



Trail News

Baker Recounts Early Efforts for Recognition of Trail of Tears

In the May 2003 issue of this newsletter, TOTA's Immediate Past President Riley Bock documented the administrative history of the Trail of Tears Association. As a follow up, Beverly Baker gives us her perspective on the early efforts to get the Trail of Tears legislated as a national historic trail. It was Beverly and her late husband, Walter, whose initial interest in the Trail of Tears in Kentucky that led to the legislation that established the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

A casual read of the travel section in the *Louisville Courier Journal* one Sunday in December of 1985 started me on an extraordinary journey, the recognition of the Trail of Tears as a national historic trail. While reading that blurb that indicated a feasibility study was being made, the idea that Hopkinsville would play an important role in the Trail story in Kentucky began to simmer in my mind.

After attending a local tourism meeting in January of 1986, nothing was mentioned about the study. So I inquired with the local congressman to be sure that I had read the article correctly. I was advised that this was correct and that I had not dreamed it up. Then I began contacting local and state tourism departments; state legislatures; schools; and officials from local, city and county governments. I also spoke with anyone who would listen to this idea and what it could mean for Hopkinsville.

Letters of support were requested from these various groups and persons to be

sent to the Kentucky legislative delegation, National Park Service Director William Mott, and Senator (?) McClure, under whose committee this feasibility study fell. A school project on our local history was undertaken, specifically on the Trail of Tears, and a letter-writing campaign by that course's students, in support of the trail study, began. These were all sent to Senator McClure. Many contacts for support of the Trail were made during 1986 and 1987, including Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky.

On February 5, 1987, Senator Ford stated that he would introduce a bill to designate the Trail of Tears as a national historic trail. After committee hearings and voting, President Ronald Reagan signed Bill S.578 into law on December 16, 1987. This was really a big day for me and my late husband, Walter Baker, who was of Cherokee descent. It was also a big day for the many individuals who worked with me on this project because they believed in its purpose of historical preservation. So many times, as with the Trail of Tears, something is a part of local history, and so few people know about it. It is not even taught to students as a part of their heritage.

One of the true benefits of the Bill was the establishment of an advisory council and, then, the establishment of the Trail of Tears Association. This is where the story begins for many of us who have worked on this project for their own personal reasons or as one representing a Trail state or area. As a member of the advisory council for many years, a charter member of the Association, and a board member since the Association's inception, the experience has

been phenomenal. The opportunity to visit historic places along the trail, some of which are known widely and others not well known at all, has

been an education. And the people! Some have been here from the beginning, and others have come and gone. But all had a story to tell from their perspective on how the incidents affected them or their region.

Personally, my involvement helped me to establish the Trail of Tears Commemorative Park (TTCP) in Hopkinsville, as well as the non-profit commission that supports that park. I worked closely with Walter on the development of the powwow that supports



Beverly Baker and her late husband, Walter, began lobbying for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in 1986.

See **BAKER**, page 4

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Trail of Tears Association President's Message

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail has many significant portions of the Trail still intact as well as many major sites along the Trail. The preservation of these sites and the identification of others can only be done by the utilization of our most important asset — our members! We are fortunate that this asset has been and is being utilized.

All too frequently we fail to recognize the innumerable contributions that have been made by individuals who have contributed countless hours to Trail research and preservation. I had considered naming several of the people and their contributions but quickly realized that there would not be enough space in this column and, further, that there are so many quietly working

away of whom I am not even aware. I do want to offer my thanks to all of you and would like for you to know that your work is appreciated.

There are two people, however, that I would like to personally thank for their contributions in recent years. First, I want to thank Hershel Price for all of his work while serving as vice-president of the Association for the past five years. Second, I want to thank Kitty Sloan for all of her hard work on the recent revisions of the bylaws of the Association. She spent numerous hours poring over the bylaws and coming up with suggested changes for the bylaws committee to consider so that this document will better serve the working of the Association.

A new column is being started in this newsletter where one of our members will be profiled in each issue. I apologize that we will never be able to recognize everyone as we would like, but I hope that you enjoy this new feature and that it will enable you to get to be better acquainted with some of our members. My congratulations go to Mary Riesberg for being the first person to be profiled. We are fortunate to have many committed members such as Mary.

With all of your help we will continue to develop the Trail so that it will be a significant experience for all who visit all or a portion of it.

