



**Trail of Tears Association, Tennessee Chapter Newsletter
Aug 2012**

CHAPTER MEETING: Saturday, September 22, 2012, 11 am Central time, Noon Eastern time

BOARD MEETING: Saturday, September 22, 2012, 10:30 am Central time, 11:30 am Eastern

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, September 22 at the Trail of Tears Interpretive Center in Pulaski, TN. The center is located on Stadium Street at old 64 Highway in the Old Rock Church. If you wish to look up directions online, use the address for the restaurant located by the Rock Church which is Hickory House Restaurant, 330 S Patterson St, Pulaski, TN 38478. You might also want to check out the Interpretive Center's website at <http://www.trailoftearspulaski.com/interpretive-center.html>.

From Nashville, take I-65 South to exit 22. Take US 31/TN 11, aka the Lewisburg HWY, southwest to Pulaski. In town, Lewisurg Hwy (US31/TN11) changes names to E. Grigsby St. In town, turn left on N. 1st St., and follow US31/TN11 into downtown. Turn left onto old US 64 which is E. College Street. Go one block and turn right onto S. Patterson Street, and watch for the Hickory House restaurant on the right which is near the Old Stone Church and Interpretive Center.

From Chattanooga, take I-24 towards Nashville. In Monteagle, take exit 134 which is US64/TN56, aka West Main Street. Follow US64 west towards Pulaski. As you approach Pulaski, you will have a choice between the US64 bypass and taking old US64 or the Fayetteville Highway into town. Take old US64/TN15 into town. (The bypass skirts south of town.) The Fayetteville Hwy changes names to E. College Street. Follow E. College Street to S. Patterson Street and turn left on Patterson. Watch for the Hickory House restaurant on the right which is near the Old Stone Church and Interpretive Center.

The board will meet at 10:30 AM Central time, followed by the regular membership meeting at 11:00 AM. Remember to bring a snack or covered dish for the pot luck lunch which will begin at noon. Presentations will begin at 1:00 PM Central time. State TNTOTA Director Vicky Garland will make a presentation on the Bell Route and either Larry Smith or Gail King of the Alabama chapter of TOTA will make a presentation on the Bengue Route. At 2:00 PM, we will travel to an overlook of the actual routes.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JULY 7 TNTOTA MEETING IN COKER CREEK, TENNESSEE

The last quarterly meeting was held at the Ruritan Club in Coker Creek, Tennessee. Preceding the official chapter meeting, Quentin Bass of the National Forest Service and Brett Riggs of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill presented a program on the history of Ft. Armistead and the use of the Unicoi Road as a removal route on the Trail of Tears. In attendance for the program were members of the Tennessee chapter, members of the Coker Creek Ruritan Club, the Coker Creek Heritage Association, National Forest and Park Service personnel from as far away as Atlanta, North Carolina and Alabama chapter members from TOTA, and national TOTA representatives Jack Baker and Jerra Quentin.

Members of the Coker Creek Ruritan Club provided an excellent covered dish dinner for the large group of visitors. After lunch, Riggs and members of the Forest Service escorted TOTA members out to the site of Ft. Armistead. After the tour, chapter members returned to the Ruritan Club for our general meeting.

Riggs, an archaeologist who has done considerable research on both the Unicoi Road and Ft. Armistead, explained that based on oral tradition about the importance of the site as a removal-era fort, long-time residents of the Coker Creek community had preserved the site of Ft. Armistead for decades until the National Park Service and National Forest Service could put it under their protection. The Ft. Armistead

site was not marked on a map of forts used by the government during the Cherokee removal drawn by Lt. E. D. Keyes and that is one reason why it had not been identified earlier by researchers working on the Trail of Tears. Quentin Bass and Brett Riggs had been working on the Unicoi Road since the 1980s and knew that the road ran by Coker Creek but were unaware of the fort site until a few years ago.

The fort was established in 1832 on the site of a stock stand operated by Philip Maroney who lived in Coker Creek. The Unicoi Road was used by hog drivers to send large herds to market on the eastern side of the Southern Appalachians. Maroney filed claims for damages saying that the army had taken over his stock stand in 1832 to establish a camp. On May 2, 1832, Lewis Cass wrote to Cherokee agent Hugh Montgomery to say that General Armistead had been ordered to the area to establish a military presence to protect Cherokee lands from gold diggers who had recently arrived after gold was discovered in Coker Creek. The fort was established without Cherokee permission, thus increasing its historical importance because it is the first American fort built on Cherokee lands without their permission. After resolving the gold digger problem, U. S. troops left in 1833, but returned in 1834 after intruders returned, then left again in May 1835. From Ft. Armistead, they marched to Charleston to establish Fort Cass which would become the most important fort used in the Cherokee Removal. The government had considered using Ft. Armistead as its headquarters, but opted instead to locate their headquarters at the Cherokee Agency in Charleston.

