



Trail News

Pea Ridge Celebrates Re-opening of Historic Road

by Kitty Sloan

In the winter of 1838-39, an estimated 10,000 Cherokees traveled along the Springfield to Fayetteville Road from Missouri into Arkansas, stopping overnight at William Reddick's farm for their last rations before heading west to their new homeland. The site of Reddick's farm is now Pea Ridge National Military Park, a federal protection component of the Trail

of Tears National Historic Trail. The park entrance is on the Auto Tour Route along U.S. Highway 62.

Three miles of the historic Northern Route are within the 4,300-acre park, two along its paved driving tour. The third was only recently rediscovered, restored, and re-opened for foot-traffic. A 1930s county

along the restored road. As park superintendent John C. Scott noted, Cherokees were truly walking in the footsteps of their ancestors. Even the weather echoed the "hail, rain, wind and thunder" that Dr. W.I.I. Morrow, physician with the Richard Taylor detachment, reported in his diary on March 18, 1839. Stormy weather stranded most of that detachment at Reddick's farm for an extra day. At the commemoration, walkers merely got soaking wet, although pellet-size hail covered the ground and a tornado the next day damaged some park facilities.

An estimated 500 people attended the dedication ceremony sponsored by the Cherokee Nation, the National Park Service, and the Trail of Tears Association. Chief Smith was the featured speaker. TOTA President Jack Baker served as master of ceremonies and Vice President Troy Wayne Poteete delivered the keynote address, *Why Cherokees Remember*; both Baker and Poteete are citizens of the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokee Adult Choir performed four hymns that had been sung during Removal, including one written along the Trail of Tears. The Cherokee Color Guard and Miss Cherokee LaShawna Fields also participated. The National Park Service was represented by Ernie Quintana, director of the Midwest Region at Omaha, as well as Jere Krakow and Aaron Mahr of the National Trails System-Santa Fe.

The dedication ceremony included the unveiling of the first of six sets of site-specific and context wayside panels funded by

See **PEA RIDGE**, page 6



Photo courtesy of Betty Barker

Seated next to the podium at the ceremony was (L-R) Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith, Joe Dillard from U.S. Representative Marlon Berry's office, Miss Cherokee LaShawna Fields, National Trails System-Intermountain Region Superintendent Jere Krakow, and TOTA state chapter presidents Kitty Sloan of Arkansas, Curtis Rohr of Oklahoma, and Deloris Wood of Missouri.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- TOTA President's Message.....2
- NPS Superintendent's Message..... 2
- Trail of Tears Legislation..... 3
- Arkansas Waysides..... 3
- New Book..... 3
- TOTA Chapter News..... 4-5
- Major Ridge Home..... 6
- National Register Listings..... 7
- 2005 Conference Photos..... 8-9

road had been misidentified as the route of the 1830s road. But modern satellite mapping technology helped locate the true trail beneath 70 years of overgrowth. In 2005, the one-mile natural segment was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On March 11, TOTA members from Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, plus hundreds of other visitors, gathered at the park to commemorate the Trail of Tears. Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation led a memorial walk

Trail of Tears Association President's Message

The dedication of a segment of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail at Pea Ridge National Military Park on March 11, 2006, was a very significant event. For the first time, a portion (about two miles) of the Trail as it existed in 1838-39 is available at a public facility so that the general public may walk along the same pathway that thousands of Cherokees tread 167 years ago. I would like to thank Park Superintendent John Scott and all of his staff for making this possible, and especially Kevin Eads, Chief of Resources Management, for all of his work in restoring the Trail and in planning and organizing the ceremony dedicating the Trail. I urge you to visit this site and walk along this portion of the Trail.

All along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail more sites are being identified and more interpretation is being placed on already identified sites. One of the latest sites to be certified is property owned by Bill and Sheryl Hubbs in southwest Missouri. A portion of the Trail crossed their property. The Hermitage, home of

Andrew Jackson, just outside Nashville, Tennessee, has also been certified. We appreciate all of the individuals and organizations that are having their sites certified and helping to tell the story of Indian removal.

Other events are happening to raise the awareness of the Trail. One such event is the publication of *Stone Songs on the Trail of Tears* by Pat Musick with Jerry Carr and Bill Woodiel. This book that tells the story of the Trail of Tears in a unique fashion is bringing the story of Indian removal to many people that were not aware of this event in American history.

The legislation to expand the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is moving forward. There was a Senate hearing on February 16, 2006, on this legislation where Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation spoke eloquently in favor of the bill (S. 1970). There will likely be another hearing scheduled soon in the House on their version of the bill (H. R. 3085). It is hoped that



Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association

At the time of removal 54% of the Cherokees lived in Georgia and 22% in North Carolina, and yet the Trail does not extend into those states where over three-fourths of the Cherokees resided.

