



**Trail of Tears Association, Tennessee Chapter Newsletter
November 2011**

CHAPTER MEETING: Sunday, December 4, 2011, noon Eastern time, 11 am Central time.

For our next meeting, Debbie Moore has arranged for us to meet at Red Hill United Methodist Church near Red Clay State Park in Bradley County. The address is 527 Red Hill Valley Road, Cleveland, TN 37323.

Directions from Debbie: Exit I-75 at exit 20. Go east. You will go (I'm guessing) 8 miles.....you will see Taco Bell then McDonalds... pass McDonald's, turn right at the light. Turn left at the next light. You are now on Hwy 60/Dalton Pike. You will go about 6 miles and then you will see Waterville School on the left. Go probably another 4 miles south then you will see Farming Dale Subdivision on the right. Take the next LEFT onto Red Hill Valley Road. Follow this road for about a mile and a half and you will see the cute country church on the left.

Remember to bring a snack or covered dish. Debbie mentioned that if someone wants to pick up Zaxby's or KFC, they are located at the last left turn as you get on HWY 60. We will be visiting the house of Judge John Martin after the meeting is over.

REPORT FROM CHAPTER PRESIDENT SHIRLEY LAWRENCE (As submitted to the National TOTA newsletter)

We are pleased to report that the James Brown Plantation is now protected by an easement agreement for the house and 80 acres of grassland. The plan assures that the property will never be destroyed. Brown was one of thirteen detachment leaders on the Trail of Tears.

On November 14, TNTOTA and Aubudon Acres, a certified interpretive site on the National Trail of Tears Historical Trail, sponsored a book signing by Daniel Blake Smith on his book *American Betrayal: Cherokee Patriots and the Trail of Tears*. The book signing was held at Concord Baptist Church in Chattanooga. This is the first stop on Smith's book signing tour. Smith spoke at the National TOTA conference last year in Metropolis, IL.

Great News from the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at Blythe Ferry! The memorial wall with the 1835 Henderson Census is now ready to be built. The park must raise \$25,000 to match money promised from a generous supporter who has agreed to match dollar for dollar the money raised by the park. NPS visited the park on Thursday Oct. 6. After a successful visit, NPS generously agreed to furnish a new entrance sign.

Bob Richards, Greenways and Trails Program Coordinator for the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, is working with TNTOTA on where to place road directional signs for significant Trail of Tears sites across the state. This year, the Tennessee chapter has been holding its quarterly meetings at sites along the Bell Route including Chattanooga and Winchester. The final meeting for the year will be held on Sunday, December 4 near Cleveland in the vicinity of the Black Fox community, John Martin house, and the Red Clay Mission.

REPORT FROM TNTOTA NATIONAL DIRECTOR CLEATA TOWNSEND ON TNTOTA CO-SPONSORED BOOKSIGNING: November 14, 2011

It was exciting to be contacted by Daniel Blake Smith a few months ago about being a stop on his book signing tour for his latest book *An American Betrayal, Cherokee Patriots and the Trail of Tears*, which was released on Nov. 8, 2011 and getting to be the first stop of this tour on Nov. 14 th. This book addresses both sides of the Ross Party and the Treaty Party issues before and after removal, offering the reader a more balanced view of the complex situation that each faction faced and possible reasons for their decisions. A must read! The signing was held at Concord Baptist Church in Chattanooga with an announcement made by Drew Scott, a minister on staff, that this church was established by a group of white settlers that had been worshipping at Brainerd Mission. When the mission closed, as there were no other churches in the area, they began worshipping in a brush arbor on the site of the present day church. We are indebted to fellow TOTA members from several states that were unable to attend but ordered "signed" books. Overall, I would rate this as a positive event for TNTOTA.

UPDATE FROM TNTOTA STATE DIRECTOR VICKY GARLAND

Vicky currently serves as one of TNTOTA's three state directors. She is actively researching Benge's route through Tennessee which she has determined crossed the Tennessee River at Reynoldsburg and went up to Paris, Tennessee. Benge's detachment then went up to Dukedom and to Feliciana, Kentucky to Clinton, Kentucky. Then they crossed the Mississippi River at Columbus, Kentucky into Missouri.