Tennessee militia reoccupied the site in 1837 and used it as a base to hunt and capture refugees from the Second Creek War who had taken refuge among the Cherokees in North Carolina. After the round-up of Cherokees began in 1838, North Carolina Cherokees were marched over the Unicoi Road to Fort Armistead. Approximately 3,000 Cherokees passed by Ft. Armistead on their way from North Carolina to Fort Cass. Capt. L. B. Webster, who was involved in rounding up Cherokees, wrote that the detachment of Cherokees that he led took eight days to travel from Ft. Butler to Ft. Armistead. Most of the Cherokees being deported from North Carolina by way of the Unicoi Road had passed through Coker Creek by the second week in July. After the Cherokee Removal of 1838, it is believed that the property returned to its original use as a stock stand.

Research on the site suggests a layout similar to that of Ft. Butler's. Ft. Armistead probably had one, possibly two, blockhouses. A large pit, which once served as storage area for gunpowder, is still visible. There is no evidence of a stockade surrounding the fort site. It is believed the site of the quartermaster's office has been identified. On our tour, Riggs pointed out these and many other features including the remnants of the original Unicoi Road. The site is not open to the public and only people with official permission are allowed near the site. The site is protected by armed patrols, video cameras, and other measures. Do not attempt to visit the site on your own. Archaeological research on the site is still underway.

After the tour, we returned to the Ruritan Club for the general members' meeting. TNTOTA member Bob Richards, who is attending the Southeast Development planning meetings on next year's 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears as a representative for the state of Tennessee, said that any group wishing to promote their activity needs to contact Paul Archambault of the Southeast Tourism agency. Bob mentioned that Cooperstown, who recently dedicated Trail of Tears signs provided by the NPS, may do something in October, 2013 as part of the commemorative effort. Bob also reported that he is working with graduate student Amy Kostine of MTSU on Tennessee's Trail of Tears Brochure. They are waiting to hear back from the Santa Fe office of the NPS Long Distance Trails Group on approval of a draft of the brochure. Amy Kostine is also working with people in Charleston, Tennessee on ten panels depicting the Trail of Tears in that town. Bob mentioned that the Fort Marr Blockhouse has been moved once again. This time, it has been moved from its old location by the police station in Benton, Tennessee to the north side of the Hiwassee River at Gee Creek campground.

In discussing future chapter meeting sites, it was mentioned that Prof. Merl Dirksen of Lee College volunteered to arrange a meeting at Lee. Bob mentioned that we might want to invite Dr. Van West of MTSU if we decide to hold a meeting in Murfreesboro.

Cleata Townsend said that she is talking with folks at Red Clay State Park about the possibility of doing something next year at the park as part of the 175th anniversary commemoration of the Trail of Tears. This year, 2012, is the last year the park plans to hold its annual August Cherokee Days of Recognition. Cleata is discussing the possibility with them of not allowing this to be the final year because of the importance of next year's anniversary.



In the photo on the left, from L to R, Jack Baker, Brett Riggs, Bob Richards, Wally Leary, Jerra Quinton, and Cleata Townsend enjoy dessert while waiting for the guided tour of the Ft. Armistead site at Coker Creek. In the photo on the right, Brett Riggs explains the history behind the site of Ft. Armistead and the use of the Unicoi Road as one of the removal routes on the Trail of Tears.

17th ANNUAL TRAIL OF TEARS CONFERENCE AND DOORPRIZES

This year's conference, hosted by the Chickasaw Nation and the Oklahoma Chapter of TOTA, will be held Monday through Thursday, October 22-25, 2012 in Norman, Oklahoma. The theme of the conference is "Comparisons of Homelands and Indian Territory." It will be held at the Riverwind Hotel. For room reservations, call the hotel at 405-322-6250, ask for the VIP office, and mention the special group rate code "CNTRIB". The conference rate is \$77. Book early because rooms are limited. An alternative to the Riverwind Hotel is the Sleep Inn, which is located about ¼ down the road from the conference location.

All TNTOTA members should have received either an email or a letter from the national office with instructions on how to register for the conference. The conference registration fee is \$175 (members pay only \$125) and the registration must be postmarked by September 24 or an additional late fee of \$100 will be charged. If you did not receive a registration form, they are available online at the TOTA website, www.nationaltota.org. For more details on the conference, visit the website or call 501-666-9032.

Every year the Tennessee chapter donates door prizes to the national conference. Cleata Townsend has done an excellent job for several years in collecting the door prizes. Hand made Native American crafts are ideal, but other nice donations like books, maps, and gift certificates are popular items. If you have something that you can donate, please bring it to the Sept. 22 chapter meeting or contact Cleata and make arrangements to get it to her before the national conference in October. Cleata's email address is humanbeing_2@hotmail.com.

