

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

\$\$\$\$ Challenge Cost-Share Program - 2004 \$\$\$\$

Many of the projects accomplished along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail are receiving funding from the National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share Program. Your project might qualify, too. Give us a call and we will send you a project proposal form and instructions. Projects should support the programs and goals of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail as set forth in the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan.

If you have a possible project, contact John Conoboy right away by mail or phone (505-988-6733).

Remember, Challenge Cost-Share funds are not a grant, but rather are funds for mutually-agreed-upon national historic trail projects.

Site-specific projects can generally only be funded for certified sites. Projects can be related to resource protection, management, visitor use facilities, interpretation, education, or research. Projects require a 50/50 match of federal and nonfederal funding. However, the nonfederal match can include the value of volunteer time and other in-kind services, donated equipment and supplies, and so forth. If you're not sure

whether or not your project will qualify, call us anyway, and let's talk.

In fiscal year 2004, there was a reduction in the amount of Challenge Cost-Share funds available for national trails nationwide. Our total was reduced by approximately 16%, and we now have two new trails (El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail) that are eligible to apply for funds.

We have extended our deadline. Project proposals should be received at the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe by March 31, 2004.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail



Trail of Tears Association   Trail News

TOTA Returns to Cherokee Homelands for Conference

The 8th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium was held October 6 - 9, 2003, at the Holiday Inn in Cherokee, North Carolina. There were over 170 people at the conference.

The Museum of the Cherokee Indian welcomed conferees to Cherokee with a reception and book signing at the museum the night of the 6th. After a morning board of directors meeting on the 7th, TOTA President Jack Baker introduced Principal



After welcoming conferees, Principal Chief Chad Smith (second from left), from the Cherokee Nation, and Principal Chief Michell Hicks (second from right), from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, pose for a photo with their wives, Bobbie Smith and Marsha Ball Hicks.

Chief Michell Hicks of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at the opening luncheon. Chief Hicks first welcomed conference attendees to the Eastern Band's homeland, and then described the importance the Eastern Band places on preserving the story of the Cherokee removal. Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation then spoke to the conferees about the significance of not only telling the story of removal but also of telling about the enormous strength and resilience of the Cherokee people in surviving and prospering after removal.

Concurrent sessions started the afternoon of the 7th and ended the 9th. Presenters at the conference included Bill Anderson from Western Carolina University, James Bird from the Eastern Band's Cultural Resources Department, Michael Green from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duane King from the Southwest Museum, Theda Perdue from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Jaime Pinkham and Rick Wood from The Trust for Public Land, Brett Riggs from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Anne Rogers from Western Carolina University, former Deputy Principal Chief



Photo courtesy of Ted Slape
(Shown left to right) Betty Barker, Mary Adair, Carole Richmond, Betty Merryfield, and Jeri Wood wear their tear dresses to the opening reception and book signing at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.

Hastings Shade from the Cherokee Nation, Anna McCoy Smith, a researcher of the Moravian church, Phillip Thomason from Thomason and Associates, and Dave Welch from the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Presentation topics included Creeks in Indian Territory, intermarriage between Europeans and Indians, Creek removal, Cherokee removal, trail preservation, land conservation, the Eastern Band's removal exemption, maps and new discoveries along the Trail, the relationship between Cherokee and Moravian women, the Trail of Tears in North Carolina, and Cherokee culture.

Two tours were offered to conferees, including a driving tour to Murphy, North Carolina, that included narration about Trail of Tears sites seen along the way, and another tour to Junaluska Memorial Museum and Kituhwa Mound. Both tours were very well-received among those attending.

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Dr. Brett Riggs (center) explains to tour participants the significance of Kituhwa Mound.

A Message from the Trail of Tears Association President

In an earlier newsletter I gave my vision for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, which is to have numerous certified sites with interpretation all along the routes. Arkansas is moving toward that goal. The Department of Arkansas Heritage, with the help of a challenge cost share grant from the National Park Service, is in the process of erecting Trail of Tears' interpretation displays at six sites all across the state. These range from a site in eastern Arkansas at Helena on the Mississippi River, which was on the river route to northwest Arkansas at Pea Ridge National Battlefield Park, on the northern land route.

