



**Trail of Tears Association, Tennessee Chapter Newsletter
September 2018**

CHAPTER MEETING: Sunday, September 23, 2018, 1:30 pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time, 12:30 pm Central Time, Red Clay State Park, Cleveland, TN.

The next meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be at Red Clay State Park on September 23. The meeting will start at 1:30 pm, EDST, and will be followed by a program by Dr. Daniel Littlefield at 3:00pm. Littlefield will be speaking on the African American experience during the Removal.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear TNTOTA friends,

We have entered a very busy time of the year for TNTOTA activities. I hope that each of you will attend and participate in the upcoming events. We will continue our educational booths at the International Cow Pea Festival in Charleston, Tennessee on September 8 and at the Blessing of the Buffalo Event on October 13 at 3 pm in Georgetown, Tennessee.

Please plan to attend our fall membership meeting on Sunday, September 23rd at 1:30pm (EST) at Red Clay State Park in Cleveland, TN. We will review our activities for the past few months including our outstanding Educational Symposium that was held in April. Following our membership meeting we are honored to have Dr. Daniel Littlefield from Oklahoma. Dr. Littlefield will be discussing the need to include African-Indians in the interpretation of the Trail of Tears. He will be pointing out the misconceptions about slaveholding in the Cherokee Nation. Dr. Littlefield's presentations are both informative and thought provoking. The membership meeting and Dr. Littlefield's presentation are free and open to the public.

This year's national Trail of Tears meeting will be held in Decatur, Alabama on October 25-27. You may register at www.nationaltota.com. The events are always informative and entertaining.

At the present time we are working out details for the Chief of the Cherokee Nation to visit southeastern Tennessee in November. Please watch for emails about his visit.

In the near future we will be dedicating a large number of Trail of Tears signs in Franklin County, Tennessee. Congratulations to Floyd Ayers and everyone that has supported his effort in obtaining, financing and installing the signs. This is the largest sign project in the history of the Trail of Tears Association.

Best regards,
Debbie Moore

TNTOTA BOARD AND NATIONAL DIRECTORS:

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

Vice President - Laura Spann, laurabspann@gmail.com, 615-330-9755

Secretary – Joy Montgomery, joyrenee07@gmail.com, 936-577-9626

Treasurer - Erin Medley, erin.medley@tn.gov, 423-650-6864

State Directors -

Shirley Lawrence, shirleyclawrence@aol.com, 423-368-2231

Graydon Swisher, go2swish@bellsouth.net, 901-737-3114

Doris Tate Trevino, tandt05@bellsouth.net, 931-598-5953

National Directors –

Cleata Townsend, humanbeing_2@hotmail.com, 423-698-2804

Vicki Rozema, vrozema@comcast.net, 865-696-7566

RED CLAY STATE PARK CHEROKEE CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Each year, Red Clay State Park staff and its volunteer support organization, Friends of Red Clay, host a two-day Cherokee cultural celebration. This year it was held on Saturday and Sunday August 4 and 5. The event showcases Cherokee arts and crafts, food, music, dance, storytelling, and informational booths. TNTOTA attended again this year. The Tennessee Chapter also set up educational booths at Wilderness Wildlife Week of the Smokies, the International Cow Pea Festival, and the Rivertown Festival.



PHOTO on left: Cherokee artist Gabe Crow displays his handmade basket-weaving skills. Gabe has been basket weaving for five years. Right: Debbie Moore shows one of the trail route maps to visitors at the TNTOTA tent. Photos by Vicki Rozema.

SEQUOYAH BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM EXHIBIT GRAND OPENING

August 24-25, the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, Tennessee, celebrated the grand opening of its newly renovated visitor center and new exhibit on the life and accomplishments of Sequoyah (1776-1843). The museum, operated by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was opened in 1986, near the 18th Century Cherokee village of Tuskegee, Sequoyah's birthplace. The multi-million dollar renovations include new artifacts and advanced media technologies. Several TNTOTA members attended the re-opening, including, but not limited to, Laura Spann, Debbie Moore, Vicki Rozema, Erin Medley, Joy Montgomery, Cleata Townsend, Pam Hall Matthews, Kathy Smith, Linda Caldwell, and of course, Charlie Rhodarmer, Director of the Museum. Congratulations, Charlie, to you and your staff on a successful renovation and grand re-opening!



