



**Trail of Tears Association, Tennessee Chapter Newsletter
March 2013**

CHAPTER MEETING: Saturday, April 13, 2013, 11:30 am Central time, 12:30 pm Eastern time
BOARD MEETING: Saturday, April 13, 2013, 11 am Central time, Noon Eastern time

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 13 at Woodbury United Methodist Church in Woodbury, TN. The church has kitchen facilities to accommodate our usual pot luck lunch. Guest speaker Vicki Rozema will give a talk on how a growing interest in science and technology in the South contributed to the Cherokee removal. Woodbury is located on US Hwy 70S, between Murfreesboro and McMinnville, at the intersection of TN Hwy 53, between Manchester and Liberty. Woodbury United Methodist Church is located at 502 W. High Street, which is one block south of Hwy 70S (Main St.), between College St. and S. Dillon St.

From Chattanooga - Take I-24 toward Nashville, turn right onto TN Hwy 53 at exit no. 110, in Woodbury turn left onto W. High St. (one block past the city park & one block before McDonalds), proceed 3 1/2 blocks to the Church on the right side of the street.

From McMinnville - Take US Hwy 70S east to Woodbury, in Woodbury turn left onto TN Hwy. 53 (McDonalds Restaurant corner), go one block and turn right onto W. High Street, proceed 3 1/2 blocks to the Church on the right side of the street.

From Nashville - Take I-24 toward Chattanooga, in Murfreesboro take exit 78A and turn left onto TN Hwy 96 (Old Fort Parkway), proceed to US Hwy 70S & 41 (NW Broad Street) and turn right, proceed to Mercury Boulevard (US Hwy 70S) and turn left, proceed on Hwy 70S (Mercury Blvd. changes to John Bragg Hwy) to Woodbury, turn right onto College St. (2nd street past the bridge across Stones River), go one block and turn left onto W. High St., Church will be 1/2 block on left.

GREETINGS FROM TNTOTA'S NEW PRESIDENT, WALLY LEARY

First I hope to see you at our meeting in Woodbury, TN on April 13th. It will prove to be a great day with our own board member, professor and author Vicki Rozema as our guest speaker. We will also discuss upcoming programs and projects we want to accomplish this year.

To those of you who have newly joined, welcome. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings or events.

To those of you who have renewed, thanks for your continuing support.

To those of you who have not yet renewed, please do so this week. Membership forms are available at <http://www.nationaltota.org/membership-info/MEMBERSHIP%20FORM.pdf> or let anyone from the board know and we will mail a form to you. We need you.

We have the opportunity to be one of the most active, well read, best informed chapters in the entire organization. As you read this newsletter you will see that we have several plans for this 175th Commemoration of the Trail of Tears, signs being installed, and research being shared.

If at any time you have any ideas you'd like to discuss, please feel free to send me a note, give me a call or write a letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wally

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2013 TOTA CONFERENCE, Hopkinsville, KY, October 7-10

The next national conference will be in Hopkinsville, Kentucky October 7-10. Members of TNTOTA or any state chapter will receive more information in the mail this summer. Mark your calendars.

ELECTIONS

Elections for TNTOTA chapter board positions were held at the December meeting. Following is a list of TNTOTA officers and contact information:

President: Wally Leary: wjleary@gmail.com

Vice President: Doris Tate Trevino: tandt05@bellsouth.net

Secretary: (Open) Need volunteer, if interested, contact Wally Leary

Treasurer: Floyd Ayers: wfayers@comcast.net; 368 Halfmoon Road, Winchester, TN, 37398

State Directors:

Vicky Garland: vlg42@hotmail.com; 55 C.C. Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN. 38464; 931-766-0827

Sarah Kortokrax: mysarah1@hotmail.com

Vicki Rozema: vickirozema@comcast.net or vrozema@utk.edu; 3146 Washington Ridge Way #2303, Knoxville, TN, 37917; 865-696-7566

Ollie Speakman: ojmjs@yahoo.com

National Directors:

Wally Leary: wjleary@gmail.com

Cleata Townsend: humanbeing_2@hotmail.com; 4409 Lonsdale Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37411, 423-698-2804

REPORT FROM VICKY GARLAND, TNTOTA STATE DIRECTOR

Hello TNTOTA Members. I would like to catch you up on what is going on in Southern Middle Tennessee. As I was re-elected as a Middle Tennessee State Director of the Tennessee Chapter Trail of Tears Association, I have been working to get signs put in part of Giles County and all of Lawrence county for the Bell and Bengé's Routes of the Trail of Tears. It has been a long slow process but I have finished my part and am waiting on the funding to purchase the signs.

