



Trail News

Visit www.NationalTOTA.org for conference registration

Cherokee Youth Feel Some of Ancestors' Pain during Bike Ride

by Will Chavez, Senior Reporter
Cherokee Phoenix

The bicyclists who rode nearly 1,000 miles through six states learned leadership, teamwork and Cherokee history, but they also shared some of their ancestors' pain.

Although the pain was physical, the challenges were mental, said most of the bicyclists who endured the third "Remember the Removal" ride. The ride retraced the northern route of the Trail of Tears.



photo courtesy of Cherokee Phoenix

"Remember the Removal" cyclists make their way up a hill east of Stilwell, Oklahoma, on June 23 on their way to Tahlequah.

Ten Cherokee students and four chaperones set out June 5 from Calhoun, Ga., and rode through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and back to Tahlequah. They returned June 23 to a homecoming celebration at the Cherokee Nation Courthouse.

Jordan Nelson, 21, of Stillwater, said the ride was an "amazing journey" that made him appreciate Cherokee history more. He said he knew of some ancestors who were

forcibly removed, but going through "a fraction of the suffering" they endured made him appreciate his heritage more.

The bonds the group formed helped make the trip successful, Nelson said.

"You get to be family pretty quickly," he said. "There were definitely hard parts, through the mountains of Tennessee...but we worked pretty well together."

The ride was the "hardest thing" 18-year-old Ashley Johnson, of Claremore, said she has ever experienced, but she had "a lot of fun" doing it.

"It was totally worth it, but there were days I just wanted to get off my bike and just go home," she said. "I learned so much about myself and my heritage. I'm proud to be Cherokee."

Johnson also said the people she traveled with for three weeks are like family now.

Cherokee Nation marshal Danny Tanner, who accompanied the riders, said he admired how the riders and their personalities came together to complete the trip.

"We were wondering at first if they were even going to make it. About a week in, they seemed to all fall into together and knew what their job was and their mission and they accomplished that," he said.

Tanner provided first aid after bicycle accidents, insect stings and when riders got too hot. He also drove a security vehicle, changed flats and repaired bicycles.

Organizers said the ride was meant to provide participants the chance to experience Cherokee history personally and help understand the strength of their ancestors.

This is the third tribally sponsored group to make the trip. The first "Remember the Removal" ride was in 1984. The ride was revived in 2009 to mark the 25th anniversary of the 1984 event. Riders age 16 to 36, representing eight communities, participated in this year's trip.

Sierra Carson, 18, of Welling, said she learned more about the Trail of Tears and wants more people to know about it.

"It was really hard, but I got a real sense of pride in my ancestry and being Cherokee," Carson said. "It was hot, and no hill is just a hill when you're on a bike, but it was awesome."

The oldest rider, 36-year-old Nathan Smith, of Westville, reflected on a particularly hard day in his blog.

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TOTA Remembers Cox, Baker for Long-time Championing of Trail

In March of this year, the Trail of Tears Association suffered its first loss with the passing of Tommy Cox, former president of the Georgia chapter and former member of the national TOTA board. Along with wife Kathy, Tommy supported the Association for over a decade.



photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop
Tommy Cox, former president, Georgia chapter

To share with readers the impact that Tommy had on his colleagues in the Trail of Tears Association, many of those colleagues posted notes online or sent emails of condolences. To include

these in this article really is the best way of describing the love and respect felt for Tommy by so many in the Trail of Tears Association and community.

"To say 'we have lost a valuable member of our team' just doesn't seem good enough in the case of Tommy Cox. In many ways, he was the heart and soul of the Georgia TOTA chapter, and his absence will be deeply felt for many years to come. I learned many lessons from Tommy Cox while he served as president of the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. Not everyone agreed with Tommy all the time, but it was difficult not to respect him, and it was even more difficult not to love him. Tommy, you will be missed. Probably more than you ever suspected." – Jeff Bishop, Georgia chapter president

"Tommy stepped up to fill a void in the chapter at a critical time. Under his leadership as chapter president, the chapter grew and increased awareness of the legacy of the Trail of Tears in Georgia significantly. His contribution continued on the board of the Association once his terms as president expired. His tireless work yielded great results and he will be missed." – Patsy Edgar, TOTA

board member and former Georgia chapter president

"Tommy Cox was a mighty warrior with a good heart. We were once having a conversation about the TOTA and the work that we do. He stressed to me that we must never forget those who were a part of the Trail of Tears and preserve their memory. His dedication and commitment to the TOTA's work was and is an inspiration to me." – Myra Reidy, Georgia chapter member

"When Tommy became GA TOTA president following a difficult period in the chapter's history, he unified the board and infused it and the membership with his optimistic and good-hearted personality. Everyone loved Tommy. Tommy and Kathy were volunteers at the Funk Heritage Center many years ago which is where I met them. They have always been generous with their time - volunteering at the Funk and then at the Booth Museum in Cartersville while also being active members of GA TOTA. Tommy is the one who asked me to join GA TOTA and I was very proud and honored to become secretary under his watch. We sometimes had our differences but there was always an underlying respect and genuine concern for each other. I will miss his great smile and his bear hugs but am thankful that, for too short a time, he was part of our lives." – Linda Baker, Georgia chapter secretary

