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## Trail of Tears National Historic Trail



## Trail News

# Partners Produce Draft Interpretive Plan

One of the several action items identified during the strategic plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (TRTE) in Memphis last summer was the development of a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) for the Trail. The first step in developing that plan was taken this April when a group of partners gathered again in Memphis. Representatives from the tribes, national office and state chapters of the Trail of Tears Association, researchers, the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the USDA Forest Service spent two days work-

ing on a long-range vision for trail-wide interpretive programming that will take us into the next five to ten years. The final CIP document is intended to define and guide the trail-wide interpretive program consistent with achieving the Trail's goals for interpretation—increasing people's

**“The comment period for the CIP is June and July. . . . Don't miss this opportunity to provide your input!”**

understanding and appreciation of the significance of the TRTE.

Interpretive Planners/Specialists, Kim Sikoryak, from the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Office in Denver,



Thomas Yahola (left) from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Sue Folsom from the Choctaw Nation represent two of the four tribes that participated in the CIP meeting. The other two tribes represented at the meeting were the Cherokee Nation and the Chickasaw Nation.

and Sharon Brown from Santa Fe, facilitated the work group in compiling foundational information for the Trail. This included formulating vision, purpose, and significance statements; identifying primary interpretive themes; defining Trail visitors and their expectations; defining goals for interpretation; and finally, identifying the steps needed to implement a trail-wide interpretive program.



Sharon Brown (left) and Kim Sikoryak (right) facilitate the CIP meeting in early April.

Completion of the draft CIP is scheduled for early June. The draft will then be circulated to a wide scope of Trail partners for review. The comment period is June and July, with all feedback needed by August 1, 2003. A core team will incorporate the feedback and present the final plan at the Trail of Tears Association annual conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, October 6-9, 2003.

The completed plan will guide the work of all Trail partners for the next decade. It is an important step in helping us get even closer to our vision for the Trail becoming a reality. Take a close look at the draft document when it is circulated and don't miss this opportunity to provide your input!



Participants in the CIP meeting prioritize goals for interpreting the National Historic Trail.

### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

## \$\$\$\$ Challenge Cost-Share Program - 2003 \$\$\$\$

As you read through the many projects mentioned in this newsletter, you might notice that quite a few are receiving funding from the National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share Program. Your project might qualify, too. Give us a call and we can send you a project proposal form and instructions.

If you have a possible project, contact John Conoboy by mail or phone (505-988-6733) right away.

Projects should support the programs and goals of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail as set forth in the *Comprehensive Management and Use Plan*.

Remember, Challenge Cost-Share funds are not a grant, but rather are funds for mutually-agreed-upon national historic trail projects.

Site-specific projects can generally only be funded for certified sites. Projects can be related to

resource protection, management, visitor use facilities, interpretation, education, or research. Projects require a 50/50 match of Federal and non-Federal funding. However, the non-Federal match can include the value of volunteer time and other in-kind services, donated equipment and supplies, and so forth. If you're not sure whether or not your project will qualify, call us anyway, and let's talk.

**Project proposals should be received  
at the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe  
by June 2, 2003.**

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## A Message from the Trail of Tears Association President

My vision for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is to have numerous certified sites with interpretation all along the routes so that someone may travel the entire route without having to go a long distance between sites. I believe that this will happen within the next three to five years.

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission is working with various groups, including the Pea Ridge National Historic Park, Benton County Historical Society, and the Trail of Tears Association, to form a "Friends of the Heritage Trail" to recognize, mark, and promote trail sites in Benton and Washington counties, Arkansas, relating to the Civil War, the Butterfield Stage Route, and the Trail of Tears. The Benton County Historical Society recently rededicated the Cross Hollows Civil War Marker near Lowell. This site was also a campsite for some of the removal detachments. It is hoped that an interpretive wayside telling about Cross Hollows significance in the Trail of Tears can soon be placed there beside the Civil War marker. Also, Pea Ridge National Historic Park has some significant segments of the Trail much as they

appeared in 1838-39. Interpretive waysides should also be placed here.

Congressman Zach Wamp held a meeting on April 14 that brought together various groups with an interest in the Trail of Tears. Several counties in southeast Tennessee were represented, as well as groups from Georgia and Alabama. Various projects in that area include a new interpretive center for Moccasin Bend National Archeological Site, the Cherokee Memorial at Blythe's Ferry, and interpretive exhibits in conjunction with the Chattanooga Riverfront Development Project. These projects, when completed, will make many more people aware of the story of the Trail of Tears, as well as providing destinations for those wishing to retrace the Trail.

Our Association members working with the National Park Service employees (Steve Burns and Aaron Maher) have been identifying sites and extant Trail segments all along the Trail. As these locations are certified and interpreted, the Trail will truly become a recognizable National Historic Trail. The new book, *Cherokee Heritage Trails Guidebook*, by Barbara R.



Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association

Duncan and Brett H. Riggs, identifies many Trail of Tears sites in the East that are primarily associated with the beginning of the Trail. This book shows what can be done to identify and describe historical sites. I look forward to the time when such a guidebook is available for sites all along the Trail.

I also pledge my support and that of the Trail of Tears Association to identify and mark the Removal Trails of the Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), Chickasaw, and Seminole Nations. I look forward to the time when these trails may all be traversed with interpretation sites all along them.

Jack D. Baker

## A Message from the Superintendent of the National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region

In the initial issue of *Trail News*, a rich and diverse selection of articles and announcements received wide circulation. Comment and feedback about the premiere edition have been very positive.



Jere Krakow, Superintendent of the National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region

Jere Quinton and Andrea Sharon deserve recognition for putting together the first partnership newsletter.

Last October, I was selected as Superintendent of the National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region. At that time I made a significant decision not to re-charter the Trail of Tears Advisory Council. Though the decision was difficult, I felt that the Council had fulfilled its purpose in completing the planning document and establishing the Trail of Tears Association. Dedicated and committed chapter members have increasingly assumed responsibilities in advocating for the protection of trail resources, interpreting the stories of the Trail of Tears, and providing a forum to address issues and concerns. Other federal agencies, state government, and private citizens have engaged in meaningful ways to assist with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. These valued partners will continue the course set by the Advisory Council.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation for all that the members of the Advisory Council have accomplished from inception to 2002. Your innumerable contributions were integral to completion of the *Comprehensive Management and Use Plan*, and to launching and nurturing the Trail of Tears Association. You made a difference, and on behalf of the National Park Service, I offer my most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

The partnership for the national trail is ongoing, and from other articles in this issue, you will identify specific examples of our continuing cooperation. Together we will accomplish important work for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Jere Krakow

## Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council "Sunsets"

Trail of Tears: A vivid image comes to mind when I hear or read this phrase. When first asked to represent Arkansas on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council, I was hesitant because of the images and sadness it brought to mind. But it is difficult to tell your Governor, "No," when asked to represent him. (Especially if you wish to continue to work!!!!!!!)

Now, here we are 12 years later, with the Advisory Council's work complete for the National Park Service. But for the members of the Council, our work has only just begun. As members of the Trail of Tears Association, I know we will continue to work for what many of us have poured our hearts and souls into.

For a moment, let's look back. The first meeting of the Advisory Council was in Tablequah, September 17-18, 1991. I was reticent about the meeting because I knew very little, if anything, had been done in Arkansas regarding the Trail of Tears. I also knew that there was little money available in my state for the project. As I traveled to that first meeting, my hope was that the NPS would have money for grants to assist the states. However, that dream was quickly extinguished. After the first meeting, though, I felt much better about what this national historic trail was to become.