It is only with partners like the Department of Arkansas Heritage that this vision will be realized. I am grateful for their leadership under Bobbie Heffington in leading the way and becoming an example for other states to follow. Indeed, they were instrumental in helping to establish the Trail of Tears Association and assisted in hosting the first annual conference in 1996. It is partners like this that will make the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail a success!

Pat Hays, the mayor of North Little Rock, has also shown his interest in the Trail of Tears by hosting a two-day charette to discuss ways of interpreting the forced removal of the Five Civilized Tribes, in a premier site along the riverfront in North Little Rock. This city has the distinction of being one of only two locations through which at least a part of each of the Tribes



Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association

passed during their removal. (The other is Fort Smith.) The site is across the Arkansas River from the soon-to-be completed Clinton Presidential Library and will draw a significant number of visitors in the coming years. I appreciate Mayor Hays' interest in the Trail of Tears and look forward to the development of the site with the inclusion of Trail of Tears interpretation.

In December I visited the Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. While there I saw the travel diary of Miles Vogler, a missionary to the Cherokees, of his journey in the fall of 1838 from Brainerd Mission at present Chattanooga to the Cherokee Nation West. This hand-written, 65-page diary gives a detailed account of the route he took. Vogler, with two other Moravian missionaries, used the same northern route that was used by the majority of the Cherokees who left in the weeks following Vogler's departure. The Archives is transcribing the diary and has agreed to make it available for us to publish. This diary will be a great asset in locating the actual Trail that was

used and in identifying any segments that may still exist.

Their chief archivist, C. Daniel Crews, is translating the Minutes of the Governing Board for the Southern Province of the Moravian Church for 1838. The original record is in German script and most of it has never before been translated into English. Much of the discussion has to do with the Cherokee situation regarding removal. The Moravians were very interested, as they had in 1801 established the first mission to the Cherokees at Springplace in Georgia. Several Cherokees visited Salem in that year, including Chief John Ross, Major Ridge, and George Hicks. These documents will give a unique view of the conflicts regarding the Cherokee removal; and, fortunately, Mr. Crews has also agreed to make this available for us to publish. (I would like to thank Anna McCoy Smith, a Moravian and a Cherokee, whose introduction and influence made it possible to access these valuable records.)

These are exciting times for the Trail of Tears Association as new interpretation displays are going up and new documents are being uncovered regarding the Trail!

Jack D. Baker

[Visit the Moravian Archives website at www.moravianarchives.org and order their booklet, *Faith and Tears: The Moravian Mission among the Cherokee*, by C. Daniel Crews.]

A Message from the Superintendent of the National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region

With the start of a new year, I look back on the accomplishments and challenges of 2003, and I look forward to working with our partners in 2004 to protect and interpret the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

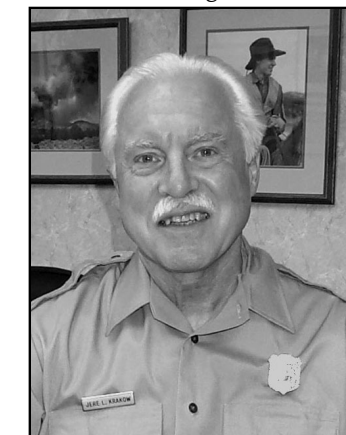
This has been my first full year as Superintendent of the National Trails System - Santa Fe and Salt Lake City. The year began with the annual Trail of Tears Association Symposium in Cherokee, North Carolina. Thanks to the hard work of the Association and the North Carolina chapter, the symposium was a big success, with excellent speakers and outstanding field trips and exhibits.

Budget figures for this fiscal year (which started October 1, 2003) are slowly beginning to emerge from Washington, D.C., through the Intermountain Region, Denver. There is good news and bad news. The bad news is that Challenge Cost Share Program funds for the Santa Fe Office have been cut from \$72,000 to \$60,000. On top of that, the addition of the newly authorized Old Spanish National Historic Trail and the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, which our Santa Fe Office co-administers with the Bureau of Land Management, means that more trails are competing for a share of those funds.

