Wamp, Berry Lead Trail of Tears Legislation Effort

by Duane King

For years, members of the Trail of Tears Association have labored under the realization that only a portion of the Cherokee Trail of Tears is officially recognized as a National Historic Trail. All of that may be about to change, if Congressmen Zach Wamp (R, TN) and Marion Berry (D, AR) and 17 other co-sponsors of H.R. 3085 have their way. The legislation known as the “Trail of Tears Documentation Act” will complete the Cherokee Trail of Tears, according to Congressman Wamp. At present, trail routes in the states of Georgia and North Carolina, where the majority of Cherokee people began the journey to the west, are not considered part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The same is true for significant sections of the Trail in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee, including the routes taken by the Benge and Bell detachments. The legislation calls for a feasibility study to determine whether the additional routes should be added to the National Historic Trail. The bill could result in the designation of an additional 2,000 miles of removal routes.

Congressman Wamp, joined by Chad Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation—Larry Blythe, the Vice Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians—representatives of the Trail of Tears Association—and legislative co-sponsors—announced the introduction of the legislation at a news conference in the Rayburn House Office Building on June 29, 2005. At the news conference, Chief Smith showed a copy of an 1836 petition to Congress containing the names of more than 15,000 Cherokee denouncing the Treaty of New Echota as a fraud. In spite of the protest, the Senate ratified the treaty on May 23, 1836, and the Cherokee people were given two years in which to voluntarily remove. The overwhelming majority refused, and in May 1838, more than 7,000 federal and state troops were sent to the Cherokee Nation to force the Cherokee people from their homeland.

In 1877, National Historic Trail status was given to the Cherokee Trail of Tears in spite of the fact the location of trails, at the time, were virtually unknown. A study published by the National Park Service in 1986 identified a ten-mile corridor from North Carolina to Oklahoma through which, it was presumed, the trails passed. In Arkansas, the corridor passed east to west through the middle of the state, completely missing most of the routes used by the emigrating Cherokee.
A press conference was held in Washington, D.C., on June 29th to announce the introduction of H.R. 3085, which calls for the amendment of the National Trail System Act as it relates to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. If passed, it would provide for the inclusion of the Benge and Bell routes as well as extend the Trail from the intermittent camps used just prior to removal to the collection forts scattered throughout the Cherokee Nation.

It is fitting that this legislation be introduced. Currently, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail does not extend into either Georgia or North Carolina. At the time of the Cherokee’s forced removal on what became known as the Trail of Tears, more than half of the Cherokee people lived in Georgia and almost a quarter lived in North Carolina. This bill would extend the Historic Trail into those states whose Cherokee inhabitants made up almost three fourths of those who were on the Trail of Tears.

The Trail of Tears Association was formed in 1993 and it quickly became apparent to our Association members that the legislation that created the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail needed to be amended to extend the Trail routes into Georgia and North Carolina as well as recognize other routes used on the removal. This legislation does that.

By adding the Bell route, the Trail segment from Memphis to Little Rock will encompass sections of the removal routes also used by the Muscogee (Creek), Chickasaw, and Choctaw. Virtually all of the Chickasaw Nation was removed along this segment. If this legislation is enacted, it should facilitate the addition of all the removal routes such as the Trail of Tears is not available. Exact amounts will be known after Congress passes the appropriation bill to fund the Department of Interior agencies for next fiscal year that begins October 1.

In April, John Conoboy and I participated in the strategic planning session held in conjunction with the spring board meeting of the Association in Little Rock. The draft has been reviewed and we look forward to completion of the plan and the work of committees to carry out actions to implement it.

All in all, the collaboration of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Trails System staff in Santa Fe is very solid. I am committed to maintaining and strengthening the relationship over the next months and years. Together we do make a difference.

