



## Trail News

### TOTA Expands Its Youth Initiative at North Carolina Conference

The 2011 conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, marked the second year of TOTA’s development of its youth scholarship program. This year an increase of youth

participation and the addition of youth mentors proved to be a big step in the right direction for the expansion of the youth initiative.

past summer. She is currently attending the University of Missouri – Columbia, and is expected to graduate in 2012 with degrees in history, anthropology, and Spanish. Bethany learned about her Cherokee ancestry at age 10 from her grandfather. Her mentor at the conference was TOTA President Jack Baker.



*photo courtesy of Bethany Henry*

**Pictured L-R: Sarah Holcomb, Joe Keener, Lillie Keener, Bethany Henry, TOTA staff Jerra Quinton, Brooke Hudson, Sheena Kanott, TOTA staff Alexis Thompson, Cherokee Nation staff Todd Enlow. Todd transported several of the scholars from Oklahoma to the conference.**

Sarah Holcomb, a Cherokee Nation citizen, is from Vian, Oklahoma, and is currently attending Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. Sarah has participated in the “Remember the Removal” bike ride for three years in a row, the first year of which she was the only female rider. Sarah’s mentor at the conference was Julia Coates, a Cherokee Nation at-large councilor.

Brooke Hudson studies health and human performance at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah; she is expected to graduate in 2013. Brooke is the former Miss Cherokee and participated in the 2010 “Remember the Removal” bike ride. Brooke’s mentor was Brett Riggs, a TOTA at-large board member.

Sheena Kanott is from Cherokee, North Carolina, and a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. She recently graduated with a Masters of Public Health from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville. Just before the conference, Sheena was hired as the program director of a diabetes prevention program called Cherokee Choices. She participated in the 2011 “Remember the Removal” bike ride, which was the first year for Eastern Band citizens to participate. Her mentor at the conference was Patsy Edgar, secretary on the TOTA board of directors.

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The youth scholarship recipients this year were Bethany Henry, Sarah Holcomb, Brooke Hudson, Sheena Kanott, Joe Keener, and Lillie Keener. The youth scholarship fund provides recipients assistance for conference expenses, including the conference registration fee, hotel stay, and travel costs. The program funding is provided by the National Park Service.

#### Meet the scholars

Bethany Henry is from Neosho, Missouri, and learned about the TOTA youth scholarship while working at a TOTA certified site, Pea Ridge National Military Park, this

See **YOUTH**, page 11

## Trail of Tears Association Executive Director's Message

In my article from our last newsletter, I told you about TOTA's new administrative project specialist, Alexis Thompson. Since she began work in April, she has joined me on several TOTA adventures, including the "Remember the Removal" Bike Ride. Alexis and I met Jack in Georgia to send the riders off from their start at New Echota State Historic Site near Calhoun. We met up with the riders for two days as they biked across Georgia and the eastern part of Tennessee. After their two-week journey back to Tahlequah, I joined Jack again to welcome them home. This year was the first year for citizens of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to join the ride. Out of the 17 riders, 6 were from the Eastern Band.



photo by Jeff Bishop

TOTA Executive Director Jerra Quinton with Georgia chapter members Peggy Stanfield and Bill Barker at Nantahala River on the conference field trip.

TOTA has two new projects this year: an overhaul of the website and a new sign fund. The website has already seen some changes with the addition of the 2003 and 2004 conference proceedings and the video recordings of the 2010 conference presentations. You can access those at [www.nationaltota.org/general-info/conf-info](http://www.nationaltota.org/general-info/conf-info). Stay tuned for more updates!

The \$40,000 sign fund from the National Park Service that covered projects for the last three years is now complete. With those monies, 207 signs and 8 exhibit panels were funded over 7 states. This year, the NPS has replenished the fund in the amount of \$24,800. If you have a sign project in mind, contact Steve Burns at the National Park Service at [steve\\_burns@nps.gov](mailto:steve_burns@nps.gov). You can also access a planning tool at [www.nps.gov/](http://www.nps.gov/)

[trte/parkmgmt/how-to-create-your-sign-plan.htm](http://trte/parkmgmt/how-to-create-your-sign-plan.htm).

Paul Austin, Jack Baker, Duane King, and I continue to work on the missionary letters project. We are hoping to complete the book and publish it before the next conference.

The 2012 conference is tentatively planned for October in Norman, Oklahoma. The

## UNC Press Releases Book on Cherokee Families

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the federal government sought to forcibly assimilate Native Americans into American society through systematized land allotment. In *Sustaining the Cherokee Family*, Rose Stremmlau illuminates the impact of this policy on the Cherokee Nation, particularly within individual families and communities in modern-day northeastern Oklahoma.

