

## Trail of Tears National Historic Trail



## Trail News

### Alabama Chapter to Host 2009 TOTA Conference; First Ever

by Jerra Quinton • Photos by Marty King

Mark your calendars! The 14th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference will be held October 5 – 8, 2009, at Lake Guntersville State Park in Guntersville,

The site is SPECTACULAR! The park encompasses over 6,000 acres of woodlands and borders the 69,000-acre Guntersville Reservoir. It is located within 45 minutes of

To make rooms reservations, dial 1-800-548-4553. If you plan on arriving **on Sunday**, October 4, 2009, use group code **CGTOTA** to get the reduced conference room rates. If you plan on arriving **after Sunday**, use group code **CGT02**. The deadline for receiving the special group rates is September 3, 2009. Tentatively at this conference, the board of directors meeting will take place on that Monday, October 5th, and the conference activities will begin with a general assembly on Tuesday morning, October 6th.



The 2009 TOTA Conference will take place in Alabama at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge during the first full week of October.

Alabama. This will be the first time the Alabama chapter of the Trail of Tears Association has hosted the annual conference, and the members of the chapter are truly excited to have the opportunity to showcase their state's work on the Trail.

downtown Fort Payne, the starting point of the Benge route along the Trail of Tears. Researchers tracing this route have uncovered documents and maps that show the Benge route passing through what is now Lake Guntersville State Park property. Segments of the wagon trail are still evident today.

Find more pictures on the back of this newsletter. To find more information about Lake Guntersville State Park, visit [www.VisitLakeGuntersville.com](http://www.VisitLakeGuntersville.com).

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The conference will take place in the Park's lodge, which has a variety of sleeping units available to suit everyone's needs. Located at the lodge are sleeping rooms and chalets that overlook the bluff. One-mile down the road are lakeside-cabins. See the chart on the back of this newsletter for information on sleeping units, including pricing. All accommodations include a refrigerator and microwave.



There are a variety of sleeping units available at Lake Guntersville. The chalets, like the one pictured here, overlook the bluff just outside of the lodge where the meeting rooms and sleeping rooms are located.

## Trail of Tears Association President's Message

Once again we had an outstanding conference. Special thanks to Jerra and the Arkansas chapter for all of their hard work in putting the conference together! Also, thanks to all of our presenters. I heard many favorable comments on the overall conference as well as on the scope of the presentations. Be sure to set aside the first week of October for the 2009 conference which will be held in Guntersville, Alabama, hosted by the Alabama chapter. I am sure that it will also be outstanding.

I recently attended the 65th Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference held in Charlotte, North Carolina. I participated in a panel with several other tribal members entitled "Native Perspectives on Archaeology in the Carolinas: How Can Archaeology Serve Indian Country?" In preparing for the session, I realized how much the Trail of Tears Association owes to our archaeological friends - especially in North Carolina. Brett Riggs and Lance Greene's report, *The Cherokee Trail of Tears in North Carolina*, sums up much of the



Photo courtesy of Cherokee Nation  
Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association

Snowbird community near present Robbinsville to the Valley Towns near present Andrews. Excavation has been under way at Fort Armistead in eastern Tennessee very near the North Carolina line. All of the North Carolina Cherokees who were removed passed this fort located on the Unicoi Turnpike. This excavation, along with the fort sites scheduled to be excavated soon in Georgia, will give us many more details on the forts used in the removal. This will enable more accurate interpretive pan-

els to be placed at the various fort sites in the Southeast. Due to all this research in North Carolina, the North Carolina chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, in conjunction with the National Park Service and the help of Brett Riggs, is in the process of placing interpretive panels at fifteen removal sites in the western part of that state. Congratulations are in order to all of you for this accomplishment.

I wish to extend my best wishes for a happy retirement to Andrea Sharon who will be retiring soon and to John Conoboy who retired earlier this year from the National Park Service. Thanks for all of your years of hard work on behalf of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Your assistance has been of great help in all of the accomplishments on the Trail during the last few years. We will miss you, but, at the same time, are looking forward to working with your successors.

Jack D. Baker

## Executive Director's Message



Photo courtesy of AICA  
Jerra Quinton, Executive Director of the Trail of Tears Association

The year of 2008 has been full of changes for our office at the American Indian Center of Arkansas and Trail of Tears Association. As the last newsletter stated, Paul Austin left AICA and TOTA last March and began his new position as executive director of the Arkansas Humanities Council. What a transition that was! Paul had been with AICA since 1984, and he had been with TOTA since its inception in 1993.

