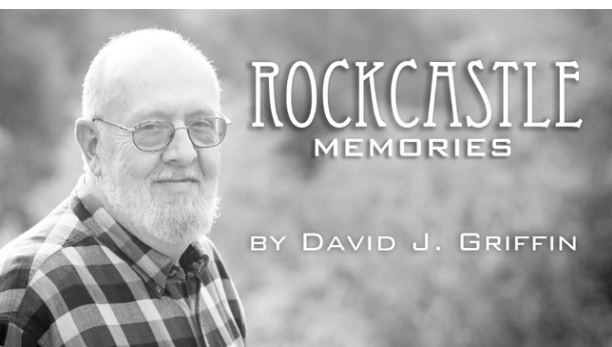




ROCKCASTLE MEMORIES

BY DAVID J. GRIFFIN

My Dad as Justice of the Peace

When I was a mere child, my father, G. H. "Hobe" Griffin, was elected to the office of magistrate in Rockcastle County. He was also the manager of the Mt. Vernon Hotel on Main Street. At that time, magistrates were called Justices of the Peace, and they had certain legal duties, including: performing marriages, presiding over misdemeanor cases such as traffic violations, and handling other petty criminal infractions. In addition, some Justices had authority over cases involving small debts and tenant disputes. The qualifications for this job were minimal, requiring little or no training in the law.

For many different reasons, Daddy delighted in being the one in authority in ruling on these common rites or trivial disputes.

Because my parents were divorced, I occasionally spent a weekend with him in his apartment in the hotel. One of the most frequent duties of my father was to rule on traffic violations that occurred during the evenings when the courthouse was closed. Daddy knew

most of the officers of the State Police who were assigned to Rockcastle County. And – just as is depicted in movies about a small town – he took pleasure in giving a traffic ticket to someone from out of state.

I recall many times when we were awakened by sound of the hotel's office bell; it was usually late at night when a cop would bring in some stranger who had been awarded a speeding ticket. If my memory serves, Daddy would look up the citation and then pronounce the maximum fine (most especially when it was someone from another state).

One particular night, he listened to the State Police Officer detail the circumstances of the speeding ticket and leveled a fine that seemed extremely high to me. The gentleman began to protest and quickly lost his temper. I can still see the look on Daddy's face as he then proceeded to direct the Officer to just haul the man to jail. In a flash, the man pulled out his wallet, dug out the bills, and paid the fine. After that guy left the hotel, Daddy said to the po-

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Points East

By Ike Adams



I enjoy writing book reviews in this column from time to time, particularly if the book is by a Kentucky author, focused on eastern Kentucky and so interesting that I found myself propped up in bed, still reading, three hours after I should have gone to sleep.

The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver by Robert A. Prather met all those requirements and then some!

Robert Prather and his wife, Karen, have run his own commercial business in the Meade County community of Garrett for more 40 years. He is also a historian active in numerous historical and archaeology societies and a field editor for Acclaim Press.

My attention to the book was first drawn when I heard that Robert was from Garrett. I wrongly assumed that he was from Floyd County. Turns out there are two Garretts, Kentuckys which, I suppose, is another good reason for zip codes. Prather's Garrett is located just a few miles from Fort Knox but that doesn't mean that doesn't know his eastern Kentucky history.

The book is focused on the lost treasure of Jonathan Swift and his silver mine, legends of which have run rampant in eastern Kentucky for more well over 200 years. In fact, Wolfe County KY has a historical marker regarding Swift's Silver Camp that used to sit in front of the old Courthouse in Campton. I assume it's still there. Wolfe County even has a Swift's Silver Mine Festival over Labor Day Week-end every year. I'm sure it'll be happening this year, too.

Prather's book tries to separate fact from fiction and I promise you faithfully that you will not find a more thoroughly documented accumulation of information about the life and times of Jonathan Swift and his supposed treasure than what is contained in this book. Nor will you find a more intriguing set of questions as to where the mine and/or treasure is actually located.

I am not a treasure hunter and I have always been skeptical that the legend was nothing more than old wife's tales. As Prather points out, there are no fewer than 40 documents hanging around that are purportedly the original or hand copies of the original journals on which the legend are based.

Prather suggests that, the treasure mine or mines did exist, but not necessarily in eastern Kentucky.

He documents, beyond doubt, several large land holdings owned by Swift in both eastern and north central Kentucky as well as northeastern Virginia. He makes a most convincing case that the same Jonathan Swift mined for silver in at least 4 different locations, including eastern KY and that he was, indeed, a frequent visitor to the state during the 1790's.

The final section of the book devotes 75 pages to a strong case that Robert Louis Stevenson's famous novel, *Treasure Island* was based the same Jonathan Swift's lost treasure.

But I was gut hooked by the book because it contains several hundred excerpts from historically accurate documents including newspaper articles, letters, deeds, indentures, and references from many other books and published articles on the subject. Treasure seeking, notwithstanding, If you are remotely interested in Kentucky history, this book is a must read because you will discover many facts you've never before heard about.

The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver is hard bound with a beautiful, award winning, dust jacket, 376 pages including 58 pages of appendices and other documentation.

