



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

**CHAPTER MEETING: Sunday, September 29, 2013, 2:00 pm Eastern time, 1:00 pm Central time**

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, September 29 at the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston. It will be a short meeting beginning at 2 PM EST. Light refreshments will be served. Bob Erwin will give a brief outline and history of his home place and an encampment site. At 3 PM we will carpool over to the site (approx. 1 mile) to visit his beautiful home built in the 1826 to 1836 time frame and walk the grounds of the encampment. We will NOT have a potluck meal and there will NOT be a board meeting.

The Hiwassee River Heritage Center is located at 8746 Hiwassee Street in Charleston, TN. From I-75, take exit 33 and go east 3.1 miles on Hwy 308. This is NW Lauderdale Memorial Highway. Turn left(north) on Hiwassee Street and drive 0.9 miles.

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

The next national conference will be in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, at the James E. Bruce Convention Center, on October 7-10. Registration fee for the conference for members is \$125 and must be postmarked by September 24 or a \$100 late fee will apply. Members of the TOTA should have already received their registration packets for the annual conference. If you are a member and have not received your information, contact Mike Killingworth at [TOTAadmin@ArIndianCtr.org](mailto:TOTAadmin@ArIndianCtr.org) or go to the TOTA website at [http://www.nationaltota.org/userfiles/1RegForm2013\[3\]\[1\].pdf](http://www.nationaltota.org/userfiles/1RegForm2013[3][1].pdf) to download a copy of the conference registration form. Hotel reservations must be made by Sept. 16 to receive the special TOTA conference rates. Contact the Holiday Inn at (270) 886-4413 and request the Trail of Tears Association rate of \$94.95 per night or the Fairfield Inn and Suites at (270) 886-5151 to request their Trail of Tears special rate of \$89 per night. For more information, see the TOTA website at <http://www.nationaltota.org/general-info/conf-info/>.

Speakers scheduled for the conference include:

MTSU/NPS Site Identification Project - Amy Kostine

Report on Retracement Bike Rides - Eastern Band, Cherokee Nation, Creek Nation, and Choctaw Nation

Illinois Site Identification Project- Mark Wagner, Kayleigh Sharop, and Frank Norris

Cave Spring, GA Project - Jeff Bishop

Water Route Retracement by Kayak - Dale Stewart

NC Cherokee Route through East TN on the way to Fort Cass (including Fort Armistead) - Brett Riggs

Marking the Trail, NPS Sign Planning- Coreen Kolisko, NPS

Chickasaw Treaties and KY Homeland- Chickasaw Representative

There will also be a bus tour on Tuesday, an evening reception on Tuesday, and a BBQ on Wednesday night that require reservations at the time of conference registration.

**NASHVILLE TRAIL OF TEARS MEMORIAL CEREMONY, October 27 (from Toye Heape)**

Observing The 175th Anniversary Of The Trail Of Tears

Cumberland River Greenway Amphitheatre, Nashville, Tennessee

Please join the Native History Association and the Tennessee Trail of Tears Association as we commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Trail of Tears on Sunday, October 27, from 12 to 1 pm CST.

Over 11,000 Cherokee people walked the Trail of Tears through the city of Nashville during the fall of 1838 on their forced emigration to Oklahoma. A memorial ceremony in observance of their passage 175 years ago will be held at the Cumberland River Greenway Amphitheatre located on the Gay Street Connector in downtown Nashville, near the place where the Cherokee crossed the Cumberland River.

Scheduled speakers are local journalist, historian, and educator Albert Bender, and Vicky Garland, board member of the Tennessee Trail of Tears Association.

The amphitheatre is located on the Gay Street Connector between Church Street and Woodland Street, just south of the Woodland Street Bridge. It can be accessed on foot from the Gay Street Connector or 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. Metered parking is available along the Gay Street Connector, and at various pay lots and garages in the downtown Nashville area..

Visit the Tennessee Trail of Tears Association web site at [www.tntota.org](http://www.tntota.org) and the Native History Association web site at [www.nativehistoryassociation.org](http://www.nativehistoryassociation.org).

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TENNESSEE STATE POWWOW**

TNTOTA will have a booth at the NAIA Tennessee State Pow Wow on October 18-20 at Long Hunter State Park in Nashville and we need members to participate in staffing the booth. This year's powwow is dedicated to remembering the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trail of Tears. Anyone who wants to help can contact Vicky Garland ([vlg42@hotmail.com](mailto:vlg42@hotmail.com), 931-766-0827) or Floyd Ayers ([wfayers@comcast.net](mailto:wfayers@comcast.net), 931-967-4570). For more information on the powow: <http://www.naiatn.org/powwow/index.html>.

