

Kentucky Innovations



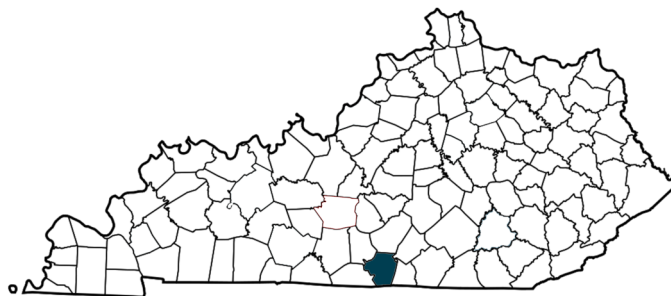
Maxwell House Coffee Can, KHS Collection

Instant Coffee

Across the United States, the slogan “Good to the Last Drop” is synonymous with Maxwell House coffee, named for the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN. However, the famous coffee’s founder, Joel Cheek, is from **Burkesville** in **Cumberland County**.

Born in 1852, Cheek attended Transylvania University and became a schoolteacher before getting involved in the grocery business. Thanks to an exclusive deal with the prestigious Maxwell House Hotel, Joel and his cousin Christopher (from Glasgow) turned the family grocery into a multi-million dollar business.

Their coffee had such a dedicated following that by 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt uttered the famous slogan after consuming the beverage. Today, Joel Cheek’s portrait hangs in the Cumberland County Library on Hill Street in Burkesville.



Kentucky Historical Society

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