



Trail News

Commemorative Bicycle Tours Catch On with Two Other Tribes

Article by Jeff Bishop

Three years ago, Cherokee Nation Chief Chad Smith and a group of young bicyclists decided to reignite the “Remember the Removal” bicycle ride, retracing the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears. The first Remember the Removal ride was in 1984.

The ride was revived in 2009 and has become an annual event aimed at educating younger generations about the Trail of Tears. Sarah Holcomb has been along for every ride since then.

“I just really enjoy it,” she said as she prepared to leave from the New Echota State Historic Site. Her favorite site along

the way is Mantle Rock, she said, near where thousands of Cherokees camped while they waited for ice in the river to melt so they could continue their journey to the West.

Such rides commemorating the Indian removals of the early 19th century have been catching on with the other federally recognized tribes as well. On May 21 a number of citizens of the Choctaw Nation, along with one Cherokee citizen and one Kiowa citizen, completed a 4-state, 6-day, 434-mile trip from Philadelphia, Mississippi, to Talihina, Oklahoma.

“The ride was an experience of a lifetime, and as I rode the same paths that my ancestors had trod many years before, I

really appreciated what they endured to leave a lasting legacy of the best of the human spirit, and to not only survive in their new lands but to thrive against all odds,” said participant Stuart Winlock.

The first Choctaw Nation bicycle team to traverse the Choctaw Trail of Tears included Johnnie Anderson; Greg and Mary Barrs; Billy Eagle Road II and III; Nikki, Jordan and Teresa Eagle Road; Roy and Tammy Griffith; Cheyenne Murray; Dean and Melanie Lanning; Tracie Lake; Nancy Jefferson; Brian and Brianna Johnston; Tony Stoltzfus; Donna and Phillip Tawkoity; MaryAyn and Eli Tullier; and Stuart Winlock.

See **BIKE RIDES**, page 11



photo by Jeff Bishop

Local bicyclists in Macon, Georgia, show their support by joining Muscogee (Creek) citizen John Beaver as he begins his journey home to Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Missouri Sign Dedication..... 2
- Coopertown Signs..... 2
- Traveling Trunks for Teachers..... 3
- History Center Lecture Series..... 3
- National Historic Trails Workshop..... 4
- Guntersville TOT Exhibit..... 5
- New Echota Anniversary..... 5
- TOTA Chapter News..... 6-9
- Official Map & Guide..... 8
- Illinois Tour of TOT..... 11
- Alabama Tornado..... 14
- Tommy Cox Award..... 14
- Nancy Ward Musical..... 15
- National Register Listing..... 15

Missouri Dedicates 30 Signs in Greene County

By Jackie Warfel

The unveiling and dedication of 30 Trail of Tears signs across rural Greene County, Missouri, was held at the Sports Complex east of Strafford on Saturday, April 7, 2012. This location at Historic Route 66 and Farm Road 249 marked the location where the Cherokee Trail of Tears entered Greene County. Greene County is the first county in Missouri to locate and mark the actual historic route.

National Park Service Superintendent Aaron Mahr from Santa Fe, New Mexico, was the featured speaker. Other featured speakers included Greene County Commissioners Jim Viebrock, Harold Bengsch, and Roseann Bentley; and Greene County Historic Sites Board Chairman David Eslick and Vice Chairman Steven

Bodenhamer. Recognized for their work on this Cherokee Trail of Tears project were Steven Bodenhamer, Neal Lopinot, Jackie Warfel, and Ryan Zweerink.

Also present were representatives from the offices of U. S. Senators Roy Blunt (who would read an extension of remarks to Congress the following Monday to make the event a part of the Congressional Record) and Claire McCaskill, Superintendent Ted Hilmer of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Northern Stone County Commissioner Jim Huy, Greene County Presiding Commissioner David Coonrod, and TOTA's Arkansas Chapter Vice President Glenn Jones. The Missouri House of Representatives also sent a framed proclamation obtained by Speaker Pro Tem Shane Schouler.

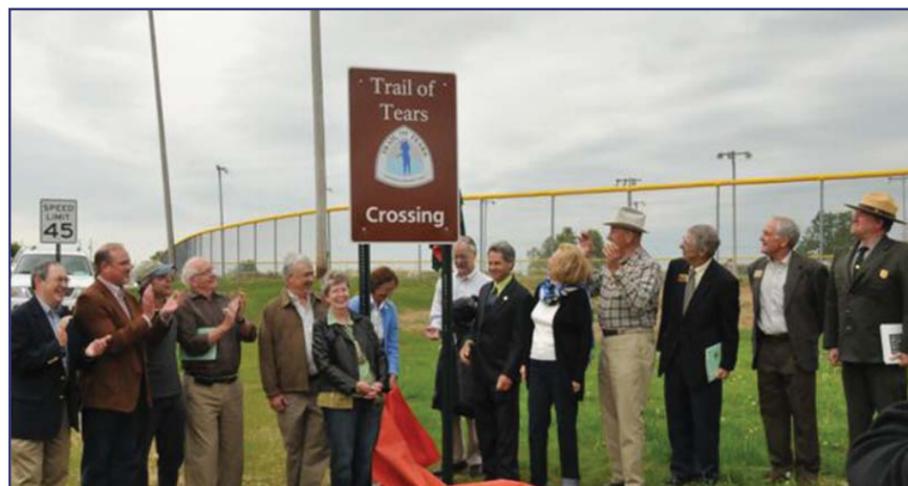


photo courtesy of David Eslick

The Missouri chapter unveils 1 of 30 Trail of Tears signs erected in Greene County, Missouri, in early April.



photo by Glenn Jones

National Trails System Intermountain Region Superintendent Aaron Mahr (left) and Greene County Historic Sites Board Chair David Eslick speak at the Greene County dedication of a wayside panel about the Cherokee removal.