In March, the AICA board of directors hired Lois Bethards, formerly the fiscal officer, as Paul's successor as AICA's executive

director. Lois has been with AICA for 20 years and clearly deserves her new title.

Unlike Paul's double role as executive director of AICA and TOTA, Lois' position does not include the role of executive director of TOTA. In May, the TOTA board of directors promoted me from associate director to executive director. After 6 1/2 years with the Association, I was thrilled with the board's decision. Without Paul, I'm the only employee of TOTA now.



Photo courtesy of AICA  
Lois Bethards, Executive Director of the American Indian Center of Arkansas

In June, AICA's new fiscal officer

came on board. Her name is Tammy Frizell, and she will take up Lois' former role of maintaining accounting records for AICA and TOTA. Tammy is the person who will be sending the chapters their membership payments.



Photo courtesy of AICA  
Tammy Frizell, Fiscal Officer of the American Indian Center of Arkansas

That gets you caught up on what's going on in the office. If you ever need my help, please feel free to call or email. I have a new email address, so please change your contact information for me. My new address is TOTA@ArIndianCtr.org. The number is still the same, 501-666-9032.

Jerra Quinton

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

### Kentucky

The annual TOTA conference, this year in Little Rock, had good Kentucky representation in September with Ann Day, Ann Read, Marilyn Nichols, Alice Murphree and Beverly Baker attending. All enjoyed various seminars and opportunities to visit various historic sites in the city.

On October 4, 2008, the annual chapter meeting was held at Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site in far western Kentucky. Attendees had an opportunity to learn more about the lack of military involvement in Removal from a program presented by Chapter President Beverly Baker. Prior to the public portion of the meeting, the chapter met to learn the results of the recent election. Beverly Baker and Carla Hildebrand were elected to four-year terms on the board and re-elected to their positions as President and Vice President, respectively. Alice Murphree was re-elected as a chapter representative to the national TOTA Board.

Shelly Morris, a board member and Nature Conservancy representative, stated that work is progressing on the Mantle Rock project between the Conservancy (landowners), National Park Service and TOTA. It is hoped that this project will be completed by late spring.

A major project since October 1, 2008, has been the battle of a possible mining permit in Todd County that would severely damage a certified site, the Radford Farmhouse and Original Trail Segment. Not only would the site be affected but also the large spring and camp area on Cherry Grove Golf Course that Reverend Daniel Buttrick documented as a camping area on the fork of the Red River. With the help of Todd County Standard newspaper and articles in the Hopkinsville newspaper, a large turnout was on hand for the permit conference hearing on November 13, 2008, in Trenton, Kentucky. Local landowners, a blasting expert, a Kentucky Heritage Council representative and Kentucky TOTA chapter members spoke out against the quarry permit. The state has 30 days to issue their rul-

### Kentucky (continued)

The chapter would like to thank everyone who sent a letter to the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement against the permit. The moderator from Frankfort, Kentucky, was shocked to see how many people turned out for the hearing.

### Missouri

The Missouri chapter continues working on the trail, following up on roads found on old maps and finding new research. The chapter took advantage of the Arkansas



Photo by Marty King  
Susan Zornek-Stevens (left) and Denise Dowling look through copies of removal documents at the Sequoyah Research Center in Little Rock while attending the TOTA conference.

Chapter Research Day held during the TOTA conference in September at the Sequoyah Research Center. Deloris Gray Wood, Hershel Price, Brick Autry, Susan Zornek-Stevens and Denise Dowling combed through copies of the National Archives removal documents that were secured by the Association's Oklahoma chapter. In the documents the researchers found payment records across Missouri on the Benge, Northern and Hildebrand Routes. The SRC provided copies of documents related to Missouri, which will be used to document the trails. The chapter also plans to share this information with appropriate county historical societies to locate places where payments were made during Removal in these counties.

Chapter activities have included a visit by NPS Landscape Architect Steve Burns in the summer visiting the Star City Ranch, U.S. Highway 63 at Licking on the Hildebrand

### Missouri (continued)

Route, the Snelson-Brinker Cabin and trail segments from there to Massie Iron Works at Maramec Spring.

Frank Norris and Sharon Brown of the NPS National Trails System Office-Santa Fe visited Missouri in September. They started at the Mississippi River and went west, reaching Popular Bluff by way of Sikeston, Jackson, Old Greenfield and Popular Bluff. Deloris Gray Wood was the trail coordinator both days. Denise Dowling of the Trail of Tears State Park at Jackson and Russell Wiseman, the historic preservation officer from the Missouri Department of Transportation, led the group the first day. The NPS staff gained insight about the Hildebrand Route with Tom Botkins leading the second day across part of Missouri.

