One of the several action items identified during the strategic plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (TRTE) in Memphis last summer was the development of a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) for the Trail. The first step in developing that plan was taken this April when a group of partners gathered again in Memphis. Representatives from the tribes, national office and state chapters of the Trail of Tears Association, researchers, the National Trails System Office – Santa Fe, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the USDA Forest Service spent two days working on a long-range vision for trail-wide interpretive programming that will take us into the next five to ten years. The final CIP document is intended to define and guide the trail-wide interpretive program consistent with achieving the Trail’s goals for interpretation—increasing people’s understanding and appreciation of the significance of the TRTE.

“The comment period for the CIP is June and July. . . . Don’t miss this opportunity to provide your input!”

Completion of the draft CIP is scheduled for early June. The draft will then be circulated to a wide scope of Trail partners for review. The comment period is June and July, with all feedback needed by August 1, 2003. A core team will incorporate the feedback and present the final plan at the Trail of Tears Association annual conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, October 6–9, 2003.

The completed plan will guide the work of all Trail partners for the next decade. It is an important step in helping us get even closer to our vision for the Trail becoming a reality. Take a close look at the draft document when it is circulated and don’t miss this opportunity to provide your input!
My vision for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is to have numerous certified sites with interpretation along all the routes so that someone may travel the entire route without having to go a long distance between sites. I believe that this will happen within the next three to five years.

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission is working with various groups, including the Pea Ridge National Historic Park, Benton County Historical Society, and the Trail of Tears Association, to form a “Friends of the Heritage Trail” to recognize, mark, and promote trail sites in Benton and Washington counties, Arkansas, relating to the Civil War, the Butterfield Stage Route, and the Trail of Tears. The Benton County Historical Society recently rededicated the Cross Hollows Civil War Marker near Lowell. This site was also a campsite for some of the removal detachments. It is hoped that an interpretive walkway telling about Cross Hollows significance in the Trail of Tears can soon be placed there beside the Civil War marker. Also, Pea Ridge National Historic Park has some significant segments of the Trail much as they appeared in 1838-39. Interpretive waysides should also be placed here.

Congressman Zach Wamp held a meeting on April 14th that brought together various groups with an interest in the Trail of Tears. Several counties in southeast Tennessee were represented, as well as groups from Georgia and Alabama. Various projects in that area include a new interpretive center for Moccasin Bend National Archeological Site, the Cherokee Memorial at Bryte’s Ferry, and interpretive exhibits in conjunction with the Chattanooga Riverfront Development Project. These projects, when completed, will make many more people aware of the story of the Trail of Tears, as well as providing destinations for those wishing to retrace the Trail.

Our Association members working with the National Park Service employees (Steve Burns and Aaron Male) have been identifying sites and extant Trail segments all along the Trail. As these locations are certified and interpreted, the Trail will truly become a recognizable National Historic Trail. The new book, Cherokee Heritage Trails Guidebook, by Barbara R. Duncan and Brett H. Riggs, identifies many of the Trail of Tears sites in the East that are primarily associated with the beginning of the Trail. This book shows what can be done to identify and describe historical sites. I look forward to the time when such a guidebook is available for sites all along the Trail.

Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association

I also pledge my support and that of the Trail of Tears Association to identify and mark the Removal Trails of the Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), Chickasaw, and Seminole Nations. I look forward to the time when these trails may be traversed with interpretation sites all along them.

Jack D. Baker

Trail of Tears: A vivid image comes to mind when I hear or read this phrase. When first asked to represent Arkansas on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council, I was hesitant because of the images and sadness it brought to mind. But it is difficult to tell your Governor, “No,” when asked to represent him. (Especially if you wish to continue to work!!!!!!!!)

Now, here we are 12 years later, with the Advisory Council’s work complete for the National Park Service. But for the members of the Council, our work has only just begun. As members of the Trail of Tears Association, I know we will continue to work for what many of us have poured our hearts and souls into.

For a moment, let’s look back. The first meeting of the Advisory Council was in Tableegah, September 17-18, 1991. I was reticent about the meeting because I knew very little, if anything, had been done in Arkansas. The Trail of Tears Advisory Council also knew that there was little money available in my state for the project. As I traveled to that first meeting, my hope was that the NPS would have some plan for the Trail. I was also hopeful that the states would assist the states. However, that dream was quickly extinguished. After the first meeting, though, I felt much better about what this national historic trail was to become.

