



**Trail of Tears Association, Tennessee Chapter Newsletter
March 2013**

CHAPTER MEETING: Saturday, March 15, 2014, 12:00 pm Central time, 1:00 pm Eastern time

Our annual meeting will be held on March 15 at noon Central time at Lou's Chapel near Martin Springs. (Thanks, Doris, for making the arrangements!) We will start with a potluck lunch followed by the meeting and elections. We will hold elections for 3 state director positions. State directors will serve terms of 3 years and serve on the chapter board. They are required by the bylaws to work for the good of the chapter and to attend as many board and chapter meetings as possible. You must be present to vote and your dues for 2014 must be paid. It is recommended that if you have not already sent your dues to national, that you hold off mailing them to national and bring them to the March 15 meeting and pay them there.

List of nominees for State Director from Floyd Ayers, Chairman, TNTOTA Bylaws and Nominations Committee:

Patrick (Pat) Cummings - Antioch, TN
Barbara Hanback - Hohenwald, TN
Debbie Moore - Cleveland, TN
Shirley Lawrence - Decatur, TN
Cleata Townsend - Chattanooga, TN
Lee Trevino - Sewanee, TN

Directions to Lou's Chapel: Coming from the west side of Monteagle, cross the mountain heading east, at the bottom of the mountain take the first exit, 143. At the top of the ramp take a right to the stop sign, then left onto Hwy 2. Lou's chapel is 3 - 4 miles on the right.

From East I-24 heading toward Monteagle, take exit 143. At the top of the ramp, turn left, cross the bridge and go to the stop sign. Take a left at the stop sign onto Hwy 2. Lou's chapel is 3 - 4 miles on the right.

19th ANNUAL TOTA CONFERENCE, MEMPHIS, TN, OCTOBER 6-9, 2014

Mark your calendars! The next national conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Memphis. The special room rate for conference attendees is \$109 per night plus tax. To make your reservations, call 901-528-1800 and mention the group name of Trail of Tears Annual Meeting. Deadline to make reservations at the special conference rate is September 5. There is a limited number of rooms available at this special rate, so call early before they sell out.

1823 NASHVILLE TOLL BRIDGE PROJECT FEBRUARY UPDATE BY PAT CUMMINS, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIVE HISTORY ASSOCIATION AND TNTOTA MEMBER

Now that we have a month of the new year behind us, Toye [Heape] and I felt that we should bring everyone with an interest in the Nashville toll bridge project up to date on the most recent developments.

Firstly, as you should know by now, our much anticipated engineering report by Mr. Jim Barker, P.E. was completed last month and it has since been submitted to the National Park Service for the purpose of certifying the west abutment as a part of the Trail of Tears National Historical Trail. We have also supplied copies of the report to the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Historic Nashville Inc., the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, the Metro Historical Commission, and several other individuals with an interest in the project. We are very pleased with the report itself and we're very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Jim Barker.

We were informed Friday, Jan. 31st, that the NPS / Trail of Tears National Historic Trail certification agreement has been signed by TDOT Commissioner John Schroer on behalf of the State of Tennessee and the National Park Service. This is extremely exciting news! Thank you, Commissioner Schroer!

We have also recently met with Region 3 TDOT Maintenance Staff at the abutment site. Beginning as early as this month, TDOT will begin clearing the scrub vegetation and trees that pose a long term maintenance issue and a threat to the structural integrity of the abutment structure. Several large trees in particular are growing from the stonework and are slowly destroying the masonry work especially on the southeast corner. TDOT has also agreed to erect temporary fencing and place no trespassing signs in front of the site to dissuade the homeless from camping on the abutment and discourage public access in general. With no railing, the abutment poses a public safety risk and, therefore, until a permanent solution can be realized, a temporary fence will be put up.

Ultimately, the Native History Association's long term vision for the site includes the on site interpretation of the northern land route of the Trail of Tears as it passed through Nashville and we want to see the site designated as the Nashville Trail of Tears Memorial by the City of Nashville. We also realize, of course, that the history of the covered bridge at this location also represents the early development of Nashville, along with westward expansion, and the economic development of Tennessee as the bridge was the first permanent bridge to span the Cumberland river anywhere along its entire length. The abutment, although only just a remnant of the former bridge, is furthermore vitally important regarding early American bridge engineering and in relation to those noted with its design and construction. Undoubtedly, it holds significance on many levels and we look forward to the future of the location as an important educational destination and point of historical importance for the City of Nashville.

NEW TEE SHIRT DESIGNS

Floyd Ayers has been working very hard on new TNTOTA tee shirt designs for several months and hopes to have the designs ready to be unveiled at the March 15 meeting. Part of the holdup has been getting shape files from the National Park Service. Preliminary discussions of the designs and color choices that Floyd has shared with the board indicate that these will be the best TNTOTA tee shirts ever.

