



Trail News



President Signs Bill Expanding Trail of Tears

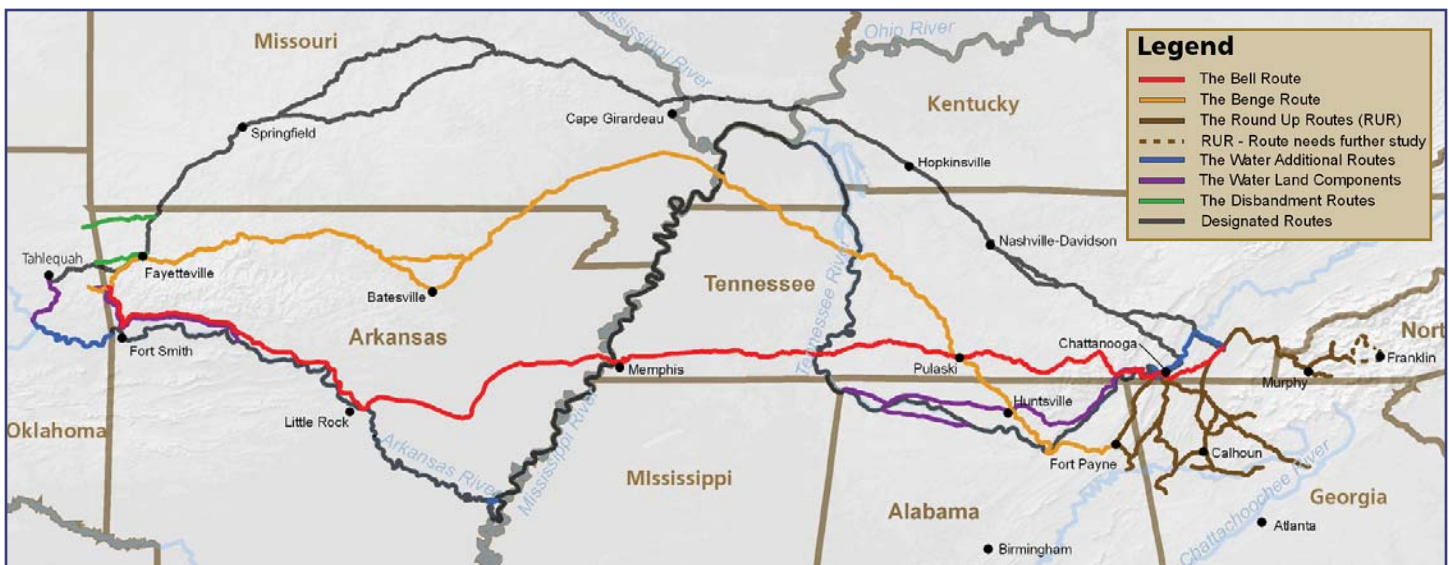
The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail gained 2,845 miles, more than doubling in size, when President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act on March 30.

Only the best-documented routes followed by Cherokee groups were included when the national historic trail was established by Congress in 1987. Other potential trail segments were omitted because little was known at that time about their historic location and use. A 2007 National Park Service feasibility study re-examined those routes in light of new information and determined that most are, in fact, original, well-documented and important components of the Trail of Tears.

Those study segments, as well as associated round-up forts and campgrounds, were added to the existing national historic trail under the Trail of Tears Documentation Act, part of the newly-passed Public Lands Bill. Included are many short trail segments from collection forts in Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, and Tennessee to the main trailhead departure points near Chattanooga, Tennessee; and the Bengé and Bell routes, two primary long-distance trails that cross six states. Other additions include numerous water and overland trail segments used by groups traveling by boat along major rivers, along with short “dispersal” routes from the ends of the land and river trails to the final settlement destinations.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- NPS Superintendent’s Message..... 2
- TOTA President’s Message..... 2
- Georgia Parks Budget Cut..... 3
- Trail on Arkansas Register..... 3
- TOTA Chapter News..... 4-5, 8
- Joint Council Meeting..... 6
- Trail Calendar..... 8
- Librarian Presentation in Illinois..... 9
- Conference Information..... 10-11



Twenty-two years after being designated a national historic trail, the Trail of Tears now extends into Georgia, North Carolina and Alabama. This map shows the new routes and segments, along with the original Northern Route and Water Route (in black).

Want your newsletter via email instead of through the postal service?
If so, email your wishes to TOTA@ARindianctr.org.

National Trails System Office Superintendent's Message

A big congratulations (!) goes out to all the constituents of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, especially to those who worked so hard for so many years to get the comprehensive story of the Trail of Tears and the forced Cherokee Removal recognized by Congress as part of the National



Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the National Trails System - Intermountain

Trail to over 4,900 miles of trail routes in nine states (ten if you include Mississippi, which may hold sections of the Water Route on the Mississippi River!). This first-of-its-kind action—adding routes to an already existing National Historic Trail—has already led to similar initiatives on other trails. For example, the Public Lands Act also called for an evaluation of over 64 additional routes on the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails to determine the feasibility and suitability of making additions to those trails. This is a job that the National Trails Intermountain Region in Salt Lake City will undertake in the fall, and

Trails System. With the passage of the Public Lands Act of 2009, Congress expanded the Trail of Tears National Historic

will continue for at least three years. It's likely that the precedent established with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail will continue to have a significant impact on the future evolution of the National Trails System.