The good news is, the Trail of Tears budget was increased by \$55,000. The funding increase is the result of diligent work by

The Partnership for the National Trails System, Inc., and its executive director, Gary Werner. However, as is customary, our Washington, D.C., and regional offices will take some share of that money to help cover their operational costs. We are still waiting to learn what the amount of those assessments will be.

Significant headway has been made in trail certification along the routes of the Trail of



Jere Krakow, Superintendent of the National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region

Tears. We are streamlining the process and making the agreement forms simpler. A new certification brochure will replace the outdated certification handbook. Several new sites have been certified and a number of agreements are pending (see page 5). An attractive framed certificate has been designed for site owners to display, and designs for signs have been created by our staff.

Legislation (HR#3342) has been introduced to study and recommend whether

to include the Bengie and Bell Routes as part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Certainly there are ample historical accounts of detachments of Cherokee on the routes during the removal. In addition, mapping of the routes and identification of some sites and segments along them were included in the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan. Trail supporters, particularly in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama, would like to see the bill amended to include additional removal routes in those states. At this writing, no hearing on the legislation has been scheduled.

In addition to the Strategic Plan developed in Memphis in 2002, we will soon have a finalized Interpretive Plan. These two plans, developed with you, will guide the work of the Association and the NPS for at least the next five years. Many of you responded to the request to prioritize the top five actions identified in the interpretive planning process, and we thank you for your input. Respondents identified signing of the trail as a high priority. This item will be discussed in April with the association Board, and several sign prototypes will be evaluated. Note the article on page 7 containing results of the vote. The partnership between us is strong, and I am committed to strengthening it in the months and years to come. Together we make a difference!

Jere Krakow

TOTA President and Staff Attend the Partnership's Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week

The Partnership for the National Trails System, of which TOTA is a member, met in conjunction with their annual event *Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week*, February 29 - March 3, 2004, in Washington, D.C. This week provides opportunities for trail organizations to talk directly to the policy-makers in Washington, D.C., about their trails and

projects. TOTA President Jack Baker and staff members Paul Austin and Jerra Quinton attended the meeting.

This year's advocacy week focused on full funding for trails and recreation management within the NPS, USDA Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management, and on other trail-related policies.

The Partnership met for discussion and training on trail policy issues and advocacy skills, as well as visiting with congressional members and staff. The Partnership held a Congressional reception on Capitol Hill, which was attended by congressmen and Partnership members.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Receives Attention in National and International News

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (TRTE) has recently received national and international attention in several venues. This past summer, *TIME* magazine published a special insert about the National Park System—emphasizing historic and cultural sites. A brief history of Federal Indian removal and the national historic trail were presented in The American Indian Experience section. Although the article about the Trail was brief, many readers had the opportunity to be introduced to the removal story, since *TIME*'s circulation is in the millions.

The next issue of *Pathways*, the national newsletter of the Partnership for the National Trails System, will feature an article about the TRTE interpretive exhibits at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Also covered will be the annual conference of the Partnership that was sponsored by the Trail of Tears Association in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The Trail of Tears NHT was selected as a case study in partnerships for the publication *Branching Out—Approaches in*

National Park Stewardship. The TRTE article includes the trail logo and map, a photograph of a trail segment, and a trail scene painted by Cherokee artist Sam Watts-Kidd. This attractive, full-color booklet, made its debut at the World Congress on National Parks this past September in Durban, South Africa. Several thousand copies were also distributed during the multi-agency conference on partnerships this past November in Los Angeles, California.

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Missouri

The last chapter meeting was held during the Scottish Games at Forest Park in St. Louis on October 11, 2003. The chapter used map displays to generate discussion with visitors about the Association and its goals, and Chief John Ross's connection with the Scots. The board held its regular meeting and voted to purchase a banner with the chapter name and logo for future events. The board is also considering purchasing portable display boards and producing an embroidered patch for sale at events.

