**Remembering Red Bird and Sequoyah: A Reply to Simek et al.**

**Supplemental Table 2**

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Supplemental Table 2. References Concerning the Existence of Red Bird, His Murder, and Burial in Clay County, Kentucky.a

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| **Source** | **Text** | **Reference** |
| Excerpt from *Old Frontiers* | May, 1788, the family of John Kirk was murdered at his home on the Little River, twelve miles south of the present site of Knoxville, by a band of Indians headed by Chiefs Slim Tom and Red Bird, of Chilhowie. | Brown 1938:272 |
| Excerpt from *Old Frontiers* | June 2, 1788, Major Hubbard was sent to destroy the town of Chilhowie to punish those Indians for the Kirk massacre, Slim Tom and Red Bird being from that place…The murdered Cherokees were: Old Tassel, head chief of the upper towns; Abram and his son, and the Hanging Man of Chote and his brother. | Brown 1938:277 |
| Excerpt from a letter from Colonel Arthur Campbell to Governor of Virginia | February 1 1792, Colonel Campbell reported that the Cherokee raided Washington at Moccasin Gap last Fall, also raided Kentucky Road under Red Bird (*Members of the Livingston family were killed at Moccasin Gap by Robert Benge.*). | Draper 1755-1815:13S26-28; Kutsche 1986:437 |
| Excerpt of a letter from Samuel Newell to Colonel Arthur Campbell | February 1, 1792, Red Bird of Chota led a mischief party. | Draper 1755-1815:9DD67; Kutsche 1986:447 |
| Excerpt of information given to Major Craig by Red Bird | September 4, 1792, To Major Craig—4th Septr—viz.—that 6 or 7 Indians were out in order to do mischief. Part of them Shawnees and part Cherokees from Running Water or Nickajack. A few days afterwards Cockran was shot at. Reasons—and said that John Watts had been to Pensacola—that he brought with him Seven horse loads of ammunition and as many accouterments as were sufficient to equip 200 horsemen—swords, and c. (sic)—and that Watts was appointed to command the Creek and the Cherokees who should be called into the field and be for war; and that the Creek Nation had met in Council and agreed to the appointment. By harassing the frontiers near the upper towns of the Cherokees they meant to draw the White people on those towns and thereby engage them in the war contrary to their inclination. That the party who had assembled for war was not stopped so much by the Bloody Fellow, Glass and John Watts (II) as by Unanecata who returned from Knoxville just as they had assembled. That the Headmen of the other towns sent talks to the 5 lower towns to suspend their hostilities until their corn was ripe lest the White people should come and destroy it, and they, thereby be unable to stand both *hunger* and *cold*—But the Red Bird does not know whether this advice proceeded from policy to defer—or willingness to proceed at a more eligible season. | Bird 1792 |
| Extracts of Correspondence on Indian Affairs | October 1792, the Cherokee Chief Red Bird was from the town of Chilhowee (Chilhowie) located on the Little Tennessee River in Tennessee. His report is dated 15 Sept. | Washington 1792 |
| Excerpt from the statement of Mrs. Livingston | April 6, 1794, Robert Benge and four other Cherokee attacked the Livingston homestead (Washington County, Virginia), tomahawked Sarah Livingston (she took four days to die), and captured Elizabeth and Susanna Livingston. Henry, Peter, and Samuel Livingston joined a militia and tracked down and killed Robert Benge. They took his scalp and the Livingston family kept Robert Benge’s axe as a souvenir. *(The Livingston family believed Red Bird was one of the four Cherokee who escaped).* | Evans 1976 |
| Excerpt from a letter to the Cherokee Nation | April 2, 1796, I am sorry to hear that some of my red brethren are missing or lost if it is the case we cannot as yet find out who it is that have done so wrong and black a deed but when it is known our laws will then punish him with death. | Seiver 1796 |
| Excerpt from a letter to the Cherokee Nation | February 10, 1797, I am sorry to hear of so much blood being spilt, it is a thing I never expected would again happen between the Cherokees and White people — when I first heard that two of your people was killed I did not believe it…although it was done I am informed in the State of Kentucky, though I believe the men lives in this state that committed the murder. | Seiver 1797a |
| Excerpt from a letter to US Congressman William Blount, cc Cherokee Agent Silas Dinsmore | February 14, 1797…two Indians said to be very inhumanly murdered by (Edward) Ned Mitchell and John Levingston (Livingston) somewhere near unto the head of Kentucky River. | Seiver 1797b |
| Excerpt from a letter to Sequoyah’s Uncle, John Watts II, and the Cherokee Nation | March 5, 1797, I know very well, that some of the white people are bad men and have been guilty of a horrid crime in killing the Red Bird and Will. | Seiver 1797c |

