Downtown Memphis to Host TOTA Conference in October

On the afternoon of Tuesday, October 7, 2014, following a wayside unveiling, conference participants will board a Mississippi riverboat for a cruise narrated by celebrated Memphis historian and tour guide Jimmy Ogle. The following afternoon’s activities, sponsored by the Choctaw Nation, include a tour of the museum and grounds of Chucalissa Archaeological site, followed by a traditional Choctaw meal prepared by a team of cooks under the direction of TOTA Vice President Sue Folsom. Storyteller Lori Robins, representing the Chickasaw Nation, will cap off that evenings events.

Featured speakers for the conference include Dr. Dan Littlefield, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Kirk Perry, Chickasaw Nation culture and humanities department, who will speak on Chickasaw History; and Dr. Brett Riggs, who will do presentations on Muscogee Creek history and the Natchez Tribe.

Missouri City to Receive 7 Wayside Exhibits

The City of Waynesville, Missouri, and NTIR are working with contractors to produce seven wayside exhibits for Laughlin Park. One upright orientation exhibit and six low-profile site specific exhibits will cover many aspects of the Trail of Tears, including the known encampment along Roubidoux Creek. First round design concepts are being reviewed. The exhibits are scheduled to be installed by March 2015. (Funded through the Challenge Cost Share Program)
Trail of Tears Association Executive Director’s Message

I am taking a break from planning the 2014 conference in Memphis to thank all the chapter officers and members who have helped me in this transition. I officially began work for the Trail of Tears Association on May 12th, but orientation with my predecessor Jerra Quinton Baker began several weeks beforehand. She has continued to be generous with her time and experience these first several months I have been on the job.

It has been a rigorous time. Planning for the chapter capacity building workshops in Springfield, Missouri, and in Dalton, Georgia, the week of June 16th occupied much of my first few weeks. The Saturday before Memorial Day found me at Trail of Tears State Park in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where I talked about “Before and After the Trail of Tears” to a full house.

Missouri Chapter Board Representative Denise Dowling is the superintendent at the park, and we utilized this time for preliminary organization of the 2015 conference, which will include a visit to the Trail of Tears Park.

On June 3rd I attended the dedication of a research room at Northeast Alabama Community College near Fort Payne to honor past Alabama Chapter President Gail King. The following Wednesday I was the dinner speaker for a teacher workshop in Little Rock, themed “The Trail of Tears to the Train of Tears,” hosted by the Butler Center and sponsored by the Arkansas Humanities Council.

I spoke at a dedication ceremony in Roswell, Georgia, on July 19th. The Roswell County Historical Society spearheaded the community effort, which created a memorial to the Cherokees who were dispossessed of their well established farms in this area of suburban Atlanta.

The 3rd week of August I spent a couple of very rewarding, but also very intense, days in orientation with National Park Service staff at the Long Distance Trails Offices in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Memphis in October!

Troy Wayne Poteete

Map Collector Bill Ambrose Working to Obtain Accurate KMZ Files for Missouri Trail of Tears

by Deloris Gray Wood

Dr. Bill Ambrose made a presentation from his private map collection to a group of about 18 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) employees at their monthly “Need to Know” video conference with the Colorado USGS office on Thursday, June 20, 2014. Dr. Ambrose was there representing the Missouri chapter board of the Trail of Tears Association. He serves as the chapter’s information technology committee chairman.

This same presentation will be given by Dr. Ambrose at the Trail of Tears Association Conference in Memphis in October.

Dr. Ambrose is on a mission to get accurate KMZ files of certified sites and original trail segments to apply to a multitude of georeferenced maps following the Trail of Tears across Missouri. Interpretation of the trail would then be available on a Missouri chapter website, downloadable to a device for in-field trip guidance interpretation. Finding additional sites offers more interpretation opportunity, hopefully followed by stewardship of the Trail of Tears in Missouri. Anything that might be gleaned from his effort could be adapted by the other 26 national historic and scenic trails located across the nation.

As a private citizen, historic map collector, and student of the trail, Dr. Ambrose’s presentation to government mapmakers made this meeting of the minds most interesting. He cited examples of campsites and trail segments used along the Trail of Tears in his presentation to tell the tragic story of the Cherokee removal across Missouri.

