Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
National Park Service

City of Waynesville
Pulaski County Tourism Bureau

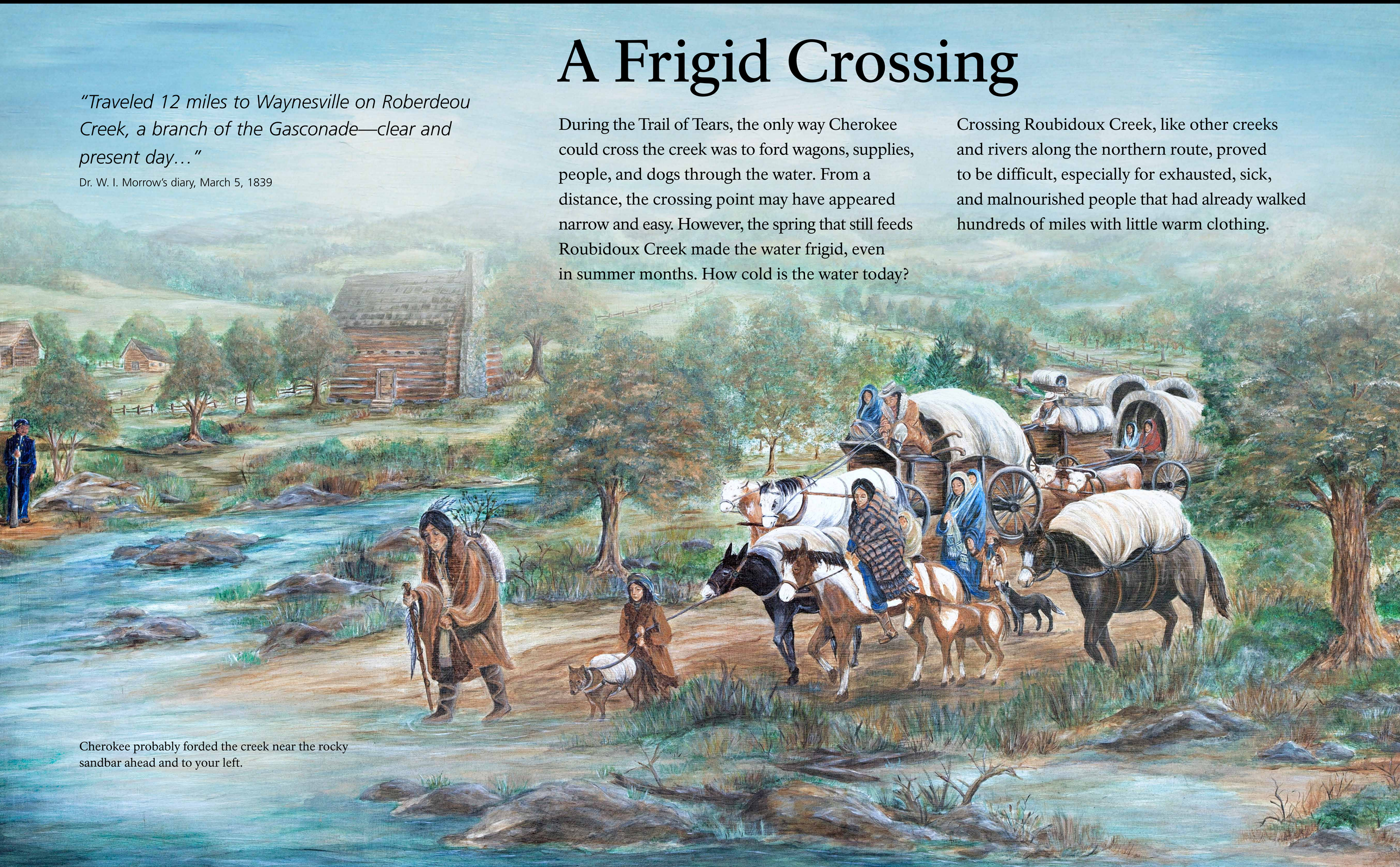
A Frigid Crossing

"Traveled 12 miles to Waynesville on Roberdeou Creek, a branch of the Gasconade—clear and present day…"

Dr. W. I. Morrow's diary, March 5, 1839

During the Trail of Tears, the only way Cherokee could cross the creek was to ford wagons, supplies, people, and dogs through the water. From a distance, the crossing point may have appeared narrow and easy. However, the spring that still feeds Roubidoux Creek made the water frigid, even in summer months. How cold is the water today?

Crossing Roubidoux Creek, like other creeks and rivers along the northern route, proved to be difficult, especially for exhausted, sick, and malnourished people that had already walked hundreds of miles with little warm clothing.



Cherokee probably forded the creek near the rocky sandbar ahead and to your left.