Last month, the Trail of Tears Association lost a second long-time advocate with the passing of board member Beverly Baker. Beverly and her late husband Walter were the leaders of the effort to recognize the Trail of Tears as a national historic trail. Their lobbying began in 1986 after hearing about a feasibility study being done to determine if the Trail of Tears was an appropriate addition to the National Trails System Act. Once Beverly realized what her state of Kentucky's role was in the removal, she got busy drumming up support from all over the state. Her senator, Wendell Ford, was the one to introduce the bill in 1987 that would eventually be passed and that would create the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

In Beverly's own words from an article in the February 2005 edition of this newsletter: "These past 19 years have been a great experience and learning opportunity. What began as a local historic preservation effort soon opened my eyes to the greater potential. . . . The removal of the Cherokee people, as well as the other civilized tribes, means a great deal to the history of this nation. It must be preserved! I will be able to work on this for many years to come." And that she did until her death.

Here are some expressions from Beverly's colleagues.

"It is with sadness that we learn of Ms. Baker's death. She was one of the old-time original researchers. As the rest of us old timers begin to fade away, we are comforted knowing that so many good young researchers will continue the task." – Bill Jones, Tennessee chapter president and TOTA board member



photo courtesy of Alice Murphree
Beverly Baker, late president, Kentucky chapter

"It is with great sadness to hear this news. She was one of the great foundations for the documenting and public awareness of the Trail of Tears and what the Trail of Tears Association in partnership with the National Historic Trail System represents." – Gail King, Alabama chapter president and TOTA board member

"Very sorry to hear about Beverly's passing. She was a wonderful person, a huge asset to your organization; her legacy

See **TOTA REMEMBERS**, page 6

Partners Gather to Unveil New Tears of Tears Exhibit Panel in North Carolina

by Alan Keith, Unaka Community Development Club

Unaka is a community of 1,200, located 15 miles north of Murphy in Cherokee County, North Carolina, at the intersection of Joe Brown Highway and Beaverdam Road. For centuries, the Unicoi Turnpike was the principle trade route that connected the eastern seaboard of the southern states to land west of the Appalachian Mountains. The events of 1838 resulted in a new name for the turnpike – the Trail of Tears. Much of modern Joe Brown Highway follows sections of the Trail of Tears. That part



Anne Rogers, president of the North Carolina chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, spoke to the crowd of 70 before the unveiling of the Wacheessee Town exhibit panel.

once known as Wacheessee Town, for the very prominent Wacheessee and his large family, is now known as Unaka. The Unaka Community Development Club recognizes the historical significance of Wacheessee Town and the Trail of Tears and has dedicated considerable time and effort to bring appropriate respect and increased awareness of it. Working with the North Carolina chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), the Unaka group assisted in the installation of the Wacheessee Town Trail of Tears exhibit and, on May 1, 2010, hosted the exhibit unveiling in front of the Unaka Community Center. Agencies throughout western North Carolina, especially Cherokee County, have recognized the event's significance and have been very cooperative and supportive.

In addition to the North Carolina chapter, other key supporters that made the event

possible include Cherokee County, the director of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, *Cherokee Scout* (the local newspaper), *Cherokee One Feather* (the EBCI newsletter), WKRC radio station (along with a personal endorsement of radio personality Bill Younce), the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department, Wells and West, the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, and many others.

Guest speakers drove hours to be part of the program. T. J. Holland, director of the Junaluska Museum in Robbinsville and a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, spoke to attendees about early Cherokee life and Wacheessee in particular. Dr. Anne Rogers, president of the North Carolina chapter of TOTA, and Diane Wells, a prominent Murphy resident and member of TOTA, explained TOTA's mission and why the Trail of Tears is so very significant.

Typically, considerable effort goes into such an event and relatively few take advantage of the opportunity. Seventy folks stood in the rain for the unveiling, and not one



The Wacheessee Town exhibit panel, located in front of the Unaka Community Center, provides information on the importance of the town's role in Cherokee removal.

complained. About 120 came to the open house, health fair (compliments of Unaka Volunteer Fire Department), and smoked pork meal. The turnout was beyond expectations, especially for a rainy day 15 miles out of Murphy, North Carolina.



North Carolina chapter members proudly display the new Wacheessee Town exhibit panel. (L-R) Alan Keith, Anita Finger-Smith, Mary Ann Thompson, Dennis Gray, Lamar Marshall, T. J. Holland, Ginger Abernathy, Grace Hawkins, Diane Wells, and Chapter President Anne Rogers.

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Georgia

The Georgia chapter kicked off the summer with the second in a series of genealogical workshops at New Echota State Historic Site. One of the questions chapter members get asked repeatedly is, "How do I find my Cherokee ancestors?" This workshop, headed by certified genealogist Linda Woodward Geiger and Georgia chapter Vice President Leslie Thomas, attempted to answer that question.



photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop

(L-R) Gail and Ralph Kinman; Jeff Bishop, Georgia chapter president; Peggy Stanfield; and Jean Cox stand near a possible Native American site.