Following the unveiling of the historic signs there was an auto caravan across Greene County, led by Jackie Warfel. The group stopped at portion of the original route that is on the Ozark Greenway Trail.

A reception, hosted by Battlefield City Administrator Rick Hess, was held at the newly renamed Cherokee Trail of Tears park near Battlefield City Hall, which held an exhibit by Cherokee Master Heritage Artist Talmadge Davis. Following the reception, Superintendent Mahr unveiled the interpretive signs installed at Cherokee Trail of Tears park.

All attending were given a handout with maps showing the route of the Trail of Tears across Greene, Christian, Stone, and Barry Counties and into Arkansas and Oklahoma that included written driving instructions and GPS coordinates of the route.

Original Route Signs Erected in Coopertown, TN

On June 9th, the town of Coopertown, Tennessee, hosted an unveiling of its new Trail of Tears original route signs. The signs recognize the historic route that many Cherokees traveled during removal in the bitter winter of 1838-1839. Of the approximately 16,000 Cherokee who traveled the Trail of Tears, more than two-thirds followed the Northern Route across Tennessee and would have passed through or near the area.

The unveiling coincided with the annual Cherokee Remember the Removal bicycle ride.

Coopertown Mayor Sam Childs stated, "Coopertown remembers a tragic time in our history by proudly displaying Trail of Tears signs and providing a comfort stop for the Remember the Removal Cherokee youth annual bicycle riders."



photo courtesy of Wally Leary

Tennessee chapter members (L-R) Wally Leary, Shirley Lawrence, Cleata Townsend, and Bob Richards pose proudly with a newly erected Coopertown sign.

Grant to TOTA's GA Chapter To Provide "Traveling Trunks" for State Schools

Article and photo by Jeff Bishop

The Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association received word from the Georgia Humanities Council recently that it has been approved for a \$4,000 Trail of Tears "traveling trunks" development project. This grant is in addition to a \$5,000 grant secured earlier this year from the Tillotson Foundation by Trail of Tears Association volunteer Bill Barker to place signage for the Trail of Tears "original route" in Chattooga County, Georgia.

"We're thrilled to be able to stretch our limited funding resources in this way, and we're very thankful to both the Tillotson Foundation and to the Georgia Humanities Council for this assistance," said President Jeff Bishop.

"The Trail of Tears is an important story and this funding will go a long way toward helping us to tell it, in consultation with the National Park Service and the Cherokee Nation and other tribal groups," he said. The Tillotson Foundation grant funds have already been received, and the Georgia Humanities Council will award 90 percent of the grant funds right away, but there are a few requirements that go along with the fund request, Bishop said.

Georgia curriculum performance standard SS8H5 requires that Georgia students demonstrate an ability to "analyze events that led to Cherokee removal in Georgia," including the roles played by Andrew Jackson, William McIntosh, Sequoyah, John Ross, the Dahlonega Gold Rush, John Marshall and the Supreme Court decision of *Worcester v. Georgia*, and the Trail of Tears. Georgia performance standard SS8H1 requires students to "evaluate the impact of European exploration and settlement of North America." Second grade standards require understanding the culture and lifestyle of the Cherokees and the Creeks, while fourth grade focuses on how the Cherokees used their environment. The Trail of Tears Association's Georgia chapter is often sought out by Georgia schools to provide presentations to help meet these Georgia performance

standards. The Trail of Tears Association is also increasingly sought out to provide presentations at various national, state, county, and local parks and historic sites, especially during Native American Heritage Month each November, and also on important days of commemoration, such as the upcoming 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears in 2013.

Despite the continued requests, the Georgia chapter has thus far had neither the funding nor the resources to develop a range of age-appropriate lesson plans and presentations to meet these educational standards. This new grant funding should help correct that. Traveling trunks for teachers will be developed by Dr. Donna Myers, president of the Friends of New Echota, in consultation



Donna Myers, Ph.D., speaks to the Georgia chapter about the traveling trunks for teachers she is developing in consultation with the chapter and native tribes.

with TOTA and the native tribes. The traveling trunks will be used to support Georgia performance standards concerning American Indian histories and cultures and also to meet a perceived growing demand for information from the public related to these topics.

Contents will include objects such as clothing, tools, baskets, musical instruments, maps, and charts that illustrate and explain Creek and Cherokee history and culture. Examples of books that may be included would be *Seven Clans of the Cherokee Society* by Marcelina Reed, *The Journal of Jesse Smoke*, *The Story of the Milky Way* by Joseph Bruchac and Gayle Ross, and *The Long*

March by Mary Louis Fitzpatrick, and ... *If You Lived With the Cherokee* by Peter and Connie Roop.