On November 22, 2008, an adventure out on the Benge Route took place with Earl Pennington, the Butler County Historical Society vice president. Others joining the caravan were Russell Wiseman of Missouri Department of Transportation, Susan Zornek-Stevens of Mark Twain National Forest and past TOTA board member, and Deloris Gray Wood, who coordinated the event. Dr. Harold Bray, a Missouri chapter board member, hosted the board meeting and brunch before the tour.

Newly elected chapter board members are Hershel Price, president, and Deloris Gray Wood, trail coordinator.



Photo courtesy of Deloris Wood  
(L-R) Deloris Wood, Missouri chapter; Tom Botkins, Dent County Historical Society; Walt Bush, Fort Davidson; and Frank Norris and Sharon Brown, NPS National Trails System Office-Santa Fe, meet at Fort Davidson State Historic Site where the Hildebrand detachment camped.

Chapter News continued on page 4

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

### Alabama

A board meeting and membership meeting was held on August 2, 2008, at the Birmingham Museum of Art. The Museum graciously provided the meeting space to us at no charge, as they have several times in the past. Many stayed for lunch where we had a chance to get to know members and visitors who attended our meeting for the first time. At the board meeting the importance of getting sites certified was particularly stressed. We still only have one site certified (Tuscumbia Landing in northwest Alabama) by the National Park Service. Sharon Freeman (Fort Payne), Larry Smith (Gunter's Landing), and Mike Wren (Fort Likens) are working on site certification. The Southeastern Anthropological Institute, a non-profit, is partnering with the city of Sheffield to preserve Tuscumbia Landing and to build an interpretive center at the site. The board approved placing all Trail of Tears research documents in the proposed Tuscumbia Landing interpretive center archives.

The Alabama chapter meeting dates will remain the same for 2009: the 1st Saturday of April, August, and December. Keeping up with volunteer hours was also stressed, as these are turned into Jerra at the Trail of Tears Association office. Three power point presentations were given during the membership meeting: *Update on Tuscumbia Landing, Archaeological Excavation at the Fort Payne Chimney Site, and Potential Sites in Alabama of the 2009 Conference.*

Laurie Brockman, Dr. Mary Jo Grant (Laurie's mother), Marty King, and Gail King attended the 13th Annual Trail of Tears Conference & Symposium in Little Rock. Dr. Dan Littlefield opened the Sequoyah Research Center to conference attendees. The vast number of documents pertaining to Southeastern Indian removal was awesome. Marty King spent two days

Updates from the Trail of Tears Association state chapters and their partners will routinely appear in future issues of this newsletter. Contact Jerra Quinton, TOTA Executive Director, at [TOTA@ArIndianCiv.org](mailto:TOTA@ArIndianCiv.org), or at (501) 666-9032, to submit information and photographs.

### Alabama (continued)

digitizing only a small portion of these documents (661 pages). Tony, Dan's assistant, copied over 200 pages for us. We brought documents relating to our Alabama research to add to Dan's collection.

Our last meeting of the year was held at the Elliott Community Center in Gadsden on December 6th. The meeting was hosted by the Etowah Historical Society. Mike Wren gave an outstanding presentation, *Friends and Neighbors: The Cherokee Indians of Turkeystown & the Creek Indians of Terrapin Creek*. Members of the Alabama chapter and guests heard details of the 14th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference, which Alabama will be hosting at Gunter's Landing State Park. We were delighted to have Jerra Quinton, executive director of the Trail of Tears Association, visiting with us to give us insight into past conferences. This will be the first time a TOTA conference has ever taken place in Alabama. The conference will be held during the first full week in October, which will be the same time the Bengé Detachment of the Cherokee removal traveled from Fort Payne to Gunter's Landing 171 years ago. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance for the Alabama chapter to spotlight the Bengé Detachment and the Indian removal sites in Alabama. We invite all of the other chapters to come to the 2009 TOTA conference and see the unique sites in Alabama.

### Arkansas

A new slate of officers was elected at the July 19, 2008, annual membership meeting in Van Buren, Arkansas. Elected were: president - John McLarty; vice president - Glenn Jones; secretary - Susan Young; and treasurer - Mary Evans. Pat Proctor serves as past president. Glenn Jones and Kitty Sloan serve as the chapter representatives to the national board. Carolyn Kent serves as project coordinator. The annual membership meeting also featured several presentations and a tour of the Drennen-Scott House in Van Buren.