The Georgia chapter also greeted the youth Cherokee bicyclists on this year's "Remember the Removal" ride when they stopped for the night at New Echota. The Georgia chapter partnered with Friends of New Echota and Friends of the Chief Vann House to provide the bicyclists with a meal before they headed out on their 950 mile journey, tracing the Trail of Tears.

On the research front, the chapter has been going to the Georgia Archives in Morrow to obtain digital copies of every single land lot showing an improvement (fields, houses, roads, etc.) in the Cherokee Land Lottery plats. Mike Wren and Linda Geiger are heading up this endeavor. The plats will be made available on the Georgia chapter's research online database, the TOTAbase, and will be incorporated into a Google Earth file. The goal is to eventually cross-reference the plats with the valuations and claims to create an extensive database of every Cherokee household in the 1830s in Georgia.

The Georgia chapter board recently held a one-day retreat at Linda Geiger's home to

Georgia (continued)

assess where it has been and where it is going. The planning session helped the chapter to catalog its successes and determine what it wants to accomplish this year and in the years to come. Chapter President Jeff Bishop facilitated the session.

The chapter continues to move forward on the Challenge Cost-Share project with the National Park Service to investigate the archaeological remnants of Georgia fort sites used during the removal. Ground Penetrating Radar has been done at the likely sites of Fort Hoskins, Fort Means, Fort Buffington, and Fort Cumming. Ground truthing has also been done at Fort Cumming.

The publishing program of the Georgia chapter is moving forward with the publication of a new edition of Reverend Charles O. Walker's "Cherokee Images." The book has been out of print for nearly two decades. A new edition should be ready for purchase by the time of the TOTA conference in September.

Finishing touches are being put on sign plans for original trail remnants near Cedartown and along the Old Federal Road. Once the sign plans are approved by the NPS, signs will be placed along these corridors, with the aid of local governments.

The chapter continues to keep members updated on the latest news with weekly email reports collated by Leslie Thomas and with regular updates to the chapter blog at www.trailofthetrail.blogspot.com.



photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop

Sara Gail, an archaeologist with the Georgia Department of Transportation, is doing telemetry work on the Fort Hoskins site near Spring Place, GA.

Alabama

The Alabama chapter board of directors will meet at the Birmingham Museum of Art (downtown Birmingham) on July 24, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Chapter member Mike Wren will present a draft of the updated Alabama Chapter Bylaws, a final decision will be made on the placement of Trail of Tears Route Signs along the Bengé Detachment Route from Fort Payne to Guntersville State Park, and the board will be updated on the Fort Payne Cabin Site well excavation and the proposed archaeological survey at the Fort Likens site.

On September 11th at 9:00 a.m. there will be a walk, "The Return," from Tuscumbia Landing in Sheffield, Alabama, to the Oka Kapassa Festival in Spring Park in Tuscumbia, Alabama. The Return will be a reverse walk to commemorate the thousands of Cherokees and Creeks who rode the Tuscumbia, Courtland, & Decatur Railroad or traveled by the wagon road to Tuscumbia Landing to catch steamboats. It is a truly a return for many people due to the fact that Native artists from Oklahoma will be an integral part of the Oka Kapassa Festival.

During that same afternoon at 2:00 p.m. an Alabama chapter membership meeting will be hosted by the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library in Florence, Alabama. Dr. Chris Haveman, who recently completed his dissertation on the Creek Removal, will present his research on the role of the Shoals area during the removal. For those who have not visited the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, it is not only a beautiful facility, but has a well-organized genealogical and historical research area.

North Carolina

The North Carolina chapter now has almost all the signs designating sites along the Trail in place. Only two have not yet been set up. The chapter has several of the locations landscaped and members have placed benches at these locations. Two of the signs are located at the rest area in Andrews, and these are getting a lot of attention from

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

North Carolina (continued)

visitors there. The chapter feels that this will encourage those traveling through this section of North Carolina to appreciate the history of the area and to realize that this was a major part of the Cherokee homeland.

The first chapter meeting of the current year was held in February at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee. We met in the new research facility at the Museum, and Dr. Barbara Duncan provided a tour of the new building. It contains a number of documents related to the Removal, as well as other important information about the Cherokee people at that time.

The chapter's second meeting was held in April in Hayesville, site of one of the holding camps along the Trail. The program was presented by T.J. Holland, director of the Junaluska Memorial Museum, who told us of the numerous Cherokee sites in the area.

The third meeting was held in Robbinsville on June 19th. The Robbinsville meeting followed the annual Trail Walk, where participants can walk along a seven mile section of the actual Trail. The meeting took place at the Graham County Library in the afternoon following the walk. The program at that meeting was focused on the many uses of chestnuts by the Cherokees in that area.