Plans are moving forward for our annual conference and symposium to be held this fall in Springfield, Missouri. I hope to see all of you there.

Jack D. Baker

this legislation will be passed later this year. A significant feature of this legislation is that it would expand the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail into Georgia and North Carolina. At

National Trails System Office Superintendent's Message

The administration of national historic trails is the central focus of efforts here in the office of the National Trails System-Santa Fe. Our mission statement frames the focus thusly: *With our partners, we provide leadership for the use, protection, and interpretation of a diverse collection of national historic trails and roads, to preserve and commemorate their stories, places, legacies, and values.*

Of the nine national historic trails with which I am associated, the Trail of Tears is the most compelling story. A key portion of the broad story is represented by the additional routes proposed for addition to the national historic trail through legislation pending before Congress. Last month we helped draft National Park Service testimony for the Senate hearing whose action recommended passage to the full Senate. Similarly, legislation introduced by

Congressman Zach Wamp (R-TN) is pending in the House of Representatives.

Other key activities include ongoing efforts for a 20-minute interpretive film for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (NHT). Due to contracting issues, the contract with the filmmaker was terminated in December 2005.

At present, we are working with the Cherokee Nation who expressed strong interest in doing the film. The Harpers Ferry Center of the Park Service will provide technical expertise for the film.



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

Through the initiative of the Association and the Partnership for the National Trails System, we received a funding increase of \$35,000 for the Trail of Tears NHT for this fiscal year. It will enable us to sustain budget support for agreements with the Association and meet rising costs for our overall operating expenses. A new staff member joined us last fall from our Indian Affairs Office, Intermountain Region. Otis Halfmoon will be Management Assistant for the National Trails System in Santa Fe. He has a wide variety of experience and knowledge in tribal affairs and consultation, and has been associated with the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails.

Jere Krakow

Senate Committee Hears Testimony on Trail of Tears Documentation Act: Up for Vote in Senate; Held Up in House Subcommittee

by Paul Austin & Jerra Quinton

As was reported in the last issue (August 2005) of *Trail News*, Congressman Zach Wamp of Tennessee and Marion Berry of Arkansas, and 17 co-sponsors, introduced H.R. 3085, known as the "Trail of Tears Documentation Act," last June. Presently, trail routes in the states of Georgia and North Carolina, where three-fourths of the Cherokee people lived at the time of Removal, are not considered part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. This piece of legislation, if passed by the House and Senate, will result in the recognition of these trail routes, as well as significant sections in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee, including the

Benge and Bell routes, totally approximately 2,000 miles of additional trail.

Senators Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Lamar Alexander and William Frist of Tennessee co-sponsored a Senate version of the "Trail of Tears Documentation Act" (S. 1970) this past November. It has since then been referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee where hearings were held, which included testimonies by Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith and TOTA President Jack Baker. In March, the bill was voted out of committee and sent to the Senate for deliberation. A vote is expected soon.

In February of this year, Baker and TOTA Executive Director Paul Austin met with the House Subcommittee on National Parks of the Resources Committee, where H.R. 3085 has been referred. Subcommittee staff indicated that Committee Chair Richard Pombo (R-CA) has been reluctant to refer any trails' legislation out of committee. However, Congressman Wamp remains committed to continue his efforts to get this bill out of committee and passed.

The Trail of Tears Association thanks the following U.S. senators for their co-sponsoring of S. 1970:

Lamar Alexander (R, TN)
Tom Coburn (R, OK)
William H. Frist (R, TN)

New Book Offers Artistic Journey Along Benge Route in Arkansas

by Kitty Sloan

In March 2002, an artist, her astronaut-photographer husband, and a revolving crew of helpers traveled the backroads of Arkansas, hauling heavy oak posts, steel rods, and tear-shaped stones to assemble, photograph, and disassemble at remote locations.

The result, as published by the University of Arkansas Press, is *Stone Songs on the Trail of Tears: The Journey of an Installation*, by artist and TOTA member Pat Musick with photographer Jerry Carr and researcher Bill Woodiel. The book features color photographs of her sculpture at 23 sites along the Benge Route across north Arkansas and into Oklahoma, from Pitman Ferry Road to the Woodall Place.



Photo by Jerry Carr

Artist and TOTA member Pat Musick, along with her husband Jerry Carr and fellow TOTA member Bill Woodiel, produced a book to chronicle their installation of Musick's sculpture *Yokes on the Trail of Tears*.

