



Trail News

Four Sites Certified in 2006 along Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

by Aaron Mahr

The National Park Service has certified four new sites as official components of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Three are in Missouri: the Snelson-Brinker Cabin in Crawford County, the Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works in Saint James, and Laughlin Park in Waynesville. The fourth, Port Royal State Park, is near Adams, Tennessee.

The **Snelson-Brinker Cabin** sits along Route 8 in Crawford County, about halfway between Steelville and St. James. Owned by the Saint James Preservation Society, the cabin sits on several acres of land that was part of a large farm and homestead during the removal era. The Snelson-Brinker property was on the trail and served as a camp site and perhaps a supply stop for several of the Cherokee detachments. Local tradition suggests it may also contain unmarked graves of trail travelers. It is listed as a high potential site in the 1987 Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management and Use Plan. There are no active visitor services at the site but visitors can walk on the grounds and the cabin is often open. Immediate objectives for trail development at the site include further research on the historic structure and landscape, a preservation plan for the rebuilt cabin, and interpretation.

The **Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works** is along Route 8, a few miles west of the Snelson-Brinker Cabin. This fascinating site, owned by the James Foundation, contains remnants of the oldest ironworks in the state of Missouri. In addition to extensive recreation opportunities, the site also contains a lengthy segment of the Trail of



Photo courtesy of Deloris Wood

The certification ceremony for the Snelson-Brinker Cabin in Missouri took place in October 2006.

Tears that is occasionally open to the public through special arrangement with the site manager. At least seven detachments passed along the trail in this area and the ironworks are mentioned in W.I. Morrow's journal of travels with the Richard Taylor detachment. Objectives for trail development at the site include developing the trail segment for public use and interpretation.

Laughlin Park in Waynesville, Missouri, and owned by the City of Waynesville, is a beautiful riverfront park that boasts recreational opportunities that include a lengthy river trail, picnic facilities, and views of the notable Roubidoux Springs. The Trail of Tears crosses the Roubidoux Creek on the park grounds and local tradition points to several areas on the park grounds being camp sites for the Cherokee detachments that passed through the area. The springs were probably sources of nourishment for the detachments as well. Objectives for trail development at Laughlin Park include increased research on the site to determine its full association to Removal and interpretation at the river crossing and the springs.

Nine Cherokee detachments crossed the Red River in northern Tennessee at what is now **Port Royal State Park** near Adams. The park contains historic structures from Port Royal's exciting past, and offers recreational activities for the visitor. Also included in the park are remnants of the Trail of Tears, including the river cross-

ing and a trail segment that is over a quarter of a mile in length. The trail segment is open to the public only through special arrangement with the park manager. Immediate objectives for trail development at Port Royal include planning, site development for visitor access and use, and interpretation.

Stay tuned! We'll keep you up-to-date as the trail grows and more sites become part of the National Historic Trail.

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Trail of Tears Association President's Message

President Bush signed Public Law 109-378 on December 1, 2006, which requires the National Park Service (NPS) to study the feasibility and suitability of designating certain routes in several states across the country as components of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Under the bill, if the NPS determines that such routes are appropriate additions to the trail, it would designate them as components. This, of course, was the result of H. R. 3085 introduced by Congressman

Zach Wamp of Tennessee and co-sponsored by Congressman Marion Berry of Arkansas, as well as several other Congressmen. This is a major step towards amending the Trail of Tears National



Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association

Historic Trail to significantly add trail segments as well as additional routes. It is also historic in that it is the first time that Congress has approved a feasibility study to add additional routes and segments to a designated national historic trail. Our members are to be commended for all their efforts in securing the passage of this law.

As part of the feasibility study, the NPS will be conducting a series of hearings and scoping meetings along the proposed routes later this year. The expected time for these meetings will be from mid-May through June. As these meetings are scheduled, the National Park Service and the Trail of Tears Association will ensure that our members are aware of the time and place. I encourage you to attend and show your support for these additions to the Trail.

Interest has already been increasing in the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail with the enactment of this legislation. In late

February, representatives from the National Park Service and the Trail of Tears Association met with Tennessee's First Lady, Andrea Conte; Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, James H. Fyke; and the coordinator for Greenways and Trails, Robert Richards. The current Trail and the proposed Trail expansions would pass through fifteen of Tennessee's state parks. Those attending discussed ways of providing interpretation and/or exhibits regarding the Trail in all of these parks. Tennessee is very interested in becoming one of the leaders in promoting the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Their interest is certainly appreciated.

