



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Public Information Officer
P. O. Box 2128
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742

423-752-5213 x113 - phone
www.nps.gov

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park News Release

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Contact: Kim Coons, kim_coons@nps.gov, 423-752-5213 x139

Brainerd Mission – A Gateway to the Cherokee Nation

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia: Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park invites the public to participate in a free ranger-led program about Brainerd Mission on Thursday, October 20 at 6 p.m. at Outdoor Chattanooga. If you are interested in learning more about this National Trial of Tears site and its role in ministering to and educating the Cherokees in the greater Chattanooga area in the early to mid nineteenth century, then join us for this 30 minute talk. Outdoor Chattanooga is located in Coolidge Park, at the base of the Walnut Street Bridge, 200 River Street.

What drove Cyrus Kingsbury, an ordained Congregationalist minister, to move into the semi-wilderness area of present-day southeast Tennessee and established the Mission on the Chickamauga in the Cherokee Nation, later named Brainerd Mission? He ultimately had great influence in the connections made between the U.S. and the Cherokee Nation by beginning this educational gateway. Between 1817 and 1838, several other notable missionaries and influential Cherokees passed through the Brainerd Mission, including Rev. Samuel Worcester and Buck Watie (better known as Elias Boudinot). Come learn about the role of these individuals and their influences on the Cherokee Nation before, during, and after Indian Removal.

For more information about programs at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at (706) 866-9241, the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at (423) 821-7786, or visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/chch.

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