A public program was conducted at the Old State House in Little Rock on May 3, 2008.

### Arkansas (continued)

One feature of this program was the introduction of a draft curriculum developed by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to teach Indian removal in Arkansas middle and secondary school classrooms. This curriculum development is ongoing and will be made available to Arkansas teachers.

The Arkansas chapter hosted the national TOTA Conference in Little Rock, September 22-25. By all accounts the conference was a great success, and the Arkansas chapter would like to thank the national Association and all of the conference committee members for all the effort put into the conference. Most of all we would like to thank all those who took the time to attend the conference. In addition to the conference, a research day at the Sequoyah Research Center was provided. So many people wanted to attend that there was no room for everyone. Future research days will be scheduled.

At the conference, Choctaw and Historic Washington State Park interpretive panels were presented to Jay Miller of Arkansas State Parks. Special thanks to Ruby Bolding for her artwork on the Choctaw panel! These panels were funded with the help of a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The northwest Arkansas research team submitted a site report to the National Park Service Historic Trails Division regarding the Fitzgerald Farmstead in Washington County, Arkansas. On July 14, 2008, the NPS designated the property as the 50th certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. A special thanks goes to property owners Jay and Sarah Berryman for their cooperation in the agreement.

A grant was obtained from the Department of Arkansas Heritage to produce 10 interpretive panels to be placed all across the state of Arkansas. Preference will be given to small communities that would find it difficult to fund a panel on their own.

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

### Arkansas (continued)

A meeting was held in Little Rock on November 17, 2008, to discuss development of a comprehensive plan for site interpretation for the Little Rock and North Little Rock River Front Parks. The meeting was attended by the mayor of Little Rock, Mark Stodola, along with representatives from Little Rock, North Little Rock, the National Park Service, the Department of Arkansas Heritage, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, TOTA and its Arkansas chapter. A follow up planning meeting will be conducted in the spring of 2009.



Photo courtesy of John McLarty  
Steve Burns with the National Park Service presents Jay and Sarah Berryman, owners of Fitzgerald Farmstead in Springdale, Arkansas, certification of their property as a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail site.

### Illinois

The Trail of Tears map exhibit, which was created last winter by Harvey Henson and Karen Frailey as part of the *Mapping Southern Illinois* exhibit at the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Museum, will be on display again as a traveling exhibit. The portable panels were adapted from a more extensive exhibit on regional maps last fall at the university museum. The map project is being coordinated by Vickie Devenport of SIUC, Donna Bachman of the SIUC Museum, and Harvey Henson of the Illinois chapter board. The Southern Illinois Association of Museums will work with the exhibit coordinators to place the exhibit in many museums and venues in southern Illinois. At each event, one or more of the Illinois chapter board members will be present to act as spokespersons for the Trail of Tears through southern Illinois. The first steps for the traveling exhibit were

### Illinois (continued)

at the St. Anne's Colorfest in Anna in October and at the SIUC Student Center for the Cherokee Heritage Center Robert Lewis storyteller event in November. The exhibit is tentatively scheduled to be on display at the John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro, March 1 to April 15, 2009. For more information contact Harvey Henson at [henson@geo.siu.edu](mailto:henson@geo.siu.edu).

The fall Illinois chapter general membership meeting was an oral history collection meeting held September 28, 2008, at the Jackson County Historical Society in Murphysboro, Illinois.

In October, Sandy Boaz and Joe Crabb of the Illinois chapter were interviewed about the southern Illinois Trail of Tears for the 30-minute "Perspective" program, hosted by Mike Shain on channel KFVS-TV.

"The Trail of Tears in Johnson County, Illinois - Documenting the Trail of Tears" has recently been completed by Gary Hacker. The book was published with the help of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society. It is a softbound book of approximately 180 pages with pictures and maps and is available for \$20.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping. The book contains the research and documentation of the path of the Trail through Johnson County. In addition to the research of Gary Hacker, the book contains research of Ed Annable, Jon Musegrave, John Schwegman, and Charles Ruffner. Orders may be placed with Gary Hacker at P.O. Box 1392, Vienna, Illinois 62995.

The Illinois chapter spring general membership meeting will be April 26, 2009, at the SIU Carbondale Morris Library.