Mountable images and maps, a copy of the official National Park Service *Trail of Tears* DVD, a mining pan, a turtle rattle, craft supplies, copies of reproductions of the *Cherokee Phoenix* newspaper and Cherokee Constitution, and a copy of the Cherokee Syllabary are examples of other items that may be included. Lesson plans will be

See TRAVELING TRUNKS, page 12

History Center To Preview New Exhibit through Lecture Series

The Chattanooga History Center (CHC) will present the first lecture in a special preview series, Gallery Talks, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26th. The series will examine each gallery visitors' encounter with the center's new exhibit, scheduled to open next year. Each preview will stand as an independent program. The first is The Cherokee Nation: Struggle for Sovereignty. The History Center's Executive Director and Historian Dr. Daryl Black will present the program. Space is limited and pre-registration is required by Monday, June 25th. To register, call 423-265-3247.

This program will discuss the core story that backs up the content of the first gallery in the new CHC exhibit and the research that developed it. Most people have a rudimentary knowledge of the forced removal of Cherokee people and their tragic journey on the Trail of Tears. The story, however, began many years before the eviction, and is a complicated study of not only collision of cultures, but also of human motivation, and it is the story of a legal battle that pits two strong leaders of nations against one another.

TOTA Participates in Workshop on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT

by Jeff Bishop

Three representatives from the Trail of Tears Association attended the Partnership for the National Trails System historic trails workshop in Socorro, New Mexico, in May. TOTA board members Jeff Bishop and Deloris Wood attended, with Bethany Henry representing the new “youth chapter.”



photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop
TOTA board members Jeff Bishop and Deloris Wood (middle) and TOTA youth apprentice Bethany Henry tour the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail.

The workshop attendees toured sections of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and participated in sessions in the field, including Trail in an Urban Setting, Trail in a Rural Setting, and Trail Protection in America’s Large Landscapes. One of the sites visited was the Bosque del Apache (“woods of the Apache”) National Wildlife Refuge in San Antonio, New Mexico.

The field exercises were used to provide a “national historic trail case study” structured to allow participants to examine existing conditions of the historic route of the trail.



photo by Jeff Bishop
Landscape architect Steve Burns from the National Trails Intermountain Region in Santa Fe acts as tour guide during a field trip at the National Historic Trails Workshop in Socorro, NM.



photo courtesy of Bethany Henry
TOTA youth apprentice Bethany Henry participates in a group session with other youth apprentices from other national historic trail organizations.

Participants were provided an overview history and description of the historic trail, an overview of the National Trails Act requirements, and guidance for the preservation and development of historic trails. Based on this information, participants were asked to develop a vision for the preservation and development of the national historic trails.



photo courtesy of Bethany Henry
Bethany Henry (far right) poses with fellow trail apprentices who received scholarships to attend the National Historic Trails Workshop in Socorro, NM. Henry represented the Trail of Tears Association.

The goals of the Partnership for the National Trails System are to preserve and protect lands, resources, and stories of the national historic trails, to ensure that the opportunity for a quality trail experience is available for posterity, and to strengthen the management and protection of the national historic trails through cooperation, communication, and partnerships.

A Youth Apprentice’s Perspective

by Bethany Henry

As a trails apprentice, I had the opportunity to participate and work collaboratively with trail leaders, associations, and federal agency staff along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro at the National Historic Trails Workshop in Socorro, NM May 14-18, 2012. Beginning with a guided tour of the trail from Albuquerque to Socorro, we followed the rich history of the Pueblo, Apache, and Navajo Indians, Spanish Inquisition, Missions, and trade along the “international highway.” A number of speakers including historians, archaeologists, and professors, presented on various topics surrounding Nuevo México and current development of historic trails to preserve and interpret our shared cultural heritage.

The trails workshop was a great opportunity for networking, learning about the National Trails System, and exchanging ideas. After discussing various strengths and challenges with each trail association, I learned that the primary concern for the National Trails System is connecting with youth. We were encouraged to select a key word for the week that described our experience as a trails apprentice: my word was EMPOWERED. After meeting with other students and trail staff who support similar passions for preservation, interpretation, and education of our national trails, I felt empowered to return to the Trail of Tears Association with fresh ideas for future development of the trail. I look forward to building a stronger youth support for the Trail of Tears through recruitment and outreach at universities, historical societies, and volunteer organizations across the country. Let’s all be empowered to build upon our strong foundation—those that came before us and paved the way—because together we can do wonderful things for the Trail of Tears Association!

Guntersville Historical Society Features Trail of Tears Exhibit

Article and photo by Larry Smith

The Guntersville Historical Society in Alabama has opened an exhibit featuring the Trail of Tears. Located at the southernmost bend of the Tennessee River, the town dates back to 1785 when Scotsman John Gunter, a trader, arrived there and married into the local Cherokee tribe.

The area became known as Gunter’s Landing around 1817 when one of John Gunter’s sons, Edward, established a ferry across the river. Gunter’s Landing became a major stopover for Cherokees taking the water route during the removal and was also the crossing point for several detachments of Creeks and the Cherokee’s Benge Detachment.

Included in the exhibit are rare family items that belonged to the Gunter family,



Guntersville Historical Society houses a new exhibit on the Trail of Tears, which includes Gunter family items of a pair of moccasins and a vest.

including a vest, moccasins, and original photographs of two members of the Benge Detachment, George Washington Gunter and his wife Elizabeth Nave Gunter. George

Washington Gunter was a grandson of John Gunter. Several members of the Gunter family were held at nearby Camp Morrow in the summer of 1838 before leaving to join the main detachment in neighboring DeKalb County. Samuel Gunter, born in 1796, was the oldest son of John Gunter and died while being held at Camp Morton.