Emphasizing Cherokee agency, Stremmlau reveals that Cherokee families' organization, cultural values, and social and economic practices allowed them to adapt to private land ownership by incorporating elements of the new system into existing domestic and community-based economies. Drawing on evidence from a range of sources, including Cherokee and United States censuses, federal and tribal records, local newspapers, maps, county probate records, family histories, and contemporary oral histories, Stremmlau demonstrates that Cherokee management of land perpetuated the values and behaviors associated with their sense of kinship, therefore uniting extended families. And, although the loss of access to land and communal resources slowly impoverished the region, it reinforced the Cherokees' interdependence. Stremmlau argues that the persistence of extended family bonds allowed indigenous communities to retain a collective focus and resist aspects of federal assimilation policy during a period of great social upheaval.

Rose Stremmlau is assistant professor of history and American Indian studies at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

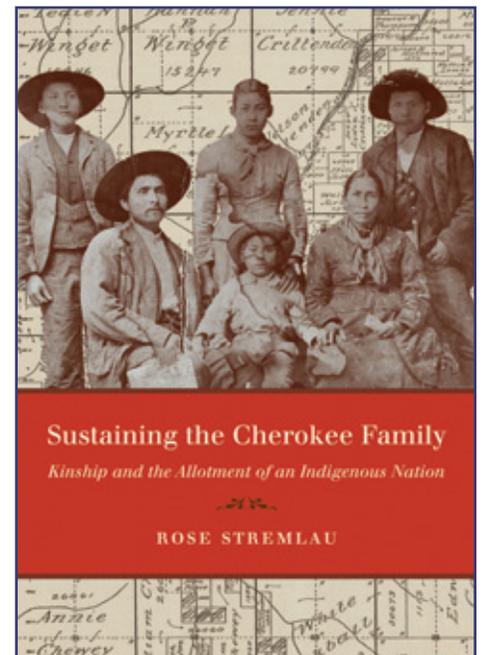
Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma will be co-hosting with the TOTA's Oklahoma chapter. A flyer will be mailed out shortly after the new year with dates and other details.

Finally, you should be receiving your TOTA membership renewal notices soon. As always, we appreciate your support for the Trail and for the mission of TOTA!

Jerra Quinton

This book is part of the First Peoples publishing initiative, a partnership between the University of North Carolina Press and three other scholarly presses. Books in this initiative exemplify contemporary scholarship and research in Indigenous studies. The initiative supports this scholarship with unprecedented attention to the growing dialogue among scholars, communities, and publishers.

*"An evocative story of the Cherokee families and the intricate relations and kinship they maintained in one Cherokee community, the Chewey Community. Stremmlau emphasizes the persistence and survival of Cherokee people despite the intent of the Federal government to divest them of their land and government."* -- Richard L. Allen, policy analyst, Cherokee Nation



# Baker Named Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Following Lengthy Battle

by Jeff Bishop

Following recount after recount, two separate election events, court challenges, and even some help from the Carter Center, the Cherokee Nation finally swore in a new chief, Bill John Baker, on the steps of the Cherokee Nation Courthouse on Wednesday, Oct. 19th.

Supreme Court Justice James G. Wilcoxon administered the oath of office at 7:30 p.m. in front of a large crowd of Cherokee citizens and current and former Tribal Council members, the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper reported.

“The Cherokee people have spoken, and I am humbled and honored to be elected to lead our great nation,” said Baker.

“This has been a difficult and tough campaign for everyone,” Baker said. “I want to thank Chief Smith for contacting me today and acknowledging my victory and for his offer to help in any way necessary in the coming weeks.”

Former Cherokee Chief Chad Smith told the Tulsa World newspaper that he is “looking back with pride” on his accomplishments during his 12 years in office.

“As I transition to the next stage, I want to be very clear that I appreciate the Cherokee people,” said Smith. “I enjoyed every day as their chief.”

Smith said his focus during his tenure was squarely on jobs, community, and revitalizing the Cherokee language.

“Everything had to align with that,” he said. “I recruited some very, very good people and told them, ‘This is what we need to accomplish. Go and do it. Come to me if you need help with gathering resources.’”

Smith’s leadership style was based on establishing a set of principles and letting all decisions fall in line with those principles, he told the Tulsa World.

Because of those principles, Smith said, his leaders could go to work on their own to create and grow their institutions.

“Everything we’ve touched has increased... over the last decade,” Smith said.



photo courtesy of Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker gives his inaugural address on November 6th in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. His wife Sherry can be seen sitting behind him on stage.

