



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

CHAPTER MEETING: Saturday, July 7, 2012, 10:30 am Eastern time, 9:30 Central time
BOARD MEETING: Saturday, July 7, 2012, 9:30 am Eastern time, 8:30 Central time

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, July 7 at the Coker Creek Ruritan Club located at 118 Ruritan Road, Tellico Plains, TN 37385. The board will meet at 9:30 followed by the regular membership meeting at 10:30. There will be a powerpoint presentation about Fort Armistead and a walk along the Unicoi Turnpike, the actual route of the Trail of Tears from North Carolina to Fort Armistead. Cost will be \$8 per person to cover the cost of a box lunch, meeting room, and equipment.

RSVP with a check to pay for lunch to Wally Leary by June 22. Our Executive Director of the Trail of Tears Association, Jerra Quinton is planning to attend. This meeting will be limited to 50 people including members and guests from TNTOTA as well as members from our bordering states of KY, NC, GA, and AL. Send check to Wally Leary, 2525 St Lucie Court, Chattanooga, TN 37421. (423) 894-0974.

Mapquest directions from Chattanooga to the Coker Creek Ruritan Club:

From Chattanooga, take I-75 North. Take EXIT 20 toward US-64-BYP E/Cleveland. (go 0.24 miles). Merge onto US-74 E/Apd 40 toward US-11/US-64-BYP/Cleveland/Cherokee National Forest. (go 6.35 miles). Merge onto US-74 E/US-64 E/TN-40 E toward Ocoee. (go 7.73 miles). Take the US-411 ramp toward Maryville/Chatsworth. If you reach Cherokee Cir you've gone about 0.2 miles too far. (go 0.12 miles). Turn left onto US-411 N/TN-33 N. Continue to follow US-411 N. (go 19.25 miles). Turn right onto TN-310 just past 4th St. (go 6.38 miles). TN-310 becomes Mecca Pike/TN-39. (go 7.84 miles). Turn right onto TN-68. (go 9.99 miles). Turn right onto Ruritan Rd. which is 0.1 miles past Hot Water Rd. (go 0.05 miles). 118 RURITAN RD is on the left.

Mapquest directions from Knoxville to the Coker Creek Ruritan Club:

From Knoxville, take I-40 West to I-75 South towards Chattanooga. Take exit TN-68 exit, EXIT 60, toward Sweetwater/Spring City. Turn left onto TN-68 South. Go 33.9 miles. Turn right onto Ruritan Road which is 0.1 miles past Hot Water Road. 118 Ruritan Road will be on the left almost immediately.

From Nashville, take I-40 East to I-75, go south towards Chattanooga, then follow directions from Knoxville.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH 17 TNTOTA GENERAL MEETING IN SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE

The last quarterly meeting was held in the Soddy-Daisy City Hall. We had a covered dish dinner followed by two excellent presentations and the general business meeting. Bill Carney, who has started a wood-working academy, gave a nice talk on the reconstruction that he is doing through his academy on Poe's Tavern and role it played in the Cherokee removal. Carney explained that Hastings Poe and his slaves moved to the Soddy area in 1816 where he began to grow wheat corn, tobacco, and cotton and where he ran a toll road over the mountain to Sequatchie County. One reason that the Taylor detachment stopped at Poe's Tavern is because there were several good springs in the area. It is believed that one Cherokee woman in the Taylor detachment died and is buried in Poe's cemetery. Carney has worked closely with the city of Soddy-Daisy on plans for a museum in the reconstructed tavern and the land around the tavern. Plans include a park, walking track, farmer's market, benches, and landscaping in the vicinity of the tavern. Tavern dedication is tentatively scheduled for September.

Following Carney, TNTOTA member Carlos Wilson gave a presentation on the route of the Taylor detachment. Using the journal of the Rev. Daniel Butrick as one of his primary sources, Wilson has been researching the Trail of Tears through Hamilton County and Soddy-Daisy since 1998. The Taylor detachment left the Chattanooga area and followed Harrison Pike to Vann's Town, camped near Vann's (the old town of Harrison which is now under Chickamauga Lake), then crossed the Tennessee River near Vann's. (See excerpt from Butrick's journal at the end of this newsletter.) Most of the Cherokees traveling in wagons forded the river while those traveling on foot used the ferry. On the northwest side of the river, they camped at a big spring, called Dallas Spring, in what is now Chester Frost Park. From there, they travelled via Daisy-Dallas Road to Poe's Crossroads, camped near the cemetery and fields near what is now the local Hardee's restaurant. From there, they traveled up Walden's Ridge.

