



Trail News

Cedartown, Georgia, and the Wayside Exhibit Process

by Jeff Bishop and Carol Clark

A ceremony marking the 175th anniversary of the ratification of the Treaty of New Echota will be held at the Big Spring Park in Cedartown, Georgia—certified site of a Georgia Cherokee removal camp—on Tuesday, April 19th.

Trail of Tears Association President Jack Baker will be the guest speaker for the event, which will include an unveiling ceremony for two new wayside exhibit panels, as well as “Trail of Tears Original Route” signs stretching from Cedartown to Cave Spring.

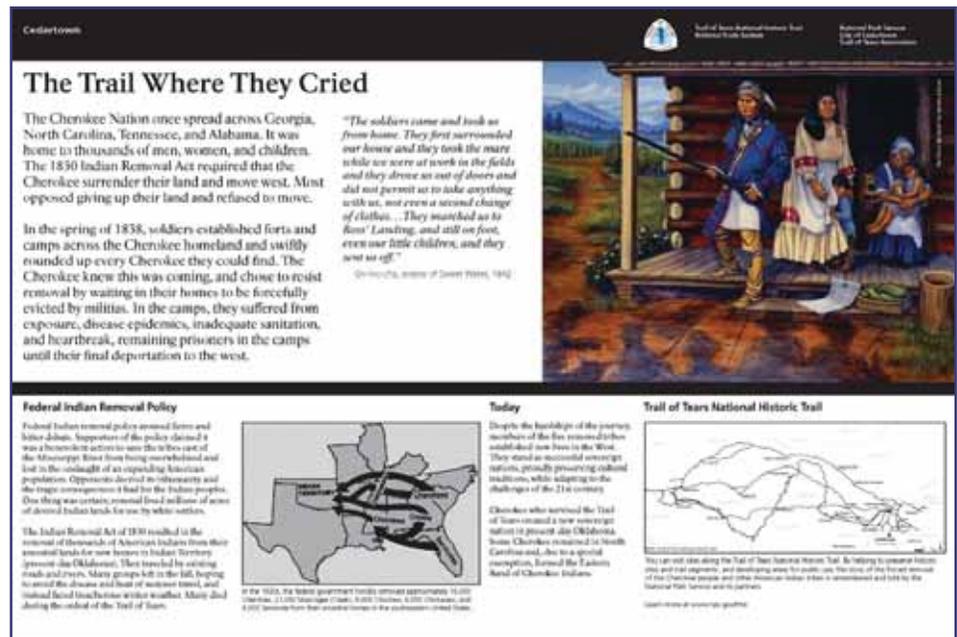
The waysides and signs were made possible by the National Park Service and were developed in collaboration with independent scholar and historian Sarah Hill, artist Dorothy Sullivan, NPS interpretive specialist Carol S. Clark, NPS landscape architect Steve Burns, local

counties and governments, and the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association.

Clark said it often seems that projects like these “take forever to complete.” There’s a reason for that, she said.

National Park Service will take to develop exhibits for trail sites.

“Waysides” are low profile exhibits that are located outdoors and close to the features they interpret, Clark explained. “Most of



This is the context panel for the Cedartown, Georgia, exhibits, which will be dedicated at a ceremony on April 19.

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“While waysides seem to be simple content and design, those of you who have worked with National Trails Intermountain Region staff on exhibits quickly discovered that telling a big story in 90 words is extremely difficult,” said Clark. “Let’s walk through the exhibit process using Cedartown as an example.”

She said it is important to share more information about the process, so that stakeholders will know the steps the

the interpretive media you see along the Trail of Tears NHT are waysides,” she said. “Consider the benefits of waysides above other media in our trail situation: they are available 24/7, they are low-tech yet convey meaningful stories, and they foster direct interaction between the visitor and the resource.”

The presence of that exhibit, whether people spend three seconds or three

See **CEDARTOWN**, page 8

Trail of Tears Association President's Message

There have been many accomplishments along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail this last year. These were due to the hard work of the chapters and their members, along with the help of the National Park Service.

Two of these accomplishments



photo courtesy of Cherokee Nation
Jack D. Baker, president of the Trail of Tears Association

ments were seen during our annual conference in Illinois. We saw the large number of trail signs that were erected to mark the Trail in southern Illinois. We also saw the interpretative panels that have been placed at Mantle Rock in northern Kentucky, along with the Trail segment that had been cleared so that the actual Trail can be traversed in that area. These were only two examples of the progress that was made last year to interpret and mark the Trail. I commend all of our members and the National Park Service for their hard work to see that all of the various projects were completed. Many other projects are under way, and I look forward to their completion.

The "Remember the Removal" bike ride by youth from the Cherokee Nation will be

made once again early this summer. They will be joined by youth from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Many of you hosted the cyclists as they came through your area. I am sure that they will once again appreciate your help.

I would also like to voice my commitment to work with the other tribal nations to mark their routes, whether this involves working with Congress to add their removal routes to the National Trail System, or simply helping with interpretation and marking of their routes. I look forward to working with them.

Jack D. Baker

National Trails System Office Superintendent's Message

I am very excited to say that in the last year the National Park Service and the Trail of Tears Association together have made great progress in meeting our shared strategic goal of increasing the "visibility" on the ground of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Nowhere was this more notable than in the field events in Kentucky and Illinois during the most recent Trail of Tears Association symposium in Metropolis. For those of you who were able to attend, you joined in the dedications of the trail retracement experience at Mantle Rock in Livingston County, Kentucky and the Original Route signage in Pope County, Illinois. Both events were well attended and received outstanding media coverage. The events were made that much more memorable by the attendance of Principal Chief Chad Smith, who spoke eloquently at both sites. At Mantle Rock, we also had the opportunity to remember TOTA Kentucky director and Association charter member Beverly Baker. Beverly had worked so hard to make the Mantle Rock development a reality, and her recent passing was and is a severe loss to the trail community.

Signing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail continues to be the most effective, efficient, and accessible way to increase the Trail's visibility to the American public,

and we are continuing to focus a good deal of our energy and resources in helping you to sign the Trail and Trail sites in your communities. Signing activities have been occurring all along the Trail, and due in particular to two notable projects with the Georgia chapter and the Alabama chapter, we expect the TOTA sign fund will be exhausted by the end of this year. However, despite the tight fiscal restraints we are encountering, the Trails office should be able to put some additional funds into some select local projects in 2012.