THANK YOU TO 2013 CONFERENCE DOORPRIZE DONORS

Tennessee chapter members once again out did themselves at the last national conference in Hopkinsville by donating a large number of door prizes. Those who provided doorprizes include Sarah Kortarax, Shirley Lawrence and Greg Vital, the Learys, Vicki Rozema, Cleata Townsend, Doris Trevino, and Carlos Wilson.

UPCOMING ARTICLES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

The *Chattanooga Times Free Press* newspaper has been running a series of short articles on Sundays on the history of Chattanooga and the area. Most have focused on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Two articles by Vicki Rozema are scheduled to run in the March 9 and March 16th issues of the paper. The first will highlight the Brainerd Mission to the Cherokees and the second will highlight the role of the mission in the Cherokee Removal. Vicki also has an article on how the growing interest in science and technology in the early 19th century contributed to the Cherokee Removal that will appear in the next issue of the *Journal of East Tennessee History* which will come out sometime this spring. The article is based on material in her dissertation and a talk that she gave for the Tennessee chapter last year.

◆ **Tennessee Events:**

Sequoyah Birthplace Winter Lecture Series, Vonore, TN, Sundays in March from 2 pm to 3pm

Tyler Howe - Cherokee Americanization Program Lecture - March 2, 2014

Myers Brown - The War of 1812 & The Battle of Horsehoe Bend Lecture - March 9

Dr. Duane King - 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend/175th Anniversary of the Trail of Tears - March 16

For more information on this series of free lectures, see www.sequoyahmuseum.org/ or call 423-884-6246.

Little Owl Music and Arts Festival, Chattanooga, TN, March 22, 11 am to 6 pm

This event will be held at Audubon Acres, a site that is listed on the National Trail of Tears. It will include storytellers, musicians, artists, craft vendors and exhibitors, petting zoo, birds of prey, and food vendors. Admission is free to Chattanooga Audubon Society members, \$7 for the public. For more information, see <http://www.chattanoogaaudubon.org/>.

◆ **Georgia Events:**

GATOTA March 8th meeting

The next meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will take place on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the office of the Chattooga County Historical Society in the Old Summerville Train Depot in Summerville, GA. Bill Barker, GA TOTA member and Chattooga County historian, will be doing a personal interpretation of Sequoyah, developer of the Cherokee syllabary. Following the meeting, they may have a sign dedication in Summerville and a field trip to a Cherokee site(s), weather permitting. Directions - use 120 E. Washington Ave, Summerville 30747.

Dr. Sarah E. Hill lecture at Berry College March 13, 2014, 7:00 pm

Dr. Sarah Hill will give a talk titled "Cherokees, Georgians, and the Trail of Tears from Rome, 1838." The lecture will be held in the Krannert Center Ballroom E on the Berry College Campus.

EXCERPT FROM LETTER FROM JOHN ROSS TO MONTFORT STOKES, APRIL 5, 1839

"The whole of the Cherokee nation having completed their removal to this section of country under the late arrangement made with Majr. Genl [Winfield] Scott of the U. S. Army on part of the United States Government. It was confidently expected by them that ample arrangements for their subsistence would have been made in time to meet their wants on their arrival west — but we find a contract existing between the Government and individuals and depots established on the [Cherokee-Arkansas] line at inconvenient points for the Emigrants, who have, and are about settling themselves at places too remote from those depots to be able to get their Rations, without great inconvenience. The detachment that came by water recd shortly after their arrival fifteen days rations of Beef & forty five of corn, and an assurance made that a depot should be established at or near the Illinois camp meeting ground but I am sorry to say the fifteen days have expired the Emigrants out of provisions and no arrangements are made to supply

them” (From Gary Moulton, ed, *The Papers of Chief John Ross*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1984, 1:701-702.) Note from Vicki: Montfort Stokes was former governor of North Carolina and a political supporter of Andrew Jackson. After being appointed by Jackson to help oversee relocation, Stokes moved to Fort Gibson in Arkansas Territory where he served as agent to the Cherokees. According to the terms of the Treaty of New Echota, detachments of emigrating Cherokees were supposed to be given a year’s worth of rations upon arrival in the west. However, as illustrated in the above letter, there were many problems with the supplies including locations of depots, shortages, and quality. George Hicks, Collins McDonald, John Ross, and other Cherokee leaders complained about corn, beef, and pork that was unfit for consumption. The water detachment mentioned in the letter is the detachment led by John Drew which left from the Cherokee Agency at Charleston, TN on December 5, 1838 and arrived in Indian Territory on March 18, 1839. This detachment contained 231 people including John Ross and his family. Ross’s wife, Quatie, died on the journey.

MY THANKS to Floyd Ayers, Pat Cummins, and Doris Trevino for providing information for the newsletter.

MY LAST NEWSLETTER: With this issue, I am stepping down as editor of the newsletter. I have also decided not to run again for a state director position. I wish the new state directors and those continuing on the board and those actively researching and educating about the Trail of Tears much success. If you are interested in volunteering to be the new newsletter editor or in helping the chapter in other ways, please contact me or one of the board members. My email is vickirozema@comcast.net.