Following the presentations, Bill Carney, Carlos Wilson, Mayor Jim Adams of Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee Greenways and Trails Coordinator Bob Richards, and TNTOTA members discussed how to begin the process of obtaining certification and signage for these sites in Soddy-Daisy.

At the business meeting, Agnes Jones's treasurer's report was read, and it shows that we have 74 members and a balance of \$1,808.84. It was also announced that the John Martin House in Red Hill, Bradley County, Tennessee, has been officially certified by the NPS as a site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. (Thanks to Debbie Moore for her hard work and for taking us on a tour to the John Martin House back in December.)



In these photos from the March 17, 2012 TNTOTA meeting at Soddy-Daisy City Hall, Bill Carney, Jack Vincent, and Mayor Jim Adams (l to r) listen with interest as Carlos Wilson (right) presents his research on the route of the Taylor detachment.

UPDATE FROM ROBERT (BOB) RICHARDS, TN GREENWAYS AND TRAILS COORDINATOR ON NEW SIGNS FOR COOPERTOWN, TN

After several years of cooperative efforts between the National Park Service (NPS), the National Trail of Tears Association, the State of Tennessee, and the Town of Coopertown, this project is very close to fruition. Funding for the signs was provided by the Long Distance Trails Office of the National Park Service. Special recognition goes to NPS staff person Steve Burns for his hard work and perseverance.

The Town of Coopertown, TN in Robertson County has received six Original Route signs to be placed on the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears. These signs will go on the Old Coopertown Road and then cross State Route 49. West of SR 49, Old Coopertown Road turns into Burgess Gower Road, goes by City Hall

and continues to the city limits at Sandy Springs Road. The Town is working cooperatively with the Robertson County Highway Department to get these signs installed.

A sign dedication event is being scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 10:00 am CDT in conjunction with the Cherokee Nation bicycle riders who will be traveling through this area that day. It is hopeful that representatives of the Cherokee Nation, National Trail of Tears Association, National Park Service staff, State of Tennessee staff, and other interested people will attend this event. The unveiling will be at the Coopertown City Hall at 2525 Burgess Gower Road, Springfield, TN.

For more information, check the www.coopertowntn.org website or contact Ms. Vickie Bumgardner with the Town of Coopertown at 615-382-4470, ext 215 or commissioner@coopertowntn.org.

REPORT FROM VICKY GARLAND, STATE DIRECTOR FOR TNTOTA (Dated April 30, 2012) AND LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

This past month has been busy. I have been working to get the sign site plan in place for part of Giles and all of Lawrence County Tennessee. Also working to find someone in the state to make the signs. I did go by and speak with Henry Phillips, the Park Manager at David Crockett State Park, about putting some signs in the park. Also took a lot of photos of the Trail to send to the NPS for their brochures. On April 12-13, 2012 I spent both days at the Gobbler Gala in the Ag-Park in Pulaski, Tennessee talking Trail of Tears and Indians in the area with the locals. This was a benefit hunt for 25 needy Children. It was open to the public, but focused on the kids.

I went to an art unveiling of a Trail of Tears portrait by Bernice Davidson for the Trail of Tears Interpretive Center in Pulaski, Tennessee at the Martin Methodist College and then on out to the Giles County Country Club for the Rotary Luncheon to speak about the Trail in Giles County. This is an ongoing project and Ms. Davidson has said she will contribute 4 of her famous people paintings to the Interpretive Center. Also, Deborah Dodson has donated her time to do a mural of the Trail of Tears for the Center. So we are well on our way. I have been working on the information to put on the panels that Dr. West might help us with. Trying to get our info together for a meeting to see what he can do to help us.