The fourth meeting will be held on September 25th, at the Hiwassee Valley Wellness Center in Murphy. Murphy was also an important point on the Trail, and those who attend the meeting are encouraged to visit the signs that have been placed in that area. For more information on these signs, contact Chapter President Anne Rogers at rogers@email.wcu.edu, or at (828) 227-2443.

Plans are already underway for the 2011 national meeting, which will be held in North Carolina. A committee has been established to identify important sites in the area, and the chapter hopes to provide directions to various places of interest that participants may want to visit.

Arkansas

The Arkansas chapter hosted the spring 2010 meeting on May 8th at Village Creek State Park near Wynne, Arkansas. The program theme was "The Trail of Tears through Arkansas: New Opportunities to Tell the Story." After a warm greeting and overview of the park by Park Interpreter Tara Gillanders, the participants viewed the new NPS Trail of Tears film. Additional program speakers included Jay Miller, administrator of program services for Arkansas State Parks, and Richard Davies, executive director of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. After the indoor program, Tara Gillanders and her father led a group on a hike on the Trail of Tears road segment within the park.

The Arkansas chapter is continuing its work of placing ten wayside panels throughout the state recognizing all five southeast tribes. A



photo courtesy of John McLarty

Park Interpreter Tara Gillanders leads a group at the Arkansas chapter meeting on a tour of the Trail of Tears segment at Village Creek State Park.

dedication of the marker at Lavaca was held March 20, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. The event was hosted by the Arkansas chapter, the Military Road Museum, and the City of Lavaca. Representatives from all five tribes attended, and the public turnout was tremendous.

On June 21, 2010, the "Remember the Removal" bike riders came through north-west Arkansas on their way to Tahlequah, Oklahoma. They started their journey in Georgia on June 5th. Glenn Jones of the Arkansas chapter, Pea Ridge National Military Park Superintendent John Scott, and Chief of Operations Kevin Eads gave them a warm Arkansas welcome and even provided a cool swim and outdoor cookout at the Eads home.

Arkansas (continued)

The Arkansas chapter will be hosting its annual membership meeting on September 11, 2010, in Fayetteville. The program theme will be "We Remember." A membership meeting will take place from 11 a.m., to 1 p.m. At that time the public program will begin. The Cherokee National Youth Choir will be presenting a program, and the audience will also hear from TOTA Vice President Troy Poteete, who also sits on the TOTA board as the Cherokee Nation representative, and Todd Enlow, group leader of the Cherokee Nation. Check the website for more details at www.artota.org.

Missouri

The spring meeting of the Missouri chapter of the Trail of Tears Association met at the Salem Pizza Inn meeting room Saturday, March 6, 2010, at 11 a.m. The new National Park Service Trail of Tears movie was the program feature. A visit to the proposed Hildebrand Route was planned.

Deloris Gray Wood, president of the Missouri chapter, and Jerra Quniton, Trail of Tears Association executive director both attended the Historic Trails Workshop hosted by the Partnership for the National Trails System in San Antonio, Texas, in May. It was a very intensive workshop on cultural and heritage tourism, focusing on historic trails as a destination for tourists to visit.

The Missouri chapter now has Missouri Geology and Land Survey maps from the early Missouri surveys for use in researching trail segments and places along the Northern, Hildebrand, and Bengé Routes in 22 counties. Counties surveyed in the early 1820s lack the detail as surveys done just before the Cherokee Removal. The project was funded by the National Park Service National Trails System Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Updates from the Trail of Tears Association state chapters and their partners will routinely appear in future issues of *Trail News*. Contact Jerra Quniton at TOTA@arindianctr.org, or at (501) 666-9032, to submit information and photographs.

TOTA Sends Three to National Historic Trails Workshop

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) hosted the National Historic Trails Workshop May 12 - 14, 2010, in San Antonio, Texas. The theme was "Cultural and Heritage Tourism: Trails as Destinations." TOTA was able to send three people: Jerra Quinton, TOTA executive director; J. B. Tate, a Georgia chapter board member; and Deloris Wood, Missouri chapter president. Arkansas member Marilyn Heifner also attended.

The workshop started with a tour of two of the San Antonio Missions as an opportunity to discuss and explore an approach to heritage tourism. The next two days were devoted to presentations by speakers from around

the world. Some were: *A How-To in Developing Heritage Corridors* by Daniel Mattson of Heritage Design; *Defining & Protecting Trails as Heritage Corridors* by Rebecca Schwendler of National Trust for Historic Preservation; *Trails as Cultural Resources* by Eugene Marino of U. S. Fish & Wildlife; and *Federal Transportation Funding Opportunities* by Christopher Douwes of the Federal Highway Administration.

PNTS hosts a national scenic and historic trails conference every other year, as well as workshops like the one in San Antonio. If you are a member of the Trail of Tears Association and would like to attend one of the PNTS meetings, contact Jerra Quinton at the TOTA office. There could be funds available to help you with travel expenses.

The next PNTS national scenic and historic trails conference will be held in Abingdon, Virginia, in mid-May 2011.