Jack D. Baker

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma chapter has had a very busy Fall/Winter. The chapter hosted the 2004 National TOTA Conference at the new Cherokee Casino in Catoosa, Oklahoma. The conference was well attended and many enjoyed the evening activities and field trips, which included trips to the Will Rogers Memorial, hosted by the Claremore Pochontas Ladies Club; the Muskogee Creek Nation, where a memorial ceremony was conducted honoring Chief Samuel Checote; and the Gilcrease Museum for dinner and an address by Governor Bill Anaotubby of the Chickasaw Nation. Thanks to the planning committee. The chapter would like to express its appreciation to the planning committee members for providing a wonderful slate of speakers and subject material.

Since the last newsletter, the Oklahoma chapter has held marking ceremonies to honor seven survivors of the Trail of Tears. This totals one hundred survivors that have been honored by the chapter since the beginning of this project. Also, two sites have been identified where the Cherokees were mustered out after arriving in Oklahoma. These sites have been

Oklahoma (continued)

submitted to the National Park Service for assistance in signage and interpretation.

The Oklahoma chapter will hold the 2005 Spring meeting in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on April 23, 2005, at which time three board of directors will be elected. A marking ceremony for two survivors of the Trail will be conducted following the meeting.

We look forward to a busy and fruitful 2005.

Missouri

In 2004, with over 600 miles of Trail to research, the Missouri chapter partnered with some of the state's county historical societies to research historic road locations. Through these partnerships the chapter has made progress on both the White River Road and Old Military Road.

During the first chapter meeting for 2005, held in Marble Hill along the Benge route, the chapter set 4 goals for this year: (1) record the locations of current Trail of Tears waysides and historical markers in the state as directed by the national Association; (2) create a state interpretive plan to help fulfill the National Historic

Missouri (continued)

Trail's Interpretive Plan; (3) work on NPS certification nominations; and (4) continue with research on the Benge and Hildebrand Routes. Also at the meeting several new board members were elected, including new president Deloris Wood, and an agenda for 2005 was discussed.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2005, at the Current River Heritage Museum in Doniphan. The meeting will be a working session and may involve a visit to the Old Military Road. For more information about this meeting, contact Susan at 573-438-5427, or szstevens@fs.fed.us.

Dr. Burl Self, a geography professor at Southwest Missouri State University, will be the keynote speaker at the chapter meeting on July 30, 2005, at the Springfield-Green County Library in Springfield. Dr. Self is Choctaw and has done much research on the Plains Indians. Michael Glenn, from the Local History Department, will give a tour of the library and show some of the related maps. Contact Deloris for more information about this meeting at 573-729-2545, or tomwood@wavecomputers.net.

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Georgia

The Georgia chapter is off and rolling with a big year ahead, full of challenges, opportunities and achievements. The last six months of 2004 was really encouraging in that we had outstanding attendance at our bi-monthly membership meetings, averaging over 40 attendees at every meeting and signing up several new members. The chapter's growth is aided through mailing chapter newsletters to a larger number of interested groups, sending out more meeting notices to the news media, attending more consistently at related events, and providing programs about the Trail of Tears for other organizations.

The chapter is currently partnering with the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) on their Federal Road project, which involves a commemoration of the road's 200th anniversary. Phase I, a study designed to provide interpretation of the historic and cultural highlights of the Federal Road through public outreach and education, is underway. Graduate students from the University of Mississippi will be doing the research for the DOT. Doug Mabry, the chapter's research committee chairperson, is coordinating the project with the DOT, Federal Highway Administration, National Parks Service (NPS), Georgia Department of Natural Resource's Historic Preservation Division, and a host of other organizations. We are fortunate to have many members who have firsthand knowledge of the locations of the original road beds. These individuals will be working with DOT personnel to document these roads and associated historical sites. In an effort to better inform the membership, the DOT will be providing a program on their Federal Road project for the March 12th chapter membership meeting.

In addition to this project, the chapter is planning to acquire certification on collection camps and forts. As part of that effort, the chapter will meet with Aaron Mahr, Steve Burns (both from the NPS), and Carey Tilley (chapter member and Director of Chieftain's Museum) in Rome to visit owners of the two fort sites there.

North Carolina

In January, the North Carolina chapter contracted with Sue Meyer of Raleigh, North Carolina, to design a series of 18 wayside panels for sites associated with the Trail of Tears in western North Carolina. Sue has been working with Dr. Brett Riggs of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, on the design process. This design



Photo courtesy of Mary Ann Thompson (L-R) Russell Townsend, Brian Burgess, Brett Riggs, and Mary Ann Thompson study the progress at the Cherokee Baptist Mission site in Cherokee County.

project is being funded by a grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, of Cherokee, North Carolina.