Arkansas Trail Locations to Install Wayside Exhibits

by Mark Christ

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) is continuing work with the NPS National Trails System Office—Santa Fe (NTSO) and Arkansas State Parks to place Trail of Tears interpretive wayside exhibit panels at six Arkansas locations. These exhibits, funded through NPS Challenge Cost-Share, will provide site-specific interpretation at Helena, Village Creek State Park, Cadron Settlement Park, Lake Dardanelle State Park, Pea Ridge National Military Park and North Little Rock. The AHPP also has received

See *Arkansas Waysides*, page 6



Trail of Tears - Land Route, original image by Cherokee artist Sam Watts-Scott, 2005

The sculpture is now part of the corporate art collection at Tyson Foods, Inc., and is permanently installed in front of company headquarters in Springdale, Arkansas, not far off the Auto Tour Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Stone Songs also includes an introduction by art professor-novelist Donald Harington and an essay by Jack Baker, president of the Trail of Tears Association. The hardcover book sells for \$24.95 and, if not stocked at a local bookstore, can be ordered at www.upress.com, or by calling 800-626-0090.

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Missouri

In August, Aaron Mahr, NPS historian, was out on the Northern and Hildebrand Routes looking at trail segments and trail sites for future NPS certifications in and around Springfield. Ted & Iva Roller led the way in documentation and showing where possible trail site and trail segments were located. Missouri State University archeologists Dr. Neal Lopinot and Holly Jones showed a Delaware Town dig site and the White River Road that is associated with the Hildebrand Detachment. TOTA President Jack Baker and Missouri chapter president Deloris Gray Wood were in attendance. The last day of the NPS staff's visit was spent at Bill and Sheryl Hubbs's Star City Ranch. The NPS held a site certification at the Star City Ranch in Purdy, Missouri, on March 8, 2006.

On January 30th, several chapter members attended the 2006 TOTA conference planning session in Springfield. Lunch took place at the University Plaza Hotel, which is located on the old Wire Road.

In February, NPS and the Missouri chapter assisted the cities of Waynesville and Saint Robert with maps and research for grants. Finding trails is best when the leaves are off the trees and the snakes and ticks are resting for the winter. The chapter continues to have teams out working on all 600 miles of the Trail in the state.

Saturday, March 11, 2006, the Missouri chapter board met at Roaring River at Missouri State Park before a combined Missouri and Arkansas chapter meeting took place at Pea Ridge National Military



Sheryl Hubbs' property, the Star City Ranch, was certified by the NPS in early March. (Pictured L-R) Ted Roller, Steve Burns, Aaron Mahr, Deloris Wood, and Sheryl Hubbs

Park. A one-mile Trail of Tears segment was dedicated by the NPS that afternoon. The next chapter

Missouri (continued)

meeting will be held April 13, 2006, at 10 a.m. at the Arlington River Resort in Newburg. For more information, contact Deloris Wood at 573-729-2545.

Illinois

On March 1, 2006, the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI) announced at a press conference at the State Capitol that the Trail of Tears encampment at the Bridges Tavern and wayside store site on State Route 146 has been named one of its 10 most endangered historic sites for 2006. This site in southern Illinois is where the Cherokees camped during the icy and cold wet winter of 1838-1839. According to Gary Hacker, President of the Johnson County Historical Society, and Juanita Whiteside, a direct descendant of the Bridges family, the wayside store building is housed within a barn and is the only known surviving structure connected to the Cherokee forced removal through southern Illinois. Hacker and Ed Annable, also of Johnson County, have set in motion a non-profit organization that will facilitate the purchasing and funding of this property. For more information on the site itself and the LPCI, refer to the following website: www.landmarks.org.

The chapter was been busy last fall, including meeting with local historical associations and other interested parties to discuss development of a list of possible sites related to Removal in southern Illinois. In September, the chapter participated in the Cahokia Mounds Pow-Wow held in Collinsville. It was there the chapter introduced its first official brochure of the Trail of Tears in southern Illinois. At the fall membership meeting, a program was presented by Marlene Rivero from Grand Chain, Illinois. Rivero shared her African and Native American family history in story and song.

The next chapter meeting will be held at the Shingoethe Museum on Aurora University campus (www.aurora.edu/museum), in Aurora, Illinois, on Sunday, April 30, 2006, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The program will pertain to persons on the Trail through southern Illinois and the Bridges Tavern.

Georgia

At the January chapter meeting at New Echota, 40 people attended. Interest continues to grow in the chapter thanks to the efforts of many, including partner organizations.

Richard Thornton has accepted the position of chapter vice president after the untimely passing of Will Rogers. Will lost his life in an automobile accident in late November 2005. It was an honor for the Georgia chapter to have Will as a dear member and leader. He served the chapter not only as vice president but also as an artist, writer, fundraiser and preserver of Cherokee culture and history.



Will Rogers (1941-2005), a Cherokee Nation citizen, was the vice president of the Georgia chapter.