Be sure to put the dates of our annual conference on your calendar – November 5-8!

Jack D. Baker

Trail of Tears Association Executive Director's Message

Congratulations! You are responsible for the legislation that was passed by Congress and signed by the President that will lead to the designation of additional routes to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Public Law 109-378 was signed by the President on December 1, 2006. This was accomplished after a great deal of work by the Association, the Cherokee Nation, the NPS and our Congressional delegations, notably Congressman Zach Wamp (R, TN).

So what exactly does the Act do? It calls for a feasibility study to determine the suitability of designating four additions to the TOTNHT. Those additions are: 1) the Bell and Bengie Routes; 2) the land components of the designated water routes in Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee; 3) the routes from the collection forts in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee; and 4) those related campgrounds located along the routes and land components.

Now the work begins. The National Trails System-Santa Fe will begin work on the revision and update to the 1986 Final

National Trail Study for the TOTNHT. Under the leadership of John Conoboy and Aaron Mahr, the NPS work will focus on the characteristics of these additions that make them worthy of designation. It will also include the recommendation of the NPS Advisory Board as to the national historic significance of the new routes as outlined under the Historic Sites Act of 1935.

Specifically, NPS-Santa Fe has been charged with answering a series of questions: Do the proposed routes meet the criteria for the National Trails Systems Act? Are the proposed routes established by historic use and significant as a result of that use? Are they nationally significant? Do they have potential for recreational use or historic interest based on historical interpretation and appreciation? Are the proposed additional routes sufficiently known to evaluate the potential for recreational use? What are the most significant resources to be preserved? What are the interest group concerns about the addition of the proposed routes, including the Cherokee entities and other American Indian groups, federal and state

agencies, organizations, and landowners?

While that may seem like a lot of work and a daunting task, the good news is that a great deal of that work has already been done and much of the data already exists. Much of it was done by you, Trail of Tears Association members, through your chapter and individual efforts. But, NPS-Santa Fe will still be depending on TOTA for much of the additional work that is to be done. Some of the data needs are: specific routes; characteristics of the routes and areas on or adjacent to the routes; management and public use concepts; land ownership along the trail; sites, segments and landscapes with a high potential for public use and interpretation; cultural resource, social, economic, visitor use and cost estimate data for development, operations, and maintenance. Thanks again for all your hard work!

Paul S. Austin



Paul Austin, Executive Director of the Trail of Tears Association

National Trails System Office Acting Superintendent's Message

As you probably know, on January 3 Jere Krakow retired. We were lucky to have Jere as our superintendent for the last few years. Under his leadership, the relations between our office and all of our trail partners have been outstanding. We know that this is also because of the efforts of the officers, board, and members of trail associations including the Trail of Tears Association. I will serve as Acting Superintendent until a replacement for Jere has been hired and comes on board.

The big news, of course, is that Congress passed the legislation directing the NPS to study the additional routes of Cherokee removal for eligibility and feasibility to be added to the TOTNHT. The bill directed that the study be completed within six months of the date (December 1, 2006) the President signed the bill. It will be a major challenge to complete the study by July 1, 2007. In addition to the study itself, we must complete an Environmental Assessment which can be a time consuming process. But, we will do our best. However, this is going to take up a lot of staff time, so we may have to delay starting new projects and may need to defer some efforts on ongoing

projects. A major effort as part of the study will be public meetings along the routes. We will need a lot of help from the Trail of Tears Association with these meetings.

You may have also heard that it is possible that Congress will not pass a Fiscal Year 2007 budget for many federal agencies, including the NPS. We will know more soon. If there is a continuing resolution until the end of the fiscal year, then we will essentially have the same budget as we had last year—less any possible cuts or assessments and the effect of cost-of living increases. We are told that even with the continuing resolution we will likely get Challenge Cost-Share funds. The total available for Challenge Cost-Share will stay the same, but there will be two new trails sharing in the overall National Trails "pot." Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail no longer has its own cost-share program and Congress has designated a new trail, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Please contact us as soon as possible if you have a project proposal.

John Conoboy



John Conoboy (left) roasts former Superintendent Jere Krakow at Jere's retirement celebration in Santa Fe.



