



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

**CHAPTER MEETING: Saturday, September 24, 2016, 11:30 am Central time, 12:30 pm Eastern time, Audubon Acres in Chattanooga**

A meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be held at 11:30 am central, 12:30 pm eastern at Audubon Acres in Chattanooga on Saturday, September 24. This will be a pot luck lunch meeting. Everyone should bring a dish. Weather permitting, we will meet outside at the picnic tables, but if the weather is not good, we will meet in Walker Hall. There will not be an admission fee for members attending the meeting.

Ken Dubke has arranged a 2:00 pm eastern time tour of Little Owl Village, site of a Mississippian Native American Village in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century located at Audubon Acres. Audubon Acres is a registered site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. For more information on Audubon Acres, please see <http://www.chattanoogaaudubon.org/>.

Directions to Cherokee Arboretum at Audubon Acres, 900 N Sanctuary Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421: From Nashville, take I-24 to Chattanooga and take I-75 north to exit # 3A, the East Brainerd Road exit and turn right onto East Brainerd Road/East Hwy 320 at the end of the exit ramp.

From Knoxville, take I-75 south to Chattanooga and take the East Brainerd Road exit which lets you out at Hickory Valley Road at a traffic light. Turn left onto Hickory Valley Road, and turn left again onto East Brainerd Road/East Hwy 320.

Go east on East Brainerd Road/ Hwy 320 about 1/2 mile then turn right on to Gunbarrel Road. Follow Gunbarrel to North Sanctuary Road and watch for signs for Audubon Acres which is approximately 2 miles from the East Brainerd Road turn.

**NATIONAL TRAIL OF TEARS CONFERENCE – OCT 3-5, 2016, at the NORTHWEST GEORGIA TRADE & CONVENTION CENTER IN DALTON, GA**

All TNTOTA members should have received a registration form for the national conference from the national office of TOTA. If you did not receive one, you can email me at [vickirozema@comcast.net](mailto:vickirozema@comcast.net) and I will forward an electronic version of the registration form. Or if you do not have email, you can call or text me at 865-696-7566 and I will snail mail a form to you.

Advance registration is \$125 for TOTA members, \$175 for non-members. On-site registration is an additional \$50. Advance sign-up for a Tuesday field trip to New Echota, the Vann House, the Rockdale Plantation, a sign dedication, and a box lunch is recommended because of limited space on the bus.

Rooms have been set aside at the Marriott Courtyard in Dalton for \$116 per night and at the La Quinta in Dalton for \$89 plus tax per night for conference attendees.

There will be door prizes again this year. Please donate a door prize if you can.

**PROGRESS ON SIGNAGE FOR BELL ROUTE THROUGH FRANKLIN COUNTY, BY CAROLYN JONES**

Stemming from a presentation to the Franklin County Historical Society by Tennessee Chapter member Floyd Ayers on February 21, 2016, a plan for NPS designed Trail of Tears signage for the Bell Route

through Franklin County has gained new impetus with interest and support from the Society. President of FCHS, David Moore, pulled together a meeting of that group's board to form a joint Trail of Tears sign committee with members of the Tennessee Chapter, TOTA, to discuss necessary sequential steps and actions going forward.

In preparation for that meeting, Floyd Ayers, Doris Tate Trevino, and Carolyn Jones held two phone conferences with Coreen Donnelly of National Park Service's Intermountain Regional Trails group. Access to the online NPS GIS interactive sign plan mapping and view of the trail alignment which had been developed previously is now available to the Franklin County group. Due to the geographical proximity and information on the original trail, it is the hope of the new committee that Marion and Grundy County signage can eventually be addressed as well.

Confirmation and agreement on the existing map will allow the local group of interested parties to move quickly in developing a signage plan. As progress proceeds with the plan, these efforts will be communicated to local city and county government officials and highway department.

### **MARCH 2016 GENERAL MEETING IN MURFREESBORO**

At TNTOTA's March member meeting, our website manager Toye Heape took members on a field trip to a section of the alternate route through Old Jefferson. Four detachments containing approximately 4,200 Cherokees followed the Rutherford County alternate route through Old Jefferson, bypassing Murfreesboro en route to Nashville. Toye explained how he and Pat Cummins and the Native History Association are working toward getting better protection and interpretation for a section that lies on the East Fork of Stones River at the East Fork Recreation Area which belongs to the Army Corps of Engineers.



Left: TNTOTA members listen as Toye Heape explains plans to encourage the Army Corps of Engineers to spruce up and reopen their East Fork Recreation Area. Right: TNTOTA President Lee Trevino poses by a TOT sign by the East Fork of Stones River. Photos by Doris Tate Trevino.

### **◆ Tennessee Events:**

#### **CHEROKEE FALL FESTIVAL, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, Vonore, Sat. and Sun., Sept. 10-11, 10 am - 5 pm**

The annual fall festival at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, formerly known as the Great Island Festival, will be held September 10 and 11. It will feature Native American food, arts and crafts, music, and dance. Visitors will be able to see blacksmith shop demonstrations, a Civil War encampment and battle re-

enactment, and enjoy the Warrior Dancers of Ani-Kituwah, among many other activities. For more information about the museum and the festival, please visit <http://www.sequoyahmuseum.org/>.

**PREHISTORIC MOUND MAINTENANCE, Old Stone Fort State Park, Manchester, Sat., Sept. 24, 10 am - 4 pm**

The state park will be doing maintenance on the prehistoric walls and mounds in the park on Saturday September 24. Volunteers are needed to help. Bring plenty of water and be prepared for a one-mile hike out to the area. For more information call the park at 931-723-5073 or visit Tennessee State Parks website at [http://tnstateparks.com/parks/event\\_details/old-stone-fort/#/?event=npld-prehistoric-mound-maintenance-osfsp-sept-2016](http://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/old-stone-fort/#/?event=npld-prehistoric-mound-maintenance-osfsp-sept-2016).