On December 13, Hershel Price met with Ms. Delores Wood Gray, President of the Dent County Historical Society. Ms. Gray is in the middle of some great research on the Hildebrand Route through Dent County and surrounding area. She has located places that could possibly be added to the National Historic Register and be certified on the Trail.

Thanks to Mr. Ted W. Roller of Purdy, Missouri, the chapter will hold its next meeting at 10:00 a.m., February 14, 2004, at the Barry County Courthouse in Cassville. The chapter has been trying to meet in the southwest portion of the state for some time. We are looking forward to recruiting new members in southwest Missouri. The next chapter meeting will be held in Pilot Knob during the Scottish Games Festival being held April 10-11, 2004.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma chapter has been very active since the last newsletter. In October, approximately 20 chapter members attended the national TOTA conference in Cherokee, North Carolina. This was the first visit to the home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for some of them. Most came away with a feeling of awe and reverence after visiting the homeland of their Cherokee ancestors.

A number of Oklahoma chapter members attended the meeting of the Arkansas chapter held October 25, 2003, in Springdale, Arkansas, following lunch at the A/Q Chicken Restaurant.

Oklahoma *(continued)*

The Oklahoma chapter held its fall meeting on November 15, 2003, at the Caney Cemetery Chapel building, with approximately 80 in attendance. The guest speaker was genealogist Roy Hamilton, the coordinator of research and archives at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. A grave marking ceremony for 10 survivors of the Trail of Tears was held following the meeting. The chapter has now conducted a total of 92 markings since the beginning of the project to honor the survivors of the forced removal.

Planning for the 2004 national TOTA conference is underway by the Oklahoma chapter. We look forward to hosting the meeting, which will be held at the new Cherokee Nation Hotel and Complex in Catoosa, Oklahoma, in October 2004.

Georgia

New officers were elected in January and sworn in for the Georgia Chapter. The new officers include President Jean Belew, Vice-President Tommy Cox, Secretary Wanda Patterson, and Treasurer Dola Davis.

The Georgia chapter has been active in researching the histories of removal forts and has made progress on several forts/encampments. J.B. Tate and Doug Mabry are moving forward on their research regarding the removal fort located at Rome, Georgia. Through comparison of various primary source documents, they have identified the location of the site.

Dr. Sarah Hill has been busy in her research efforts with trips to the National Archives and state, regional, and local libraries and fort sites. Dr. Hill continues to dig up great bits of information, giving a clearer picture of who served at the various removal locations in Georgia and how events took place in May - June 1838. We look forward to Dr. Hill's completion of this project and thank her for her hard work. We extend our thanks to the cooperative grant sponsors for their support of Dr. Hill's research, including the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail's office of the

Georgia *(continued)*

National Park Service, and Dr. David Crass, State Archaeologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Tennessee

In the past year, the Tennessee chapter has lost two members, Mr. Jack Wright and Mr. Gary Williams, both from the Chattanooga area. They each will be sorely missed.

Arkansas

The Arkansas chapter will be busy in 2004, as will its partners at the American Native Press Archives, the Department of Arkansas Heritage, Arkansas State Parks, the City of North Little Rock, and Pea Ridge National Military Park. A program spotlighting Arkansas River Valley research will be presented March 13 at Arkansas Post Museum State Park. A May 1 prayer service sponsored by the City of North Little Rock will commemorate the Trail of Tears at the ferry site where land and water routes intersected. The service will be part of the observance of the city's centennial. If ready, a riverfront wayside exhibit featuring the removal stories of each of the Five Tribes will be dedicated then.

Arkansas chapter meetings have been scheduled for May 15 at the Baxter County Heritage Museum in Gassville, focusing on the Benge Route across north Arkansas; July 24 at the Darragh Center of the Main Library in Little Rock, focusing on interpretation along the Arkansas River Valley; and September 11 at Village Creek State Park, focusing on the Memphis to Little Rock Road. The 1.5-mile segment of the Old Military Trail within the park is considered the best surviving stretch of that 19th-century road.