Next week, May 3, 2012, we will be doing the "Walk into History" in Elkton Tennessee and talking to the Children on the old bridge about the Benge's Route of the Trail of Tears through Giles County. This is a yearly event that I have been doing for many years now.

Events: I have a long list of events this year to bring attention to the Trail through our area. We have the Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride in Fayetteville at the lunch stop with the First Nations People on September 15, 2012. This is the Remembrance Motorcycle Ride from Chattanooga. Then on October 27, 2012, there is a Memorial Walk and Living History sponsored by First Nations People, with Ms. Debbie Capino 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. We are working on what we will do for next year's anniversary of the removal.

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE ORGANIZATIONS PARTNER TO MAKE PLANS TO COMMEMORATE 175th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS

TNTOTA and several other Southeast Tennessee organizations are meeting to coordinate plans to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Cherokee removal which occurs next year. Representing

TNTOTA, President Shirley Lawrence and National Director Cleata Townsend recently met in Cleveland, Tennessee with representatives from the Southeast Tennessee Tourism Association, National Park Service, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, Tennessee Greenways and Trails, and several other organizations to begin plans for pulling together a number of events starting in January and lasting through the end of 2013 that will be publicized through the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and other avenues. Some of the events under consideration include a lecture series at the Cherokee Birthplace Museum, a walk at Moccasin Bend, a race or run from Charleston to Blythe Ferry, and a showing in Chattanooga of the film series "We Shall Remain." The group is also discussing how to distribute educational materials on the Cherokee removal to local schools. These plans are still very preliminary. Please watch this space and I will update readers on developments as I learn about them. (Thanks to Bob Richards for providing information on this topic.)

17th ANNUAL TRAIL OF TEARS CONFERENCE

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. 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". Book early because rooms are limited. More information on the conference will be posted on the website, www.nationaltota.org, soon.

NEWS FROM TNTOTA PRESIDENT SHIRLEY LAWRENCE ON THE CHEROKEE MEMORIAL PARK AT BLYTHE FERRY

Four chapters were represented at a district DAR meeting held recently at the Cherokee Memorial Park Visitors Center: the Alexander Keith Chapter from Athens, the Ocoee Chapter from Cleveland, Chattanooga's Moccasin Bend Chapter, and the Avery Trace Chapter from Kingston. After the meeting, the group was given a history tour of the park and was shown the original road bed leading to the spot on the Tennessee River where approximately 9,000 Cherokees crossed on the Blythe Ferry. A memorial wall for those Cherokees who traveled this route of the Trail of Tears is now a reality thanks to a generous challenge grant of \$20,000 by Greg Vital. Vital has been a park supporter from its beginning and his grant made it possible for construction to begin. The dedication of the wall will mark next year's 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears.

At the wildlife shelter overlooking the Tennessee River and Hiwassee Island, DAR members learned the history of the island. The island was the second largest in the Tennessee River until the 1940s when the Tennessee Valley Authority flooded part of the 781-acre island with the formation of Chickamauga Dam Lake. The Cherokees were the last indigenous group to occupy the island. They left in 1818 after the island and several thousand other acres were ceded by treaty. The island is often referred to as Jolley's Island, a reference to the fact that the local Cherokees were led by John Jolley at the time of cession. As a boy, Sam Houston lived on the island with the Cherokees and was adopted by Chief Jolley. Another prominent Cherokee family that lived on the island, the Rogers family, was the ancestral family of the famous actor and humorist Will Rogers. Today, the island serves as home for many species of wildlife including eagles and ospreys. From November to February, it is the staging ground for thousands of migrating sandhill cranes. The park is looking forward to a group of bicycle riders in June. Each year they are transported across the Tennessee River by one of the park's dedicated members.



In the photo on the left, two DAR members from the Moccasin Bend Chapter plant flowers around the newly installed sign that was provided by the National Park Service to designate the park as a site on the Trail. The photo on the right shows the view of Hiwassee Island from the wildlife overlook. The island has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP TNTOTA

We have some very busy and very active members in our chapter, but we could use more help! We need someone who can volunteer to act as a membership chairman who can think of ways to recruit new members, especially young people, who can welcome new members, and maybe even write profiles of some members to include in our quarterly newsletter. We also need someone who is willing to set up and maintain a website for TNTOTA. We need folks who are interested in doing research and documentation on the Trail of Tears through Tennessee.