Chapter members have been busy fundraising. Linda Baker and Kathy Cox were successful in acquiring \$1000 in grants from Wal-Mart. These funds will help educate the local population about Removal and help fund the preservation of the Trail in Georgia. The chapter has, at Wal-Mart's request, donated \$500 to the Funk Heritage Center for Trail of Tears interpretation. Other fundraising efforts have included sales of a reprinted book of poems by John Rollins Ridge, a drawing for a print by Donald Vann of TOTA's logo, and sales of Trail of Tears maps and reports and TOTA logo items.

Several chapter board projects are in the works, including efforts to appoint a member to head up the "Site Certification Process." The chapter board is also working to develop a plan to acquire two or three sites for certification. The chapter now believes it has the necessary direction to certify some of the collection sites by the year's end. Also, board members will soon have the opportunity to review the Georgia Department of Transportation's "Federal Road Project Report." Additionally, chapter president Tommy Cox has been involved in the Chieftain's Museum's planning to return the home and landscape to the way it was at the time of Removal.

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News (continued)

Arkansas

In early March, the Arkansas chapter participated in the re-opening of a segment of the Springfield to Fayetteville Road traveled by Northern Route detachments through what is now Pea Ridge National Military Park. A chapter meeting focused on possible routes west from Pea Ridge, with a report from Dan Littlefield. Neighboring chapter presidents, Deloris Wood of Missouri and Curtis Rohr of Oklahoma, provided research updates, too. Also, the chapter got a sneak preview of the Arkansas Archeological Survey's (AAS) atlas, *Footprints Across Arkansas: Trail of Tears Removal Corridors for the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creeks, and Seminoles*, which was funded by the Department of Arkansas Heritage. The Heritage Trail Partnership of Northwest Arkansas also reported on signs which will be placed along roads and trails that were traveled by Removal detachments, Butterfield Overland stagecoaches, and Civil War troops.

In April, Trail of Tears documentation by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHHP) will be spotlighted at a national conference in Boston. Mark Christ and Tony Feaster will demonstrate how they have located surviving 1830s road segments using historic maps, GIS, and photographic imagery. Details of the *Preserving the Historic Road* are at www.historicroads.org.

Upcoming chapter events include:
May 6 – The Sequoyah Research Center will host the Arkansas Heritage Month event, a workshop on its Indian Removal collection, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus. For more information call 501-371-7585.

July 22 – The chapter's annual membership meeting will be in Little Rock at the Historic Arkansas Museum. The program is expected to focus on regional heritage trails and election of officers.

A new chapter partner, the Southwest Trail Research Group (www.southwesttrail.com), hopes to document the 300-mile pioneer road that crossed territorial Arkansas. Many Choctaws and Chickasaws traveled this road south from Little Rock.

Tennessee

The Tennessee chapter met in February during the Annual Cherokee Indian Heritage Days. Chapter members joined the Alabama/Tennessee Trail of Tears Corridor Association (ATTOTCA) for a sign dedication ceremony at Blythe's Ferry and were joined by Creek elders from Oklahoma. The chapter thanks ATTOTCA for donation of the sign.

The 2005 TOTA conference was hosted by the Tennessee chapter in Chattanooga. The chapter would like to thank the following: Shelley Andrews and the Friends of Moccasin Bend (FOMB), Pamela Bennett, Joan Franks, Agnes and Bill Jones, Billy Kirk, Jan and Odene Kirk, Cleta LaBrie, Shirley Lawrence, Deborah Rodriguez, Vicki Rozema, Doris Trevino, and Carlos Wilson. At the conference, a \$15,000 grant was presented, made by Lowe's to the New Beginnings Garden Club of Decatur for landscaping at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park.

In September, Lawrence and chapter president Trevino were on a local radio show to discuss Removal and to promote the upcoming TOTA conference and Cherokee Nation history course (sponsored by Chattanooga State Community College, the chapter, and the Cherokee Nation) in Chattanooga. Jack Vincent led the charge in organizing this course, with help from Andrews, Bill Smith, and Cleata Townsend.

Other chapter events have included:
Regular meetings – The chapter met in August during the 23rd Annual Cherokee Days of Recognition at Red Clay State Park and in December in Sewanee.

Special events – In October, the chapter set up a booth at Audubon Acres' Indian Summer Days. In November, Trevino appeared on a local Chattanooga TV program "Point of View" to participate in dis-

Tennessee (continued)

cussion about Removal. In December, Trevino spoke to the Grundy County Historical Society about Bell's Route. In March, the NPS and the FOMB hosted a public visioning workshop for Moccasin Bend. Also, The Hermitage officially announced its certification by the NPS.

Oklahoma

In 2005, the Oklahoma chapter saw its largest attended, grave-marking ceremony yet. On September 19, 2005, the chapter honored James and Susie (Downing) Still at the Allen Cemetery near Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Attending were approximately 150 descendants and chapter members.