Also, we are putting signs through David Crockett State Park which has been added to the Trail of Tears Long Distance Trail. <http://www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit/places-to-go-in-tennessee.htm>. The park was just awarded a \$20,000.00 grant to build and develop a new hiking trail: the Trail of Tears Trail. The park plans to use its Friends Group to filter the grant funds through which will provide development and construction of kiosks, wayside panels, a trail map, trail signs and markers and gravel to establish and rehabilitate parking areas. All aspects of the grant will be completed by October 15th. State Park personnel plan to work with the Trail of Tears Association on the project and will do the grand unveiling the first Saturday in November to coincide with our annual event.

We are working on a big event for our 150th Anniversary of the TOT. We will have a Re-enactment walk on the old Waynesboro Highway where the Indians walked in 1838 and a Civil War Living History for the Anniversary of the 1864 skirmish at Hope Springs. Hope Springs is the fording place into David Crockett State Park where there is more than 2 miles of Trail today. It is going to be a day filled with dedications. And we are hoping we have a lot of people come out and enjoy these events. It will be a 2 to 3 day event. If we can get approval for the school to bring out the children we will do a Kid's Day Living History on Friday, November 1, 2013 and our walk and Living History Battles on Saturday, November 2, 2013 then finish up Saturday with a Civil War skirmish. The battle in 1864 was with the cavalries of the North and the South and we will have re-enactors on horses and on foot. There will be weapon displays and also cannons. The horses will re-enact the battle and chase the northern boys back across the creek toward Waynesboro. The southern guys were part of Forrest's Escort and the re-enactment group will be the present day Forrest's Escort, and the Armies of Tennessee.

This has been a busy past few months. Please make plans to come to Lawrenceburg, Tennessee in November.

Vicky Garland

NATIONAL WORKSHOP IN JULY 2013

The National Park Service and the Trail of Tears Association are holding a workshop on the identification and preservation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. There will be two workshops held, one on each end of the Trail. The first workshop will take place on the eastern end of the Trail, and the second one will take place on the western end of the Trail. Specific locations have not been chosen yet, but the dates have been determined:

Eastern Workshop - Monday & Tuesday, July 8 & 9

Western Workshop - Thursday & Friday, July 11 & 12

These workshops will be free to all TOTA members and some travel assistance will be available. More information on how to apply for this assistance will be forthcoming. Plans include for state and tribal historic preservation offices to be present to share their expertise with attendees. The workshops will include field trips which will also be free to registrants of the workshop. More details about the workshops will be sent to you soon. For now, SAVE THE DATES! If you have any questions contact Jerra Quinton Baker at TOTA@ArIndianCtr.org.

TNTOTA ON THE INTERNET!

TNTOTA has once again established a presence on the worldwide web. TNTOTA's webmaster, Toye Heape, has established an informational site at <http://www.tntota.com/>. Some of the pages are still under construction, but the website is looking real good with photos of many Trail of Tears sites in Tennessee and links to related websites including the national organization. A Facebook page has also been established with TNTOTA's name. The Facebook page contains a lot of photos of TNTOTA meetings and events and date postings related to North American Native American history. Check them out!

NEWS FROM THE CHEROKEE REMOVAL PARK, SUBMITTED BY SHIRLEY LAWRENCE

The Cherokee Removal Memorial Park has a new display in honor of the 5 nations who were removed during the tragic years of 1831-1838. Park hours are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10 to 4. Sunday 1-5. There are other events being worked on. Located at 6800 Blythe Ferry Road, Birchwood, TN. 423-339-2769. <http://cherokeeremoval.org/>

IN MEMORY: GAIL KING, PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA CHAPTER

This is the first newsletter since we received news of the passing of our dear friend Gail King, the devoted and hard-working president of the Alabama chapter. She was a valued friend to many of us in the Tennessee chapter. Gail died in early November after several years of fighting cancer. Her legacy of leadership and devotion to research and documentation of the Trail of Tears sites in Alabama will be carried on by her friends in Alabama. Our hearts go out to her husband Marty and her family and friends.

CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION UPDATE, BY AMY KOSTINE (Ed. by Vicki Rozema)

The Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) at Middle Tennessee State University continues its work in connection to the Trail of Tears. TNTOTA member Amy Kostine of the CHP is working on 9 exhibit panels for the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston, TN which is scheduled to open in May 2013. She and David Sprouse are also working on interpretive panels for the Trail of Tears Interpretive Center in Pulaski and the CHP is working on 3 exhibit panels for the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro & Rutherford County. Dr. Carroll Van West and Amy are making solid progress with surveying historic buildings/structures associated with the Trail of Tears. Since January, West and Kostine have conducted fieldwork in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. In March, they drove portions of the Northern and Bengie routes in Tennessee, documenting potential "witness" homes. Early fieldwork suggests that there are still quite a few possible "witness" homes scattered along the routes. More intensive research still needs to be conducted in order to prove the date of construction of these possible "witness" homes, though. The

Tennessee Trail of Tears brochure is currently undergoing some design changes, but is on schedule to be printed in May 2013. And finally, the CHP and TNTOTA are in the early planning phase of organizing a Trail of Tears event in Murfreesboro in the fall with a special keynote speaker. More information will follow soon.



Photo on left is of the new Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston, TN. The photo on the right is of the George A. West Complex in Robertson, County, TN which has been identified as having existed in 1838 by the CHP survey. Both photos courtesy of Amy Kostine and the CHP.

RUSSELL CAVE NAT'L MONUMENT "DISCOVER THE TRAIL OF TEARS" CHALLENGE

The public is invited to take the Trail of Tears Challenge, a photographic scavenger hunt hosted by Russell Cave National Monument in Bridgeport, AL. Challenge participants take pictures of Trail of Tears locations in AL, TN and GA, then send them to Russell Cave via email, U.S. Mail, or in person to complete the challenge. The first person to complete the challenge will receive a Cherokee-style pot made by a nationally known artist. To learn more, email NPS ranger Keena Graham at keena_graham@nps.gov.

PHOTOS OF NATIONAL BOARD MEETING AND ANDREW ROSS HOUSE



Photo on left by Larry Smith and caption information provided by Cleata Townsend: This was taken Sunday, March 24 after dinner at the National Board meeting in Little Rock. TNTOTA National Directors Wally Leary and Cleata Townsend represented our state chapter at the meeting. Larry Smith, who is also

a member of the TN chapter, attended as a representative of the AL chapter and took this photo. Seated from left to right: Mary Bell Chase (OK), Jack Baker of the National Organization, and Curtis Rohr (OK). Standing left to right: John McLarty (new Nat'l Board Treasurer, AR), Patsy Edgar (Nat'l Board Sec, GA), and Cleata Townsend (TN). Seated behind Curtis Rohr's head: Anne Rogers (NC) and Troy Poteete (Nat'l Board VP, OK). Jack Baker was showing the group some very interesting documents from the National Archives and some photos that he had taken at the John Martin house and Flint Springs in TN.

Photo on right by Wally Leary. Taken in August, this is a recent photo of the Andrew Ross house in Charleston, TN. Andrew was the brother of Principal Chief John Ross. The brothers were responsible for planning and supplying the Cherokees' journey over the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears.

◆ Tennessee Events:

Fort Loudon Garrison Weekend, Fort Loudon State Park, Vonore, May 4-5, 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm Sunday.

Living history re-enactors in costume as 18th century British soldiers in this British fort on the Cherokee frontier. Visit a Cherokee camp, infirmary, and blacksmith shop inside the recreated fort. For more information, 423-884-6217, <http://fortloudoun.com/>.

◆ Georgia Events:

Dedication of Trail of Tears Signage, Rockdale Plantation, Oakman, Georgia, April 13, 10 am
Official dedication of the signage for the home place of George Washington Adair on the historic Sally Hughes Road. Located between Oakman and Ranger, Georgia on Old Hwy 411. Look for the GATOTA banner.

175th Anniversary Trail of Tears Memorial Service, New Echota State Park, May 18, 2 to 4 pm
Guest speakers from the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and United Ketoowah Band of Cherokee will participate in a memorial service marking the beginning of the forced Cherokee Removal of 1838. Other planned participants include Jack Baker, President of the National TOTA organization, Sammy Still, Tommy Wildcat, All Nations Warrior Society Honor Guard, and the Medicine Ridge Singers. Free for armed services members only. For more information: 706-624-1321, <http://gastateparks.org/NewEchota/>.