In December, we will be holding elections again. Officer positions that will be up for election include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and State and National Director positions. It is not too early to start thinking about how you might improve our organization by running for one of these positions. As newsletter editor, I would also welcome news, announcements, short articles, and even book reviews on subjects related to the Trail of Tears. Please send them to me at VickiRozema@Comcast.net.

Ours is a voluntary organization and we need everyone to chip in. Let us know if you can think of a way to participate. Please contact me at the above email or President Shirley Lawrence at ShirleyLawrence@aol.com if you want to volunteer to help TNTOTA.

Thanks, Vicki Rozema, Secretary and Newsletter Editor

Additional Tennessee Events:

Red Clay and Tennessee State Parks Celebration, Red Clay State Park, June 14, 10 am to 4:30 pm

This event marks the 33rd anniversary of Red Clay State Park and the 75th anniversary of the Tennessee State Parks System. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy special programs and birthday cake. For more information, visit the park website at <http://tn.gov/environment/parks/RedClay/#events>.

250th Anniversary of Lt. Henry Timberlake's Visit to the Overhill Cherokees, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, June 23 and 24, 2012

The celebration will include living history demonstrations, native art demonstrations, a stickball game, authentic Cherokee food, guided tours to nearby Cherokee historic sites, lectures, and the traditional Cherokee dance group, the Warriors of Anikituwah. For more information contact Charlie Rhodarmer at seqmus@tds.net, call the museum at 423-884-6246, or visit the museum website at www.sequoyahmuseum.org.

30th Annual Cherokee Days of Recognition, Red Clay State Park, August 4 and 5, 2012

Programs will include Cherokee traditional and fancy dances, living history demonstrators, music, storytellers, native foods, and more. This event honors the Cherokee people, their culture, crafts, and history. A \$5 donation is requested for parking. For more information, visit the park website at <http://tn.gov/environment/parks/RedClay/#events>.

Sequoyah Remembrance Day, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, August 5, 2012

Free event. The museum will have Eastern Band enrolled member, Dawn Arneach talk about Cherokee Genealogy. For more information, contact Charlie Rhodarmer at seqmus@tds.net, call the museum at 423-884-6246, or visit the museum website at www.sequoyahmuseum.org.

EXCERPT FROM BUTRICK'S JOURNAL ON CROSSING THE TN RIVER:

Thursday Nov. 1, 1838: "About 9 O'clock, we started with the detachment to cross the river, to go this week to the foot of Walden's Ridge, 10 miles. We were among the first who crossed. One waggon with five horses, came within a hairs breadth, almost, of sinking, the water coming within about an inch of the top of the gunnels at one corner. After crossing the river, our road ran on a side hill, and was scarcely wide enough for a waggon to pass. The road formerly ran at the foot of the hill, but the man who owned the land turned it on the side. The court would not for some time accept the road. The forward waggons stopped, and as Mr. Taylor was behind, I went about half a mile to see the owner of the land to obtain permission to go through his field. The corn was picked and thrown in heaps, & as we had no loose horses, no damage could be apprehended. Yet I told the man, if he would allow us to drive our waggons through, we would pay all damages, and he himself might be the judge, but he would not allow the fence to be taken down. He said the road, in the narrowest place, was eight feet wide, though by actual measurement it was but 5 ½ feet, of firm ground. He swore we should not pass through his field, & of course we were obliged to keep the road."

- - *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. Rev. Butrick accompanied the Taylor detachment on the Trail of Tears.

MY THANKS

To Vicky Garland, Bob Richards, Shirley Lawrence, and Wally Leary for providing information for this newsletter. Thanks to Carlos Wilson for arranging a great meeting at Soddy-Daisy back in March. I would like to encourage anyone who has an announcement of a Cherokee historical event or has educational information 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.

I would especially like to thank Cleata Townsend, Wally and Sheila Leary, and Anita and Howard Leary for showing their support by attending my recent doctoral hooding at UTK. I sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness. — Vicki Rozema, TNTOTA Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and new Ph.D.