In the last superintendent's message I noted some significant changes in the staffing of our office, including the addition of a new historian, Frank Norris, and a tribal liaison, Otis Halfmoon. Since then, we have made additional staffing changes. Most importantly, Michael Taylor has moved from manager of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, to the trails office cultural resource specialist. Many of you have had the opportunity to meet Mike, and he has made an effort in recent months to spend more time on the trail. Among his more notable recent activities was partnering with the Kentucky Heritage Council on the archeological survey of the Mantle Rock site in preparation for the trail development there. We have also added a new GIS specialist to our staff. John Cannella comes to us from the NPS Flagstaff Group Office. John brings with him an extensive background in GIS and database management, and he will be taking a lead role in developing a functional and accessible resource database that will be available to all trail constituents. John is planning to attend the Trail of Tears Association conference in Alabama this fall, and I hope many of you have the opportunity to meet him

there. We're glad to also welcome Carol Ortega to our staff. Carol is our new agreements specialist, and if you're involved in any cost share or cooperative activities with our office, you'll have a chance to work with Carol. She comes to us from the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, where she did similar work for over a decade.

Many things are happening along the trail, and I know each of the chapters will be highlighting them in the chapter reports. But, there are two upcoming actions that you should be aware of, and I'll provide more information at the fall conference and in the next newsletter. The first is the expected release of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail interpretive film. Anticipated since the inception of the national historic trail, and in the works for the last four years, the film is in post production and will be ready for public release sometime this fall or early winter. I expect that the film will be made available at no cost to all partner sites along the trail. The Trails Office and the Association are also in discussions on developing a protocol to facilitate trail signing by Association members. The NPS has set aside a fund with the Association to pay for signing and currently is developing sign standards for the fund. I expect that signing using this fund can begin this summer or fall. More on both of those soon!

Aaron Mahr

National Trails System Office Superintendent's Message

Todd Enlow with the Cherokee Nation and myself have just completed a four day trip in which we traveled almost a thousand miles retracing the original Northern Route of the Trail from New Echota in Georgia to Tahlequah. This was my first time to travel the entire route in one trip. I was amazed at all of the work that our members have done in the last few years in locating much of the original route. It was very gratifying to see the signs and interpretation that have already been placed on the Trail and, even more so, to see the plans for future projects that should be completed in the next few

months. It is all due to your hard work and dedication to the Trail!

The purpose of the trip was to plan a route for the Trail of Tears

Commemorative Bike Ride by Cherokee youths (and possibly Chief Chad Smith)



Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association

from the Cherokee Nation. It will take place from late June through much of July. Regrettably, the bikes will not be able to travel on gravel roads so much of the original route will not be accessible for their trip. The Trail should, however, receive a great deal of publicity from this bike ride. Todd and I will be working with you to plan events for all along the bike ride. I am looking forward to attending as many of the events as possible. I am sure that the Cherokee youths on the trip will certainly appreciate your support.

Jack D. Baker

State of Georgia Cuts Hours, Staff at Three Trail of Tears Historic Sites

by Jeff Bishop

The Etowah Indian Mounds, New Echota Historic Site and the Chief Vann House have been hit hard by budget cuts, and the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association is urging everyone to speak up on this issue.

“To say they’ve been hit hard is putting it mildly,” said Linda Baker, secretary of the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. “They will be open only three days a week, will not be able to give school tours and the staff at these sites has been gutted.”

As everyone with TOTA is aware, there are very few sites left in Georgia that commemorate and honor the culture and history of the Native Americans. The Trail of Tears Association has worked very hard to make sure this history is not forgotten.

“It’s ironic that these cuts are being made just as the Trail of Tears National Historic

Trail is being expanded into Georgia,” said Jeff Bishop, Georgia chapter president. “Tourism is one of the top industries in Georgia, and this certainly doesn’t help foster growth in that industry. The way the state government is choosing to go about this is very short-sighted, in my opinion.”

“I’m sure you can understand the risk to these sites if there is not constant vigilance and human protection,” said Baker.

The Georgia chapter is urging everyone to contact the Georgia governor’s office and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to express their opinions on this issue. There will be a 60-day comment period.

“Georgia’s school children have seen history come alive at these sites - it is sad to think the day has come when their history lesson comes only from a book,” said Baker. “Please do whatever you can to help

us with this situation and, most importantly, to make sure that these priceless sites and the history they represent are here forever!”

Some 180 years ago, the government of Georgia barred Cherokee Indians from meeting in Georgia.

“That isn’t unlike what they are doing now, closing the site from us,” said Jack Baker, a member of the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council and president of the National Trail of Tears Association.

DNR public affairs coordinator Kim Hatcher said the Chief Vann House in Spring Place and the New Echota historic site will be open Thursday through Saturday after the changes are made. Both are currently open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5:30 p.m. Hatcher said she does not anticipate changes in the daily hours.

“Part of our goal was to make sure that all state historic sites remain open, even if it is just one day a week, and that they remain open to school groups,” she said.

The management of all historic sites will be transferred to nearby state parks. In the case of the Chief Vann House, management will be transferred to Fort Mountain State Park. Hatcher said she did not know what would happen to the employees at the historic sites.