It was apparent that the success of the trail would rest on the hands of dedicated individuals from each state that the trail crossed—in the hands of people who believed in this effort. I had been convinced that a non-Cherokee I would have to little to offer in the development of the trail. However, this fear was quickly forgotten when I met the other Council members. There were representatives from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and the Eastern Band of the Cherokees and there were also representatives of the Creeks and the Chickasaw. The Advisory Council members were in consensus that this trail was to be a commemoration of all the tragic events that led up to and through all the “trails of tears” that displaced the Indian nations across America, but with a focus on the Cherokees and those southeastern nations removed at about the same time. This was an opportunity to educate the nation, and we wanted this to be a primary focus of trail development.

In the years that followed, the Advisory Council helped develop the Comprehensive Management Plan, developed site certification criteria, established the Trail of Tears Association, and helped to monitor activities in each state that might jeopardize any remaining parts of the original trail routes. The Council members were advocates for the trail in each state as well. There are now two major visitor centers with trail exhibits in Tableegah, Oklahoma, and in Cherokee, North Carolina. And there are plans for a video that can be used by all the states for informational and promotional purposes. Progress was slow, but progress has definitely been made.

In 2002, the Advisory Council “sunset” and the NPS made the decision not to reappoint the Advisory Council. Some see a sunset as an ending, but to me it is only the beginning. The sun may set in the west, but at that same time it becomes a beautiful sunrise in someone else’s east.

As our sun rises, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Advisory Council members, past and present, who have devoted so much time and effort through the last 12 years in the development of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Especially, I want to thank Dr. Duane King, the first Advisory Council Chair. Without his leadership, his dedication to the project, and his in-depth knowledge of the historical events, we could not have accomplished what we have to date. THANK YOU to all the dedicated men and women for your dedication and hard work!

Bobbie Hefington

Advisory Council members:
Dr. Duane King
Governor Annastabby
Ms. Lawanda R. McCoy
Mr. Roy Poteete
Mr. Bill Cunningham
Mr. David M. Dailey
Mr. Kenneth Eastin
Ms. Patricia Ezzell
Mr. Ken Blankenship
Mr. Allan K. Green
Mr. H. Roger Hamilton
Ms. Kathleen Hollabaugh
Ms. Shirley Hoskins
Mr. Al Lemieux
Mr. Bill Cunningham
Ms. Susie Walker McNeal
Mr. Robert Friedrich
Ms. Marilyn Morgan Grant
Ms. Duane King
Mr. R. Lynne Harlan
Ms. Bobbie Heffington
Mr. Richard H. McCreery
Mr. John Eastin
Mr. David M. Dailey
Mr. Jack Baker
Ms. Patricia Ezzell
Mr. Robert Friedrich
Mr. Bobbie Heffington
Mr. Al Lemieux
Mr. Bill Cunningham
Mr. Bill Cunningham
Mr. Dick Carter
Mr. Larry Poteete
Mr. James E. Price
Mr. Max Ramsey
Mr. Richard C. Sheridan
Ross Swimmer
Mr. J. B. Tate
Ms. Mildred Taylor
Dr. Joseph D. Truitt
Ms. Mary Tidwell
Mr. Eddie Tullis
Mr. Philip H. Viles, Jr.
Mr. Rickett Walker
Mr. Thomas Yehola
Ms. Mary C. Young

A Message from the Superintendent of the National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region

In the initial issue of Trail News, a rich and diverse selection of articles and announcements received widespread circulation. Comment and feedback about the premiere edition have been very positive.

