



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

CHAPTER MEETING: Saturday, November 4, 2017, 11:00 am Eastern time, 10:00 am Central time, David Crockett State Park, Lawrenceburg, TN.

The next meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be Nov. 4 at the David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg, TN. Vicky Garland has done extensive Trail of Tears work in Pulaski and Lawrenceburg and she has invited us to attend the 14th Annual Trail of Tears Memorial Walk at David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg. We will be walking on an original roadbed located inside the Park. Activities will begin at 10am CT. A lunch of chili will be provided. The park's address is 1400 West Gaines Street, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear TNTOTA members:

We have had a successful past few months. We have several members actively involved in research and working on getting signage approved and installed. We have gained 28 new members since March and we now have over 1,000 people following us on Facebook.

I hope to see each and every one of you at the November 4th membership meeting in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. It will be a great time of fellowship and reflection during the walk. I am planning to have a Board Meeting on Sunday, November 19 (time and place, TBA) for the purpose of planning activities for the 2018 year. Please be thinking of things that you would like to see TNTOTA do in 2018. I am sure our plans will include an activity to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Removal.

Best wishes, Debbie Moore

TNTOTA BOARD AND NATIONAL DIRECTORS:

President - Debbie Moore, bradleyfolks@aol.com, 423-715-2254

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TRAIL OF TEARS BIKE RIDERS IN EAST TENNESSEE

The Remember the Removal Trail of Tears Memorial Bike Riders camped at Red Clay State Park June 4th where the Friends of Red Clay (FORC) provided dinner and breakfast for them. From Red Clay State Park, the riders travelled to the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston where they were served lunch. A reception with public officials and others who wanted to meet the bike riders was held after lunch. Their final stop before crossing the Tennessee River was at the Cherokee Removal Park at Blythe Ferry in Birchwood. They were transported by boat across the Tennessee River and spent the night in Dayton before continuing through Tennessee. Several TNTOTA members helped host the riders at these stops or dropped by to show their support for the riders.



PHOTO on left: Children from Calhoun Elementary School had the opportunity to meet the Remember the Trail bike riders and have their picture made with several of the riders. Also pictured in the group photo are Carol Clark of the NPS Santa Fe office which oversees the national trail and Erin Medley, park manager at Red Clay State Park. Right: The bike riders depart the Hiwassee Heritage Center in Charleston for the Cherokee Removal Park at Blythe Ferry. Photos by Vicki Rozema.

FRANKLIN COUNTY BELL ROUTE SIGN PROJECT UPDATE

TNTOTA member and former chapter treasurer Floyd Ayers reports that the Franklin County Historical Society, assisted by the National Park Service, is designing additional interpretive signs to supplement the Bell Route TOT signs furnished by the NPS and that the NPS has provided a sign plan for the Mountain Goat Trail which will be added as a pedestrian component from Monteagle to Sewanee. A \$4,000 donation from Woodmen Life will help pay for the Mountain Goat Trail signs and the additional interpretive signs. Franklin County has pledged to donate the cost of posts and hardware for mounting National Historic Trail signs on highways, roads, and streets. The Bell Route largely parallels today's U.S. 64 which passes through several Tennessee counties including Bradley, Hamilton, Franklin, Marion, Lincoln, McNairy, Giles, Lawrence, Hardin, and Shelby.

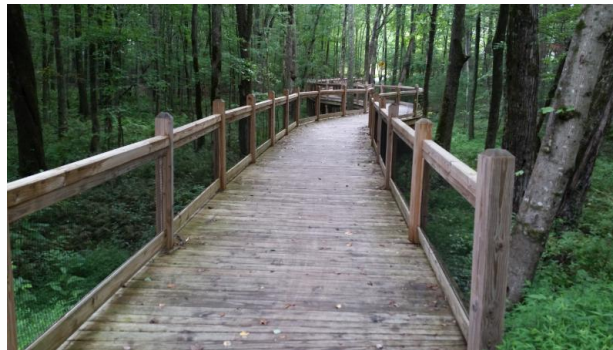


PHOTO: Bridge on west end of the Mountain Goat Trail (MGT) in Franklin County. Signs are being planned to develop the MGT as a pedestrian component of the Bell Route. Photo by Floyd Ayers.