It was apparent that the success of the trail was in the good hands of dedicated individuals from each state that the trail crossed—in the hands of people who believed in this effort. I had been concerned that as a non-Cherokee I would have little to offer in the development of the trail. However, this fear was quickly forgotten as I met the other Council members; there were representatives from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and the Eastern Band of the Cherokees—but there were also representatives of the Creeks and the Chickasaws. The Advisory Council members were in consensus that this trail was to be a commemoration of all the tragic events that led up to and through all the "trails of tears" that displaced the Indian nations across America, but with a focus on the Cherokees and those southeastern

nations removed at about the same time. This was an opportunity to educate the nation, and we wanted this to be a primary focus of trail development.

In the years that followed, the Advisory Council helped develop the Comprehensive Management Plan, developed site certification criteria, established the Trail of Tears Association, and helped to monitor activities in each state that might jeopardize any remaining parts of the original trail routes. The Council members were advocates for the trail in each state as well. There are now two major visitor centers with trail exhibits in Tablequah, Oklahoma, and in Cherokee, North Carolina. And there are plans for a video that can be used by all the states for informational and promotional purposes. Progress was slow, but progress has definitely been made.

In 2002, the Advisory Council "sunset" and the NPS made the decision not to recharter. Some see a sunset as an ending, but to me it is only the beginning. The sun may set in the west, but at that same time it becomes a beautiful sunrise in someone else's east.

As our sun rises, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Advisory Council members, past and present, who have devoted so much time and effort through the last 12 years in the development of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. I especially want to thank Dr. Duane King, the first Advisory Council Chair. Without



Bobbie Heffington, former Chair, Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council

his leadership, his dedication to the project, and his in-depth knowledge of the historical events, we could not have accomplished what we have to date. THANK YOU to all the Advisory Council members for your dedication and hard work!

Bobbie Heffington

### Advisory Council members:

Dr. Duane King  
Governor Anotabby  
Ms. Beverly T. Baker  
Mr. Walter W. Baker  
Mr. Jack Baker  
Ms. Jeannie Barbour  
Mr. H. Ken Blankenship  
Mr. H. Riley Cook  
Dr. Frederick L. Briar  
Ms. Debra Charles  
Mr. John Cook  
Mr. Bill Cunningham  
Mr. David M. Dailley  
Mr. Kenneth Easton  
Ms. Patricia Ezzell  
Mr. Tom Fetzer  
Ms. Melissa Sue Folsom  
Mr. Robert Friedrich  
Mr. Harley Arapahoe Grant  
Mr. Allan K. Green  
Mr. H. Roger Hamilton  
Ms. B. Lynne Harlan  
Ms. Kathleen Hollabaugh  
Ms. Shirley Hoskins  
Mr. Al Lemieux  
Mr. Billy H. McAfee  
Ms. Susie Walker McNeal  
Ms. Lawanda R. McCoy  
Ms. Mary Ellen Meredith  
Dr. Carmela L. Monteith  
Mr. Troy Poteete  
Dr. James E. Price  
Mr. Max Ramsey  
Mr. Richard C. Sheridan  
Ross Swimmer  
Dr. J. B. Tate  
Ms. Mildred Taylor  
Dr. Joseph D. Teaff  
Ms. Mary Tidwell  
Mr. Eddie Tullis  
Mr. Philip H. Viles, Jr.  
Mr. Ricky Butch Walker  
Ms. Thomas Yahola  
Ms. Mary C. Young

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

### Oklahoma

The Oklahoma chapter of the Trail of Tears Association held their fall meeting at the United Methodist Indian Church near Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, on November 23, 2002. This gathering was also a time to honor the Rev. James McHenry by placing the Trail of Tears marker on his gravestone at the family cemetery, located in the Muskogee Creek Nation. It was not only a time of honoring those who came on the Trail, but also a wonderful time of family gathering. This marking was our first in the Creek Nation. We wish to thank board member Joyce Bear for making the arrangements. It was certainly a job well done, and we look forward to other markings of the Creeks.

The 1835 Cherokee Census is now off the press and available for sale. This is an exact printing of the original, which resides in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. It consists of 166 pages, has a complete index, and is spiral-bound for easy handling and reference. This is the second monograph that the Oklahoma chapter has published, the first being the *Butrick Journal*. Copies of the census can be ordered from our Secretary-Treasurer Betty Barker, at Rte. 6, Box 1070, Stilwell, OK 74606. The price is \$28.00 plus a \$2.00 mailing charge.

The Oklahoma chapter has several grave markings planned for the coming year. Our Trail of Tears research committee has been doing a tremendous job in verifying and qualifying ancestral requests for marking those who came on the trail. Requests for marking should be submitted to Rose Guthrie at 207 S. Gladd Rd., Fort Gibson, OK 74434.

Thanks again to the National Association for a tremendous convention at Fort Smith. We look forward to the 2003 convention in historical Cherokee, North Carolina.

Updates from the Trail of Tears Association state chapters will routinely appear in future issues of this newsletter. Contact [Jera Quinton](mailto:Jera Quinton), Trail of Tears Association coordinator, at 501-666-9032, to submit information and photographs.

### Georgia

In order to help build public support for preservation efforts, chapter member Dr. Sarah Hill, Dr. David Crass from Georgia's HPD Office of the State Archaeologist, and the NPS National Trails System Office - Santa Fe are currently working on an \$18,000 Cost-Share grant. This grant is aimed at producing a tri-fold pamphlet and display and a technical report with GPS mapping of the Georgia removal "forts."

The Georgia chapter welcomes Doug Mabry as the new chairperson for the Chapter Research Committee. Doug's anthropology training and past experience in removal research of the Cherokees and the Creeks will be useful as he steers members in their efforts to assist Dr. Hill.



Georgia chapter members attend the 7th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in October 2002.

New Echota State Historic Site's research library has received a bequest from the late Martha Redus, including her collection of genealogical research material. Martha was an active member in the Georgia chapter's research work, and, before her death, had assisted countless people in their genealogy research through her business, "Cherokee Cousins."

Georgia chapter members who attended the National Association conference in Arkansas (and Oklahoma) had nothing but high praise for those organizing the events this year. The speakers, presentations, and historical sightseeing were outdone only by the hospitality of the host chapter. Thank you, and our compliments go out to all involved!

Congratulations to the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home for attaining approval as

a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Director Carey Tilley and the Chieftains' board of directors have worked hard to refocus the Ridge site toward the mission of telling the Cherokee story.

The Executive board and members of the Georgia chapter wish to express our sorrow to the families of Walter Baker and Donald Lance, who passed away this past year. The dedication and commitment of these past board members over the years are greatly appreciated, and we will miss them.

### Tennessee

In December 2002, the final master plan for the Trail of Tears Memorial Park in Pulaski, Tennessee, was released. Among the structures that officials plan to include on the site is the Mars Stone Chapel, which housed the former Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. The interior of the chapel will be renovated for use as an interpretive center and art gallery. An 80-foot circular entry plaza at the center will feature a map centered in limestone that depicts the four primary routes used in the removal.

A monument to honor David Crockett, a Tennessee congressman who strongly opposed Indian removal, will be located adjacent to the center. Additional plans include a life-size bronze sculpture of a typical Cherokee family walking along the trail, tie artwork, an herb garden, a historic overlook, and period landscaping. The estimated cost of the project is \$700,000. Just over \$225,000 has been raised thus far, and the park committee hopes to complete phase one of this project later this year. Last year's activities ended with an educa-



The Mars Stone Chapel makes its way to its new home at the Trail of Tears Memorial Park in Pulaski, Tennessee.