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

Last October, I was selected as Superintendent of the National Trails System Office – Intermountain Region. At that time I made a significant decision not to re-charge the Trail of Tears Advisory Council. Though the decision was difficult, I felt that the Council had fulfilled its purpose in completing the planning document and establishing the Trail of Tears Association. Dedicated and committed chapter members have increasingly assumed responsibilities in advocating for the protection of trail resources, interested in the stories of the Trail of Tears, and providing a forum to address issues and concerns. Other federal agencies, state governments, and private citizens have engaged in meaningful ways to assist with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. These valued partners will continue the course set by the Advisory Council.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation for all that the members of the Advisory Council have accomplished since inception to 2002. Your innumerable contributions were integral to completion of the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan, and to nurturing the Trail of Tears Association. You made a difference, and on behalf of the National Park Service, I offer my most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

The partnership for the national trail is ongoing, and from other articles in this issue, you will identify specific examples of our continuing cooperation. Together we will accomplish important work for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Jere Krakow

A Message from the Trail of Tears Association President

Mr. Rickey Butch Walker
Ms. Susie Walker McNeal
Ms. Lawanda R. McCoy
Ms. Lisa Chatterton
Ms. Mary Ellen Meredith
Dr. Carmelita R. Montrait
Mr. Troy Potete
Dr. James E. Price
Mr. Max Ramsey
Mr. Richard C. Sheridan
Ross Swimmer
Mr. J. B. Tate
Ms. Mildred Taylor
Dr. Joseph D. Truitt
Ms. Mary Tidwell
Mr. Eddie Tullis
Mr. Philip H. Viles, Jr.
Mr. Rickett Walker
Mr. Thomas Yehola
Ms. Mary C. Young

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council “Sunsets”
Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Georgia

In order to help build public support for preservation efforts, chapter member Dr. Sarah Hill, Dr. David Crass from Georgia’s HPD Office of the State Archaeologist, and the NPS National Trails System Office - Santa Fe are currently working on an $18,000 Cost-Share grant. This grant is aimed at producing a tri-fold pamphlet and display and a technical report with GPS mapping of the Georgia removal “forts.”

The Georgia chapter welcomes Doug Mabry as the new chairman for the Chapter Research Committee. Doug’s anthropology training and past experience in removal research of the Cherokees and the Creeks will be useful as he steers members in their efforts to assist Dr. Hill.

Georgia chapter members attended the 7th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in October. New Echota State Historic Site’s research library has received a bequest from the late Martha Redus, including her collection of genealogical research material. Martha was an active member in the Georgia chapter’s research work, and, before her death, had assisted countless people in their genealogical research through her business, “Cherokee Cousins.”

Georgia chapter members who attended the National Association conference in Arkansas (and Oklahoma) had nothing but high praise for those organizing the event this year. The speakers, presentations, and historical sightseeing were outdone only by the hospitality of the host chapter. Thank you, and our compliments go out to all involved.

Congratulations to the Chiefhains Museum/ Major Ridge Home for attaining approval as a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Director Carey Tilley and the Chiefhains’ board of directors have worked hard to refocus the Ridge site toward the mission of telling the Cherokee story.

The executive board and members of the Georgia chapter wish to express our sorrow to the families of Walter Baker and Donald Lance, who passed away this past year. The dedication and commitment of these past board members over the years are greatly appreciated, and we will miss them.

Tennessee

In December 2002, the final master plan for the Trail of Tears Memorial Park in Pulaski, Tennessee, was released. Among the structures that officials plan to include on the site is the Mars Stone Chapel, which housed the former Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. The interior of the chapel will be renovated for use as an interpretive center and art gallery. An on-foot circular entry plaza at the center will feature a map carved in limestone that depicts the four primary routes used in the removal. A monument to honor David Crockett, a Tennessee congressman who strongly opposed Indian removal, will be located adjacent to the center. Additional plans include a life-size bronze sculpture of a typical Cherokee family walking along the trail, tile artwork, an herb garden, a historic overlook, and period landscaping. The estimated cost of the project is $700,000. Just over $225,000 has been raised thus far, and the park committee hopes to complete phase one of this project later this year. Last year’s activities ended with an educated national booth at the Tullahoma Intertribal Powwow, where information about TOOT and the Park was available to attendees. Funded by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission, chapter member and Martin Methodist College professor Bernice Davidson resumed the teaching of classes on the Trail of Tears at elementary schools in Giles and Lincoln counties this fall. On January 26, 2003, several chapter members served as historical advisors to Chatta- nooga’s Winter Crossing, an event sponsored by the Chattanooga Indigenous Resource Center and Library to commemo- rate removal detachments reaching the Mississippi River in January 1839. Also, the chapter had booths at Birchwood’s Annual Cherokee Heritage & Sandhill Crane Viewing Days in February and the Middle Tennessee State University Powwow in February and March. New officers were elected at the chapter quarterly meeting on March 22.

