

Nature, Human Nature & Meade County History



By FRANK R. MORRIS
Messenger Columnist

About the writer:

Frank Morris came to Meade County in 1959 as a student minister for Blue River Island Baptist Church. After completing seminary in Louisville, he went to the University of Chicago for postgraduate studies. While there, Frank was interim chaplain of the U. of Chicago Hospitals and began retraining as a psychotherapist. "People sometimes ask me why I stopped being a minister. I knew that I had a problem as a preacher when I had to wake people up at the end of my sermon. It was time to refocus my career when I considered buying an alarm clock". He found that he loved sitting and talking with people about personal issues and, further, discovered that he was effective at that. In the early 1970's he became a Certified Transactional Analyst and had practices in Chicago, Evanston Illinois, and South Bend, Indiana. His love for Meade County continued across the years and he purchased land in Big Bend in the mid 1960's. It was not until 1985 that he and his wife, Dixie, began building a home on a high bluff overlooking the river. "I love sunsets, and now, in my twilight years enjoy watching them. Meade County has been my chosen home for thirty seven years now."

Frank and his wife Dixie continue to do counseling. They have written books on parenting, grandparenting, identity, and many

topics of counseling. They have a home page on the Internet and put articles they have written over a twenty year period on the World Wide Web. Their address on Internet is <http://liberationpsych.org>

Sometimes memory of a vital part of history hangs on the thinnest of threads.

Thirty-five years ago a ninety year old man told me that there was a place in the woods near Battletown where the Indians used to gather. He said that it was a clear flat area and he thought they played games there and danced.

Just the other day I mentioned this to Verda Hamilton and her son, Ham. I was hesitant when I told them, scared a bit that my memory may be a bit shaky. They paused, I swallowed, and both of them finally nodded their heads and said that they heard that too. Ham said: "That was Indian Dance". Neither of them knew the location.

With more courage I proceeded to Hockman's general store and asked loudly: "Does anyone here know where Indian Dance is?" One guy looked at me and said: "What do you know about Indian Dance?" I told him and he gave me the location. This was so special that I hurried home and returned with my wife.

We explored. Right in the middle of the woods there is a strange sandstone mesa - almost the size of a football field, about thirty yards wide

by maybe 110 yards long. It is as clean as a whistle - mostly, though there are several small hillocks which don't seem to belong on its edges. Immediately to the east of the field there is a solitary tall hill with three immense sandstone projections (each about the size of a car). About 70 yards to the west there is another hill that has a strange indentation in it on the south side. Both hills could serve as vantage points.

We nosed around. Four large springs are beside the field with sufficient water pouring forth - enough for water and cooking for six hundred people easily. Wind would not affect the playing field or dance floor. There is plenty of surrounding space where people could watch, tent, cook, and talk.

I was still puzzled. Of course, we saw that there would be plenty of water for any gathering - something that was critical prior to the days of wells. Sure, I could see that this was a strange geological event out in the middle of the woods. What bothered me, though, was why Native Americans would meet way out here.

An idea possessed me and I got a Meade County map. Everyone knows that Indians lived for thousands of years in the river valleys where they had water, fish, shellfish, transportation, flint deposits, and could grow corn. In this area they lived next to the chemical plant in Brandenburg, Crosier bottom, Paradise Valley, Big Bend, Wolf Creek, Little Bend and Concordia.

I started drawing lines across my map from each of those locations to Indian Dance. It is startling. Four land miles from Crosier bottom, Paradise Valley, and Wolf Creek. Twelve land miles from Brandenburg through the woods, two miles if they went in canoes to a landing at Oolite (now only a part of the quarry). It is about seven land miles from Big and Little Bends and Concordia.

Now I am not certified, degreed anthropologist, but here is the way I put it all together with other knowl-

edge about Native Americans plus a little imagination. I think Indian Dance is the most natural place in the woods I have ever seen for a gathering. Furthermore, there is a buffalo trace running from Brandenburg to Wolf Creek close by. I also know of a spot in the woods a mile away where the buffalo rolled on the side of a bank in soft shale.

In my mind I visualize elders on the top of the sandstone outcropping. I find it easy to imagine games being played on the stone mesa and, in the evening, I sense grand dances. I see trading of arrowheads, stone axes and leathers. I see women sharing recipes. I create a mental graphic of young men and women from neighboring areas meeting each other at the secret place in the woods. I allow myself to be magical, and hear the sound of laughing children, whoops of delight at games, and I smell deer and corn stew. I visualize a buffalo hunt and the use of everything for food and shelter and clothes. I sense old men and women in counsel. I hear the drums. The ground shakes with the dancing. It's a pow wow, a gathering of friends. Everything in nature is considered sacred.

Cold reason returns to me and I advise you to take of what I've said as you will. After all, true history of Indians in Meade County is incredibly sparse. There are a few words in books, a lot of stone tools, and the grand heritage of golden corn. Only pieces of history, and yet, they lived here for twelve thousand years! We've only been here a scant two hundred and twenty. History sometimes hangs by a thread; we have to piece the cloth.

I leave you with this, though: Indian Dance is there in the woods. My wife and I saw it.

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The essence of true friendship is to make allowance for another's little lapses.
—David Storey

Mahmood gives tips for prevention of cancer

Cancer prevention will be the topic of a seminar Monday, April 22.

At 11 a.m., at the Meade County Senior Citizens Center on Old Ekron Road in Brandenburg, Ijaz Mahmood, MD will moderate the inservice.

Dr. Mahmood said participants will learn what cancer is, who its victims typically are and what significance family history of cancer has on developing the disease.

Preventive tips will include discussion about diet management and environmental control, as well as vitamins and medicines.

Additionally, Mahmood said there will also be an opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions.

The doctor's presentation is open to the public and admission is free. Caretenders Home Health of Brandenburg is sponsoring the event.

Mahmood is currently an associate oncologist with the



IJAZ MAHMOOD, MD
Elizabethtown Hematology/Oncology, PSC. Other credentials include being on the Diplomate American Board of Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology/Hematology.

Freedom comes from human beings, rather than from laws and institutions.

—Clarence Darrow

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For Your Health April and May Events

Health & Fitness Expo
Saturday, April 20
10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Towne Mall, Elizabethtown
HMH Cancer Prevention Display
Co-sponsor: Kentucky Cancer Program
Information about HMH Pediatric Program

KODA: Kentucky Organ Donor Association
Tuesday, April 23
6 p.m.
Education Center
Speaker: Kamille Floyd, Education Coordinator with KODA.
Local recipients will be speaking.
This event is offered at no charge.
Reservations required. A light dinner will be provided.
Please call 765-1178 or 765-1612

Women's Forum
Saturday, May 11
8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Education Center
Featuring:
Michael S. Nethers, M.D. OB/GYN
Edward J. Gross, M.D. Facial Plastic Surgery/ENT
Daksha Mehta, M.D. Rheumatologist
Mary Alice Holt, Food Editor with The News-Enterprise.
Elizabeth Buckner, Nutritionist with UK Cooperative Extension Service.
The charge for this seminar is \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 for couple.
A breakfast buffet will be included.
Registration required and limited to first 75 persons.
Please call 765-1178 or 765-1612

Skin Cancer Screening
May 17
2 p.m.-5 p.m.
Basement of Radiation Therapy Center
Introducing:
Jeffrey Richardson, M.D.
Peter Grotus, M.D.
Co-sponsor: Kentucky Cancer Program
Scheduled Appointments Only
Please call 765-1178 or 765-1612
Offered at no charge

Senior Health Fair: HMH Display & Booth
Thursday, May 23
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Pritchard Community Center
Elizabethtown