Jere and wife Jan huddle together in a Pendleton blanket given to them by NPS staff and partners as a retirement gift.

Trail of Tears Association Associate Director's Message

Congratulations, TOTA members and partners, on a successful 2006! Last year, you all contributed time and money equal to \$46,267, which does not include the funding and work from our federal partner, the NPS, to the TOTNHT. You all also contributed approximately 32,452 volunteer hours. These facts are useful when asking Congress for increased funding of the Trail of Tears.

Every year, the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) submits this information to Congress and uses it as leverage in requesting increased financial support from the federal government for historic and scenic trails across the country. The PNTS "Hike the Hill" week took place February 12 – 15, at which time this information was presented to Congressional staff and federal partners. I have been serving on the PNTS Leadership Council for four years as the TOTA representative and was recently elected to the Board of Directors.

The NPS requested a total of \$361,000 for FY 2008 for the Trail of Tears NHT; however, TOTA requested, through the PNTS, a total of \$882,000. The extra \$521,000 was requested for the development of a GIS database, preservation and visitor use support, and project development and cultural resource management. An additional \$295,000 is requested if and when Congress designates the additional 2,500 miles of trail currently being studied by the NPS. These additional funds will be needed to provide trail interpretation, signing, site development, research, and resource protection.



Jerra Quinton, Associate Director of the Trail of Tears Association

Also included in the TOTA part of the PNTS report to Congress was a detailed section on the 2006 Challenge Cost-Shares (CCS) involving the Trail of Tears NHT. There were a

total of seven CCS projects in 2006, including two with the Trail of Tears Association. In total, the NPS provided \$94,549 in CCS money for the TOTNHT. The matching funds by partners totaled \$136,347. The type of projects involved were archaeological studies, research of routes in Alabama, research of Removal account records, planning meetings for state historic preservation offices, emergency stabilization of the historic James Brown farm in Tennessee, research on Trail sites leading to certification, and remote sensing research in Illinois.

Thank you all for providing such great support to the Trail of Tears Association effort of promoting, preserving, and interpreting the Removal story. As the PNTS would say, "Hip, Hip, Huzzah!"

Jerra Quinton

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Missouri

Helping the National Park Service National Trails System locate and identify trail sites and segments along the Benge Route in Missouri is the top priority for the spring to help with a study mandated by Congress to add the Benge Route to the National Historic Trail System.

The Trail of Tears Association National Conference in Springfield, Missouri, was top on the chapter's list of activities for 2006 as Missouri was the host chapter. Getting out on the trail and finding trail segments and sites, and then getting a few certified by the NPS, were at the top of the Missouri chapter's agenda for 2006 and will be again for 2007.

Four sites were certified along the Northern Route in Missouri in 2006. **Star City Ranch** was the first certification in 2006. Chapter Vice President Sheryl Hubbs is responsible for getting these two miles of county road certified across her ranch. Ted Roller, a chapter board member, played a very active role, as well. The Missouri chapter met here during the national conference on the evening of October 11, which included a beautiful trail ride across the ranch to a vista for a beautiful view of the ranch and a cookout.

Laughlin Park was certified on October 9, before the TOTA National Conference started in Springfield that afternoon. National Park Service Superintendent Jere Krakow certified the site, along with Aaron Mahr, as his last activity for the Missouri chapter before retiring. Aaron had visited the site earlier in the year with Steve Burns, both from the NPS National Trails System Office-Santa Fe. Chapter member Don Higgerson of Springfield did the invocation. It was a beautiful fall day with sunshine, and people just kept coming to the event. Dr. Darrell Latch, Vice President of the Illinois chapter, who knew and had previously interviewed the late Harry Thiltgen, honored him for his research of the Trail of Tears in Pulaski and adjoining counties. The Laughlin family, who leases the park to the City of Waynesville, was also honored.

Missouri (continued)

Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works was certified in a short ceremony at the entrance to the park on October 12, just after the conclusion of the TOTA annual conference. Aaron Mahr presented the certification.

The certification of the **Snelson-Brinker Cabin** in Crawford County was also presented by Aaron Mahr in a ceremony following the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony. This certification ceremony took place in the cabin with a fire burning in the fireplace and everyone standing around trying to stay warm.

Deloris Gray Wood, chapter president, was the emcee for each event and is responsible for coordinating the ceremonies with the owners of the three certified sites.