Less than 24 hours after being sworn in, Baker moved into the W.W. Keeler Tribal Complex to begin his term.

“We will get started immediately assessing where we are as a government and begin moving the largest Indian tribe in America forward,” the 59-year-old Baker told the Cherokee Phoenix.

“I need our Nation’s employees to continue doing a world-class job. Now more than ever we need our employees’ focus and dedication, and I want them to understand they are valued, trusted and greatly needed,” Baker said. “I will obviously bring in my own senior staff but there is no reason for concern amongst the ranks.”

## NPS Provides Funding to Build Capacity of Chapters

Starting October 1st, the National Park Service provided the Trail of Tears Association with funding for chapter capacity building workshops. This funding will be made available to TOTA’s nine state chapters so that they can host workshops that will increase either the size or the skills of the the chapters. The agreement specifically states that these workshops should “build the chapters’ understanding of the national historic trail and the partnership between the NPS and TOTA.”

These meetings can be workshops to help chapter members understand things like GIS, mapping, research methods, or other things. The NPS will be involved in the program of these workshops, as well.

Your proposals should include how the workshop will increase the capacity of your chapter and a budget for the meeting. The funding covers speakers’ travel, lodging, and meals, according to federal per diem rates; the speakers’ honorariums; meeting space rental fees; supplies; printing; and promotional materials and advertising.

Send your proposals to Jerra Quinton at [TOTA@arindianctr.org](mailto:TOTA@arindianctr.org); if you have any questions, you can either email or call Jerra at (501) 666-9032. The workshop funding must be used by September 30, 2012, or it will be lost. It is recommended that these workshops be scheduled **no later than the end of August.**

There is already one workshop being planned that all chapters are invited to attend. It is tentatively being planned for April 2012 in conjunction with the TOTA board meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Russ Townsend, the tribal historic preservation officer for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is planning to present a workshop on federal cultural resource law and how TOTA can use it to fund studies and protect Trail of Tears sites. Russ and his office will discuss in detail NHPA, ARPA, NAGPRA, and AIRFA and how each Act interacted with various federal agencies and undertakings.

If you are interested in attending this workshop, contact your local chapter (see page 7 for chapter contact information).

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

### GEORGIA

This year has been a banner year for the Georgia chapter. Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith and TOTA President Jack Baker visited the chapter in April for the official unveiling of two new wayside exhibits at the Cherokee Removal camp site in Cedartown, and miles of “original route” signage between Cedartown, Cave Spring, and Rome. The chapter also added a new certified site to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail with the addition of the George W. Adair House and the Rockdale Plantation, with several other sites waiting in the wings. The Georgia chapter also helped the Alabama chapter establish an online archive as part of the TOTAbase site, and it reached an agreement with the Bandy Heritage Center in Dalton, Georgia, to digitize the chapter’s growing collection of papers, which will facilitate sharing these with the Sequoyah Research Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, while also retaining the use of them locally.

The chapter also established a new volunteer recognition award, called the Tommy Cox Memorial Award. The first award was presented to Georgia chapter secretary Linda Baker for her years of devoted volunteer service to the Trail of Tears Association. Congratulations, Linda!

### GEORGIA (continued)

Myra Reidy has taken over the production of the chapter newsletter and is doing a fantastic job. Mike Wren and Linda Geiger continue to head up research efforts in the Georgia and National Archives. Linda also hosted another genealogy workshop at New Echota this summer. Bill Barker has put a lot of effort into documenting removal routes and Cherokee-related sites in Chattooga County. Archaeologist Ron Hobgood is putting the finishing touches on a National Park Service-funded investigation into the Georgia Cherokee removal fort sites. Leslie Thomas keeps chapter members regularly informed of events in Georgia and surrounding states with weekly email notifications. The online research database continues to grow, as does the chapter’s membership.

On the agenda for next year:

- Adding more wayside exhibits at the Cherokee Removal park site in Cedartown and finishing up the interpretive trail in the park.
- Completing sign plans for removal routes used in northwest Georgia counties like Chattooga, Gordon, and Forsyth, to eventually get new signs in place along those routes.

### GEORGIA (continued)

- Continuing our database-building initiatives by copying Georgia-related plats, valuations, and claims, to assist us in cross-referencing this material.
- Partnering with other state chapters for capacity-building workshops.
- Partnering with in-state organizations, such as Chieftains Museum and New Echota, on future programming and interpretation.
- Continuing the chapter’s outreach efforts to members of the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
- Developing new youth-targeted programs, which may include the development of a chapter “youth group.”
- Applying for new grants to continue TOTA’s mission of researching, preserving, and interpreting the Trail of Tears in Georgia.

