

SCHOCHOH--WHAT'S THAT?

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When the name Schochoh is brought up in the conversation, the first thing people say is "how is that spelled?" Then they say, "Is there really such a place?" Of course there is such a place, and it is a place that has a very exciting and important history. Schochoh is located in the Southeastern section of Logan County, Kentucky. Logan County was one of the earlier counties of Kentucky. Schochoh was the first section of Logan County settled.

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It all began during the years of 1779 and 1780.¹ The first white people to come to the area west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Mississippi were hunters and trappers. The first visitor to this section of Logan County was Morton Maulding while hunting in 1780. These words were recorded in a suit of Craddock vs. Russell's heirs. Maulding said:

"In the year 1780, I think in May, I went hunting from Manscoe's Lick and fell into a buffalo trace at the head of Muddy River, at the Big Spring, and pursued it to the Middle Lick, then to Moate's Lick, at which place I cut the first letters of my name, and encamped all night.

Upon my return I gave information of the Lick's I had found and no person knowing of them, I named one Moate's Lick by which it has been called ever since.

¹Alexander C. Finely, The History of Russellville and Logan County, (publication place unknown, 1878), p. 16.

In the fall of 1780 my father moved from Carolina and settled on Red River."²

The area of Logan County known as Schochoh was first settled by emigrants from the Carolinas and Virginia. Some of these people came through the country on horseback or by walking and among these settlers was James Maulding. Maulding came from Carolina County, Virginia in the fall of 1780 with part of his family and settled on Red River--Southeast of Adairville, Kentucky. This settlement came to be known as Maulding Fort or Maulding Station. Maulding had four sons--Morton, Ambrose, Richard, and Wesley--and several daughters.³ This settlement was not far from Kentucky. Here Maulding thought he and his family could live in peace but he soon found he was mistaken.

The Chickasaw Indians owned this territory and were at first friendly with the settlers. After a disagreement with James Robertson, who founded Robertson's Station later called Nashboro, and today known as Nashville, the Chickasaws became hostile and attacked the settlers with violence. These attacks broke up Maulding Station in 1782.⁴ The homeless fugitives from this broken fort fled in every direction.

While these settlers were fleeing from the Indians, another figure arose--Philip Alston. Alston was born in South Carolina but later removed to North Carolina. The first

²Finely, p. 26.
³Ibid., p. 16.
⁴Ibid., p. 17.

historical and authentic account of him is as a counterfeiter in Raleigh, North Carolina. When found out, he fled to Natchez which was then under Spanish control. There he became a prosperous speculator and planter. After a number of years his appetite for counterfeiting returned. He had to escape from Natchez after counterfeiting property belonging to the Catholic Church. In 1783 he settled in Logan County at the mouth of the Big Whippoorwill Creek. This was the first station in Logan County.⁵ Philip Alston began his life as a farmer, but in the fall he became a manufacturer of salt or at least "Richard Maulding said he called it salt which would lead one to believe that it was not better than the best Kanawha salt." About 1786 his thirst for counterfeiting returned. He argued that he had been a counterfeiter when he was rich, how much more should be be one now that he was poor. About 1788 the country was flooded with bad money, and the people banished him from Red River.⁶ "Philip Alston was actually crazy. One day he would be kind, carrying his Bible and praying, the next day he would be hateful, cursing and carrying on, beating up anyone who got in his way."⁷

Finally in late 1783 James Maulding built another station on a fork of Red River on the site of an old Indian burial ground.⁸

⁵Finely, p. 20.

⁶Ibid., p. 44.

⁷Genevive Savage, resident of Adairville, interview, March 7, 1970.

⁸Savage, March 7, 1970.

This fort was about ten miles north, northeast of Adairville. James' four sons, "bold, hardy, and enterprising men, habituated from boyhood to a hunter life, devoted to its pursuits and capable of enduring its hardships," moved with their father⁹ but in 1784 Morton Maulding moved settling above the mouth of the Little Whippoorwill Creek which was not far from the settlement of his father.¹⁰

A later settler of this area was John McPherson in 1788. He came from Jefferson County, Kentucky. (This family still lives in Schochoh on Red River about 300 yards from the site of the second Maulding Station.) Now that the area is settled let us look at the formation of law and order.

On June 1, 1792 Logan became a county in Kentucky. As early as 1776 Kentucky was a county of Virginia. In May 1780 the residents of these counties and an area in the north central section of Tennessee organized a government at Nashboro. They were independent of their mother government--Virginia. Morton Maulding, Ambrose Maulding, Peter Sides, and Philip Alston were some of the signers of the Cumberland Compact of 1780.¹¹

The first election was held in 1794. The most likely to be selected as the first representative of the county was Morton Maulding, son of James and Caty Maulding. He was born in Carolina Virginia; a hunter and therefore very popular with the people.

