



**Trail of Tears Association, Tennessee Chapter Newsletter  
May 2017**

**CHAPTER MEETING: Saturday, June 24, 2017, 2:00 pm Eastern time, 1:00 pm Central time, Tellico Plains High School, Tellico, TN.**

The next meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be held at 1:00 pm Central, 2:00 pm Eastern, on June 24 at the Tellico Plains High School at 9180 TN-68 in Tellico. The meeting will be in the Alumni Room at the high school. Doors will open at 1 pm and the meeting will begin at 2 pm Eastern. Quentin Bass, archaeologist for the Cherokee National Forest, will give a short power point presentation on the Trail of Tears NHT and Fort Armistead in the Cherokee National Forest. We will have a second speaker, TNTOTA VP Laura Spann, who will present information about 1819 Cherokee property owners in East Tennessee. In addition to the speakers, there will be a number of exhibits about the Trail of Tears in Tennessee.

In the morning before the chapter meeting, TNTOTA members are invited to attend a finger weaving class hosted by and at the Charles Hall Museum from 10 am until noon. The museum is located at 229 Cherohala Skyway in Tellico The class is not free and space is limited. Contact Pam Hall Matthews at 423-253-2111 or [charleshallmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:charleshallmuseum@hotmail.com) to make a reservation. The class fee includes materials to make a key chain. Call today to reserve your spot!

**FALL MEMBER MEETING – NOVEMBER 4**

Please mark your calendars for our next chapter meeting on Nov. 4 at the David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg, TN. We have been invited by Vicky Garland from Lawrence County to join a memorial walk on a segment of the original trail at 10:00 am CST. There will be chili for lunch and native drummers will perform.

**MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Dear TNTOTA friends,

Our TNTOTA year is off to a great start! We had a successful March meeting and a productive board meeting in April. We are looking forward to greeting the Remember the Trail Bike Riders in Red Clay, Charleston and Blythe's Ferry in June. The National Park Service will be conducting training on June 6 for the Board and we are going to have a big meeting in Tellico Plains on June 24<sup>th</sup>. We have gained 19 new members since our March election and we now have 99 members! We have a booming Facebook page: TN Trail of Tears Association.

We have committed to two big goals over the next two years. The first is to continue the quest to mark important sites on the Trail of Tears and to provide education to our members and the public. We can fulfill our education commitment by each board member making an exhibit that can be shown in Tellico Plains and at other meetings.

TNTOTA stands firm in our commitment to mark sites in Tennessee. How can we move forward if we don't know where we have been? What we need is a list of marked sites in Tennessee. I have requested the information from the National Park Service and I am unsure when I will receive that information. I am asking everyone to send me a list of Trail of Tears signage and wayside markers that you are aware of in your county. Once we know all the marked sites then perhaps we can develop a long term plan to continue identifying and marking sites.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our activities. Thank you for all you do.

Debbie Moore

## **TNTOTA BOARD AND NATIONAL DIRECTORS:**

President - Debbie Moore, [bradleyfolks@aol.com](mailto:bradleyfolks@aol.com), 423-715-2254

Vice President - Laura Spann, [laurabs Spann@gmail.com](mailto:laurabs Spann@gmail.com), 615-330-9755

Secretary – Joy Montgomery, [joyrenee07@gmail.com](mailto:joyrenee07@gmail.com), 936-577-9626

Treasurer - Erin Medley, [erin.medley@tn.gov](mailto:erin.medley@tn.gov), 423-650-6864

State Directors -

Shirley Lawrence, [shirleyclawrence@aol.com](mailto:shirleyclawrence@aol.com), 423-368-2231

Graydon Swisher, [go2swish@bellsouth.net](mailto:go2swish@bellsouth.net), 901-737-3114

Doris Tate Trevino, [tandt05@bellsouth.net](mailto:tandt05@bellsouth.net), 931-598-5953

National Directors –

Cleata Townsend, [humanbeing\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:humanbeing_2@hotmail.com), 423-698-2804

Vicki Rozema, [vrozema@comcast.net](mailto:vrozema@comcast.net), 865-696-7566

## **TRAIL OF TEARS BIKE RIDERS TO BE IN EAST TENNESSEE JUNE 4-5**

The Remember the Removal Trail of Tears Memorial Bike Riders will camp at Red Clay State Park June 4<sup>th</sup> and then leave early in the morning on June 5<sup>th</sup>. They are expected to arrive at Red Clay between 2 and 4 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup>. This would be a good time for any TNTOTA members who wish to greet the riders at Red Clay to come. Friends of Red Clay (FORC) will provide dinner, snacks and breakfast for them while they are at Red Clay. Park Manager Erin Medley says TNTOTA members are welcome to come but they might be put to work. :)

From Red Clay State Park, the riders will travel to the Hiwassee River Heritage Center at 8756 Hiwassee Street in Charleston where they are expected to arrive between 11:00 and 11:30 am Eastern. (In the past, their arrival time has varied.) They will be served lunch 11:30 to 12:30. A reception with public officials is planned for 12:30 pm followed by desserts. TNTOTA members are invited to join them for dessert and encouragement and to give them a proper “send-off” to their next stop at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at Blythe Ferry in Birchwood. Tours (walking or driving) of Trail of Tears sites and plans for Charleston will be offered after the send-off for anyone interested.

