

# CLASSIFIEDS/OPINION

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## A Tribute to Charles Mattox - Heaven is a Lot like Kentucky

### THE WOLVERS

*Editor's Note: At the suggestion of many readers, we will be re-running Charles Mattox's columns within our publications. Follow along and enjoy his legendary work at capturing our local history.*

July 1782

The inhabitants of John Strode's Station remained ever vigilant and cautious when venturing beyond the stockaded walls of their wilderness fortress, as did their closest neighbors who lived inside David McGee's Station, which was located only a few miles away.

Although there had been only a few episodes of confrontations between the settlers of the two stations with their Native American foes from across the Ohio River, there was always cause for alarm during the summer.

Captain John Fleming had settled into a steady routine with his new wife, Lucy Petit Donaldson Fleming, the former widow of Fleming's dear friend, Patrick Donaldson, who had been killed during a raid on the station in the spring of 1781.

Fleming's cousin, Thomas Jones, had proposed to Rebecca Donaldson and they were discussing a wedding date.

A new arrival to the frontier, Michael Cassidy, an acquaintance of Fleming and Jones from their old neighborhood of Berkley County Virginia, had completed his military service in the east under General

George Washington.

After the British surrender at Yorktown, Cassidy ventured westward to the frontier where it seemed his entire neighborhood was migrating toward.

Cassidy had earned a fierce reputation as one of Washington's scouts earning the respect of his officers when tracking deserters from the army at Valley Forge. He was later decorated for valor under fire at Yorktown and presented with a British officers' sword during the surrendering ceremony.

Cassidy, Fleming and Jones, soon became inseparable.

They joined in the harsh frontier fraternity of men who protected one another and their families during the almost daily crises that characterized frontier life.

Cassidy was a small Irishman, standing barely five feet tall and his love for whiskey and clownish behavior at the fort, coupled with his skill and deadly accuracy while in the woods, made him a desired friend by all.

Fleming had been in Kentucky almost continually since he first arrived on a family surveying tour in 1776.

Fleming, his half-

brother George Stockton, their brother-in-law, William McCleary, and their cousin Samuel Strode, who was also a cousin of John Strode, arrived in northeastern Kentucky in the spring of 1776 making preemptions and building small cabins on what they hoped would legally become future land claims.

At the end of summer when it became time to return east, Fleming had met Simon Kenton and decided to stay in Kentucky. He returned near the winter of 1779-1780 and returned in the spring of 1780 as a commander of a flatboat.

Jones was with him on that trip, as was future Governor of Kentucky, Isaac Shelby.

Life inside the wilderness fortresses of central and northeastern Kentucky in 1782 could only be described as harsh and primitive.

The loss of so many of their friends and family members who were captured in June 1780 during the surrender of Martin's and Ruddle's Station, coupled with the loss of their loved ones during the 1781 attack on Strode's Station, had hardened them all.

And the land, though beautiful beyond description, was an unforgiving and merciless one.

Even the wolves seemed to be against them, and eventually the men began trapping the wolves in pits and deadfall traps.

They even captured

wolves alive and used them to train their dogs to become better fighters.

This practice was called wolf baiting and the men often referred to themselves as Wolverers.

Survival depended upon the Wolverers' ability to work together and individually against all odds. They did this with nothing more than what they could fashion with their own hands and a limited supply of weapons, knives, axes and a few other iron tools they managed to carry with them from Virginia.

Their immediate militia commander, Captain John Holder, dispensed orders from his own nearby station, which was located several miles southwest of McGee's station.

Holder had married Fanny Callaway and was a constant companion of Lt. Colonel Daniel Boone, having been among the earliest settlers at Fort Boonesboro.

Holder still had two brother-in-laws, James and Micajah Callaway, who were captives among the Native Americans.

Soon, he, Fleming, Cassidy, Jones, and several other militia soldiers, would be pursuing Wyandott warriors in order to retake two child captives.

Soon the Wolverers would be fighting for their lives.

### FOR SALE

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For sale: 2 BR 1 BA house w/ detached garage and small lot in Olympia. Contact 606-776-9626.

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### YARD SALES

Carlisle Area:  
4 Family Yard Sale, Sat. June 13, 9am - 4pm, Old Carlisle gym on Archdeacon Ave. Baked goods by Lois Broderik, jam cakes, yeast rolls, clothing - buy, girls, ladies - all sizes, shoes, purses, jewelry, Pack-n-Play, Doggie steps, camera, bedding and linens, towels, housewares, home décor, Lock-n-Lock, much more.

Fleming Areas:  
Rummage Sale: June 11 - 13th from 8am - 3pm at New Vision Church of God, 2593 Mt. Sterling Rd, Flemingsburg; variety of adult and children clothing and household items.

### HELP WANTED

Need someone to mow yard, weed eat and odd jobs. Call after 12pm 859-289-7281.

Help Wanted: experienced bookkeeper to work part-time hours at CPA office, should be familiar with Sage and Quick Books software. Send resume to 472 W. Main Street, Owingsville, Ky 40360.

## Community Calendar

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 143 meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Salt Lick Fire Department, 164 Main St., Salt Lick. DAV Chapter 143 serves Bath, Fleming, Menifee, Montgomery, and Rowan Counties. For more information contact Timothy Browning at 606-359-1233

5 County Classifieds. Call Monica 845-9211

### Menifee Housing Associates

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## Thank You

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported us during this difficult time.

We are deeply thankful to all who attended the funeral services, sent flowers, memorial gifts, cards, food, and messages of sympathy. Your kindness and generosity provided comfort and strength when we needed it most.

We are especially grateful to those who went out of their way to offer help, prayers, visits, phone calls, and other acts of support for our family. Every gesture, no matter how big or small, was sincerely appreciated and will not be forgotten.

The love and compassion shown by our friends, neighbors, family members, and community have meant more to us than words can express. Thank you for honoring Sandy Davis and for surrounding our family with such care and support.

With sincerely appreciation,  
The family of Sandra K. (Baker) Davis

### PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Menifee County Fire Protection District will receive sealed bids for the purchase of surplus property no longer needed for public use. The surplus property will be sold as-is, where-is, with no warranties expressed or implied, to the highest responsible bidder, subject to the terms and conditions set forth by Menifee County Fire Protection District.

Surplus property offered for sale includes:  
• Six (6) tires, size 235/80-17, approximately 1,500 miles of use  
• Six (6) tires, size 245/75-17, approximately 4,000 miles of use  
• Six (6) tires, size 245/75-17, approximately 14,000 miles of use

Sealed bids must be submitted no later than 3:00pm on July 1, 2026, at the office of Menifee County Judge Executive 12 Main Street, Frenchburg KY 40322. Bids will be publicly opened at 7:00 pm on July 13, 2026, at Menifee County Fire Protection District Station-1, located at 44 McCausey Ridge Rd. Frenchburg KY 40322.

Menifee County Fire Protection District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process, as permitted by law. Published by authority of the Board of the Menifee County Fire Protection District.

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FROM 10 A.M. TO 4P.M.**