Members are very excited about everything that is going on in the Georgia chapter. The chapter could not do it without the help of its valuable partners, and that most especially includes the people at the National Park Service in Santa Fe. A very big THANK YOU is due to Aaron Mahr, Steve Burns, Sharon Brown, and everyone else at the NPS trails office who do so much to assist TOTA in the work it is doing to interpret, promote, and preserve the Trail of Tears.



*photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop*

Georgia chapter members at the annual TOTA conference gather for a group photo in the lobby of Harrah's Event Center in Cherokee, North Carolina.

### KENTUCKY

The Kentucky chapter had its spring meeting in May at Columbus-Belmont State Park. It had to be rescheduled due to flooding.

The chapter is working on getting three sign projects completed, one at Berry’s Ferry, one at Big Springs in Princeton, and one at Columbus-Belmont State Park. The signs have been shipped for the Berry’s Ferry site and Big Springs in Princeton, so all that is left is getting them installed. The chapter is working with Columbus-Belmont State Park to provide a site identification sign for the Park. Sometime in the future, the chapter would like to work with these sites to create a plan for interpretative panels and/or wayside exhibits.

# Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

## KENTUCKY (continued)

Three sites have been located along the Northern Route, and the chapter is currently conducting research on these sites. They are along 24 miles of the Trail from Princeton to Salem. Landowners of these sites have been contacted and have expressed interest in working with TOTA.

In June, the “Remember the Removal” bikers came through Kentucky. While in Hopkinsville, they were presented a key to the city by County Judge Steve Tribble on behalf of Mayor Dan Kemp. The Kentucky chapter looks forward each year to working with this group.



photo courtesy of Alice Murphree

The Kentucky chapter held its spring chapter meeting at the Columbus-Belmont State Park in May.

The fall chapter meeting was held on November 5th in Paducah. The topic was Paducah’s role in the Water Route detachments.

## TENNESSEE

The Tennessee chapter is pleased to report that the James Brown Plantation is now protected by an easement agreement for the house and 80 acres of grassland. The plan assures that the property will never be destroyed. Brown was 1 of 13 detachment leaders on the Trail of Tears.

On November 14th, the chapter and Aubudon Acres, a certified site, sponsored a book signing by Daniel Blake Smith on his book *American Betrayal: Cherokee Patriots and the Trail of Tears* in Chattanooga. This was the first stop on Smith’s book signing tour. He also spoke at TOTA’s conference last year in Metropolis, Illinois.

## TENNESSEE (continued)

Great news from the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at Blythe Ferry — the memorial wall with the 1835 Henderson Census is now ready to be built. The park must raise \$25,000, which will be matched by a generous supporter. Several NPS staff visited the park on Thursday, October 6th. After a successful visit, the NPS generously agreed to furnish a new entrance sign.

Bob Richards, greenways and trails program coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, is working with the chapter on where to place road directional signs across the state. This year, the chapter has been holding its quarterly meetings at sites along the Bell Route, including Chattanooga and Winchester. The final meeting for the year will be held on Sunday, December 4th, near Cleveland in the vicinity of the Black Fox community, John Martin house, and Red Clay Mission.

## MISSOURI

Superintendent Aaron Mahr and Cultural Resource Officer Mike Taylor of the NPS’ National Historic Trails Office visited Missouri in late October. Tiffany Patterson, a historic preservation officer for the state, served as guide. Patterson specializes in nominations for the National Register of Historic Places for the state of Missouri.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in Missouri included the Northern Route, the Bengé Route, the Water Route, and the Hildebrand Route. There are more miles of trail in Missouri than any other state.

On Wednesday, the trail crew was led by Russell Weisman, historic preservation officer for the Missouri Department of Transportation on the Bengé Route. The crew looked at the first engineered road in Missouri across the swamp south of Cape Girardeau. Then he showed trail segments in and around old Greenville.

Denise Dowling, superintendent of the Trail of Tears State Park in Jackson, Missouri, then led the crew on the Trail in and around

## MISSOURI (continued)

the park. She also escorted the group to the site on the Mississippi River where the Cherokee on the Northern Route crossed from Illinois to Missouri.

On Thursday, Deloris Gray Wood, Missouri chapter president, led the group on the Northern and Hildebrand Routes. Sites visited include the Snelson-Brinker Cabin, Maramec Spring Park, the Rolla Area Chamber, and Waynesville’s Laughlin Park and the Rubidoux Spring (with City Alderman Luge Hardman). The group also visited possible trail segment of the Hildebrand Route in Dent County.