The bike riders will arrive at the Cherokee Removal Park at 6615 Blythe Ferry Lane in Birchwood sometime between 3 and 5:30 pm. They will be transported by boat across the Tennessee River and riding to Dayton to spend the night and continuing through Tennessee. TNTOTA members and the public are welcome to come and show their support for the riders at the park.

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY BELL ROUTE SIGN PROJECT**

A sign plan for Trail of Tears National Historic Trail signs along the Bell Route through Franklin County has been completed with placement of signs expected to begin later this year. The Franklin County Historical Society, as the project's sponsor, is working in association with TNTOTA and the National Park Service. The sign plan was drafted by Coreen "Cory" Donnelly, Landscape Architect, of NPS, with local review by the joint Historical Society and TNTOTA sign committee. TNTOTA Members serving on the committee are Carolyn Jones, Doris Tate Trevino, and Floyd Ayers. Several drafts of the sign plan were produced as the project developed and the need for modifications and corrections became apparent. The cities of Cowan and Winchester and the Franklin County Highway Department have submitted sign plan approval letters to NPS, in which they each agreed to place the signs on their respective rights-of-way. Approval of the plan by the Tennessee Department of Transportation for the placement of signs along state highways, from Monteagle through Sewanee, Cowan, Winchester, and westward to the Lincoln County line, is currently pending.

The National Park Service will furnish the signs, with the sign posts and installation hardware provided by the Franklin County Historical Society through grants and donations. The first donation of \$4,000 from the area chapter of Woodmen Life was received by the Historical Society on May 9, 2017.

In addition to the sign project, TNTOTA Members have initiated communications with some owners of lands through which segments of the original roads traversed by the Bell Detachment, as it passed through Franklin County, still exist. The hope is to protect the road segments as Trail of Tears assets in accordance with the TOTA mission statement. One relatively intact remaining road segment was discovered on TVA land in Winchester earlier this year by Historical Society President David Moore and TNTOTA Member Floyd Ayers. Another road segment on the west side of the Cumberland Plateau is known to exist on a tract of land owned by the State of Tennessee, while numerous segments exist on privately owned lands.

Carolyn Jones and Doris Trevino gave a presentation on the sign plan for Bell's route in Franklin County at the Sewanee community council meeting on May 22. The plan was well-received and the writer for The Sewanee Messenger contacted Doris about doing a full article on the sign plan instead of just a meeting write up.



PHOTO ON LEFT: Pictured from L to R accepting a check from Woodmen Life for Franklin Co. TOT signs are FCHS Vice-Pres. Andy Burden, Sign Committee Member Dale Bradley, Woodmen Life representative Tim Bumbalough, Franklin Co. Historian Jerry Limbaugh, TNTOTA Member Floyd Ayers. PHOTO ON RIGHT: FCHS President David Moore points to the original Bell Route roadbed along Boiling Fork Creek, as Jeremy Nelson records GPS coordinates.

### **JUNE 6 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORKSHOP**

On June 6, the National Park Service is doing a workshop at the Hiwassee River Heritage Center for TNTOTA board members and a few other guests who are actively working on researching trail routes, sign plans, and/or interpretive opportunities. Vicki Rozema and Laura Spann are heading up this activity. Attendance is by invitation only because space is limited. One goal is to train board members on Trail of Tears signage procedures and interpretation opportunities so that TNTOTA can reach out to potential TOT partners in the future. For more information, contact Vicki at [vickirozema@comcast.net](mailto:vickirozema@comcast.net).