### North Carolina

The North Carolina chapter now has four signs in place to indicate sites that were important locations associated with the Trail of Tears. One is located on the Qualla Boundary near the entrance on U.S. Highway 441, and three are in Andrews at

### North Carolina (continued)

the rest area there on Highway 74. The chapter is continuing to work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the national forests in North Carolina to place additional signs. We feel that this will help both local people and visitors to have a greater awareness of the impact of the Removal in this area.

At our fall meeting, held in Cherokee at the time of the Fall Festival, we were fortunate to have Robert Conley as our speaker. Conley is the current Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University. He is the author of 80 books about the Cherokees, as well as numerous other publications. In addition, the chapter elected new officers for the coming two-year cycle. These are Anne Rogers, president; Susan Abram, vice-president; Hartwell Francis, secretary; and Steve Vicknair, treasurer.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled to be held in Murphy at the public library at 2:00 p.m. We welcome anyone from the surrounding area to join members at this meeting.

### Georgia

The Georgia chapter has many notable accomplishments and activities of late. Here are some of those.

The chapter has established many partnerships with various organizations and government agencies. The chapter is working with the National Park Service and the City of Cedartown to place three wayside exhibits at the Cedartown removal encampment site. In addition, the NPS has granted the chapter a \$60,000 grant through the Challenge Cost-Share program to conduct archaeology at Georgia fort and camp sites used in the removal. The University of Georgia's College of Landscape Architecture is working with the chapter to develop visuals and preliminary plans that will assist in grant applications and presentations to local governments. The Georgia Department of Transportation has agreed

Chapter News continued on page 6

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

### Georgia (continued)

to partner with the chapter on the Fort Buffington site near Canton and has already spent a day doing ground penetrating radar work and stereometric/Radiometry at the site. The chapter is also partnering with the University of West Georgia in Carrollton and Dr. Georgina DeWeese to use dendrochronology to accurately date possible Cherokee structures.

An especially important project this year was enlisting the cooperation of Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, and county and city governments all over the state of Georgia to adopt proclamations to recognize this year's anniversary of the Cherokee removal.

The chapter has been active in some documentary work on Removal. Members are acting as scouts for an upcoming PBS documentary on the Cherokee removal. Some

### Georgia (continued)

members also assisted on a documentary that will appear on NPR and Canadian public radio.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop  
Governor Perdue signs a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the Trail of Tears. (L-R) State Representative Katie Dempsay; Georgia chapter members Tommy Cox, Kathy Cox, and Linda Baker; Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue; State Senator Preston Smith; chapter members Dola Davis, Dan Walker Davis, and Chapter President Jeff Bishop.

### Georgia (continued)

Chapter development has been of great importance in the last several months. The chapter has developed an online map and research database, the TOTAbase, that is assisting in collating research data and giving us a wealth of material to draw from when developing interpretation, such as wayside exhibits. The chapter has implemented new chapter board positions: (1) a historic resource preservation officer, and (2) a grant writer to assist with finding additional funding and preserving the resources and viewed along the proposed removal routes in Georgia. Along with those positions, the chapter has adopted a "Preservation and Management Strategy" based on concepts put forward at the trails conference in Phoenix, AZ, this past May.

Finally, the chapter is working on a number of publishing projects, including an updated and footnoted version of Belle Abbott's book on Cherokee Removal.

### 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 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.

**National Trails System Office - Santa Fe**  
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## Are you a current member of TOTA? If not, please join TOTA today!



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### MEMBERSHIP FORM

January - December  
for the year of \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership — \$25 + \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional Donation)\*  
# of additional chapters \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
\* Of this optional donation, please give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to TOTA, and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ state chapter.

Payments to the Trail of Tears Association are tax deductible under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code.

Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

State Chapter(s) (Circle): Alabama Arkansas Georgia Illinois Kentucky Missouri North Carolina Oklahoma Tennessee

### 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

Audubon Acres, TN  
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN  
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN  
Campground Cemetery, IL  
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  
Delta Cultural Center, AR  
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR  
Fort Gibson, OK  
Gray's Inn, KY  
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  
Mantle Rock, KY  
Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works, MO  
Mount Nebo State Park, AR  
Murrell Home, OK  
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC  
New Echota State Historic Site, GA  
Pettit 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  
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY  
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL  
Tuscumbia Landing, AL  
Vann House Historic Site, GA  
VC/Moccasin Springs Road/Nancy Hildebrand's Gravesite-Trail of Tears State Park, MO  
Waynesville Cherokee Encampment, MO  
Roubidoux Spring, Waynesville, MO

#### Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites

Arkansas Post National Memorial, AR  
Berry Ferry, KY  
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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E-mail: cfrnr58@att.net