Jere Krakow, Superintendent of the National Trails System Office – Intermountain Region

The proposed legislation has been facilitated by the cumulative research of the trail routes sponsored by the National Park Service and undertaken by individual members of the Trail of Tears Association. The systematic study of the past two decades has resulted in a critical mass of data that allows us to now define with a high degree of certainty the actual routes used by emigrating Cherokee during the period of the forced removal. The legislation will not only stand as a tribute to those who were forced on the arduous journey in the 19th century but also to members of the Trail of Tears Association whose commitment will ensure that this part of our nation’s history is not forgotten.

The Cherokee Trail of Tears Documentation Act will result in the official designation of some of the most important trail segments and sites associated with the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Such designation will enhance the public understanding and appreciation of this event in American History and will ensure that the lessons learned will forever remain part of the American conscience.

Fort Wayne in Delaware County, Oklahoma, where four detachments arrived. In addition, there may be an opportunity to place exhibits in downtown Tahlequah near the Cherokee Courthouse.

4-R Former Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief John Ketcher, Verner Falls Historic Site historians, Troy Reddick, and Jack Baker pose for a photo at the site of Verner Falls State Park during a tour of the original Tahlequah site.
Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Oklahoma (continued)
The Oklahoma Chapter hosted its spring 2005 meeting in Bartlesville, Oklahoma on April 23, with approximately 60 in attendance. Three new board members were elected. These were Ron Wilson Principal Chief Chad Smith and the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Commission.

Arkansas (continued)
Arkansas Archeological Survey: AAS hopes to complete a corridor atlas showing Indian Removal routes through Arkansas by early 2006. It will be published on paper and online at the survey's website.

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. In addition to National Register activities noted elsewhere, AHP eductaes the public through events such as its Savannah in History luncheon series, which will visit the North Little Rock waterworks on October 7 to talk about the Trail of Tears.

Arkansas State Parks: Trail of Tears sites within the state park system are featured at a new agency website – www.historainlesspark.com.

Department of Arkansas Heritage: Another DAH agency, the Delta Cultural Center on the Mississippi River at Helena, has been certified as a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail interpretive site.

Georgia (continued)
In hopes of encouraging more published research, the Arkansas chapter board has established an annual writing prize to be awarded for the best article appearing in an Arkansas historical journal during the calendar year on a topic relating to Indian Removal and Arkansas. The 2005 cash prize will include $50 to the winning author and $50 to the journal.

In addition to public programs in May at Camden and in July at Russellville, the chapter continues to collaborate with its network of institutional partners. ARTOTA hosted a state partnership meeting in early 2005 at the Historic Arkansas Museum to host a state partnership meeting in early 2005 at the Historic Arkansas Museum to provide a forum for exchanging information and sharing goals. We hope to host future meetings as well. Here’s what some of our partners have been doing. You can read more at each of their websites.

American Native Press Archives: Whether the topic is Choctaw Removal through Camden or the convergence of removal routes at Russellville, someone from ANDPs Indian Removal Through Arkansas project has given a fact-filled presentation at each of our public programs. Read more about ANPs other activities elsewhere in this newsletter.

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Georgia The Georgia chapter has first-hand experience with the value of state chapters’ participation with local entities to further the work of mapping and marking Trail of Tears sites. What began as a proposal by the chapter’s research chair, Doug Mahay, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Old Federal Road in Georgia has resulted in the creation of a driving tour of the Federal Road which ran through the heart of the Cherokee Nation at the time of the Removal. At completion, the brochure and audio tour will feature all the important Cherokee landmarks in north Georgia, which were adjacent to the Federal Road, such as New Echota, the Vann House, and the boyhood home of Brigadier General Stand Watie and Elias Boudinot. The documentation, mapping, and preserving of the Federal Road is coming to fruition thanks to the partnership of the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and various other state and local governmental and historical societies.

Representatives from the various entities involved in the Federal Road initiative updated the progress of the project at the July 9th Georgia chapter membership meeting, held at the historic Old Stone Church in Catossa County, GA. About 80 interested individuals attended the meeting, shared lunch provided by the chapter, and took a bus tour of remants of the Federal Road adjacent to Little Tiger Creek in Catossa County. Catossa County Commission Chair Bill Clark opened the presentation, noting historical connections between the Federal Road and the Trail of Tears removal route. Doug Mahay explained the initiative and its impact on historical preservation and the tourism value of the planned tour, which will connect scenes always being planned by various communities in North Georgia.