A question and answer session followed the formal presentation which led to a closer look at the trail in Missouri and how USGS could possibly help Missouri chapter members get more certified sites. From that Q&A, two other chapter board members, Nancy Feakes of Mark Twain National Forest and Deloris Gray Wood of the Missouri chapter, were invited to view the USGS Photographic Library.

In the archives were the file boxes of the quadrangles for each state. We stood beside the area where Arkansas started the files.

Each file was a large format negative box containing the color separation negatives used to burn the plates for printing the color quadrangle maps. What was most exciting was that under the five color separation negative sheets were the field notes that a surveyor made during his on-site study. These documents were typed transcriptions of the surveyor’s original handwritten notes. Also located in the USGS archive are the records of the survey corners.

On the other side of the aisle were the aerial photos of the sites. The field notes and the photographs were done in different years in each state.

One constraint at USGS is that there is a small area where documents can be examined. Thus, very few people can work at one time. It is in a work area where people are at work on their separate projects and are very busy.

The Missouri chapter would like to thank Dr. Ambrose for his presentation and looks forward to seeing a revised version of the information in at the Trail of Tears Association Conference next month.
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
Criders Tavern Complex, KY
David Crockett State Park Trail Segment, TN
Delta Cultural Center, AR
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR
Fort Gibson, OK
Fort Payne Cabin Site, AL
Funk Heritage Center, GA
Giles Co. Trail of Tears Interpretive Center, TN
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
Hiwassee River Heritage Center, TN
James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
Jentel Farm Trail Segment, IL
John Martin House, TN
John Ross House, GA
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
La Petite Roche, AR
Laughlin Park, MO
Mantle Rock, KY
Marmac 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
Paducah Waterfront, KY
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 Cherokee Cabin, GA
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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Trail of Tears Association Executive Director Troy Wayne Poteete (far left) visits with participants of the Chapter Capacity Building Workshop in Springfield, Missouri.
Chapter members filled most of the seats at the Chapter Capacity Building Workshop in Springfield June 16 and 17. Most are busy working on different types of projects along the Trail of Tears in Missouri.

Dr. Bill Ambrose gave a Trail of Tears map presentation via video conference to employees of the USGS in Rolla and Denver (CO) on June 20. Dr. Bill, Nancy Feakes and Deloris Gray Wood were given a tour of the TOPO map archives.

Dr. Neal Lopinot is working on National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations for the Springfield to St. Louis Road, Danforth farm, McMurtry Spring and will begin another on the Hildebrand Route in western Webster County. Katherine Dowdy is preparing a NRHP nomination for the Benge Route through the Poplar Bluff Ranger District.

Wood was a presenter at the Old Wire Road Conservation Area Trail of Tears route dedication event in Stone County, May 31. She and Brick Autry continue working on the Hildebrand Route in Iron and Reynolds Counties.

Mayor Luge Hardman is working on seven interpretative panels for Roubidoux Creek, Waynesville; and Denise Dowling is working on a panel at Bollinger Mill.

Russell “Rusty” Weisman continues working on the Benge Route; and Joe Davis is a newcomer who is walking the trail near the Current River near the Arkansas state line.

While some of the detachments just passed by Paducah, three of the detachments stopped at Paducah. The last water detachment to stop at Paducah was that of John Drew on the steamboat Victoria. Chief John Ross was with this detachment. When they arrived at Paducah in mid-December 1838, he found a letter awaiting him telling him how bad the situation was across southern Illinois where seven of the Northern Route detachments were stranded due to the ice flows on the rivers. Upon receiving the letter he took the Victoria over to Cairo, Illinois, and spent six days with the detachments stranded there.

The chapter has received signs for the Benge Route in Kentucky. Norma Pruitt, executive director of Kentucky Great River Road Organization, is working to get them installed. This will sign Kentucky’s entire 34 miles of the Benge Route.

Kentucky’s has another sign plan of eight original route signs that will replace auto tour route signs in the Hopkinsville area. So much of the state’s Auto Tour Route is actually the Original Route. These will be installed soon.

