrant leak. There is a boil water advisory for U.S. 23 on Seaton Ave. and the City limits of Greenup. There is also a boil water advisory for Ohio River Rd. starting at Hannah Ln. north to U.S. 23. Approximately 360 customers are affected.

Roger Harris
City of Greenup
Line Foreman
Published: January 29, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that John Griffiths, 5116 Roberts Drive; Ashland, KY 41102, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to build a new single story house. The property is located at 343 Old Dam Lane; Greenup, KY 41144 approximately a half mile from US 23 at Slash Branch Rd. intersection on the Ohio River.

Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov.

Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

Published:
January 29, 30 & 31

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Greenup County School District’s Local Planning Committee (LPC) will be conducting its second meeting on February 5, 2025 at the School District Board of Education office. The meeting will begin at 5:30pm and will be open to the public. The LPC is responsible for providing feedback on the Greenup County Schools District Facility Plan (DFP). A public hearing will be conducted at approximately 7:00pm following the second meeting. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow for community input on school facility priorities and needs. When completed the DFP must be approved by the local board of education and the Kentucky Department of Education. Additional public meetings and hearings will be scheduled and advertised as the district moves forward through this very important process.

Published: January 29, 2025

Notice of Noncompliance

Pursuant to KRS 65A.040, the Kentucky Department for Local Government hereby gives public notice that as of January 21, 2025, Northeast Kentucky Regional Industrial Authority is in violation of Kentucky Law for failure to comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 65A.020. The last known point of contact for Northeast Kentucky Regional Industrial Authority is Thomas Saylor, who may be reached at 606-923-1113 and/or 32 FIVCO CT, GRAYSON, KY 41143. The last known Board Members are: Ed Radjunas, Allen Gillum, Tim Gibbs, T.J. Morrison, Michael. The district was noncompliant with FY2021 - Budget Amendments, FY2022 - Registration Fee, FY2022 - Budget Estimates, FY2021 - Budget Year End Actuals, FY2022 - Budget Amendments, FY2023 - Registration, FY2023 - Registration Fee, FY2023 - Budget Estimates, FY2022 - Budget Year End Actuals, FY2015 - Budget Year End Actuals, FY2023 - Budget Amendments, FY2024 - Registration, FY2024 - Registration Fee, FY2024 - Budget Estimates, FY2023 - Budget Year End Actuals, FY2024 - Budget Amendments, FY2025 - Registration, FY2025 - Registration Fee, FY2025 - Budget Estimates, FY2024 - Budget Year End Actuals. The Auditor of Public Accounts has been notified and state funding for this entity will be withheld until further notice. Department for Local Government encourages this entity to comply with the law.

least 95% of restrooms

HOW TO REACH US

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Ashland, KY 41101-7606

ONLINE:
dailyindependent.com

Daily Independent ISSN 0744-6837 Copyright © 2020 by CNHI, LLC 224 17th St., Ashland, Ky. 41101 is published Daily except for Tuesday and Sunday and Christmas Day or 259 issues per year by CNHI, LLC. Business, Editorial, Accounting and Circulations Office: Daily Independent, 224 17th St., Ashland, Ky. 41101. Call 606-326-2674 to subscribe. Periodicals Postage Paid at Ashland, Kentucky.
POSTMASTER: Send address change to Daily Independent, P.O. Box 311, Ashland, KY 41105-0311.

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8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
weekdays

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