

Bruce family restores cemetery on their land

If you have people in your life who love genealogy, you also know that they like going to cemeteries – especially the ones where “their people” are buried.

Having not lived in Campbellsville since childhood, and having a mother who gradually brought me into her world of family history, I spent a lot of time my first two years back in Campbellsville exploring cemeteries ... and finding exactly where those great-grandparents, aunts and uncles had been laid to rest.



VIRGINIA GRAVES

Many were easy to find, even though it required numerous excursions outside Taylor County.

Some of my family had been buried on land they had owned. I was fortunate enough to locate several such graveyards in somewhat preserved areas. Several had been surrounded by wrought iron and stone fences. Some needed some clean-up. I even met a distant cousin from Alabama who would take it upon himself to maintain yet another of our family gravesites.

One of my searches took an unexpected turn and it still unfolding as I write this article. I had learned that a small Handley Cemetery was located somewhere on Colsby Road. The problem was, I couldn't find it until I finally learned the Colsby had been divided into two sections a number of years ago.

On my first visit down Colsby Road via Chaney Pike, I hit gold. Karen Bruce was taking a walk. I stop and asked if she knew of any old cemetery in the vicinity.

“Yes ... on my in-law's farm at the end of the road.”

I asked if there could ever be a chance I could visit the cemetery and she



The Bruce family restored and expanded this 19th century cemetery on their property, cleaning up debris and overgrowth plus resetting gravestones.

offered to talk to her husband, Mike. We exchanged phone numbers and before long a time was set for me to come by.

The cemetery was somewhat as I expected. William Handley and his wife, Jane McColgan Handley, only had two daughters. According to census records, he was well-to-do. They had two slaves, and following the war, he was one of the first members of the Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

There is also information that in 1864, a group of Confederate guerrillas stopped at the Handley's home while they were eating lunch with a nephew, Samuel Williams of the Union 13th Kentucky Cavalry. The Confederates took Williams prisoner and killed him.

The Handley's daughter, Sarah, married my great-great-grandfather, Bartholomew Stovall Gaddie. They had a daughter who became my grandfather's mother. I knew exactly where she was buried along with my other Gaddie relatives and their offspring. So, I was not surprised to only see three stones in the Handley Cemetery. Their other daughter never married.

Although the cemetery was surrounded by a wrought-iron fence and beautiful land, it was in bad shape. Lots of trees

and other debris had grown up around it. Inside the walls, William's stone had fallen to the ground, face-up, which at least allowed me to see the inscription. Jane's stone had fallen sideways – half in the ground and half above ground. Mike had been kind enough to dig enough around her stone so I could take a photo of what was written.

After I left, I knew I wanted to find a way to clean the cemetery up – at least a little. But it never happened. I had become engaged with my church, local history projects and other activities. So much for good intentions.

Eleven years went by. I was working at Taylor Regional Archive Center when a woman walked in and asked if I knew anything about the Handley family.

It was Karen Bruce whom I had not seen in all that time. She told me that her husband had taken an interest in the cemetery and wanted more information about the family. I gave her the information I had and she left. A few weeks later, a man walked in, asking if I knew anything about the Handley family. This time it was Mike Bruce. We talked, but I was not prepared for the rest of the conversation.

Karen and Mike's son, Chad Bruce, had fallen on ice during last year's win-

ter storm and died on Feb. 1, 2026, from his injuries. Although he had been cremated, he had always said he wanted to have his ashes spread at a beautiful spot on the family farm.

I now know that the Bruce family, including his mother, often had thought how nice it would be to clean up the old cemetery “one of these days.” With Chad's untimely death, “one of these days” had become a top priority for the family – even though the job would be enormous.

First, the area around the cemetery was mowed, and at least 30 trees were cut down and removed. Briars inside the cemetery likewise had to be eliminated. Once the cleaning both in and around the cemetery was finished, there was the delicate issue of digging up William's and Jane's stones so that they could once again be securely set upright, just as they had been in 1868 (William Handley) and 1873 (Jane Handley).

There were also two small stones: one for their unmarried daughter, and one other that was possibly a child who died shortly after birth.

The process of resetting the two large stones was not a task that the Bruce family took lightly. Although the majority of the trees had been cut down, there was also the issue of removing tree

roots below the ground where the stone would be, once again, re-set.

Once completed, the family then researched safe ways of cleaning the old marble stones.

The original wrought iron fence was saved and more was purchased. Because the family wanted Chad to have a cemetery marker, they increased the size of the cemetery. And after so much work, Mike and Karen also decided that they, too, wanted to make what is now the Handley-Bruce Cemetery, where their stones and ashes would be placed.