The chapter is working with the National Park Service’s Carol Clark on a site-specific wayside exhibit for Columbus-Belmont State Park. This was the campsite for the Benge detachment while waiting to cross the Mississippi River in mid-November 1838. Additionally, the chapter is hoping to obtain a wayside exhibit for Paducah.

The chapter is hoping to begin work soon on a state-specific brochure of the Trail of Tears.
Eastern Band riders from the 2013 Remember the Removal bicycle ride on the float. The float was provided to the chapter by the Eastern Band Travel and Promotion office to honor the memory of the Trail of Tears and to recognize the contribution of the chapter in support of the ride.

In May, the chapter cosponsored the send-off event for the 2014 Remember the Removal bicycle ride, which included six riders from the Eastern Band, and 13 riders for the Cherokee Nation. The chapter plans to continue to work with the Remember the Removal planning committee to facilitate this experience.

Last fall, the chapter hosted a symposium in Cherokee titled “Remember the Removal and Those Who Remained.” The event took place on November 15-16, 2013, and had around 250 people participate. The session held on Friday, November 15, educated the general public and students from local schools about Removal. On Saturday there was a bus pilgrimage that visited sites related to Removal. Guest speaker Dr. Brett Riggs announced he had discovered information that provided evidence that the Removal route had passed along the Little Tennessee River through Needmore. Lamar Marshall was able to find remnants of that section of the trail and led a walk there in April.

An exhibit by Dr. Michael Abram titled “Fewer Footprints, More Tears” has increased awareness of the history of the removal and its effect on the Cherokee. It is composed of material from his Cherokee Heritage Museum collection. This exhibit, cosponsored by the North Carolina chapter, has been shown in Tennessee at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park and Red Clay State Historic Park, in Western Carolina University’s Mountain Heritage Center, and in all six branches of the Fontana Regional Library System. The chapter greatly appreciates Dr. Abram’s exhibit and the time he spent traveling and lecturing on the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears.

Chapter members Doc and Sue Abram, Andrew Denson, Anita Finger-Smith, and Scot Withrow attended the June chapter capacity building workshop in Georgia. Sue and Anita also attended a program held by the Blue Ridge Heritage Foundation in July that provided information on ways to obtain grants from that organization.

On Saturday, September 13, the chapter will hold a meeting at Mission Farm in Cherokee County beginning at 12:30 with lunch generously provided by Dianne Wells. Anthropologist Dr. Jim Veteto from Western Carolina University will speak about Cherokee uses of native plants.

The Illinois chapter, with support from the local foundation Connect SI, has recently embarked on a project to deliver information about the trail in a whole new way. Chapter members are currently developing an audiovisual tour of the trail through southern Illinois using OnCell mobile tour technology. These free mobile tours will be able to be accessed or downloaded by any mobile device, such as a smartphone or tablet.

Twenty-one “stops” across southern Illinois relating to the Trail of Tears have been identified and the chapter is currently writing/editing the scripted messages and assembling accompanying visual resources.

These will then be recorded and uploaded using the OnCell program. Each “stop” will receive a small sign that will contain a stop number, phone number, and a Quick Response (QR) code. Upon visiting a “stop”, users can dial the number or scan the QR code to hear a prerecorded message that will contain unique information about the trail for that location. Users will also be able to access pictures, maps, or additional links.

Chapter members are planning to have the signs made in the next month or so and will begin posting them shortly thereafter. It is the chapter’s hope that this new way of delivering information will allow the chapter to reach a whole new audience of people interested in the trail, as well as enhance the experience for those that are already familiar with Trail of Tears history.
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 trail plan.

**Trail of Tears Association**

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Sponsors, Patrons, & Benefactors are listed prominently in two issues of the Trail News newsletter and on the TOTA website (includes donation amount).

**TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

January - December 2015

Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. ________________________________________________________________________________ Address ________________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _____ Zip ___________ Email ___________ Phone ___________

1. **MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**

☐ Basic $25 – $99  ☐ Sponsor $100 – $499  ☐ Patron $500 – $999

☐ Benefactor $1000+  ☐ Student $10 (enclose copy of college ID or, for minors, birth certificate) $______

2. **CHAPTER AFFILIATION(S)**

One chapter affiliation is free with all memberships. Each additional chapter is $10 each.