Photo courtesy of Deloris Wood

Attendees of the National Historic Trail Conference visit during lunch. From the bottom left around: Marilyn Heifner, Fayetteville A & P Commission and the Trail of Tears Association; Bill Martin and Travis Boley, Oregon California Trails Association; Jerra Quinton and Deloris Wood, Trail of Tears Association; Aaron Mahr and Steve Elkinton, National Park Service; and Cheryl Blanchard, Bureau of Land Management.

TOTA REMEMBERS

Continued from page 2

is irreplaceable and she will be sorely missed, personally and professionally. – Frank Norris, National Trails System Office – Santa Fe historian, National Park Service

Beverly was such a mentor to me. I worked so close with her for the past 8 years. She taught me well. On days that we had research planned, and I knew she wasn't feeling well, I would try to put things off. She would tell me, "We have got to get this done." Her legacy will live on for all to enjoy that visit the sites along the Trail of Tears in all nine states as Beverly's work started it all. We must carry on. – Alice Murphree, Kentucky chapter representative, TOTA board

Beverly Baker was truly one of a handful of people responsible for the existence of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. It could be argued that without Beverly's efforts the TOTA-NHT would not be a part of the National Park Service and the story of Cherokee removal would not be a part of our national debate. Beverly was also a founding member of the Trail of Tears Association, and her leadership helped transform TOTA into the effective, meaningful, important organization it is today. She will be missed by her friends and honored by all those who enjoy the fruits of her lifelong commitment to telling the story of the Trail of Tears. – Paul Austin, former TOTA executive director

BIKE RIDE

Continued from page 1

"At times today when I was complaining to myself about the heat, I thought back to our forefathers and their suffering along the trail," Smith wrote. "I said to myself, 'if they suffered and made it, you can too. Shut up and pedal.'"

Other riders included Amber Fite, 30, of Tahlequah; Bluebird Linville, 17, of Stilwell; Kye Quickel, 23, of Roland; Brooke

Calendar of Events

July 24

Alabama Chapter Board Meeting
10 am, Birmingham, AL
See chapter report for more information.

July 25

Illinois Chapter Meeting
2:30 pm, Cobden, IL
St. Joseph Catholic Church

August 14

Tennessee Chapter Meeting
12:30 pm EDT, Birchwood, TN
Cherokee Removal Memorial Park

September 11

The Return, "Memorial Walk
9 am, Sheffield, AL
See chapter report for more information.

Alabama Chapter Meeting
2 pm, Florence, AL
See chapter report for more information.

Arkansas Chapter Meeting & Program
11:00 am, Fayetteville, AR
Town Center
Visit www.artota.org for more information.

September 22

Illinois Chapter Meeting
7:00 pm, Metropolis, IL
Harrah's Casino Restaurant

September 25

North Carolina Chapter Meeting
Murphy, NC
Hiwassee Valley Wellness Center
See chapter report for more information.

September 20 - 23

2010 TOTA Conference & Symposium
Harrah's - Metropolis, IL
Registration at www.NationalTOTA.org

Hudson, 19, of Claremore; Kurt Rogers, 21, of Tahlequah; and Kaleb O'Brian, 16, of Fort Gibson. Chaperones were Jerrad Dry, Sarah Holcomb, Kolton Holmes and Baron O'Field.

For photos and blogs entries from riders, visit the group's website at www.remembertheremoval.org.



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MEMBERSHIP FORM

January - December 2010

All levels of membership
include one (1) state chapter affiliation.
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state chapter you would like to join.

Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____
Phone _____ I want to join the following state chapter(s): AL AR GA IL KY MO NC OK TN

Membership Levels

Basic Individual: \$25 to \$99 Patron: \$500 to \$999 Student: \$10 (enclose ID)
Sponsor: \$100 to \$499 Benefactor: \$1000+

Note: Sponsors, Patrons, & Benefactors are listed prominently in two issues of the newsletter, *Trail News*.

PLEASE FILL OUT

MEMBERSHIP: \$25 + \$ _____ = \$ _____ (this amount determines your membership level)
*(optional donation)**

of additional chapters _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

*Of this *optional donation*, please give \$ _____ to TOTA, and
\$ _____ to the _____ state chapter.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail



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Trail of Tears Association



The Trail of Tears Association has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears NHT resources; to promote awareness of the Trail's legacy, including the effects of the U.S. Government's Indian Removal Policy on the Cherokee and other tribes; and to perpetuate the management and development techniques that are consistent with the NPS's Trail plan.

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National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe



The National Trails System Office - Santa Fe administers the Trail of Tears NHT, the Santa Fe NHT, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT is administered jointly by the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management. These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; non-government organizations; and private landowners.

