Alabama Chapter to Host 2009 TOTA Conference; First Ever

Mark your calendars! The 14th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference will be held October 5 – 8, 2009, at Lake Guntersville State Park in Guntersville.

The site is SPECTACULAR! The park encompasses over 4,000 acres of woodlands and borders the 69,000-acre Guntersville Reservoir. It is located within 45 minutes of downtown Fort Payne, the starting point of the Benge route along the Trail of Tears. Researchers tracing this route have uncovered documents and maps that show the Benge route passing through what is now Lake Guntersville State Park property. Segments of the wagon trail are still evident today.

The conference will take place in the Park’s lodge, which has a variety of sleeping units available to suit everyone’s needs. Located at the lodge are sleeping rooms and chalets that overlook the bluff. One-mile down the road are lakeside-cabins. See the chart on the back of this newsletter for information on sleeping units, including pricing. All accommodations include a refrigerator and microwave.

To make room reservations, dial 1-800-548-4553. If you plan on arriving on Sunday, October 4, 2009, use group code CGTOT. If you plan on arriving after Sunday, use group code CGTOT2. The deadline for reserving the special group rates is September 3, 2009. Tentatively at this conference, the board of directors meeting will take place on that Monday, October 5th, and the conference activities will begin with a general assembly on Tuesday morning, October 6th.

If you have questions about the conference, email Jerra at TOTA@ArIndianCtr.org, or call her at (501) 666-9032. Details about registration fees and a tentative schedule will be mailed early next spring. In the meantime, if you or anyone you know would like to be a sponsor of or exhibitor at this conference, contact Jerra.

To find more pictures on the back of this newsletter. To find more information about Lake Guntersville State Park, visit www.VisitLakeGuntersville.com.

Alabama: This will be the first time the Alabama chapter of the Trail of Tears Association has hosted the annual conference, and the members of the chapter are truly honored to have the opportunity to showcase their state’s work on the Trail of Tears.
Once again we had an outstanding conference. Special thanks to Jerra and the Arkansas chapter for all of their hard work in putting the conference together! Also, thanks to all of our presenters. I found many informative comments on the overall conference as well as a scoping of the presentations. Be sure to set aside the first week of October for the 2009 conference which will be held in Greenville, Alabama, hosted by the Alabama chapter. I am sure that it will be outstanding.

I recently attended the 6th Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference held in Charlotte, North Carolina. Participated in a panel with several other tribal members entitled “Native Perspectives on Archaeology in the Carolinas: How Can Archaeology Serve Indian Country?” In preparing for the session, I researched how much the Trail of Tears Association owes to our archaeological friends – especially in North Carolina. Brett Rigg’s and Lance Greene’s report, “The Cherokee Trail of Tears – North Carolina,” sums up much of the work (available online).

Brett was instrumental in locating the only road constructed by the U.S. Army specifically to remove Cherokee. This road runs from the Snowbird community near present Robbinsville to the Valley Town near present Andrews. Excavation has been undertaken at Fort Arsenal in western Tennessee very near the North Carolina line. All of the North Carolina Cherokee who were removed passed this fort located on the Unicoi Turnpike. This excavation, along with the fort sites scheduled to be excavated soon in Georgia, will give us more details on the forts used in the removal. This will enable more accurate interpretations put in place at the various fort sites in the Southeast. Due to all this research in North Carolina, the North Carolina chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, in conjunction with the National Park Service and the help of Brett Rigg’s, is in the process of placing interpretative panels at fifteen removed sites in the western part of our state.

Congratulations are in order for all of you for this accomplishment.

I wish to extend my best wishes for a happy retirement to Andrea Sharon who will be retiring soon and to John Condon who retired earlier this year from the National Park Service. Thanks for all of your years of hard work on behalf of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Your retirement has been of great help in all of the accomplishments on the Trail during the last few years. We will miss you, but, at the same time, are looking forward to working with your successors.

Jack D Baker

Executive Director’s Message

The year of 2008 has been full of changes for our office at the American Indian Center of Arkansas and Trail of Tears Association. As the last newsletter stated, Paul Austin left ACA and TOTA last March and has begun his new position as executive director of the Arkansas Humanities Council. When a transition like this Paul had been with ACA since 1984, and he had been with TOTA in its inception in 1993.