## Museum of Cherokee Indian Partners with NPS on Trail of Tears Projects

Fifty of David Fitzgerald's beautiful photographs of contemporary locations on the Trail of Tears are accompanied by Duane King's text and a reproduction of the 1838 protest roll containing 15,562 Cherokee names. This exhibit was created through a National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share grant. A beautifully designed book of photographs is also available that is based on the exhibit. This exhibit is available to travel to your location. For costs and other information, contact Ken Blankenship, executive director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, at 828-497-3481, or at kenblank@cherokeemuseum.org. To view some of the exhibit photos visit

[www.cherokeemuseum.org/exhibits-trail.htm](http://www.cherokeemuseum.org/exhibits-trail.htm).

The Museum of the Cherokee Indian has also begun a Challenge Cost-Share project to digitize 6,000 pages of research materials assembled by Duane King to document the route of the Trail of Tears. King's research helped establish the route that was designated the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail through Congressional legislation in 1987. Research materials include primary sources from the Removal era, maps, letters, and legal documents, as well as material from secondary sources. The goal of the project is to digitize materials and eventually make

them available online through the Museum's website.

Project participants met on October 20, 2008, at the Museum in Cherokee, North Carolina, to get the project started. Frank Norris, historian for the National Park Service, and Duane King, Ph.D., director of the Gilcrease Museum, met with staff from the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, including Ken Blankenship, executive director; Barbara R. Duncan, Ph.D., education director; Bo Taylor, archivist; Susan Moody, cataloger; and Joyce Cooper, membership manager. For more information on this project, contact Ken Blankenship.

by Barbara Duncan

## Chief Vann House State Historic Site Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by Misty Watson, Dalton Daily Citizen News

July 27, 2008 - SPRING PLACE, GEORGIA — When Paul Smith first saw the house he agreed to help restore more than 50 years ago, he "wanted to run" because it was in such bad shape. But as the 95-year-old former carpenter looked at the Chief Vann House Sunday afternoon, he was proud of the time he put into its restoration. "We went over it

from sites to the Vann House. An additional 100 acres of the original Vann plantation has also been added to the site. Site manager Jeff Stencil said he and his staff give approximately 1,500 tours of the house and grounds each year.

Troy Wayne Poteete, a justice of the Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation, fought tears as he thanked everyone involved in the restoration and maintenance of the house. "This place is very important to us," Poteete said. "We appreciate everything you've done."

Jack Baker, a member of the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council and president of the national Trail of Tears Association, said many Cherokee leaders stayed as guests in the home before the Trail of Tears in the late 1830s. "It's good to be a guest here now," Baker said. "Thanks for all you've done to preserve this."

Howard encouraged everyone to continue the maintenance and growth of the site. "Let's pledge ourselves anew to continue the work that was started 50 years ago today," he said.



Photo courtesy of Chief Vann House  
Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association, addresses the crowd during the 50th anniversary celebration at the Chief Vann House State Historic Site in Spring Place, Georgia.

inch by inch fixing everything that needed it," Smith said. "It's good to see it in as good of shape as it is today." Smith was one of approximately 300 people at the Chief Vann House state park and historic site's 50th anniversary as a state park and historic site. The site was rededicated exactly 50 years after its first dedication. "Fifty years is always a milestone," said Tim Howard, treasurer of the Friends of the Vann House. "It's especially cause for celebration in the case of the Vann House."

The two-story brick house built in 1804 by Cherokee Chief James Vann was almost lost. Howard said at one point the house was used as a hay barn. The house and three acres were purchased from J.E. Bradford for \$5,000 in 1952 with the help of Whitfield-Murray Historical Society members. Restoration work took several years. "After seven years, the house was ready for dedication," Howard said. "Thousands came, or so I'm told."

Over the years, additional buildings, including cabins and corn cribs, have been moved

## TOTA Hosts 13th Annual Conference in Little Rock

by Jerri Quinton • Photos by Marty King

The Trail of Tears Association hosted its 13th annual conference September 22 - 25, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Little Rock, Arkansas. About 130 people attended the conference and its activities. Topics of presentations included Cherokee removal to Arkansas before the Trail of Tears, the Little Rock Office of Removal and Subsistence, U.S. government removal policies, the McIntosh Party of Creeks, preservation of ethnographic objects, the Seminole Treaty, tribal consultation, and Chickasaw removal.