TALE OF CHEROKEES IN RAVENSBURG STATE PARK, PENNSYLVANIA

TNTOTA member and supporter R. C. Wyland sent me an article last fall for inclusion in the newsletter about a story of Cherokees who supposedly lived near Ravensburg State Park in Pennsylvania. The article is too long to include in the newsletter, but I found a copy online, should anyone be interested. I was not able to find any documentation on the accuracy of the story of Cherokees living in central Pennsylvania. Historical documents limit Cherokee towns of the 17th through 21st centuries to North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. But it is a curious story.

<http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/507990/Ravensburg-State-Park--caws--to-you.html>

ADDRESS OF GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT TO THE CHEROKEES, MAY 10, 1838:

175 years ago, General Winfield Scott was appointed at the last minute by President Martin Van Buren and Secretary of War Joel R. Poinsett to supervise the forced removal of the Cherokees from their homes. The federal government had warned the Cherokees several times that removal was inevitable and had encouraged the Cherokees to remove on their own. Their two year deadline to move west was approaching. On May 10, General Scott issued this chilling notice:

“Major –General Scott, of the United States’ Army, sends to the Cherokee people remaining in North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama this Address.

“Cherokees: — The President of the United States has sent me, with a powerful army, to cause you, in obedience to the treaty of 1835, to join that part of your people who are already established in prosperity on the other side of the Mississippi. Unhappily, the two years which were allowed for the purpose, you have suffered to pass away without following, and without making any preparation to follow, and now, or by the time that this solemn *address* shall reach your distant settlements, the emigration must be commenced in haste, but, I hope, without disorder. I have no power, by granting a farther delay, to correct the error that you have committed. The full moon of May is already on the wane, and before another shall have passed away, every Cherokee man, woman, and child, in those States, must be in motion to join their brethren in the far West.

“My fiends — This is no, sudden determination on the part of the President whom you and I must now obey. By the treaty, the emigration was to have been completed on or before the 23d of this month, and the President has constantly kept you warned, during the two years allowed, through all his officers and agents in this country, that the treaty would be enforced.

“I am come to carry out that determination. My troops already occupy many positions in the country that you are to abandon, and thousands and thousands are approaching from every quarter to render resistance and escape alike hopeless. All those troops, regular and militia, are your friends. Receive them and confide in them as such. Obey them when they tell you that you can remain no longer in this country. Soldiers are as kind-hearted as brave, and the desire of every one of us is to execute our painful duty in mercy. We are commanded by the President to act toward you in that spirit, and such is also the wish of the whole people of America.

“Chiefs, head men, and warriors — Will you then, by resistance, compel us to resort to arms? God forbid! Or will you, by flight, seek to hide yourselves in mountains and forests, and thus oblige us to hunt you down? Remember that, in pursuit it may be impossible to avoid conflicts. The blood of the white man, or the blood of the red man, may be spilt, and if spilt, however accidentally, it may be impossible for the discreet and humane among you, or among us, to prevent a general war and carnage. Think of this, my Cherokee brethren! I am an old warrior, and have been present at many a scene of slaughter; but spare me, I beseech you, the horror of witnessing the destruction of the Cherokees.

“Do not, I invite you, even wait for the close approach of the troops; but make such preparations for emigration as you can, and hasten to this place, to Ross’s Landing, or to Gunter’s Landing, where you will all be received in kindness by officers selected for the purpose. You will find food for all, and clothing for the destitute, at either of those places, and thence at your case, and in comfort, be transported to your new homes according to the terms of the treaty.

“This is the address of a warrior to warriors. May his entreaties be kindly received, and may the God of both prosper the Americans and Cherokees, and preserve them long in peace and friendship with each other.

“WINFIELD SCOTT.”

MY THANKS

To Floyd Ayers for making arrangements for our April meeting and for providing directions. Thanks also to Rev. John Hembree and the trustees at Woodbury United Methodist Church for allowing us to use their facilities for our meeting and for waiving the usual fee. A shout out goes to Shirley Lawrence, Vicky Garland, Amy Kostine, Wally Leary, Cleata Townsend, and R. C. Wyland for providing information and photos for this newsletter. 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.