¹⁰Finely, p. 25.

¹¹Ibid., p. 31.

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When time ^{came} to appoint Magistrates in earlier courts he was not selected but his brother Ambrose was appointed. He was not appointed sheriff, but his brother Wesley was appointed. He was not appointed, perhaps because his aspirations were higher, and maybe because he could neither read nor write for "the leaves of lore had not to his mind unfolded, but when the time came to choose a man to represent the entire west and of Kentucky, Mr. Maulding was selected."¹² But soon the influence that the Mauldings held over this area was to come to an end. In 1795 Young Ewing was elected representative to the Legislature, and the Ewing family began their rule of this area.¹³ Now that the political aspect has been established, let us look at the religious growth of this area.

The early settlers were Presbyterian or believed in that doctrine. The question of manifest destiny seemed to be a part of everyone's faith. Those who were sinners were influenced by Philip Alston.

Some people think the Indians camped at Schochoh and named it, but it was named for a small town in Judea. Before 1850 Mr. Broadnax lived in what is now called the John Conn farm. His land extended to Schochoh. He burned bricks and built a church and a row of "brick tents". Here camp-meetings were held for many years during "The Great Awakening" in Kentucky.

Schochoh was brought into the limelight in 1948 by the COURIER JOURNAL as a "Landmark of Religion" in America. Just

¹²Finely, p. 42.

¹³Ibid., p. 45.

across the road from the site of Maulding Station is the location of the old Red River Church and graveyard. This was the site of the "Great Revival of 1800" and the birth of Cumberland Presbyterianism. Among Kentucky's earliest settlers were many Scottish and Scotch-Irish in origin. Their ancestors had come to the New World seeking religious liberty. Here also were held the first authorized camp-meetings which developed such an active, religious fervor which spread all over the Southern section of Logan County. Possibly the first presiding pastor of the Red River Church was Rev. James McGready. (One of the last pastors was Rev. Billy Jordan.)¹⁴ In Roosevelt's book, The Settling of the West, volume seven, he states that this Revival of 1800 stepped up the settling of the west fifty years. Until this time people in the east were afraid that only savages lived in this country. In 1850 there were three surviving members--James Soyars; Mrs. A. T. Butt, Danville; and Frank L. Hampton, Oakville.

There are four hundred graves in the cemetery. The oldest one distinguishable is 1799 when "Margaret, consort of Robert Paisley, departed this life, aged about 53 years." Next to it is Robert's grave. He died in 1828 at the age of 89 and "was elder in the Presbyterian Church." On his stone is written the twenty-third Psalm in Gaelic--"IT IS GOD HIMSELF WHO IS MY SHEPARD." In this cemetery are pioneers of Western Kentucky,

¹⁴Margaret Barnes Stratton, Place-Names of Logan County and Oft-Told Tales, (publication place unknown, 1950), p. 15.

veterans of the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.¹⁵

About a quarter of a mile east of the church was a big spring called the Blue Spring, which emptied into Sinking Creek on which James Maulding settled many years before. There is a cave at the mouth of Sinking Creek. One could go in this cave and come out at Gorham Spring one and one-half miles away. (Today the cave at Gorham Spring is called Savage Cave and is owned by Mrs. Genevive Savage.) There is a store on the north side of the Bowling Green and Keysburg Road. R. W. Thompson was selling goods there as far back as the oldest inhabitants there today can remember.¹⁶

Mrs. Savage related this story on March 7, 1970.

"The outlaws of this area did not like these camp meetings. So one Sunday they decided that they would scare the congregation. They rode to the church door on their horses, shootin' and hollerin'. As soon as they dismounted, the outlaws began to shake. They couldn't stop. Some of 'em tried to grab a holt of the trees, but that did not stop 'em. They finally got on their horses and rode off. There's no explanation."

Another often told tale was told by Mr. J. R. Harper who is now dead. He was undertaker at Schochoh for over forty years, and this is a true experience. *Are you discounting the one above?* One time he had to direct a funeral out of the county and was using the kind of hearse drawn by horses which left the driver uncovered. After they started back home, a violent rain storm came up about dark and so he

¹⁵Stratton, p. 15.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 12-13.