DNR announced plans to close or cut the hours at the state’s historic sites in September because of state budget cuts. The \$18.6 billion fiscal year 2010 budget signed by Gov. Sonny Perdue is \$3 billion less than the 2009 budget approved last year.

The Georgia governor can be contacted at Office of the Governor, State of Georgia, 203 State Capitol, Atlanta, Ga. 30334. Phone: 404-656-1776, Fax: 404-657-7332 or e-mail: http://gov.georgia.gov/00/gov/contact_us/0,2657,78006749_94820188,00.html.

Trail of Tears Road Segment Listed as on Arkansas Register

by Mark Christ

The State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program listed the Clarksville to Van Buren Road, Highway 352 Segment in Franklin and Johnson counties on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places when it met April 1. This road was used during Removal.

The Clarksville to Van Buren Road, Highway 352 Segment follows Highway 352 and Old Wire Road through Franklin and Johnson Counties for about 24 miles.

“Though it is now covered by a two-lane, black-top highway, the Clarksville to Van Buren Road, Highway 352 Segment is eligible for listing on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places by virtue of its status as a modern highway overlaying the road traversed by the Harris, Whiteley and Bell Detachments during the Cherokee Removal,” the nomination says. “While the paving compromises several elements of integrity, the remarkable integrity of location,

feeling and association make the highway segment richly deserving of recognition on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places.”

The Arkansas Register recognizes historically significant properties that do not meet the requirements of National Register listing.

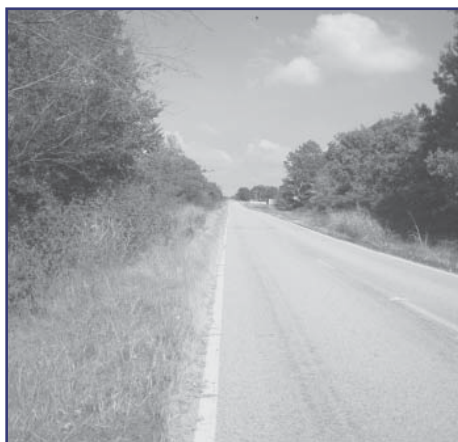


Photo courtesy of AHPP

Clarksville to Van Buren Road, Hwy. 352 Segment

Trail of Tears State Chapter News

Kentucky

Since the fall conference in Little Rock, the Kentucky chapter has been very busy on research and certification efforts for the Kentucky portion of the Trail. After several attempts to attend the Livingston County Fiscal Court to address the certification issue of Berry's Ferry and the John Berry homesite, the weather cooperated enough for this to take place and the chapter is pleased to announce that, as of this publication, the necessary papers have been signed to accomplish this site certification.



Photo by Alice Murphree

Attending the certification signing for Berry's Ferry were: (front row) Brent Ferrell, Franklin Walker, County Judge Chris Lasher, (back row) chapter member Ann Day, Terry Stringer, Harry Van Smith, and Chapter President Beverly Baker. Ferrell, Walker, Stringer, and Van Smith are magistrates for Livingston County.

In January, Beverly Baker and Alice Murphree traveled to Little Rock to the Sequoyah Research Center to meet with Director Dan Littlefield and work on information that can be used for additional Kentucky sites. Currently in process is the effort to certify Big Spring in downtown Princeton. The chapter has been working for several months with TOTA members Barbara Gillihan and Judy Boaz, along with Linda Ward of George Coon Library, on research. Princeton City Council voted to request certification on May 18th.

The spring chapter meeting was held at Princeton Library with TOTA Vice President and Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice Troy Wayne Poteete as guest speaker. The board meeting was held prior to the public chapter meeting. The fall

Kentucky (continued)

meeting is tentatively set for Smithland at the old courthouse in late October. Visits to Mantle Rock and Berry's Ferry will be a part of this meeting. TOTA member and Nature Conservancy representative Shelly Morris is hard at work on the Mantle Rock project.

An issue with Radford Farmhouse and the trail segment near there has still not been resolved concerning the rock quarry permit for the adjoining property. The permit request has been "technically withdrawn" by the State of Kentucky for the third time. We are not out of the woods yet on this one.

Illinois

The Illinois chapter's recent activities have included events coordinated with the "Mapping the Trail of Tears through Southern Illinois" exhibit and the "We Shall Remain" PBS series, a program focusing on Trail of Tears materials in the Southern Illinois University library, and a bus tour across approximately 60 miles of southern Illinois on the Trail.

The traveling exhibit "Mapping the Trail of Tears through Southern Illinois," originally developed by Karen Frailey and board member Harvey Henson, Jr. for display at the Southern Illinois University Museum, has been on display in several southern Illinois museums during the past year with coordination by WSIU Television Outreach Coordinator Vickie Devenport. As part of Native American Heritage Month activities, it was displayed last November 17th at the SIU Student Center in conjunction with a visit by storyteller Robert Lewis from the Cherokee Heritage Cultural Center. WSIU was awarded a grant to raise awareness of Native American history in southern Illinois, in conjunction with the PBS documentary, "We Shall Remain." WSIU has been partnering with NASO, Southern Illinois Association of Museums (SIAM), SIUC Multicultural Services and Programs, SIUC University Museum, and the Illinois chapter of TOTA to bring the exhibit to audiences throughout southern Illinois.