PHOTO on left: Bo Taylor, as a Warrior of Anikituwah, and TNTOTA members Laura Spann, Debbie Moore, Charlie Rhodarmer, and Joy Montgomery. Photo by Pam Hall Matthews. Center: An acorn press, similar to the type of press used to print the Cherokee Phoenix using both Sequoyah's syllabary and English type sets. Award-winning Cherokee actor Wes Studi was used as the model for Sequoyah in the background and throughout the new exhibits. Photo by Vicki Rozema. Right: Vicki Rozema, Debbie Moore, Pam Hall Matthews, Laura Spann, and Kathy Smith. Photo by Linda Caldwell.

TNTOTA SPRING SYMPOSIUM

In April, TNTOTA joined forces with Cleveland State Community College to hold an Educational Symposium to commemorate the 180th year anniversary of the forced removal. Attended by over 200 people, the speakers were Troy Wayne Poteet, National TOT Executive Director; Brett Riggs, Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University; and Joe Guy, Historian and Sheriff of McMinn County, TN. The Chapter and several other organizations also set up educational booths at the symposium.



PHOTO on left: Joe Guy and Troy Wayne Poteete, two of the guest speakers at TNTOTA's Spring Symposium. Right: Melissa Woody and Vicki Rozema answer questions about educational displays at the symposium. Photos by Debbie Moore.

TRAIL OF TEARS BIKE RIDERS IN TENNESSEE

The Remember the Removal Trail of Tears Memorial Bike Riders stopped at Red Clay State Park June 3rd where the Friends of Red Clay (FORC) provided dinner and breakfast for them. They had planned to camp at the park but heavy rains sent them to a nearby hotel. From Red Clay State Park, the riders travelled to the Charleston Municipal Park where they were served lunch by members of the Charleston-Calhoun-Hiwassee Historical Society. 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. Several TNTOTA members helped host the riders at these stops or dropped by to show their support for the riders. The chapter helped underwrite some of the expenses of the East Tennessee venues.

From Dayton they continued following the Northern Route through Tennessee with stops that included Shellsford Baptist Church in McMinnville, Coopertown, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Woodbury, where TNTOTA member Melba Checote Eads hosted the riders, and Port Royal State Park, before crossing into Kentucky on June 7. Ten of this year's bike riders are from the Cherokee Nation while eight are members of the Eastern Band. The number of women riders outnumbered the number of men.



PHOTO on left: Laura Spann, Melissa Woody, and Darlene Goins of the Charleston-Calhoun-Hiwassee Historical Society prepare lunch tables for the Remember the Removal bike riders. They are also members of the TOTA. Right: The bike riders approach the Charleston City Park before lunch. Photos by Vicki Rozema.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SIGN PROJECT UPDATE

Progress continues on the Franklin County TOTNHT sign project, a joint project of TNTOTA and the Franklin County Historical Society (FCHS). TDOT has completed installation of 35 signs on US Highways 41A & 64 from Monteagle west to the Lincoln County line. The National Park Service furnished the signs and the Franklin County Government provided the posts. In conjunction with the FCHS, TNTOTA members are planning Winchester's first annual TOT walk for Oct. 27. For more information on the memorial walk, please see the [Tennessee Events](#) section.



Photo on left: TDOT Technicians John Koehler (L) and Brent Walker (R) finish a sign installation. Photo by Floyd Ayers. Center: Chad Carter, a member of the Cherokee Nation who recently moved to Winchester, admires one of the new TOT signs. Chad will lead the TOT memorial walk on Oct. 27. Photo by Tom Sidley. Right: A group of kayakers on Boiling Fork Creek stop to pose with a sign. Photo by Tom Sidley.

2018 NATIONAL TOTA CONFERENCE, DECATUR, AL, FRI. OCT. 26 – SUN. OCT. 28

The 23rd annual Trail of Tears Conference and Symposium will be held at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Decatur, Alabama. The conference will officially begin at 4:00 pm Friday when registration tables open in the hotel atrium. Dinner will be at 5:00 pm in Rhodes Ferry Park where TOT detachments arriving by water landed. Saturday, Oct. 27 will be field trip day with a bus trip to Tusculumbia Landing, a tour of North Alabama University campus, a stop in historic Courtland with its antebellum homes, and an evening dinner and concert in Decatur. Concurrent sessions will be held on Sunday. Although the conference officially wraps up Sunday evening, optional Cherokee genealogy sessions will be held on Monday. Cost for attending the genealogy lectures and sessions will be \$10 at the door. The TOT conference is an official event of Alabama's Bicentennial and the National Trails System's 50th Anniversary celebrations. To make a reservation at the hotel, call 256-355-3150 and ask for the Trail of Tears National Conference room block rate. To register for the conference online or to download a printable registration form, go to TOTA's website. Registration cost is \$125 for TOTA members and \$175 for non-members. Register by October 16 to avoid a \$100 late fee.