Dr. Pete Sparks, president of the historical society, said he thought it was important to tell the story of the tragic event. He added that he would like to make it a permanent exhibit and add to it as more information and artifacts become available.

The exhibit is housed in the Gilbreath House (ca 1858), home of the Guntersville Historical Society. It is located at 353 Blount Avenue, which is also U.S. 431 North. It is open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and there is no admission fee.

New Echota Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary with Special Program

Article and photo by Jeff Bishop

Fifty years ago on Saturday, May 12, 1962, New Echota State Historic Site in Calhoun, Georgia, was dedicated by Governor Ernest Vandiver and opened to the public. On Saturday, May 12, 2012, Georgia State Park officials, several hundred visitors, and local municipal representatives came together



Renowned Cherokee singer Barbara McAlister opens the special anniversary program with “America the Beautiful” in the Cherokee language.

to remember the people involved and events that have occurred during the past five decades as New Echota held its 50th Anniversary Program!

“Although dedicated as a State Historic Site, New Echota would not have come about were it not for the local community that began the initial efforts to purchase the land for preservation, saving it from development”, said Site Manager David Gomez. “Along with support of the local community, 50 years of progress and development have come about as a result of many individuals and groups. Present for the 50th Anniversary Program were representatives from many of those groups,” Gomez continued.

Through efforts of the Friends of New Echota Historic Site (FONEHS) and the support from the Smithsonian Institute’s New Harmonies Exhibit, Cherokee Nation member and renowned singer Barbara McAlister began the program with a performance of America the Beautiful” and concluded the program with “Amazing Grace” in the Cherokee language.

Representing the Cherokee Nation, Council Member and National President of the Trail of Tears Association Jack Baker also participated and presented New Echota with a resolution commending the 50 years of preservation accomplished at New Echota.

Historic 19th-century lifestyle demonstrations and tours of the historic buildings were provided by FONEHS, Georgia Chapter TOTA members, and individual volunteers, many having spent decades supporting New Echota’s programming and preservation efforts. “It was a great day of remembering those who came before us and their efforts to preserve New Echota. It was also a day of great fellowship on the historic grounds, much like the early 19th-century Cherokee council meetings would have been, with visits by many people who had not been to New Echota in years. It felt like a homecoming for many of these people as they and their parents were some of the families involved in the early 1950s preservation work that started New Echota,” commented Gomez.

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

ARKANSAS

The Arkansas chapter is in the final stages of its “Ten on the Trail” interpretive panel project. One of the final panels is for the Bengé Route and will be placed in Carrollton, Arkansas, sometime this summer. As a result of a panel dedication in Evansville, Arkansas, the community has a revitalized interest in their history, and Glenn Jones, Arkansas chapter vice president, and Susan Young, Arkansas chapter secretary, have been involved in videotaping the stories of many longtime residents. Dr. Neil Morton of Stillwell, Oklahoma, was also recorded as a part of this project.

The chapter’s research of the disbandment routes in western Arkansas continues. The chapter has recently initiated an effort to scan the 1830s general land office maps, georeference them, and digitize the road system as well as noted improvements. There appears to be some good information in the area of Cane Hill, Evansville, and Old Cincinnati.

The Arkansas chapter’s annual meeting will be September 8, 2012, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park in Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Please check the chapter web page at www.artota.org for more information. The meeting is open to the public.

ALABAMA

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., you are cordially invited to attend the official Trail of Tears sign unveiling in recognition of the longest marked original historic trail segment on the Trail of Tears. The unveiling will begin at the Fort Payne Cabin Site, which is located at Gault Avenue and Fourth Street South in Fort Payne. Signs are currently being placed along the original route from the cabin to where the 1838 road goes under Guntersville Lake. Maps of the newly signed Bengé Route will be given to those attending in order to follow the route to Guntersville Lake and all are invited to attend a reception at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge at 3:30 p.m.

ALABAMA (continued)



photo courtesy of Larry Smith

Lynn Comer (left) of the Marshall County Engineering Department and Larry Smith of TOTA’s Alabama chapter mark roads for preparation of Trail of Tears sign installation.

In addition to the unveiling events that day, there will be an Alabama chapter board meeting at 9:00 a.m., and a membership meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the Richard C. Hunt Reception Hall, 505 Gault Avenue North, next door to the Opera House in downtown Fort Payne. The focus of the meeting will be the National Park Service (NPS) and its role in the Trail of Tears. Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the National Trails Intermountain Region will be the key speaker.

The Fort Likens excavation is progressing. A controlled burn is planned for the last week of May, which will fast forward shovel tests and necessary excavation units on the hill noted by the 1840 surveyors as the



photo courtesy of Larry Smith

(L_R) President Gail King, TOTA Alabama chapter; Lynn Comer, Marshall County Engineering Department, District 4 Commissioner Tamey R. Hale, Marshall County; and Treasurer Larry Smith, Alabama chapter, open the shipment of signs for the Bengé Route in Dekalb and Marshall Counties.

ALABAMA (continued)

location of Fort Likens. Oral historians have hypothesized that the location of the “stockade” is in a field near the hill. An extensive archaeological survey has been completed in this area during the past few months. Many 1838 primary source documents, specifically relating to Fort Likens, have been collected, as well as early Bureau of Land Management plat maps.