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News (continued)

### Tennessee (continued)

tional booth at the Tullahoma Intertribal Powwow, where information about TOTA's mission was extended to a new audience. Funded by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission, chapter member and Martin Methodist College professor Bernice Davidson resumed the teaching of classes on the Trail of Tears at elementary schools in Giles and Lincoln counties this fall. On January 26, 2003, several chapter members served as historical advisors to Chattanooga's Winter Crossing, an event sponsored by the Chattanooga Indigenous Resource Center and Library to commemorate removal detachments reaching the Mississippi River in January 1839. Also, the chapter had booths at Birchwood's Annual Cherokee Heritage & Sandhill Crane Viewing Days in February and the Middle Tennessee State University Powwow in February and March. New officers were elected at the chapter quarterly meeting on March 22.

### Missouri

Interpretive Resource Supervisor Tara Tucker resigned her position to take a position with the Houston Zoo. We wish Tara well. She was a member of the Association and supported and attended our sessions regularly. Currently, Trail of Tears State Park has two key positions vacant; we are uncertain about when these will be filled because of a hiring freeze.

Denise Dowling and Hershel Price attended a strategic planning session at the Museum of the Cherokee in Cherokee, North Carolina, in December. A plan was submitted for a new center where research, education, and archived information from the Trail can be located and accessed by interested parties. Hopefully, very exciting possibilities will grow out of this meeting.

The November quarterly meeting was held in Rolla in the archive section of the University of Missouri-Rolla Library. Special thanks to John Bradbury of the library who helped coordinate our session. This session was another attempt to spot-

### Missouri (continued)

light the need for research along the Trail in Missouri.

With great sorrow we note the passing of chapter member Dr. Donald M. Lance. Dr. Lance helped start the Missouri chapter and was a very active member. He served on both the chapter and national boards. We will all miss his friendship and counsel.

### North Carolina

As part of a challenge Cost-Share agreement with the NPS, the North Carolina chapter has now completed reconnaissance and evaluation of 23 trail sites in southwestern North Carolina. These include Army installations, roads, associated commercial facilities, public gathering places, and private residences. Activities at these sites ranged from simple inspection to archaeological testing and excavation.



The old Union Turnpike road used as the route used to deport more than 3,000 Cherokee prisoners from North Carolina.

Reconnaissance and mapping of the Unicoi Turnpike documented more than 20 miles of intact wagon road used for the removal from North Carolina, and testing at the Burnt Stand, a remote campsite for the military detainees, revealed definitive evidence of the 1830s occupation. Excavations at the Valleytowns Baptist Mission, a Cherokee boarding school, uncovered a cellar that included broken dishes, food remains, and school slates and pencils.

Some of the results of this research will be incorporated into a new permanent exhibit on Cherokee life in southwestern North Carolina, 1835-1838, that the chapter is

### North Carolina (continued)

preparing for the Cherokee County Historical Museum. This exhibit, slated to open in the summer of 2003, features a cutaway view of a Cherokee cabin interior, completely furnished and equipped to match the spoliation claim of a family



Brett Riggs works on excavations at the Valleytowns Baptist Mission in Western North Carolina.

removed in 1838. Displays include interpretations of Cherokee home and farm life, detailed map reconstructions of the Cherokee landscape, and vignettes of the 1838 removal and Cherokee resistance. The exhibit also features the Cherokee accounts ledger of A.R.S. Hunter's Store, a rare manuscript in the holdings of the Cherokee County Historical Museum. The ledger reveals day-to-day purchases by Cherokee residents around present-day Murphy, North Carolina, from October 1836 through May 1838; the federal disbursing agent at Fort Cass settled these accounts from the treaty funds. The Research Laboratories of Archaeology (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) have digitized this valuable manuscript and are preparing the images for Web access.

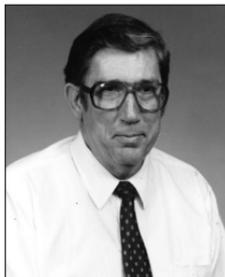
The North Carolina chapter is also presenting the results of its research project through 18 wayside interpretive exhibits funded by the North Carolina Department of Tourism and the Cherokee Cultural Preservation Foundation. These exhibits detail site-specific events and broader patterns of the military removal in southwestern North Carolina and will be installed at or near the actual sites.

## The Trail of Tears Community Loses Two Friends in 2002

Long-time Trail of Tears Association board member Walter W. Baker passed away August 6, 2002. Walter sat on the board as a representative from Kentucky, as did his wife, Beverly Baker, who still resides as a representative from the state.

Along with being an accountant, Walter worked on the Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Trail of Tears Commemorative Park project for 15 years, actively assisting in park development and working on Trail of Tears National Historic Trail legislation efforts.

He also coordinated local powwows that funded the park operation. In addition to being a board member of TOTA, Walter served on the National Park Service advisory council for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.



Walter Baker, Trail of Tears National Historic Trail advisory council member and Trail of Tears Association board member, passed away last summer.

Walter will be greatly missed by all involved with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Another board member, Dr. Donald Lance, 71, passed away in Columbia, Missouri, on October 23, 2002. Dr. Lance also served on the Missouri chapter board.

After having received his doctorate in English language and linguistics in 1968 and serving in the Army as a first lieutenant during the Korean War, Dr. Lance began teach-

ing linguistics in 1969 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Besides being an active member of TOTA, he was a member of the Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, and served in a leadership capacity with several organizations, including the American Dialect Society, American Name Society, and Missouri Folklore Society.

According to Dr. Gilbert Yeomans, colleague and friend: "Don's interests included dialects, place-names, phonetics, and language in general. A powerful service-ethic led him to lend his talents far outside his field, not only to folklore, but to the Trail of Tears Association. His publications include one of the standard works on dialect, *Variation in North American English: Research and Teaching*, Eds. A. Wayne Glowka and Donald M. Lance. New York: Modern Language Association, 1993. He was perhaps the only person who completely understood the vexing

## Board Meets at the 2002 Conference

The Trail of Tears Association board met in October 2002 at the TOTA conference in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Present were board members Ginger Abernathy, Beverly Baker, Jack Baker, James Bird, Dola Davis, Patsy Edgar, Sue Folsom, Bobbie Heffington, Ed Henshaw, Bill Jones, Duane King, the late Donald Lance, Shirley Lawrence, Dan Littlefield, Alice Murphree, Hershel Price, Max Ramsey, Mary Riesberg, Richard Sheridan, Mary Ann Thompson, Mary Tidwell, and Bill Woodiel, as well as staff members Paul Austin and Jerri Quinton.

Chapter reports were presented by the chapter representatives. Jack Baker, the TOTA President, reported on a July 2002 meeting in Alabama regarding establishing an Alabama chapter. Dan Littlefield joined Jack, Jerri, and Paul to discuss potential research interests in the state.

Mary Tidwell gave a report on the Partnership for the National Trails System conference. Mary was the Association's representative on the planning committee for the Partnership conference, which was

held in 1969 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Besides being an active member of TOTA, he was a member of the Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, and served in a leadership capacity with several organizations, including the American Dialect Society, American Name Society, and Missouri Folklore Society.

hosted by the Association in conjunction with the TOTA conference in Fort Smith.



Donald Lance, Trail of Tears Association board member, passed away a few days after returning from the Association conference in October 2002.

The Board approved Beverly Baker's suggestion that Alice Murphree be added as the second representative on the board from Kentucky. The passing of Beverly's husband, Walter, last August, left the second position vacant.

The board approved the development of a resolution that supported making available federal appropriations for The Trail for Public Land to acquire certified trail properties along the Trail of Tears.

The slate of officers was presented by the nominating committee to the board for election. The board approved the slate, which included Jack Baker for President, Hershel Price for Vice President, and Bobbie Heffington for Secretary/Treasurer.

At the end of the meeting, Bill Woodiel resigned as one of the two representatives from Arkansas.