On Friday, Dr. Neil Lopinot, the director of the Archeology Research Center at Missouri State University, led the group on trail segments of the Northern Route across Green County, in the city of Battlefield, and about a mile north of Delaware Town on Wilson Creek.

Keri Hicks led a Passport in Time project during the week of May 16-20. Chapter members Deloris Gray Wood, Denise Dowling, and Russell Weisman participated in the project, which was located in the Mark Twain National Forest in the Poplar Bluff Ranger District.

On November 11th, Dr. Duane King led a workshop in Cape Girardeau. The topic was “Researching the Trail of Tears.”



photo courtesy of Alice Murphree

In May, seven TOTA members and staff attended the National Historic and Scenic Trails Conference hosted by the Partnership for the National Trails System. L-R: Deloris Wood (Missouri chapter); Rock Rogers (North Carolina chapter); Jerra Quinton (TOTA office); Anne Rogers (North Carolina chapter); Alice Murphree (Kentucky chapter); Cleata Townsend (Tennessee chapter); and Ryan Cole (Alabama chapter).

# National Park Service Hosts Cultural Preservation Workshop in Albuquerque

by Denise Dowling and Gene Norris

Denise Dowling, from the Missouri chapter, and Gene Norris, from the Oklahoma chapter, attended the Cultural Preservation Workshop hosted by the National Park Service on October 18 – 20. Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the National Trail System – Intermountain Region of the NPS, gave an introduction, commenting historic trails are under siege. Due to accelerated development, people do not know where the trails are and resources are disappearing every day. The American public has a responsibility to its heritage. Currently, there are nine historic trails with 20- to 25,000 miles of trail. The National Trail System Act of 1968 states that “national historic trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment.”

NPS staff Mike Taylor and Lee Kreutzer facilitated the workshop. Photos were used from all the historic trails to illustrate all types of resources—archaeological resources such as trail ruts and swales, camp sites, building sites, and inscriptions; building/structures such as log, stone, adobe buildings, and acequias; cultural landscapes with fords, crossings, and natural landmarks; cemeteries and graves; and ethnographic resources. Threats to resources were then discussed. Threats include urban development, energy development (wind farms, oil and gas lines, solar panels, updating the nation wide electric grid, etc.), natural erosion, vandalism and relic collecting, the lack of awareness, neglect, and abandonment.

NPS staff, state historic preservation office staff, and Bureau of Land Management representative Jane Childress discussed processes for preservation and protection. Tools to use include identification, inventory, the assessment of significance, data sharing, condition assessments and monitoring, and planning and assessment tools (historic structure reports, site management plans, maintenance activities, National Register nominations). The National Center for Preservation,

Technology, and Training has a one-page assessment form that can be used for evaluations. Another good source for information is the National Register Bulletin and Technical Assistance, which can be found at [nps.gov/nr/publications/index.htm](http://nps.gov/nr/publications/index.htm).

NPS staff discussed the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act processes, including environmental impact statements, and environmental assessments. Related items discussed included the Section 106 process, various state laws, the Secretary of Interior’s standards for preservation,

and it uses a neighborhood watch format to monitor sites along the Trail. The Oregon-California Trail Association is using YouTube.com to save South Pass, a site along the Trail, from development. The El Camino Real de los Tejas Association has created a volunteer trail steward program. It also has “watch dog” groups in every county along the Trail to alert them to potential destruction of trail resources. The Spanish Trail Association has a 2-day field school workshop, teaching participants how to identify, assess, and document trail segments, and how to use field equipment such as maps and GPS units. The El Camino



*photo courtesy of Denise Dowling*

At the end of the workshop, TOTA members Denise Dowling (third from right) and Gene Norris (second from right) joined a tour of Historic Route 66 to La Bajada, which is located on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT. Significant because of the numerous braided road sections climbing the tall volcanic escarpment, it was the most arduous section of the 1600-mile trail for travelers between Mexico City and Santa Fe.

restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and conservation easements. The NPS provides technical preservation services through preservation briefs. Some examples of the briefs include the repair of historic wooden windows, use of substitute materials on historic building exteriors, and preservation of historic signs ([www.nps.gov/hps/briefs/presbhom.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/briefs/presbhom.htm)). You can find out more about preservation easements at [www.preservationnation.org/easements](http://www.preservationnation.org/easements). Each workshop participant was given a CD of information on resources. If anyone is interested in a copy, contact Denise Dowling.