It can be found at Barnes and Noble, The Kentucky Artisans Center in Berea and directly from the publisher, Acclaim Press and at other

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On Call

By:
Rick Branham



I was recently asked how I do what I do. How do I cope with seeing what I see? I was asked this because this person had seen a very bad wreck on the news and they wander if I was there and I replied yes I was there. This person was certain there were serious injuries just by seeing the condition of the vehicles involved and they wanted to know how serious. I said there were obvious broken bones and other potential life threatening/traumatic injuries. A shiver went down there back and they uttered, wow I don't know how you do it.

Going into this career you know at some point you will see and possibly smell certain things that some people may not be able to handle. The training you receive does not fully prepare you for what you will encounter in the real world setting. A mental preparation has to occur when you go on certain calls. As an individual you see a firefighter

and you may think it would be cool to ride in a fire truck or have lights and sirens in your vehicle or you may think it would be cool to be able to walk around in bunker pants all day. You see a firefighter as being tough physically buy people seldom think about firefighters being tough mentally.

I have seen a lot of gruesome scenes in my short 13 years in the service and because of that I have developed a sensory that allows me not to dwell on horrific injuries. When I arrive on a scene that has the potential to be a scene full of serious injuries, I focus on my training. For example, on a vehicle accident that involves people trapped, I focus on how I can get them out as quickly and efficiently as possible so they can get to the hospital. I focus on using the tools properly and safely. I don't stare at what may be sticking out of a person's leg; I just treat the

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Our Readers Write

Hospital thanks community...

Dear Editor,
We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the community and all of those who helped with the 4th Annual Rockcastle Regional Hospital Run, Bike or Hike. The event drew a record number of participants – 241 – and raised more than \$2,800 for the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge.

Our new partner for the event, the Rockcastle County Chamber of Commerce, was extremely helpful as well as the many individuals and organizations who gave their time and talent.

We'd like to thank all of our official sponsors, including Citizens Bank, City of Brodhead, City of Livingston, City of Mt. Vernon, Climax Water, Community Trust Bank, Exit 62 Mobile RV Service, Mt. Vernon IGA, Rockcastle Adult Education, and the UK HealthCare Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine.

Also a very special thanks to the Mt. Vernon Police Department, the Rockcastle County Road Department, Rockcastle EMS, the local VFW post, Disaster and Emergency Services, Lake Linville Boat Dock, the Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department, the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, and the Rockcastle County Rocket football team.

Dwain Harris

Breast Cancer Awareness Month...

Dear Editor,
Some of the best people in the world live right here in Rockcastle County! We are quick to respond to the needs of others and to support worthy causes. With that being said, allow me to give each of you an opportunity to help one of these very worthy causes. The "Grandtazzzties," maybe better known as "Grandmas for Awareness" have once again joined into a partnership with Rockcastle Regional Hospital and Respiratory Care Center to promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. This year we are doing something really special and exciting!

We invite you to PAINT ROCKCASTLE PINK!! Our desire is to have every business and county member participate in this fun campaign and help us to raise money to support three different cancer programs right here in our own county! Just think how wonderful it will be to see every business and home in each of our cities decorated in some form of pink! Let your imagination go free...bows, signs, wreaths, balloons, clothing, etc. The kickoff will be held during the annual Ladies Night Out event on Thursday, October 3, at Rockcastle County Middle School. Following are some ways you can help:

Local businesses, city, and county offices can become either "Pinks Supporters" (by donating \$25-\$99) or "Pink Partners" (by donating \$100 or more). Each contributor receives one free tee shirt, participation in the "Pink Glove" video, recognition in all marketing, one window decal, and two seats at the table of supporters at the kickoff dinner. Additionally, the "Pink Partners"

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Rockcastle County Republican Party

MEETING

Monday, August 26th
7 p.m.

3rd Floor Conference Room
of the Courthouse

Come and hear State Representative David Meade and meet State Representative Jonathan Shell. Rep. Shell will be representing the district Rockcastle Co. will likely be moved into by redistricting.



(Paid for by Rockcastle GOP)



The Heart of Natural Kentucky



For Information contact:

Cit of Livingston

PO Box 654

Livingston KY, 40445

Office: 606-453-2061

Cityoflivingston@windstream.net

Livingston Homecoming Schedule!!

Friday August 30th,
6pm-9pm Gospel Singing

2013

Saturday August 31st,
8am- Pancake Breakfast / Livingston Leap 5K
10am- Parade Line up at White Star
11am- Parade
12pm- Bittersweet Cloggers
1pm- Awards Ceremony at the old Firehouse
2pm- Bittersweet Cloggers
3pm- Kids Karaoke
4pm-Shaolin Do Karate Demonstration
5pm- Lawn Mower pull / Ky stomp n romp Cloggers
6pm- Wilderness Rd Bluegrass
7pm- New generation Bluegrass / KY romp n stomp Cloggers
9pm- The Moron Bros Comedy Bluegrass

OVER 25
Venders!!

Mechanical
Bull Rides!!

Chainsaw
Artist!!

Daniel
Hawthorne
Freak Show!!

Food Music
and Fun!!!!

Sunday September 1st

12pm- Devotional Bro. Chris Davidson
1pm- Lions Club Pet Show
2pm- Kids games Hula hoop etc...
3pm- Watermelon eating contest
4pm-Auction
7pm- Ugly woman contest
8pm- Medley Boys
10pm- fireworks