## Vision Becoming Reality - Developing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Through Partnerships

Despite this tragic event in our Nation's history, the Cherokee and other Southeastern tribes built successful communities that exist today. Old traces, historic buildings, and other sites are being preserved to commemorate the sorrowful journey.

A variety of local, state, and national efforts have commenced to preserve, develop, and interpret Trail resources. A growing awareness of this important story—and those of other removed tribes—has stimulated interest in nationally recognizing this chapter in our Nation's past. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail tells of the Cherokees' ordeal—but many tribes can tell similar stories.

In 1987, Congress acknowledged the significance of the Trail 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's National Trails System Office-Santa Fe have all been working with Trail partners to increase visibility for the Trail and to develop it for visitor use. Additional sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects have been completed, such as signing the route, visitor-use development, interpretive wayside exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities. Many more are being planned.



Partners mingle on the lawn of the Chiefains Museum/Major Ridge Home before the official dedication of the museum as a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail certified site.

### Newly Certified Sites

Audubon Acres, TN  
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN  
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC  
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA  
Murrell Home, OK

### Certified Sites

Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN  
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK  
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR  
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC  
New Echota State Historic Site, GA  
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN  
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN  
Tennessee River Museum, TN  
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY  
Trail of Tears State Park, MO  
Vann House Historic Site, GA

### Pending Certifications

Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN  
Coke Oven Museum Trail Segments, TN  
City of Chattanooga trail routes and historic sites, TN

### Federal Protection Components

Cherokee Removal Memorial Park - Blythe Ferry, TVA land, TN  
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR  
Mark Twain National Forest, MO  
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR  
Shawnee National Forest, MO

### Trail of Tears Association State Chapter Contacts

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Anley Saville and Carey Tilly accept the official certification for the Chiefains Museum/Major Ridge Home from the National Park Service/National Trails System Office-Santa Fe superintendent, Aree Krakow, and landscape architect, Steve Burns. (Shown left to right) Burns, Tilly, Krakow, and Saville.



(Center) Shirley Pettengill, Murrell Home, and John Conboy, National Park Service/National Trails System Office-Santa Fe, pose with the certification document for the Murrell Home.

## A Message from the National Trail of Tears Association Office

The national office has been very busy in the last few months. In October 2002, the 7th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium went off without a hitch... except for one small problem with the bus tour to Tahlequah. I would like to thank all of you who took the delays and modifications in stride and helped make the day a success in spite of the bus cancellation. The conference was attended by approximately 200 people, including conference registrants, tour registrants, and speakers. The conference for the Partnership of the National Trails System increased membership at this year's TOTA conference due to the "piggy-backing" of the Partnership conference onto the TOTA conference. For more detailed information on the outcome of the TOTA conference, see the article on the conference results on page 14.

The executive committee of the TOTA board of directors met on January 23, 2003, at the Association office in Little Rock, Arkansas. All six members (Jack Baker, Riley Bock, Bobbie Heffington, Duane King, Hershel Price and Max Ramsey)

were present either in person or through conference call. At this meeting, the next general board meeting was scheduled for June 4, 2003. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to start at 9:00 AM and adjourn around 3:00 PM, and will take place at the Marriott Hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee. Also discussed was the creation of a committee to develop a strategy for establishing a resource/interpretation center in every state through which the Trail passes. Duane King will lead this effort. In addition to this committee, two other committees will be created - a Bylaws Committee and a Nominating Committee. The executive committee summed the meeting up by outlining the priorities that seemed to be set forth by the discussion held: membership, website construction, newsletter and journal production, improved communication with the National Park Service, conference proceedings, and interpretive centers in all nine states.

The Association is already busy in its planning for the next conference. We had our first planning meeting for the 2003 conference on March 18, 2003, in Cherokee,

North Carolina, is the site for the conference. The main participants in the planning of this year's conference are members of the North Carolina chapter of TOTA, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and TOTA staff.

On April 1 - 2, 2003, the National Park Service and a select number of TOTA members attended a meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, to create a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Please refer to page 1 of this newsletter for more details.

And don't forget to mark your calendars and make arrangements to attend the 8th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium, October 6 - 9, 2003, at the Holiday Inn in Cherokee, North Carolina (see page 17 for more info). We expect an exciting time! I'll see you there!

Jerra Quinton  
Association Coordinator

## Trail Interpretive Publications Produce Record Sales

Three years ago the general interpretive publication for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was published by Western National Parks Association (WNPA), formerly Southwest Parks and Monuments Association. Dr. Elliott West wrote the text



in consultation with the tribes, Trail of Tears Association, and the National Park Service. Retailing for \$3.95, this introduction

to the Indian removal story quickly became a popular item at sales outlets along the Trail. In fact, sales exceeded WNPA's projections and the 8,000 copies

of the first printing have all been sold! A second printing of 10,500 copies was made in March 2003, which is projected to last until 2006. The Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, North Carolina, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park continue to report the highest number of annual sales for the booklet. Anyone up to challenging that record?

As your site readies for the busy summer season, you still have time to stock up the booklet for your sales outlet. They make an ideal "impulse buy" near the front desk or cash register, and are an affordable means to increase Trail visibility.

To purchase a small quantity of the booklet, contact the national office of the Trail of Tears Association in Little Rock. If you need to purchase wholesale for your outlet, contact WNPA in Tucson, Arizona, at 520-622-1999.

## Recent Donors

The Trail of Tears Association appreciates all the support from members and partner groups. We would especially like to thank those who have given a little extra when sending in their membership dues and those who have donated for specific events, such as the annual conference and symposium. Listed below are our recent donors:

Euel Hanna  
Edith Mason  
Casey & Lori Vann  
Gary Wood  
Arkansas Chapter of TOTA  
Cherokee Heritage Center  
Cherokee Nation  
Cherokee Nation Enterprises  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Fort Smith National Historic Site

### 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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Andrea Sharon and Jerra Quinton

**Contributors**  
Jack Baker, H. Riley Bock, Steve Burns, John Conoboy, Bobbie Heffington, Jere Krakow, Aaron Mahr, Jerra Quinton, Andrea Sharon, and the Trail of Tears Association state chapters.

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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 National Historic Trail 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 National Park Service's Trail plan.

### Trail of Tears Association

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[www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte)

Are you a member of the TOTA?  
If not, and you would like to support the efforts of TOTA,  
please join today!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in the  
Trail of Tears Association  
automatically includes  
membership in one state  
chapter. Additional state  
memberships are \$10.00 each.

**ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP DUES  
\$25.00**

Payments to the Trail of Tears Association  
are tax deductible under section 501 (c) (3)  
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State Chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_

State Chapters: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina,  
Oklahoma, Tennessee

## Founding the Trail of Tears Association - Our 10th Anniversary Milestone

by H. Riley Bock

It is spring 1992. I am standing in front of a dining room fireplace with my hostess, Mrs. Jimmie Davis of Cartersville, Georgia, and several other guests and members of the Etowah Valley Historical Society. The camera of a reporter from the *Cartersville Daily Tribune News* flashes, and he asks a few questions before leaving. Having just arrived, I've yet to meet four of the five persons I posed with, and I begin introducing myself. Besides Mrs. Davis, there is Ken Easton of Arkansas Parks and Tourism; Diane Tate of the Etowah Valley Historical Society, and wife of Council member Dr. J. B. Tate; Eddie L. Tullis, chairman and chief executive officer of the Poarch Creek Indians; and finally Dr. Duane King, Chairperson of the Advisory Council, who had ridden with me from the Atlanta airport. The photo still graces my office in New Madrid.

That was 11 years ago, when I was the newest member of the Trail of Tears National Historical Trail Advisory Council and attending my first council meeting as a representative of the State Historical Society of Missouri. I had much to learn about the project and the diverse group of people behind it in the coming days.