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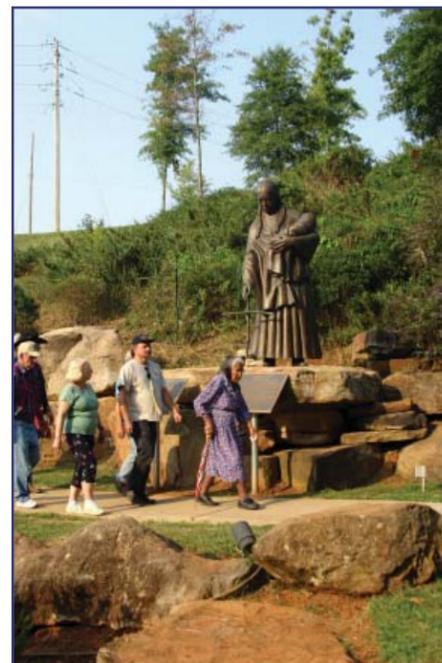
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Archaeological Research Project Links Surface Transportation to the Trail of Tears

Courtesy of National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse / www.enhancements.org
(Photos by Marty King)

The Tuscumbia Landing TE project is the first archaeology project in 15 years to be funded by the Alabama Department of Transportation. Located at the confluence of Spring Creek and the Tennessee River



Annual walk commemorating the role of Tuscumbia Landing in the Trail of Tears, here led by 90 year-old Chickasaw elder Flora Perry.

in Sheffield, Alabama, the landing was added to the National Historic Register in 1982 for its railroad and steamboat-related significance prior to the Civil War.

Though Tuscumbia Landing has a fascinating connection to surface transportation, the site's role as a key waypoint on the Trail of Tears is the basis for its historical notoriety. In 2007, the National Park Service designated Tuscumbia Landing as a certified historic site on the Trail of Tears.

The archaeological project at Tuscumbia Landing is a result of the tenacity of its lead investigator, Gail King. King began investigating Tuscumbia Landing in 2006, when she was elected president of the Alabama chapter of the Trail of Tears

Association. At the time, King was also a professor at Northwest-Shoals Community College (NWSCC). King initiated the TE application process in September 2008 with a meeting at the Northwest Alabama Coalition of Local Governments (NACOLG), which is located on the NWSCC campus. That same month and with NWSCC acting as the project's official applicant (and providing local matching funds), King submitted the first of two TE grant applications to Alabama's Department of Transportation (ALDOT). Later that year, ALDOT informed King that the project was ineligible because Tuscumbia Landing was part of Park West, a 40-acre park surrounding the landing. By ALDOT guidelines, parkland is not eligible for TE funding.

Tuscumbia Landing is also a historic nexus in the region's surface transportation system. It played many roles in the local and regional transportation system throughout its history in addition to its role in the Trail of Tears. Beginning in the 1820s, the landing was a significant link along steamboat trade routes traveling between New Orleans and Knoxville, Tennessee. The railroad connection, built in the early 1830s between Tuscumbia Landing and the landing at Decatur, proved to be a critical improvement to this network, as it allowed



Ground-penetrating radar used to image subsurface features of historical significance.

steamboats to avoid 45 miles of treacherous shoals along the Tennessee River. The site's value as a nexus led to its downfall when the Union Army destroyed the railroad depot during the Civil War.

Instead of conceding to the rejection of her initial application, King scheduled a meeting with ALDOT to discuss ways

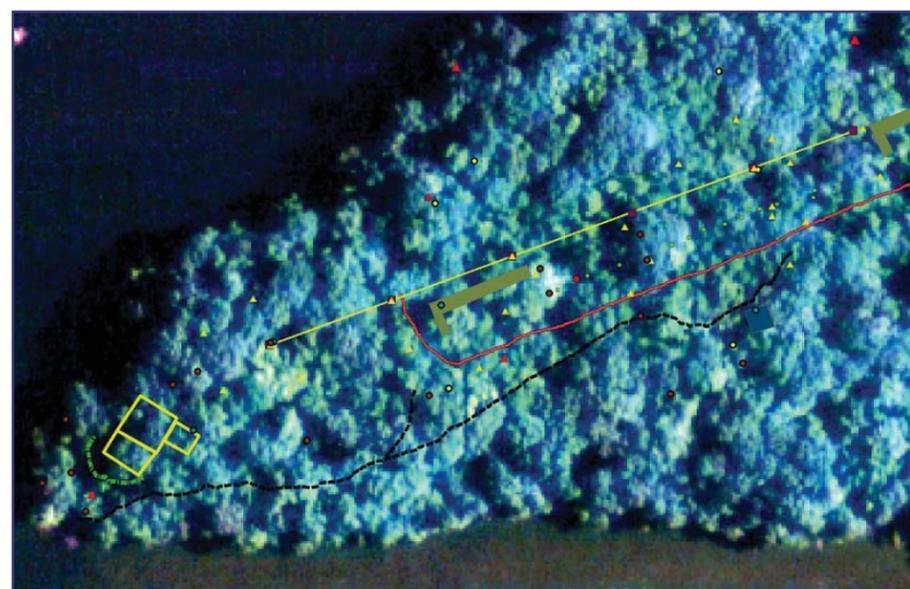


Image produced from Ground Penetrating Radar and GPS data.

Archaeological Research Project (continued from left)

to improve the application. ALDOT staff suggested that King re-write the application in the format typically used for archaeological proposals, making the process of applying a second time around much more involved. In addition, ALDOT recommended that King make a case for Tuscumbia Landing being a separate entity from Park West. To do this, King enlisted the support of the Mayor of Sheffield and the Parks and Recreation Board. Letters of support from these figures helped make a case for the importance of additional research in Tuscumbia Landing as well as the critical distinction between the landing and the adjacent parkland.