As you have seen from previous newsletters, we have developed sign standards that provide a consistent look and feel across the Trail of Tears, and are meant to facilitate the signing effort. To help you in this process, we are



Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the National Trails System - Intermountain Region

adding a major new component to our webpage (www.nps.gov/trte). Not only will it present an introduction for travelers to identify signs on the Trail of Tears, but it will also include a sophisticated yet easy-to-use sign plan program that will actually enable you at home at a computer workstation to develop your own sign plan that you can present to your local highway authority or state department of transportation for approval. (You can find more information about the sign plan web pages in the article on page 3.) Remember that use of the Trail of Tears sign standards, which include the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail logo, requires NPS approval, so be sure to contact our office if you are interested in pursuing plan development and signing in your area. Also, if you are interested in funding your project through the TOTA sign fund, contact your Association headquarters for fund availability. Close and early collaboration and communication with the NPS and TOTA in this effort will often lead to the success of your signing effort. We will talk more about this in future newsletters, but for now, keep up the great work and I'll see you on the Trail!

Aaron Mahr

Trail of Tears Association Executive Director's Message

The office has been very busy since the October conference in Illinois. The biggest change has been the departure of Ashley Toler as the administrative project specialist. Ashley left in February to take a full-time position with another company. However, I am happy to report that I just hired a new employee.

Alexis Thompson will begin her work with TOTA on April 18th. She will be working from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. She comes to us all the way from California. She is a newlywed whose husband's work brought them to central Arkansas last year. For the last eight years, Alexis has worked as an interior designer, and in her spare time she makes handmade jewelry. Once moving to Arkansas, she



Alexis Thompson will begin work as the administrative project specialist for TOTA on April 18th.

wanted to try her hand at something new that could provide her a little more stability and continuity yet still utilize her creative skills. I think Alexis is going to make a great addition to the office! Starting April 18th, you can reach Alexis by calling her at TOTAadmin@arindianctr.org.

The North Carolina chapter and the TOTA office are already busy working on the 16th Annual TOTA Conference. The conference is scheduled for October 3 – 6, 2011, in Cherokee, North Carolina. It will take place in conjunction with Cherokee's Fall Festival. You can find more information about reservations on the page insert, and you can read more about the chapter's plans in its report on page 4.

For those of you who have been wanting to request sign funding, I have learned through recent discussions with the National Park Service that our sign fund will be replenished starting October 1, 2011. All sign fund requests received before that date will be held for approval at that



Jerra Quinton, executive director of the Trail of Tears Association

time. If you know of a site that needs signage, contact Steve Burns from the National Park Service first to see if your project is appropriate for this fund and to come up with a sign plan. Once Steve has approved your project and the sign plan has been developed, Steve will send me a request for funding. You can reach Steve at (505) 988-6737.

Soon, a chapter capacity building fund will be available for chapters to utilize to pay for meeting expenses. There will be requirements for these meetings in

order for them to qualify for funding. This chapter capacity building fund is specifically for chapter meetings that will enhance the chapter members' understanding of the roles of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Trails Intermountain Region of the National Park Service in supporting the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. These meetings will also provide some type of training, such as how to do research on the Trail, GIS mapping the segments of the Trail in your area, grant proposal writing, etc. Information will be given to chapter presidents soon on how they can take advantage of this opportunity.

If you have articles you would like featured in future issues of this newsletter, please send those to me at TOTA@arindianctr.org. Please send photos with your articles, along with captions and credits.

Jerra Quinton

Sign Plan "How-to" Now Available Online

by Aaron Mahr
NTIR, National Park Service

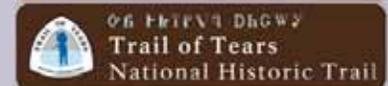
The National Park Service's National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) office has launched a new web page on www.nps.gov/trte that will help partners "sign" a section of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The "How To Create Your Sign Plan" web pages will take you step by step through the process of how to use a KMZ file in Google Earth to find and mark locations for road signs. These signs represent the sign standards NTIR has been working on so visitors can identify the Trail of Tears across nine states. The web pages will explain each sign in detail, for use and understanding. In signing a section of the Trail, you will work closely with NTIR staff who will be available throughout the process to make it go as smoothly as possible.

To visit the "How To Create Your Sign Plan" web pages, go to www.nps.gov/trte,

then "Park Management," then "Our Partners," and finally "How To Create Your Sign Plan." Below are some of the signs you can work with the NTIR to create for the Trail in your area.



Site Identification
Entrance Sign



Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Oklahoma

The fall meeting of the Oklahoma chapter was held Saturday, October 23, 2010, at the community room located in back of the Restaurant of the Cherokees in Tahlequah. It was announced during the business meeting that the following officers were re-elected: Curtis Rohr, president; Marybelle Chase, vice-president; and Betty Starr Barker, secretary/treasurer. Jeri Wood was elected to serve on the board of the chapter. The guest speaker during the meeting was Carey Tilley, director of the Cherokee Heritage Center at Park Hill.

The research team of the Oklahoma chapter has completed the organization, scanning, and digitizing of the documents that were obtained during the 2006-2010 research trips to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The originals of these documents are located in Record Group 217-United States Treasury-Indian Accounts at the National Archives. The research team members are Jack Baker, Curtis Rohr, Ed and Gwen Henshaw, and Marybelle Chase. The research team has sent the entire collection to the Sequoyah Research Center at Little Rock, Arkansas. Dan Littlefield and his staff have begun to place some of the documents on the SRC website (<http://ualr.edu/sequoyahcenter>) where they may be viewed. Researchers may want to check the website often as more documents are added.

On Saturday, April 30th, the Oklahoma chapter will have its spring meeting at the Will Rogers Memorial and Museum in Claremore. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m., in the Museum Theater. The featured speaker will be Jay Hannah, a Cherokee Nation citizen. In addition, there will be several noted authors in attendance with books for sale. The Memorial is also hosting "Cowboy Trade Days" on the grounds this same date.

North Carolina

The North Carolina chapter has been busy planning the program for the forthcoming national TOTA conference, which will be held in Cherokee, North Carolina, during

North Carolina (continued)

the first week in October. In addition to the activities that are scheduled for the conference, those attending will have the opportunity to attend the Fall Fair following a reception at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. The Fall Fair is an event that has been taking place in Cherokee for more than one hundred years. It features a number of traditional activities, including a stick ball game, blow gun competition, and traditional dancing. Vendors also provide several types of traditional food, including bean bread and chestnut bread. There will be a scheduled visit to the Blankenship

North Carolina (continued)

Carolina. The chapter plans to provide those attending the national conference with an extensive list of places they may be interested in visiting while in the area. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is adjacent to the town of Cherokee, and there are several places in the area where traditional crafts are sold.

In other news, several members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians will be participating in the Cherokee Nation's "Remember the Removal" bicycle ride that follows much of the Trail from Georgia into



photo by Lamar Marshall

These wayside exhibits, located at a rest area near Andrews, North Carolina, is an example of several signs that tour participants at this year's conference will see.