TNTOTA EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS AT EAST TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

TNTOTA has been busy this summer setting up educational booths at several local festivals in East Tennessee. The booth at the July 15 River Town Festival in Calhoun drew a huge crowd. TNTOTA members Laura Spann, Shirley Lawrence, and Cleata Townsend greeted the festival crowd at the TNTOTA booth. On August 5 and 6, TNTOTA had an educational booth and greeted thousands of visitors at the Cherokee Cultural Celebration at Red Clay State Park. The special entertainment included Warriors of Ani Kituwah and Wolfstown Men's Stickball team. The event was financed by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. On Sept. 9, thousands of people visited the Cow Pea Festival in Charleston -- former site of Fort Cass. TNTOTA had a booth to hand out educational materials.



Photo on left: Cleata Townsend, Shirley Lawrence, Carolyn Jones, and Debbie Moore at the TNTOTA table at the Red Clay Festival in August. Photo by Vicki Rozema. Right: TNTOTA had a booth at the International Cowpea Festive in Charleston where we talked to a lot of folks! Pictured are Shirley Lawrence, Joycelyn Harden, and Sally Love. Photo by Debbie Moore.

COKER CREEK-NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE MEETING

Members of TNTOTA recently attended a meeting of Coker Creek Heritage Association and the National Forest Service (NFS). The NFS discussed their plans to repair damages to part of the Trail of Tears on the Unicoi Road and the marking of the portion of the Trail of Tears thru the Cherokee National Forest. Tennessee Overhills will be concentrating on marking the remainder of the Trail from Tellico Plains to Calhoun, TN.



Photo: Pictured at the Coker Creek meeting with the NFS are Sheila Bird, consultant to the National Trail of Tears Association, and TNTOTA members Debbie Moore, Ron Moore, Laura Spann and Darlene Goins.

TRAIL AND SIGNAGE AT BLYTHE’S FERRY

In 2002 a plan was revealed to make a short walking trail on an original segment of the trail at Blythe's Ferry Cherokee Memorial Removal Park in Birchwood, Tennessee. Members of TNTOTA, TVA officials, Melissa Mortimer - Historic Preservation Planner, Blythe's Ferry Cherokee Memorial Removal Park Staff members and Cory Donnelly of the National Park Service recently met at Blythe’s Ferry to review the plans for the trail. The trail will be located across the road from the entrance of the Cherokee Removal Park. Updated plans for the trail include interpretive signs on each end of the trail and to finish the trail in the next 2 to 3 years. Funding will be provided thru Connect Trails to Parks Funds.

JUNE 6 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TOT INTERPRETATION WORKSHOP

On June 6, Carol Clark of the National Trails Intermountain Region office of the National Park Service in Santa Fe conducted 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. One goal was 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. Several topics were covered including how to provide meaningful interpretation, how to use sign design and mapping tools provided by the NPS, and use of different media, among other subjects. TNTOTA thanks the national office of the TOTA for helping underwrite the cost of the workshop and folks at the Heritage Center including Laura Spann, Joe Bryan, Darlene Goins, and Melissa Woody for providing a place to meet. And, of course, our thanks to Carol Clark for traveling all the way out to East Tennessee for the workshop and the bike riders.



PHOTO: NPS's Carol Clark discusses interpretation and signage opportunities while Fred Underdown, Joe Bryan, Erin Medley, Cleata Townsend, Gerald Hodge, and Melissa Woody look on. Photo by Vicki Rozema.