### **LONG TERM PLAN FOR MOCCASIN BEND NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK**

On Thursday, May 4, the National Park Service held a public meeting at Outdoor Chattanooga in Coolidge Park in Chattanooga to present its preferred long term plan for Moccasin Bend National Archaeological Park. Brad Bennett, Superintendent of Chickamauga and Chattanooga Military Park, presented the NPS plan which includes protection of ancient Native American sacred sites, extension of the river walk from Coolidge Park to a new visitor center, addition of wayside exhibits to the Blue Blazes Trail, and transformation of the firing range area into a visitor services area and canoe launch ramp after the city finds an alternative location for the range. Several TNTOTA members attended the presentation including Wally Leary, Floyd Ayers, Debbie and Ron Moore, Cleata Townsend, and Vicki Rozema. A document explaining the many aspects of the preferred plan as well as other alternatives is available online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/chch>. The public comment period on the long term view of Moccasin Bend which includes a segment of Trail of Tears ends May 30. To voice



your support for the preferred long term plan or to make other comments on the plan, go to <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=365&projectID=60764&documentID=79604> by May 30.



Left: Superintendent Brad Bennett, after presenting the NPS preferred long-term plan for Moccasin Bend National Archaeological Park on May 4, with TNTOTA chapter President Debbie Moore. Right: Interpretive signage on an original segment of the Old Federal Road Trail of Tears route across Moccasin Bend. Future plans for Moccasin Bend include adding interpretive signs to the Blue Blazes trail and a visitor center. (Both photos by Vicki Rozema)

### **RHODES FERRY, ALABAMA EXHIBIT DEDICATION, MAY 21**

The Alabama Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service held a wayside exhibit dedication on May 21 in Decatur, Alabama. Trail of Tears Association Executive Director Troy Wayne Poteete was one of the speakers. Several TNTOTA members traveled to Decatur to attend the dedication and show support for the Alabama chapter. Rhodes Ferry is important to the story of the Trail of Tears through Tennessee because three detachments, the Ridge detachment, one of the Deas detachments, and the Whiteley detachment, all left Ross's Landing in present-day Chattanooga on boats and floated down the Tennessee River then disembarked at Rhodes Ferry in Decatur. The water levels were too low for them to travel further by boat over the Muscle Shoals. These three detachments continued their emigration by railroad from Decatur to Tuscumbia Landing. Rhodes Ferry was named for Dr. Henry W. Rhodes, a board member of the Tuscumbia and Courtland Railroad which was the railroad used to transport Cherokees around the shoals.



Five members of TNTOTA traveled to Decatur, Alabama to the dedication of Trail of Tears signage at Rhodes Ferry. Attending, from L to R, were: Laura Spann, Debbie Moore, Ron Moore, Cleata Townsend, and Erin Medley.

## **2017 NATIONAL TOTA CONFERENCE, OCT 16-18, POCOLA, OK**

The 2017 national conference is scheduled for October 16-18 at the Choctaw Casino Hotel in Pocola, OK. To make reservations, call 800-590-5825 and ask for the Trail of Tears Room Block Rate of \$69 + tax. The Arkansas chapter of TOTA and the Choctaw Nation are co-hosts of the conference. The theme for this year's conference is "Frontiers, Exploration, Encounters, Exchange." Dr. Daniel Mayer will be the keynote speaker and will talk about his new book on frontiers. There will be field trips to the seminary at Cane Hill, Fort Smith National Historic Site, and Pea Ridge Battlefield and the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations will provide demonstrations including a stick-ball game, marbles, and an authentic hog fry.

### **◆ Tennessee Events:**

#### **JUNIOR RANGER CAMP, Red Clay State Park, Cleveland, Mon. June 19 – Thurs. June 22**

Join us June 19-22 for our Junior Ranger Camp which offers children, aged 8 through 14, a fresh look at the world around them. Camp will provide a hands-on opportunity for exploring and learning about the natural world through an array of fun and creative activities. We will have a campout on our last night which will include lessons around the campfire about Cherokee history. Camping gear available upon request. Upon completion of the program, kids take the Junior Ranger pledge, receive a badge, and are sworn in as official Tennessee State Parks Junior Rangers! Campers need to bring a packed lunch. Spaces are limited to 25 campers. Registration opens May 2nd at the visitor center. Cost is \$50.00 per camper. Camp hours will be Monday and Tuesday 9am-3pm, Wednesday 4pm until 11am on Thursday. New this year, we will be offering one scholarship for camp. Call the park office at (423) 478-0339 for more information.

#### **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, Red Clay State Park, Cleveland, Sat. June 3, 10 am – 1 pm**

We will enjoy a hike down the beautiful Blue Springs trail, which is a small, crystal clear creek that runs from the Blue Hole. This spring is sacred to the Cherokee People and was one of the main reasons that they chose the location at Red Clay State Park. We will discuss aquatic and plant life found by the spring, and the geology and history of the park. This is an easy, one-mile hike that is suitable for both adults and children. Meet at the porch.