The chapter's Bylaws Committee met on January 27 to draft changes to the chapter's bylaws. The draft of the bylaws is being completed and will be presented to the membership in February. The proposed changes will make the chapter's bylaws consistent with those of the Association and will bring about several changes in the chapter. Some of the proposed changes include the separation of the Secretary/Treasurer into two separate offices, the establishment of regular quarterly meetings of the membership throughout the year, and one place on the board is set aside for a representative of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (to be appointed by the EBCI). We hope to elect a secretary to add to our existing officers this spring.

Arkansas

The Arkansas chapter has scheduled two public programs for 2005: May 7th in Camden and July 23rd in Russellville. The May program will emphasize Choctaw removal routes across south Arkansas, overland and on the Ouachita River, converging at Camden, then known as Ecore

Arkansas (continued)

Fabre. It starts at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church.

The all-day program in July will include a state symposium and annual membership meeting. Sessions will be at Arkansas Tech University's Museum of Prehistory & History in the morning and at Lake Dardanelle State Park in the afternoon. As a key site in the Arkansas River Valley, the Russellville area saw removal groups from all five southeast tribes. It is on the water route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. In addition, the ferry at Dardanelle enabled overland detachments to decide whether to travel south of the river to Fort Coffee or north of the river to Fort Gibson.

Chapter officers elected at last summer's membership meeting will serve until July 2006. They are president Kitty Sloan of Paragould, a journalist; vice president Sarah Keating, interpreter at Lake Dardanelle State Park, Russellville; secretary Carolyn Kent of Jacksonville, an independent researcher; and treasurer Pat Proctor of the Historic Arkansas Museum staff, Little Rock. Past president Dan Littlefield of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock also serves on the chapter board.

The chapter's partners continue to make outstanding contributions. UALR's American Native Press Archives continues its *Indian Removal Through Arkansas* research, constantly augmenting its repository of removal records. The Department of Arkansas Heritage and its Arkansas Historic Preservation Program continue to add road segments to the National Register and develop wayside exhibits. Arkansas State Parks continues with interpretation plans for several parks, especially Lake Dardanelle and Village Creek.

Updates from the Trail of Tears Association state chapters will routinely appear in future issues of this newsletter. Contact Jerra Quinton, Trail of Tears Association coordinator, at TOTAJerra@aol.com, or at (501) 666-9032, to submit information and photographs.

that park financially. I oversaw the effort with the National Park Service to have the TTCP named the first non-federally owned site and to become one of the first "certified sites" on the national historic trail.

My efforts since 2002 have been to establish a Kentucky chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and to assist, when possible, in certification of other sites within Kentucky. There are now four certified sites: Berry's Ferry (Federally Protected) and Mantle Rock in Livingston County, Gray's Inn in Guthrie, and the Trail of Tears Commemorative Park in Hopkinsville.

These past 19 years have been a great experience and learning opportunity. What began as a local historic preservation effort soon opened my eyes to the greater potential for all locales along the Trail. The removal of the Cherokee people, as well as the other civilized tribes, means a great deal to the history of this nation. It must be preserved! I hope I will be able to work on this for many years to come.

AHPP Aids Two Arkansas Sites with National Register Listing

Two sections of the Springfield to Fayetteville Road that were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, have been listed on the Register. Both segments were traveled by Cherokee detachments using the Northern Route. In April, the AHPP will present a road segment in Johnson County, Arkansas, that was traversed by the Whiteley Detachment for possible National Register nomination. The AHPP currently is doing fieldwork for other possible sections of the Cherokee Trail of Tears in Arkansas. In early February, AHPP historians identified another stretch of the Springfield to Fayetteville Road on the Northern Route as well as two possible sections of the Van Buren to Evansville Road traveled by the Bell Detachment. The agency is continuing work on the possibility of including oxbow lakes as segments of the Water Route.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

10th Annual TOTA
Conference & Symposium

October 31 - November 3, 2005

Marriott at the Convention Center
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Conference Hotel Room Rate:
\$88 single/double \$99 triple/quad

Parking: \$8/day self-parking OR \$10/day valet parking

Trail Finds New Partner in Fish & Wildlife Service

Many national historic trails, including the Trail of Tears, pass through National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). In the past, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has not been a partner for these trails. This has changed with the appointment of Nathan Caldwell to a position as the national trails coordinator for the USFWS. On January 10, 2005, Aaron Mahr and John Conoboy from NPS, and Paul Austin and Jerra Quinton from TOTA, met with representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers and the USFWS in Memphis to discuss how the NPS and TOTA can work with both agencies. Also attending were Mark Christ and Tony Feaster from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

The next day the group went to the White River NWR in Arkansas to meet the refuge staff and discuss possible trail interpretation on the refuge.