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said to the old colored driver:

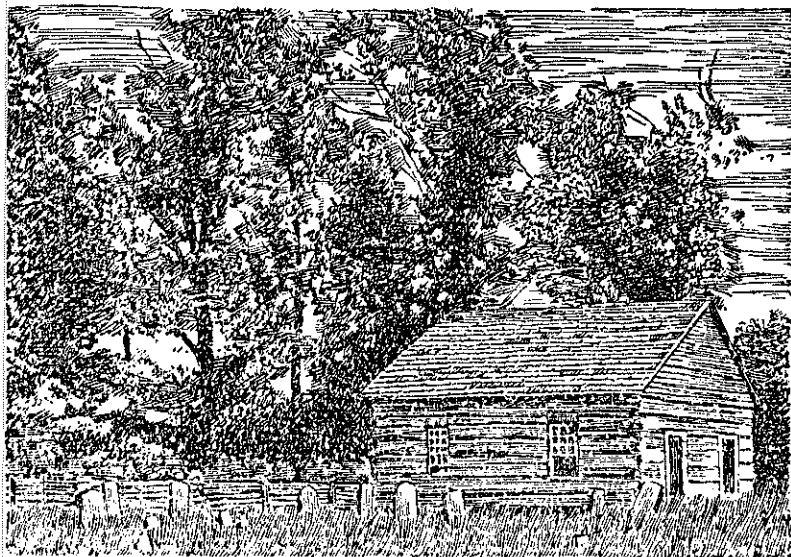
"Church, you and I will take turns about driving home, so you'll not get so wet and cold."

Looking back quickly, his eyes rolling with fear, Church said, "Naw suh! Mr. Dick, you just ride in the dry. I'll drive all the way."¹⁷

Today Schochoh is not a very thriving place. It has one garage, two fertilizer plants, and two churches--Whipporwill Baptist (of which I am a member), and Antioch Church of Christ.

Although Schochoh is difficult to spell, and not many people have heard of it, it will always have an exciting history that made it instrumental in the settling of the west.

¹⁷Stratton, p. 15.



THE FIRST OLD RED RIVER MEETING HOUSE
 (Presbyterian), Logan County, Kentucky

It has long been a dream that a replica of this old pioneer meeting house be built. The dream has come true, after many years of waiting.

Filled with an urge for action, thirteen members of the Board of its Memorial Association signed notes for one hundred dollars each in order that the work could be begun in July of 1959. By late fall the house was under roof.

The building is constructed of hand-hewn logs and chinked with mud-colored mortar. The roof is of hand-made, red oak boards like those of the pioneer period over 175 years ago. The large chimney and hearth are of rock; the doors and window shutters are of battened wood, with large hinges. After the indebtedness is paid, it is planned to have puncheon floors and benches similar to those used at the time the old log church was built.

Plans for the building were drawn by the late Frank J. Cheek, Jr., Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Kentucky, from an early, printed pen sketch of the original church.

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A BIT OF HISTORY

In 1789, the year George Washington became President, this old meeting house was standing on the nation's frontier—the first church in what is now Western Kentucky, and which in 1792 became Logan County. Among the earliest ministers to serve it was Reverend Thomas Craighead who came to the vicinity in the year 1785.

The site, with its old burying ground, is on a prong of Red River first known as Maulding's Fork, now called Spring Creek, and located in south Logan County. Maulding's Fort, built in 1780 for protection against Indians by early Scotch-Irish settlers, stood nearby—also John McPherson's Apothecary Shop, dating from 1785.

Lawlessness and Godlessness prevailed on this frontier up until 1800 and the Great Revival's beginning here. The little church was "a flickering candle" in the wilderness until its light burst forth in revival under the leadership of its minister, Rev. James McGready. In his own words printed in a New York Missionary Magazine in 1803: "The first extraordinary manifestation of Divine Power was at Red River the third Sabbath of June, viz 1800." This religious movement, since known as The Great Revival of 1800, spread in all directions in our nation. Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists worked here together in unison. It has been termed "The Western Reformation." Rev. Barton Stone of Bourbon County went down to Logan County in 1801 to attend a meeting and declared that "it baffled description and was the work of God." Upon his return, a large revival followed at Cane Ridge, and from this developed the denomination, the Disciples of Christ. The Red River Church Book of 1833 states: "Red River Church was the seat of the Memorable Revival of 1800 out of which the Cumberland Presbyterians arose." Other denominations present today are the direct outgrowth of this great revival.

This spot is one of the most memorable in Kentucky's and our nation's history of religion—the place where the battle for our heritage of Christianity was fought and won, and the location of the world's first Camp Meeting.

Interest is high that this place be made a state or national shrine. Mrs. Frank J. Cheek, Jr., of Lexington, Ky., has collected extensive material relating to its early history and the Great Revival of 1800, with documentary proof of its age and greatness.

THE BURYING GROUNDS

In the large cemetery on these grounds lie many pioneers, among whom are soldiers of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. The Daughters of the American Revolution have marked the graves of Gen. Robert Ewing and Capt. Robert Paisley. Here also lie one soldier who fought in the Battle of Waterloo, and the widows of two men who fought in the French and Indian Wars. One old gravestone contains the 23rd Psalm written in Gaelic.