Because of our late-arriving planes, Duane King and I were stranded at the Atlanta International Airport. We met at the luggage carousel and soon discovered we were bound to the same destination, Red Top Mountain State Park. The drive from the airport allowed us to get acquainted; I learned, among other things, that he was the Chairperson of the Advisory Council. When we finally arrived at our meeting site, we were whisked off to the reception at the Davis mansion. I was barely in the door when I was lined up at the fireplace for the photo. The evening reception immersed all of us in the baptismal font of hope and promise about the trail. It was one of those moments that only upon reflection you recognize its magic; but then it is long past, beyond recapture, much like the instant of a photographer's camera flash. As it turned out, I was the final addition to a group that would establish the national Trail of Tears Association. It all began that evening. For

the Trail of Tears this was a busy time, and my first fast-paced experience at the Davis home would underscore the tempo of the year to come. The climax would be the establishment of the Trail of Tears Association in May 1993.

After the Georgia meeting, the Council scheduled to meet again in the fall in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and then in the spring of 1993 in Nashville, Tennessee. One important action taken at the Cape Girardeau meeting was the directive to form an association.

This task would fall on the capable shoulders of the Advocacy Committee. Max Ramsey, who was then representing TVA on the Council, was previously appointed to head that committee at the Tahlequah, Oklahoma, meeting in September 1991. Following the Cape Girardeau meeting, Max solicited my help. He wrote: "Formation of such an association is vital to the support and implementation of the Trail's comprehensive management and use plan." I began my work. Chartering the association required a set of bylaws, as well as articles of incorporation. Since I was practicing law in Missouri, it was decided that the association would be incorporated in my state.

Joined by this common interest and work, Max Ramsey and I would become good friends. His selection as the committee chairperson was wise; Max possesses good organizational skills and already had a good working relationship with many of those associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail effort. His early inclusion of such a broad swath of people in forming the association has considerably benefited the organization since its formation.

The incorporation required three signatures, and, besides mine, Max suggested that the two other incorporators be the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Wilma Mankiller, and the principal chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Jonathan L. Taylor. Max cleared this process through the offices of each chief. During this same time period, the Advocacy Committee began examining

the proposed bylaws. In a letter dated December 11, 1992, Max was circulating both a draft of the bylaws and the proposed articles of incorporation drawn by TVA staff attorney, Sarah Yates. These circulated to John E. Cook, Regional Director of the Southwest Region of the National Park Service; Duane King, Chairman of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council; David M. Gaines, Chief, Branch of Long Distance Trails; Bill Cunningham and Bob Friedrich, Jr., both members of the advisory council; Chief Wilma Mankiller; and Dawnena Walkingski Darnall. Dawnena would later serve as the Association's first executive director (or secretary/treasurer, as it was then designated).



Riley Bock with Dawnena Darnall at Rattlesnake Springs near Chattanooga in 1995.

In March 1993, I mailed the original copies of the Articles of Incorporation to Chiefs Mankiller and Taylor for signature. Following an address correction required by the Secretary of State's office, these incorporation documents were submitted in final form to the Secretary for filing on May 18, and the charter was granted the following day, May 19.

The Advocacy Committee had continued its work on the bylaws through the spring and finalized them by the time the council met in Nashville—just eight days after the association was chartered. On the second day of the Nashville meeting, the Association was organized under its charter and the bylaws were adopted. The officers, who were elected on the basis of Duane King's motion from the floor, included me as president, Max Ramsey as vice-president, and Dawnena Darnall as secretary/treasurer.

## Founding the Trail of Tears Association (continued)

While the incorporation and adoption of the Association's bylaws were the necessary groundwork to begin, it was only a beginning. The most challenging part would be to turn the idea into a viable and effective organization for the Trail of Tears.

Looking back, I don't think any of us had any idea of what lay ahead. Sometimes, and this may have been one such moment, it is best not to know.

Within a month of the adjournment of the Nashville meeting, Dawnena and I joined Max at his home in Knoxville to chart our course. My hand notes of the meeting reveal discussion of a motley group of ideas and goals. Among the more lofty things discussed were an annual meeting and a newsletter. Eventually, we returned from the clouds and directed Dawnena to purchase some stationary, design a membership brochure, and begin building a mailing list for memberships. This meeting set in motion much of her work through the balance of 1993.

In December of that year she attended the National Trails conference in Kansas City, Missouri, specifically to learn about the other trail organizations and to come back with some ideas on memberships. She sent out her proposals in a letter to the executive board, which were acted upon. Her focus on memberships tempered our more ambitious desires and kept the organization phase of the Association on a steady course.

Only one executive board meeting was held in 1994: March 3 in Florence, Alabama. John Cook, Joe Tauff, David Gaines, Mary Proctor, and Duane King joined the three officers at that meeting. Finances, memberships, and the need for a central office location dominated the agenda of the meeting according to my notes. Perhaps one of the more notable accomplishments that year was Dawnena's obtaining an official tax-exempt status 501(c)(3) recognition. The IRS granted the Association that status on August 23.

Memberships continued to dominate the Association's efforts into the spring of

1995. The incorporation and adoption of the Association's three officers met again in Knoxville in the TVA building on February 13. The fall board convened when the Advisory Council met in Chattanooga in March. The Association seemed well on course, but it was shortly after the Chattanooga meeting that our work and plans began to unravel.

In April I received word from Dawnena that she and her husband, Russ, would be making a work-related move to Chile. Frankly, we had no contingency for the loss of our executive director and there was no time to look elsewhere before she moved. Records and equipment were stored near her home in Simpsonville, South Carolina, with instructions left to ship them when we could make suitable arrangements.

Before her departure, Dawnena had devoted considerable time and effort to organizing the Association. We all believed that her efforts would eventually be successful. At the time, I thought her loss to be irreplaceable and an end to our combined efforts. I did not express these thoughts; in fact, I voiced the opposite. I was being a hopeful advocate while harboring private thoughts of failure. But the logistics of salvaging the Trail of Tears Association looked daunting and largely insurmountable. I cannot overstate the seemingly hopeless circumstance we were in.

I would like to believe that some of the creative magic we experienced on a clear spring evening in Georgia in 1992 welled up at this moment—that it, or some other friendly force, rose up from years past to save the Association.

Late that fall my telephone rang; it was Bobbie Heffington, a member of the Advisory Council from Little Rock, Arkansas. She had this friend and he might be willing to take on the work of the Association.

I was soon bumping along I-40 on my way to Little Rock to meet Paul Austin, executive director of the American Indian Center of Arkansas. A luncheon with Bobbie and Paul was shortly followed by another meeting that included Max Ramsey held in Nashville,



Max Ramsey pointing to the Toad Suck Ferry Lock and Dam building near Little Rock in 1996.

Tennessee, in January 1996. There, Paul became the new executive director, and the Association was once again moving forward. It is still in his capable hands today.

### Postscript

In ten years since the Association's charter, many others not mentioned in this piece have contributed to its progress and mission. With the recent ending of the Charter of the Advisory Council, the Association's purpose as set out in its bylaws "to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail" carries additional responsibility and urgency for the Association. This responsibility increases because it is now the only civilian organization dedicated solely to the Trail of Tears assisting the National Park Service. That the Association is now ten years old and has yet to reach a degree of self sufficiency and size needed to sustain and accomplish its mission imparted an urgency of task upon us all. Let us follow the course charted for us in 1993 and rise to the challenge of making the Trail of Tears Association an effective advocate for the Trail, our common heritage, and its national purpose.

