

Witness to History

This tree was only a seedling when the Cherokee paused here. Imagine the scene — it was a tree like this one that a weary Cherokee man sat against in a winter camp. His family struggled to make a simple, warm, resting place for this family elder, trying to keep him comfortable while they waited two weeks for the river to thaw and their journey to continue.

“Many of the aged Indians were suffering extremely from the fatigue of the journey, and the ill health consequent upon it. Several were then quite ill, and one aged man we were informed was then in the last struggles of death.”

New York Observer, January 26, 1839