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 at the hotel, call 800-590-5825 and ask for the Trail of Tears Room Block Rate of \$69 + tax by using the block code of 1710TRAILO. You can register for the conference online at <http://www.nationaltota.com/#conference>. The Arkansas chapter of TOTA is the host for the conference. There are pre-conference events on Sunday Oct. 15 in Webbers Falls. Dr. Daniel Littlefield will be the keynote speaker and will talk about "African Descendants and Indian Removal." There will be door prizes, field trips to the seminary at Cane Hill, Fort Smith National Historic Site, and Prairie Grove Battlefield. TNTOTA's very own Debbie Moore will give a talk on Bradley County, TN Reservations.

REMEMBERING BILL JONES AND DUANE KING

Sadly, the Trail of Tears Association has lost two great friends and dedicated leaders:

William Stanley (Bill) Jones, of Spencer, TN, died Sept. 28 at the age of 82. He attended Chattanooga State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and served in the airborne division of the U.S. Army. He spent countless hours researching the Trail of Tears in Tennessee and authored articles on the Trail of Tears and Civil War in Van Buren County for the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*. He served as National Director of the Trail of Tears Association representing Tennessee and as President of the Tennessee chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. Bill is survived by many family members including wife Agnes Curtis Jones, a long-time member of TNTOTA and former treasurer of our organization.

Duane King, Ph.D. died on Sept. 17 at the age of 70. He was a native of Bristol, TN, taught at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, served as Director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, NC, and served as the Executive Director of the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, OK. King also served on several boards including those of the National Trail of Tears Association and the Friends of Moccasin Bend. He dedicated his

life to research on the history of the Cherokees and the Trail of Tears and made frequent trips to Tennessee to help TNTOTA members and others research the Trail. King authored many articles, studies, and books on Native American history and culture and was the founding editor of the *Journal of Cherokee Studies*.

“Circles of motion, like eagle that Sunday morning over Salt River. Circled in blue sky in wind. Swept our hearts clean with sacred wings. We see you, see ourselves and know that we must take the utmost care and kindness in all things. Breathe in, knowing we are made of all this, and breathe, knowing we are truly blessed because we were born, and die soon within a true circle of motion, like eagle rounding out the morning inside us.” – Joy Harjo, Muscogee

◆ **November is National Native American Heritage Month**

◆ **Tennessee Events:**

NAIA POWWOW, Long Hunter State Park, Hermitage, Fri. Oct. 20, 9 am – Sun. Oct. 22, 6 pm

The Native American Indian Association of Tennessee will host the 36th Annual Indian Education Pow Wow and Fall Festival at Long Hunter State Park. Planned activities include storytelling, Indian games, Native American arts and crafts, various demonstrations, and lots of food including fry bread, Indian tacos, and hominy. Admission is \$8. For more information visit <http://www.naiatn.org/powwow/>.

◆ **Georgia Events:**

PAT GARROW LECTURE, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, Rome, Thurs. Sat. Oct. 12, 7pm

The Chieftains Museum will host a lecture by archaeologist Pat Garrow titled “What we learned from Archaeology at Chieftains.” Garrow was the lead archaeologist for the original archaeological digs at the Major Ridge home in the 1960s and early 70s. The presentation is at 7 pm at the museum and is free and open to the public. For more information see <https://chieftainmuseum.org/events/pat-garrow-lecture/> or call 706-291-9494.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH FREE DAY, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, Rome, Sat. Nov. 11, 10am – 5pm

For Native American month, the museum is hosting a free admission day with cultural activities. Tommy Wildcat will perform and master gardeners will teach about Native American agriculture. From 2-4pm, families can have fun making seed bombs of mud, dirt, and seeds.

For more information on the Free Day, call 706-291-9494 or visit www.chieftainmuseum.org.

NEW ECHOTA HERITAGE DAY, New Echota State Park, Calhoun, Sat. Nov. 11, 10am – 4pm

Friends of New Echota is sponsoring a Native American Heritage day with cultural activities illustrating life in 19th century Cherokee country. Activities and demonstrations include Cherokee Phoenix newspaper printings, native Cherokee speakers, herbal tea tastings, storytelling by Sonny Ledford, and information on Cherokee removal. Nancy and Alva Crow will sing songs in the courthouse.