The Department of Arkansas Heritage was extremely generous to host TOTA conferences for two receptions at its Old State House Museum and Historic Arkansas Museum. The American Indian Center of Arkansas, which houses the office for TOTA Executive Director Jerri Quinton, hosted a final reception on the last evening of the conference. This reception included a dedi-



Each year, the Kirk family has several family members that come to the TOTA conference from all over the country. (L-R) Deborah from Tennessee, Sarah from California, and Billy from Nevada

cation by the Arkansas chapter of Trail of Tears wayside exhibits for Old State Washington.

The conference began and ended with two optional events. The Arkansas chapter coordinated with the Sequoyah Research Center to host a research day at the Center on the first day of the conference. Central High National Historic Site concluded the



Sequoyah Research Center Director Dan Littlefield, Ph.D., explains to TOTA conferees attending the research session how the Center is organized and what materials are available to them for researching.

See LITTLE ROCK, page 11

The Trail of Tears Association would like to thank the following for their generous support:

### Patron Members \$500

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Principal Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation

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## Bike Tour Connects Stories of Central High, Trail of Tears

by Julie Jackson

September 25, 2008, kicked off Central High School National Historic Site's "Civil Rights as Human Rights" Trail of Tears in Arkansas ranger-led bike tour. Central High staff Julie Jackson and Laura Miller coordinated the event with the Trail of Tears Association so that it would take place at the conclusion of TOTA's 4-day conference in Little Rock when many interested in the Trail of Tears would be in town.



Photo by Julie Jackson  
Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation was the guest speaker of the bike tour event on the Junction Bridge on September 25, 2008.

Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation was the guest speaker for the event. The event began on the Junction Pedestrian Bridge connecting Little Rock and North Little Rock, Arkansas. The 5-mile tour followed the presentation along the Arkansas River Trail. Around 35 participants rode with park rangers along the trail and learned about particular events that occurred along the route.

struggle for civil rights for all. As part of this project, Central High NHS created a new bicycle tour of the Trail of Tears section along the city's River Trail system that includes an interpretive component that links the two stories.

Little Rock Central High School NHS interprets the desegregation of the school in 1957 when federal troops escorted nine African American students into the formerly all-white school. Both the school and the Trail of Tears demonstrate the ongoing

The bike tour was made possible from a grant by the National Park Service's "Connect Trails to Parks" program. Two Trek Ranger bikes and accessories were purchased with the grant. The bike tour focuses on the Trail of Tears in Arkansas.



Photo by Laura Miller  
Park ranger Julie Jackson speaks at the Trail of Tears waysides along the Arkansas River Trail on September 25, 2008.

## Trail Calendar

### January 24

North Carolina Chapter Meeting  
2:00 p.m.  
Public Library  
Murphy, NC

### February 21 - 26, 2009

"Hike the Hills" Trails Advocacy Week  
Washington, DC

### March 1 - April 15 (Tentative)

Trail of Tears Map Exhibit  
John A. Logan Museum  
Murphysboro, IL

### April 4

Alabama Chapter Meeting  
Details TBD

### April 26

Illinois Chapter Meeting  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
Morris Library  
Carbondale, IL

### April 29 (Tentative)

TOTA Board of Directors Meeting  
9:00 a.m.  
Strategic Planning Session  
1:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Select Airport/Opryland  
Nashville, TN

### July 12 - 15

12th Conference on  
National Scenic and Historic Trails  
Holiday Inn  
Missoula, MT

### August 1

Alabama Chapter Meeting  
Details TBD

### October 5 (Tentative)

TOTA Board of Directors Meeting  
1:00 p.m.  
Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge  
Guntersville, AL

### October 5 - 8

2009 TOTA Conference  
Guntersville State Park  
Guntersville, AL

### December 5

Alabama Chapter Meeting  
Details TBD

## Geo-Hiking or Auto-Touring the Trail of Tears in Pope County, Illinois

by Joe Crabb

If you wish to see the arrival point of the Cherokee in Illinois, go to Golconda and stand on the Ohio River bank south of the confluence of Lusk Creek. There you will be near the site where the Cherokee arrived in Illinois in December of 1838. This would be at about 37 22.06 N and 088 28.95 W. I say *near* because the level of the river changed when the dam was made. The original route used by the Cherokee has been lost in and near Golconda because of the expansion of the town and roads in that area. We know where some short segments of the road still exist today, but they are on private property and the owners do not want trespassing. For our hiking tour, we will use the following:

To arrive at our starting point, go west of Golconda about 3 miles to Homberg Road and go south to 37 21.30 N and 088 32.26 W. This is an intersection of a gravel road and Homberg Road. The original route then enters the Homberg county road. Travel west on the Homberg road to 37 21.05 N and 088 33.55 W, where you will take Trail of Tears Road west.