Missouri

Interprofessional Resource Supervisor Tara Tucker resigned her position to take a position with the Houston Zoo. We wish Tara well. She was a member of the Association and supported our meetings regularly. Currently, Trail of Tears State Park has two key positions vacant; we are uncertain about when these will be filled because of a hiring freeze.

Denise Dowling and Hershel Price attended a presentation at the Museum of the Cherokee in Cherokee, North Carolina, in December. A plan was submitted to the NPS for using information from the Trail to be located and accessed by interested parties. Hopefully, very exciting possibilities will grow out of this meeting.

The November quarterly meeting was held in Rolla in the archive section of the University of Missouri-Rolla Library. Special thanks to John Bradbury of the library who helped coordinate our session. This session was another attempt to spot-light the need for research along the Trail in Missouri.

Missouri (continued)

With great sorrow we note the passing of chapter member Dr. Donald M. Lance. Dr. Lance helped start the Missouri chapter and was a member. He served on both the chapter and national boards. We will all miss his friendship and counsel.

North Carolina

As part of a challenge Cost-Share agreement with the NPS, the North Carolina chapter has now completed reconnaissance and evaluation of 23 trail sites in southwestern North Carolina. These include Army installations, roads, associated commercial buildings, public gathering places, and private residences. Activities at these sites ranged from simple inspection to archaeological testing and excavation.

Reconnaissance and mapping of the Undis Tsiyope (the old Unicoi turnpike roadbed) was the route used to deport more than 3,000 Cherokee prisoners from North Carolina. The road, removed in 1838. Displays include interpretations of Cherokee home and farm life, detailed map reconstructions of the Cherokee landscape, and vignettes of the 1838 removal and Cherokee resistance. The exhibit also features the Cherokee accounts ledger of A.R.S. Hunter, a rare manuscript in the holdings of the Cherokee County Historical Museum. The ledger reveals day-to-day purchases by Cherokee residents around present-day Murphy, North Carolina, from October 1836 through May 1838, the federal disbursing agent at Fort Cass settled these accounts from the treaty funds. The Research Laboratories of Archaeology (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) have digitized this valuable manuscript and are preparing the images for Web access.

The North Carolina chapter is also preparing the results of its 2003 survey project through 18 wayside interpretive exhibits funded by the North Carolina Department of Tourism and the Cherokee Cultural Preservation Foundation. These exhibits detail site-specific events and broader patterns of the military removal in southwestern North Carolina and will be installed at or near the actual sites.

North Carolina (continued)

Brett Riggs works on excavations at the Valley- town Baptist Mission in western North Carolina.
The Trail of Tears Community Loses Two Friends in 2002

Along with being an accountant, Walter Baker, a long-time Trail of Tears Association board member, passed away a few days after returning from the conference in Fort Smith.

Dr. Lance’s spirit and support will be deeply missed.

Certified Sites

- Chattanoog a Regional History Museum, TN
- Cherokee Heritage Center, OK
- Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
- Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC
- New Echota State Historic Site, GA
- Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
- Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN
- Tennesse River Museum, TN
- Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY
- Trail of Tears State Park, MO
- Vann House Historic Site, GA

Pending Certifications

- Blount County Historical Society, TN
- Coke Ovens Museum Trail Segments, TN
- City of Chattanooga trail routes and historic sites, TN

Federal Protection Components

- Cherokee Removal Memorial Park - Blythe Ferry, TVA land, TN
- Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
- Mark Twain National Forest, MO
- Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
- Shawnee National Forest, MO

Newly Certified Sites

- Audubon Acres, TN
- Brown’s Ferry Swamp, TN
- Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC
- Chilhowee Museum/Maj or Ridge Home, GA
- Murrell Home, OK

Conclusion

The project continues to develop and interpret Trail resources. A growing awareness of this important story—and those of other removed people—has stimulated interest in nationally recognizing this chapter in our Nation’s past. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail tells of the Cherokee “trail” —but many trails can tell similar stories.

A variety of local, state, and national efforts have commenced to preserve, develop, and interpret Trail resources.