Vicky provided the below link to the 1839 David H. Burr map of Kentucky and Tennessee which shows post offices, postal roads, and railroads, most of which existed at the time of removal:

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~1624~140011:Map-of-Kentucky-&-Tennessee-Exhibit>

Vicky has been actively researching and educating Tennesseans about the Cherokee Removal for many years. I asked her to give us an update on some of her many activities. Here is what she shared:

What I have been doing over in Middle Tennessee . . .

I have gone to several schools this year and to organizations to do presentations on Native Americans and the Trail of Tears. I have been to many meetings this year because I work with Tourism Offices all over. Our focus is on the Trail of Tears Memorial walks we do including several parades that we participated in this year. We rode with First Nations People in Elkton and won 1st place for the float the kids did. We also rode in Lawrenceburg with the David Crockett Long Hunters dressed as Indians and won 2nd place in that parade.

April 25, 2011 A Walk into History at Elkton Bridge

In Elkton, Tennessee we did a Walk into History and educated the children about Benge's Route that crossed in Elkton. Then we went back to the school and did a presentation for the 4th and 5th grade classes.

June 9, 2011 Maury County Genealogy Society

I did a presentation to show people how I do American Indian research. I am not a genealogist: I just do what I do. It has helped many people on their quests for knowledge.

August 19, 2011 Trail of Tears Sign Dedication with the Remembrance Motorcycle Association on 64 Highway

October 1, 2011 Campbellsville Heritage Festival

We helped them tell about Benge's Route.

October 29, 2011 TOT Walk and Living History in Fayetteville, Tennessee. We helped Debbie Capino and First Nations people to put on this event.

November 5, 2011 TOT walk in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

This was our 8th year to walk in Lawrence County and we had a great turn out and our Drum was Memez Boyz from Crossville Tennessee.

November 12, 2011 TOT Walk and Ride in Pulaski Tennessee

This was our 8th year for the annual Motorcycle Ride and Walk in Pulaski.

That is a small list of what I have been doing with my Friends and Family in Southern Middle Tennessee.



Vicky Garland (in light blue) at 2011 dedication of Bell Route Historical Marker in Lawrence County.

UPDATE FROM CHAPTER MEMBER BOB RICHARDS

Bob visited the Santa Fe, NM office of the National Park Service on October 20, 2011 and met with John Cannella and Cory Kolisko about the Tennessee Trail of Tears signage project. He learned that the National Park Service - Long Distance Trails office - is working on a new Trail of Tears brochure, but it is not clear when it might come out.

THANKS TO DOOR PRIZE DONORS!

Thanks to Cleata Townsend for rounding up some beautiful door prizes for the National TOTA Conference in October. The following folks generously donated some really nice door prizes, many of which were beautiful hand-crafted objects of art: Lee & Doris Trevino, the W J Leary Family, Shirley Lawrence, Audubon Acres, Harold Belcher, Raymond Ewing, and Vicki Rozema.

News from the TOTA chapter in Georgia:

President Jeff Bishop and Vice-President Leslie Thomas were recently re-elected to new two-year terms. Leslie reports that New Echota State Park will have a Christmas event December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Also, the annual Christmas candlelight tour of the Chief Vann House will be held on December 9th at 5 p.m.

November is National Native American Heritage month.

“The morning is excessively cold. Rode to the encampment, one mile, and found our dear Cherokees comfortable in their tents. Saw Mr. Taylor, he says they will remain today where they are. It is said the detachments now at the Mississippi are stopped by floating ice, and Mr. Hilderbrand’s detachment is stopped by the same means at the Ohio R[iver].” *From the Journal of Rev. Daniel S. Butrick, Dec. 26, 1838. Butrick, a missionary who served in the Cherokee Nation for many years including at the Carmel and Brainerd Missions, accompanied the Cherokees on the Trail of Tears.*

My thanks to everyone who provided information for this newsletter.

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