Education and Research Center at the Museum. This facility has extensive resources for research on a number of Trail of Tears topics. Many of their resources have been digitized and are available online.

Also scheduled for the conference is a bus tour to several sites that were part of the original Trail, culminating at the Mission Farm site near Murphy. The bus tour will include several of the signs the chapter has erected to inform both visitors to the area and local people about the events that took place during the Removal in western North

Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The chapter is assisting in providing funding for those participants.

The next chapter meeting will be held on April 16th, at 2:00 p.m., at the Valley Pool and Wellness Center, located on Connaheeta Street in Murphy. Lamar Marshall will present a program titled "Cherokee Trails in Western North Carolina." He has done extensive research on this topic, and will include maps showing the locations of many of the trails he has identified.

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

North Carolina (continued)

The North Carolina chapter is excited about hosting the 2011 Trail of Tears Association national conference, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

Kentucky

The late Beverly Baker, former Kentucky chapter president, would be so proud! On January 20th, the commissioner of Kentucky State Parks, Gerry Van der Meer, signed the cooperative agreement with the National Park Service identifying Columbus-Belmont State Park as a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. This site is located in Columbus where the Bengé Detachment camped and crossed the Mississippi in November 1838. Being right on the river, this site also witnessed the two Creek and four Cherokee water detachments. About 23 years after Removal, this site became a Civil War Battlefield.

Ron Cooper, who is hiking the Trail of Tears, spent several days in Kentucky. Chapter member Ellis Rouse hiked the entire Kentucky route with him. He visited all the Kentucky sites with the exception of the Columbus-Belmont site.

The chapter's project now is in Paducah, working on water routes. There was a supply depot there, and the chapter has obtained research showing where at least two of the water detachments stopped. The research proves that one of the Creek detachments camped on an island out from Paducah.

The chapter's next meeting will be April 30, 2011, at 1:30 p.m., at Columbus-Belmont State Park.

Arkansas

The Arkansas chapter hosted its annual membership meeting on September 11, 2010, in Fayetteville at the Town Center. The program theme was "We Remember." The Cherokee National Youth Choir presented an outstanding program, and the chapter wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to

Arkansas (continued)

Mary Kay Henderson, Kathy Sierra, and all the young people who participated. If you have not already experienced the Youth Choir you can find out more about them at www.youthchoir.cherokee.org. Troy Wayne Poteete, vice president of the Trail of Tears Association, also presented a moving message on "Why We Remember." Todd Enlow, group leader of the Cherokee Nation Leadership office, showed an interesting presentation of the "Remember the Removal" Bike Ride. The keynote speaker was Terry Eastin, executive director of the Mississippi River Trail. Terry presented a great program regarding the power of partnerships for advancing the cause of trails and historic preservation.

In September and October 2010, the chapter worked with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism to get the Indian Removal Routes represented on the new Arkansas State Heritage Trail. These can be viewed at www.arkansasheritagetrails.com.

In late October 2010, John McLarty was able to attend the National Trails Intermountain Region Mapping and Database Workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico, hosted by the National Park Service. John Canella, Aaron Mahr, and Steve Burns were representing the National Historic Trails Intermountain Region office and they did a great job with the workshop.

The work on the chapter's "Ten on the Trail" interpretive panel project is going well, and the chapter expects to see many sign unveiling events in 2011. The chapter's full 2011 schedule of programs is yet to be determined, but check the website at www.artota.org for updates.

Alabama

The Alabama chapter met on January 22, 2011, at Hunt Hall in Fort Payne. The board meeting was very productive in addressing a large number of issues, one of the most important being Mike Wren's

Alabama (continued)

work on updating the chapter bylaws. A big thanks goes to Mike for his perseverance in reworking the bylaws to make them relative to the Alabama chapter. The board position vacated by Ellen Mussleman, when she moved to Qatar, was filled by Shannon Sloan by unanimous vote of the board members present. A membership meeting followed the board meeting with a program by archaeologist and board member Sharon Freeman on her excavations at Fort Payne. Sharon has excavated approximately 5000 artifacts from the Fort Payne Cabin Site. Sharon put the excavation in perspective when she stated that she never expected the excavation to go so deeply and to find so much at the site. It is amazing to discover so many artifacts, since metal detecting and artifact hunting has certainly been an ongoing activity at the site for a number of years.

April 30, 2011, is the date of the next board meeting and membership meeting. It will be held at the University of Alabama in the Williams Collection Library of the Amelia Gorgas Library. The Gorgas Library is located on Quadrangle of the UA campus. Please refer to an article written by Alabama chapter board member, Shannon Sloan, describing the Williams Collection (page 6). A new avenue of research is being opened by access to this collection. Please find the time to come to this meeting because it will be well worth your time.

A date has been set for the planning charette for Tuscumbia Landing. How exciting this is! Steve Burns, Carol Clark, and Patrick Johnston of the National Trails System of the National Park Service will be arriving in Tuscumbia on July 18 to work with representatives of the city of Sheffield and other stakeholders. It is a long-awaited project.

Updates from the Trail of Tears Association state chapters and their partners will routinely appear in future issues of *Trail News*. Contact Jerra Quinton at TOTA@arindianctr.org, or at (501) 666-9032, to submit information and photographs.

Calendar of Events

April 16

North Carolina Chapter Meeting
2 pm, Murphy, NC
Valley Pool and Wellness Center
See chapter report for more information.

April 19

Cedartown Wayside Panel Dedication
Cedartown, GA
Big Spring Park
See front page article for more information.

April 30

Alabama Chapter Board Meeting
10 am, Tuscaloosa, AL
University of Alabama
See chapter report for more information.

Alabama Chapter Meeting
11 am, Tuscaloosa, AL
University of Alabama
See chapter report for more information.

Kentucky Chapter Meeting
1:30 pm, Columbus, KY
Columbus-Belmont State Park
Contact: Alice Murphree (see p. 7)

Oklahoma Chapter Meeting
10:00 am, Claremore, OK
Will Rogers Memorial & Museum
See chapter report for more information.

May 14

Georgia Chapter Meeting
Canton, GA
Rock Bark (Cherokee Co. Hist. Soc.)
Contact: Jeff Bishop (see p. 7)

July 4

Deadline for making room reservations at Harrah's for TOTA conference under group rate

August 31

Deadline for sign-up with Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism Group for cultural tour to TOTA conference and Fall Festival in Cherokee, North Carolina

October 3 – 6

2011 TOTA Conference & Symposium
Cherokee, NC
Harrah's Casino and Hotel

Eastern Band of Cherokee's Fall Festival
Cherokee, NC

Alabama Chapter to Explore New Library Collection

by Shannon Sloan, Faculty Librarian
University of Alabama

For its April 30th chapter meeting, the Alabama chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will meet at the new A. S. Williams III Collection located in the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. There will be a brief board meeting at 10:00 a.m., followed by a chapter meeting at 11:00 a.m., when Nancy Dupree, interim curator, will give a brief presentation to attendees as to the history of the collection and the research possibilities it opens for Southern historical research. Dupree has been assembling materials of interest for specific Trail of Tears research to present to the chapter.