MINISTERS AT OLD RED RIVER CHURCH

Early missionaries first served the old church, and among the ministers to preach here prior to the coming of Rev. James McGready in 1796 were such men as Revs. Thomas Craighead, Samuel Finley, Hezekiah Balch and others whose names are familiar in the pioneer history of the country. The list is long during and following the Great Revival of 1800, and men of all denominations came to help. Many great ministers were converted here, among them the grand old man of Methodism, Rev. Peter Cartwright; Rev. Finis Ewing and many others.

EARLY FAMILIES

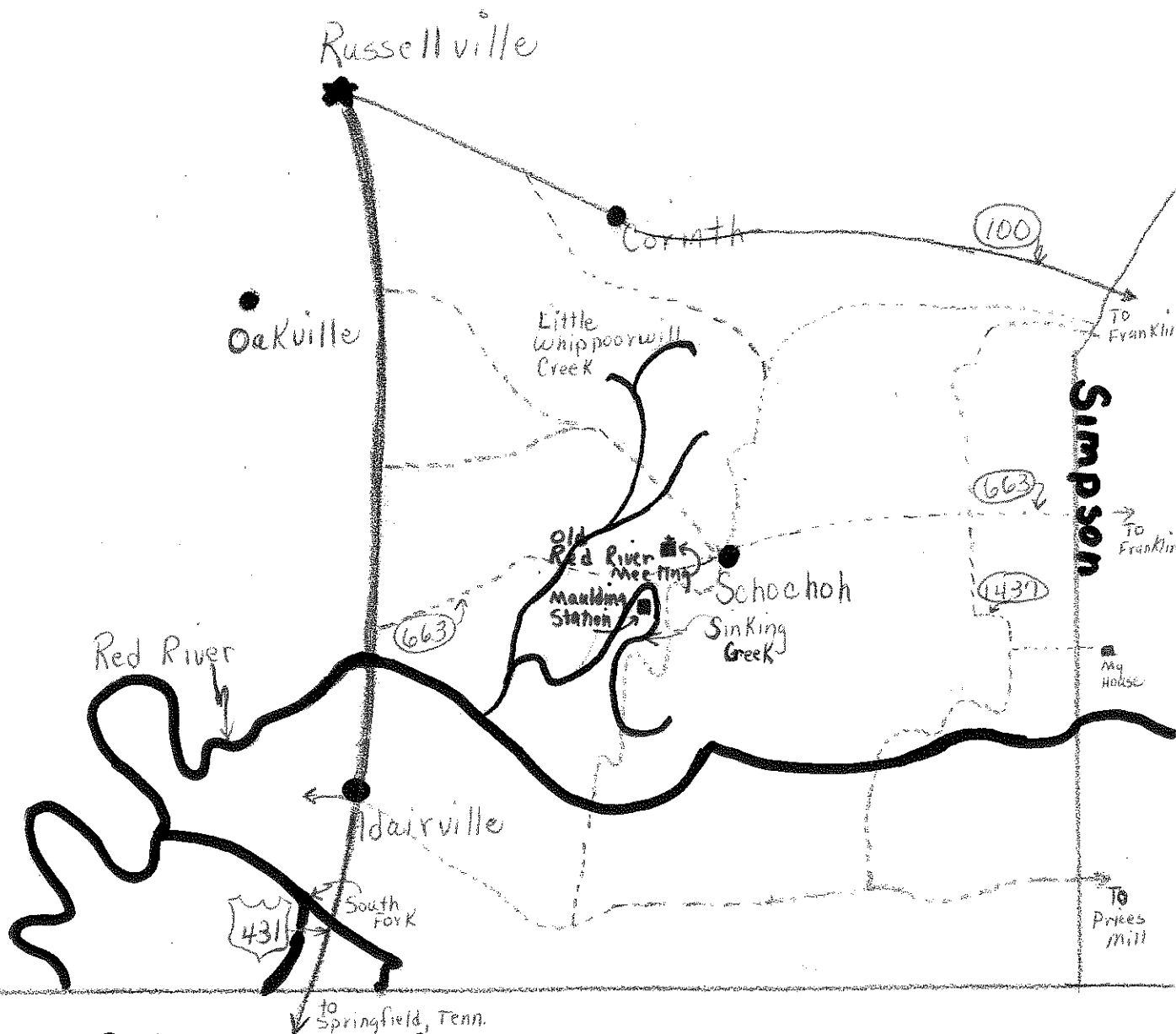
Among the early families of the neighborhood many represented in the old burying grounds, were the Ewings, Townsends, Clarks, Boyds, Pences, McPhersons, Paisleys, Briens, Campbells, Sprouts, Hodges, Gorhams, Gordons, Barkers, Moores, Roberts, Morgans, Browns, Penicks, Judkins, Offutts, McCuddys, Orndorffs, Conns, Hardins, Burrs, Gilberts, Spencers, Beauchamps, Hamp-ton, and Buntons.

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