A new brand identity image has been created for the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is USFWS policy that both images be used together.

The refuge borders a small section of the Water Route and also may include a part of the Bell Route and other tribes' removal routes. Nathan Caldwell and Eugene Marino, a USFWS cultural resource manager, then went on to refuges along the Tennessee River to talk to the staffs about the trail.

NPS Receives Increase for Challenge Cost Share

You may have heard that the National Park Service received an increase from Congress for the Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP). Once again, through the efforts of trail associations who support the Partnership for the National Trails System, including the Trail of Tears Association, one-third of the NPS Challenge Cost Share funding was earmarked for the National Trails System. This is close to a \$200,000 increase.

While this is good news overall, it does not mean that any single trail will have more CCSP funding. There are three new trails in the National Trails System that will now be getting funding: the Ala Kahakai, Old Spanish, and El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trails. Additionally, the system by which the CCSP funds were divided was the result of arbitrary decisions in the past and is being revised so that trails that did not get a fair share in the past will do so in the future.

It will be some time before we know how much CCSP funds will be available. However, we encourage you to think about developing a proposal. If you have ideas, contact John Conoboy at 505-988-6733, or by email at john_conoboy@nps.gov.

National Trails System Office Superintendent's Message

At the National Park Service office for the National Trails System, in Santa Fe, I am settled into my home base now. As many of you know, my wife and I moved from Utah to New Mexico last September. With five national historic trails administered from here, and four administered from Salt Lake City, I am directly involved in a web of trails across much of the nation.

During the past few months we have been working with our National Park Service technical experts from the Harpers Ferry Center to complete negotiations for the Trail of Tears film contract. The approximately 20 minute film, an overview of the

Trail of Tears, is intended for use in numerous venues. Rich-Heape Films, Inc. of Dallas (a Native American owned corporation), was awarded the contract in February 2005. We anticipate the Trail of Tears Association will be active in the key components of the film. The completion is scheduled for June 2006. It is a much anticipated film for which the Association worked hard for many years to obtain funding.

In late March we received our budget figures for the current fiscal year. For the Trail of Tears our base budget number is \$304,000. This year we had an increase of \$29,000 for computer mapping of the Trail

that is identified as "non-base." At this time the new dollars are not considered base funds for upcoming years. The Partnership for the National Trails System, of which the Association is a member, played a key role in obtaining funding increases from Congress for several national trails.

We anticipate two new staff members joining us in the next few weeks. Brooke Taralli is a student intern in Landscape Architecture from the University of New Mexico, and Peggy Nelson in Landscape Architecture, Planning, and Interpretation.

Jere Krakow

Vision Becoming Reality - Using Partnerships to Develop the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Despite this tragic event in our Nation's history, the Cherokee and other Southeastern 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.

Newly Certified Sites

James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL

Certified Sites

Audubon Acres, TN
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN
Campground Cemetery, IL
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK
Chieftain's Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA
City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR
Gray's Inn, KY
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
Mantle Rock, KY
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

Arkansas Post National Historic Site, AR
Cherokee Removal Memorial Park - Blythe Ferry, TVA land, TN
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, GA
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN
Mark Twain National Forest, MO
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
Shawnee National Forest, MO
Stone's River National Battlefield, TN

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TOTA Member Profile: Mary Briscoe-Riesberg of Rocheport, Missouri

Jerra Quinton: When did you first become interested in the Trail of Tears and involved with TOTA?

Mary Riesberg: A Cherokee heritage dominates the fabric of my life. My father's deep pride in this heritage was transferred to his nine children as he confirmed and assured them that they were "part Indian," at a time in our history when such a statement was not popular. The Trail of Tears Association came to my attention while taking a graduate class in religion at the University of Missouri. Another student, also Indian, informed me that there was a Trail of Tears State Park. Without delay I drove to the Trail of Tears State Park and was put in contact with Bob Friedrich, Sr., whose enthusiasm only heightened my desire to contribute. Bob provided me with a membership application form. I joined! I drove to Little Rock for the 1996 conference. Such excitement! That Little Rock meeting was a high point in my life.