Illinois (continued)

On April 26th, the spring general membership meeting was held at the Morris Library at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Faculty librarians Herman A. Peterson, a chapter representative on the national TOTA board, and Melissa Hubbard gave a presentation on Trail-related materials in the library's Special Collections Research Center.

On June 13th, the Illinois chapter sponsored a bus tour of the Trail of Tears across southern Illinois with several stops at specific sites and tour guides sharing the Trail story along the way. A box lunch was served at the Vienna Park.

Oklahoma

Several members of the Oklahoma chapter recently attended the Joint Council meeting of the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians held at Red Clay, Tennessee. While there, Ed Henshaw, Marybelle Chase, and Curtis Rohr spent an afternoon at the Chattanooga Public Library doing research in the Cherokee rations list records and on a Penelope Allen manuscript of the John Ross papers. The library is in the process of digitizing these records for future access.

The Oklahoma chapter's research team is planning a fourth trip to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., sometime this summer. The team will be researching in the Records of the Commissary General of Subsistence, Records of the Quarter Master General, and Records of the Secretary of War. Researchers hope to find more exciting information concerning the Cherokee removal and the Trail of Tears. The information the group finds of value will be copied and then will be organized and transferred to the Sequoyah Research Center at Little Rock, Arkansas. The SRC is the official archive for the Trail of Tears Association. After being processed by SRC Director Dan Littlefield and his staff, the records will be available to all chapters for research.

Trail of Tears State Chapter News

Arkansas

This year promises to be exciting for the Trail of Tears Association and the Arkansas chapter. As most already know, federal legislation was passed and signed into law that added the Bengé and the Bell routes and other significant segments to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The additional routes will extend the trail in Arkansas by hundreds of miles and provide many interpretation possibilities.

The annual Arkansas chapter membership meeting and summer program will be Saturday, July 25th, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the new Arkansas Studies Institute in Little Rock. This is shaping up to be a great program including: (1) a report from Carolyn Kent regarding the 10 new interpretive panels planned for Arkansas; (2) an update from Marilyn Heifner of the Heritage Trail Partners about the new Statewide Heritage Trail legislation in Arkansas; (3) a presentation by Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr., director of the Sequoyah National Research Center, about removal of the Chickasaws, Muscogees (Creeks), Choctaws, and Seminoles through Arkansas; and (4) a presentation from Jerra Quinton, executive director of the Trail of Tears Association, regarding national activities.

Prior to the July 25th meeting, on Friday, July 24th, Dan Littlefield, Jr., and staff have graciously offered to host a research day at the Sequoyah National Research Center. Space will be limited. To pre-register call Carolyn Kent at 501-650-3384, or email at CarolKe5@aol.com.

The Arkansas chapter continues to work on 10 Trail of Tears wayside panels that will be placed at significant locations around the state. A full report will be presented at the annual membership meeting in July. This project is made possible by a generous grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Watch for news about those installations and dedications.

Work is also progressing on a new map showing the removal routes of the five southeastern tribal nations that travelled

Arkansas (continued)

through Arkansas. Digital map files are being developed that can also be used for interactive web-based applications at a future date.

Alabama

The Alabama chapter met on April 4th at Guntersville State Park. A board meeting was followed by a membership meeting in which Jeff Bishop, president of the Georgia chapter, introduced the TOTAbase to the Alabama chapter. The two chapters are collaborating in adding GPS waypoints and digitized images of original documents, pertaining to Alabama Cherokee Removal sites and routes, to the database.

Excitement is continuing to mount as the chapter prepares for the 2009 TOTA conference at the Guntersville Lodge and Hotel in Guntersville State Park. Getting ready for the conference is paramount on chapter members' minds. This is the first TOTA conference ever held in Alabama, and the chapter plans to make it an unforgettable experience for all participants. The chapter has received an unbelievable \$10,000 in funding from the Marshall County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Words cannot express the appreciation felt when hearing the decision. The opening reception on Monday night will be hosted by the Guntersville Museum. Larry Smith, a chapter representative on the national TOTA board, is working on some special exhibits for this reception. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is hosting the Tuesday night reception. A big "Thank you" goes to Joyce Bear for providing funding for this event. During this reception Doug Mabry will present some very insightful research on the relationship between Creek and Cherokee Removal. Plans are being made to do a research session on the first day, Monday, of the conference. It will be a great opportunity to share ideas and research information. We need volunteers to assist during the conference. If you can help, please e-mail the chapter at AL-ToTA@comcast.net. You will be greatly appreciated. You can find more information about the conference on pages 10 and 11.

Alabama (continued)

The next chapter meeting will be on August 1st at 10:00 a.m. (board meeting), 10:30 a.m. (membership meeting) and after lunch at 1:30 p.m. (conference committee meeting) at the Birmingham Museum of Art in downtown Birmingham. Please make plans to attend.

Georgia

At last, things seem to be moving into high gear for the Georgia chapter. Georgia is now officially part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail! The bill was signed into law just a few weeks ago. This is the culmination of years of effort on the part of many different groups, and it will add 2,845 miles of new trail, including about hundreds of miles in Georgia. The primary focus in the first phase of these additions in Georgia will be interpreting the 15 Removal fort and camp sites and the routes taken between them. Wayside exhibits will be placed at sites where the chapter can arrange to obtain landowner permission.