We're also hopeful that our Fall 2003 meeting at the Shiloh Museum in Springdale helped jumpstart a Northwest Arkansas Research Team that can answer some of the many questions about possible variations of the Northern Route through Benton and Washington counties.

Vision Becoming Reality - Developing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Through Partnerships

Despite this tragic event in our Nation's history, the Cherokee and other South-eastern tribes built successful communities that exist today. Old traces, historic buildings, and other sites are being preserved to commemorate the sorrowful journey.

A variety of local, state, and national efforts have commenced to preserve, develop, and interpret Trail resources. A growing awareness of this important story—and those of other removed tribes—has stimulated interest in nationally recognizing this chapter in our Nation's past. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail tells of the Cherokees' ordeal—but many tribes can tell similar stories.

In 1987, Congress acknowledged the significance of the Trail by establishing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The National Park Service administers the Trail in cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies; the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; interested groups; and private landowners.

The Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office-Santa Fe have been working with Trail partners to increase visibility for the Trail and to develop it for visitor use. Additional sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects have been completed, such as signing the route, visitor-use development, interpretive wayside exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities. Many more are being planned.

Newly Certified Sites

City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR
Gray's Inn, KY

Certified Sites

Audubon Acres, TN
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
Murrell Home, OK
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC
New Echota State Historic Site, GA
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN
Tennessee River Museum, TN
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY
Vann House Historic Site, GA
Visitor Center, Moccasin Springs Road, and Nancy Hildebrand's gravesite in Trail of Tears State Park, MO

Pending Certifications

Coke Ovens Museum Trail Segments, TN
City of Chattanooga trail routes and historic sites, TN
City of Nashville trail routes, TN
Fort Gibson, OK

Federal Protection Components

Cherokee Removal Memorial Park - Blythe Ferry, TVA land, TN
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
Mark Twain National Forest, MO
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
Shawnee National Forest, MO

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter Contacts

Alabama

Richard Sheridan
Phone: 256-381-2298
E-mail: sheridanRC@aol.com

Arkansas

Kitty Sloan
Phone: 870-932-4252

Georgia

Jean Belew
Phone: 770-382-6676
E-mail: belewjean@yahoo.com

Illinois

Rowena McClinton
Phone: 618-692-0347
E-mail: rmclclin@siue.edu

Kentucky

Beverly Baker
Phone: 270-886-9777 (day)

North Carolina

Jane Eastman
Phone: 828-227-3841
E-mail: jeastman@email.wcu.edu

Tennessee

Vicky Garland
Phone: 931-766-0827

Missouri

Hershel Price
Phone: 573-334-1711 (day)
E-mail: hprice@accessus.net

Oklahoma

Curtis Rohr
Phone: 918-341-4689
E-mail: cfrrohr@doitpc.net

Trail of Tears Association Board of Directors Meets at 2004 Conference in Cherokee, NC

The Association board met at the 2003 TOTA conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, on October 7. John Conoboy, Jere Krakow, and Aaron Mahr from the National Park Service also attended the meeting.

Kitty Sloan, the bylaws committee chair, informed the board that the committee met in August 2003. She presented the proposed changes to the bylaws as developed by the committee. These changes will be voted on at the upcoming board

meeting in April 2004; the membership will vote on the board's approved changes at the 2004 conference in October.

The board discussed the legislation introduced by Congressman Marion Berry of Arkansas to add the Benge and Bell routes to the Trail. The board directed staff to develop language that would also include the North Carolina and Georgia routes.

The NPS reported to the Association about the current situation in their office.

They reported on the funds available and projects appropriate for Challenge-Cost Share grants, current research and signage efforts, and the film about the Trail that will soon be produced.

The location and time for the 2004 conference and the next board meeting were decided. The conference will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25-28, 2004. The board meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, April 27, 2004.