JQ: What has been your most rewarding experience during your involvement with the Association and/or the Trail?

MR: Year after year, Association members have become increasingly important to me. I look forward to seeing them, photographing them and learning of their interests, achievements and concerns.

JQ: What has been, you feel, your most distinguishing attribute as an Association member? In what ways do you feel you best contribute to the Association and the Trail?

MR: My photographs, my paintings, and my journals have become increasingly important to friends and family. These notes would not be complete without a tribute to Deborah Ann Light, whose foundation provided encouragement and funds for photographic equipment and other expense. Her enthusiasm and interest have brought much joy to me. She has informed me, "You know you have a book there." It is a pleasure to realize my voluminous notes and reports have afforded her a measure of joy and satisfaction.

JQ: What words would you like to offer the present and future generations of possible supporters of the Trail of Tears to encourage their involvement?



Ms. Riesberg (third from left) can always be found at the annual TOTA conference. Here, she is at the 2004 conference with (L-R) Former Cherokee Nation Chief Wilma Mankiller; wife of Cherokee Nation chief, Bobbie Smith; and Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory Pyle.

MR: The Association was created for the purpose of establishing removal routes, but it has also become an important unifying element, drawing us together, creating enduring friendships strengthened by the love of our unique heritage.

The Association could end when the final marker is put into place, but I do not foresee this. The Association has provided a means whereby our common heritage has united and given us a means of communicating deepest feelings.

Association Judges Maryland Eighth-Grade Class Trail of Tears Poetry Contest

An eighth-grade class from Baltimore, Maryland, just finished a project in which each student submitted a poem on their recent lesson on the Trail of Tears. Their teacher, Ms. Chanda Bloom, contacted the Association and asked if these poems could be judged and printed in a publication by the Association. The Association agreed, and after having a small committee judge the poems, the top three were picked, in no particular order, to be published in this edition of *Trail News*. One is an acrostic poem, one is a narrative poem (telling a story), and one is an "I Am" poem. Enjoy!

Trail of Tears by Josh Markovich

Taken away from all of our loved ones.
Raided from our homes in the night,
Although it was all against our will,
Indians died without a home.
Lovers separated, possibly to never see each other again.

Often we remember our worst days,
Feeling very sad about all of our lost tribal people.

Tons of tears fell from our face.
Each of us remembered the blood shed in those days.
Always will we remain upset with the President.
Retelling the story to our children
Saying the truth.

Untitled by Greg O'Shea

The took me
From my home
When I was seven

Packed us
By the thousands
Into tiny wagons

No blankets
No shoes
No houses

I walked on foot
The whole way
And got very sick

Thousands of us died
With uncoffined burials
Several each day

The rain laughed
And tormented us each day
With rough weather

My people walked,
Rode, cried, starved,
Ached, and died

When we reached
Our destination
Few remained

It was like we had
Fought a war
And lost

I Am a Survivor by Candace Boardwine

I am a survivor of the Trail of Tears.
I wonder about my family and friends that have it even worse.
I hear the cries and screams of the unfortunate children.
I see the hopeless people wondering and looking.
I want a home and a decent place to live.
I am a survivor.

I pretend that I'm as big as the mountains.
I feel eager and determined to get out of this life and start a new one.
I make a difference when I help tired, troubled, upset people that have just lost a loved one.

I worry that my family and I will not make it through, like the people that have lost their lives in a misfortunate event.
I cry because of the terrible things they did to us by making us move out of our homes and leave everything behind.
I am a survivor.

I understand that I must take care of my family and walk for miles until my feet are bare and raw from the hard, sandy, dusty mines.
I say, "This is no life for any man or woman and their children!"
I dream about the courageous events I wish to encounter.
I try to be friendly and gentle under all circumstances.
I hope for a better future, and for my children to have a great life on this earth.
I am a survivor!

Are you a current member of TOTA?
If not, please join TOTA today!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

January - December

ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP DUES
\$25.00

Membership in the
Trail of Tears Association
automatically includes
membership in one state
chapter. Additional state
memberships are \$10 each.

Payments to the Trail of Tears Association
are tax deductible under section 501 (c)
(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

Trail
of
Tears
Association



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E-mail _____

State Chapter(s) _____

State Chapters Include: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky,
Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee

Trail of Tears
National Historic Trail



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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.

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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.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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Challenge Cost-Share Program - 2005

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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.

**Project proposals should be received
at the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe
by March 15, 2005.**