MEMBER NEWS

TNTOTA treasurer Joy Montgomery and her father Robin Montgomery recently announced the completion of their new book *Sam Houston's Quest: the Cherokee and the African-American Virtue Agenda*. The book has been sent to the publisher and will hopefully be available for purchase in October. Houston was adopted into the Cherokee tribe when he was a young man and lived with them for a short time at Jolly's Island in the Tennessee River. After resigning as governor of Tennessee, he moved to Cherokee territory in Texas and argued for Cherokee rights in Washington.

Long-time TNTOTA member Margaret "Peggy" Hall of Dayton passed away August 21 at the age of 76 after a short illness. Peggy once served on the Trail of Tears historical committee, helped research the original roads through Rhea County used in the Cherokee Removal, and helped found the Cherokee Removal Park at Blythe Ferry. Peggy was also active in the DAR and served in the past as state chairman of "American Indians." She

organized 13 chapters of the DAR between Chattanooga and Knoxville in an effort to maintain the Nancy Ward grave in Benton.

A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, July 21, 2018 for Debra Ann Shattuck Capino at David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg, TN. Debra died in June 2017 at Vanderbilt University Hospital at the age of 66. She was a long time member of TNTOTA and an avid Native American historian. She was instrumental in helping get the Bell's route added to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and helped organize an annual Trail of Tears walk in Fayetteville. In 2009, she received a Native American Eagle Award which is awarded to people who have made contributions to native peoples in Tennessee.

Both Peggy and Debbie are missed by those in TNTOTA who knew and worked with them. "The soul would have no rainbow, had the eyes no tears." – John Vance Cheney, American poet, 1892.

◆ **October is Native American Heritage Month in Tennessee**

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

◆ **November 23 is National Native American Heritage Day**

◆ **Tennessee Events:**

INTERNATIONAL COWPEA FESTIVAL, Charleston City Park, Sat., Sept. 8, 10 am – 8 pm, EDST

TNTOTA will once again have an educational booth at this annual event. The festival features live music, food with a professional chef cook-off, craft vendors, a history and heritage area, pony rides, and a family fun field with a petting zoo and inflatables. Craig Wayne Boyd, winner of *The Voice*, season 7, is the featured headliner this year and will perform from 6 to 8pm. For information, call 423-472-6587 or visit their website at <https://www.cowpeafestival.com/>.

CHEROKEE FALL FESTIVAL, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, Vonore, Sat., Sept. 8 and Sun., Sept. 9, 10 am – 5 pm, EDST

The museum will host its 27th Fall Festival on Sept. 8 and 9. This will be an excellent chance to see the new exhibits on Sequoyah while enjoying Native American food, art, crafts, blow gun competitions, music, and dance. Demonstrations will include a blacksmith, Civil War encampment, and Cherokee life in the 18th Century. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 ages 13-18, children under 13 are free. A family rate of \$25 is also available. For more information call (423) 884-6246 or visit the museum's page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Sequoyah-Birthplace-Museum-341082776265/events/>.

TRAIL OF TEARS WALK, Grace United Methodist Church, Mt. Juliet, Sat., Sept. 15, 2pm, CDST

This annual walk remembers the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokee, Muscogee Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole) and their forced removal from the Southeast. This is the 180th anniversary of the 1838 Cherokee Trail of Tears. Mt. Juliet is located on the Northern Route where 10,000 Cherokees and their slaves along with 500 Muscogee Creek people walked. Those who wish to participate in the walk should meet at Grace United Methodist at 3085 Mt. Juliet Road in Mt. Juliet at 2pm, Central Time. After the walk, there will be a program, worship service, and a meal will be provided. Melba Checote-Eads, who has been coordinating the event for 15 years, is excited to announce that the Native Praise Choir and Muscogee Creek Ministry team will be there. The Native Praise Choir is from the Five Civilized Tribes and consists of 12 elder women who sing in their native languages. The Ministry team is Muscogee Creek citizens Rev. Ray and Betty Samuels and some young women who come to help sing. Native American musicians Chief Joseph and Dr. Laralyn RiverWind will also be there. For more information, contact Melba Checote-Eads at 615-210-7276 or melbaceads@dtccom.net.