**FRIENDS OF MOCCASIN BEND FALL LECTURE SERIES, Chattanooga, Mondays, Sept., 12, Oct. 3, and Nov. 14, 7 pm**

The Friends of Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District have announced their 11<sup>th</sup> Fall Lecture series. The location of the series has moved to The Camp House at 149 East MLK Boulevard at Lindsay St. in Chattanooga. The September guest speaker is Fran P. Mainella, 16<sup>th</sup> Director of the National Park Service who will speak on the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of 'America's Best Idea.' Dr. Stephen R. Miller, Professor of Music and author, will speak on October 3 on the Sound of Music in Cades Cove: Nature, National Parks, and Shape-note Singing. Sam D. Elliott, an attorney, historian, and author, will end this year's series with a talk on November 14 on the Civil War. For more information on the 2016 fall lecture series, please visit <http://moccasinbendpark.org/2016/08/04/11th-annual-fall-lecture-series/>.

The Drane and Bell detachments crossed Moccasin Bend in 1838 on the Trail of Tears. For more information on the Drane detachment, see the 1838 newspaper excerpt below.

**35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INDIAN EDUCATION POW WOW AND FALL FESTIVAL, Long Hunter State Park, Hermitage, Fri.-Sun, Oct. 14-16, 10 am - 4 pm**

The NAIA of Tennessee will hold its annual pow wow October 14-16. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children, and free for children age 5 and under. Activities include Native American music and dance, storytelling, games, food, and arts and crafts vendors. Hours vary each day. For a schedule, map, and other information, please visit their website at <http://www.naiatn.org/powwow/>.

**◆ Georgia Events:**

**GATOTA GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING, Vann House, Chatsworth, Sat., Sept. 10, 10:30 am**

The Georgia chapter's next meeting is on Saturday, September 10 at the Vann House Visitor Center. Tony Harris and Patsy Edgar will do a presentation on "The Cherokee Nation Today". Meeting attendees are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the meeting.

**GRAND OPENING OF HISTORIC VANN CABIN, Cave Spring, GA, Sat., Oct. 1, 10 am -3 pm**

The community of Cave Spring and the Georgia Chapter of TOTA have worked to save the 1810 two-story log cabin belonging to the prominent Cherokee family, the Vanns. The Cabin is located at 24 Broad Street, Cave Spring, GA. The public is invited to the Grand Opening on October 1.

## **NEW ECHOTA PARKS DAY, New Echota State Park, Sat., Sept. 24, 2016, 9 am – 5 pm**

New Echota State Park is having a clean-up day on Saturday, September 24. Volunteers are needed to help spruce up the park by cleaning and planting. Admission will be free to volunteers who check in at the front with one of the red t-shirt members who will direct you to an area where your help is needed.

### **EXCERPT FROM SOUTH WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, JULY 19, 1838 ISSUE:**

“Bellefonte Ala June 28 -

On Monday evening a body of 1070 Cherokees, under the guidance of General N Smith, principal agent, arrived, at this place – some hours after Capt. Drane, U S Army, came in when the command was transferred to him. The Indians formed their camp with regularity, refreshed cheerfully, and behaved with the utmost decorum, when they had finished supper, they made seats and by the sound of a trumpet summoned their people to prayers. They sang hymns in the Cherokee language to old familiar tunes; exhortations were delivered by two preachers full blooded Indians, named Wolf and Lewis Downing – never have we witnessed a religious congregation of any sect better conducted or more reverence to a sacred subject displayed. On the morning of Tuesday they breakfasted in the same temper, struck their tents and prepared for the march an Indian courier arrived from the agency with a packet for Dr. Willoughby, (Medical Agent), and stated to the Cherokees that the letter contained matter authorizing the detachment in the name of John Ross, to return to their homes, there to remain until September; this caused much excitement and some confusion. The Indians rushed to the wagons and seized their baggage. It was forcibly recovered by the officers of the detachment...

About 300 unreflecting Indians took this in dudgeon and in small groups ran to the woods leaving their property. The Bellefonte infantry company commanded by Capt McReynolds, and some prudent Cherokees pursued them and brought them back, with the exception of 14 or 15 stragglers.” (Transcribed by Mike Wren.)

Note from Vicki: The Drane detachment included Cherokees mostly from northwest Georgia with a few from Chickamauga in Tennessee. They were part of the initial round-up in late May and early June 1838 that was ordered by General Winfield Scott. Most were taken to Fort Cumming in Georgia then marched up Crawfish Road through what is now Chickamauga Battlefield to Ross’s Landing at what is now Chattanooga, TN. At Ross’s Landing, They crossed the Tennessee River on Ross’s Ferry then they were marched overland via the federal road across Moccasin Bend to Bellefonte where many emptied their wagons and refused to travel further. Although most were rounded up again, at least 225 managed to escape at Bellefonte. Drane marched the remainder to Waterloo, Alabama where they boarded a steamboat and keel boats for the remainder of the trip to Indian Territory. Having left Ross’s Landing on June 17, their trip ended at Mrs. Webber’s plantation on September 7. 293 desertions, 146 deaths, and 2 births were reported for the entire trip.

**MY THANKS** to Mike Wren for sending me photocopies of the 1838 newspaper article on the Drane detachment at Bellefonte, AL and also for providing me with a partial transcription of the article. Thanks go to Chris Young at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park for information on the Drane route through the park. My appreciation to Carolyn Jones for the article on the Bell Route signage through Franklin County, to Ken Dubke for arranging the September meeting at Audubon Acres, and to Doris Trevino for providing photos of the March meeting near Murfreesboro. 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).