Williams, an insurance executive from Birmingham, Alabama, assembled this collection of Americana over a 40-year period. In 2010, he presented the collection to the University of Alabama Libraries to be used as a non-circulating research collection. The collection boasts some 20,000 books and pamphlets, as well as an impressive collection of letters, diaries, newspapers, business records, original art, and over 12,000 images in the photography archive. Since the collection is non-circulating, researchers must travel to Tuscaloosa to access the collection. It would be in the researcher's best interest to contact the staff in advance of a research project to check availability of the collection on specific dates and to make staff aware of specific research goals. Staff is currently working to catalog the collection, but due to the vast number of materials, this will take some time. With a little advanced notice, staff members can assist in identifying, locating, and pulling materials that would help with research goals and make the most of available time. Please note that with the projects the library staff is currently handling, all materials may not yet be available.

According to the Collection's website, "the Southern Indian is well represented, with a number of scholarly works and ethnological publications. A significant

number of rare titles are held in this area, including first editions of James Adair's *History of the American Indians* (London 1775), William Bartram's *Travel Through Carolina, Georgia...Florida* (Philadelphia, 1791), John C. Reid's *Reid's Tramp...*



Scholarly works and ethnological publications can be found on Southern Indians in this collection.

Through Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Sonora and California (Selma, 1858), and a copy of the first book published in Alabama, Henry Hitchcock's *Alabama Justice of the Peace* (Cahawba, 1822)." The map collection contains important early maps of the state of Alabama as well as various counties, cities, and towns, and the manuscript collection contains original land grant documents of considerable interest to Trail of Tears research.

Publication dates range from between the late 17th century and 2009. There is a strong emphasis on U. S. presidents, the history and culture of the South, and Alabama history. Categories in the Williams Collection include: Books and Pamphlets, Presidential Collection, American Civil War, Southern History, Southern Literature, History of the Republic, Photographic Archive, Manuscript Collection, Prints and Lithographs, Map Collection, Art Collection, Financial History of the U. S., Black Americana, and Reference Collection. For details visit the website at www.lib.ua.edu/williamscollection. Contact information is also available through this site. After introduction to the collection, chapter members can follow up on disseminating information to other TOTA chapters on this new collection and the research opportunities it finds there.

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

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

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

Certified Sites

Andrew Ross House, AL
Arcadia Valley Campground, MO
Audubon Acres, TN
Berry's Ferry and John Berry Homesite, KY
Big Spring, KY
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN
Campground Cemetery, IL
Cedartown Cherokee Removal Camp, GA
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA
City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR
Columbus-Belmont State Park, KY
Crabb-Abbot Farm, IL
Delta Cultural Center, AR
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR
Fort Gibson, OK
Fort Payne Cabin Site, AL
Golconda Riverfront, IL
Gray's Inn, KY
Hair Conrad Cabin, TN

The Hermitage, TN
Historic Road from Ross to Ridge's, GA
James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
John Ross House, GA
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
Laughlin Park, MO
Mantle Rock, KY
Maramec Spring Park/Massey Iron Works, MO
McGinnis Cemetery Trail Segment, IL
Mount Nebo State Park, AR
Murrell Home, OK
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC
New Echota State Historic Site, GA
Petit Jean State Park, AR
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR
Port Royal State Park, TN
Radford Farm, KY
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
Rockdale Plantation/George Adair Home, GA
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN
Snelson-Brinker Cabin, MO
Star City Ranch Trail Segment, MO
Tennessee River Museum, TN
Toler Farm Trail Segment, IL
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY
Trail of Tears State Park, MO
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL
Tuscumbia Landing, AL
Vann House Historic Site, GA
Village Creek State Park, AR
Wagner Farm Trail Segment, IL
Waterloo Landing, AL
Willstown Mission Cemetery, AL

Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites

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

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NPS Compiles TOTA Members' Research Efforts

by Frank Norris
NTIR Office, NPS

Since 2000, TOTA members have worked with the National Park Service on a number of excellent Trail of Tears historical projects, most of which were funded

through the agency's Challenge Cost-share Program. Many of these are excellent "state-of-the-art" reports, but until now few people could read these because paper copies of these were scarce. To make these reports more freely available, the NPS's Intermountain Region trails office has

placed these reports online – and more specifically, on the Cooperative Research portion of the History & Culture section

See **RESEARCH EFFORTS**, page 14

minutes looking at it, immediately raises awareness, said Clark.

“Waysides, like historical markers, indicate that something important happened at that place,” she said. “It might take five walk-bys or nine drive-bys, but it gets noticed. It becomes one piece of a larger plan—spreading the word that the Trail of Tears happened here, in this very community.”

With the Cedartown exhibits going into the ground this spring, it is appropriate to take a look back at the sequence of events to highlight how the process can take years of participation, she said. “You will also learn why wayside projects at removal camp sites

will go more quickly in the future,” said Clark.

In 2005, Dr. Sarah Hill completed a research report, funded as a Challenge Cost-share project, entitled “Cherokee Removal: Forts along the Trail of Tears.”

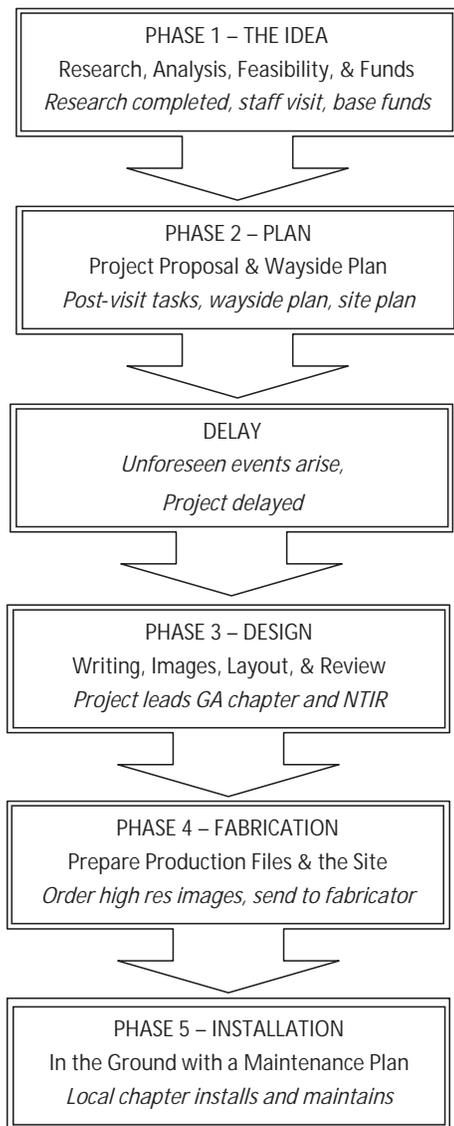
“This report allowed Jeff Bishop, president of the Georgia chapter, to narrow down the precise location of the camp site, and he made a report to Dr. Hill and NTIR in 2006,” she said.