Thank you to all who have joined the Alabama chapter in 2012. A part of your membership fee helps fund the many projects relating to the Cherokee removal.

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky chapter has been busy working with the National Park Service on signing the Trail of Tears sites in Kentucky. In November and December, the chapter worked on a sign plan of the entire Bengé Route in Kentucky with NPS landscape architects Steve Burns and Coreen Kolisko. The chapter is awaiting word from the Kentucky Great River Region Organization about an application for a grant that, if awarded, would provide funding for the entire sign plan. The chapter hopes to go ahead with a site identification sign for Kentucky’s latest certified site, Columbus-Belmont State Park. The chapter is also working with the Princeton Trail of Tears Commission and others on the sign plan for the Big Springs site. The Kentucky chapter would like to give a big THANK YOU to Steve and Coreen for their hard work on the sign plan for Kentucky!

Research is being done on the 23 miles of the original route between Princeton and Salem. There are three sites along this section of the Original Route that the chapter is researching for exact location. Chapter President Alice Murphree recently met Donnie Boone, one of the landowners along this part of the trail, who introduced her to Ralph Paris, a land boundary consultant and surveyor. Mr. Paris has determined the locations that were provided in the B. B. Cannon Journal of the campsites and sites in Kentucky where fodder and supplies were

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

KENTUCKY (continued)

purchased during removal. Receipts found during research done by Alice Murphree and the late Beverly Baker, former chapter president, confirmed Mr. Paris’ findings. While the B. B. Cannon detachment traveled the trail in 1837, the following year 11 of the overland detachments took this same stagecoach route through Kentucky and used some of these same campsites.

A chapter meeting was held on June 16, 2012, at the George Coon Library in Princeton, Kentucky. Mr. Paris was the guest speaker.

The chapter is focusing some of its research efforts on the Water Route, as well. Members are currently conducting research in the Paducah area.

OKLAHOMA

On May 5th, the Oklahoma chapter held its spring meeting in the town of Grove and included grave markings of four survivors of the Trail of Tears. The guest speaker for the meeting was John McLarty, president of TOTA’s Arkansas chapter. McLarty gave a PowerPoint presentation titled *From Lines on a Map to Stories That Must Be Told*. In attendance were Jack Baker, TOTA president; Jerra Quinton, TOTA executive director; Cara Cowan-Watts and Lee Keener, Cherokee Nation tribal councilors; and Marty Follis, mayor of Grove.

After the meeting, many adjourned to the Crittenden Family Cemetery across the street from the community center, where Electa Hopkins Crittenden, a survivor of the Trail of Tears, was honored with a memorial and biographical tribute. An Oklahoma chapter bronze plaque was placed on her headstone. Participants then went to lunch at Charlie’s Chicken located in Grove.

After lunch, everyone traveled to the Butler Cemetery, located a few miles outside of Grove, where Elijah Butler, Dorcas Landrum Butler, and Daniel Muskrat, also survivors of the Trail of Tears, were honored and plaques

OKLAHOMA (continued)

placed on their headstones. Memorial and biographical tributes were also read for these survivors. The Oklahoma chapter would like to express their appreciation to TOTA member Billie Napolitano and to Carole Savage of Grove for all the organization and work that they did to make this a successful and memorable occasion. Also, the chapter would like to acknowledge David Hampton who compiled and provided the booklets with biographical and genealogical information; these booklets were provided to everyone in attendance.

The Oklahoma chapter research team—Jack Baker, Curtis Rohr, Ed and Gwen Henshaw, and Marybelle Chase—is planning another



photo by Marybelle Chase

Courtney Cornell sang in Cherokee at the gravesites of Elijah Butler, Dorcas Landrum Butler, and Daniel Muskrat at the Butler Cemetery near Grove, OK.

research trip to the National Archives in Washington, DC, in late July. TOTA Executive Director Jerra Quinton plans to go as well. The research team will photograph the ration lists for the various food subsistence depots located in the West. The lists will then be published as the chapter’s third monograph and made available to the general public.

MISSOURI

In April, Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the NPS National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) in Santa Fe, attended the dedication of 30 signs marking the original Northern Route through Greene County, the first Missouri county to do so. The signs start near Marshfield and extend through the towns of Springfield and Battlefield. Dr. Neal Lopinot and Jackie Warfel led this signing effort of the original route. More information can be found on page 2.

Also in April, chapter member Kerri Hicks headed up the second Trail of Tears Passport in Time Project at the Mark Twain National Forest near Popular Bluff. Hicks, Denise Dowling, and Rusty Weiseman participated in this on-the-ground project, which included identifying and marking Bengé Route segments of the Trail of Tears.

Chapter President Deloris Wood attended the National Historic Trails Workshop in Socorro, New Mexico, in May, along with Bethany Henry, a TOTA youth apprentice, and Jeff Bishop, the Georgia chapter president. The Partnership for the National Trails System held the workshop.

Steve Burns, landscape architect for the NPS NTIR in Santa Fe, created a Trails Toolbox for attendees to use on a field trip along the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail. The toolbox, which will be available to chapters later this summer, helps with determining what to do to protect the trail.

Learn more about the workshop on page 4.



photo by Jeff Bishop

Bethany Henry (left) and Deloris Wood attend a session at the National Historic Trails Workshop in Socorro, NM.

**Trail of Tears
National Historic Trail**



Trail News is produced by the partnership of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region, Santa Fe.

