



**Trail of Tears Association, Tennessee Chapter Newsletter  
February 2016**

**CHAPTER MEETING: Saturday, March 5, 2016 12:00 pm Central time, 1:00 pm Eastern time; Board meeting: 11:00 am Central, 12:00 pm Eastern**

A meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be held at noon central (1:00 pm eastern) at the Stones River National Battlefield Conference Room on Saturday, March 5, 2016. This short general membership meeting will be followed by a caravan tour to the Nashville Toll Bridge site for interested members. To save time during the meeting and allow time for the field trip, there will be no pot luck lunch. A board meeting will be held before the general meeting from 11 central (noon eastern) to noon central (1 eastern). The board meeting will not last more than an hour to guarantee starting the membership meeting on time.

Stones River National Battlefield is located in Murfreesboro, TN at 3501 Old Nashville Highway. One of the routes on the Trail of Tears passed through the park which has interpretive signs marking the route.

Directions from the NPS website:

**From Nashville (Interstate 24 East)** - Take Exit 76 and turn left onto Medical Center Parkway. Turn left onto Thompson Lane. Turn left at the park entrance at 1563 N. Thompson Lane. Follow the tour road to the visitor center.

**From Chattanooga (Interstate 24 West)** - Take Exit 76 and turn right onto Medical Center Parkway. Turn left onto Thompson Lane. Turn left at the park entrance at 1563 N. Thompson Lane. Follow the tour road to the visitor center.

For more information on the Nashville Toll Bridge, please visit the Native History Association website at <http://www.nativehistoryassociation.org/tollbridge.php>. The toll bridge site is next to the Victory Memorial Bridge which is the US 41 bridge crossing the Cumberland River in downtown Nashville.

**TRAIL OF TEARS WORKSHOPS – MAY 2016 IN DALTON, GA AND JACKSON, MO**

The National Trail of Tears Association is hosting two Trail of Tears workshops in May.

The western workshop information is as follows:

Trail of Tears State Park Visitors Center, Jackson, MO

Monday May 9th and Tuesday May 10th

Accommodations arranged for Sunday May 8th, Monday May 9<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday May 10th at Drury Inn and Suites, 25 Drury Lane, Jackson, MO. For reservations call 800-325-0720. Refer to Group # 2268068 or online go to [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com) and refer to Group # 2268068. CUT-OFF DATE for hotel reservations: **Wednesday April 6th, 2016.**

The eastern workshop information is as follows:

Meeting room at La Quinta Inn and Suites, 715 College Drive, Dalton, GA

Thursday May 12th and Friday May 13th

Accommodations arranged at La Quinta Inn and Suites, 715 College Drive, Dalton, GA for nights of Wed. May 11th and Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>. For Reservations call 706-272-9099 or telephone 866-527-1498.

At either number refer to Trail of Tears Reservation Block Confirmation # 62951018. CUT-OFF DATE for hotel reservations: **Wednesday April 13th, 2016.**

The information provided will essentially be the same at both workshops, so it is not necessary to attend both. National TOTA will have funds for reimbursement for lodging and may be able to provide mileage reimbursement. Workshops will be conducted by Dr. Carroll Van West and Amy Kostine of Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation. The focus will be upon preservation of both log and stone structures. In some respects these workshops will be a continuation of the 2013 Preservation Workshops conducted in Cleveland, TN and Fayetteville, AR.

A workshop registration form will be sent out later by national. Additional information from the presenters/facilitators and more details will be provided by national after the workshop committee meets again on Feb. 25th.

### **CURRENT LIST OF TNTOTA BOARD MEMBERS, NATIONAL DIRECTORS, WEBSITE EDITOR**

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**TNTOTA WEBSITE:** [www.TNTOTA.com](http://www.TNTOTA.com)

### **◆ Georgia Events:**

**GATOTA Meeting, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Part in Ft. Oglethorpe, GA, Saturday March 12, 2016, 10:30 am**

Park Ranger Christopher Young will lead a tour of the significant Cherokee sites at the park.

### **EXCERPT FROM THE JOURNAL OF GEORGE W. FEATHERSTONHAUGH ON THE 1837 COUNCIL AT RED CLAY**

August 7: "The messenger returned about 3 P.M. with information to Mr. Ross that he might assemble the nation. Accordingly, horns were blown and public criers went into the woods to summon all the males to the Council-house; but recommending to the women and children to remain at their fires. Every one was now in motion, notwithstanding that the rain continued to fall in torrents.

At 4 P.M., Mr. Ross conducted Mr. Mason, Colonel Lindsay, Colonel Smith, and myself, into a stand erected near the Council-house, open at the sides, and from whence we could view an assemblage of about two thousand male Cherokees standing in the rain awaiting the "Talk" that was to be delivered. The

special agent now advanced to the front of the stand, and read his address which was translated to them by the interpreter; after which, Mr. Gunter addressed them, requesting them to remain until the Council had taken the "Talk" into consideration, and informing them that plenty of provisions would continue to be provided for them, upon which they gave him a hearty grunt and dispersed. The scene was an imposing one; the Cherokees were attentive and behaved very well, but it was evident the "Talk" made no impression upon them. If the special agent had declared, in the name of his Government, that the Cherokee nation should continue to enjoy their native land, it would have been most enthusiastically received; but anything short of that was a proof to them that there was no hope left for justice from the whites, nor any resource for them but in the wisdom of their National Council. The "Talk" itself was full of friendly professions towards the nation, and dwelt upon the advantages it would derive from a peaceful compliance with the policy of the Government; but there was a passage in it which showed that the United States Government were determined to enforce the treaty which the minority had made with the Government, and even insinuated that the resistance to it was factious. This gave offence, and even Mr. Ross objected to it." (From George W. Featherstonhaugh's *A Canoe Voyage Up the Minnay Sotor*, reprint, 1970, Minnesota Historical Society, Volume II, pages 233-34.)

Note from Vicki: Featherstonhaugh was the first official United States Geologist. Working for the Department of War, he made several trips to survey the natural resources of the fledgling nation. On one of his trips, he traveled through Cherokee country in the summer of 1837 where he stopped at the Brainerd Mission, Spring Place Mission, the gold fields in North Georgia, and the Red Clay Council Grounds. He later wrote of his travels in a 2-volume work: *A Canoe Voyage Up the Minnay Sotor*. At Red Clay he witnessed a gathering of several thousand Cherokees who had not yet emigrated to Indian Territory where they endured torrential rains to hear their leaders discuss what could be done to resist the enforcement of the 1835 Treaty of New Echota. John Ross and other leaders continued to travel to Washington in attempts to overturn the treaty or negotiate better terms, but to no avail. The missionaries at Brainerd did not trust Featherstonhaugh and treated him coolly. They were right to do so because the geologist later filed a report with the Secretary of War reporting on what he had observed in Cherokee country and said that he believed the Brainerd Missionaries would side with the Cherokees should armed resistance to removal break out. Use of geologists, engineers, and other scientists by the Department of War to spy on Native Americans was typical. Military natural resources reports included locations of Indian villages, estimated counts of warriors, and proposed locations for future forts in Indian territories.

**MY THANKS** to Pat Cummins for arranging the March 5 meeting place at Stones River and for agreeing to lead the field trip to the Nashville Toll Bridge. If you have any news that you feel is appropriate for the newsletter and that other members might be interested in, please send it to my email address at [VickiRozema@comcast.net](mailto:VickiRozema@comcast.net).