In March, the ACA board of directors hired Lois Schubert, formerly the fiscal officer, as Paul’s successor as ACA’s executive director. Lois has been with ACA for 20 years and clearly deserves her new title. Unlike Paul’s double role as executive director of ACA and TOTA, Lois’ position does not include the role of executive director of TOTA. In May, the TOTA board of directors promoted me from associate director to executive director. After 5 1/2 years with the Association, I was thrilled with the board’s decision. Without Paul, I am the only employee of ACA now.

In June, ACA’s new fiscal officer will take up the executive director’s role. His name is Tammy Perrill, and she will take up Lois’ former role of maintaining accounting records for ACA and TOTA. Tammy is the person who will be responsible for sending the check for your membership payments.

That gets you up to what’s going on in the office. If you ever need my help, please feel free to call or email. I have a new email address, so please change your contact information for me. My new address is TOTA@ArkansasCO.com. The number is still the same, 501-666-9832.

Jerra Quinton

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Kentucky

The annual TOTA conference, this year at Little Rock, had good Kentucky representation in September with Andy Reed, Marilyn Nichols, Alba Murphy and Beverly Baker attending. All enjoyed various seminars and opportunities to visit various historic sites in the city.

On October 4, 2008, the annual chapter meeting was held at Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site in far western Kentucky. Attendees had an opportunity to learn more about the military involvement in Removal from a program presented by Chapter President Beverly Baker. Prior to the public portion of the meeting, the chapter board met to learn the results of the recent election. Beverly Baker and Carlin Hinkle were elected to four-year terms on the board and re-elected to their positions as President and Vice President, respectively. Alba Murphy was re-elected as a chapter representative to the national TOTA Board.

Shelly Morris, a board member and Native American Conquest representative, stated that work is progressing on the Marble Rock project between the Conquerors (landowners), National Park Service and TOTA. It is hoped that this project will be completed by late spring.

A major project since October 1, 2008, has been the battle of a possible mining permit in Todd County that would severely damage a certified site, the Radford Farmhouse and Original Trail Segment. Not only would the site be affected but also the large spring and camping area on Cherry Grove Golf Course at Reidsville, Dan Dickert documented in a camping area on the fork of the Red River. With the help of Todd County Standard newspaper and articles in the Hopkinsville newspaper, a large turnout was on hand for the permit conference hearing on November 13, 2008, in Eminence, Kentucky. Local landowners, a lone reporter, a Kentucky Heritage Council representative and Kentucky TOTA chapter members were out against the quarry perm. The rains have 30 days to issue their ruling.

Missouri

The Missouri chapter continues working on the trail, following up on roads found on old maps and finding new research. The chapter took advantage of the Arkansas Chapter Research Day held during the TOTA conference in September at the Saugerties Research Center. Directors Gary Wood, Hershel Price, Becky Arzy, Susan Zormak-Stevens and Donnie Dowling conducted through copies of the National Archives removal documents that were secured by the Association’s Oklahoma chapter in the documents research fund payment records across Missouri for the Department of Transportation, Susan Zormak-Stevens and Donnie Dowling conducted through copies of the National Archives removal documents that were secured by the Association’s Oklahoma chapter in the documents research fund payment records across Missouri for the Department of Transportation. Susan Zormak-Stevens and Donnie Dowling conducted through copies of the National Archives removal documents that were secured by the Association’s Oklahoma chapter in the documents research fund payment records across Missouri for the Department of Transportation.

On November 22, 2008, an afternoon event on the Bongs Trail took place with Earl Pennington, the Butler County Historical Society vice president. Others joining the event were Russell Woods of Missouri Department of Transportation, Susan Zormak-Stevens of Mark Twain National Forest and Paula TOTA board member, and Dennis Gray Wood who coordinated the event. Dr. Harold Bay, a Missouri chapter board member, hosted the board meeting and brought the tour to a successful close.