The following year, Hill and Bishop approached Superintendent Aaron Mahr about certification. Due to an ongoing feasibility study about the Trail of Tears, certification was not an option at that time.



photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop
Larry Odom, Cedartown Commission chairman, and Jeff Bishop, TOTA Georgia chapter president, proudly present one of the sign mock-ups for the Cedartown site.

Cedartown Wayside Process Flow Chart



“When planning an exhibit project, be prepared for a long timeline, at least two years if you already have your research completed. If research is involved add at least another year.”

Interpretation, however, could be planned for the site. While the exhibit drafts were desired for the 2007 TOTA conference, there was not adequate time. Trails staff did, however, visit the site that fall. Site planning was done as part of the initial location exploration to complement future interpretive work. Recommendations were made and tasks were assigned. Bishop and Hill worked with Frank Norris, NTIR historian, to draft text for the exhibits. Funds for this project were promised from NTIR’s base funds.

“Timing is everything, and in this case the Cedartown project was a victim of trails staff workload and retirements,” said Clark. “Nothing more happened with the project until late 2009, when a new interpretive specialist was hired.”

The pace picked up—the research materials, text drafts, and recommendations were put into action. By the spring of 2010, the initial design and text drafts were completed. During the winter of 2011, the

exhibit panels were reviewed and approved for production. Fabrication of the exhibit bases and interpretive panels takes approximately two months. The exhibits will be in the ground this spring.

“Stepping back for a moment, let’s look at the flow chart. You can see that the timeline described above matches the steps in the flow chart,” Clark said.

This project, the first of the removal camp sites to receive exhibits, required a few extra steps.

“The context panel text, general to removal camps, had to be crafted with the intention of being meaningful and applicable to all future removal site projects,” she said. “Now removal camp exhibit projects will move much more quickly, as we already have one of the panels prepared.”

The length of time required for the project, from its initial idea in 2005 to installing the exhibits, was six years. A couple of those years were lost due to limitations in the trails office, but we are still left with the project taking four years, she said.

“This experience at Cedartown teaches us about the process,” she said. “When planning an exhibit project, be prepared for a long timeline, at least two years if you already have your research completed. If

research is involved add at least another year.

“Recognize that things happen—the researcher can’t find the primary materials, the designer retires, or the desired place of installation isn’t available,” she said. “Be prepared to discover that a wayside exhibit may not be the best interpretive media option for your story or situation. It may be determined that you need something else, like a brochure.”

More than 200 Cherokees once lived along the waterways in this area. In 1838, they were driven out by state militia volunteers....

There are other times when it all falls together—research is completed, partners have drafted the text of the story, the context panel already exists, and trails staff is able to begin work in a reasonable amount of time.

“No matter what, we want to help you tell the story and we look forward to new opportunities to work with you!” Clark said.

(Want more in depth information about the process? Visit this National Park Service website: www.nps.gov/hfc/products/waysides/index.htm, including: www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/waysides/we-process.pdf)

Following this long process, the waysides and signs are already in production and will soon be shipped to Cedartown city offices for assembly. (Go to <http://trailofthetrail.blogspot.com/2010/08/driving-tour-trail-of-tears-from.html> to learn more about where these signs will be placed.)

The 1838 Cedar Town Camp was the southernmost military post established for the forced removal of the Cherokee from Georgia. More than 200 Cherokees once lived along the waterways in this area. In 1838, they were driven out by state militia volunteers who had been mustered into the U. S. Army. In April, the post quartermaster brought supplies and equipment here, and on May 24th, Isaac Vincent’s company of 80 men arrived to set up the camp. Two days later, they started rounding up all Cherokees who lived within 10 miles. Day after day they captured Cherokees until they had 217 men, women, and children. The prisoners were fed army rations of bacon and hard bread. Some Cherokees were so sick the company had to build

a makeshift hospital for them. In June, a company detachment marched all the prisoners who could walk to deportation camps in Tennessee. A few days later, the remaining soldiers put the sick and elderly Cherokees into army wagons and sent them to the Tennessee camps, as well.



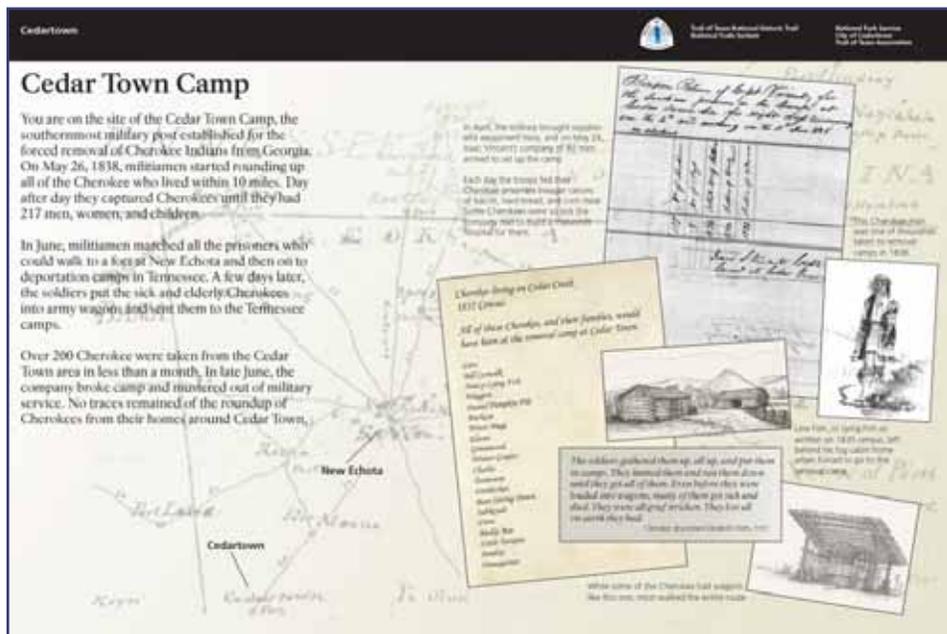
Carol Clark is the interpretive specialist from NTIR who designed the exhibits for Cedartown.