One of the chapter's most recent endeavors has been to research and locate the disembarking points and depots of each of the Removal detachments. The Woodall, or Bushyhead, Depot is located north of Westville. The depot known as Mrs. Webber's, or Colonel Adair's, is located at the northwest edge of Stilwell. Both sites have been submitted to the NPS for recognition as certified sites. The chapter's most recent research has concentrated on locating the depot at Beatties Prairie where Fort Wayne was relocated in 1842. The remnants of the Fort consist of only a few logs that outline what is left of one of the foundations. A number of Removal detachments came into Indian Territory at this location.

The 2006 spring meeting of the Oklahoma chapter is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2006, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be in the ballroom directly behind the Restaurant of the Cherokees in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. There will be a short business meeting prior to the program presentation by featured speaker, Dr. Dan Littlefield. Beginning at 2:00 p.m., there will be a grave marking for Reverend Stephen Foreman at the Parkhill Cemetery, follow by a reception at the Cherokee Heritage Center to celebrate the publishing of the book *The Life and Times of Reverend Stephen Foreman* by Cooleela Faulkner. Plans are for the Heritage Center to have the book available for purchase. These events are open to the public.



Photo by Doris Tate Trevino

Creek elders sing during Cherokee Heritage/Sandhill Crane Viewing Days.

Public, Georgia to Benefit from New Vision for Home of Cherokee Leader

by Steve Burns

The plan to enhance the experience for visitors and rehabilitate the house in Rome, Georgia, once the home of Major Ridge, a prominent but controversial Cherokee leader at the time of their forced removal from Georgia to Oklahoma was approved by the board of directors.

The decision comes after a two-year planning process that documented the history of the Major Ridge home and farm and proposed preservation options and visitor interpretation and use alternatives. The plan is the result of cooperation between the Chieftains Museum, National Park Service, Trail of Tears Association, Cherokee Tribal representatives and other stakeholders. The report includes original research and new discoveries on the home

The house and farm have undergone extensive alterations and changes through time as documented in the report, and no longer resemble the property that was left by Major Ridge. The decision by the Chieftains Museum Inc., who own and manage this National Historic Landmark property and certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, is to rehabilitate the house and

“The decision by the Chieftains Museum. . . is to rehabilitate the house and landscape to more closely convey and interpret the home and farm of Major Ridge when he lived there.”

landscape to more closely convey and interpret the home and farm of Major Ridge when he lived there. The plan also includes an interpretive center to house exhibits on Major Ridge's life and historical importance.

When completed, it is hoped that visitors will better appreciate the role he played in a long and complex resistance to removal as well as his eventual leadership in the signing of the Treaty of New Echota. The difficult choices that split the Cherokee Nation in their efforts to resist the onslaught of a

dominant white U.S. land expansion is a dark and relatively untold chapter in U.S. history. These choices and the rifts they created ultimately cost Major Ridge his life. Thousands of other Cherokees died as well as the tragic events unfolded. This chapter is one that few people realize had far reaching consequences for the U.S. and Cherokee nations. It literally changed the landscape of the Southeastern U.S. as white settlement occupied what were earlier the nations of the five “civilized tribes.” Major Ridge was at the center of these historical events.

The decision by the Board of Directors of Chieftains Museum provides vision for a future that will help all Americans better understand and appreciate the lessons of our past.

Anyone who owns or manages sites, visitor centers, museums, or trail segments having a direct association with the Trail of Tears can request that their properties be designated as officially certified National Historic Trail sites. The process entails a voluntary partnership with the National Park Service to help preserve, interpret, and make the property available for public access.

tament to them, and will help in heritage tourism efforts that will help ensure these resources' long-term survival.”

—Mark Christ, Community Outreach Director, AHPP

“We had no idea how many of our state parks were touched by the Trail of Tears, or of the important role Arkansas played in the removal of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole peoples. We also have been impressed by the volume and content of records related to removal that have been uncovered by Dan Littlefield and the American Native Press Archives. Four Arkansas state parks – Lake Dardanelle, Pinnacle Mountain, Petit Jean and Mount Nebo – have become certified sites on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and we hope to do the same with Old Washington, Village Creek, Lake Chicot and Prairie Grove.”

—Jay Miller, Chief of Interpretation, Arkansas State Parks

ARKANSAS WAYSIDES

Continued from page 3

grant funding from the Arkansas Humanities Council to place an additional panel at each of the six sites; this panel will provide information on federal Indian removal policy to establish context for the site-specific exhibits. These exhibits should be installed by summer, 2006.