Ted Ownby of the Center for Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi presented an overview of Phase I of the project, which involves photo documentation by Dr. David Worton and Ownby’s written report. Matt Reynolds of the Center for Archeological Research, also at the University of Mississippi, explained Phase II, the mapping process, which employs 19th-century maps, current maps with global positioning aspects, and on-site observation of intact portions of the roadbed. Phase II will also include testing at three tentatively identified removal fort/stockade sites near the road. The work of these professionals will be presented to the archeological community of Georgia Department of Transportation. The result will be directional markers, a brochure, and audio tour, which will be available to the NPS.

Among those present at the meeting were Jerra Quinton from the national TOTA office, who has been working with Public Lands, Alice Carson from the tourism division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Betty Ann Berkowski, President of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce, and State Senator Don Thomas, State Representative Tom Dickson, and County Commissioners Bill Clark and Ron Gracy of Catossa County.

Tennessee

Tennessee (continued)
Over the course of the last several months, Shirley Lawrence and Doris Tate Trevino have put in a lot of hours researching the Samuel Parks family that came from Tennessee, went to Oklahoma, and returned to Tennessee during the removal era. They had been asked to do this by Lion Television in New York, producers of History Detectives on PBS. Lion was doing a story about a Cherokee bible that was published in 1860. As Shirley and Doris uncovered more and more information, Lion TV decided to come to Tennessee to film a segment for History Detectives. Also participating were Jamie Russell and Cleata Townsend. It is set to air sometime this month, July 2005. The TV crew also traveled to Oklahoma prior to coming to Tennessee for filming.

On May 2, 2005, members of the Tennessee chapter attended the signed dedication for the Moccasin Bend Archeological District. Congressman Zach Wamp, who just introduced legislation regarding additional routes to the Trail, attended the ceremony.

On May 13, 2005, the chapter participated in the “Passage at Ross’ Landing in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Members were asked to gather people to carry torches from the North shore across the bridge to Ross’ Landing, as Chief Smith and Chief Hicks were lighting the torches along the river’s edge below.

Members of these chapters carried torches across the bridge. The Oklahoma chapter was also present but remained below at the river’s edge with Tommy Wildcat playing the flute. It was a very emotional time, and TOTA’s message was clear. The history and events are often kept separate from the public that came to witness the event.

Earlier in the day, a reunion of sorts took place at the Tennessee chapter’s display table, as members from Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Kentucky gathered, talked, and handed out applications and information about the Trail of Tears Association and the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at Blythe’s Ferry.

The Tennessee chapter is hosting the annual TOTA conference in Chattanooga, October 11 – November 3, 2005. Also, the chapter is sponsoring the Cherokee National Heritage Project: Class at Chattanooga State Community College on October 29 – 30, and November 12 – 13, 2005.

The Tennessee chapter’s last meeting was held in Woodbury, Tennessee, on June 11, 2005. Bill Jones participated in a Woodbury radio show about the Trail of Tears on the 9th, two days prior to our meeting, in order to make the public aware of the historical significance and to give notice of our meeting should anyone like to attend.

The next chapter meeting will be held at Red Clay, on August 6, 2005. The Tennessee chapter will have a booth set up there for the 3rd Annual Cherokee Days of Recognition at the Trail of Tears/Glenda Valley park on County Days August 6 – 7, 2005. Hope to see everyone there.
After a great start in 2004, the following officers were elected: Dr. Andrew West, president; Dr. Darrell Latch, vice president; and Cheryl Jett, secretary/treasurer. At the Annual Conference last fall, Dr. West was elected as an at-large member to the national board. At the recent May chapter board meeting, Dr. Rowena McClinton was re-elected and Latch appointed to the national board. The chapter is busy organizing its research, trail-marking, and site certification program. Also, Dr. Latch just completed his forthcoming book, and book, both titled The Trail. For more information, please contact Dr. Latch at solighthouse@netcare-il.com, or 217-253-4171.