Nearly all chapter board members are Personnel (left to right): Dennis Gray Wood, trail coordinator; Dr. Harold Bay, Missouri chapter board member; and Susan Zormak-Stevens of Mark Twain National Forest and Paula TOTA board member, and Dennis Gray Wood who coordinated the event. Dr. Harold Bay, a Missouri chapter board member, hosted the board meeting and brought the tour to a successful close.

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A board meeting and membership meeting was held on August 2, 2008, at the Birmingham Museum of Art. The Museum graciously provided the meeting space to us at no charge, as they have several times in the past. Many stayed for lunch, where we had a chance to get to know members and visitors who attended our meeting for the first time. In the board meeting the importance of getting sites certified was particularly noted. We will only have one site certified (Tuscumbia Landing in northwestern Alabama) by the National Park Service. Sharon Freeman (Fort Penis), Larry Smith (Gunns’ Landing), and Mike West (Fort Likens) are working on sit certification. The Southeastern Anthropological Institute, a nonprofit, is partnering with the city of Sheffield to preserve Tuscaloosa Landing and to build an interpretive center next door. The board reviewed all Trail of Tears research documents in the proposed Tuscaloosa Landing interpretive center archives.

The Alabama chapter meeting dates will remain the same for 2009: the 1st Saturday of April, August, and December. Keeping up with volunteer hours was also stressed, as these are turned into Jerra at the Trail of Tears Conference & Symposium in Little Rock.

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Arkansas
Arkansas (continued)

One feature of this program was the introduction of a draft curriculum developed by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to teach Indian removal in Arkansas middle and secondary school classrooms. The curriculum development is ongoing and will be made available to Arkansas educators.

The Arkansas chapter hosted the national TOTA Conference in Little Rock, September 22-25. By all accounts the conference was a great success, and the Arkansas chapter would like to thank the national Association and all of the conference committee members for all of the effort put into the conference. Most of all we would like to thank all those who took the time to attend the conference. In addition to the conference, a research day at the Sequoyah Research Center was provided to many people willing to come to town so that there was not room for everyone. Future research days will be scheduled.

At the conference, Choctaw and Historic Washington State Park interpreters presented to Jay Miller of Arkansas State Park. Special thanks to Ruby Building for her artwork on the Choctaw panel. These panels were funded with the help of grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The northwest Arkansas research team submitted a site report to the National Park Service Historic Trails Division regarding the Pingree Farmstead in Washington County, Arkansas. On July 14, 2008, the NPS designated the property as the 50th certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. A special thanks goes to property owners Jay and Sarah Berryman for their cooperation in the agreement.

A grant was obtained from the Department of Arkansas Heritage to produce 18 interpretive panels to be placed all across the state of Arkansas. Preference will be given to small communities that would find it difficult to fund a panel on their own.

The Trail of Tears project exhibit, which was created last winter by Harvey Hanson and Karen Foreman as part of the Mapping Southern Illinois exhibit at the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Museum, will be displayed again as a traveling exhibit. The portable panels were adapted from a more extensive exhibit on regional maps and is available for $20.00 plus $5.00 for shipping. The exhibit contains the research and documentation of the path of the Trail through Johnson County. In addition to the research of Gary Hacker, the book contains research of Michae1 Wren, Jean Mages, John Shee1oog, and Charles Ruffner. Orders may be placed with Gary Hacker at P.O. Box 1392, Vienna, Illinois 62995.

The Illinois chapter spring general membership meeting will be April 26, 2009, at the SIU Carbondale Museum Library.

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Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Georgia (continued)

Skelton Cemetery also assisted on a documentary that will appear on NPR and Canadian public radio.

Chapter development has been of great importance in the last several months. The chapter has developed an online map and research database, the TOTAbase, that is proving in collecting research data and gathering on wealth of material from those who developed interpretations, such as websites. The chapter has implemented new chapter board positions: (1) a historic resource preservation officer, and (2) a grant writer to assist with finding additional funding and preserving the resources and tools along the proposed memorial routes in Georgia. Along with those positions, the chapter has adopted a "Preservation and Management Strategy" based on concepts put forward at the trail conference in Phoenix, AZ, this past May.