### **2013 FRIENDS OF MOCCASIN BEND LECTURE SERIES, Chattanooga**

Focus for this year's series will be the 175 anniversary of the Trail of Tears. Jack Baker, President of the National Trail of Tears Association, will be the series opening speaker on Monday, Sept. 30 at 7 pm. Principal Chief Bill John Baker of the Cherokee Nation will speak on Monday, October 28, also at 7 pm. NPS Historian Jim Ogden and archaeologist Lawrence Alexander will speak about researching/finding the old Federal Road on Monday, November 18. All series lectures are held at the Tennessee Aquarium in downtown Chattanooga.

### **MOCCASIN BEND FEDERAL ROAD CEREMONY, Chattanooga, Saturday, October 26**

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker and Principal Chief Michell Hicks will attend the 10 am, Saturday, October 26 ceremony that opens the Federal Road walking trail across Moccasin Bend. United Kituwah Band and Muscogee (Creek) chiefs may also be in attendance. Special interpretive tours of the Brown's Ferry Federal Road will also be provided on Saturday and Sunday. Additional information concerning the specifics of this commemoration will be forthcoming. Watch the FOMB website at <http://www.moccasinbendpark.org/WhatsNew.htm> for more information.

### **BLYTHE FERRY MEMORIAL WALL DEDICATION, Sunday, October 27, 2 pm**

The date for the long-anticipated dedication of the memorial wall at the Cherokee Memorial Park at Blythe Ferry has finally arrived. Cherokee Nation Chief Bill John Baker is planning to attend the dedication. Chief Michelle Hicks of the Eastern Band will send a representative. Our congratulations to everyone associated with the Memorial Park and especially to our immediate past TNTOTA President Shirley Lawrence for all of their hard work over many years on the Cherokee Memorial Park and the memorial wall. For more information on the park, visit <http://www.moccasinbendpark.org/WhatsNew.htm>.

## PHOTOS FROM THE AUGUST 23 OPENING OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS HERITAGE CENTER IN PULASKI, TN



Left: TNTOTA National Director Cleata Townsend showing off one of the new signs at the Pulaski Trail of Tears Heritage Center. Right: Cleata with a mural painted by Vicky Garland's niece, Deborah, which will hang in the center. It includes faces familiar to the Native American community in Tennessee. Both photos courtesy of TNTOTA state director Vicky Garland who has dedicated many long hours on the center and Trail of Tears Research in the area.

### TNTOTA NATIVE AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD WINNERS

Three current and one former TNTOTA Trail of Tears members were winners at this year's 16th Annual Tennessee Native American Eagle Awards, held on August 3. Pictured below are Toye Heape, our website master, Amy Kostine, Barbara Hanback, and Vicky Garland, one of our state directors, with their awards.



## **THANK YOU PLAQUE PRESENTATION TO AGNES JONES**

On June 14, TNTOTA representatives travelled to Spencer, TN and presented long-time member Agnes Jones a plaque of appreciation for many years of service. The last hat worn by Agnes was as chapter treasurer, a position from which she retired in December 2012. Pictured below from left to right are Floyd Ayers, current treasurer, Bill Jones, former chapter President and Agnes's husband, Agnes, Wally Leary, current chapter President, and Al Johnson, former President.



## **PHOTO FROM TNTOTA'S JUNE 29 MARTIN SPRINGS MEETING**

Pictured at Martin Springs is Aaron Stewart, age 11, the great grandnephew of Vicky Garland. (Photo by Debbie Moore).



## ◆ Tennessee Events:

### **Trail of Tears Memorial Walk, Lawrenceburg, TN, November 2**

In addition to the walk, a Civil War skirmish and living history demonstration, a dedication in the park, and a covered dish pot luck meal are planned. For more information, contact Vicky Garland at [vlg42@hotmail.com](mailto:vlg42@hotmail.com).

