

OPINIONS

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THE CROUCHING PANTHER AND THE BIG FISH



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

By Charles Mattox

"I first became acquainted with Tecumseh at the age of twelve years, and being the same age myself; we became inseparable companions - Tecumseh was always remarkable from his boyhood up for the dignity & rectitude of his deportment. There was a certain something in his countenance and manner that always commanded respect & at the same time made those about him love him."

Stephen Ruddle, a captive white prisoner from Ruddle's Station which was destroyed in June 1780; on his assessment

of his closest Shawnee friend, Tecumseh. This account of Tecumseh is from Stephen Ruddle, procured by Maj. R. Graham - Ruddle lived at the time, in Missouri – a man of great veracity, Benjamin Drake; From the Draper Manuscripts Volume 2 YY.

March 1787, across the Ohio River, in present-day Maysville, Kentucky.

The young Shawnee warrior named ‘Sinnamatha’ seldom left the side of Tecumseh, as part of the particular, spring, raiding party that camped along the Ohio River.

Tecumseh and Sannamatha, or The Big Fish, as he was called, were the closest of friends.

Their leader was a Shawnee war chief named Shemeneeto, or The Black Snake.

Tecumseh, though less experienced, was rapidly gaining status among the Shawnee as a leading warrior.

Few would understand this abbreviated version of his full Shawnee name, which literally translated to The Crouching Panther Prepared To Leap Across The Sky

Both Sinnamatha and Tecumseh were 20 years old and both had known frontier war their entire lives.

Although he was a Shawnee warrior in every sense, Sinnamatha, or The Big Fish, was in actuality Stephen Ruddle, the son of Kentucky frontiersman, Isaac Ruddle.

Shawnee warriors and British allies took Stephen, age 12, and his brother Abraham, age six, captives when they attacked Isaac Ruddle's Station. The station had been constructed near the present border of Bourbon and Harrison Counties. It was destroyed in June 1780 with 300 settlers being taken prisoner.

The boy's father, Isaac, was released from a British Garrison near Montreal, in 1783 and Isaac had returned to Kentucky hoping to one day be reunited with his two sons.

Stephen was adopted into the Shawnee tribe and as fate would have it, he and Tecumseh became the closest of friends.

On this windy March day they continued with their business at hand, which was luring pioneer flat boats close to the

shore so they could ambush them, take prisoners, scalps and plunder.

They were particularly interested in acquiring rum.

It helped drown their sorrows and faded the memory of their defeat last autumn at the Machachack villages along the Mad River.

Helped numb the pain of losing 33 of their clan members as prisoners and a dozen to death.

The frontiersmen, who were led by Benjamin Logan, Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone, had burned their village and killed their ancient chief Maluntha after he had surrendered.

Their crops were also destroyed. It hadn't been the first time such a thing had happened. For Tecumseh, it was the 5th such time his home had been destroyed by Kentuckians.

Now he and the others sought the sweet oblivion brought on by drinking rum.

And they also sought revenge upon the Kentuckians and those of their families that floated down the Ohio River to Limestone Point, or Maysville.

Among the boats captured were those belonging to Thomas Ridoubt, Samuel Purviance, William Richard Watson and several other boats including one, which carried three French scientists, including A Monsieur Ragaut.

Sinnamatha would never forget watching Tecumseh in action among those attacks. Tecumseh acted with more bravery than many of the elder and more experienced warriors.

None could match Tecumseh's accuracy with a multitude of weaponry he carried, and Sinnamatha remembered how he and Tecumseh had hunted buffalo shortly after the burning of the Machachack villages.

The Big Fish carried a musket during the buffalo hunt.

Tecumseh carried a bow and 16 arrows. They positioned themselves near where a buffalo herd grazed, and Sinnamatha later recalled firing his musket and watching Tecumseh continuously fire his bow as the herd stampeded by. When the herd passed, Sinnamatha found the buffalo he had

shot. He also found 16 other buffalo, each with an arrow piecing its heart.

Kenton and his scouts would meet them often in the years to come as the Shawnee raided the Kentucky settlements of Bath, Fleming, Robertson and Mason Counties.

And, as it would eventually turn out, Sinnamatha, or Stephen Ruddle, would indeed one day be reunited with his father Isaac.

But those are other stories, dear reader, to be examined later, if the good Lord is willing.

For now, we leave The Crouching Panther and The Big Fish enjoying a keg of rum at the river's edge. A flatboat rounds a bend in the river upstream, and the two warriors smile at one another as they place their bottles of rum in their pockets and gather their weapons.

* The above was excerpted from several volumes of the Draper Manuscripts, including interviews with Stephen Ruddle. Another primary source is "Tecumseh: A Life" by John Sugden



By Cecil Lawson

Over the past year I've been rereading all the short stories and novellas of the master of "cosmic horror," H. P. Lovecraft. I'm now have three stories to finish, "The Dunwich Horror," "The Whisperer in Darkness," and his masterpiece, "At the Mountains of Madness."