TRAIL OF TEARS WALK, First United Methodist Church, Woodbury, Sun., Sept. 16, 12:30pm, CDST

This annual walk is also dedicated to the Five Civilized Tribes and their removal from the Southeast along the Northern Route. To participate in the walk, meet in the Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist at 502 W. High St. in Woodbury at 12:30pm, Central. Walk down Main Street, part of the original Trail of Tears, to the

Cannon County Court House to place a memorial wreath. Afterwards, return to the church for lunch and a program. The Native Praise Choir and Muscogee Creek Ministry team will also be in Woodbury. For more information on the walk, contact Melba Checote-Eads at 615-210-7276 or melbaceads@dtccom.net.

MOCCASIN BEND LECTURE SERIES, Bessie Smith Center, Chattanooga, Mon., Sept. 24, 7pm, EDST

Dr. Dan Littlefield, Director of the Sequoyah National Research Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, will kick off the annual fall series with a presentation on the “Role of American Indians in WWI.” Other dates and speakers in the fall series include Dr. Lauret Savoy on Oct. 15, who will speak on her book *Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape* and on Nov. 5, Dr. Paul Finkelman is scheduled to speak on the “Implications of the Civil Rights Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.” All programs are free and open to the public. For more information visit the National Park Partners page at <https://www.npp-ccm.org/current-projects/2018/5/21/chickamauga-and-chattanooga-conservation-crew-c4-8betg-f5ga9>.

BLESSING OF THE BUFFALO, Greg Vital Farm, Georgetown, Sat., Oct. 13, 3pm, EDST

This event is held nearly every fall at the Greg Vital Buffalo Farm in Georgetown. TNTOTA will have an educational booth and there will be Native American music, dance, and storytelling. The Vital family also provides food. The farm is located at 8220 Highway 60 in Georgetown.

NAIA POWWOW, Long Hunter State Park, Hermitage, Fri., Oct. 19, 9am – Sun. Oct. 21, 5pm, CDT

The Native American Indian Association of Tennessee will host the 36th Annual Indian Education Pow Wow at Long Hunter State Park. Planned activities include storytelling, Indian games, Native American dance competitions and arts and crafts, and lots of food including fry bread, Indian tacos, and hominy. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors (65+) and children 6-12. Children 5 and under are free. For more information, call 615-232-9179 or visit <https://www.crazycrow.com/site/event/naia-education-pow-wow-and-fall-festival/>.

FIRST ANNUAL TOT WALK, Old Cowan Road City Park, Winchester, Sat., Oct. 27, Time TBA

Local TNTOTA and Franklin County Historical Society (FCHS) members are organizing the first annual Trail of Tears walk in Winchester to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Bell Detachment’s passage through Franklin County on October 26-29, 1838. Anyone wishing to participate in the walk is invited to meet at Old Cowan Road City Park, located between US Hwy 41A and Old Cowan Road, next to 211 Wilson Street. The 20-minute walk will follow .8 mile of the original route that the detachment took to the courthouse square. Those unable to walk the full distance may join the walk as it passes the Franklin County Board of Education building at 215 S. College Street for the final three blocks. A horse-drawn wagon is expected to participate to transport participants who are unable to walk. To round out representation of the modes of travel used by the detachment, horseback riders are expected to participate. TNTOTA and FCHS will also conduct an educational booth that day at the Winchester Taste of Autumn Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off in downtown Winchester. This year’s festival is from 10am-5pm. The beginning time for the memorial walk will be forthcoming on the Winchester Taste of Autumn Fall Festival website and Facebook page. Interested parties may also contact Floyd by email (wfayers@comcast.net). TNTOTA will also provide updates via email and on Facebook.

15th ANNUAL TOT WALK, Davy Crockett State Park, Lawrenceburg, Sat., Nov. 3, 9am, CDT

Join Vicky Garland on this annual memorial walk on a portion of the actual trail which is located inside Davy Crockett State Park. The event commemorates the Bell detachment passage through the area in 1838. Those who would like to walk the trail this year are invited to meet at shelter #1 at 9 am CDT. The walk will begin at 10am. There will be a drummer and a pot luck lunch, but if you wish to eat, please bring some food to share. Donations will be accepted to help pay expenses of the drummer. Also, please take non-perishable items such as food and toiletries to be collected and distributed to local veterans. For more information, call 931-766-0827.

MY THANKS to Floyd Ayers, Melba-Checote Eads, 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.