ELECTIONS

Elections for all TNTOTA chapter board positions, except one national director position, will be held at the December meeting. We need to have nominations completed by the Sept. 22 meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for a position on the board, please contact V.P. Wally Leary at wjleary@gmail.com. I am stepping down as secretary and Agnes Jones is stepping down as treasurer so I know that those positions need to be filled. Other positions that are up for re-election include President, Vice President, two state director positions, and one national director position. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting. If you are not interested in running for office but want to be involved, we need volunteers to help with research, documentation, and education on the Trail of Tears through Tennessee, a website manager, and a membership chairman. Perhaps you can think of another way that you can help out the chapter. If so, please contact Wally, President Shirley Lawrence (shirleyclawrence@aol.com), or me, Vicki Rozema (vickirozema@comcast.net or vrozema@utk.edu).

TENNESSEE NATIVE AMERICAN EAGLE AWARDS

The 2012 winners of the Tennessee Native American Eagle Awards were announced August 4. Deborah Dodson, the niece of state director Vicky Garland, won an award for her educational work at schools, artistry work at the Trail of Tears Center in Pulaski, and for helping to track the Bell and Bengé Routes. TNTOTA members Cleata Townsend and Vicky Garland were nominated this year, but did not win. Both of these dedicated members have won the award in prior years, as well as a number of other TNTOTA members. We congratulate Deborah for winning this award and appreciate the consistent recognition by Sheila Jones and the Eagle Award organization of those who research and educate the public about the Trail of Tears.

POE'S TAVERN DEDICATION: SEPTEMBER 1

The dedication of Poe's Tavern, located in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee, will take place on September 1. The hours will be 10AM - 2PM. Music, people in period dress, and food will be part of the festivities. Dignitaries, officials, etc. will speak early, followed by entertainment which will probably be blue grass & country music. TNTOTA member Carlos Wilson's family country band, The Tennessee Hi-Riders, is scheduled to play last at 1 PM. Carlos was told that his band could play as long as they wanted if the crowd hangs around. There will be some food, but probably only hot dogs, chips, drinks, etc. No big vendors will be present because of limited time & space. There is a possibility that there will be a sponsor who will supply free hot dogs, but this is not definite. Six small, covered pavilions have been built, one of which will be used by Carlos to show information on his Richard Taylor research. (For more information on Carlos's research on the Taylor Route and Poe's Tavern, see the May newsletter.) TNTOTA will share the pavilion with Carlos in order to promote and recruit new TNTOTA members. ?

LIST OF FALL EVENTS FROM STATE DIRECTOR VICKY GARLAND

The annual Trail of Tears Remembrance Motorcycle Ride from Chattanooga will have a lunch stop in Fayetteville with the First Nations People on September 15, 2012. Then on October 27, 2012, there is a Memorial Walk and Living History with Debbie Capino sponsored by First Nations People in

Fayetteville, Tennessee from 9-2:30. Then, moving on to the Memorial in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, on November 3, 2012, a memorial walk will start on the Square at 9:30 and afterwards, there will be a covered dish social at David Crockett State Park shelter number 1 that will feature a drum: the Memez Boyz from Crossville. The next event is November 9 and 10, 2012 in Pulaski, Tennessee at the Interpretive Center on old 64 Highway. Friday the 9th is kids' day and then the memorial walk and motorcycle ride is Saturday, November 10, 2012. All events are open to the public and free of charge. For more information, contact Vicky at vlg42@hotmail.com.

FALL EVENTS FROM PRESIDENT SHIRLEY LAWRENCE

September 15, 2012: TNTOTA will have a booth at the International Cowpea Festival and Cookoff in the park at Charleston, TN. Our booth will inform the public about the Cherokee Removal. For more information on the festival, visit their website at <http://www.cowpeafestival.com/>. September 22, 2012: The Cherokee Removal Park will join Meigs-Decatur Public Library to present "The Girl who Married the Moon." Join us between the hours of 6 PM and 9 PM at Blythe Ferry. This event blends Cherokee storytelling by Gayle Ross and video with modern science to take viewers on a voyage of discovery motivated by wonder and curiosity. This program offers traditional stories and science that work in harmony to excite the listener. October 13, 2012: Pumpkintown Festival, Athens, Tennessee. Native American booths, dancers, music by Scott Crisp and Friends, stickball. For more information on the Pumpkintown Festival, see the festival website at <http://www.pumpkintownfestival.com/>. You can also contact Shirley Lawrence at shirleyclawrence@aol.com for information on all of these events.