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| Excerpt from a letter to James Garrad, Governor of Kentucky | March 17, 1797, The wanton and unprovoked murder committed on the Red Bird and another Indian of the Cherokee tribe, is a crime so atrocious and aggravating in its nature, that it is my sincere wish and desire to have the perpetrators apprehended, in order they may suffer agreeably to the demerit of their crimes. | Seiver 1797d |
| Excerpt from a letter to the Hawkins County, Tennessee Sheriff | March 19, 1797, I am just now informed by an express from the Governor of the State of Kentucky that a most cruel daring and unprovoked murder was perpetrated by Edward Mitchell and John Levingston (Livingston), citizens of this State and inhabitants of Hawkins County, on two Indians of the Cherokee Nation, one of the name of Red Bird who was hunting in the State of Kentucky, on the waters of Kentucky River. | Seiver 1797e |
| Excerpt from a letter to the “The Warriors and Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation” | March 28, 1797, I have received an express from the Governor of Kentucky which informs me that two men Citizens of the State of Tennessee, has murdered two men of your Nation, one of the name of Red Bird. This murder was committed within the bounds and State of Kentucky, and the Governor there of has demanded of me to send them into that State to be tried for the murder agreeably to the laws of the State. | Seiver 1797f |
| Kentucky Court Records | Red Bird Fork and Jack's Creek, from two friendly Indians bearing those names, to home was granted the privilege of hunting there; they were both murdered for the furs they had accumulated, and their bodies thrown into the water. | Collins 1847 |
| July 12, 1898, interview of John R. Gilbert, in Clay County, Kentucky. | I was born in Clay County, Kentucky, September 18, 1841. I am the son of Abijah and Martha Gilbert. I knew my grandfather, John Gilbert well. I used to be with him a great deal. When I was 14 years old, he and I were passing the mouth of Hector’s Creek. He said here in this bottom just above the mouth of this creek is where Red Bird was killed. Red Bird and his companion, Jack, were asleep. A party of white men came along. A young man in the party had lost his father by the Indians and he had taken a vow that he would kill the first Indian he should meet. This was the first chance. He took the tomahawk of these sleeping Indians and with it killed them and threw them in the river. He said he came along a short time after the murder was committed and saw their bodies. I think he helped bury them though I do not remember. He told me the name of the young man who killed them. It was a queer name but I do not remember it. He said Red Bird was a peaceable Indian and should not have been killed. | Dickey 1898: 2390 |
| July 12, 1898, interview of Abijah Gilbert in Clay County, Kentucky | Red Bird was killed by some hunters below the mouth of Big Creek and thrown into a hole of water. I do not know whether my father helped bury him or not. I have heard my father talk about Red Bird but I do not remember anything definitely now. There was no justification for the murder of Red Bird. The hunters quarreled with him about furs and killed him out of greed. He had an Indian with him, called Jack, who escaped. | Dickey 1898: 2384 |
| February 2, 1898, interview with Captain Byron in Clay County, Kentucky. | The Indian chief for whom Red Bird Creek in Clay County was named was a Cherokee from Tennessee or North Carolina. Like others of his race, he was a great hunter and allured by the game in this remote region he finally took up his residence on the creek that bears his name at the mouth of Jack's Creek in this county. He came to his death by the avarice of the "pale face." There lived with him a crippled Indian named Willie. This man dressed the skins, which Red Bird brought to their wigwam and looked after the culinary department of their house. Some hunters from North Carolina, greedy and unscrupulous, came to the wigwam and murdered Willie. They then secreted themselves and awaited the return of the brave chief who had long before buried his tomahawk and for years had been living in peace with the white man, and as he approached his crude castle the bullet of an assassin laid him in the dust. They threw his body into a hole of water nearby which is still called "Willie's Hole," and from which John Gilbert and others took him and buried him. One tradition is that he was sitting on the bank of a creek fishing when he was shot and that he fell into the creek | Dickey 1898:2074-2075 |
| Kentucky Court Order Books A (1807 to 1815) and B (1815 to 1832) | Was a legendary Cherokee Indian for whom this fork of the Kentucky River is named. He and another Indian, Jack, whose name was given creek to the south, were friendly with early settlers and permitted to hunt in area. Allegedly they were killed in battle protecting their furs and the bodies thrown into river here. *The ledges bear markings attributed to Red Bird* (italicized words are our emphasis). | Wilson 1978, 2002 |

1. Red Bird was a Cherokee Chief. He should not be confused with Hooshe (Hushi [Bird]) Hoomah (Humma [Red]) a Choctaw Chief and treaty signer named Red Bird, whose kin was also killed in Kentucky and correspondences are documented in letters from W.C.C. Claiborne to Henry Dearborn (Rowland 1917; Swanton 1931:105-106).

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