“In our work with Civil War battlefields in Arkansas, we at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program realized the importance of interpretation as a key element in preservation strategies – you can't send a heritage tourist to an empty field, you have to provide context. As we became involved in the effort to identify segments of the Trail of Tears in the state, we wanted to use the same strategy to let people know the story of the men, women and children who crossed Arkansas during the removal period. These interpretive panels will stand as a tes-



Photo courtesy of Chieftains Museum Major Ridge Home
The Cherokee leader Major John Ridge signed the Treaty of New Echota, for which he was later killed once in Indian Territory.

and farm of the Cherokee leader and statesman that will guide future preservation efforts.

“I'm delighted with the board's decision given the complexity of issues to consider,” said Jere Krakow, Superintendent of the National Park Service National Trails System Office in Santa Fe that oversees the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. “Major Ridge's home is a National Historic Landmark and a key to the story of the Trail of Tears. I look forward to working with all our partners as we move ahead.”

Sites in Tennessee Listed on National Register

by Aaron Mahr

Four properties on the Trail of Tears in Tennessee have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thomason and Associates, a Nashville consulting firm well known to Trail of Tears Association members, completed the registration forms under contract with the NPS National Trails System-Santa Fe office. The four sites, which include remnants of the Reynoldsburg to Paris Road, the Hatchie River Ferry, the Bolivar to Somerville Stage Road, and the Hill Road over the Cumberland Plateau, encompass over five miles of the historic trail route.

Nearly two miles of an abandoned remnant of the Reynoldsburg to Paris Road near Camden in Benton County lies within the Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. Visitors can hike over a mile of this segment, which has been incorporated into the park's trail system. This segment is particularly significant because it represents a portion of the Benge Detachment Route, which the U.S. Congress is now considering for study as a possible addition to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. John Benge's 1,200-person detachment crossed the Tennessee River and traveled over this segment of road on November 3 and 4, 1838.

Two of the newly-listed properties are on the Bell Detachment Route, also currently under congressional consideration. The first, the Hatchie River Ferry near Bolivar in Hardeman County, includes 1,400 feet of roadbed leading to the Hatchie River, and the ferry landing sites on the east and west banks. The roadbed is dirt and gravel and bounded by steep embankments. This segment of trail is on private property. The 660 people who comprised the detachment led by John Bell traversed this road on November 16, 1838. The Hatchie River and its adjacent swamplands were significant obstacles, but the Cherokee were ferried over it by the ferry owner and operator, Austin Miller. Two days later the Bell detachment passed over the Bolivar to Somerville Stage Road. Over two miles of this trail segment near Bolivar in Fayette County are now listed on the National

Register. Known today as Stewart Road and Herron Drive, visitors can hike or drive over most of this segment which is unpaved and has embankments consistent with nineteenth century road construction. At some points, the historic road diverges from the modern dirt road. These parallel abandoned road segments are on private property, but generally can be viewed easily from the modern road.

The fourth property represents a portion of Northern Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Nearly a mile in length, this listed segment of the Hill Road begins at the Dunlap Coke Ovens in Dunlap, Sequatchie County, at the base of the Cumberland Plateau's eastern face, and climbs towards the crest of the mountain. The abandoned roadbed and its embankments are striking, and they offer a revealing opportunity to contemplate the difficulties of travel in the mid-nineteenth century over a forbidding mountainous terrain. Widening road segments designed to allow wagons to pass one another, parallel tracks that passed eroded segments, and switchbacks that eased the hardship of the steep ascents are all included in this trail segment. Most of this National Register property is on private property, but several parts can be viewed from Boulder Road and Fredonia Road, or at the historic Dunlap Coke Ovens. The Hill Road is a portion of the route followed by the Taylor and Brown Detachments, which together numbered nearly 1,900 people. James Brown's party climbed the Cumberland Plateau first on about November 1, 1838, and Richard Taylor's group followed about a week later on November 7.

If you know of a trail segment that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or would like more information about the program, contact your state historic preservation office or visit www.cr.nps.gov/nr. Or, better still, you can contact the NPS's Trails System office at 505-988-6736.



This section of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Route in Hardeman County, TN, was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Save the Date!!!

October 9 – 12, 2006

11th Annual
Trail of Tears Association
Conference & Symposium

Clarion Hotel
Springfield, Missouri*

Special Conference Room Rate:
\$61.00** Single or Double
\$129.00** Jacuzzi Suite
\$109.00** Parlor Suite

Free Parking
Free Airport Shuttle***

Look for a registration info
in the August 2006 edition
of *Trail News*.

* Previous mailouts incorrectly stated Springfield, Illinois.