One of these fort/camp sites, Cedartown, is well on its way to being interpreted. Dr. Sarah Hill has agreed to take the lead on this project, and with the help of new National Park Service Historian Frank Norris, things seem to be moving ahead briskly. Approximately five wayside exhibits will be placed at the Cedartown park,



Photo by Jeff Bishop

Archaeologist Jim Pomfret from Georgia DOT investigates the Ft. Buffington site with Ground Penetrating Radar.

Chapter News continued on page 8

Cherokee Joint Council Celebrates 25th Anniversary at Red Clay State Park

The Joint Cherokee Council, which consists of the Cherokee Nation headquartered in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians headquartered in Cherokee, North Carolina, met at Red Clay State Park in Tennessee on Friday, April 17, 2009. Each year, the Joint Council meets to pass resolutions agreed upon by both tribes' councils that symbolize the reunification of the Cherokee people. This year's meeting was especially commemorative because it marked the 25th anniversary of the first Joint Council, which was also at Red Clay, held between the two tribes since the National Council met at



One of the highlights of the Joint Council meeting was the performance by the students of the immersion class that the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians sponsor. The children sang songs and performed a traditional dance for the audience.

Red Clay in 1837, the last Council meeting before the Removal.

The three-day event included a scholarly symposium, cultural demonstrations and performances, storytelling, arts and crafts booths, and traditional food. There were several TOTA members present, and TOTA's executive director, Jerra Quinton, gave a report to the Joint Council about projects along the Trail, which is partially funded by the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band on an annual basis. Each tribe has made it a priority to set aside \$10,000 each year to give to the TOT.

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

In 1987, Congress acknowledged the significance of this tragic event in our Nation's history 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. Old traces, historic buildings, and other resources are being preserved. Many sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects have been completed, such as route signing, visitor-use development, interpretive wayside exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities.

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
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA
City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR
Crabb-Abbot Farm, IL
Delta Cultural Center, AR
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR
Fort Gibson, OK
Gray's Inn, KY
The Hermitage, TN
Historic Road from Ross to Ridge's, GA

James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
John Ross House, GA
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
Mantle Rock, KY
Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works, MO
Mount Nebo State Park, AR
Murrell Home, OK
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC
New Echota State Historic Site, GA
Petit Jean State Park, AR
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR
Port Royal State Park, TN
Radford Farm, KY
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN
Snelson-Brinker Cabin, MO
Star City Ranch Trail Segment, MO
Tennessee River Museum, TN
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL
Tuscumbia Landing, AL
Vann House Historic Site, GA
VC/Moccasin Springs Road/Nancy Hildebrand's Gravesite-Trail of Tears State Park, MO
Waynesville Cherokee Encampment, Roubidoux Spring, Waynesville, MO

Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites

Arkansas Post National Memorial, AR
Cadron Settlement Park, AR
Cherokee Memorial Park -Blythe Ferry, TN
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN
Mark Twain National Forest, MO
Moccasin Bend, TN
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
Shawnee National Forest, MO
Stones River National Battlefield, TN

TOTA State Chapter Contacts

Alabama

Gail King
205-672-2074
E-mail: gail-king@att.net

Arkansas

John McLarty
Phone: 479-751-7125
E-mail: john@nwarpc.com

Georgia

Jeff Bishop
Phone: 706-766-1309
E-mail: wjefbishop@yahoo.com

Illinois

Sandy Boaz
Phone: 618-833-8216
E-mail: skboaz@yahoo.com

Kentucky

Beverly Baker
Phone: 270-924-5484
E-mail: btbaker@toast.net

North Carolina

Anne Rogers
Phone: 828-227-2443
E-mail: rogers@email.wcu.edu

Tennessee

Bill Jones
Phone: 931-946-7486
E-mail: billj3370@blomand.net

Missouri

Deloris Gray Wood
Phone: 573-729-2545
E-mail: lostgeneration@embarqmail.com

Oklahoma

Curtis Rohr
Phone: 918-341-4689
E-mail: clrfnr58@att.net



Trail of Tears Association
1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344

MEMBERSHIP FORM
January - December 2009

All levels of membership
include one (1) state chapter affiliation.
Please send **\$10 for each additional**
state chapter you would like to join.

Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____
Phone _____ I want to join the following state chapter(s): AL AR GA IL KY MO NC OK TN

Membership Levels

Basic Individual: \$25 to \$99 Patron: \$500 to \$999 Student: \$10 (enclose ID)
Sponsor: \$100 to \$499 Benefactor: \$1000+

Note: Sponsors, Patrons, & Benefactors are listed prominently in two issues of the newsletter, *Trail News*.

PLEASE FILL OUT

MEMBERSHIP: \$25 + \$ _____ = \$ _____ (this amount determines your membership level)
(optional donation)*

of additional chapters _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

*Of this optional donation, please give \$ _____ to TOTA, and
\$ _____ to the _____ state chapter.

**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/Designer

Jerra Quinton

Contributors

Jack Baker, Jeff Bishop, Mark Christ, Melissa Hubbard, Aaron Mahr, Herman Peterson, Jerra Quinton, and TOTA state chapters.

Comments/Address Changes?