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**Trail of Tears
Association**



The Trail of Tears Association has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears NHT resources; to promote awareness of the trail's legacy, including the effects of the U.S. Government's Indian Removal Policy on the Cherokee and other tribes; and to perpetuate the management and development techniques that are consistent with the NPS's trail plan.

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The National Trails Intermountain Region administers the Trail of Tears NHT, the Santa Fe NHT, El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT and Old Spanish NHT are administered jointly by the National Trails Intermountain Region 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; nongovernment organizations; and private landowners.

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BIKE RIDES (continued from page 1)

For the first time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation sponsored a Trail of Tears bicycle ride as well. Called "Ocmulgee to Okmulgee," the ride began at the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Georgia,



photo by Jeff Bishop

TOTA President Jack Baker (second from left) and New Echota State Historic Park Superintendent David Gomez (second from right) lead the Cherokee Remember the Removal bicycle riders on a tour of New Echota.

on Saturday, June 2, with a send-off from Chief George Tiger and other tribal representatives.

"It is said that our forefathers and our foremothers, as they were preparing to make a trip to an unknown land and an unknown place, had a vision, and that vision was that someday the following generations would come back to their motherland and be a part of something, such as this event," said Tiger.

About 80 tribal members traveled to Georgia for the event. "This is probably the greatest number of Muscogee citizens we've had here since the removal almost 200 years ago," said Ocmulgee National Monument Superintendent Jim David.

John Beaver, director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum and Cultural Center, is the lone rider bicycling from Macon to Okmulgee, Oklahoma, this year on the tribe's first Trail of Tears bicycle tour. Beaver said he hopes this will become an annual event and will grow in the future. As he left Macon he was joined by a number of local bicyclists, who were all given a police escort through the county.

The following day, the young riders from the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band

of Cherokee Indians were given tours of the Vann House and New Echota State Historic Sites as they prepared for their ride west.

The 2012 riders are Eric Budder, Echo King, Clay Rudolph, Danielle Culp, Luke Phillips, Seth Alsenay, Megan Alsenay, Nathalie Tomasik, Keaton Sheets, and Elizabeth Cook. Four Remember the Removal alumni will also be riding this year serving as chaperones and mentors: Sarah Holcomb, Kurt Rogers, Jerrad Dry, and C.J. Alsenay. Other staff members are ride organizer Baron O'Field, Justin Leatherwood, Taylor Alsenay, and Cherokee Nation marshals Faron Pritchett and Ralph Travis. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian riders consist of Principal Chief Michell Hicks, Jusy Castorena, Chi Sawyer, Jeremy Wilson, Carmen Johnson, Sky Littlelaved, Logan Tatsi Nelson and Jeremy Hyatt.

"The Remember the Removal project is a great experience for all who participate," O'Field told the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper. "It's an awesome way to learn about the history of the Cherokee people and see beautiful country along the way. It's also a very physically and mentally challenging project."

The group's Facebook page can be found by searching Remember the Removal Bike Ride. To view the map and itinerary, visit www.remembertheremoval.org. The Creek ride can be followed on a blog at <http://okmulgee2okmulgee.com>.

The Cherokee riders expect to return home on June 22, with the Creek riders returning home the following day.



photo by Jeff Bishop

Muscogee (Creek) rider John Beaver addresses the crowd in Georgia and shows off the design for his "Ocmulgee to Okmulgee" bicycle ride.

The Trail of Tears Association would like to thank the staff of *The Biskinik*, the Choctaw Nation tribal newspaper, for their contributions to this article.



photo courtesy of *The Biskinik*

The Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team takes a break on their ride home from their tribe's homelands in Mississippi to the tribe's capital today in Oklahoma.

**Students, Teachers Tour
Trail of Tears in Illinois**

by Amy Wilkinson and Rowena McClinton

Amy Wilkinson, the program director for Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville's (SIUE) Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Program, organized a field trip to the Illinois portion of the Cherokee Trail of Tears through Pope, Johnson, and Union counties. To prepare students and teachers, Wilkinson and her staff held an orientation program whereby she introduced multiple primary documents and Library of Congress links about the Cherokee Trail of Tears through the area.

Led by Wilkinson and Dr. Rowena McClinton, a Cherokee historian and board member of the Trail of Tears Association, the April 27th tour began at the SIUE campus. Joe Crabb, TOTA's Illinois chapter vice president, met the group and led them on a tour of the Golconda riverfront, where approximately 14,000 Cherokees ferried across the Ohio River, and on nine miles of the extant Trail of Tears Road. The group then headed to Johnson and Union counties to tour sites there, including Campground Cemetery.

Trail of Tears Association
1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344



MEMBERSHIP FORM
January - December 2012

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

Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____
Phone _____ I want to join the following state chapter(s): AL AR GA IL KY MO NC OK TN

Membership Levels

Basic Individual: \$25 to \$99 Patron: \$500 to \$999 Student: \$10 (enclose ID)
Sponsor: \$100 to \$499 Benefactor: \$1000+

Note: Sponsors, patrons, & benefactors are listed prominently in two issues of the newsletter *Trail News* and on the TOTA website.

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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 Intermountain Region, 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
Green County Trail Segments, MO
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 Martin House, 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
Running Waters, John Ridge 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
Wayside Store and Bridges Tavern Site, 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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TRAVELING TRUNKS (continued from page 3)

developed by the scholar, in accordance with Georgia curriculum standards, to accompany these materials.