H. Riley Bock of New Madrid, Missouri, was appointed to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council in March 1992, representing the State Historical Society of Missouri. A practicing Missouri lawyer, he incorporated the Trail of Tears Association in 1993 and served as its first President from 1993 to 1999. He currently serves on the Association's executive board.

## Signing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail —

### How we can be a model for other national historic trails

by Steve Burns

For those of you who attended my presentation at the conference in Fort Smith—*Vision to Reality: Developing the National Historic Trail*—you will recall that I made a case for the need to think of the national historic trails, and the Trail of Tears specifically, as being in the development or building stage. At this stage, I talked about the great need to recognize that for the Trail to change from a “line on the map” to “real on the ground,” a significant amount of visitor infrastructure must be planned (regional national historic trail plans) and built. I suggested that we begin to think of the national historic trails, like national scenic trails, as needing to be *built* and that sound and thoughtful regional plans should guide our building efforts. In building and developing the Trail, we provide for public visitation and appreciation that will translate into greater support for the Trail and preservation of trail resources. In addition, I spoke of signing as one of the most basic and fundamental parts of a wide array of possible trail infrastructure needs.

Some progress is being made on the signing infrastructure of this “trail building” effort. The National Trails System Office-Santa Fe has been developing some new prototypes as part of developing a family of trail signs that we hope to promote and advocate with our trail partners. For years, signing associated with the Trail of Tears has been somewhat haphazard, with different types and systems of signs being used everywhere and by different entities. This often presents a confusing, disconnected, and incoherent message to the public about what the Trail of Tears is, where it is, what it’s about, who it refers to, etc. The beginnings of a sign system were identified in the Comprehensive Management and Use plan for the Trail, along with the logo consistent with the national trails system. This, however, is limited in addressing the varied signing needs on the Trail and has been applied sporadically, with the logo being the most frequently used part of that system. The logo however, has often been “asked,” to function, due to a lack of alternatives, to provide public information and messages to the public in ways beyond the capability of a logo.

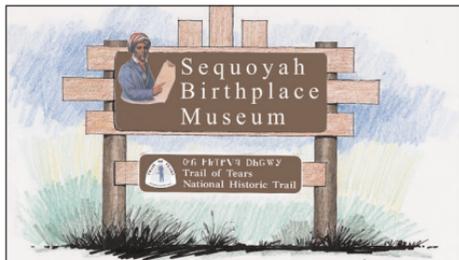
As part of the “signing family” within a larger “family” of trail infrastructure needs, the National Trails System Office has been looking at prototypes of site identification signs, as well as other types of trail auto and pedestrian directional and informational signing. Eventually, we hope that visitor infrastructure needs for “building” the trail will form a coherent “kit of parts” along the entire trail. This “kit of parts” will help form a singular sense of identity, place, and unity for the National Historic Trail that will allow visitors to truly have a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail experience from one site, interpretive facility, or trail segment, to the next. The prototype signing fits this same model in attempting to create a coherent identity for the national historic trail.



A sign concept identifying a certified interpretive facility as a national historic trail visitor center.



This Sequoyah Birthplace Museum sign is an alternative example for national historic trail site identification.



Another concept study for a national historic trail site identification sign.

## Signing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (continued)

Further, what is being developed for the Trail of Tears has implications for national historic trails in general. What is being developed has not been done on any other national historic trail. The parts of the new signing system being developed include:

- site identification signs
- certified interpretive facility signs
- trail site directional signs
- trail crossing signs
- beginning & ending reference signs
- route & detachment identification signs.

Illustrated here are examples of the first two signs being developed in cooperation with certified sites at Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home in Rome, Georgia; Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, Tennessee; and a newly certified interpretive facility—the Cherokee County Historical Museum in Murphy, North Carolina.

General concepts for the signs are to:

- Promote the use of trail logos in conjunction with the name of the Trail in English and Cherokee.
- Use the trail logo with the NPS sign standard white text on a brown panel originally developed for NPS use as part of the national Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and now widely used and recognized nationwide by the public for recreational and cultural sites.
- Allow and promote certified sites to retain and convey their own identity, first as part of the National Historic Trail. The National Historic Trail sign is therefore generally second and smaller.
- Provide the option for certified sites to have or retain a distinctive site identification sign with the national historic trail sign secondary. Or, to have a more similar, but still primary, white-on-brown panel national style sign that further emphasizes the national importance of the site as part of the national historic trail.

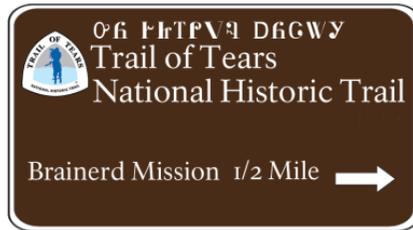
For sites that are certified interpretive facilities, and therefore may not be a historic property associated with or on the Trail,

they may consider the possibility of signing these as trail visitor centers. This allows the public to know that some level of information and interpretation of the national historic trail is provided here. If you have any

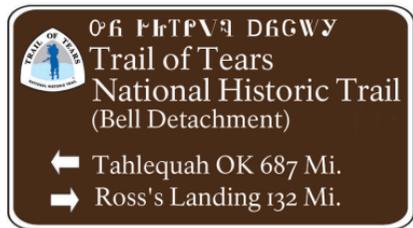
thoughts or comments on the development of the national historic trail signing efforts, please contact Steve Burns with the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe at 905-988-6737 or steve\_burns@nps.gov.



Another national historic trail site identification sign example.



Example of a national historic trail site directional sign.



National historic trail beginning and ending distance reference sign.

## 2002 Conference Attendees Vote Annual Event an Overall Success

The Trail of Tears Association held its 7th annual conference on Tuesday, October 15, 2002, through Friday, October 18, 2002. The conference evaluations proved the 7th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium a success. Out of the approximately 150 individuals who attended, 71 filled out the overall conference evaluation forms. Out of those responses, 35% had never attended a TOTA conference before, while 11% had attended every year previous.

The conference began with a Trail of Tears Association Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday afternoon, followed by a reception at the hotel where the conference took place.

After welcomes Wednesday morning by the TOTA President, Jack Baker, and the Arkansas chapter President, Dan Littlefield, conferees chose from one of three breakout sessions to attend, including William Lees from the Oklahoma Historical Society on the investigations of a steamboat wreck on the Red River in 1840 destined for Fort Towson in the Choctaw Nation; Dan Littlefield from the American Native Press Archives in Little Rock on strategies and resources for researching the Choctaw and Chickasaw removal, and the National Park Service on their current work on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

After having lunch, the Cherokee Choir performed for the conferees, and then Paul Austin, the executive director of TOTA, handed out door prizes.

The first set of afternoon sessions commenced just after lunch and included presentations by Jim Files and Robert Scoggin of Arkansas state governmental agencies



The Cherokee Choir performs at the Trail of Tears Association conference.

on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to uncover lost sections of the Trail, Lewis Stiles from the Gardner Mansion and Museum in Oklahoma on Choctaw Trail of Tears markers; and Ted Underwood from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma on Seminole removal. The second set of afternoon sessions included presentations by Dan Littlefield from the North Little Rock site, and Lindsay Robertson from the University of Oklahoma College of Law on new ways of looking at the removal experience, as well as second presentations by William Lees on the 1840 steamboat wreck and the National Park Service on its current work.



Conferees visit with two of the conference presenters, Blue Clark (far left) and Ted Isham (second from left), at one of the conference lunches.

Wednesday evening ended with a reception and tour at the Fort Smith National Historic Site. Even with sprinkles of rain and unexpectedly cool evening, the conferees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and punch while flutist Lewis Johnson played traditional Indian music.