In 2007, King submitted a second and improved TE application. Though approved, it took nearly two years to gain ALDOT's authorization to use an alternative procurement method for hiring highly specialized archaeologists. (Typically, TE grantees must use a standardized competitive bid process.) In October 2009, ALDOT granted the Tuscumbia Landing research team permission to proceed with the project. The total grant award was \$104,450.

At the time of this publication, the investigation of Tuscumbia Landing is about



The National Park Service hosts a dedication ceremony for certification of Tuscumbia Landing in 2007. (L-R) John McWilliams, Colbert County; Ellen Mussleman, Alabama chapter, TOTA; Robert Thrower, Poarch Band of Creek Indians; President Gail King, Alabama chapter, TOTA; Joyce Bear, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Otis Halfmoon, National Park Service; Chairman Buford Rolin, Poarch Band of Creek Indians; Mayor Bill Shoemaker, City of Tuscumbia; Bob Perry, Chickasaw Nation; Mayor Billy Don Anderson, City of Sheffield

75% complete. This past spring, the research team—comprised of an ethno-historian, a GIS specialist, archeological technicians, and a cartographer—employed sophisticated equipment for archaeological mapping and discovery. They used a laser scanner and ground-penetrating radar to identify underground artifacts and a magnetometer to identify any underground tanks or anomalous areas. They then mapped the archaeological features discovered with the help of a Global Positioning System (GPS).

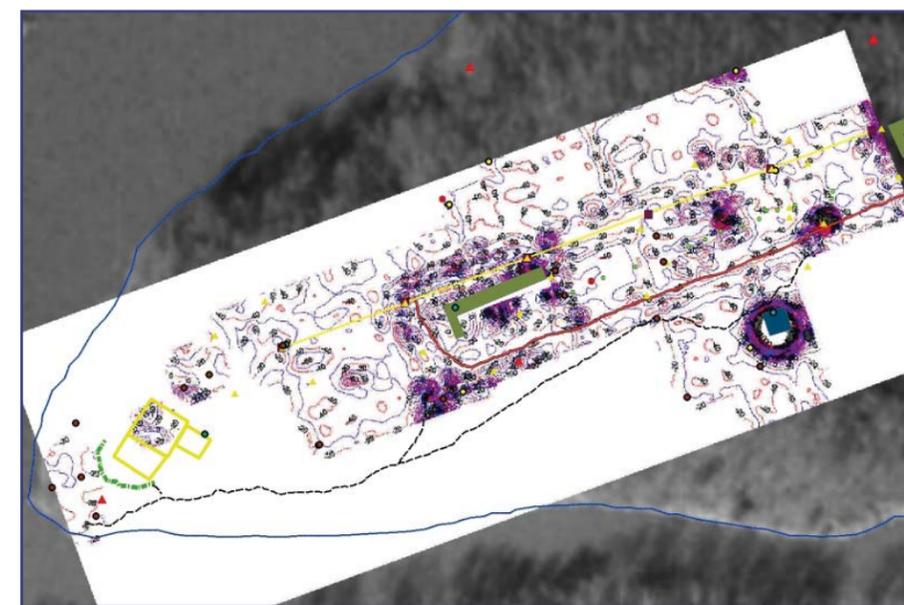


Image produced by GPS and Ground Penetrating Radar.

Dr. Kent Schneider of Bucks Geophysical used this data to develop three-dimensional topographical maps of the site. Their findings, which are detailed in a report scheduled to be released in July, have already contributed new evidence illustrating pre-Civil War transportation patterns in the Southeast. These include maps of the road, rails, and building foundations that formed the infrastructure of Tuscumbia Landing. One particularly interesting preliminary finding involves the death of four Native American children while waiting for the arrival of a steamboat at Tuscumbia Landing in 1838. During a ground survey, King found three depressions in the earth. Utilizing the



Researchers from NWSCC lead tours of Tuscumbia Landing to raise awareness about the location's historical significance.

ground-penetrating radar, Dr. Schneider found that this is indeed a burial place; however, because the landing became the resting place for many throughout its history, it is unclear if the two are connected.

As of fiscal year 2009, archaeological planning and research projects comprised only 0.5% of the funds distributed through the Transportation Enhancements (TE) grant program. Though small in number, these archeological projects—such as this one at Tuscumbia Landing—uncover unique historical aspects of the surface transportation system. To learn more about this project, visit <http://southeasternai.net/tusclanding.html>.

The National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC) is an information service sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

15th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium September 20 - September 23, 2010 ~ Metropolis, Illinois ~ Harrah's Casino & Hotel

REGISTRATION

Both **FULL** registration and **SOCIAL EVENTS ONLY** registration are being offered this year. Social events only registration has been made available for spouses and other guests of conference attendees and presenters who are not registering or attending the full conference but wish to participate in the social events, including meals, receptions, and field trips. Both forms can be downloaded at www.NationalTOTA.org.