Development of Trail of Tears Association Website Complete

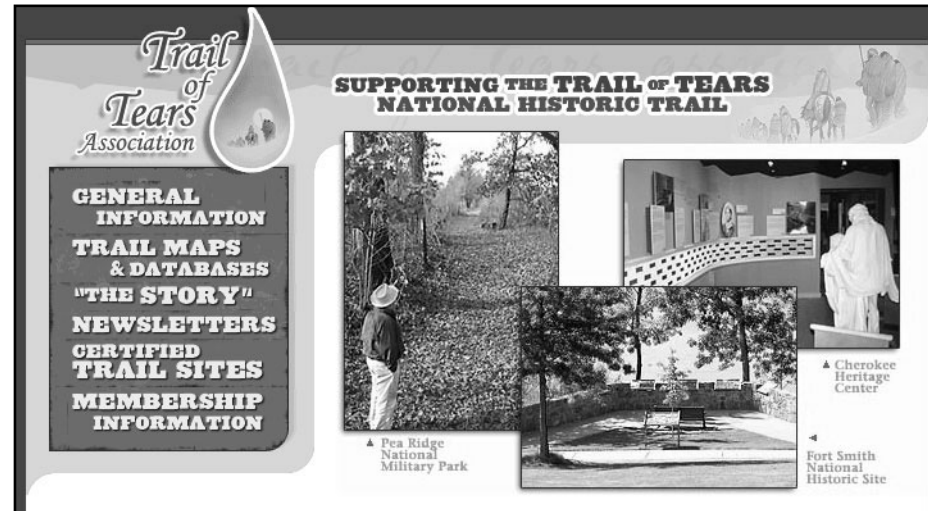
The national Trail of Tears Association's website is now up and running and can be found at www.nationalTOTA.org. The main page of the site offers information on the role the Trail of Tears Association plays in preserving and promoting the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, and the relationship between the Association and the National Park Service. The "General Information" page describes the TOTA mission and provides links to information about the state chapters, national board of directors, conference information, and products sold by TOTA. "The Story" page details the history of the Cherokee removal, from European contact to the aftermath in Indian Territory. The "Membership Information" page lists the benefits of membership and provides an application form.

Three pages are provided by the National Park Service as links to their website: "Trail Maps and Database," "Newsletters," and "Certified Sites." The "Trail Maps" page offers two map databases using Geographic

Information Systems, one titled "Designated Routes" and the other titled "Routes Under Study." The "Newsletters" page offers access to the most current newsletter, as well as two older newsletters. The "Certified Sites" page lists the certified sites along the Trail, provides descriptions

and contact information for each site, and describes how a site becomes certified.

The website will be updated regularly. Check back every so often to see updates about such things as the chapters and the conference.



The national Trail of Tears Association's homepage can be found at www.nationalTOTA.org.

DAH Prepares Nominations for National Register

The Department of Arkansas Heritage (DAH) and its Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) have been preparing National Register of Historic Places nominations for Trail of Tears sites in the state, working with the historic context developed in partnership with the NPS's National Trails System Office—Santa Fe and approved last year by the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C.

To date, Bell Route segments at Village Creek State Park have been listed on the National Register, as has the site of the Blackfish Lake Ferry Crossing and Cadron segment. Nominations are also being developed for three Northern Route segments in Benton County, and AHPP historians are conducting additional fieldwork for more potential nominations. The AHPP is also seeking National Historic Landmark status for the 1.5-mile-long Village Creek State Park segment. Visit the AHPP website for more information, at www.arkansaspreservation.org/history.

DAH and AHPP also are working with the NPS and State Parks to place interpretive wayside exhibit panels at Village Creek State Park, Helena, Pea Ridge National Military Park, Cadron Settlement Park, Lake Dardanelle State Park, and North Little Rock. These panels will discuss Removal as it affected those six locations. The NPS provided Challenge Cost-Share funding for the project and AHPP is seeking additional money from the Arkansas Humanities Council to create an additional panel for each site that will provide a brief overview of federal Indian removal policy.

Additionally, DAH has developed a memorandum of agreement with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, which allows placement of interpretive exhibit panels at its boat ramps located at sites related to the Trail of Tears. DAH is hoping to work with the Arkansas chapter of TOTA to develop these.