Kentucky

The Kentucky chapter met in March at the Louisville County Courthouse in Smithfield, Kentucky. Mary Lou Smith of the Livingston County Historical Society attended and brought along with her a 1830-1860 map of the area, showing the old Golconda-to-Hopkinsville road. This map will assist chapter members in documenting places of interest along the Trail. Also in March, Kentucky chapter board members Aliso Murphy and Beverly Baker represented the Kentucky chapter at the Arkansas chapter meeting in Golconda, Illinois, to participate in a discussion on the Ohio River crossing and Berry’s Ferry.

Murphy and Baker, also the Kentucky representatives on the national Trail of Tears Association board, attended the April TOTA board meeting in Little Rock and participated in the Cherokee dedication in Chattanooga in May.

A chapter meeting was held on July 28, 2005, and was attended by TOTA coordinator, Jerra Quinton. The meeting began at 1:00 p.m., in Marion, Kentucky, at the Technology Economic Development Center, which is owned by the city.

The first year of operation is now complete for the chapter, and membership has doubled since our inaugural meeting. Officers and board members have not changed until next year. The chapter members are continuing to search for places along Kentucky’s portion of the Trail that could qualify for special Trail of Tears National Historic Trail recognition.

This kind of document is critical and useful for long-term guidance and preservation and for seeking funding for implementing the recommendations of the report. This may be a model for similar historic properties along the TRTE.

The work is being accomplished by a multiple partner relationship among the Chaiftains Museum Major Ridge Home, the National Trails System, and the NPS Intermountain Region Santa Fe Division of Historic Preservation Projects. Several of these projects are underway, and others are being planned.

Updates from the Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

The Partnership for the National Trails System held the National Historic and Scenic Trails Conference in Las Vegas June 18-22, 2005, in conjunction with the Old Spanish Trail Association annual meeting. The conference themes were education, tourism, and stewardship. National Trails System – Santa Fe staff attended, and Jerra Quinton represented the Trail of Tears Association. One important announcement was that there will be a large meeting next year in Kansas City, Missouri, just for national historic trail groups. This will be a great opportunity for historic trail associations and federal agency staff to meet and discuss issues that relate specifically to historic trails.
The Trail of Tears Association board met April 18-19, 2005, in North Little Rock, Arkansas, for their annual Spring board meeting, but also for a strategic planning session. NPS staff Jere Krakow and John Conoboy joined the group for the two-day meeting. Facilitator Ken Hubbell from Ken Hubbell & Associates in Little Rock, led the group in creating a draft plan that will direct TOTA for the next 3 to 10 years. Five committees were developed during the planning session: (1) interpretation, (2) administration, (3) research, (4) collaboration, and (5) funding/sustainability. These five committees will work on refining their individual parts of the strategic plan in the next several months. The plan will be available for the membership afterward.

North Little Rock Mayor Pat Hays met the group on the second day. He thanked TOTA and the NPS for its hard work and described some of the current work of the Trail of Tears Association board.

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 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 its 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.

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

In May 2003 Army surveyors plotted the route across the Snowbird Mountains, following an ancient Cherokee footpath. Survey fieldnotes indicate a route that began in present-day downtown Andrews, and followed a single bearing (N4E) to the crest of the Snowbird Mountains. The notes state, “The trail ascends the mountain on the crest of a narrow ridge (Pile Ridge) having hollows on each side—the course is very little changed.” The trail climbed Pile Ridge to the summit of the Snowbird Mountains, turned westward along the ridgecline, then descended the Long Creek Valley to modern-day Robbinsville, a distance of seven miles.