☐ Alabama  ☐ Arkansas  ☐ Georgia  ☐ Illinois  ☐ Kentucky  ☐ Missouri

☐ N. Carolina  ☐ Oklahoma  ☐ Tennessee  ☐ Check this box if you do not want a chapter affiliation and just want a national membership.

$______

Enter “0” if selecting only one (1) state chapter

3. **TOTAL ENCLOSED** (check or money order)

Add Lines 1 and Line 2 here for Total Amount Due $______

If you have any specific donation requests or comments, state here:

☐ Check this box if you would like to receive your newsletters by E-mail rather than by the U.S. Postal Service.
# Contact Information

1. **Name** (as wanted on name badge):  
2. **Organization Representing** (if applicable):

3. **Mailing Address:**

4. **City:**  
5. **State:**  
6. **Zip Code:**

7. **Telephone:**  
8. **Fax:**

9. **Email:**

# Registration

10. **Regular Registration**
   - □ TOTA 2014 Member: $125
   - □ Non-member: $175
   
   *Non-member registration includes TOTA membership through 2015.*

11. **On-Site Registration**
   - □ TOTA 2014 Member: $225
   - □ Non-member: $275
   
   *Non-Member Registration includes TOTA membership through 2015.*

12. □ Tuesday Field trip: Sign Dedication and Riverboat Cruise  
    □ Wednesday Field Trip: Tour of Chucalissa Archeological Site and Museum, Choctaw Traditional Dinner followed by Chickasaw Storyteller

13. **Meals:**
   - Lunch will be provided Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
   - A traditional Choctaw dinner will be served Wednesday night after the field trip.

14. **Guest Meals**
   - I need to register my guest, ______________________ (Guest’s First & Last Name), for the following meals:
   
   □ Tues. Lunch - $25  
   □ Wed. Lunch - $25  
   □ Thurs. Lunch - $25  
   
   TOTAL: $______________

# TOTAL FEES

15. Registration Fee from Line 10 or 11  
   = $______________

16. Guest Meal Fees/ T shirt (if applicable) from Line 13 and 14  
   = $______________

   TOTAL  
   = $______________

# For TOTA office use only:

   CK AMT: $______________  
   CK No.: #______________  
   CASH: $______________

   P.O. AMT: $______________  
   P.O. No.: #______________  
   CONF #:______________

   TOTAL RECEIVED: $______________  
   RECEIVED BY: ______________________  
   DATE: ______________
TOTA Conference
REGISTRATION INSIDE!
October 6 – 9, 2014
Doubletree Hotel Downtown
Memphis, TN

Registrations: 901-528-1800
Group Code for $109 reduced rate:
Trail of Tears Annual Meeting
Deadline: September 15th

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

Benefactors $1000
Cherokee Nation - $10,000

Patrons $500 - $999
Dorothy McNeir Horner - $525

Sponsors $100 - $499

Lucie Atkerson – $275
Riley Bock – $250
Paul Gary Phillips – $150
Marvin Sower – $150
Diana Threadgill – $150
Gary Werner – $150
Rowena McClinton – $130
Anna Smith – $130
Barbara Heffington – $125
Glenn Jones – $125
Billie Napolitano – $125
Maxwell Ramsey – $125
Sarah Hill – $120
Jay Hannah – $110
Mary Ellen Meredith – $110
Ansley Saville – $100
Lawrence Simmons – $100
Don Kinney – $100
Allan Ward – $100
Elmer Hogue, Jr. – $100
Gilles Carter – $100
Richard Starbuck – $100
Gary Payne – $100
Edwin Marshall – $100
Bill Tanner – $100
Don Higgerson – $100

Andrew Denson – $100
Bob Kimzey – $100
Robbin Skinner – $100
Richard Bass – $100
John McLarty – $100
Wayne Lee – $100
Cindi Crane – $100
Linda Harris – $100
John Wible – $100
Tammy Marlin – $100
John Knox – $100
Donna Young – $100