Partners Meet in North Little Rock to Discuss Waterfront Interpretation

The City of North Little Rock, Arkansas, and Mayor Pat Hays hosted a two-day visioning session on January 13 and 14, 2004, to discuss possible development concepts for commemorating and interpreting Indian removal and the Trail of Tears in North Little Rock. In attendance were



Mike Madell, National Park Service Superintendent of Central High School National Historic Site, Little Rock, presents a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail certification plaque to Pat Hays, North Little Rock Mayor.

members of the Trail of Tears Association, including President Jack Baker, Executive Director Paul Austin, and Coordinator Jerra Quinton. Representing the Arkansas chapter were Chapter President Kitty Sloan and Past President Dr. Dan Littlefield. Also in attendance were representatives of the Cherokee Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, the National Trails System Office of the National Park Service, Central High School National Historic Site, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the North Little Rock History Commission, and other city entities. North Little Rock, and particularly the

Riverfront Park along the Arkansas River in the downtown area, has emerged as a significant site along the Trail of Tears because of its association with all of the five tribes removed from the southeastern United States. Recently completed research by Dr. Littlefield, funded by the NPS Challenge Cost-Share program, has shed new light on the significant extant resources of the riverfront, as well as provides an in-depth understanding of the removal experience here. In the years following the Indian Removal Act of 1830, over 40,000 Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole passed through the North Little Rock site. Some passed along the Arkansas River; some came to the area over land routes; many crossed the river on either of the two ferries to Little Rock; and large numbers camped—sometimes for weeks—on the banks of the river. The U.S. Army had a presence in the area to monitor removal activities, and contractors established major supply depots in the area as well.

Mayor Hays began the session by explaining the city's commitment to revitalizing its downtown area, which includes the development of a master waterfront plan. Aware of the city's significance in Indian removal, Mayor Hays expressed the hope that this visioning session's recommendations would be useful in guiding the city's waterfront plans. The discussion continued with an update from Dr. Littlefield on the extensive research that his team at the American Native Press Archives is con-

ducting on Indian Removal in the North Little Rock area. The group then entered into a lengthy discussion of the large variety of stories that can be told.

Although much work is still needed, a broad range of alternatives for creating an interpretive experience in the city were discussed. Among the ideas was a major interpretive center, with each tribe or nation having a place to interpret their removal and resettlement experience; preservation and interpretation of the historic sites in the area; the development of a research and education center; the development of an interpretive trail along the river walk system; extensive public art projects; and the recreation of a keel or flat boat on the river, with a living history component.

Visioning and planning will continue, and the group adjourned with the intention of reconvening at a later date, pursuing greater tribal participation, and opening the discussion to a wider audience.



Mayor Pat Hays discusses his ideas for Trail of Tears interpretation along the North Little Rock Riverfront Park.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Partners Set Priorities for Interpretive Plan

During the summer of 2002, Trail of Tears Association members and other interested stakeholders reviewed the draft interpretive plan. Comments were incorporated, and in fall 2002, members voted for the plan recommendations they believed to be the most important. The following five actions rated as the highest priorities for implementation:

- Market the trail locally/nationally for the purpose of gaining support and understanding of the trail story.
- Develop and install signs with logo on the trail along its entire length.
- Develop a research strategy/work plan.

- Identify sites for future certification.
- Develop and implement a trail monitoring strategy.

All of these actions are consistent with the June 2002 Strategic Plan developed by members of the Trail of Tears Association board, Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council, and the National Park Service. Four of the actions—those emphasizing marketing, a research strategy, site certification, and resource monitoring—will be addressed through the Strategic Plan implementation.

To finalize the draft interpretive plan, a strategy to implement the remaining action—developing and installing signs with the logo along the trail's length—needs to be developed. How can everyone contribute to the planning, development, and placement of an identifiable system of signs? How will the work be funded? These questions will be addressed at the National Trail of Tears Association board meeting in April 2004.

