



America's Heartland
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I recall the story about a fellow who worked as an efficiency expert down at the factory.

He had been watching his wife prepare breakfast, making lots of trips between the refrigerator, stove, table and cabinets, usually carrying one item at a time. One day, he told her she could speed things up if she carried several items at a time.

"Did it save time?" a friend asked.

"Well, yes, it did actually," he said. "It used to take her 30 min-

The first law of public speaking: Nice guys finish fast

utes to make breakfast. Now, I do it in 15."

The Bible warns us in lots of places that we can avoid lots of trouble if only we'll guard our words. One verse that particularly speaks to me is Proverbs 17:28, which says, "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise; and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding."

I remember my mother's down-home wisdom when I was growing up: "If people would just keep their mouths shut, their ignorance wouldn't shine."

Actually, there are lots of variations of that message from proverbs, courtesy of people who tell it just a bit differently. You may also remember the quote attributed to Mark Twain: "It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt."

It's amazing how much has been said to instruct us to be careful with our words. One of my favorites that has made its way into

the public domain says, "A turtle lays a thousand eggs without anyone knowing, but when the chicken lays an egg, the whole country is informed."

I also like the one that says, "It would be better to leave people wondering why you didn't talk than why you did," or this one, "The first law of public speaking: Nice guys finish fast."

And I love the old poem that says:

*A wise old owl lived in an oak
 The more he heard, the less he spoke.*

The less he spoke, the more he heard,

Why can't we all be like the wise old bird?

Certainly, that husband who worked as an efficiency expert would still be eating his wife's cooking if he had heard and heeded any of that great advice.

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The Furnaces of Estill County by Frank B. Russell

Publisher's Note:

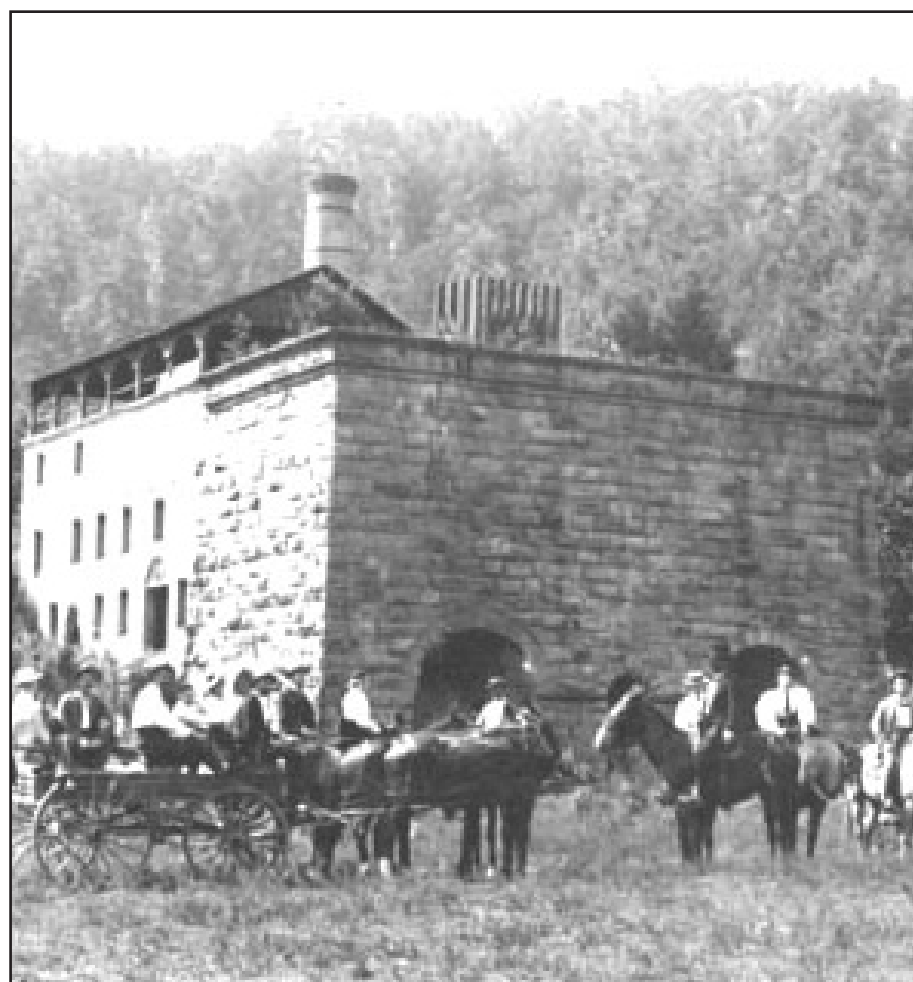
The following is the third of a 3-part history of the furnaces of this area written by Frank B. Russell who was one of the last owners of the Estill County furnaces. He wrote this history on July 26 and 27, 1944 in letters to the late historian Ellen Rogers of Estill County and this was originally printed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

Where there is an assembly of people brought together from various sections and mixed, some discords and discontent will flare to mar the peace and smooth-going of the community. The need for labor caused the management to encourage the immigration of 300 or more negroes with their families who were located in houses built for them in what was called Need More apart from the town surrounding the Furnace.

There was in those days no labor unions but the Kuklux were active and in due time manifested their card of animosity for the blacks and some night raids followed. Some blacks were the victims of the whip and notices were posted on the doors of others to leave or be treated likewise. Berry Vaughn, with his family lived up a hollow below the town. He was a mulatto. With a slight recollection of him and his wife and boy, age 10 or 12, they were intelligent and inoffensive. It was said by those who knew him that he was game and fearless. He had a notice posted on his door that he must go or be whipped.

