



**TENNESSEE CHAPTER
TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION
SPRING NEWSLETTER**

Hello to the Tennessee Chapter,

I hope things have been going well for you. We all lead such busy lives that the days seem to pass too quickly. Here it is, mid-May, and many of you have children and grandchildren that are graduating high school or college and anticipating the exciting things their futures hold. Be sure and take a moment each day to recognize a blessing received and a blessing shared. Laura

INVITATION TO ATTEND

From Pennsylvania to "Calhounsville"

The Story of Dr. Allen Burd Grubb and the Gettys Mill property.

Presented by Laura Spann

May 10, 2024

Charleston-Calhoun-Hiwassee Historical Society Meeting

Hiwassee River Heritage Center 8746 Hiwassee Street Charleston, TN

A. B. Grubb sold his inheritance to his brother, moved to the Tennessee wilderness, married a Cherokee widow, and battled for his 1819 reservation claim in the Tennessee Supreme Court. Grubb served as a Chickasaw and Cherokee interpreter and physician.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST 4 SEQUOYAH REMEMBRANCE DAY SEQUOYAH
BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

AUGUST 10-11 CHEROKEE CULTURAL CELEBRATION RED CLAY
STATE PARK

AUGUST 17 TENNESSEE CHAPTER MEETING
CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC LIBRARY 3 P.M. FIRST
FLOOR AUDITORIUM PROGRAM BY VICKI ROZEMA

SEPTEMBER 7-8 ANNUAL CHEROKEE FALL FESTIVAL SEQUOYAH
BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

NATIONAL TOTA NEWS

If you missed it, here is a link to the most recent National TOTA newsletter.
<https://nationaltota.com/3d-flip-book/2024-winter-spring-newsletter-38/>

TENNESSEE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

2024 National Trail of Tears Conference hosted by the Tennessee Chapter

The Conference plans are coming together and we've heard many excited comments about all the planned activities. There is an overview of the conference in the newsletter link above, but here is an updated outline.

Location & Registration:

Embassy Suites at the Shallowford Road exit in Chattanooga.

The hotel registration block is open and there is a link in the National newsletter.

The Conference registration is not open yet.

Note: A cooked-to-order breakfast is included with your hotel reservation.

Dates:

October 13, Sunday

Pre-conference event at the Blythe Ferry, Cherokee Memorial Removal Park.

October 14, Monday

Morning: National Board of Directors meeting

Lunch: On your own

Early afternoon: The conference will open at Moccasin Bend with bus transportation from the hotel provided by the National Park Partners.

(More information on the NPP is available on their Facebook page and on the website at www.nppcha.org)

Afternoon: Indigenous People's Day celebration

Evening: Reception at the IMAX theater

Moccasin Bend Lecture Series: Jay Hannah, Keynote address

Return to hotel

October 15, Tuesday

Morning: Introduction to Field Trip

Travel to Red Clay State Historic Park

Lunch at Red Clay, sponsored by Cleveland/Bradley Co. Chamber & Friends of Red Clay

Afternoon: Travel to Fort Cass area; sites include

John Ross Home site

Red Clay Mission site

John Martin House

Camp Ross

Rattlesnake Springs

Fort Cass area

Hiwassee River Ferry Crossing

Agency & Barracks site

Lewis Ross Home

Walker Valley encampments

Evening: Travel to Calhoun, Meadowlands Park

Dinner at the Meadowland Pavilion, located on the Trail of Tears route.

Dedication of North Carolina Cherokee deportation route signage

Return to hotel

October 16, Wednesday

National Park Service Report
Annual Membership meeting
Lunch, sponsored by TVA
Confirmed Speakers:

Dr. Carroll Van West, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Director;
Tennessee State Historian
Dr. Brett Riggs, Western Carolina University
Anna Smith, Cherokee Moravian Historical Association founder; Salem, NC
Joe Guy, McMinn County, TN Sheriff & County Historian
Marshall Stuart, Sewanee; Professor of History
Amy Kostine, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Programs Manager

October 17, Thursday

Post-Conference Event Brainerd Mission Cemetery visit & program

**McMinn County & Monroe County, Tennessee
North Carolina Cherokee Deportation Route signage**

I am happy to announce that the final National Park Service plans were approved, road jurisdiction approvals submitted, and signs are to be ordered by the National Trails Office. We are now on track to have the signs installed before the conference. There are 23 McMinn County signs and 9 Monroe County signs for a total of 32 signs to mark the 50 miles from the TN/NC state line at Joe Brown Highway near Coker Creek to the Hiwassee River at Calhoun, traveling both southwest and northeast.

Tennessee Site updates

Note: It is important to recognize that additional information about the Cherokee Removal as well as the Trail of Tears continues to be discovered. Therefore, interpretive panels and displays should be periodically reviewed for accuracy.

** Charles Hall Museum and Coker Creek Heritage Center have received their Certified Site signage.

February 29 Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park
Dr. Carroll Van West, Amy Kostine, and Laura Spann visited the Park to discuss options for two wayside exhibits on the Trail of Tears, focusing on the Water Route and the Benge Detachment. Amy and the MTSU-CHP staff have designed those signs and secured grant funding through TN State Parks.

April 9 Savannah River Museum, Hardin County
NPS staff, Cory Donnelly and Carol Clark, visited the Savannah River Museum to review the status of the Trail of Tears exhibit there.

April 11 Cherokee Memorial Removal Park at Blythe Ferry, Meigs County
National Park Service and TVA representatives visited the Park to work on signage for the Retracement Trail. The MTSU-CHP is also planning for additional interpretive panels to be installed in the Visitor Center.

May 8 Trail of Tears Interpretive Center, Giles County
Troy Wayne Poteete, Dr. Carroll Van West, Amy Kostine, and Laura Spann attended a luncheon hosted by the Tennessee Chapter at the VFW in Pulaski. Approximately 40 representatives of the Pulaski community and Giles County officials were present. Troy Wayne spoke about the current Cherokee Nation. He explained that Cherokees want the story of the Trail of Tears and Cherokee Removal told as a story, not of victimization, but of resilience and survival.
A small group then met at the Interpretive Center to plan for updates to the information presented, including an upgrade to the information panels produced by the MTSU-CHP approximately 10 years ago.

Behind the Scenes

April 10 Laura attended the Hiwassee Blueway meeting as a TNTOTA representative

April 11 Vicki Rozema, Cleata Townsend, and Erin Medley attended the Moccasin Bend Public Forum in Chattanooga

Encourage your friends who are interested in Cherokee History and the Removal Story to join TOTA with a Tennessee affiliation. Having the National Conference in East Tennessee is a unique opportunity to experience the history of the Cherokee Homeland. We will visit sites where events leading to and culminating in the Trail of Tears occurred. Updates to the Conference plans will be shared by email and in the TN Trail of Tears Facebook group. We currently have 140 members.

Please Note: Trail of Tears Event sanctioning criteria

Fall of the year is a busy time for Trail of Tears Commemorative events including walks and rides. As a reminder, the Tennessee Chapter Board of Directors approved criteria for sanctioning events associated with the Trail of Tears Association.

Commemorations are not festive or celebratory. They should be conducted with an attitude of respect and honor. Participants should have an understanding of the event being recognized and TNTOTA members should take the opportunity to provide public education about the reason for the event.

Thank you for your understanding. We have members who have dedicated many years to the accurate research and education of the Cherokee Removal. It is not respectful to them or the memories of those who actually walked the trail in the 1830s to do anything but tell the true story and maintain a respectful atmosphere of dignity.

Please send Chapter news, including planned events, to Laura Spann at laurabspann@gmail.com. Thank you.