The Georgia chapter will provide access to the lesson plans that are developed by the scholar on its website. The chapter will also

provide a list of the items in the trunk so that schools, teachers, and museums can choose to replicate the trunks on their own, if they choose to so. One or more of the trunks will be housed at Georgia RESA centers (regional educational centers) to enable easy access for Georgia teachers.

Jeff Bishop, president of the Trail of Tears Association's Georgia chapter and graduate student in public history under the direction of Dr. Ann McCleary at the University of West Georgia, will serve as director of the grant project, which is scheduled for a December completion date.

Cherokee National Historical Society, Inc. Membership – TOTA Members Discount

ALL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS ARE ANNUAL

	REGULAR PRICE	TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION DISCOUNT	
Elder	\$30	\$20	Benefits for a full year for individuals 55 and over.
Adult	\$40	\$30	Benefits for a full year.
Family	\$75	\$60	Benefits + museum admittance for 4 immediate family members through the year.
Mentor	\$250	\$200	Basic benefits of Family membership plus invitation to special (teacher only) events, as well as one copy of a Cherokee Heritage Press book.

New Renew Donation

Name _____

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City & State _____

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TOTA Member #: _____

I would like to purchase a membership for:

Name _____

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Method of Payment

Check Credit Card

Please charge my credit card (Visa, Master Card, American Express) with a one-time charge of \$ _____ or a monthly charge of \$ _____ for the next _____ months.

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CID#: _____

Amount: _____

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CHEROKEE NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

The Cherokee Heritage Center is the premier cultural center for Cherokee tribal history, culture and the arts, located in the heart of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, OK. It was established in 1963 by the Board of Trustees of the Cherokee National Historical Society to preserve, promote and teach Cherokee history and culture. The society sponsors dynamic educational programs, reconstructed historic villages, engaging exhibits and scholarly research that stimulate interest in the enduring legacy of the Cherokee people.

The Cherokee National Museum is designated by the National Park Service as the interpretive center for the western end of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The museum also operates the Cherokee National Archives. The archives house the Cherokee Nation's foremost collection of historic tribal-related documents and artifacts, cataloguing the rich history of the Cherokee people from the 1700s through present day.

The Cherokee Heritage Center is located on the grounds of the Cherokee Female Seminary. The seminary was opened in 1851 and is one of the first institutions of higher learning for women west of the Mississippi. This site is on the National Register of Historical Places. The center is also home to the Cherokee Family Research Center, assisting Cherokee descendants to reconnect with their lineage.

By becoming a member of the Cherokee National Historical Society, you will provide direct support to the Cherokee Heritage Center as it fulfills its mission to preserve, promote and teach Cherokee history and culture. You can do your part to help with this vital work and ensure the Cherokee Heritage Center is secure for generations to come.

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE THESE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Free admission to the Cherokee Heritage Center
- Membership card and certificate
- Complimentary quarterly newspaper, *The Columns*
- 10% discount at the museum store
- 20% discount for any cultural classes offered
- Invitations to all exhibit previews and special events
- Genealogy services at a reduced rate
- Use of the Cherokee National archives

Tornado Destroys Original Route in Alabama at Site of 2009 TOTA Conference

By Larry Smith

A large segment of the John Benge Detachment Route was destroyed in last year's tornado of April 27. One of the few remaining parts of the route that has not



photo by Marty King

This photo from September 2009 shows the site during the marker dedication at Guntersville State Park during the Trail of Tears Association conference.

been paved or destroyed is located in Lake Guntersville State Park. Most of it was obliterated by the tornado, which downed hundreds of trees. Subsequent removal of the trees by large logging trucks buried the roadbed. Now only a small section of the original trail remains.

The Alabama chapter of the Trail of Tears Association had identified the old roadbed and had placed some small Carsonite signs on the original trail. This portion of the trail was visited during TOTA's national conference at Lake Guntersville State Park in 2009.

Gail King, president of the Alabama chapter, said she was saddened at the loss of the original trail but had hopes that an interpretive sign could be placed there.



photo by Mary King

The tornado destroyed the same site pictured left in the April 2011 tornado in Alabama.

Annual William "Tommy" Cox Memorial Award Presented for Second Year

Article by and photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop

Leslie Barker Thomas was recognized this month as the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association's top volunteer of the year with the William "Tommy" Cox Memorial Award.

Thomas, a Gilmer County resident, is the current vice president of the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and has been a historical researcher for the last 15 years.

"I just don't know what we'd do without Leslie," said Jeff Bishop, president of the Georgia chapter. "I don't think most people realize everything she does for us. She seeks out and gets commitments from all of our speakers for the programs we have. She picks out spots for our meetings and secures the facilities. She keeps abreast of various activities going on every month and sends out reminder emails to the membership. She helps us write and apply for grants. For years she edited our newsletter. She's does all this in spite of a number of medical setbacks in recent years. I just don't know where she gets all that energy."

Bishop said the William "Tommy" Cox Memorial Award was begun last year as a way to remember former president Tommy Cox, who died of cancer several years ago. Cox himself was a tireless volunteer, and Bishop said it was appropriate to name the award in his honor. Linda Baker, chapter secretary, was the first recipient of the award in 2011.

"I'm glad we can remember Tommy's contributions to this organization in this small but important way," he said. The award was given to Thomas at the May chapter meeting at the McIntosh Reserve in Carroll County.