Perennial flowers and other landscaping now adorn the 150-plus year gravesite. Benches have been placed in and around the cemetery. Mike and Karen Bruce began this project in March of 2026 and had most of it finished mid-August. The only thing left is planting grass.

There is a part of me that doesn't even know how to end this story. It's a bit emotional for me. But then, again ... it's my family ... even though I never knew them.

Those engaged in Taylor County history have sadly discovered and watched too many cemeteries destroyed. Farm land has been sold outside the family, and new owners find old burying places a hindrance to what they wish to do with the land. Although Kentucky Revised Statue 381.697 states that owners of land must protect all public or private burial grounds from destruction. It often doesn't happen, and the offenders go unpunished. Perhaps this article will make someone rethink their plans to destroy someone's family gravesites.

Virginia Graves is coordinator of the Taylor Regional Archive Center, a non-profit organization which preserves local history and genealogy. For information, call 270-789-4343 or send an email to info@TaylorRegionalArchiveCenter.com.

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**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
TAYLOR CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 26-CI-00004
DIVISION II**

Taylor County Bank
PLAINTIFF
VS.
Reynolds Holdings of Kentucky, LLC, et al
DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

By virtue of orders of the Taylor Circuit Court in the above referenced civil action, the last of which entered on August 11, 2026, I shall proceed to offer for sale, at public auction, the real estate described herein to the highest and best bidder:

PLACE OF SALE: Former Circuit Courtroom, 203 North Court Street, Campbellsville, Kentucky.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: Friday, September 11, 2026, at or about 10:00 a.m. ET.

AMOUNTS OWED: Community Trust Bank: \$233,465.37 including amounts for interest, late fees, costs and penalties, and other levies, costs and fees paid by Defendant, including attorney fees and court costs incurred herein.

Community Trust Bank: \$466,951.20, including amounts for interest, late fees, costs and penalties, and other levies, costs and fees paid by said Defendant, including attorney fees and court costs incurred herein.

Doug & Kathleen Tucker: \$200,000.00, not including amounts for interest, late fees, costs and penalties, and other levies, costs and fees paid by said Defendant, including attorney fees and court costs incurred herein.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 707 East Broadway, Campbellsville, Taylor County, KY PVA Parcel No.: C05-37-07

SOURCE OF TITLE: Parcel A1 being a portion of the same property conveyed to Reynolds Holdings of Kentucky, LLC, from Ancil Reynolds, single, via deed dated March 16, 2016, and found of record in Deed Book 305, page 622, Office of the Taylor County Clerk, Kentucky. Parcel A2 being a portion of the same property conveyed to Ancil Reynolds from Citizens Bank & Trust Company, via deed recorded on March 24, 1987, and found of record in Deed Book 160, page 372, Office of the Taylor County Clerk, Kentucky.

TERMS: (a) The foregoing parcel of real estate shall be sold as a whole on terms of cash payment in full, or a bond with good and sufficient surety(s), bearing interest at the rate of 9.5% per annum from the date of sale and payable to the Master Commissioner within 30 days from the date of sale. If bond is given, the sum of ten percent (10%) shall be paid on date of sale by either cash, certified or cashier's check and said bond shall have the force and effect of a judgment and shall be and remain a lien on the property sold as an additional security for the payment of the purchase price. Surety on said bond must be acceptable to the Master Commissioner and pre-approved by the Master Commissioner at least by noon, two (2) business days before the sale date, to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond surety must be present at the sale and execute the Sale Bond and the Affidavit of Surety; (b)The purchaser of the subject property shall be responsible for satisfaction of any current year real estate taxes not yet delinquent affecting the real estate, any delinquent State, County and/or City real estate taxes sold pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 134 to any private purchaser during the pendency of this action, and shall take said property subject to all other city, state, county and school ad valorem taxes not due and payable on the date of the sale, easements, restrictions, covenants of record, applicable zoning ordinances, assessments for public improvements levied against the property, and any matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the property; (c) The Master Commissioner does not warrant title nor the physical condition of the subject property and any prospective purchaser shall satisfy themselves of the title and physical condition before the sale; and (d) The sale is subject to easements, covenants and restrictions of record, and to any right of redemption which may exist. For additional information, please go to www.jdhpsc.com and select "Master Commissioner, Upcoming". John D. Henderson, Green County Master Commissioner.

EARLY DAYS

**TEN YEARS AGO
September 2016**

A local school supply drive was organized to benefit both Campbellsville and Taylor County elementary students.

Samantha Jo Buckman and Dannie Joshua Dunbar, both of Campbellsville, announced their engagement. They were to be married on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016, at Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Campbellsville.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO
September 2006**

Nearly 50 people attended a prayer service Monday, Sept. 11, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Sandra Miller Spires, Elizabeth Skaggs DeSapin and Donald Skaggs, descendants of John Hamilton Skaggs and Mary Elizabeth Hodges, presented a copy of the "Pictorial History of the John Hamilton Skaggs Family" to the Taylor County Public Library to be placed in the genealogy department.