In mid-May 1838, North Carolina militiamen constructed a wagon road along the survey route to connect Fort Delaney with the Cheoah Valley, then built Fort Montgomery at the northern end of the road. Beginning June 18, 1838, North Carolina troops stationed at Fort Montgomery detained approximately 300 Cherokee prisoners from Cheoah, Tallulah,Connichiailles, and Buffalo Town at Fort Montgomery. These prisoners started their trek to Fort Butler, NC, during the fourth week of June 1838. The trek was traveled from Fort Montgomery to Fort Delaney along the Pile Ridge-Long Creek military road, then followed the state road south to Fort Butler. After a short stay at Fort Butler, the Cheoah prisoners, like thousands of other North Carolina Cherokees, were marveled 80 miles over the Unicoi Turnpike and connecting routes to Fort Cass to await their deportation to Oklahoma. Modern researchers have used the 1838 Army survey fieldnotes and local informants to relocate and evaluate vestiges of the Old Army Road across the Snowbird Mountains. At the southern end of the trail, the roadbed may be represented by a private driveway (Azalea Lane) that crosses Tatham Gap Road. North of Tatham Gap Road, the old military road enters the wooded toe of Pile Ridge, and is evident as a sunken foot trail that survives northward along the ridgeline on private property for 2,800 ft. The trail then crosses into the Nantahala National Forest, and is discernible as a footpath that trends northward along the heavily wooded ridgeline for 2,900 ft, where it is obscured or obliterated for 1,770 ft by a logging road. By the trail mapped in 1838, the logging road skirts to the east of a series of high knobs to reach a level saddle, know locally as the “Halfway Ground,” at the intersection with Tatham Gap Road. North of the Halfway Ground, the original route is discernible as an entrenched wagon road that extends 7,000 ft along the spine of Pile Ridge to the crestline of Snowbird Mountain.

No Army survey notes for the northern half of the old Army Road beyond Pile Ridge are currently known. Instead, researchers are referred to local informant Dewey Sharp (born 1909), who was intimately familiar with the “old road that the Army built to take the Cherokees out of here,” both from personal use of the route and from the accounts of his grandfather, James Hamilton Sharp (b. 1835), who moved to the Cheoah Valley shortly after removal. In 1997, Mr. Sharp guided researchers along the route of the old Army Road from the crest of the Snowbird Mountains northwest to Long Creek Church. Beginning at Tatham Gap, Mr. Sharp led the authors west to the summit of Pile Ridge, where he positively identified the road trace at that juncture as the old military road. From this point, Mr. Sharp proceeded westward along the current jeep trace, noting that this road is coincident with the old military road for approximately 2,400 ft along the crestline of the Snowbird Mountains (at 1,700 feet AMSL), one of the highest points traversed in the Cherokee removal. The old military road then turns north and descends into the Long Creek drainage along “Old Road Branch” passing through birch and hemlock forest and rhododen- dron thickets. Approximately 3,000 ft north of the ridge, the old road again intersects the Tatham Gap Road approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Tatham Gap. Large (36") chestnut stumps (that died due to the chest- nut blight of the 1910s-1920s) that line the edges of the road along this segment attest the age of the trace.

The old roadbed remains relatively intact as it descends another 2,800 ft along the western side of Long Creek, then recrosses the Tatham Gap Road, and continues another 900 ft before it crosses to the eastern side of Long Creek. From this point northward, the original roadbed is largely obscured by the current Tatham Gap Road. North of Rock Creek, on privately held land outside the Nantahala National Forest, the old military road again ran along the western side of the creek, then crossed the east side of the creek behind the present Long Creek Church.
Two Trail of Tears segments in Arkansas have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the country’s official list of historically significant sites. The sites are:

1) The Springfield-to-Fayetteville Road—Elkhorn Tavern Segment, located north of the Elkhorn Tavern within the Pea Ridge National Military Park, a nineteenth-century road remnant that was part of the Northern Route traveled by Cherokee Indians between 1837 and 1839 during their removal to Oklahoma. The road is noteworthy “by virtue of its status as one of the few intact surviving segments of road traversed by the Harris, Whiteley, and Bell Detachments during the Cherokee Removal,” the National Register nominations says.

