

GILES COUNTY TRAIL OF TEARS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

CROSSROADS OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS



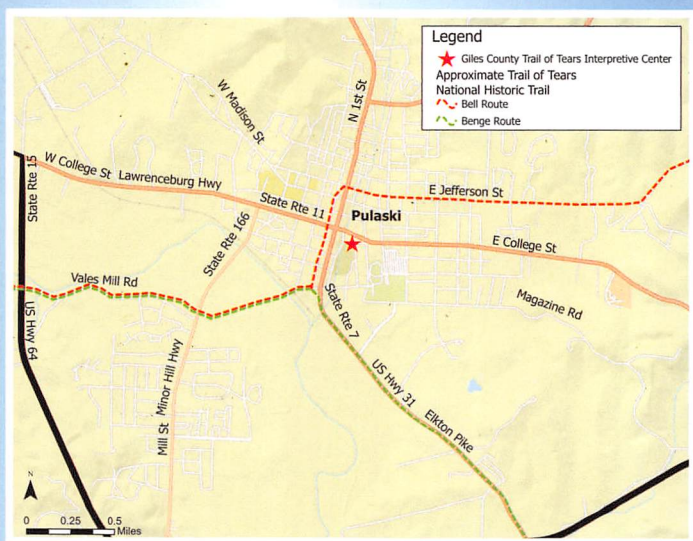
THE PLACE WHERE THEY CRIED

In October and November 1838, residents of Pulaski watched approximately 1,700 Cherokee pass through town during their forced removal west. They traveled in two separate detachments, taking two different routes. One detachment was led by John Benge and left from Fort Payne, Alabama. The other departed from Fort Cass in present-day Charleston, Tennessee, and was led by John Bell. Their routes intersected only once, in Pulaski. Grim-faced and tired, the Cherokee arrived in Pulaski only a small portion into a journey that would take them from their ancestral land to an uncertain future in a home they never wanted.

From 1838-1839, more than 15,000 Cherokee in seventeen detachments were forcibly removed to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma from their homes in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. Their journey is known as the Trail of Tears, or Nunna-da-ul-tsun-yi ("the place where they cried") in the Cherokee language. You are invited to visit the Giles County Trail of Tears Interpretive Center to learn more about this momentous event in our history and the resilience and perseverance of the Cherokee people.

TRAIL OF TEARS MEMORIAL CONSTRUCTED IN PULASKI

It was through the designation of a section of U.S. Highway 64 in 1999, between Franklin and Wayne Counties, as the "David Crockett Parkway" that Giles County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Foundation began to explore the county's historic connection to the legendary statesman. It was the convergence of these two historic trails in Pulaski, as well as Crockett's strong opposition to the Indian removal that inspired the formation of a committee to pursue the construction of a fitting memorial to the Trail of Tears. Among the structures that officials included in the seven-acre memorial park was the Mars Stone Chapel, which housed the former Catholic Church. The Chapel was built in 1941 with the help of Ethel Mars, wife of candy company founder Frank Mars. It was moved October 31, 2002, to its present location at Pleasant Run Park and is known as the Giles County Trail of Tears Interpretive Center.



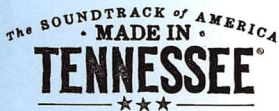
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