#### **CHEROKEE CULTURAL CELEBRATION, Red Clay State Park, Cleveland, Sat. Aug. 5, 10 am - 5 pm and Sun. Aug. 6, 10 am – 5 pm**

Please join us for an authentic Cherokee experience. There will be dancing, singing, storytelling, and Cherokee games the entire family can play. Don't miss out on an intense game of stickball, demonstrated by the Wolfstown Stickball players from Cherokee, NC. We will also be hosting a traditional blowgun tournament with cash prizes! We will have some traditional foods as well as contemporary favorites. All artisans are citizens of one of the three Cherokee Nations. This event is sponsored by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Nation, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Tennessee State Parks, and the Friends of Red Clay. For more information please call the park office at 423-478-0339. Cost: \$5.00 per vehicle for parking.

### **◆ Georgia Events:**

#### **FAMILY FREE DAY AND STICKBALL DEMONSTRATIONS, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, Rome, Sat. June 17**

The Chieftain's Museum/Major Ridge Home is sponsoring a History Explorers Camp June 14-16 for children. The week will conclude with a day of free family admission on Saturday that will include stickball demonstrations and lessons throughout the day presented by high school students from the Cherokee Central School system in Cherokee, NC. The students will also offer crafts and other learning activities. For more information on the Family Free Day, please call 706-291-9494 or visit [www.chieftainmuseum.org](http://www.chieftainmuseum.org).

#### **GATOTA MEETING, Sautee-Nacoochee Center, Sautee-Nacoochee (near Helen), Sat. July 8, 10:30 am**

The next general meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be in Sautee-Nacoochee, GA. Anita Finger-Smith will speak on the "History of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians". Also, the

Sautee-Nacoochee Cultural Center is planning additional activities in the afternoon. There will also be a catered lunch provided for a very reasonable cost but you will need to make a reservation for lunch. GATOTA will send out details in June with information on how to make a lunch reservation, or you can eat on your own. For more information, contact [ga.trailoftears@gmail.com](mailto:ga.trailoftears@gmail.com) or [info@gatrailoftears.com](http://info@gatrailoftears.com).

**“OUR HEARTS ARE SICKENED”, Chief John Ross House, Rossville, Sat. Aug. 12, 2 - 3:30 pm**

This program is being presented by the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The complete title of the talk is “Our Hearts are Sickened:” John Ross Fights for his People. For more information on this and other special programs, contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at 706-866-9241. This event is free.

**EXCERPT FROM LETTER FROM DR. J.W. LIDE TO CAPT. JOHN PAGE FROM THE CHEROKEE AGENCY IN CHARLESTON, TN, JULY 20, 1838:**

“I wanto [sic] further remark that as a very natural result of collecting and marching to distant points of Rendezvous men, women and children of all ages and conditions, changing suddenly, and very materially all their habits of life, especially in reference to Regimin [sic], Exercise, &c, with exposure to the intense heat that has prevailed in this country during the past and present months. We should feel little astonishment at finding a high grade of Diarrhea, hazardous Dysentery, and urgent Remittent Fever prevailing to a great and deplorably fatal extent. [I]n addition to this, Measles and Whooping Cough appeared epidemically among the Cherokees about the first of June which Diseases more generally much aggravated by the Circumstances connected with the assemblage. [A]ll these Diseases are now rife among them; and, it [must] seem from the facts that, not the least humane of the measures of Genl Scott devised for the comfort and well being of this People was his order about the first of June to increase the number of attending Physicians.” (From *Voices from the Trail of Tears*, by Vicki Rozema, page 129; original letter from NARA, BIA, Record Group 75, microfilm no. 115.)

Note from Vicki: This letter from the directing physician for Cherokee emigration, Dr. Lide, was written after forced removal of the Cherokees ended in June and while they were waiting in camps in Tennessee and Alabama during the summer of 1838 for removal in the fall that was being organized by the Ross brothers. Lide’s letter listed 14 other physicians hired by the War Department to tend to the camps clustered primarily around Ross’s Landing, the Cherokee Agency in Charleston, and Fort Payne, AL. Physicians were also hired to accompany detachments as they emigrated to Indian Territory. Lide reported that smallpox vaccinations were offered to the Cherokees. Although plagued with many other deadly diseases during the removal process, the Cherokees were spared a smallpox epidemic, perhaps due to the voluntary vaccinations accepted by many. Official records kept by physicians during the summer encampments indicate that the number of deaths were relatively small, but Lide states that the “mortality, hitherto great,” was decreasing due to the appointment of physicians in June. We will never know how many Cherokees died in the camps during the summer of 1838.

**MY THANKS** to Floyd Ayers, Doris Trevino, Debbie Moore, Laura Spann, Erin Medley, and Shirley Lawrence, all of whom contributed information and/or photos for the newsletter. 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).