Each trail association presented their activities. The Pony Express Association has a very interesting curriculum online,

Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association reported it is having problems with rogue ATV users who were not kept in check early on and now run amuck across and around the Trail. The Santa Fe Trail Association reports viewshed issues because of power lines, cell towers, oil and gas pipelines, and treasure hunters. One of the associations had a paid preservation officer (PO) on the national level and in each state to keep an eye on and investigate issues along the Trail. State POs notified national POs of issues that needed to be addressed. Another association had an awards program for stewards to help raise awareness of the organization.

See **NPS WORKSHOP**, page 7

## 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  
Columbus-Belmont State Park, KY  
Crabb-Abbot Farm, IL  
Delta Cultural Center, AR  
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR  
Fort Gibson, OK  
Fort Payne Cabin Site, AL  
Green Co. Trail Segments, Springfield, MO  
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  
Rockdale Plantation/George Adair Home, GA  
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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### NPS WORKSHOP (continued from left)

Workshop participants from TOTA, Denise Dowling and Gene Norris, joined tour guides Mike Taylor and Mike Elliott, and other workshop participants, on a field trip to La Bajada the final day of the workshop. The 3-mile, round-trip hike followed the old highway trails of Historic Route 66, and the sites were amazing. Along the Route, the tour group saw old wagon trails, as well.

From the mesa above La Bajada village, one could see the remnants of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail. The NPS Cultural Presentation Workshop was a great opportunity to network with all the national historic trail organizations that were represented and to learn that many of them share the same challenges facing TOTA.



*photo by Denise Dowling*

NPS National Trails System – Intermountain Region  
Superintendent Aaron Mahr leads a workshop.

## Georgia Chapter Completes Challenge Cost-Share on Five Fort Sites

Article and photos by Jeff Bishop

Georgia is completing its report on an archaeological study, funded by the National Park Service, of the Cherokee Removal fort sites, which included investigations of the likely sites of Fort Cumming in LaFayette, Fort Buffington in Canton, Fort Campbell in Forsyth County, Fort Means near Kingston, and Fort Hoskins in Spring Place.

Geophysical surveys of the sites were conducted by an archaeological team from the Georgia Department of Transportation, using a Bartington Grad-601 dual sensor magnetic gradiometer and ground penetrating radar. These were followed up with metal detecting, shovel tests, and pits dug by archaeologists Ron Hobgood and

Erin Drake, and graduate students from Georgia State University.

The geophysical work uncovered some interesting magnetic anomalies at several of the sites, indicating the likely presence of historic artifacts, but nothing that was definitively structural in nature.

Of the sites studied, Fort Means, was by far the most productive, producing a variety of 19th century artifacts, including two military buttons, which may be related to the fort.

The Fort Means study area is located on the border of Floyd and Bartow Counties on the Floyd County side. It is located north of the Etowah River and south of Kingston Highway.

The study area consists of a fallow, grassy field, which is bounded on the west by a clear running stream and on the east by a wetland. This site was investigated during multiple weekends during the winter of 2010-2011 and in June 2011.

Shovel tests were initially excavated on a 10-meter grid because the chapter was not permitted to conduct subsurface investigations in the area where the geophysical investigations were conducted.

Initially, 18 shovel tests were excavated on the grid, but all were negative for historic artifacts. They all produced prehistoric,

See **GEORGIA FORTS**, page 9

## Alabama Historical Commission Awards Alabama Chapter Grant

Article by and photo courtesy of Sharon Freeman

TOTA's Alabama chapter is pleased to announce that it has been chosen to receive an Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) 2012 historic preservation grant totaling \$15,000. With only \$800,000 dollars appropriated for grants in five different categories, and a staggering five-million requests, the chapter is very fortunate to be a recipient.

The two sites that will be studied with the awarded grant are the cabin site in Fort Payne and the Fort Likens site in Cherokee County. Both are highly significant, as they are directly associated with Cherokee Indian removal in 1838 in northeast Alabama. These sites are only 20 miles apart and were specifically utilized via connecting roads to transport Cherokee Indians and supplies. The Alabama chapter expects the two sites to be added to the National Register of Historic Places at the conclusion of nomination reports.

Grant funds will be utilized to complete the archaeological project that has been underway for some time at the cabin site and to conduct archaeological testing at the Fort Likens site. Plans include further

investigations of the well and additional test unit placement at the cabin site. Additionally, at the Fort Likens site, the chapter has plans for a gradiometry survey, surface collection, systematic shovel testing, test unit excavations, and the creation of an extensive map of the site and surrounding area. Volunteers interested in participating in one or both projects can contact Sharon Freeman at [safreeman512@gmail.com](mailto:safreeman512@gmail.com).