Lovecraft lived in Providence, Rhode Island, for most of his life, and he

passed away in relative obscurity in 1937. He had a network of friends who kept his memory alive, and since that time, his work has gone on to have an enormous influence on science fiction and horror fiction. Stephen King's "It" and Jeff Vandermeer's "Annihilation" both have deep strands of Lovecraft's inspiration.

Most of his stories are set in old New England towns, haunted by history and dark forces beyond human understanding. His characters regularly go mad or die. His tales are all about atmosphere and mood.

Lovecraft's work was first recommended to me when

I was a senior by my high school Russian teacher, Ella Van Meter. I remembered Lovecraft's name when I stumbled upon an old edition of "The Outsider and Others" in the stacks at the Camden-Carroll Library at Morehead State. That was my initiation to his work, and I've been hooked for over four decades now.

When I went to graduate school in Massachusetts, I had the opportunity to explore some of the areas that inspired Lovecraft's stories. "The Dunwich Horror" is set in north central Massachusetts, which is still largely rural. Several of his stories are set in his beloved Providence, amongst

houses build decades before the American Revolution. Near where I lived, in a little farming town called Hadley, there was a farming museum which held a large flat stone with a groove cut around the outer edges. It was probably an old cider press, but in a town like Hadley, which was first settled in 1659, legend says it might have used for "human sacrifice."

An academic conference once took me to Providence for the weekend 25 years ago this spring, and while I was there, I spent a day wandering the town on foot. I walked by two of Lovecraft's old home places near the Johns Hopkins Uni-

versity campus, visited his grave ("I Am Providence," his tombstone says), and walked by the haunted, vampiric home in his story "The Shunned House." As I stood at the State House building on Federal Hill, I looked across the Providence River, which divides the city, and saw all of the old historic homes on College Hill. It was a perfectly dark, dreary day, suited to the trip.

There are numerous other sites, not necessarily Lovecraft-related, that I learned were equally inspirational for Lovecraft. The woods and hills are filled with stone structures left by persons unknown from

the past, including "monk's caves." There are old and abandoned towns whose foundations are left moss-covered in the woods. The Quabbin Reservoir, which provides drinking water to Boston, is the basis for Lovecraft's famous story, "The Colour Out of Space," and rests over four buried communities, not unlike our own Cave Run Lake.

Lovecraft's brand of "cosmic horror" is enjoying a renaissance today, even as writers today tackle his sometimes-racist legacy. It tickles me to see his ongoing influence. I'm still enjoying it. I would recommend it.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,
With grocery bills going up every week, wouldn't it be nice if some of the barriers to purchasing locally grown foods could

be lifted? Bath County has many food producers. It seems kind of crazy to me that we cannot take advantage of our local food resources. Removing barriers to the use of locally grown food would improve nutrition and help our local economy.

As it happens, there are some interesting bills in the State Legislature which may help Bath County farmers provide food di-

rectly to the consumer, or to their own families. I would like to share them here, so that people can let their legislators know.

House Bill 86 pertaining to raw milk. This bill would allow the sale of unpasteurized milk directly to consumers.

House Bill 144 pertaining to poultry processing. This bill would allow USDA exempt processors to sell processed poultry

off the farm and at farmers markets and roadside stands.

House Bill 365 pertaining to egg sales. This bill would exempt local farmers from egg licensing requirements as long as no more than 240 dozen eggs per week are sold.

Senate Bill 112 pertaining to fishing. This bill would allow private land owners to fish from their own ponds without needing a fishing license.

There is a hotline in Frankfort that you can call to support these bills. They are very nice to speak to. Just tell them your name and the bills you want to support and ask them to tell your senator and representative. If you do not know who that is, they will even look them up for you!

Here is the number to call toll free: 1 800 372 7181
Sincerely,
Susan Hedgecock

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CLAUDETTE FAUDERE
BATH COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK

Administration Has Been Granted by The District Court of Bath County
Upon the Following Fiduciary Appointments:

DECEASED: Mildred Joyce Prather
ADDRESS: 5261 Kendall Springs Rd. Owingsville, KY 40360
FIDUCIARY: Lorna Broton
ADDRESS: 5261 Kendall Springs Rd. Owingsville, KY 40360
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 2/18/25
CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIMS BY: within 6 months
ATTORNEY: N/A
ADDRESS:

DECEASED: Winfred Ward
ADDRESS: 6081 E. Hwy 36 Olympia, KY 40358
FIDUCIARY: Estill Joe Ward
ADDRESS: 115 W. Martin St. Abington, IL
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 2/18/25
CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIMS BY: within 6 months
ATTORNEY: Kim Hunt Price
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1189, Owingsville, KY 40360