Contact: Jerra Quinton
Trail of Tears Association
1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344
TOTA@ARindianctr.org

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 NHT 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 NPS'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
TOTA@ARindianctr.org

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 NHT, the Santa Fe NHT, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT 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

Trail of Tears State Chapter News

Georgia (continued)

where the Removal camp was located. Dr. Hill completed wording for the text of the exhibits this week, and the chapter hopes for it to be placed at the park this year, after suffering a number of delays and setbacks in previous years. This should be a great “showpiece” for the Georgia chapter, and a model for how the chapter may interpret other fort/camp sites.

Officials in LaFayette have also expressed interest in working with the chapter to interpret Fort Cumming. Georgia Chapter Preservation Officer Cailey Fowler met with LaFayette officials recently — the good news is that the probable fort site is on



Photo by Jeff Bishop

Jack Richardson, Dr. Sarah Hill, and Secretary Linda Baker investigate the probable site of Ft. Buffington.

public property, just like Cedartown. This may be a good candidate for the next round of interpretation and wayside exhibits.

Archaeologist Erin Andrews has agreed to work with the Georgia chapter to develop a plan of action on the recently approved fort/camp site archaeology project. Having limited funds, the idea is to get the most possible “bang for the buck” by working with public colleges and universities, non-profit groups, and with professional archaeologists who are willing to donate some time and expertise. Archeology will help to confirm fort and camp locations that have been otherwise difficult to nail down. The chapter looks forward to working with Erin and her colleagues on these projects.

Linda Woodward Geiger is taking the lead on working with the Atlanta History Center to preserve a highly important newspaper collection on microfilm. The chapter is

Georgia (continued)

very excited about this project, which will make a large number of rare 19th century newspapers available to researchers for the first time.

On June 20th, due to massive interest, the Georgia chapter will be sponsoring a workshop on Cherokee genealogy at New Echota. Thanks to Chapter Vice-president, Leslie Thomas and to Linda Woodward Geiger for taking this on.

North Carolina

The North Carolina chapter will meet on June 20, 2009, at the Graham County Library in Robbinsville at 1:00 p.m. The featured speaker will be Dr. Lance Green, who will talk about Cherokee homestead sites in western North Carolina at the time of Removal.

The annual Trail of Tears Walk will also take place on that date. Those who wish to participate on the walk on the actual Trail in this area should meet at the Junaluska Memorial Museum at 9:00 a.m. to be transported up the mountain for the Walk. The registration fee is \$20.00, and includes a T-shirt designed by Luke Swimmer and lunch at the Museum. To pre-register, send a check for \$20.00, made out to “Ed Jackson Scholarship Fund” to T.J. Holland, Junaluska Memorial Museum, P. O. Box 1209, Robbinsville, NC 28771.

Work is continuing on the placement of signs to indicate various locations associated with the Removal. Signs on the Nantahala National Forest along the actual Trail are now in place. These were installed by T.J. Holland, assisted by Joe Wolf and Scott Chekelelee. All are citizens of the Eastern Band and live in the Snowbird community. Placement of these signs was facilitated by Rodney Snedeker, Forest Archaeologist for North Carolina National Forests, and supervised by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Cultural Resources office.

The chapter was represented with a table at the Red Clay Joint Council meeting on all

North Carolina (continued)

three days of that session. Members who assisted in distributing literature about the chapter included Ginger Abernathy, Tom Belt, William Cook, Hartwell Francis, Mary Ann Thompson, and Anne Rogers.

Calendar of Events

June 20

Trail of Tears Walk, 9 am
Junaluska Memorial Museum
Robbinsville, North Carolina
See NC chapter report for more information.

North Carolina Chapter Meeting, 1 pm
Graham County Library
Robbinsville, North Carolina
See NC chapter report for more information.

Cherokee Genealogy Workshop
Georgia chapter
New Echota State Historic Site
Calhoun, Georgia
Visit gatrailoftears.org for more information.

July 12 - 15

12th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails — “Gearing up for the Decade for the National Trails: Outreach, Protection, and Capacity”
Missoula, Montana
Visit nationaltrailspartnership.org for more information.

July 24

Sequoyah Research Center Research Day
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Little Rock, Arkansas
See AR chapter report for more information.

July 25

Arkansas Chapter Meeting, 1 pm
Arkansas Studies Institute
Little Rock, Arkansas
See AR chapter report for more information.

August 1

Alabama Chapter Meetings
Birmingham Museum of Art
Birmingham, Alabama
See AL chapter report for more information.

October 5 - 8

14th Annual TOTA Conference
Guntersville State Park
Guntersville, Alabama
See conference information on pp. 10-11

SIU Carbondale Faculty Librarians Give Presentation to Illinois Chapter

On Sunday April 26th a general meeting of the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association was held in the newly renovated Morris Library on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Two faculty librarians gave a presentation entitled, "Cumulative Collaboration: Historical Research into the Trail of Tears at the Time of its Centennial." Melissa



Photo courtesy of Morris Library, SIUC

An old photo of a no longer existing historical marker at Dutch Creek in Illinois. During Removal, Cherokees camped here because of ice in the Mississippi River.

Hubbard is rare books librarian at the Special Collections Research Center at Morris Library, and Herman A. Peterson is head of reference and instruction. Dr. Peterson is also one of the Illinois chapter's representatives to the national TOTA board.