The chapter would like to personally thank Jerra Quinton, Gail King, Alabama chapter board members, Landmarks of DeKalb County board members, Olivia Baxter, Stacey Hathorne, the Hotalens, the Cavins, Jim Lewis, and David Crum for their support and to all of the community leaders who wrote letters of support for this project. A very warm thank you is extended to all.



Fort Likens is one of two sites that will be studied with a grant awarded to the Alabama chapter of TOTA.



The Georgia Department of Transportation sent an archaeological team to perform geophysical surveys using Ground Penetrating Radar and a Bartington Grad-601 dual sensor magnetic gradiometer.

lithic materials, but nothing that could be associated with a fort site.

After excavating these negative tests, random metal detecting was carried out in the immediate area to see if there were any metal artifacts. This was a successful strategy: several potential 19th century iron artifacts were recovered, so more focused metal detector investigations were begun.

Two 10-meter by 10-meter metal detector survey blocks were conducted with the goal of 100 percent coverage. Both blocks yielded a variety of 19th century artifacts, including cut nails. After the metal detector blocks were completed, the remainder of the property was shovel tested on a 30-meter grid. These were all negative for historic artifacts, except for the last three tests, which produced two cut nails and a small fragment of a hand-painted, pearlware tea cup.

One button with a Great Seal on the front was recovered from Block B, but its age has not been verified yet. A button recovered by a relic hunter on the same site was also photographed during this project. It has the Great Seal on the face and appears to be antebellum.

A partial flint was also recovered from Block B. It is still being studied and it is not known if it is a gun flint or possibly a flint used for starting fires.

In addition to the areas investigated with a metal detector, 31 shovel tests were excavated.

Since the removal fort sites were so ephemeral, finding their archaeological footprints has proven to be a challenging task. Documents in the historical record give researchers a fairly good idea of where Fort Cumming and Fort Buffington were located, but Fort Cumming has been heavily disturbed and so far has been unproductive archaeologically. More 19th century artifacts were found at Fort Buffington, but nothing that is definitive. Fort Hoskins has produced artifacts similar to those found at Fort Means and Fort Buffington, which is encouraging, but again, not definitive. Fort Campbell was more of a “shot in the dark,” since researchers were uncertain about the fort’s location, but a few artifacts from the period were recovered, and several potential areas were investigated, which may point in the right direction.



A military button was found during the excavations at the Fort Means site.

Fort Means is a site to be truly excited about, however. A number of documents from the Removal period (and soon afterward) give a clear indication of where the fort must have been. The discovery of cut nails, whiteware, a flint, and military buttons, as well as other 19th century artifacts, are certainly providing exciting clues that researchers are probably in the right place, or very near it. More study is required, but the Georgia chapter and researchers are thankful to the National Park Service for all the assistance they have given to this point in the research efforts.

## TOTA Board Member Weds on Trail of Tears NHT in Arkansas

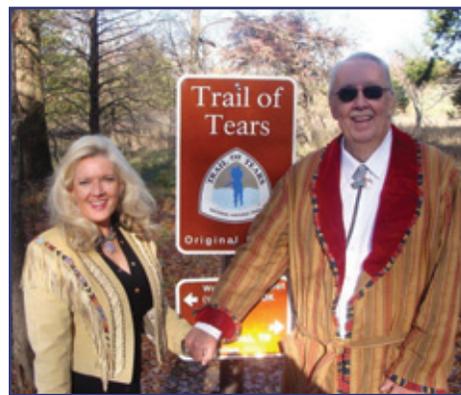


photo courtesy of Glenn Jones

At the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month of 2011, April Lynn Hollabaugh and Glenn Jones were united in Holy Matrimony on the original Trail of Tears that crosses Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas. Glenn an Arkansas chapter representative on the national Trail of Tears Association board. Congratulations to the happy couple!

### Volume 3 of Moravian Records on Cherokee Released

*Records of the Moravians Among the Cherokees: The Anna Rosina Years, Part 1, Success in School and Mission, Volume 3, 1805 - 1810* chronicles the coming of John and Anna Rosina Gambold to the mission. With their arrival the mission takes on new life and a new character. Anna Rosina in particular proves dedicated to the education of Cherokee children, and soon wins the people’s affection and respect. Chief Chuleoa, who first opposed their mission, becomes their friend. These years also witness the tragic death of James Vann, the Moravians’ benefactor among the Cherokees.

*Records of the Moravians Among the Cherokees* uses original diaries, minutes, reports, and correspondence in the Moravian Archives in North Carolina to provide a first-hand account of daily life among the Cherokees throughout the 19th century.