Photo courtesy of Deloris Wood
Pete Vannatta (center) accepts the certification of the Snelson-Brinker Cabin from Deloris Wood of the Missouri chapter and Aaron Mahr of the NPS.

North Carolina

After a year of relative inactivity, the North Carolina chapter has approved a set of new bylaws and elected a new slate of officers. Newly elected officers are: President, Anne F. Rogers; Vice-President, Dianne Beaver; Secretary, Jane L. Brown; and Treasurer, Stephen Vicknair. Planned tasks for future meetings are to review the status of the board membership and to work on refining the bylaws to be more comprehensive.

The next chapter meeting will be held at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, North Carolina, on Saturday, March 31, 2007. The meeting will be held in the Bertha Saunooke room from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The museum is located on Highway 441 North in Cherokee.

Georgia

The Georgia chapter has spent the past several months prioritizing sites for certification by the National Park Service, collecting inventories on those sites, obtaining owner agreements, and preparing for the National TOTA conference in Rome this November.

A planning meeting was held several weeks ago at Chieftains (the Major Ridge Home) with both local and national TOTA leadership to determine a slate of speakers for the national meeting. Both local and national leadership team members are now contacting the prospective speakers and submitting the information to the national office to determine the final agenda for the sessions.

Recently, a trip was made to the probable site of Fort Buffington near Canton, GA. In attendance were chapter members Linda Baker, Jack Richardson, and Jeff Bishop, along with the property owners. Bishop filed a report that recommended archaeological testing at the site, if the three property owners agree. A decision on this recommendation will likely be made at the March meeting. The owners were also given an NPS brochure on site certification and owner agreements for their review.

Aaron Mahr of the National Park Service will make some Georgia site visits in mid-March. He will meet with chapter officers and lead researcher Dr. Sarah Hill, along with Georgia State Archaeologist David Crass, to determine possible certifications of Removal routes. He will also visit the Sixes and Cedartown Removal sites, for which owner agreements have been obtained and research has been completed. His site visits may be the final step in obtaining certification for these sites. Visits may also be made to several other sites for which the research phase is drawing to a close.

Linda Woodward-Geiger has been particularly busy this month in completing inventory forms for sites in Pickens County. More inventories are expected shortly. Chapter Vice President Jeff Bishop has been completing research on the John Ross

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News (continued)

Georgia (continued)

House for the NPS through a Challenge Cost-Share grant. Information obtained through this research will be used in the interpretation of this site.

Leslie Thomas has been actively involved in attempts to preserve the old county courthouse in Ellijay. Although not a Cherokee-related structure, it is important to the heritage and history of the town, which was originally a Cherokee town. The residents of the town recently voted against preserving the courthouse.

The latest chapter meeting was held on Saturday, March 10, 2007, in Waleska at the Funk Heritage Center. The meeting began at 10:30 a.m., and adjourned about 12:30 p.m., at which time the Center unveiled its new Trail of Tears exhibit. Maps for the exhibit were provided by members of the local chapter. Sandwiches were provided for attending.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma chapter will kick off the year's activities with the spring meeting at Dwight Mission on March 31, 2007, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will consist of reports on research, grave markings, and the election of three board members, followed by a presentation of the history of Dwight Mission up through the forced removal time period. Following the meeting, the members will have lunch at 12:15 p.m. in the mission cafeteria. Dwight Mission is a beautiful site and played an important role in the lives of those who attended school and other activities at the mission both before and after the Trail of Tears.

Research continues on removal and the depots associated with the "end of the trail." Artwork and signage efforts are in progress for the Woodall/Bushyhead depot near Westville and Mrs. Webber's Depot near Stilwell. The chapter hopes to have these sites dedicated sometime during this year. Several chapter members are planning a second trip to the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., to complete research that began last year.

Illinois

The Illinois chapter is anticipating a busy and productive 2007. It has three general membership meetings/programs planned. Tentative dates are April 14 in Union County for a meeting kicking off an oral history project; June 9 at the Newberry Library in Chicago; and October 6 in Pope County for a program on Cherokee lineage, genealogy, and sovereignty. Watch for details on these events and confirmation of dates in the spring chapter newsletter.

Since over half of the chapter board is new over the past eight months, the chapter would like to introduce its Illinois chapter board of directors and officers for 2007.