The 20th annual Green River Lake Cleanup was scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16.

Madison Bell celebrated her second birthday recently with family and friends at a Dora the Explorer themed party.

Campbellsville Country Club hosted its annual Ladies' Club Tournament recently. The winners were Ginger Colvin, club champion, and first low gross; Kim Mason, second low gross; Katie Moss, first low net; and Janey Read and Charlotte Bratcher tied for second low net.

**THIRTY YEARS AGO
September 1996**

Storms resulted in

exhibition performances being cut short at the 15th annual Taylor County Invitational Marching Band Contest. Trophies were delivered to buses as students and others scurried to find cover.

A 127-bed jail would meet Taylor County's needs. That's the conclusion of John Woodrum, a consultant hired by Taylor County Fiscal Court to conduct a jail feasibility study.

Friends, relatives, former co-workers and well wishers from all over came in full force to surprise former Campbellsville City Fire Chief Jimmy Cox with a roast/retirement reception.

Sarah Raikes of Campbellsville High has been recognized as a Master Advisor of Future Homemakers of America.

**FORTY YEARS AGO
September 1986**

Jane Ann Taliaferro was the guest of honor at a tea at the

fellowship hall of Campbellsville Baptist Church. Mrs. Taliaferro was preparing to relocate to Shelbyville with plans to marry Steve Howerton on Oct. 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Agee and Paula, Albemarle, North Carolina, were weekend visitors of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dooley and Mrs. Mary Ann Richerson and family.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO
September 1976**

The Taylor County Sportsman Club was planning its annual fish fry at the City Lake.

Mrs. Evelyn Sapp returned home Saturday from major surgery at the Methodist Hospital in Louisville.

Dr. Burr Atkinson was moved the last of the week from the hospital to the Metzmeier Nursing Home.

Mrs. Claude Railey of Paducah visited her sister, Mrs. Maud Newton, Friday

through Wednesday.

**SEVENTY YEARS AGO
September 1956**

Superintendent of Taylor County Schools W.B. Owen reported a record enrollment in the Taylor County School System. A record 1,852 students enrolled in the fall term in the county schools.

Geneva Cox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Cox of this city announced the opening of Geneva's School of Dancing. The dance studio is located in the Hubbard Building, in what was formerly occupied by radio station WTCO.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roution of Indianapolis and Robert Buchanan of New Albany were recent visitors of their mother Mrs. Fred Buchanan, who is recuperating at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Russell Lowe, in Greensburg.

**EIGHTY YEARS AGO
September 1946**

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Morris

NOTICE				
Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos Energy") intends to proposed revisions to its tariff extending its Gas Cost Performance Ratemaking Mechanism ("PBR") on file with the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission") by applying for an extension for five years with the Commission on or after August 31, 2026 in Case No. 2026-00224. The tariff filing will request the proposed revisions become effective October 1, 2026.				
RATES				
Rate Class	Present	Proposed	Dollars Increase	Percent Increase
G-1 PBR Charge	\$0.2349/Mcf	\$0.2349/Mcf	\$0	0%
G-2 PBR Charge	\$0.2349/Mcf	\$0.2349/Mcf	\$0	0%
Total Impact to Revenue			\$0	0%
Atmos Energy intends to propose an extension of five years to its PBR mechanism revising Sheet No. 18 of its Commission-approved tariff until May 31, 2032. Atmos Energy is also proposing updates to the tier ratios. Atmos Energy believes the PBR has been a benefit to its customers and its shareholders. The PBR mechanism is explained in detail in Sheets Nos. 18-29 of its tariff and Atmos Energy is not requesting that it be revised other than the tier ratios.				
Additional information, links, and a copy of Atmos Energy's tariff revisions can be found at Atmos Energy's principal office (3275 Highland Pointe Drive, Owensboro, KY 42303) and on its website (https://www.atmosenergy.com/utility-operationsrates/tariffs-kentucky/). A person may examine this tariff filing at the Commission's office at 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Commission's website at http://psc.ky.gov. Comments may be submitted to the Commission through its website or by mail at P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602. A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication or mailing of the notice, the Commission may take final action on the tariff filing. The Commission's phone number is (502) 564-3940 and its website is http://psc.ky.gov. The revisions contained in this notice are the revisions proposed by Atmos Energy but the Commission may order revisions that differ from the proposed revisions contained in this notice. Atmos Energy is not proposing any changes to any rate schedules and the average customer bill will not change.				