To purchase this book, contact Tom Mooney at the Cherokee Heritage Center at (918) 456-6007.

**Trail of Tears  
National Historic Trail**



*Trail News* is produced by the partnership of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe.

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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 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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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
January - December 2012

All levels of membership  
**include one (1) state chapter affiliation.**  
Please send **\$10 for each additional**  
state chapter you would like to join.

Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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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*, and on the TOTA website.

**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.

Joe Keener is a senior at Claremore High School in Claremore, Oklahoma. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Joe participated in the 2011 “Remember the Removal” bike ride. Joe is the son of Lee Keener, a tribal councilor of the Cherokee Nation, and twin to fellow youth scholar Lillie Keener. Joe’s mentor was Glenn Jones, one of the two Arkansas chapter representatives on TOTA’s board of directors.

Lillie Keener, twin sister of fellow youth scholar Joe Keener, is also a senior at Claremore High School. She, too, participated in the 2011 “Remember the Removal” bike ride. After graduating high school in 2012, Lillie plans to study interior design, and her top pick for college is Baylor University in Texas. Her mentor at the conference was Shannon Sloan, a board member of the Alabama chapter.



*photo courtesy of Bethany Henry*

**Youth scholar Bethany Henry with her mentor, TOTA President Jack Baker.**

### **Development of the youth initiative**

This year TOTA staff broadened the scope of the youth program and expanded the involvement of the youth in the conference. Several components were added to the youth agenda, as well, including chapter and National Park Service panel discussions, nightly reviews with TOTA staff, appointed gatherings of mentors and mentees, and a final youth presentation. With a more formalized youth program this year, staff worked to guide the youth to certain presentations that were particularly applicable to their roles as youth scholars

and leaders. These changes were important because the roles of these youth are valuable not only to the youth program but to the mission of TOTA as a whole. Something phenomenal happened with the changes brought to this year’s youth program initiative—the youth inspired the conference attendees just as much, if not more.

Mentor Glenn Jones stated, “My role as mentor to Joe Keener was the pinnacle of my experience at the annual Trail of Tears conference. I cannot begin to express my thanks to you for choosing me for this role. The youth program, in my humble opinion, was/is a major success.”

The structure of this year’s youth initiative created a platform for the youth to form networks with leaders, academics, researchers, tribal liaisons, government agencies, and more. The opportunity to share information, ideas, and opinions led the youth to a greater understanding of the many facets of involvement in TOTA.

### **Plans for the future**

The future for the youth program is one that is growing and developing year after year. TOTA’s objective to gain more youth support at this year’s conference was met with success, and the resulting momentum has generated the idea of creating new scholar leadership roles. Though the concept of youth leaders is still evolving, the plan is for previous youth scholars to step into leadership roles among the new set of youth scholars each year. Several scholars from this year’s program have already expressed interest in leading future youth program activities. And TOTA is ready to take them up on their offers!

### **A letter of thanks from the scholars**

As youth scholarships recipients we want to extend our heart-felt gratitude for the opportunity to attend and participate in the 2011 TOTA Conference. The Trail of Tears Association Annual Conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, was a wonderful learning experience that provided an array of information about state and national history, partnerships, tribal affairs, genealogy, and much more! Visiting



*photo courtesy of Sarah Holcomb*

**Scholarship recipients pose for a group picture during the conference field trip.**

Kituwah Mound with speaker Tom Belt was a spiritually enlightening event that touched each of us. The Kituwah site is more than a sacred place, it is more than a road preserving history – it is a people: the Kituwah or Cherokee. We really enjoyed the Warriors of Anikituwa and their various performances of Cherokee traditional military dance. Our tour and final landing at the Valleytowns Baptist Mission was a unique experience that inspired our faith and reflected the value of building from the past, appreciating diversity, and working together toward a united future. With each experience we gained a greater understanding and appreciation for our heritage and were motivated to become agents of preservation of our rich cultural legacy. We look forward to working with TOTA and future youth participants. We would like to thank TOTA, the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, and each state chapter for their support, words of encouragement, and spirit to leave a positive legacy for future generations. Wado!

*2011 Youth Scholars: Bethany Henry, Sheena Kanott, Joe Keener, Lillie Keener, Sarah Holcomb, and Brooke Hudson*



*photo by Glenn Jones*

**High school senior Joe Keener speaks about his interest in a career at the National Park Service with Steve Burns, a landscape architect with the National Trails System Office – Santa Fe of the NPS.**



**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

**The Trail of Tears Association**

would like to thank the following for their generous upgraded membership support:

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