** Room rate includes full breakfast buffet.

*** 24-hour notice is required.

2005 Trail of Tears Association Conference Photos

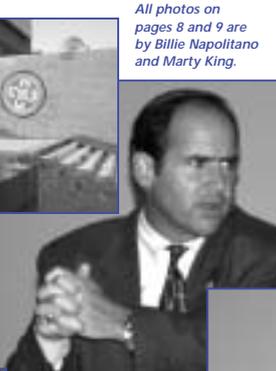
The conference starts out with a tour of the new Chattanooga riverfront, which includes a Cherokee memorial titled "The Passage." After the tour, conferees attend a reception at 212 Market Street Restaurant, where Congressman Zach Wamp welcomes them to Chattanooga and accepts a Donald Vann print as TOTA's thanks for his dedication to the Trail.

All photos on pages 8 and 9 are by Billie Napolitano and Marty King.



The Passage

The conference took place at the Chattanooga Marriott Hotel Downtown. Two official tours were offered: one to Red Clay State Park and one on the Southern Belle Riverboat.



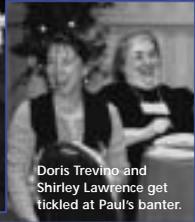
Congressman Zach Wamp



(L-R) Bottom: Edith Dalton, Carole Richmond, Patsy Edgar; Middle: Betty Barker, Betty Merryfield; Top: Marybelle Chase, Mary Adair



During one of the luncheons, Troy Poteete acknowledges Marion Hagerstrand, a highly respected Cherokee elder.



Doris Trevino and Shirley Lawrence get tickled at Paul's banter.



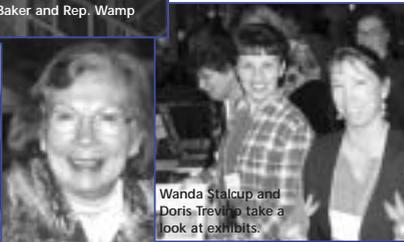
TOTA President Jack Baker and Rep. Wamp



(L-R) TOTA Coordinator Jerra Quinton, Friends of Moccasin Bend Director Shelley Andrews, KY chapter member Ann Read



Conferees sit in at the TOTA board meeting, which is always open to the public.



Wanda Stalcup and Doris Trevino take a look at exhibits.



(L-R) TOTA Vice President Troy Poteete, NPS Santa Fe staff John Conoboy, GA chapter member Ansley Saville



NPS Superintendent Jere Krakow converses with MO chapter President Deloris Wood and chapter member Hershel Price.



During the tour to Red Clay, conferees were able to stop and visit this home of Cherokee Hair Conrad, who led one of the Removal detachments.



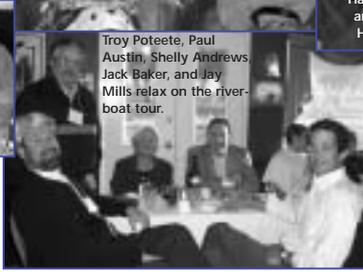
OK chapter members Clista Anderson, Mary Adair, and Bobbie Smith take time to visit in the hotel lobby.



Marion Hagerstrand and Bobbie Heffington



AL chapter members Robert Thrower and Gail and Marty King.



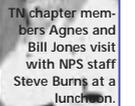
Troy Poteete, Paul Austin, Shelly Andrews, Jack Baker, and Jay Mills relax on the riverboat tour.



Sarah Vaughn with sons Billy and Odene Kirk



Deborah Kirk-Rodriguez and aunt, Cleata LaBrie, hand out door prizes after a general assembly.



TN chapter members Agnes and Bill Jones visit with NPS staff Steve Burns at a luncheon.



Lin and Ginger Abernathy

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.

Newly Certified Sites

Delta Cultural Center, AR
Historic Road from Ross to Ridge's, GA
James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
Mount Nebo State Park, AR
Petit Jean State Park, AR
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR
Star City Ranch Trail Segment, MO
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL
The Hermitage, TN

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
Gray's Inn, KY
John Ross House, GA
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
Mantle Rock, KY
Murrell Home, OK
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
Vann House Historic Site, GA
VC/Moccasin Springs Road/NancyHildebrand's Gravesite-Trail of Tears State Park, MO

Pending Certifications

Major Ridge Ferry Site and Farm Fields, GA
Coke Ovens Museum Trail Segments, TN
City of Nashville trail routes, TN
Fort Gibson, OK
Running Waters John Ridge Property, GA

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
Moccasin Bend, TN
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
Shawnee National Forest, MO
Stones River National Battlefield, TN

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PEA RIDGE

Continued from page 1

the NPS Challenge Cost-Share program, the Department of Arkansas Heritage, its Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the Arkansas Humanities Council, and the participating parks.

The other waysides will be located on the Mississippi River at Helena's Delta Cultural Center; along the Arkansas River at North Little Rock Riverfront Park, Cadron Settlement Park, and Lake Dardanelle State Park; and at Village Creek State Park, which protects a surviving segment of the 1830s Memphis to Little Rock Road.