According to the 1835 Cherokee Census, Cherokees living along Cedar Creek, in and around Cedar Town, included Guts, Bill Cornsilk, Nancy Lying Fish, Waggon, Daniel Pumpkin Pile, Buckeye, House Bugg, Elooe, Greenwood, Winter Grapes, Charles, Toonowee, Catekeskee, Bear Sitting Down, Sahkeyah, Crow, Rinkle But, Little Tarapin, Sunday, Oonequonee, and their families.

“Our many thanks go out to the folks at the NPS, to Dorothy Sullivan, to Sarah Hill, to Jack Baker and Jerra Quinton, to Linda Baker and the other Trail of Tears Association board members, and to the governments of Polk and Floyd Counties and the cities of Cedartown and Cave Spring, for making this possible,” said Jeff Bishop, president of the Georgia chapter of TOTA. “Without all of these people working together, this day would not be possible.”

“We’re still working on the times and other specifics for the unveiling ceremony,” he said, but expects it to take place mid-day.

The Georgia chapter’s vice president, Leslie Thomas, is in charge of the arrangements for the April 19th dedication of Cedartown and its new wayside exhibits. She can be reached at aeriehollow@ellijay.com.



This is the site-specific panel for the Cedartown, Georgia, exhibits. A context panel will also be placed at this site.

Excavations Progress at Fort Payne, Alabama, Cabin Site

by Sharon Freeman
TOTA Alabama Chapter

Excavations have been underway at “The Cabin Site” in Fort Payne, Alabama. The team of diggers and sifters are all volunteers from the general area, and even though the work is not easy, we have had a great deal of fun and learned a lot.

The site is likely associated with the Benge Detachment that departed Alabama during the Cherokee Indian removal of 1838. A log cabin possibly constructed prior to 1830 remained intact on the property until 1942 when it was demolished. Today, all that remains of the cabin is a 16½ feet high stone chimney and a rock outline of the foundation. The cabin site is now listed with the National Park Service as a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. In terms of the integrity of subsurface deposits, the site has been compromised by disturbances and the passage of time, yet the site remains a significant source of history on a local, regional, and national level.

Controversy over who owned the property during the time leading up to and during Removal continues. I do not anticipate the current thesis research will answer all of

the lingering questions regarding the site. However, I do look forward to gaining a more complete record of possible activities, possible lifestyles of early occupants, and how this site is significant to Cherokee Indian removal and to the subsequent colonizers that took over after Indian removal was complete.

Central to the cabin site is a stone chimney that still stands looming over a foundation outline of rocks. There are five resources to the cabin site today:

Resource 1

A 16½ feet high chimney (unknown date of construction; strongly associated with Cherokee removal)

Resource 2

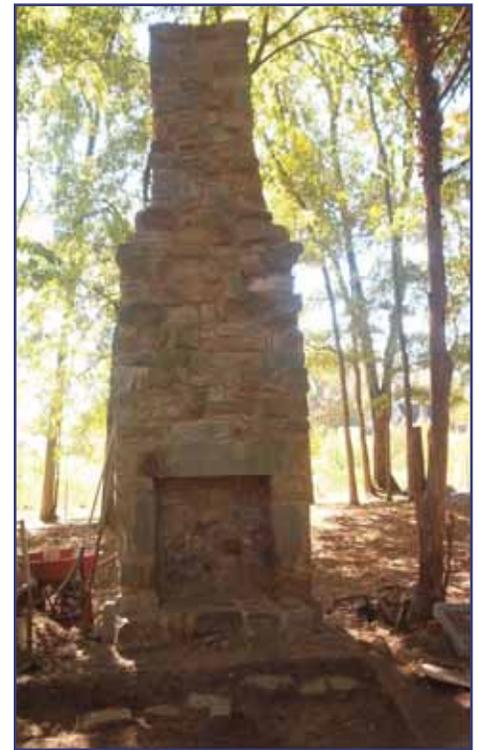
A cabin foundation rock outline (unknown date of construction; strongly associated with Cherokee removal)

Resource 3

A 22-foot deep, stacked stone well (unknown date of construction; possibly associated with Cherokee removal)

Resource 4

Remnants of a privy (not associated



The cabin's chimney and rock outline of the foundation are the only parts of this certified site that still remain.

with Removal and an unknown date of construction)

Resource 5

Remnants of a small engine repair or electronics shop (1930s-1940s; not associated with Cherokee removal)



This cabin was standing during the Benge Detachment's departure from Alabama in 1838. This photo was taken sometime before 1942 when the structure was demolished. Today, only the chimney and rock outline of the cabin's foundation are left.

Shovel tests and test units were excavated for cultural materials in and around the rock cabin foundation outline and a privy, in addition to exploring a 22-foot stacked stone well. Recovered cultural materials date from the early 1800s to modern times. To date, more than 5,000 artifacts have been recovered, and include over 1,000 glass fragments, around 15 intact bottles and jars, over 1,000 ceramic fragments with no intact vessels, and over 700 metal artifacts. Additionally, we have excavated numerous unidentified animal bones, 600 lithic flakes, and over 30 fragments of chipped stone tools. Unfortunately, we cannot establish a specific prehistoric component from the lithic and chipped stone tool fragments excavated from the site. Although the vast majority

EXCAVATIONS PROGRESS (continued from left)

of recovered artifacts are from 1860-1940, there is a small amount of artifacts that were in circulation prior to and during Cherokee removal. The chimney itself is a wonderfully intriguing artifact.

Intensive research of many artifacts is ongoing, especially of two lead seals excavated in the cabin foundation. Lead seals were in widespread usage during the time of Removal for textile transportation and often were used as merchant identification.



These are two of the lead seals found at the cabin site. The left lead seal reads "37?" and an "F". The right lead seal reads "437" and an "F".

Sixty-six buttons have been excavated with several exhibiting a great deal of importance. Beginning with an eagle button, we see an eagle depicted with an olive branch in one claw and a serpent in the other. The eagle button could be as early as the late 1820s. Metal buttons recovered from the cabin site are similar to buttons recovered from a site believed to be Fort Lovell. An approximate date has not been determined. The word "London" is visible on one of the other metal buttons, and the wording on the other two buttons is not readable. If anyone has any



Metal buttons were excavated from the site. On the bottom row, left, is the eagle button. On the bottom row, right, the word "LONDON" scrolls around the button's inner circle.



The top row of buttons are wood; the middle and bottom row of buttons are shell.

information on similar metal buttons please contact me. Other buttons include shell and wooden buttons.