TENNESSEE NATIVE AMERICAN EAGLE AWARDS

The 2012 winners of the Tennessee Native American Eagle Awards were announced August 4. The niece of state director Vicky Garland, Deborah Dodson, won an award for her educational work at schools, artistry work at the Trail of Tears Center in Pulaski, and for helping to track the Bell and Bengé Routes. TNTOTA members Cleata Townsend and Vicky Garland were nominated this year, but did not win. Both of them have won the award in prior years, as well as a number of other TNTOTA members. We congratulate Deborah for winning this award and appreciate the recognition given by Sheila Jones and the Eagle Award organization for their consistent recognition of those who research and educate the public about the Trail of Tears.

Additional Tennessee Events:

21st Annual Fall Festival, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, September 8-9, 2012, 10 am to 4:30 pm

Events include a Cherokee living history time-line and re-enactments including a Civil War Battle re-enactment. Also: Native dancing, food, crafts, and a stickball game. Admission is \$5.00 per adult, children 12 and under are free. For more information, contact the museum at seqmus@tds.net or check out their website at <http://www.sequoyahmuseum.org/>.

31st Annual Fall Festival and Tennessee State Powwow, Long Hunter State Park, Nashville, October 19-21, 2012, Starting at 9 am

Events include drum contest, competition dancing, games, storytelling, and more. Native foods and native crafts. \$6 admission for adults, \$3 for seniors and children ages 6 to 12, free for children under 6. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.naiatn.org/powwow/index.html>.

Intertribal Cultural Gathering, Red Clay State Park, October 26-28, 2012, 10 am to 4:30 pm

Events include native dance demonstrations and food from native vendors. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and sun shades. For more information, visit the park website at <http://tn.gov/environment/parks/RedClay/#events>.

VICKI ROZEMA TO PRESENT ANNUAL WILSON LECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT KNOXVILLE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 5:00 PM

Vicki Rozema, Ph.D., last year's winner of the Wilson Fellowship for research in military history at the University of Tennessee, will present a talk on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 5:00 PM. The program and following reception will take place in the Hermitage Room of the University Center. Vicki has not yet chosen the title for her talk, but it will cover the role of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in investigating internal improvements and mining opportunities in the Cherokee Nation prior to the Cherokee Removal. The talk will also examine how a growing interest in science and technology that was occurring in the early nineteenth century at the national level encouraged leading Southern politicians, military leaders, and businessmen to look for opportunities to apply the new technologies for commercial purposes in Cherokee country. The program will be open to the public. I invite all of my friends at TNTOTA to come and hear part of what I have been working on for the last 7 years.

EXCERPT FROM BUTRICK'S JOURNAL:

Monday June 11, 1838: "Went to the camps. Saw many of the poor Creeks. Inquired for Soft Shell Turtle but as his tent was some distance off, I did not visit him. He is a chief of some note, from Hightower. When the soldiers were taking the people, he, with nearly thirty others, fled to a mountain. They were discovered a few days ago, and brought to the camps. He was handcuffed, and his hands considerable swollen when he came last week. As Moses' father in law, Old Bear, wishes to live near Brainerd, we obtained permission for him to do so. The weather being extremely warm and dry, many of the Cherokees are sick, especially at Calhoun, where we understand that from four to ten die in a day." - - *The Journal of Rev. Daniel S. Butrick* (Park Hill, OK: Trail of Tears Association, Oklahoma Chapter, 1998), 63-64. Butrick, a missionary who served in the Cherokee Nation for many years including at the Carmel and Brainerd Missions, witnessed the round up and incarceration of Cherokees in the Chattanooga area in camps near the Brainerd Mission and the Tennessee River in May and June of 1838. Approximately 500 Creek Indians, who had been hiding in Cherokee country for several months in an attempt to escape the Creek removal the year before, were rounded up with the Cherokees and held in a separate camp near Ross's Landing. The reference to Hightower is to a Cherokee town located in Georgia. Calhoun refers to the Cherokee Agency, located on the Hiwassee River at Calhoun, Tennessee, where the majority of Cherokees were taken during the roundup and from where most of the detachments eventually left. The Cherokees held in camps near Ross's Landing, Calhoun, and other camps in the area were not held inside stockaded forts but in open camps guarded by state militia. Disease was rampant in the camps and caused many deaths among the Cherokees and Creeks before their departure from Ross's Landing and Calhoun on the Trail of Tears. Rev. Butrick accompanied the Cherokees on the Trail of Tears.

MY THANKS

To Carlos Wilson, Vicky Garland, Shirley Lawrence, and Wally Leary for providing information for this newsletter. My thanks also to Wally Leary for arranging a great July TNTOTA meeting at Coker Creek. I would like to encourage anyone who has announcements of events pertaining to Cherokee history or has information related to research or education on the Trail of Tears that they believe other TNTOTA members would be interested in, to please contact me at vickirozema@comcast.net or vrozema@utk.edu.