One night later his house was surrounded and he was told to come out hands up. The house was a box affair of one inch lumber with a shed kitchen and a half story above the living room where a negro man was sleeping. The wife and boy slept in the room below.

Berry and his boarder resisted and answered shots at the house from the single sash window above. Some of the shots from outside penetrated the thin sidewall and the head of the bed where the wife and boy laid but were unhurt. The mobs threatened to burn the house. Ammunition inside was nearly exhausted, so Berry and his man Friday concluded to come down, pull some bricks out of the hearth, run out the door which had been broken down, use their last shots at close range, then use the bricks. Up to this time they had wounded maybe two and killed one. The mob thought to be some 50 or more became worried and began to move away taking the wounded with them but left the



A picnic at the Fitchburg Furnaces in 1895 (Courtesy of USDA)

dead man where he fell.

Berry sat on his door step until daylight, pistol in hand to guard the dead and sent word to the town authorities. The man first there about daylight related to me some years later the story here related.

The gentleman said, "Well, I will go send the coroner to hold an inquest and have the body removed." Berry said, "Wait until the sun rises, I want the sun to shine in the face on one Kuklux."

The dead man of less than middle age came from Pennsylvania and had been there but a short time. Vaughn lived there some years afterward, then moved to Kansas City where he died at a ripe age.

Some reaction to the K.K.K. activity, it was thought, was responsible for the unfortunate killing of three men in May, 1871, at an election being held at the Millers Creek Precinct near the mouth of the creek. The graveyard at Mt. Tabor Church was the burying place of two, maybe all three.

They were all furnace employees. No doubt the Klan question was involved in politics. One man killed the three from his position on the porch, the victims being singled out of the crowd in the road in front. There was no conviction at the court proceedings some months later.

The concern of the good citizens caused the county officials to request Gov. Preston H. Leslie to send troops to the growing beyond the power of local authorities to sup-

press. The Governor responded by sending two or three companies of state militia. They came to Fitchburg and pitched their camp on the furnace grounds.

The disorders ceased, conditions became tranquil and after a brief stay, the troops were withdrawn.

We are not aware of any other case in the history of Estill where the state was called on to help keep the peace.

The Furnace Company disposed of their acreage entirely in 1903 after which it was sold off in parcels to local people and in 1916 the development of the crude oil possibilities started and with success on a strip half mile wide through half diameter of the 8 mile circle. Some 250 or more wells were drilled over the section where furnace operators had cut thousands of cords of wood, burned many thousands of bushels of charcoal and mined tons and tons of ore.

In some instances, the drillers utilized coal hearths for the drilling location, saving the expense of making a graded location for their rig. The heart was level and of correct size.

As it turned out, the real wealth of the property laid deeper than the iron ore and could be shipped through a six-inch pipe to a processing plant built by the other fellow.

The oil produced since discovery has yielded more money than all the iron produced during the life of the Furnaces.

Memorial Day 2020

Sunday, May 23rd, 2020 Morning Message
 Bro. Warren Rogers, Ivory Hill Baptist Church

Matthew 26:6-13, "Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat. ⁸But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? ⁹For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. ¹⁰When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me. ¹¹For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. ¹²For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. ¹³Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her."

We enjoy a lot of freedom in America. Freedom to attend church, what we want to be when we grow up, where we want to live; most of the things that affect our daily lives. Yes, our freedom is free, but it was paid for by many courageous men and women who served in our armed forces.

This weekend we celebrate Memorial Day -- a day set aside to honor those who paid the supreme sacrifice so we might enjoy those freedoms.

The first Decoration Day was held at the Arlington National Cemetery on May 30th, 1868. Commander in Chief John A. Logan issued what was called General Order Number 11, designating the 30th of May as a Decoration Day. He declared it to be, 'for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country.'

Actually, Southern women started decorating the graves of soldiers even before the end of the Civil War. The name was changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day in 1967. The date was changed in 1968 to the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend.

One week after the Pearl Harbor attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

Freedom is never free; it's almost always bought with the blood of patriots.

The biggest battle we, as Americans, face today is the battle for our nation to return to what our forefathers intended it to be. We can't blame the erosion of our precious country on one person or political party. It has been slowly declining but with a rapid increase over the last few years. The condition we are in is because of what we tolerated yesterday. And tomorrow will bring what we tolerated today.

We have turned our backs on sin. We live in a 'feel good' society; if it feels good, it's all right, or if it makes me happy, it's all right; never thinking about the sinful results.

History has a way of repeating itself. In the Fifth chapter of Daniel we read of the collapse of a culture. They became so comfortable and secure within their strong walls that they crumbled from within. That's what we as Americans are facing today. It has got to the point that over half of the people want a free ride while the other half has to work two jobs to survive. We cannot go on this way or we too, will crumble!

Babylon made four mistakes: #1 - they lost all sense of remembrance. God forbid that we forget the people that fought and died for our freedom.

#2 - They lost their sense of reality. We have people that don't have a clue about what's going on.

#3 - they lost their sense of restraint; not being able to restrain from doing evil, and

#4 - they lost all sense of respect. I learned how bad it is when I drove a school bus. Parents are not teaching their children how to respect their elders or anyone. This pretty much describes America today!

President Woodrow Wilson said it best: 'A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.'

We also celebrate another freedom -- the freedom our Savior died for. Because Jesus went to the cross, we have the freedom to choose Heaven or hell. We have the right to honor His death by accepting His salvation or rejecting Him and serving the devil. Sad to say, there are many that never think about where their souls will spend eternity or they just don't believe God will send them there. God doesn't send anyone, we choose where we go after we die.

Jesus died to set us free from the bonds of sin. **John 8:32**, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Until next week, may God bless you. If you feel the need to talk about your salvation call me at 606-481-0444. -- Bro. Warren Rogers