### **Fort Loudon Garrison Weekend, Fort Loudon State Park, Vonore, 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, October 5 and November 9, and 10 am to 2 pm Sunday, October 6 and November 10.**

Living history re-enactors in costume as 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Event:

### **History Beneath Our Feet: Archaeology and the Cherokee Trail of Tears, Funk Heritage Center, Waleska, GA, September 21, 9 am - 12:30 pm**

This is a free symposium to learn how archaeology has enhanced our understanding of Cherokee history. The program will bring together archaeologists who have worked in the field. An optional luncheon will follow. Reservations are required. 770-720-5970. Visit their website for more information:

<http://gatrailoftears.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ae6a3647d546396c830df6b67&id=d18d0f0bdb&e=ad497b920e>

## ◆ Alabama Event:

### **Alabama Trail of Tears Memorial Opening, Gadsden, AL, September 28, 10 am**

This event commemorates the 175th anniversary of the Cherokee and Muscogee Creek removal from Alabama to the west. The event will be held in Gadsden at 2829 West Meighan Blvd (US 431), 1.1 mile east of I-59.

## **FUNNY QUOTE, Provided by Vicky Garland**

“Christopher Columbus, as everyone knows, is honored by posterity because he was the last to discover America.” - James Joyce, 1912 (Columbus Day is Oct. 12)

## **OCTOBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN MONTH IN TENNESSEE**

See Gov. Bill Haslam’s proclamation at <http://tnsos.net/publications/proclamations/files/327.pdf>.

## **NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Visit <http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/index.html> for more information on the history of how National Native American Heritage Month came about.

## **EXCERPT FROM LETTER FROM REV. EVAN JONES FROM THE CAMP OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DETACHMENT IN MCMINNVILLE TO JOHN ROSS AT CHEROKEE AGENCY EAST (CHARLESTON, TN), OCTOBER 27, 1838**

“Mr. [Jesse] Bushyheads detachment [detachment no. 3] was detained by their oxen being poisoned from eating Ivy and we passed them yesterday. They purpose starting on Monday and keeping a day behind us on the road. He has had a distressing time with the dis tents. Old Hog is dead weight on his hands. We paid Forty Dollars at the Waldrens Ridge gate, and the man agreed to let the other Detachments pass at half price viz 37 1/2 for four wheeled Carriages and 6 ¼ for a horse. On the Cumberland mountain they

fleeced us: 75 Cents a wagon & 12 ½ Cents a horse without the least abatement or thanks. We will avoid several gates on the road to Nashville.” (From Gary Moulton, ed, *The Papers of Chief John Ross*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1984, 1:686.) Note from Vicki: Rev. Jones was a Baptist minister born in Wales who worked with the Cherokees at the Valley Town mission in western North Carolina. Because Situagi, (also Situwakee), leader of the 4th detachment, could not read or speak English, Jones was appointed assistant conductor for the Situagi detachment. Jones’s son Samuel received a job as assistant wagonmaster in the 4<sup>th</sup> detachment and accompanied his father and the Cherokees on the journey. Rev. Jesse Bushyhead, from the Mouse Creek area in East Tennessee, was also a Baptist minister and a close friend of Jones. Bushyhead would later serve as the Chief Justice of the Cherokee Supreme Court from 1841 until his death in 1844. The Situagi and Bushyhead detachments departed from the large camp area near the Cherokee Agency at Charleston, crossed the Tennessee River at Blythe’s Ferry, passed through McMinnville and Nashville, and followed the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears. They spent 3 ½ months on the trail. As this excerpt illustrates, many turnpike and ferry operators took advantage of the emigrating Cherokees by charging high prices. For more information on Jones’s role in the Trail of Tears, see William G. Loughlin, “The Reverend Evan Jones and the Cherokee Trail of Tears, 1838-39,” *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 73, No. 3 (Fall 1989), pp. 559-583.

**MY THANKS** to Shirley Lawrence for making arrangements for our Sept meeting and to the Bob Erwin family for allowing us to visit his home and the site of a Trail of Tears encampment. Thanks also to Vicky Garland, Floyd Ayers, Shelly Andrews, and Toye Heape for providing information for the newsletter.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** As some of you know, I have moved back to Harrison and I am no longer in Knoxville. My email addresses have not changed: [vickirozema@comcast.net](mailto:vickirozema@comcast.net) or [vrozema@utk.edu](mailto:vrozema@utk.edu). My cell phone number is still 865-696-7566. Only my postal address has changed: Vicki Rozema, 7500 Woodland Bay Drive, Harrison, TN 37341. If you have announcements of events pertaining to Cherokee history or have information related to research or education on the Trail of Tears that you believe other TNTOTA members would be interested in, I prefer that you send them via email, if possible.