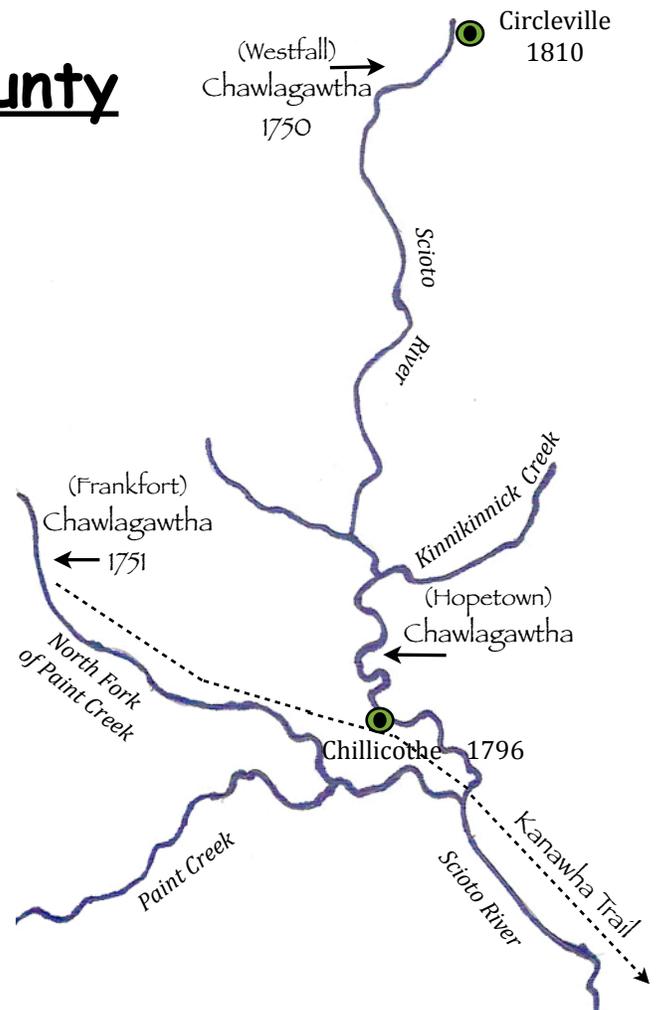


# The Shawnee Indians in Ross County

Ross County was once a home of the Shawnee Indians. They called their principle town Chawlagawtha or Chillicothe which meant the place where the tribe lived or a village. It was often the place where the principle chief was living at the time. During the time that the Shawnee lived in Ohio there were five known Chawlagawthas or Chillicothes. Two of the early Chawlagawthas were located in Ross County. One at Hopetown (three miles north of Chillicothe), and one where Frankfort is now located. A third Chillicothe was located in Pickaway County south of Circleville near Westfall.



The Shawnee town at Frankfort was known as "Old Town" or "Old Chillicothe." Shawnee occupied Old Town for many years, it was a spot of major importance. In October, 1774, over a thousand warriors from the Shawnee and Mingo tribes meet at Old Town to prepare for battle against the whites. Chief Cornstalk led them south on the Kanawha Trail in an attempt to stop Col. Lewis and his forces from entering the Ohio Country. Just across the Ohio River they met Col. Lewis's army in what came to be called the Battle of Pt. Pleasant. Tecumseh's father Pucksinwah was killed in this fight.

The Pioneer Record, an early history of Ross county, gives us a good idea of how populated Old Town was. It states that a Capt. Slover said Old Town had about two hundred cabins or huts present during his captivity in 1783.

Indians remained in Ross County for a number of years after the white settlement began. As the years went by their numbers became less and less as their people moved westward.