Despite this tragic event in our Nation’s history, the Cherokee and other Southeastern tribes built successful communities that exist today. Old traces, historic buildings, and other sites are being preserved to commemorate the sorrowful journey.

The Board approved Beverly Baker’s suggestion that Alice Murphy be added as the second representative on the board from Kentucky. The passing of Beverly’s husband, Walter, last August, left the second position vacant.

The board approved the development of a resolution that supported making available federal appropriations for The Trust for Public Land to acquire critical certified Trail properties along the Trail of Tears.

The slate of officers was presented by the nominating committee to the board for election. The board approved the slate, which included Jack Baker for President, Hershel Price for Vice President, and Bobbie Jefferson for Secretary/Treasurer.

The Trail of Tears Community will continue to work with Trail partners to increase visibility for the Trail and to develop it for visitor use. Additional sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects have been completed, such as signage along the route, visitor-use development, interpretive wayside exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities. Many more are being planned.

Walter will be greatly missed by all involved with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Another board member, Dr. Donald Lance, 71, passed away in Columbia, Missouri, on October 23, 2002. Dr. Lance also served on the Missouri chapter board.

After having received his doctorate in English language and linguistics in 1968 and serving in the Army as a first lieutenant during the Korean War, Dr. Lance began teaching linguistics in 1969 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Besides being an active member of TOTA, he was a member of the Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, and served in a leadership capacity with several organizations, including the American Dialect Society, American Name Society, and Missouri Folklore Society.

According to Dr. Gilbert Yeomans, colleague and friend: “Don’s interests included dialects, place-names, phonetics, and language in general. A powerful service-ethnic led him to lend his talents far outside his field, not only to folklore, but to the Trail of Tears Association. His publications include one of the standard works on dialect, Variation in North American English: Research and Teaching, Eds. A. Wayne Glowka and Donald M. Lance.

New York: Modern Language Association, 1993. He was perhaps the only person who completely understood the vexing issue of how the final syllable of our fair state’s name is pronounced.”

Donald Lance, Trail of Tears Association board member, passed away a few days after returning from the Association conference in October 2002.
A Message from the National Trail of Tears Association Office

The national office has been very busy in the last few months. In October 2002, the 7th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium went off with-out a hitch... except for one small problem with the bus tour to Table Rock. I would like to thank all of you who took the delay and modifications in stride and helped make the day a success in spite of the bus cancellation. The conference was attended by approximately 200 people, including conference registrants, tour registrants, and speakers. The conference for the Partnership of the National Trails System increased membership at this year’s TOTA conference due to the “piggy-backing” of the Partnership conference onto the TOTA conference. For more detailed information on the outcome of the TOTA conference, see the article on the conference results on page 4.

The executive committee of the TOTA board of directors met on January 23, 2003, at the Association office in Little Rock, Arkansas. All six members (Jack Baker, Riley Rock, Bobbie Hefflington, Duane King, Hershel Price and Max Ramsey) were present either in person or through conference call. At this meeting, the next general board meeting was scheduled for June 4, 2003. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn around 3:00 p.m., and will take place at the Marriott Hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee. Also discussed was the creation of a committee to develop a strategy for establishing a resource/interpretation center in every state through which the Trail passes. Duane King will lead this effort. In addition to this committee, two other committees will be created — a Bylaws Committee and a Nominating Committee. The executive committee summed the meeting up by outlining the priorities that seemed to be set forth by the discussion held: membership, website construction, newsletter and journal production, improved communication with the National Park Service, conference proceedings, and interpretive centers in all nine states.

The Association is already busy in its planning for the next conference. We had our first planning meeting for the 2003 conference on March 19, 2003, in Cherokee, North Carolina, the site for the conference. The main participants in the planning of this year’s conference are members of the North Carolina chapter of TOTA, the Eastern Band of Cherokees Indians, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and TOTA staff.

On April 1 - 4, 2003, the National Park Service and a select number of TOTA members attended a meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, to create a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for the Trail of Tears Historic Trail. Please refer to page 1 of this newsletter for more details.

And don’t forget to mark your calendars and make arrangements to attend the 8th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium, October 6 - 9, 2003, at the Holiday Inn in Cherokee, North Carolina (see page 17 for more info). We expect an exciting time! I’ll see you there!