In addition, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has completed registration requirements that will add oxbow lakes and river segments that form to the 1830s river beds traveled by Removal contingents to be listed on the National Register. The materials are being reviewed by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. AHPP historians are continuing fieldwork to determine whether any Arkansas oxbow lakes or river segments may noteworthy “by virtue of its status as one of the few intact surviving segments of road traversed by the Harris, Whiteley, and Bell Detachments during the Cherokee Removal,” the National Register nominations says. Undoubtedly, if H.R. 3085 becomes law, the pace of research will accelerate and revisions to the map database will become commonplace.

While the types of research activities across the trail have varied and contributed in different ways to our overall knowledge of the trail, one of the most effective means of contributing to the commemoration of the Trail of Tears has been the nomination of trail sites to the National Register of Historic Places. In the last several years, various partners have worked closely with the National Park Service to identify, document, and prepare nomination forms for sites along the trail. Not surprisingly, a large part of this effort focused on the routes that are currently being proposed for inclusion on the national historic trail. Notable highlights of this ongoing effort in 2005 include the following:

Through a cost-share arrangement with the University of North Carolina, Dr. Brett Rigs and Lance Green have presented nominations for eight rundown sites in the state, including the William Constant grave site at Fort Lindsay. Rigs and Green also wrote nominations for several segments of the rundown routes in North Carolina, including a long stretch of the Army Road that intersects the Trail of Tears.

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The Mantle Rock area also holds an impor-

tant place in history. The arch and sur-
rounding bluffs and cliffs served as shelter for Cherokee Native Americans traveling along the Trail of Tears in the winter of 1838-39. Many were held up while condi-
tions on the Ohio River prohibited passage. A visible section of the actual Trail of Tears also runs through the property, and rem-
ants of other Native American cultures can also be found on the preserve. In June of 2004, the Mantle Rock Preserve became a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The goals of the certification agreement between The Kentucky Trail and the National Park Service are to enhance interpretation and preservation of cultural resources at the site. It has also recently been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The preserve is open year round from sun-
rise to sunset, and approximately one mile of easy hiking trail is available for visitor use. In order to preserve the integrity of the site, motorized vehicles, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and rock climbing are prohibited.

Scott and Fort Delaney, and a segment of the Georgia Road south of Fort Butler. In western Arkansas, where the Bell route and land components of the water route overlap, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, working through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service, nominated a portion of the Dover to Clarksdale Road in Johnson County. Lieutenant R.H.K. Whitely’s Water Detachment and the Bell Detachment both traveled on this portion of trail. In 2004, the Mantle Rock Preserve was named a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The goals of the certification agreement between The Kentucky Trail and the National Park Service are to enhance interpretation and preservation of cultural resources at the site. It has also recently been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The preserve is open year round from sunrise to sunset, and approximately one mile of easy hiking trail is available for visitor use. In order to preserve the integrity of the site, motorized vehicles, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and rock climbing are prohibited.
The Passport to Your National Parks Program has been very popular at national park sites for the past two decades. Visitors have enjoyed filling their passport books with cancellation stamps as a reminder of their visits and park experiences, and collecting the annual national and regional stamps featuring the diverse units of the National Park System. Recently, the program has broadened to include units of the National Trails System—both national historic and scenic trails.

The National Trails System office staff in Santa Fe have ordered a state-specific cancellation stamp for certified sites along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail that have a visitor facility with regularly scheduled hours of operation. Passport books can only be stamped by visitors while at a site; not through the mail. Sites have also been encouraged to sell the passport books and the annual national and regional commemorative stamps.

The following sites have recently received their new cancellation stamp and await your visit with passport in hand!