For more information, call 706-624-1321 or visit the Friends of New Echota Facebook page.

GATOTA MEETING, Bartow County Extension Office, Cartersville, Sat. Nov. 11, 10:30 am

The next general meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be in Cartersville, GA. Jim Langford will give a talk on De Soto’s impact on the SE Native American Indians.

For more information, contact ga.trailoftears@gmail.com or info@atrailoftears.com.

MY THANKS to Floyd Ayers and Debbie Moore for contributing photos and information 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.

TRAIL OF TEARS TIMELINE, by Vicki Rozema, Ph.d.

There are many events in Cherokee and U.S. history that led up to the Cherokee Removal of 1838-39 and many significant milestones on the journey west. Below are just a few of those events:

- 1802 - Georgia makes compact with Congress where the state agreed to give up its western land claims and the federal government promised to extinguish all Indian titles in Georgia.
- 1819 - Treaty establishes the last boundaries of the eastern Cherokee Nation before their title is extinguished by the 1835 Treaty of New Echota. The final boundaries include parts of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina.
- 1827 - The Cherokees adopt a national constitution modeled on the United States Constitution at New Echota.
- May 28, 1830 - Congress passes Pres. Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act.
- 1831 - Surveyors enter Cherokee lands in Georgia and begin dividing lands to be awarded by lottery.
- Mar. 12, 1831 - Georgia Guard begins arrests of missionaries who have spoken in support of Cherokees.
- 1832 - U. S. Supreme Court declares Cherokee tribe is a nation with sovereign powers and Georgia's and other states' laws have no authority inside the Cherokee Nation. Pres. Jackson and later Pres. Martin Van Buren and state governments ignore ruling. Cherokee Council meetings are moved from Georgia to the Red Clay Council Grounds in Tennessee.
- Dec. 29, 1835 - Treaty of New Echota signed by small group of Cherokees who have no authority to speak for the Nation, Treaty commits Cherokees to remove.
- May 23, 1836 - New Echota Treaty ratified by Congress by margin of one vote.
- Mar. 13, 1837 - Major Ridge's family and 18 slaves depart Ross's Landing voluntarily.
- May 23, 1838 - Deadline for "voluntary" emigration. Forced roundup begins in Georgia, continued a few days later in Tennessee, Alabama, and North Carolina. Martin Van Buren is President.
- June 6, 1838 - First detachment of 800 Cherokees and their slaves sent by flatboats pulled by steamboat from Ross's Landing.
- June 15, 1838 - Second detachment of almost 900 Cherokees sent by flatboat pulled by steamboat from Ross's Landing.
- June 17, 1838 - Third detachment marched from Ross's Landing overland to Waterloo, Alabama where they boarded boats. Approximately 225 Cherokees escaped before reaching Waterloo.
- June 19, 1838 - General Winfield Scott halts emigrations for the summer at request of Cherokees and the remainder are placed in camps. Emigrations to resume by Sept. 1 under supervision of the Cherokees instead of the U. S. Army and state militias.
- Late July, 1838 - Word leaks to the newspapers that there is much suffering in the camps among Cherokees waiting to emigrate.
- July 27, 1838 - Scott denies widespread suffering of Cherokees in the camps.
- Aug. 28, 1838 - Cherokees attempt to resume emigration. Several detachments begin to leave from Charleston, TN, but are halted at the Tennessee River because of lack of water on Cumberland Plateau.
- Early Oct. 1838 - Emigration resumes.
- Dec. 5, 1838 - Last detachment leaves by boat from Charleston, TN. Includes Principal Chief John Ross and family.
- Late Dec. 1838 - Several detachments halted at Ohio and Mississippi Rivers because of snow and ice on the rivers.
- Mid Jan. 1838 - Emigration resumes.
- Mar. 25, 1839 - Last detachment arrives in Indian Territory.
- June 22, 1839 - Major Ridge, John Ridge, and Elias Boudinot, all signers of the Treaty of New Echota, murdered in Indian Territory by several Cherokees for their part in the treaty and the removal.