Thomas said that she's been happy to contribute to the advancement of the chapter.

"When I joined I saw some things I thought we could improve on, and I think I've helped to put us in the right direction," she said.

Thomas retired from the medical field after 25 years working with people and another five years with animals. Retirement allows

her to pursue her love of historical research and writing.

She is the current president of the Gilmer County Historical Society, a board member for Chieftains Museum in Rome, a board member for the Gilmer County Genealogy Society, and the editor for several newsletters, including one for her church, as well as author, editor, and writer of several historical magazine and newspaper articles. She currently lives in Ellijay with her husband Roddy H. Thomas.



Georgia Chapter President Jeff Bishop presents the chapter's William "Tommy" Cox Memorial Award to Leslie Thomas, the chapter's vice president.

Descendant Honors Nancy Ward with Musical, Receives High Praise

Article and photo by Jeff Bishop

D. Ray Smith of *The Oak Ridger* was one of hundreds of people who attended the new Nancy Ward musical *Nanyehi: Beloved Woman of the Cherokee* in April and give it a "thumbs up."

"Michelle Honaker has set her sights high and achieved a great accomplishment," in her role as Cherokee "beloved woman" Nancy Ward, he said. "She epitomizes the spirit of peace for which Nancy Ward is known."

Playwright and songwriter Becky Hobbs "has honored her fifth great-grandmother's memory," said Smith. "Nanyehi's voice is being heard! And her cry is all for peace!" he said. "I enjoyed the musical greatly and plan to return later this month for a repeat performance."

The musical, presented by Savannah River Productions, Inc., follows the life of Nancy Ward (Nanyehi). A few highlights from the

musical include the Battle of Taliwa (which takes place near Ball Ground, Georgia), a Cherokee marriage ceremony, and the stick



Michelle Honaker plays the role of Cherokee "beloved woman" Nancy Ward in the musical *Nanyehi: Beloved Woman of the Cherokee*.

ball games. The musical includes upbeat Cherokee-style music as well as a number of heartfelt ballads.

"I was finally able to catch the play during its final performance," said Jeff Bishop, president of the TOTA's Georgia chapter. "Even though Trail of Tears Association members were given a preview of some of the music several years ago, I didn't really know what to expect. What an extraordinary thing Ms. Hobbs and her excellent cast have managed to accomplish!"

"The show was moving and at times powerful, and the lead performance from the talented Michelle Honaker was simply sublime," he said. "The play is, for the most part, historically accurate, but what really elevates the material is the power of Ms. Hobbs' incredible songs, including 'Battle of Taliwa,' 'There Will Be Blood,' 'Nanyehi,' and 'Donadagohvi.'"

Nanyehi is an original two-act musical with 17 songs. Performances were presented at the Lonnie Burns Fine Arts Center at the Hart County High School in Hartwell, Georgia.

Rare Trail of Tears Road Remnant Approved for National Register Listing

Article and photo by Mark Christ

The State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program nominated the Memphis to Little Rock Road-Strong's Ferry Segment near Jeanette in Cross County to the National Register of Historic Places when it met April 4. This segment of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was approved for listing on the National Register effective May 15, 2012.

The Memphis to Little Rock Road-Strong's Ferry Segment was built in 1828 and used during the Indian removals of the 1830s.

"The Memphis to Little Rock Road-Strong's Ferry Segment is a remnant of the early 19th-century road built to connect Little Rock with the Mississippi River through the undeveloped area of eastern Arkansas," according to the National Register nomination. "The 557-foot long road remnant survives in a wooded area just west of the St. Francis River in the midst of an area that has been farmed



A remnant of the Memphis to Little Rock Road-Strong's Ferry Segment in Cross County, Arkansas, was recently approved for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

extensively and is still readily recognizable as one of few known segments surviving between Memphis and Little Rock and

retains the characteristics of a 19th-century roadbed."



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Benefactors \$1000 or more

Cherokee Nation - \$10,000
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians - \$9,000

Sponsors \$100 - \$499

<p>John Lasley – \$100 Le Nora Carter – \$240 Lori Vann – \$220 Andrew Denson – \$180 Rowena McClinton – \$175 Jack Baker – \$140 (2011) + \$100 (2012) H. Riley Bock – \$125 Robert Girty – \$125 Patsy Hanvey – \$125 Barbara Heffington – \$125 Billie Napolitano – \$125 Marvin Sowder – \$125 Richard Starbuck – \$125 Jay Hannah – \$110</p>	<p>Sarah Hill – \$110 George Pierson – \$110 Lawrence Simmons – \$110 D. Robert Akerhielm – \$100 Jack Baker – \$100 Richard Bass – \$100 Ken Blankenship – \$100 Marion Blackwell Jr – \$100 Donna Byas – \$100 Gilles Carter – \$100 Amanda Cobb-Greetham – \$100 Patricia Edgar – \$100 Sue Folsom – \$100 Don Higginson – \$100</p>	<p>Elmer Hogue Jr – \$100 Glenn Jones – \$100 Ernest Klatt Jr – \$100 John Lasley – \$100 (2011) + \$100 (2012) Mark Twain National Forest – \$100 Gary Payne – \$100 Paul Gary Phillips – \$100 Maxwell Ramsey – \$100 Kathy Robinson – \$100 Ansley Saville – \$100 Robbin Skinner – \$100 Adam Stone – \$100 Allan Ward – \$100</p>
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