Cherokee artist Sam

Watts-Scott of Tahlequah was hired to sketch the eight exhibits and was recognized at the Pea Ridge unveiling.

Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. spoke at both the afternoon dedication ceremony and a morning program hosted by the Arkansas chapter with participation from the Missouri and the Oklahoma chapters. Littlefield and his students have posted their site report on Pea Ridge at <http://anpa.ualr.edu>. Research now focuses on how detachments traveled from Reddick's farm to disbandment sites in the new Cherokee Nation.

The park's restored historic road segment was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in May 2005 along with two other segments of the Springfield to Fayetteville Road traveled during Cherokee Removal. National Register narratives are posted at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's website, www.arkansaspreservation.com. The National Register segment in the park is northeast of Elkhorn Tavern, the reconstructed landmark located on the site of William Reddick's farmhouse.

Reddick's cornfield, which borders the paved driving tour, is scheduled for historic restoration during a volunteer workday May 6. For the fifth consecutive year, Pea Ridge has been selected to host a National Parks Tour America event. With materials funded by Unilever, Wal-Mart, and the National Parks Foundation, volunteers will replicate the split-worm rail fencing that surrounded the field in the 1830s.

Pea Ridge National Military Park was authorized in 1956 to commemorate the March 7-8, 1862, battle that is considered the most strategic federal victory west of the Mississippi and which "saved Missouri for the Union." About 1,000

Cherokees in two regiments of Mounted Rifles participated in the battle on the side of the Confederates.

The park has been at the forefront of adding Trail of Tears interpretation to its original Civil War mission. Early transportation along the Springfield to Fayetteville Road is a theme that links the Trail of Tears, the 1850s Butterfield



Photo by Aaron Mahr
Principal Chief Chad Smith (front right) and Deputy Chief Joe Grayson (front left), followed by the Cherokee Nation Color Guard, lead a memorial walk along the restored Northern Route trail segment, located in what is now Pea Ridge National Military Park in northwest Arkansas.

Overland Mail route, and the Civil War showdown, explains Superintendent Scott. In addition to the new exhibits, a planned makeover of the park museum will include Trail of Tears interpretation. The park is also considering restoring the paved portion of the historic road that has been known as Telegraph Road or Wire Road since 1860.

Cross-interpretation of Trail of Tears, Butterfield stagecoach, and Civil War sites in Benton and Washington counties is also a project of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, www.nwarpc.com, which will be placing 100 Heritage Trail markers along historic routes throughout the two counties, coordinator John McLarty reports.

Additional information about Pea Ridge National Military Park is at www.nps.gov/peri or 479-451-8122.

Calendar of Events

April 13 – MO chapter mtg; 10 a.m.; Arlington River Resort; Newburg, MO

April 18 – TOTA board mtg; 8 a.m.; DoubleTree Downtown; Memphis, TN

April 22 – OK chapter mtg; 10 a.m.; Ballroom behind Restaurant of the Cherokees; Tahlequah, OK; 2 p.m. Grave Marking at Parkhill Cemetery

April 30 – IL chapter mtg; 2-4 p.m.; Shingotho Museum; Aurora University; Aurora, IL

May 5-7 – Historic Trails Workshop by Partnership for the Nat'l Trails System; Quaterage Hotel; Kansas City, MO

May 6 – Sequoyah Research Center's Indian Removal Collection Workshop; 10:30 a.m.; University of Arkansas at Little Rock

May 13 – GA chapter mtg; 10 a.m.; Pine Log Methodist Church; Pine Log, GA

May 13 – TN chapter mtg; Fayetteville, TN

July 22 – AR chapter meeting; Historic Arkansas Museum; Little Rock, AR

October 9-12 – 11th Annual TOTA Conference & Symposium; Clarion Hotel; Springfield, MO

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

January - December

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



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Trail of Tears
National Historic Trail



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Trail of Tears
Association



The Trail of Tears Association has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears 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.

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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 National Historic Trail, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is administered jointly by the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; non-government organizations; and private landowners.

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\$\$\$\$ Challenge Cost-Share Program - 2006 \$\$\$\$

Many of the projects accomplished along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail are receiving funding from the National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share Program. Your project might qualify, too. Give us a call and we will send you a project proposal form and instructions. 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.

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

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

Although Congress has increased the amount of available funding for the program, they have also added 3 new national historic trails in recent years, so the annual amount available for the Trail of Tears remains at around \$36,000.

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 nonfederal funding. However, the nonfederal 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.

The deadline for proposals was February 3, 2006. However, we will still discuss proposals with you, and if funding is available, they may be funded this year, or postponed for future year funding.