Hubbard began the presentation by looking at the research conducted by two men in the 1930's in preparation for the centennial of the Trail of Tears. John G. Mulcaster and George Washington Smith became interested in the passage of the Trail of Tears through southern Illinois for different reasons. Mulcaster was a native southern Illinoisan and amateur local historian who wanted to investigate the historical evi-

dence for the stories he had heard in his youth about the passage of the Cherokees through the area. Smith was a member of the history faculty at SIUC, and the author of *A History of Southern Illinois*. He was also intrigued by this chapter in regional history.

Mulcaster and Smith collaborated on a research project to uncover as much information about the passage of the Trail through southern Illinois as they could. They believed that the region had played a vital role in the history of the Cherokee tribe, and they hoped to organize a three-day festival marking the centennial of the Trail, reminiscent of the centennial pageants that were held in North Carolina and Oklahoma.

Smith began his research by writing to librarians, archivists, and fellow historians throughout the country asking for any information they could provide about the Trail. This correspondence is preserved in the Special Collections Research Center as part of the George Washington Smith Papers collection. Smith found that there was little documentary evidence of the Trail preserved in archives and libraries, but he did have some success with contacting other historians who had uncovered valuable information. His correspondence with these individuals created a network of disparate historians, all of whom were working on the same project: illuminating the history of the Trail of Tears. During this time Smith was also corresponding with Mulcaster, who was traveling throughout the country, visiting Cherokee communities and sites along the Trail. He wrote to Smith about the information he was able to gather, and these letters are also preserved in the Smith Papers collection.

Peterson began his portion of the presentation by remarking on the similarities between the work of Mulcaster and Smith and the work of the Trail of Tears Association today. There was a collaboration between an academic historian and a local historian. They also traveled along the Trail, meeting others who shared their

interest. One of the fruits of this travel is a small collection of photographs of sites on the Trail of Tears.

The balance of the presentation was spent examining these photographs and explaining their historical context. The photograph collection includes: (1) the historical marker at the site of Fort Butler in Murphy, North Carolina, one of the concentration camps where the Cherokees were gathered in preparation to move them west; (2) the home of John Berry, who operated the ferry that took the Cherokees across the Ohio River from Kentucky into Golconda, Illinois; (3) the McCorkle home, a camping place for the Cherokees; (4) Bridges Tavern, where supplies were bought; and (5) the historical marker at Dutch Creek, one of the sites where the Cherokees waited for the ice to stop flowing down the Mississippi River.

This last photograph captures one of two historical markers in Southern Illinois commemorating the Trail of Tears which were the fruits of the work of Mulcaster, Smith and others in the 1930's. Sadly, neither sign is extant today. However, the erection of signs is another parallel between the work of Mulcaster and Smith and the efforts of the Trail of Tears Association today. It is the cumulative effect of research and collaboration over time that serves to build up the store of our knowledge of history.

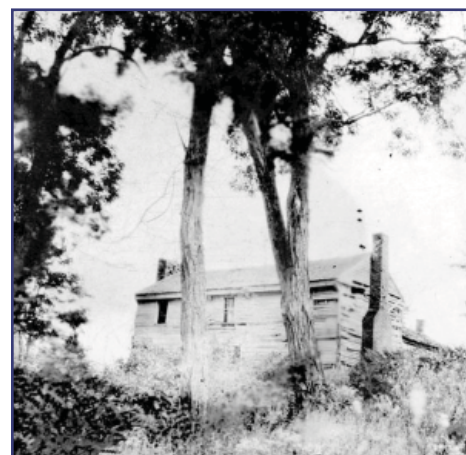


Photo courtesy of Morris Library, SIUC

The McCorkle home in Illinois was a camping site for the Cherokees during Removal.

14th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium

October 5 - 8, 2009

Guntersville State Park • Guntersville, Alabama

Presentations (not a complete list)

Trail of Tears in Fort Payne, by **Sharon Freeman**, Alabama chapter secretary; master's student-Earth science/archaeology

Formation of the EBCI and the Aftermath of Removal, by **Russ Townsend**, Eastern Band of Cherokees preservation officer

McIntosh's 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs: the Beginning of the End for the Southeastern Tribes, by **Doug Mabry**, Georgia chapter research chair; master's degree in anthropology

The Methodists and the Cherokee, by **Michael Wren**, Alabama chapter board member; independent researcher

NPS Challenge Cost-share and Certification Workshop, by **National Park Service Staff**

Research Methods for Mapping the Cherokee Trail System, by **Lamar Marshall**, Alabama chapter board member; cultural heritage director for Wildsouth, a non-profit education corporation

The Role of Gunter's Landing in Cherokee Removal, by **Larry Smith**, Alabama chapter treasurer and national board representative; bachelor of science degree in history

TOTAbase: A Google Earth Trail of Tears Project, by **Jeff Bishop**, Georgia chapter president

Tuscumbia, Courtland, and Decatur Railroad, by **Gail King**, Alabama chapter president; master's degree in anthropology