Ceramics from the cabin site date from around 1820 to modern times. Among the earthenware, we find transfer printed ceramic decorations, which were very popular beginning with the introduction of blue transfer printing in the 1750s, with dark blue introduced in 1818 in America. By the late 1820s, red, green, black, and brown transfer prints had been introduced to the American market, of which all are seen in the cabin site materials. We have a variety of edge treatments and edge decoration patterns as well. Unfortunately, we cannot say definitively when the ceramics were deposited at the cabin site; we can only surmise they were deposited sometime after their introduction to the market.

We excavated a corroded key that has not been identified. We also have a possible piece of a flintlock gun. Both artifacts are promising, yet they require additional research. Another interesting metal artifact was collected from the surface—a very simple, 22-inch long iron fire poker.

Artifacts recovered from the stacked stone well generated a lot of excitement. They were not only interesting, but they were difficult to obtain to say the least. Artifacts were retrieved from the well by lowering large hooks and lassos tethered to a sturdy steel tripod. Several large limestone blocks were pulled from the well and had obvious burn stains and carving marks. These may be the original blocks to the fireplace having been tossed down the well at some

point in the past. The date of construction of the well is unknown at this time.

I am in awe of the depth of determination of members from the Alabama chapter of the Trail of Tears Association to the preservation of removal sites, and I deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers that have assisted in excavations and research at the Cabin Site. Landmarks of DeKalb County, which owns the property, kindly opened its doors to me and allowed this research to take place by allowing the archaeological testing



During excavations at the cabin site, these ceramic artifacts were unearthed.

of the cabin site to develop into a project composed entirely of excited volunteers. I especially wish to thank Gail and Marty King, Larry Smith, and Ben Tyler. I also want to thank Olivia Baxter of Landmarks for being a tremendous resource.

Comments are welcome! I can be reached at sfreman1@memphis.edu.



These are metal artifacts found at the cabin site.

Rockdale Plantation Joins Certified Sites List; Possibly Owned by Treaty Signer

by Jeff Bishop
TOTA Georgia Chapter

The Rockdale Plantation in Oakman, Georgia, joins Georgia's growing list of certified sites on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The historic estate dates back to the early 19th century, and appears to have been originally owned by George W. Adair as part of the Salequoyah community. Adair was infamous for being one of the signers of the Treaty of New Echota, which ceded Cherokee lands to the United States. The estate is unique in that it includes not only the largest log home in the state of Georgia, but also a log kitchen, a "traveler's rest," an unpaved section of the original Sally Hughes Road, and intact fields.

"It's like a time portal to the early 19th century," said Jeff Bishop, president of the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. "It's really a unique site, untouched by development. I don't think I've seen anything else like it in Georgia."

Cherokee pottery and even a syllabary stamp used for wax seals have been found on the site, which is owned by Kerry and Sue Hix, log cabin restoration experts.

"The three existing buildings are constructed primarily from logs that are



Clues to the original extent of the log building can be found imbedded in the Rockdale Plantation structure. Owner Kerry Hix shows visible signs where the house was expanded from its original 1½ story configuration.

hewn on all four sides," said Sue Hix. "Some logs were in such bad condition that they had to be replaced, but my husband Kerry knows which logs are the originals. During the restoration, about 85 percent of the time the walls did not have to be taken

apart—Kerry just jacked the walls up, when necessary."

The Big House

"Kerry believes the Big House started out as a one-and-a-half story log cabin, then later evolved into the common dogtrot style. He thinks the original log room could have been built as early as the 1700s," said Hix.

"Each log room of the Big House is 18' square. Kerry has always thought the southernmost 18' x 18', one-and-a-half story log room on the Big House was built first. Both of the main log rooms in the Big House are 18' x 18'," she said.

The written history of the Rockdale Plantation that was prepared in the 1970s, when the home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, states that the Cherokee portion of the Big House was built in 1785, but no one knows for certain. It was originally a one-and-a-half story log, dogtrot-style house.

"Kerry believes there was a later addition, post and beam style, that added a one room, one story addition onto the back of the dogtrot, facing what is now 411 highway," said Hix. "Kerry estimates that this addition was built very early, in approximately the 1820s to early 1830s."

The next additions to the big house raised the log height to a full two stories; Kerry Hix says he can tell this by the notching, which changes markedly at a specific point on the second floor. "Probably later, the post and beam on the rear of the Big House was added on top of the hewn post and beam out of sash sawn post and beam construction, making the house a full two stories, and this is what created the third floor," said Hix. This addition, Kerry believes, was done in the 1840s or 1850s.

The Log Cook House

The Log Cook House is approximately 18' x 46', and one story. The original Log Cook House reflects the same notching as the log



Kerry Hix, who has built and restored log cabins for decades, has seen business dwindle during the recent recession and will likely soon lose ownership of the Rockdale Plantation, which he has lovingly restored from the ruinous state in which he found it nearly two decades ago.

additions that raised the height of the Big House.

A little mystery to Kerry is the massive stone chimney in the Log Cook House, containing three fireplaces, which seems to match the first chimneys of the Big House. Kerry's thinking is that the Log Cook House is possibly Cherokee built, also.

"The two stone chimneys that are on the back of the Big House were at one time only one story, which tells Kerry they were Cherokee built, with the main part of the Big House being one-and-a-half story, then the one story post and beam addition across the back being one story," said Hix.

"The chimneys seem to be built by the same people. You can tell by looking at the stone work where later the one story chimneys were raised to match the same height on the log dogtrot, which is the front half of the Big House facing the original dirt Sally Hughes Road, which now serves as the driveway."

The Traveler's Rest

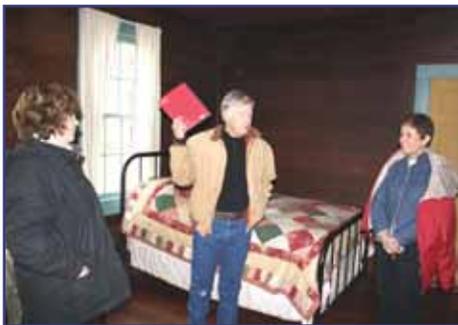
The Traveler's Rest house is hewn post and beam and could have also been built about the same time. The Traveler's Rest house is approximately 16' x 40', with an approximately 10' x 36' lean-to on the back.

There are two doors on the front, one that enters each room, and a grand stone

fireplace in the center which has a large firebox on each side. All the original heart pine paneling and ceilings have been decorated with “Native Cherokee” colors, as seen in the Chief Vann House interior, preserving the “warmth and coziness of the Traveler’s Rest,” Hix said.