**Arkansas**
- Lake Dardanelle State Park
- Mount Nebo State Park
- Petit Jean State Park
- Pinnacle Mountain State Park
- Fort Smith National Historic Site
- Pea Ridge National Military Park

**Missouri**
- Mark Twain National Forest
- Visitor Center/Moccasin Springs Road/Nancy Hildebrand’s Grave Site

**Indiana**
- Trail of Tears State Forest

**North Carolina**
- Museum of the Cherokee Indian
- Cherokee County Historical Museum
- Junaluska Memorial and Museum
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park

**Tennessee**
- Red Clay State Historic Site
- Sequoyah Birthplace Museum
- Audubon Acres
- Tennessee River Museum
- Chattanooga Regional History Museum
- Stones River National Battlefield
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park

**Kentucky**
- Trail of Tears Commemorative Park

**Alabama**
- (None at this time)

**Oklahoma**
- Cherokee Heritage Center
- Murrell Home

**Old Army Road**
Continued from page 9

The survey revealed that substantial segments of the Old Army Road survive from the toe of Pile Ridge outside of Andrews north to the Rock Creek confluence with Long Creek. Although the old military road is braided by the Tar Real Gap Road on both sides of the mountain, many intervening segments of the old trace are remarkably intact across the 4.5-mile course within the Nantahala National Forest.

In recognition of the historical significance of the “Old Army Road,” the University of North Carolina Research Laboratories of Archaeology has prepared and submitted a National Register nomination for preserved segments of the route on federal lands. It is hoped that inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will ensure the continued preservation and management of this road tract that so strongly conveys a sense of the remote and arduous routes used in the 1838 Cherokee removal from North Carolina.

**Passport Stamps Now Available at Trail of Tears Certified Sites**

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**Tentative Speakers**
- Duane King – Current Research
- Vicki Rozema – Brainard Mission
- Carol Roberts, TN State Library & Archives – Document Preservation
- Anna Smith – Moravians and Cherokees
- Brett Riggs/Russ Townsend – Unicoi Turnpike and Fort Armstead
- The Trust for Public Land/University of Tennessee GIS Department – Update on TPL efforts and GIS Capabilities

**Field Trips**
- Red Clay/Chattanooga Springs Tour – Red Clay was the last council grounds of the Cherokee before Removal. The Cherokee chose Red Clay after they were forced by the state of Georgia to move from New Echota. Chattanooga Springs and the Cherokee Agency are located near Calhoun, Tennessee; this was the site of most of the internment camps in the summer of 1838. This bus tour is limited in capacity, so sign up ASAP. Dinner will be included in the tour fee, which is $25.
- Brown’s Tavern Tour – Built in 1803 by the prominent Cherokee businessman and leader, John Brown, this tavern and inn was a well-known stopping place in the old Cherokee Nation, hosting several notable Cherokee leaders. It is located along the removal route of two Cherokee detachments during the Trail of Tears. Sign-up will be located at the registration desk at the conference. Free.
- Blythe’s Ferry Tour – This is the site where the majority of the Cherokee crossed the Tennessee River and left the Cherokee Nation in route west to Indian Territory. Sign-up will be located at the registration desk at the conference. Free.
- Riverboat Tour – Sites to see on this two-hour boat ride aboard the Southern Belle will be the site of Brown’s Ferry and Moccasin Bend (on the Water Route). Two Cherokee detachments crossed the Tennessee River from Moccasin Bend on Brown’s Ferry during the Trail of Tears. Other detachments traveling on the river paused at this site before taking on the difficult river straits below Chattanooga in the spring of 1838. Tour participants will be served dinner aboard the boat. The fee for this trip is $35.
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Many of the projects accomplished along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail are receiving funding from the National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share Program. Your project might qualify, too. Give us a call and we will send you a project proposal form and instructions. Projects should support the programs and goals of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail as set forth in the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan.

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

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

Site-specific projects can generally only be funded for certified sites. Projects can be related to resource protection, interpretation, education, or research. Projects require a 50:50 match of federal and nonfederal funding. However, the nonfederal match can include the value of volunteer time and other in-kind services, donated equipment and supplies, and so forth. If you’re not sure whether or not your project will qualify, call us anyway, and let’s talk.

Project proposals should be received at the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe by February 3, 2006.