Thursday morning began with a presentation by Duane King from the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles on the Bell and Bengé Routes in Arkansas. After this general assembly, conferees again broke out into three different sessions, which included sessions with Blue Clark from Oklahoma City University on the concept of the Trail of Tears as a "bigger" event than typically viewed; Ted Isham on what can be learned from the beliefs of Indian elders regarding removal; and Ted Underwood, again, on Seminole removal.

That afternoon, sessions commenced just after lunch and included Dan Littlefield on strategies for researching Creek, Seminole,



(Shown left to right) Ginger Abernathy and Mary Ann Thompson from the North Carolina chapter of the Trail of Tears Association discuss Trail activities in their state with Jere Krakow, Superintendent of the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe.

and Cherokee removal; Hastings Shade from the Cherokee Nation on Cherokee culture; and Jim Files and Robert Scoggin for a second presentation on using GIS. After these sessions, the TOTA held its annual business meeting, at which the chapters gave their reports.

The Partnership for the National Trails System began their conference with a reception after the TOTA business meeting on Thursday evening. All TOTA conferees were invited to attend this reception.

Despite the bus cancellation, approximately 130 individuals, including several from the Partnership conference, attended the tour on Friday to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the capitol of the Cherokee Nation. This tour included visits to the Cherokee Heritage Center, the Murrell Home, various Cherokee National buildings, the Cherokee Nation tribal complex, and Fort Gibson, and included a traditional Cherokee dinner. At the dinner, Principal Chief Chad Smith spoke and the Cherokee Children's Choir performed.



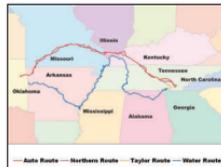
Betty Barker, member of the Oklahoma chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, sells Buttrick's Journal and the 1835 Census at the conference. The Oklahoma chapter publishes these documents.

## NPS to Develop GIS Database for Trail of Tears NHT Website

The National Trail System Office - Santa Fe continues to work in partnership with the National Park Service's Geographic Information System (GIS) Office at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque to develop the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail GIS webpage. This is a long-term project to develop a geographic database that reflects the work of dedicated volunteers across the trail who are identifying trail segments and associated properties in their areas. The webpage is in its infant stages and uses sophisticated GIS software designed to make the data accessible to all users. When fully developed, it will hold a treasure trove of data that will include not only route alignments but also information on historic properties and certified sites along the trail. The webpage will not only be user-friendly but will also be completely interactive. Visitors will be able to navigate easily through the vast data holdings and even input data themselves into an open review area. Eventually we will all be part of a new cyber community of trail enthusiasts.

A principal feature of the GIS webpage is the identification of the trail routes that are under consideration for addition to the national historic trail. These include the Bell Route; the Bengé Route; the removal routes in Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina; and the land routes. Please visit the website at [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte) and link to "Detailed Trail Maps." From there you will be able to focus on many segments of the designated national historic trail or review the "Routes Under Study."

Your input is encouraged! If you have suggestions on any feature of the webpage, especially as it relates to route alignments, please contact Aaron Mahr at the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe at 505-988-6888 or [aaron\\_mahr@nps.gov](mailto:aaron_mahr@nps.gov) and let him know!



Visitors can access any section of the Trail of Tears GIS database at [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte).

## MPDF Up for Final Approval

The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for the Trail of Tears has been submitted to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places for final approval. The MPDF is the result of a partnership between the National Trail System Office-Santa Fe and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. The two agencies contracted with Thomason and Associates of Nashville to complete the MPDF. The contractor completed the project on schedule and on budget. The completion of the MPDF marks a major milestone in the identification and preservation of properties associated with the Trail of Tears. The form includes an analytical narrative, which establishes the historical context for all trail-associated properties and identifies basic criteria for determining the eligibility of sites such as road segments, buildings, campsites, ferry crossings, disbandment sites, and gravesites.

Pending the approval of the state historic preservation office and the Keeper, any property associated with the Trail of Tears that meets the criteria established in the MPDF may be eligible for the National Register. In a short time, the MPDF will be on the national historic trail webpage for easy reference and will promote the nomination of trail properties to the National Register. So, if you know of a property in your area that fits the criteria identified in the MPDF and you have the support of the property owner, then you're encouraged to begin the nomination process. For more information, contact your state historic preservation officer or Aaron Mahr at the National Trail System Office in Santa Fe at 505-988-6888 or [aaron\\_mahr@nps.gov](mailto:aaron_mahr@nps.gov).

## Trail of Tears Exhibit Receives First Place

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail exhibits at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, received first place in the interior exhibits category of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) annual media competition this past fall, presented at NAI's national conference in Virginia Beach. The Trail exhibits in the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, North Carolina, received the same award several years ago. Now the national historic trail is "anchored" on both ends with award-winning exhibits.

Jerra Quinton from the Trail of Tears Association national office, Sam Watts-Kidd from the Heritage Center, and Andrea Sharon from the NPS Santa Fe Office accepted the award on behalf of the Trail partnership. Duplicate awards were pre-



(Left to right) Andrea Sharon, Sam Watts-Kidd, and Jerra Quinton accept the award at the NAI conference.

Sam Watts-Kidd, one of the models for the same casts figures, spoke about the exhibit:

"Through images and text, this exhibit reconstructs our history and shares our culture. The life-cast figures of our ancestors being driven west visually offers visitors a different way of 'seeing' and 'feeling' our tribe's trials and tribulations. The entire exhibit was constructed around the Cherokee people. It tells our story, our way.

Traveling to Virginia Beach I reflected on the history of the Cherokee. Standing on the beach, I saw the Atlantic Ocean for the first time. Its beauty and majesty overwhelmed me. I retraced our country's history in my mind and felt the presence of all who had gone before me. After receiving the award that portrayed the Cherokees' pain and progress, I stood on the eastern seaboard once again, this time remembering that it was on the same shore that our people's lives and history began their transformation. I was saddened and amazed."

## Congressmen in Tennessee and Georgia Take Interest in TRTE

As a direct result of Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (TRTE) partner and NPS cooperative efforts and interest, a public meeting/workshop to explore development of a regional plan for the NHT in the Chattanooga area was hosted by Congressman Zach Wamp. In an unprecedented show of support and interest for the TRTE, Congressman Wamp spent four hours in a structured meeting and workshop that involved participants addressing specific issues and topics concerning the TRTE.



Congressman Zach Wamp from Tennessee describes his vision for the Trail in his state.

Some 100 participants took part in the meeting/workshop that was covered by local press and TV. Many of the Tennessee chapter members participated, along with Trail of Tears Association President Jack Baker and Coordinator Jerra Quinton. Chattanooga area TRTE interests, local officials, pending and certified site partners, tribal representatives, and many others. Pending funding and resources, the NPS National Trails System Office-Santa Fe (NTSO) hopes to pursue development of a regional plan for the Chattanooga area that would develop this area as a "model TRTE segment." In the evening, a banquet was hosted by the Friends of Moccasin Bend to honor Congressman Wamp for his efforts in Chickamauga Chattanooga National Military Park. Part of the Bell and Drane detachments crossed the bend and ferried across the Tennessee River here.

The next day, at the invitation and organization of Tennessee chapter members Bill and Agnes Jones, Steve Burns and Aaron Mahr from the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe of the National Park Service joined Jack Baker and Jerra Quinton from the Trail of Tears Association and Bobby Davenport and Rick Woods from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) at an informal meeting at the Van Buren County Historical Society in Spencer, Tennessee,

with the county executive, Carolyn Houston, and freshman Congressman Lincoln Davis. After TRTE partners provided the congressman with information and background on the TRTE within his district, the congressman expressed a strong interest in supporting the TRTE. He was especially interested in advancing efforts with the TPL on protecting several miles of pristine TRTE segment that the Huber Corporation might donate to the Cherokee Nation.

