



# Tennessee Trail of Tears

## February 2021 Newsletter

Dear TNTOTA members,

I hope this newsletter finds most of you and your families doing well amid this Covid pandemic. We have learned several of our members, their families, and friends have been affected by this nasty disease and we certainly send our wishes for their continued recovery. We hope that sometime this year we can all get together for a commemorative walk or meeting and to see each other again. Until then, we will stay in touch via newsletters, Facebook, and online zoom meetings.

Your new board members, who were elected back in November, officially took office January 1. I would like to thank the TNTOTA members who have just retired from the board starting with Debbie Moore, who retired as President and has helped me slip into my new role as President. She has agreed to stay involved in several capacities. I would also like to thank Shirley Lawrence who has served on the board in several positions including as a past President and as a state and national director. Finally, Doris Tate Trevino who has retired as a state director after serving many years on the board, also in several capacities including chapter secretary. Those of us new to or remaining on the board owe them many thanks for years of service and for their continued support.

The board is working on several projects. One is scheduling general member meetings with guest speakers that will be held via Zoom. We hope to have our first zoom meeting in either March or April. We will let you know as soon as we have a date.

We are also looking at updating the TNTOTA website and applying for a grant to start a project to digitize many documents and research on the TOT in Tennessee. The goal of the digitization project would be to make historical documents and research available online. We have several members who have years of research that we hope will not just get buried in a file in a library or archive to gather dust and which should be made available to other researchers. Watch this space for updates on these and other projects.

If you would like to volunteer to head up a committee or work on a project, please contact me. We need someone to help with the newsletter, a membership chairman, and an education chairman. If you have computer skills that you would like to volunteer to help us develop our new website, let me know. We have never had an official publicity person, but that would be nice. Or if you are interested in starting a traveling trunk project for Tennessee schools, that would be great. Contact me and let me know what your interest is.

Looking forward to seeing all of you again soon-  
Vicki Rozema, Ph.D.  
TNTOTA President

## **TNTOTA Board, Directors, etc.**

President: Vicki Rozema, [VickiRozema@Comcast.net](mailto:VickiRozema@Comcast.net), 865-696-7566, 7500 Woodland Bay Drive, Harrison, TN, 37341

Vice President: Danielle Shelton, [s.danielle.shelton@gmail.com](mailto:s.danielle.shelton@gmail.com)

Secretary: Darlene Goins, [tntrailoftears@gmail.com](mailto:tntrailoftears@gmail.com)

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

State Directors: Faye Callaway, [callawayantiques@bellsouth.net](mailto:callawayantiques@bellsouth.net); Charlie Rhodarmer, [charlie3416@yahoo.com](mailto:charlie3416@yahoo.com); Melba Checote-Eads, [melbaceads@dtccom.net](mailto:melbaceads@dtccom.net)

National Directors: Cleata Townsend, [humanbeing\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:humanbeing_2@hotmail.com); Vicki Rozema

By-laws and Nominations: Laura Bryan Spann

Facebook Administration: Debbie Moore, Vicki Rozema (apprentice)

Historic Preservation: Danielle Shelton

Programs and Meetings: Danielle Shelton

## **2021 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Events are subject to postponement or cancellation due to Covid-19

March 1 – 2021 Member dues are due. National TOTA will start dropping unpaid members from newsletter mailings on this date. Dues can be paid online at <https://nationaltota.com/become-a-member>.

March or April? – Zoom membership meeting with speaker

July or August? – Zoom membership meeting with speaker

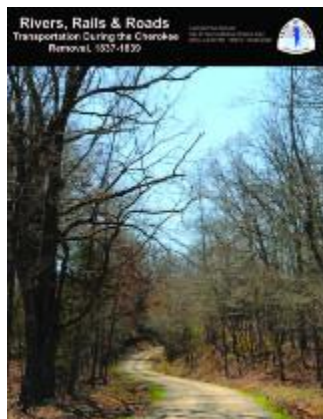
September 11 – Cowpea Festival, Charleston, TN

September 18-19 – Woodbury, TN Commemorative TOT Walk.

September 20-22 - 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Trail of Tears Conference, Harrah's Casino, Cherokee, NC.

Fall 2021 – Red Clay Cherokee Cultural Celebration

October 23 – Winchester Memorial Walk. TOTA Executive Director Troy Wayne Poteete will be the guest speaker.



The MTSU Center for Historic Preservation has produced another interesting TOT guide in cooperation with the National Park Service Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The title is *Rivers, Rails, and Roads: Transportation During the Cherokee Removal, 1837-1839*. It can be accessed online at the Center for Historic Preservation's website at

<https://www.mtsuhistpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/TRTE-Transportation-Booklet-spread-compressed-and-reduced.pdf>.



### **From Charlie Rhodarmer**

2021 is the bicentennial of Sequoyah finishing the syllabary in 1821. Sequoyah had announced in 1809 in his blacksmith shop that the Cherokee could create a writing system to put their Cherokee words on paper. He spent 12 years of his life trying to create a writing system. We know he tried different types of writing systems, but these different systems would not work for him.

When Sequoyah discovered the sounds of the Cherokee language, he then realized that he could take each of the syllables and give it a symbol. He then could sound out the Cherokee word and using his symbols could write any Cherokee word. The Cherokee speaker could spend some time learning the symbols and then could sound out and read or sound out and write their Cherokee words on paper.

This year Sequoyah Birthplace Museum will be celebrating Sequoyah's achievement throughout the year. Plan to visit Sequoyah Birthplace Museum and celebrate 200 years of Cherokee literacy with Sequoyah's creation of the syllabary in 1821.

### **OTHER NEWS**

Our condolences are extended to the family of TNTOTA member Mary Jane Reece whose husband Millard passed January 22. Millard was a resident of Coker Creek, TN.