The building, a one-time stagecoach stop described as “a one-story plain style building with shed porch and rear addition,” with tongue-and-groove siding, was said to be “in good condition” when the National Register of Historic Places application was completed in 1975. A number of signatures from Civil War soldiers—some of which are clearly dated—can be seen on the front of the building.

George W. Adair filed a claim (Claim from the Flint District; also 4th Board Claims #789) stating that on a “public road leading from Tenn to Ga” he had 88 acres of improved bottom land and 30 acres of improved upland for which he should be paid, and that he also should be paid for “use and occupation of a dwelling house, other out houses, stables, good loft on public road leading from Tenn to Ga as a stand 2 years 1836 etc.”



Sue and Kerry Hix show Peggy Stanfield and other Georgia chapter board members the “Traveler’s Rest,” which Treaty Party member George W. Adair filed a claim for in the early 19th century.

George W. Adair:

Testifies on oath he . . . improved land he owned and occupied in the old nation he claims rent for in the year after 1837; dwellings on road from Tenn he owned in 1836 and was prepared to entertain travelers and was valuable as a public



Kerry Hix has been working on restoring Rockdale Plantation for nearly two decades. The original log portion of the home is the southeast corner, shown here.

stand and worth the price charged; that others situated on the same road were allowed rent for the use and occupation of the dwellings and of the public stand as will appear on the records of the commissioners kept for that purpose; that he has never got compensation for the . . . claim or for any part thereof.

“I think this record of a claim filed by George W. Adair seeking compensation for a ‘public stand’ he constructed to ‘entertain travelers’ on the ‘road from Tenn,’ when taken with the other evidence from the 1835 Cherokee Census and the 1836 valuations, all builds a compelling case for Adair’s original ownership of the Rockdale Plantation,” said Bishop. “The preponderance of the evidence, it seems to me, weighs heavily in favor of this hypothesis.”

With the pottery and syllabary stamp found on the property, in addition to the improvements showing up on the original field notes by surveyors in 1832, there is little doubt the property and house was originally Cherokee, he said.

“It’s an exciting piece of property,” said Bishop. “Unfortunately, we may lose it soon. The Hixes may be forced into

bankruptcy and foreclosure by the time this newsletter appears—a tragic turn of events, considering the time and money the Hixes have invested to rehabilitate this property, and their eagerness to be a part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Kerry has saved more Cherokee structures across North Georgia than perhaps anyone else alive. A terrible chain of circumstances has led to this situation. I hope no matter what happens, this one-of-a-kind property can be saved and preserved for future generations.”

For more information about the Rockdale Plantation, please visit this link: <http://trailofthetrail.blogspot.com/search/label/Freeman-Hurt%20House>.



Among the Cherokee artifacts the Hixes have found at Rockdale Plantation is this syllabary stamp, which was originally used for a wax seal.

NPS Funds Georgia Fort Archaeology

by Jeff Bishop
TOTA Georgia Chapter

Ron Hobgood, who wrote his Master's thesis on Cherokee removal forts and who is overseeing the Georgia chapter's archaeology project on five Georgia fort sites, funded through the National Park Service Challenge Cost-share (CCS) program, has been at the likely Fort Means site in Floyd County, Georgia, this winter performing shovel tests. Last year, gradiometer and Ground Penetrating Radar work was performed at the site by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Fort Means served as the collection point for 467 Cherokee prisoners—including one who was killed trying to escape—in the spring of 1838.

“Ron has found a number of artifacts there that are from the right time period,” said Jeff Bishop, president of the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. “They're similar to what he found at the possible Fort Hoskins site at Spring Place a few years back.”



Archaeologist Ron Hobgood has spent a number of weekends at the likely site of Ft. Means in Floyd County, GA, and the excavations have proven to be productive.

“While not conclusive at this point, it is very promising,” Hobgood said. He found some cut nails, what appears to be a blade of some kind, a kettle fragment, and a number of other interesting pieces.

When you combine this with the patterns and features that turned up in the radiometric surveys the Georgia DOT

did at the site last year, it all looks more and more interesting. Hobgood is also investigating the sites of Fort Cumming, Fort Gilmer, Fort Hoskins, and Fort Buffington as a part of the CCS.

Captain John Means, who commanded 68 men from Fort Means, wrote to Colonel William Lindsay on May 22, 1838, a detailed list of the numbers of Indians and their residences in the area: 50 in cabins on the west side of Etowah on the Putnam plantation; another 30 in four cabins on the Williams plantation, 12 at Mr. Mann's

Fort Means served as the collection point for 467 Cherokee prisoners—including one who was killed trying to escape....

place, 25 at the Price plantation, 90 in 9 cabins at Major Wooly's—the list went on. “The above is as near the number of

RESEARCH EFFORTS

Continued from page 7

of the Trail of Tears NHT website (www.nps.gov/trte/historyculture/cooperative-research.htm).

Many Trail of Tears Association members will benefit from this information. The page pertaining to Alabama, for example, features an excellent, lengthy study about the various forts and camps that were established in 1838 during the early months of the removal period. Alabama has another detailed study on the Tuscumbia, Courtland, and Decatur, an early railroad that hauled two Cherokee detachments around the dangerous Muscle Shoals of the Tennessee River. Arkansas residents can learn about North Little Rock and the critical role that the larger metropolitan area played in the migrations of all five of the major southeastern Indian nations. Those interested in Georgia's Trail of Tears history will gain new insights about three major Cherokee leaders — Major Ridge, John Ridge, and John Ross — and their residences. Illinois historians will wish to immerse themselves in Kathy



In addition to a number of lithic-era remains, Hobgood has found cut nails, a knife blade, and other construction pieces from the Cherokee Removal time period (1838).

Indians as I could ascertain without an interpreter;” Means wrote. About “four-fifths of them are averse from emigrating until they hear from their Chief Ross and not even then until they are dispossessed. Yet I cannot believe from anything which I have discovered in any of them that they will offer any hostility.”

Fraily's extensive bibliography about the Trail of Tears in this state, and also about the archeological work done at the Camp Ground Church cemetery near Anna. Of interest to Missouri residents is the historical and archeological work done in the Springfield area, and more specifically at the Bell Tavern campsite south of town. Those with an interest in North Carolina will find much new information in Brett Riggs's report on the state's six “round-up” camps and the trails that the Cherokee followed on their trek west. If you are interested in Tennessee's Trail of Tears history, you will want to read about James Brown, a Cherokee residing in Ooltewah, and the struggle to preserve his removal-era house. Finally, all researchers will benefit from the work of a dedicated team from the Oklahoma chapter, who spent time during the summers of 2006 through 2010 to gather Trail of Tears-related information from the National Archives, duplicate it, and place it online for other researchers to use.

**Trail of Tears
National Historic Trail**



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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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