DECEASED: Stephen Payne
ADDRESS: 787 W. Main St., Unit 2, Sharpsburg, KY 40374
FIDUCIARY: Lacey Arriaga Cline
ADDRESS: 7425 Mt. Carmel Rd., Flemingsburg, KY 41041
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 2/18/25
CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIMS BY: within 6 months
ATTORNEY: Hon. Kim Price
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1189, Owingsville, KY 40360

DECEASED: Nevada Marie Cook
ADDRESS: 455 Malibu Dr. Owingsville, KY 40360
FIDUCIARY: Ralph Scott Lucas & Rebecca Lucas
ADDRESS: 455 Malibu Dr. Owingsville, KY 40360
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 2/25/25
CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIMS BY: within 6 months
ATTORNEY: Hon Julie Williamson
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1169, Owingsville, KY 40360

DECEASED: Harold Thurman Jones
ADDRESS: 303 Kendall Springs Rd. Owingsville, KY 40360
FIDUCIARY: Bobby LaRue Jones
ADDRESS: 136 Shroul Rd. Owingsville, KY 40360
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 2/25/25
CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIMS BY: within 6 months
ATTORNEY: N/A
ADDRESS:

DECEASED: Garry Glen Crouch
ADDRESS: 358 Slate Ave. Apt D10 Moutainview Estates, Owingsville, KY 40360
FIDUCIARY: Tracie Crouch Singh
ADDRESS: Sean Michael Crouch
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 2/25/25
CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIMS BY: within 6 months
ATTORNEY: Kim Price
ADDRESS: 100 N. Court Street. P.O. Box 1189 Owingsville, KY 40360

DECEASED: James Mitchell Gibbs
ADDRESS: 2169 Elk Lick Rd. Salt Lick, KY 40371
FIDUCIARY: Lisa Ray Gibbs
ADDRESS: 2169 Elk Lick Rd., Salt Lick, KY 40371
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 2/25/25
CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIMS BY: within 6 months
ATTORNEY: W. Thomas Bunch II
ADDRESS: 126 W. Maxwell St. Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40508
Published in the Bath County News Outlook 03.06.25

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CLAUDETTE FAUDERE
BATH COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK

Notice of Final Settlements filed in Bath District Court:

NAME OF ESTATE: Mary Etta Coyle
NAME OF EXECUTOR/ADMINISTRATOR: Roger Coyle
DATE FILED: 12/24/26
Any exceptions to final settlements must be filed within 30 days from date said settlement was filed in Bath District Court.

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NOTICE

The Gateway Community Action Agency Bi-Monthly Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at the Clark Energy Building, located at 8 Bible Camp Ln, Frenchburg, KY 40322, Menifee County. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. A Weatherization Conflict of Interest will be discussed. The public is invited to attend.

The Bi-Monthly Board agenda may be viewed on the Gateway website, under the events tab.

Published in the Rowan County News and Bath County News Outlook on 02.27 & 03.06 of 2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Gateway District Health Department
New Administrative Office Building
Owingsville, Bath Co., Kentucky

Sealed bids for the construction of the approximately 3,485 SF new Administrative Office Building and all work shown in the contract documents will be received on behalf of the Gateway District Health Department, Owingsville, KY, will be received in the office of Gregory Brewer, Executive Director, Gateway District Health Department, 42 Treadway, Owingsville, KY 40360, (606) 674-6396, until 11:00 AM, March 20, 2025 and then at said office will be publicly opened and read aloud. Faxed or electronic bids will not be accepted.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be reviewed at the following locations:
MSE Web Site: mselex.com under Bid Opportunities.

All Contract Documents and Addenda will be posted on our web page, mselex.com under Bid Opportunities and will be distributed via email to all plan holders from Lynn Imaging.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Lynn Imaging, 328 E. Vine St., Lexington, KY 40507, (859) 226-5850 upon receipt of a check made payable to Lynn Imaging in the amount of \$250.00 (non-refundable). All orders must be prepaid. There will be a 24-hour turn-around on all orders.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to Gateway District Health Department, government bonds, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and acceptable sureties in an amount equal to five percent of the bid shall be submitted with bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for the following: 1) 5% Bid Bond; and 2) A performance and payment bond for 100% of the contract price.

The Owner may consider informal any bid not prepared and submitted in accordance with the provisions of this advertisement and/or the specifications and may waive any informalities or reject any and all Bids. Any proposal received after the time and date specified shall not be considered and will be returned unopened to the proposer. The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Sealed bid should be labeled "Gateway District Health Department New Office Building Project".

Federal Wage Rates do not apply to this project.

No Bidder may withdraw the Bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Award will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. Bidding is for the sole benefit of the Gateway District Health Department. The Gateway District Health Department is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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