Finally, the chapter is working on a number of publishing projects, including an updated and footnoted version of Belle Abbott’s book on Cherokee Removal. The chapter is also partnering with the chapter on the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, and the National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe to partner with the chapter on the Fort Meade site near Canton and has already spent a day doing ground penetrating radar work and ecgonometric radiocarbon tests. The chapter is also partnering with the University of West Georgia in Carrollton and Dr. Georgia De Roos to use dendrochronology to accurately date possible Cherokee structures.

An especially important project this year was editing the cooperation of Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, and county and city governments all over the state of Georgia to adopt legislation to recognize this year’s anniversary of the Cherokee removal.

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Georgia (continued)

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Chief Vann House State Historic Site Celebrates 50th Anniversary

July 25, 2008 • OPENING SPEECH, Jack Baker — When Paul Smith first saw the house he agreed to help restore more than 50 years ago, he “wanted to make it beautiful because it was in such bad shape. But as a 15-year-old farm car-priker looked at the Chief Vann House Sunday afternoon, he was proud of the time he put into its restoration. “We went over it inch by inch, fixing everything that needed it,” Smith said. “It’s good to see it in all its glory.” Smith was one of approximately 500 people at the Chief Vann House state park and historic site’s 50th anniversary, a state park and historic site. The site is dedicated every 10 years.

The two-story brick house built in 1830 by Cherokee Chief James Vann was almost lost. Howard said at one point the house was used as a hay barn. The house and three acres were purchased from J.E. Norris in 1958, for $500. From 1959 to 2008, approximately 1,500 tours of the house and grounds each year.

The Tennessee State Office of Removal and Subsistence, U.S. government removed policies, the McIntosh Party of Creeks, preservation of ethnographic objects, the Seminole Treaty, tribal consultation, and the 13th annual conference September 22 – 25, 2008, at the Little Rock Office of Removal policies. The conference began and ended with two optional events. The Arkansas chapter is the time the house was used as a hay barn. The house and three acres were purchased from J.E. Norris in 1958, for $500. From 1959 to 2008, approximately 1,500 tours of the house and grounds each year.

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Bike Tour Connects Stories of Central High, Trail of Tears

September 25, 2008, kicked off Central High School National Historic Site’s “Civil Rights as Human Rights” Trail of Tears in Arkansas’ unique link to the tour. Central High itself John Johnson and Lona Miller coordin- 
ated the event with the Trail of Tears Association so that it would take place at the conclusion of TOTA’s 4-day conference in Little Rock when many interested in the Trail of Tears would be in town.

Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation was the guest speaker for the event. The event began on the Junction Pedestrian Bridge connecting Little Rock and North Little Rock, Arkansas. The 5- mile tour followed the presentation along the Arkansas River Trail. Around 35 partici-pants rode with park rangers along the trail and learned about particular events that occurred along the route.

Little Rock Central High School NHS inter- 
prises the desegregation of the school in 1957 when federal troops occupied nine African American students into the formerly all-white school. Both the school and the Trail of Tears demonstrate the ongoing struggle for civil rights for all. As part of this project, Central High NHS created a new bicycle tour of the Trail of Tears section along the city’s River Trail system that includes an interpretive component that links the two stories.

The bike tour was made possible from a grant to the National Park Service’s “Connect Trails to Parks” program. Bio-Tech Ranger bikes and accessories were purchased with the grant. The bike tour focuses on the Trail of Tears in Arkansas.

Trail Calendar

January 24
North Carolina Chapter Meeting
2:00 p.m.
Durham, NC
February 21 - 26, 2009
“Hike the Hill” - Trail Advocacy Week
Washington, DC
March 1 - April 15 (Tentative)
Trail of Tears Map Exhibit
John A. Logan Museum
Murphysboro, IL
April 4
Alaska Chapter Meeting
Details TBD
April 26
Rock Chapter Meeting
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Mount Library
Carbondale, IL
April 29 (Tentative)
TOTA Board of Directors Meeting
3:00 p.m.
Strategic Planning Session
1:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Select Airport/Claypool
Nashville, TN
July 12 - 15
12th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails
Holiday Inn
Missoula, MT
August 1
Alaska Chapter Meeting
Details TBD
October 5 (Tentative)
TOTA Board of Directors Meeting
1:00 p.m.
Lake Cumberland State Park Lodge
Guerinville, AL
October 5 - 8
2008 TOTA Conference
Guerinville State Park
Guerinville, AL
December 5
Alaska Chapter Meeting
Details TBD