Sandra Boaz, President, from Union County, is an active member of the Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which was built on the site of one of the Trail of Tears wintering camps. She is a descendant of the man who owned that land at the time of removal and was instrumental in getting the site listed on the National Historic Registry and getting it certified as a TOTNHT site. She is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Joe Crabb, Vice President, is a retired Union Carpentry instructor and is currently serving his 12th term as President of the Pope County Historical Society. Joe is active on the chapter's research committee and is committed to pursuing certification of trail segments and signage along the Illinois route and at the arrival point in Golconda.

Sue Glasco became interested in the Trail of Tears when she worked for Rend Lake College. At Mulkeytown, she learned the story of Priscilla Silkwood who had been freed from slavery on the Trail of Tears at Jonesboro, Illinois – Sue's hometown. She used the story with her students in Franklin County. After retirement, Sue has continued researching and writing on the Trail of Tears and the Priscilla legend.

Gary Hacker is a retired administrator of Illinois public schools. He also retired from the U.S. Air Force, having served as a pilot during the Vietnam era and then as an

Illinois (continued)

admissions counselor for the Air Force Academy. Currently, he serves as the President of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society. Gary has been instrumental in achieving the Illinois state historic recognition of State Route 146, which roughly follows the Trail of Tears through southern Illinois.

Harvey Henson has been with the Department of Geology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale since 1985, researching the earthquake threat related to the New Madrid Seismic Zone. He has worked on recent geo-archaeological projects, such as the Camp Ground Cemetery investigation (now funded by the NPS) and the ongoing Anasazi/Pueblo remote sensing studies in Cortez, Colorado.

Cheryl Jett, Secretary-Treasurer, currently works as a freelance grant writer and publicist for nonprofit organizations, particularly those serving the arts and humanities, and served for four years as Executive Director of Cahokia Mounds Museum Society. She holds a B.A. and an M.A. from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in historical studies. She has conducted research and oral history interviews in the pueblos of northern New Mexico, on which she based her thesis, and hopes to eventually publish a manuscript based on this work.

Rowena McClinton – Rowena is Chair of Native American Studies in the Department of Historical Studies at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She is the author of *The Moravian Mission to the Cherokees: Springplace in the Gambold Years, 1805-1821* (Univ. of Nebraska Press) and *Each Encounters the Other: Early Nineteenth Century Moravian Missionaries and Cherokee Women on the American South Landscape* (Univ. Press of Kentucky). She has been an Illinois representative on the National Board since 2000 and on the Illinois chapter board since its inception. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky.

**Are you a current member of TOTA?
If not, please join TOTA today!**



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January - December

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1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344

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Phone (Day) _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

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

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\$25.00

Membership includes one (1) state chapter membership. Please send \$10 for each additional state chapter you would like to join.

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

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

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

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

Certified Sites

Audubon Acres, TN
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN
Campground Cemetery, IL
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA
City of Nashville trail routes, TN
City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR
Coke Ovens Museum Trail Segments, TN
Delta Cultural Center, AR
Fort Gibson, OK
Gray's Inn, KY
The Hermitage, TN
Historic Road from Ross to Ridge's, GA

James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
John Ross House, GA
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
Major Ridge Ferry Site and Farm Fields, GA
Mantle Rock, KY
Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works, MO
Mount Nebo State Park, AR
Murrell Home, OK
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC
New Echota State Historic Site, GA
Petit Jean State Park, AR
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR
Port Royal State Park, TN
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
Running Waters John Ridge Property, GA
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN
Snelson-Brinker Cabin, MO
Star City Ranch Trail Segment, MO
Tennessee River Museum, TN
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL
Vann House Historic Site, GA
VC/Moccasin Springs Road/NancyHildebrand's Gravesite-Trail of Tears State Park, MO
Waynesville Cherokee Encampment, Roubidoux Spring, Waynesville, MO

Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites

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

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Illinois Designates State Route 146 an Historic Road

by Gary Hacker

Several years ago while researching an historic site in Johnson County, Illinois, I became acquainted with Ms. Karen Frailey, a graduate student at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois. Our paths crossed because of a common interest in researching the Trail of Tears across southern Illinois. She was compiling information to document the Trail, and I was working to secure more information on a specific site that I had reason to believe played a role in the trek of the Cherokee through this county.