Later that evening, Steve, Aaron, Jack, and Jerra met up with local officials, community members, board members, and Executive Director Carey Tilley at the Chiefsains Museum/Major Ridge Home in Rome, Georgia, for a meeting with freshman Congressman Phil Gingrey and local office staff from Georgia Senator Saxby Chambliss. They provided to the congressman and the senator's staff background on the TRTE in general and within northwest Georgia and the Chiefsains museum and its role and importance to the TRTE.

While visiting the southeast, Aaron and Steve visited several other sites and met with local interested parties. Among those visits were Gokanda, Illinois, where potential contacts were made for documentation of the NHT through Gokanda, as well as for possible interpretive and site development opportunities for visitor use in this area. Afterward, they along with local individuals, met at Campground Church, a site with springs, graves, and camps used by the Cherokees during removal and with high historic integrity. In another section near



Congressman Lincoln Davis (seated in center) meets with TRTE partners (pictured left to right) Aaron Mahr, Rick Wood, Jack Baker, Jerra Quinton, Agnes Jones, Steve Burns, Carolyn Houston, Bill Jones, and (kneeling) Bobby Davenport.

Gokanda, Aaron and Steve visited what the NPS office has identified as a potential "model trail segment" for several reasons: it is in the middle of the Trail, much of this section of the TRTE is on public land; it retains outstanding segment resources; it is generally rural; supplemental economic benefit from tourism is likely; and it is a dramatic and tragic part of the Trail of Tears story. This is where the detachments were camped and trapped between the frozen Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in the dead of a brutal winter, and many Cherokees died. Interest is high among locals in this area to develop the TRTE, and draft certification agreements are under way.

Steve and Aaron also met with Bill Troupe, Assistant Greenways Director for the City of Nashville, regarding the city's draft certification agreement, which will be redrafted to narrow the scope to specific sites identified for interpretation that coincide with current development of the city's greenway trails. On that same day, Steve and Aaron retraced the TRTE northwest of Nashville to Guthrie, Kentucky, where they spoke with locals about the need for development of the TRTE in that area. The owners of Grey's Inn, the site where Chief Whitepath allegedly drank from a well before making it a few miles to Hopkinsville where he died, expressed great interest in making the site a certified TRTE site.

While visiting Audubon Acres, Steve and Aaron met with the Board of Directors and discussed their new certification and NPS potential technical assistance in visitor use development of the site and development of a master plan. This property provides a unique opportunity to interpret the lifestyle of the common Cherokee at the time of removal, the experience of removal, and the beginning of the Trail of Tears from the doorsteps of their homes. A design charter is being planned to develop this master plan in October 2003 to coincide with the Trail of Tears Association conference in Cherokee, North Carolina.

To read more about Aaron and Steve's visits, log on to the website at [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte).



## 8th Annual Conference & Symposium

October 6 - 9, 2003

Holiday Inn  
Cherokee, North Carolina

### Reasons to come to this year's conference:

It's the same week as the Cherokee Fall Festival.

Two tours will include visits to Fort Butler, the Valleytowns Baptist Mission, the Unicoi Turnpike, Peachtree Mound, the Junluska Museum, Kituhwa Mound, and the Cherokee County Historical Museum, among others.

A reception and book signing at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian will commence the conference activities.

The town of Cherokee has tons to do, such as visiting the various Cherokee craft shops, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and Harrah's Casino.

Call the hotel at (838) 497-9181 and make your reservations by September 6, 2003, to receive the group rate of \$69. Look for the conference pre-registration form in the mail sometime this summer.

### Tentative Schedule for the 2003 TOTA Conference

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>T R A V E L</b>	<b>8:30 - Noon</b> Board Meeting	<b>8:30 - 9:30 AM</b> <b>General Assembly</b> Keynote: Chief, Cherokee Nation	<b>8:30 - 9:30 AM</b> <b>General Assembly</b> NPS Update
	<b>Lunch</b> Keynote: Chief, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	<b>9:45 - 10:45 AM</b> Concurrent Sessions	<b>9:45 - 10:45 AM</b> Concurrent Sessions
	<b>1:15 - 2:15 PM</b> Concurrent Sessions	<b>11:00 AM - Noon</b> Concurrent Sessions	<b>11:00 AM - Noon</b> Concurrent Sessions
	<b>2:30 - 3:30 PM</b> Concurrent Sessions	<b>Lunch</b> Chapter Reports	<b>Lunch</b> Children's Choir
<b>5:30 PM</b> Reception/Book Signing at the Museum of the Cherokee	<b>1:15 - 2:15 PM</b> Concurrent Sessions	<b>Afternoon</b> Tour to Fort Butler, the Valleytowns Baptist Mission, the Unicoi Turnpike, Peachtree Mound, and the Cherokee County Historical Museum	<b>Afternoon</b> Tour to the Junluska Museum and Kituhwa Mound
	<b>4:00 PM (approx.)</b> Fall Festival Parade		

# Chapter Evaluation Form

Please help us assist our chapters in serving the needs of their members by completing this form.  
Deadline to return to National TOTA office: June 2, 2003

## Registration Information

1. **State Chapter Membership (please check only ONE per form):**  
 Arkansas  Georgia  Missouri  N. Carolina  Oklahoma  Tennessee
2. **Affiliation:**  
 Individual  
 Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Corporate  Nonprofit (other than TOTA)  Government
3. **Year(s) of membership:**  
 2003  2002  2001  2000  1999  1998  1997  1996
4. **Membership fee:**  
 Fee paid by me personally, not reimbursable  
 Fee paid/reimbursable by my employer

## Meetings

1. **How often does your chapter meet?**  1-3/year  3-6/year  More than 6/year  Never
2. **Are you satisfied with the number of times per year your chapter meets?**  Yes  No  
*If no, how often would you like to meet?* \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Do you receive meeting notices enough in advance to make arrangements to attend?**  Yes  No
4. **Do you attend these meetings . . . ?**  always  almost always  seldom  never
5. **If you seldom or never attend your chapter meetings, please tell us why.**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **Are you updated on these meetings when you are UNABLE to attend?**  Yes  No  
*If no, would you be interested in receiving a meeting update when you miss?*  
 Yes  No  
*In what manner would you prefer to be updated?*  
 regular mail  email  newsletter  I do not care to be updated.
7. **Are you satisfied with the agenda of the chapter meetings?**  Yes  No  
*If no, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **Are you satisfied with the location of the chapter meetings?**  Yes  No  
*If no, where would you rather meet?* \_\_\_\_\_

## Leadership

1. **Do you feel the performance of the chapter board of directors is . . . ?**

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

*If "poor," please give reason(s) for your assessment:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Are you happy with the election process for the chapter board of directors?**  Yes  No

*If no, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Communication

1. **Do you receive communication from your chapter . . . ?**  
 Regularly  Every once in a while  Seldom  Never
2. **What type(s) of communication does your chapter use? Please place a 1 - 3 next to the three most often used.**  
 Regular Mail  Email  Phone  Newsletters  Fax

## Participation/Engagement

1. **Are you an active member of your chapter?**  Yes  No  
*If not, would you like to be?*  Yes  No  Unable to be active  
*If not, is it because your chapter does NOT meet your needs?*  Yes  No
2. **Have you volunteered specific services to your chapter that have NOT been utilized?**  Yes  No
3. **Do you feel your skills and willingness to contribute to chapter goals are fully utilized by your chapter?**  
 Yes  No

Additional comments/questions:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Optional:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Yes, I need a response to questions asked above.

**Return to:** Jerra Quinton  
National Trail of Tears Association  
1100 N. University, Suite 143  
Little Rock, AR 72207