Geo-Hiking or Auto-Touring the Trail of Tears in Pope County, Illinois

If you wish to see the site where the Cherokee in Illinois, go to Golconda and stand on the Ohio River bank south of the confluence of Lick Creek. There you will be near the site where the Cherokee arrived in Illinois in December of 1835. This would be at 37 22.86 N and 088 29.95 W. You may want to take a look near the high river bank where a river bluff and a popcorn tree marked the Indian town of the Cherokee here, but you are on private property and the owners do not want trespassing. For our hiking tour, we will use the following:

To arrive at our starting point, go west of Golconda about 3 miles on Homberg Road and go south to 37 21.30 N and 088 12.20 W. This is an intersection of a gravel road and Homberg Road. The original route then enters the Homberg county road. Travel west on the Homberg road to 37 21.65 N and 088 35.55 W, where you will take Trail of Tears Road west.

Travel west on this road and observe the deep cut roadway, as it winds through rural Pope County. You will come to a forested area at 37 20.74 N and 088 33.61 W. Continue west on Trail of Tears Road at 37 20.85 N and 088 33.88 W, where the Trail leaves the gravel road and goes through the Waggon farm, which is private property, and reconnects with the Trail of Tears road again at 37 21.05 N and 088 34.47 W.

In the vicinity of 37 21.42 N and 088 34.55 W, look for the small rock outcrop near to be in Illinois, old enough to have been here and watched the Cherokee pass by on their trail.

At 37 21.56 N and 088 34.75 W, we come to the junction of the Trail of Tears road and the Brownfield road. Continue west on the southernmost Brownfield road to 37 21.55 N and 088 33.16 W, where the Trail of Tears road then becomes a gravel road again.

Follow this road and it crosses Sheddville Road at 37 21.69 N and 088 32.20 W. Stay on the Trail of Tears road and once again watch for the deeply worn road way and the stately old oak trees. You will come to 37 22.86 N and 088 29.95 W, where the Trail of Tears road re-enters private property and the owners do not want trespassing. For our hiking tour, we will use the following:

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At this point, you have traveled just over nine miles on the original route of the Trail of Tears. If you wish, this may be broken down into smaller segments for walking, or may be used as an auto-tour route.

Just over 1/2 mile further west across the previously mentioned property, the Trail crosses Sugar Creek on the Crabbs-Johnson farm at 37 21.82 N and 088 41.44 W. This is verified by records found in the Pope County court house, Pope County Court Records Book A, page 254.

On this farm, the Trail winds around in a zigzag fashion before it leaves their farm and continues in a west, north and westwinding direction into Johnson County.

For more information on this section of the Trail of Tears, contact me, Joe Crabt, vice president of the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, at the number previ-ously mentioned.

By Joe Crabt
### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

**2009 Conference continued from front page**

#### HOTEL ROOMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Rates</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Parking Lot View queen bed & sofa sleeper | 1 adult - $86.40  
2 adults - $88.20  
$5 per additional adult |
| Bluffside Rooms* 2 queen beds       | 1 adult - $90.00  
2 adults - $91.80  
$5 per additional adult |
| King Suite* 2 queen beds & 2 sofa sleepers | $112.50 - up to 4 adults  
$5 per additional adult |
| Queen Suite* 2 queen beds & 2 sofa sleepers | $112.50 - up to 4 adults  
$5 per additional adult |
| Riverview Suite* 2 sofa sleepers (no bedroom) | $112.50 - up to 4 adults  
$5 per additional adult |

#### CABINS & CHALETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Cabins 2 bedroom/2 baths 2 full beds/king bed | $112.50 - up to 6 adults  
$5 per additional adult |
| Chalets 2 bedroom/1 bath 2 full beds/king bed | $112.50 - up to 6 adults  
$5 per additional adult |

#### ADDITIONAL TAXES & FEES

- 12% lodging tax
- $1 city surcharge added per night