

COMMUNITY

A Tribute to Charles Mattox - Heaven is a lot like Kentucky **HOLDING ONTO THE HEART**

Fort Greenville, Ohio, 1795

After decades of unimaginable violence, peace was finally at hand between the Native Americans of Ohio, and the ever-increasing number of Americans living along the expanding northwestern frontier.

The 27-year-old Shawnee warrior, Sannamatha, The Big Fish, was relieved that hostilities were coming to an end.

He was weary from the constant fighting, though his dearest friend Tecumseh, the Crouching Panther, refused to come to the peace negotiations that would effectively transfer a large portion of Ohio to the United States.

The Delaware's of Sandusky River, Kickapoos and Kaskaskias, Weas, Miamis, The Eel River Tribes, Pattawatimas, Ottawas, Chippewas, Wyandots and Shawnees, formed a peace alliance with American General Anthony Wayne following the Battle of Fallen Timbers, fought a year earlier.

Sannamatha was now leading a group of approximately 50 of his fellow Shawnee to the fort for the promised peace goods the Americans were giving away.

He had viciously fought against the Americans for the last ten years and had helped Chiefs Blue Jacket and Little Turtle win crushing defeats against the American.

In Oct. 1790, Sannamatha and Tecumseh participated in what would become known as

Harmar's Defeat, which occurred near present day Fort Wayne, Indiana. General Joshua Harmar split his Kentucky force and suffered 223 casualties before retreating.

Sannamatha was also present, fighting alongside Tecumseh, Little Turtle and Blue Jacket, at the massive victory over General Arthur St. Clair on Nov. 4 1791, along the Wabash River.

Of the 1,000 troops that General St. Clair led into battle, only 48 escaped unharmed.

Sannamatha had participated on numerous Shawnee raids into Kentucky and was now ready for peace.

He initially rode up to meet Captain Daniel Trabue and Captian McColleston at one of the outlying forts near Fort Greenville, and the three men conversed for several minutes. Sannamatha could speak broken English and was quick to let his peaceful intentions be known.

Trabue was anx-

ious to learn if Sannamatha had ever heard of Stephen or Abraham Ruddle, two sons of his friend, Captain Isaac Ruddle. The two boys had been taken prisoner from Ruddle's Station in 1780, during Colonel Henry Byrd's invasion of Kentucky.

Sannamatha nodded and said he did know these two individuals.

"I ... know... the two... Luddles," he said struggling to make the right pronunciation of the Ruddle name.

Trabue continued to ask about the two Ruddles and finally Sannamatha simply patted his heart and said "Me... Stephen Luddle." Continued discussion led to a runner being sent to inform Capt. Isaac Ruddle of the news. Capt. McColleston left Trabue and traveled with Sannamatha to where he was assured Abraham Ruddle was camping.

The next day McColleston and several dozen Shawnee returned including Sannamatha

(Stephen Ruddle) and his brother Abraham Ruddle.

Abraham had been only six-years-old when taken captive and now, he could neither speak nor understand English.

Inside the fort, Isaac Ruddle's heart was filled with anticipation.

The two Ruddle brothers and a few of their adoptive Shawnee family members entered the dark cabin, which was illuminated with candles.

"They were all painted and very dirty and shabby," Trabue would recall in his diary and collection of memoirs. "They had some silver trinkets hanging about their necks and breasts and some broaches in their breechcloths and beads on the leggings of their moccasins. I suppose they thought themselves fine, but I thought they were dirty looking creatures."

Both Stephen and Abraham had swirling tattoos on their faces and Abram's ears were

slit and wrapped in copper and adorned in earrings.

They stood calmly in the cabin as Captain Isaac Ruddle made his way inside.

When he was pointed to Stephen and Abraham he was speechless for several seconds and had no expression. The flickering candles made the scene more surreal.

Then Capt. Ruddle burst into convulsive lamentations.

"Oh, Lord No!" He cried out. "My children, is Indians! My children is Indians!" and then he wept uncontrollably.

All in the cabin froze. For several uncomfortable seconds they all stood there watching Captain Ruddle twist in anguish and crying out as if by burning pain as he fell to his knees.

The overpowering emotions echoed through the room, and several others, moved by this scene were overcome.

Sannamatha, Stephen Ruddle, slowly reached his hand and

took his father's hand in his own.

"Hold onto your heart.... Hold.... Hold onto your heart.... Father."

Thus a Kentucky father and two of his sons were once again reunited after 15 years.

My research into the fascinating life of Stephen Ruddle continues dear reader, and perhaps, if the Good Lord is willing, we will visit him again, either as a Shawnee warrior, or perhaps later in life, as he became a preacher and served the Lord with a full heart.

*Researched from "Westward into Kentucky: The narrative of Daniel Trabue", and several volumes of the Lyman Copeland Draper Manuscripts, including interviews with Stephen Ruddle and other Ruddle family members, as well as Colonel William Sudduth of Bath County, who fought Sannamatha at the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

Veteran Fishing Day

Sunday June 7th 1pm - 6pm

Cave Run Lake

Tailwater Recreation Area

150 KY Hwy 826, Below the Dam

Family Friendly, No License Needed

June 6th and 7th is Kentucky's free fishing weekend.

Green picnic shelter, Children's Playground

Free Food and Drinks

For more information please call or text 606-359-1233 or contact the Salt Lick DAV or Owingsville VFW

NOTICE NON-RECURRING CHARGE ADJUSTMENT

Buffalo Trail Water Association, Inc propose to make the following revisions to its tariff and schedule of charges. The proposed effective date of the change is June 15, 2026.

Non-Recurring Charge	Present	Proposed	Increase of	% Change
5/8 Inch x 3/4 Inch Meter Tap	\$1,176.00	\$1,765.00	\$589.00	50%

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Buffalo Trail Water Association, Inc. However, the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from these proposed fees. The proposed rates are expected to be filed with the Public Service Commission by May 14, 2026.

A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty days of the initial publication of this notice, the Commission may take final action on the tariff filing.

A person may examine this filing and any other documents the Association has filed with the Public Service Commission at the Association's office located at 41135 US Hwy 62, Mayslick, KY 41055; telephone (606)763-6516. A person may also examine this tariff filing at the Commission's office located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm. This filing and any related documents are available on the Public Service Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Written comments regarding the proposed rate may be submitted to the Public Service Commission by mail or through the Public Service Commission's website. This notice is published pursuant to 807 KAR 5:011-Tariffs.

Buffalo Trail Water Association, Inc

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