Thanks to all of you who rated the action items!

A Look at the 2004 TOTA Conference

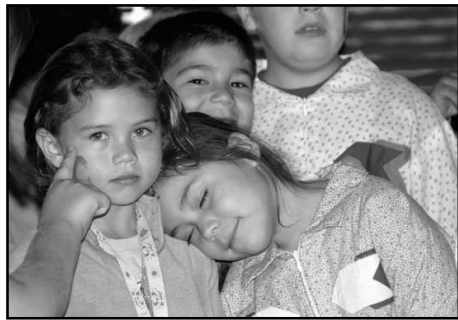
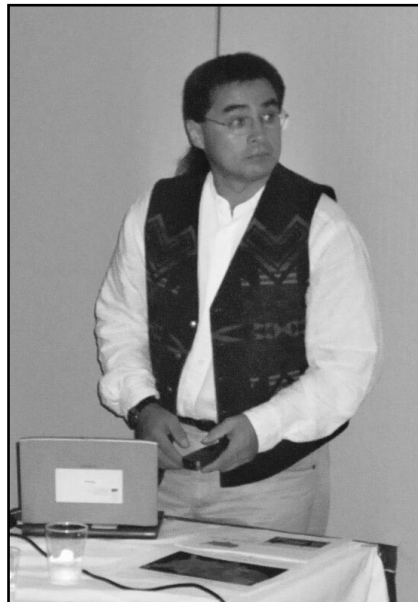


Photo courtesy of John Deupree

The Cherokee Elementary School children's choir sings for attendees at a luncheon at the TOTA conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, in October 2003.



Presenter Jaime Pinkham, Tribal Land Program Director for The Trust for Public Lands and a member of the Nez Perce Tribe, speaks to conferees about his experience with regaining and conserving tribal ancestral homelands.



The Museum of the Cherokee Indian hosts an opening reception and book signing for conference attendees.



Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith welcomes conferees at the opening luncheon.



Photo courtesy of John Deupree

The Brown family sings gospel hymns in the Cherokee language for tour participants in Murphy, North Carolina.



Photo courtesy of John Deupree

Tour participants visit the gravesite of the Cherokee leader Junaluska, located near Murphy, North Carolina.



The NPS updates Association members on their current projects and activities.



Photo courtesy of Wanda Stalcup

TOTA President Jack Baker welcomes conferees at an opening luncheon.



Two chapter members (to the left, Dr. Sarah Hill from Georgia, and to the right, Dr. Brett Riggs from North Carolina) discuss their personal research along the Trail in their individual states with conferees.



Photo courtesy of Ted Slape

Cherokee Nation Council Member Cara Cowan (third from left) visits with conference attendees at the opening reception/book signing at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail



Trail News is produced by the partnership of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe.

Managing Editor

Jerra Quinton

Contributors

Jack Baker, Mark Christ, John Conoboy, Jere Krakow, Aaron Mahr, Jerra Quinton, Andrea Sharon, and the Trail of Tears Association state chapters.

Designer

Jerra Quinton

Editor

Jane Harvey

Photographers (unless otherwise noted)
Jerra Quinton, Andrea Sharon

Comments and/or Address Changes? Contact:

Jerra Quinton
Trail of Tears Association
1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344
TOTAJerra@aol.com

Website

www.nps.gov/trte

Trail of Tears Association



The Trail of Tears Association has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail resources; to promote awareness of the Trail's legacy, including the effects of the U.S. Government's Indian Removal Policy on the Cherokee and other tribes; and to perpetuate the management and development techniques that are consistent with the National Park Service's Trail plan.

Trail of Tears Association
1100 North University, Suite 143
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

Phone
800-441-4513
501-666-9032

E-Mail
TOTAJerra@aol.com

Website
www.nationalTOTA.org

National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe



The National Trails System Office - Santa Fe administers the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is administered jointly by the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; non-government organizations; and private landowners.

National Trails System Office - Santa Fe
PO Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Phone
505-988-6888

E-Mail
lodi_administration@nps.gov

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