Check or money order only. Credit card payment is unavailable.

The registration cancellation policy can be found at the website address above.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Reservations: 1-800-HARRAHS (427-7247)
Specifically ask for Harrah's METROPOLIS.
Special group rate: \$69.99 (with group code)
Group Code: S09TEAR
Rate deadline: August 21, 2010.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

Principal Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation

Councilwoman Julia Coates, Cherokee Nation

Brett Riggs, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, University of North Carolina.
Presentation: *Volcanism, Climate, and Cherokee Treaties of 1817, 1819, and 1835*

CONCURRENT SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Chris Haveman, University of West Alabama. Presentation: *The Creek Experience of Removal by Water*

Rowena McClinton, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Presentation: *Cahokia Mounds*

Daniel Smith, author. Presentation: *Cherokee Patriots and the Trail of Tears*

Alfie Vick, School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia. Presentation: *Overcoming the Loss of Culturally Significant Plants After the Trail of Tears*

Jace & Laura Weaver, Institute of Native American Studies, University of Georgia.
Presentation: *A Pedagogy on Cherokee Removal*

Fay Yarbrough, University of Oklahoma. Presentation: *The Cherokee Removal and Race*

Monday, Sept. 20	Tuesday, Sept. 21	Wednesday, Sept. 22	Thursday, Sept. 23
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Registration	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Registration 9:00 - 9:30 AM Welcome 9:30 - 10:30 AM Keynote: Brett Riggs, Ph.D. 11:00 AM - Noon Concurrent Sessions 1, 2, 3	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Field Trip: Mantle Rock, KY, to Pope & Union Counties, IL	9:00 - 10:00 AM Concurrent Session 7, 8, 9 10:30 - 11:30 AM Concurrent Sessions 10, 11, 12
	Noon - 1:15 PM Luncheon with Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith		Noon - 1:15 PM Luncheon with Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilwoman Julia Coates
1:00 - 4:00 PM TOTA Board Meeting 5:00 - 8:00 PM Ft. Massac State Park Full Buffet 5:00 - 6:30 Special Performance 7:00	1:30 - 3:30 PM General Assembly General Membership Meeting/Chapter Reports 3:30 - 4:30 PM Concurrent Sessions 4, 5, 6 5:00 - 6:30 PM Wine-tasting: Cache River Basin Winery	Dinner on your own	

Youth Scholarships Available for TOTA Conference

To get more youth involved with the efforts of the Trail of Tears Association, TOTA has set up a new scholarship program for this year's conference. The scholarship is available to both high school students and college students, ages 16 - 25. The scholarship program will be able to fund the students' conference registration fees, their hotel rooms, and travel to and from the conference and their homes.

To download the application, visit the TOTA website at www.nationalTOTA.org/general-info/conf-info.

Vision Becoming Reality - Using Partnerships to Develop the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

In 1987, Congress acknowledged the significance of this tragic event in our Nation's history by establishing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The National Park Service administers the Trail in cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies; the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; interested groups; and private landowners.

The Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office -Santa Fe have been working with Trail partners to increase visibility for the Trail and to develop it for visitor use. Old traces, historic buildings, and other resources are being preserved. Many sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects have been completed, such as route signing, visitor-use development, interpretive wayside exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities.

Certified Sites

Andrew Ross House, AL
Arcadia Valley Campground, MO
Audubon Acres, TN
Berry's Ferry and John Berry Homesite, KY
Big Spring, KY
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN
Campground Cemetery, IL
Cedartown Cherokee Removal Camp, GA
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA
City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR
Crabb-Abbot Farm, IL
Delta Cultural Center, AR
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR
Fort Gibson, OK
Fort Payne Cabin Site, AL
Golconda Riverfront, IL
Gray's Inn, KY
Hair Conrad Cabin, TN

The Hermitage, TN
Historic Road from Ross to Ridge's, GA
James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
John Ross House, GA
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
Laughlin Park, MO
Mantle Rock, KY
Maramec Spring Park/Massey Iron Works, MO
McGinnis Cemetery Trail Segment, IL
Mount Nebo State Park, AR
Murrell Home, OK
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC
New Echota State Historic Site, GA
Petit Jean State Park, AR
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR
Port Royal State Park, TN
Radford Farm, KY
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN
Snelson-Brinker Cabin, MO
Star City Ranch Trail Segment, MO
Tennessee River Museum, TN
Toler Farm Trail Segment, IL
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY
Trail of Tears State Park, MO
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL
Tuscumbia Landing, AL
Vann House Historic Site, GA
Village Creek State Park, AR
Wagner Farm Trail Segment, IL
Waterloo Landing, AL
Willstown Mission Cemetery, AL

Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites

Arkansas Post National Memorial, AR
Cadron Settlement Park, AR
Cherokee Memorial Park -Blythe Ferry, TN
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN
Mark Twain National Forest, MO
Mocassin Bend, TN
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
Shawnee National Forest, MO
Stones River National Battlefield, TN

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Patrons \$500 - \$999

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