Travel west on this road and observe the deep cut roadway as it winds through rural Pope County. You will come to Prospect Cemetery at 37 20.74 N and 088 33.61 W. Continue west on Trail of Tears Road. At 37 20.85 N and 088 33.88 W, the Trail leaves the gravel road and goes through the Wagner farm, which is private property, and reconnects with the Trail of Tears road again at 37 21.03 N and 088 34.47 W.

In the vicinity of 37 21.42 N and 088 35.48 W, look for the stately oak trees that seem to be old enough to have been here and watched the Cherokee plod by on their trek.

At 37 21.54 N and 088 35.76 W, we come to the junction of the Trail of Tears road and the Brownfield road. Continue west on the blacktopped Brownfield road to 37 21.53 N and 088 36.11 W, where the Trail of Tears road then becomes a gravel road again.

Follow this road until it crosses Shedville Road at 37 21.69 N and 088 37.20 W. Stay

on the Trail of Tears road and once again watch for the deeply worn road way and the stately old oak trees. You will come to 37 21.83 N and 088 38.17 W, where Theophilus Scott stood on his front porch beside Root Lick branch and watched the "Indians" march by for days on end. This story is still passed on down through the generations of his family today (as told to me by his great-grandson, William Van Burgess).

Just 7/10 of a mile further on down the Trail of Tears road, we come to 37 22.04 N and 088 38.85 W, which is the home place that John Farmer patented from the U.S. government in December of 1836. Today, his descendants still tell the story of how he stood on his front porch and watched the Cherokees march by on their sad journey in 1838-39 (as related to me by Mack Farmer).

When we arrive at 37 22.12 N and 088 39.38 W, the Trail goes south through private property on the Ron Okerson farm where there is a well defined deep cut, well worn road way for 1/4 mile before it turns west again and rejoins Grasty Road just 1/4 mile further on. If we return to the last mentioned coordinates, continue on west to 37 22.23 N and 088 39.66 W, where you will turn south on Grasty Road. Within this 1/4-mile-square is the Allen Springs site where it is said that the Cherokee camped. It is less than one mile from here to the Dixon Springs area, and it is possible some camped there, too.

Continue on Grasty Road to 37 21.65 N and 088 40.50 W at the intersection of Bowman Loop. Stay on Grasty Road till you reach 37 21.65 and 088 40.74 W. This is Illinois Route 145, and the Trail goes on across the highway onto private property where the owners do not want people to trespass. We must respect their wishes.

At this point, you have traveled just over nine miles on the original route of the Trail of Tears. If you wish, this may be broken down into smaller segments for walking, or may be used as an auto tour route.

Just over 1/2 mile further west across the previously mentioned property, the Trail

crosses Sugar Creek on the Crabb/Abbott farm at 37 21.82 N and 088 41.44 W. This is verified by records found in the Pope County court house, Pope County Court Records Book A, page 233, "08 June, 1824, Ordered, William Pringle is appointed supervisor of the state and Kaskaskia roads from the Massac bluff to the fork and ford of sugar creek." Again, this is private property and may be seen by appointment with Joe Crabb at 618-949-3355.

On this farm, the Trail winds around in a zigzag fashion until it leaves their farm and continues in a west, north and westerly direction into Johnson County.

For more information on this section of the Trail of Tears, contact me, Joe Crabb, vice president of the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, at the number previously mentioned.

### LITTLE ROCK

Continued from page 9

conference with a new bike tour that connects the civil and human rights stories of Central High and the Trail of Tears (see page 10 for the full story).

TOTA would like to thank, again, its main sponsor for the conference, Arvest Bank, as well as the conference planning committee.



Bill Worthen, director of Historic Arkansas Museum, shows the replica of Quatie Ross' gravestone to TOTA conferees at a reception HAM hosted.


  
**Trail of Tears**
  
 Association
   
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**2009 Conference** continued from front page

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Bluffsides Rooms* 2 queen beds	1 adult - \$88.20 2 adults - \$90.00 \$5 per additional adult
King Suites* king bed & sofa sleeper	\$112.50 - up to 4 adults \$5 per additional adult
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CABINS & CHALETS	Rates
Cabins 2 bedrooms/2 baths (2 full beds/1 king bed)	\$112.50 - up to 6 adults \$5 per additional adult 8 person maximum
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