

America's Heartland **Roger Alford** RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

Bubba called his fishing buddy - the one with the bass boat - and invited him to go to the lake.

"I can't go," the buddy said. Coronavirus."

"I don't think you need to wor-"You never catch anything."

tually everyone across our country in one way or another. Some have become very sick as a result of this scourge. Some have died. Some have been laid off or lost their jobs altogether. Others have seen their businesses close per-

Coronavirus is one thing even unlucky fishermen can catch

levels of anxiety like never before the value of a word of encouras their bank accounts dwindle and they wrestle with how they'll pay the bills.

especially tough is we haven't cent weeks more than our most been able to get together with cherished material possessions. other believers inside our church buildings, where we have always like a loving church family. These found a source of strength to face are people who will stand by you whatever comes against us.

We've all heard the admonition from **Hebrews 10:25** so many times about "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some." That verse goes on to tell us we "I'm staying home so I don't catch should be exhorting, or encouraging, one another.

If there's good to come from ry about that," Bubba protested. the Covid-19 pandemic, it just may be that we have been given Coronavirus has affected vir- a healthy new appreciation for church, where we truly experience God's love and the love of ny. fellow believers. I know I have missed being together in person with my church family, and I expect you have, too.

It just may be that we now

manently. Some are dealing with have a stronger appreciation for agement, a friendly smile, a firm handshake, or a warm hug. Those are things that cost nothing but What makes this pandemic that we've come to value in re-

Let me tell you, there's nothing when the rest of the world stands against you. These are people who will love you unconditionally. These are people you will miss deeply and who will miss you deeply when something like Coronavirus separates you.

You might run into folks out in the community, like Bubba, who want to fish with you because you have a bass boat and a full tackle box. But in the church, you find people who want to fish with you because they enjoy your compa-

Roger Alford is pastor of South Fork Baptist Church. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com or *by calling 502-514-6857.*

The Furnaces of Estill County by Frank B. Russell

Publisher's Note:

The following is a 3-part history of the furnaces of this area written by Frank B. Russell who was one of the last owners of the Estill County furnaces. He wrote this history on July 26 and 27, 1944 in letters to the late historian Ellen Rogers of Estill County and this was originally printed in The Estill County Tribune on September 15, 1982.

The history of the furnaces now spans about 215 years. The first was built before 1805 near Waltersville which is now part of Clay City in present-day Powell County.

Subsequent furnaces were built at Furnace, Kentucky, Marbleyard, and finally the last at Fitchburg. All remain standing except the original forge built in Powell County. The Estill Steam Furnace is nearly destroyed. The Cottage Furnace and the Fitchburg Furnace are cracked but remain in good condition. The Fitchburg Furnace was restored a few years ago with a roof being place on the structure to prevent further damage.

Russell's letters have been edited for clarity.

"Estill County, erected in 1808, was the 50th to be created by the state legislature. Parts of Clark and Madison counties were taken for its construction and parts of its original territory was later taken to help form Breathitt in 1839, Owsley in 1843, Powell in 1852 (in 1889 the Hardwick's Creek watershed was by legislative act added to Powell), Jackson in 1858 and Lee in 1870."

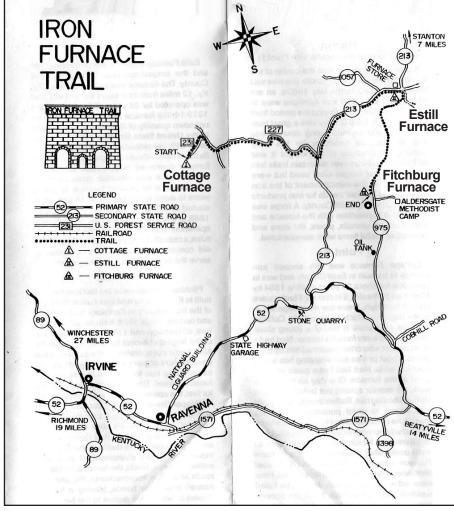
(Collins History of Kentucky)

It lies in the foothills of the Cumberlands and is traversed from southeast to northwest by the Kentucky River which is navigable from Beattyville, 38 miles above Irvine, to Carrollton, 218 miles below. A six foot channel is being maintained by 14 foot locks and dams.

The L&N Railroad runs through the county, entering it at the mouth of the Red River on the northwest boundary and from Irvine follows the river valley to Beattyville, Jackson, and Whitesburg in Leslie County. This affords an outlet to Cincinnati with its several rail connections east, west, and north.

Estill is agricultural to the extent of self-sufficiency, not a shipper of grain or other products aside from livestock and tobacco in a limited way.

In natural resources, iron ore, timber and crude oil have been a source of wealth likely as great in



The above map was compiled by the late Bobby G. Thomas who was a scoutmaster. The map was included with a brochure which aided area scouts in hiking to all three Estill County furnaces which helped them earn the Iron Furnace Trail patch and medal.

county in the state.