As President of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society, I was researching the site of the Bridges Tavern and Wayside Store, a place where the Cherokee camped and traded. Karen was documenting sites, and we worked together to gather information. As one who grew up in southern Illinois, I had always known that the path of the Cherokee, generally, followed Illinois State Route 146. As we discovered more sites, this impression was confirmed.

As a member of the board for the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and working with fellow board members, Sandra Boaz and Joe Crabb, to identify more sites, I had occasions to communicate with members of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). I had assumed that Illinois State Route 146 was considered as an historic highway. The members of the Illinois chapter of TOTA saw a great need for additional signs to be erected along this important roadway. During one of those talks with IDOT personnel, I learned that this state department did not consider it historic, even though for a number of years signs along its length identify it as "Trail of Tears National Historic Auto Highway." I learned that in the 1990s the National Park Service and the National Trail of Tears Association had considered the highway of such importance that they worked with Illinois to install the auto tour highway signs. The Illinois General Assembly had never taken official action to recognize the history of this highway. We felt very strongly that the State of Illinois should take offi-

cial action to apply the historic designation to Illinois State Route 146, to correct this situation, to bring more awareness to its significance, and to open more doors for possible future resources for development of the historic sites along the path of the Trail of Tears. Thus, a meeting was arranged and conducted in late June 2006 with all the State of Illinois legislators who represent this part of the state. Support was also provided through the Congressional Office of Senator Richard Durbin. Additionally, representatives of several area local units of government, historical societies, and chambers of commerce attended. Members of the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association conducted an intensive letter writing campaign and person-to-person contact with legislators statewide to solicit their support of the historic designation for State Route 146.

In December 2006, at the fall legislative session of the Illinois General Assembly, House Joint Resolution 0142 was passed and bestowed official State of Illinois historic designation for Illinois State Route 146 in honor of the Trail of Tears. Provision is made in the legislation for the installation of signs, plaques, markers, and the like, giving notice of the State Route 146 as the Historic Trail of Tears Highway.

This is an important step that has been accomplished, but much work remains. Illinois chapter members are continuing their work in gathering documentation on sites along the Trail through southern Illinois. Work continues in Pope, Johnson, and Union Counties to document the Trail. Members are out in the field and in library archives searching for information. As an example, some of the newly identified sites in Johnson County are the Gillispie site, McCorkle Creek site, Dutchman Creek site, Hezekiah West site, Bridges Tavern and Wayside Store site, and Buckrun Creek site.

Gary Hacker is a board member of the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. He also serves as the President of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society.

SAVE THE DATE

The 12th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium will be held in Rome, Georgia, November 5 – 8, 2007, at the Forum Civic Center. Two hotels have been reserved for conference lodging. Shuttles will be provided to transport conferees from these two hotels to the Civic Center throughout the conference. Both hotels have elevators and free parking.

The Days Inn is located about one mile from the Civic Center. A special room rate of \$55 plus tax has been provided for TOTA conferees. To make reservations, call (706) 295-0400 and refer to the Trail of Tears Association room block in order to receive the reduced room rate.

The Hawthorn Suites is located just across the parking lot from the Civic Center. Special room rates have been provided for TOTA conferees at this hotel, as well, using the block name Trail of Tears Association. To make reservations, call (706) 378-4837. The rates and room types are as follows (plus tax):

- QM: Queen Bed, mini kitchen, \$90.30
- KM: King Bed, mini kitchen, \$97.30
- QF: Queen Bed, full kitchen, \$97.30
- 1QSSM: Queen Bed, full sleeper sofa, mini kitchen, separate sitting area, \$104.30
- KSF: King bed, *some* with full sleeper sofa, full kitchen, no separate sitting area, \$104.30
- 1QSSF: Queen bed, full sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, \$111.30
- 1KSSF: King bed, queen sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, \$118.30
- 2KSSF: 2 bedrooms, 1 king bed, 1 queen Bed, queen sleeper sofa, 2 full baths, full kitchen, separate sitting area, \$167.30
- LOFT: Split-level room, king bed, queen sleeper sofa, full kitchen, \$167.30

Look for registration materials in the mail by September 2007. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call the TOTA office at (501) 666-9032, and ask for Jerra or Paul.



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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 NHT resources; to promote awareness of the Trail's legacy, including the effects of the U.S. Government's Indian Removal Policy on the Cherokee and other tribes; and to perpetuate the management and development techniques that are consistent with the NPS's Trail plan.

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National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe 

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

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