Tentative Schedule

Monday, Oct 5	Tuesday, Oct 6	Wednesday, Oct 7	Thursday, Oct 8
<p>Morning</p> <p>8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration & Alabama Chapter Activities (local tours, research areas, etc.)</p> <hr/> <p>Afternoon/Evening</p> <p>1:00 – 4:00 PM TOTA Board Meeting</p> <p>5:00 – 6:30 PM Reception</p>	<p>Morning</p> <p>8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration</p> <p>9:00 AM – 9:30 AM Welcomes TOTA President AL Chapter President Local Dignitaries NTS-NPS Superintendent</p> <p>9:30 – 10:30 AM Keynote</p> <p>11:00 AM - Noon Concurrent Sessions 1, 2, 3</p> <hr/> <p>Luncheon Noon – 1:15 PM NPS Update/Trail of Tears Video</p> <hr/> <p>Afternoon/Evening</p> <p>1:30 – 3:00 PM General Assembly General Membership Meeting/ Chapter Reports</p> <p>3:30 – 4:30 PM Concurrent Sessions 4, 5, 6</p> <p>5:30 – 7:00 PM Reception</p>	<p>Morning</p> <p>8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration</p> <p>9:00 – 10:00 AM Concurrent Sessions 7, 8, 9</p> <p>10:30 – 11:30 AM Concurrent Sessions 10, 11, 12</p> <hr/> <p>Luncheon Noon – 1:15 PM Boxed Lunches</p> <hr/> <p>Afternoon/Evening</p> <p>12:30 – 5:30 PM Field Trip (Lunch on Bus)</p> <p>2:00 – 5:30 PM Activities for those not participating in the field trip</p> <p>6:00 – 7:30 PM Reception</p>	<p>Morning</p> <p>9:00 – 10:00 AM Concurrent Sessions 13, 14, 15</p> <p>10:30 – 11:30 AM Concurrent Session 16, 17, 18</p> <hr/> <p>Luncheon Noon – 1:15 PM Speaker</p>

Guntersville State Park Lodging

1155 Lodge Drive • Guntersville, Alabama

Special Rates for TOTA Conference

Hotel Rooms <small>*Rooms face Guntersville Reservoir</small>	Rates	Cabins & Chalets	Rates
Parking Lot View queen bed & sofa sleeper	1 adult - \$86.40 2 adults - \$88.20 \$5 per additional adult	Cabins 2 bedrooms/2 baths (2 full beds/1 king bed)	\$112.50 - up to 6 adults \$5 per additional adult 8 person maximum
Bluffside Rooms* 2 queen beds	1 adult - \$88.20 2 adults - \$90.00 \$5 per additional adult	Chalets 2 bedrooms/1 bath (2 full beds/1 king bed)	\$112.50 - up to 6 adults \$5 per additional adult 8 person maximum
King Suites* king bed & sofa sleeper	\$112.50 - up to 4 adults \$5 per additional adult		
Queen Suites* 2 queen beds & sofa sleeper	\$157.50 - up to 6 adults \$5 per additional adult		
Riverview Suite* 2 sofa sleepers (no bedroom)	\$157.50 - up to 4 adults \$5 per additional adult		

Additional Taxes & Fees

12% lodging tax + \$1 city surcharge per night

Group Codes (needed for group rates)

Arriving Sunday, Oct. 4th: Code **CGTOTA**

Arriving Monday, Oct. 5th, or after: Code **CGTOT2**

Airports

Huntsville, AL - 58 miles

Birmingham, AL - 88 miles

Chattanooga, TN - 101 miles

Deadline to receive group rates

September 3, 2009

Room Reservations & Area Information

1-800-548-4553 or 256-571-5440

www.VisitLakeGuntersville.com

Extra Room Amenities

Refrigerator

Microwave

DVD Player

Wireless Internet

Wednesday Field Trip FREE

Two chartered buses will take participants to Fort Payne, where they'll visit the sites of Turtle Field Mission & John Huss' Cabin. Then on to Willstown Mission Cemetery, Ross' Home Place, Valley Head, & the Bellefonte site. Limited seating!

Ground Transportation from Airports to Guntersville

Huntsville International Airport

Executive Connection: (256) 772-0186
\$96 for 1 person; \$10 ea. for additional passengers up to 5 total

Birmingham International Airport

Approximate rate for one person: \$170

- Award Cab: (205) 243-5552
- B'ham Cab: (205) 567-7890
- B'ham Door-to-Door: (205) 591-5550
\$120 (1-4 people)
- Hill Cab: (205) 222-7812
- Yellow Cab: (205) 328-4444

Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport

Approximate rates: \$200 for one person;
\$5 for each additional passenger.

- Blue Ridge Limo: (423) 902-6181 or
(423) 304-5878
- Checker Cab: (423) 704-4304
- Mercury: (423)
- All American Taxi: (423) 645-6387
- Millenium Taxi: (423) 267-2008
- Jackson Cab: (423) 304-8917 624-1084

For specific cab fare and service, call the cab numbers above. Many will work with you to negotiate a group rate that is more economical than a single-person rate.

Conference Carpooling

Please make note in the designated area of your conference registration form if you are willing to give someone a ride or if you need a ride to and from the conference. TOTA will help facilitate putting people in touch to work out the details.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The Trail of Tears Association

would like to thank the following for their generous upgraded membership support:

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Cherokee Nation - \$10,000
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians - \$10,000

Patrons \$500 - \$999

Principal Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation - \$500

Sponsors \$100 - \$499

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D. Robert Akerhielm, IN - \$125 (2008) + \$100 (2009)
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