Timber was the first to be exploited. The river was prior to the 1890's the only means of transportation, but a cheap method. Sawmills at Frankfort afforded a market. Logs rafted and floated on tides, moved by four men, could in five days reach the market, sell and be on their way home.

The sawmills later built at Irvine came after the local timber was about gone and depended on the upper river supply.

The iron industry was started before the county was created. A small shelter, a rolling mill and a foundry was built on Red River in the five-mile land below the mouth of Hatton Creek and above the mouth of Hardwicks Creek about 1800 in what was then Clark County, later Estill, now Clay City, Powell County. There is no history of the exact date of the development. There is in the legislative acts of 1805 reference to the iron works on Red River in connection with legislation to prevent fish dams or other obstructions to flat boats being build in the river below the Iron Works.

The object of the builders was to supply the needs of the settlements for iron so essential in mak-

kind as the possessed by any other ing farm implements, horse shoes, and wagons as well as the molding of kettles, andirons, etc.

> Four warehouses were installed for making cut nails. The need for these must have been great.

> The owners also build a grist mill to grind wheat as well as corn. A sash-saw stood next to this for the slow and tedious production of lumber. Power to operate the whole was water from a four-mile pond created by an eight foot dam in the river and led to the plants by a mill race across the 5000 foot peninsula to the river below affording a fall of six feet.

> The plant was operated periodically until the end of the war between the states (1861-5). Nails in some quantity were found there in usable condition in 1874 packed in 100-pound boxes.

> The owners in 1830-31 were large owners of land on the mountain ten miles east surrounded by ore beds and timber in quantity for producing charcoal. The Estill Steam Furnace with a seven-ton capacity was built and put in blast in 1830. The smelter that the Forge then quit smelting ore and bought pig iron from the new furnace and re-smelted it for rolling into bars and sheets.

Continued Next Week

Like Mother, Like Child

Sunday, May 10th, 2020 Morning Message Bro. Warren Rogers, Ivory Hill Baptist Church

It is literally impossible to evaluate the influential power a mother has over her children. In today's society, we need Christian mothers that will bring up their children in fear of the Lord.

Abe Lincoln said, "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

We are not taking anything away from the fathers, but society demonstrates the enormous impact of our mothers.

Fathers, you will get your turn in June.

The first mother we will look at today is Jochebed, mother of Moses. Moses was born in a time that the king of Egypt saw the children multiply at a fast rate. He declared that every man child born be put to death and every female to live. Jochebed bare a man child and put him in a basket in waters' edge so that Pharaoh's daughter would find Moses. Moses' sister asked her if she wanted her to seek a Hebrew woman to nurse the child; so, she went and called her mother. The mother no doubt taught Moses while he was in her care about God. Moses never forgot his teachings because later he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Mother are you teaching your children about God?

We now look at Mary, the mother of John Mark. Peter had been locked up in prison, and the Lord sent an angel to get him out. When Peter realized he was free, he came to the house of Mary. There he found them having a prayer meeting at her house. John Mark was raised in a Christian atmosphere where it was normal for people of faith to be in her home. As a result, he was with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. We have gotten away from having prayer meetings in our homes. I remember the times when we had them, especially when we were getting prepared for revival. I know that the reason we don't see true revivals in our churches today is because God's people are not prepared or ready! Mothers, do your children see Jesus in your daily life?

Now let's talk about Grandma. Paul in writing a letter to Timothy, in **2nd Timothy 1:5**, said, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." Timothy was Paul's closest companion for 17 years. Paul called him, "my own son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2).

Grandmother and mother, do people see your child's upbringing in you?

Let's look at Hannah, 1 Samuel, chapters 1 & 2. Hannah's husband had two wives and the other was Peninnah who had children, but Hannah was barren. Hannah prayed unto the Lord (1 Samuel 1:10-11) and asked for a man child and promised to give him unto the Lord. When she had her baby, she praised the Lord. If you pray for something and it happens, do you praise God or do you seem to forget that you asked in the first place? True to her word, after she had weaned Samuel, she took him to Eli and reminded Eli that this was the child whom she prayed for and dedicated to the Lord. She continued each year to bring Samuel a new coat when she came with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

Mothers, have you dedicated your children to the Lord?

We want missionaries to go into the mission field but we are reluctant to give ours up. We want someone else to go. Hannah lived her life faithfully to her vows to her Lord.

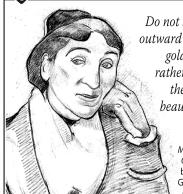
In God's perfect wisdom, he created the family, providing for moms and dads to guide their children in the learning of the Lord.

Mothers, you are still shaping the lives of your

If you have read this and would like to talk to me about your salvation, please call 606-481-

> **Bro. Warren Rogers Pastor of Ivory Hill Baptist**





outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

1 PETER 3: 3-4

Bro. Warren Rogers invites everyone to Ivory Hill Baptist Church's drive-up service each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Park 6-feet apart, facing the front of the church at 8430 Winchester Road, Irvine, and turn your radio to FM 90.1. You may also listen at home if you live nearby the church.