Jerra Quinton
Association Coordinator

Trail Interpretive Publications Produce Record Sales

Three years ago the general interpretive publication for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was published by Western National Parks Association (WNPA), formerly Southwest Parks and Monuments Association. Dr. Elliott West wrote the text in consultation with the tribes, the Trail of Tears Association, and the National Park Service. Retaining for WNPA the rights to this introduction to the Indian Removal story the book quickly became a popular item at sales outlets along the Trail. In fact, sales exceeded WNPA’s projections and the 8,000 copies of the first printing have all been sold! A second printing of 10,000 copies was made in March 2003, which is projected to last until 2006. The Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, North Carolina, near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park continue to report the highest number of annual sales for the booklet. Anyone up to challenging that record?

As your site reads for the busy summer season, you still have time to stock up with the booklet for your sales outlet. They make an ideal “impulse buy” near the front desk or cash register, and are an affordable means to increase Trail visibility.

To purchase a small quantity of the book, contact the national office of the Trail of Tears Association in Little Rock. If you need to purchase wholesale for your outlet, contact WNPA in Tucson, Arizona, at 520-622-1099.

Recent Donors

The Trail of Tears Association appreciates all the support from members and partner groups. We would especially like to thank those who have given a little extra when sending in their membership dues and those who have donated for specific events, such as the annual conference and symposium. Listed below are our recent donors:

Euel Hanna
Edith Mason
Casiy & Lori Vann
Gary Wood

Arkansas Chapter of TOTA
Cherokee Heritage Center
Cherokee Nation
Cherokee Nation Enterprises
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Department of Arkansas Heritage
Fort Smith National Historic Site

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

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Membership in the Trail of Tears Association automatically includes membership in one state chapter. Additional state memberships are $10.00 each.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES $25.00

Payments to the Trail of Tears Association are tax deductible under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code.
Founding the Trail of Tears Association - Our 10th Anniversary Milestone

by H. Riley Bock

It is spring 1992. I am standing in front of a dining room fireplace with my hostess, Mrs. Jimmie Davis of Cartersville, Georgia, and several guests and members of the Etowah Valley Historical Society. The camera of a reporter from the Cartersville Daily Tribune never flashed, and he asks a few questions before leaving. Having just arrived, I’ve yet to meet four of the five persons I posed with, and I begin introducing myself. But “Max Davis” has been Kent Eastman, Arkansan Fan of Tourism, Diane Tate of the Etowah Valley Historical Society, and write of Council员 Dr. J. B. Tate, Eddie L. Tullis, chairman and chief executive of the Poarch Creek Indians; and finally Dr. Duane King, Chairperson of the Advisory Council, who had ridden with me from the Atlanta airport. The photo still graces my office in New Madrid.

That was 11 years ago, when I was the newest member of the Trail of Tears National Historical Trail Advisory Council and attending my first council meeting as a representative of the State Historical Society of Missouri. I had much to learn about the project and the diverse group of people behind it in the coming days.

Because of our late-arriving planes, Duane King and I were stranded at the Atlanta International Airport. We met at the luggage carousel and stood there, our luggage bound to the same destination, Red Top Mountain State Park. The drive from the airport allowed us to get acquainted, learned about other things, that he was the Chairperson of the Advisory Council. When we finally arrived at our meeting site, we were whisked off to the reception at the Davis mansion. I was barely in the door when I was lured up at the fireplace for the photo. The evening reception immersed all of us in the optimal font of hope and promise about the trail. It was one of those moments that only upon reflection you recognize its magic; but then it is long past, years gone by, the moment of a photographer’s camera flash. As it turned out, I was the final addition to a group that would establish the National Trail of Tears Association. It all began that evening. For this task, the Trail of Tears was this a busy time, and my first fast-paced experience at the Davis mansion would underscore the tempo of the project. The climax would be the establishment of the Trail of Tears Association in May 1993.

After the Georgia meeting, the council scheduled to meet again in the fall in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and then in the spring of 1995 in Nashville, Tennessee. One important action taken at the Cape Girardeau meeting was the directive to form an association.

This task would fall on the capable shoulders of the Advocacy Committee. Max Ramsey, who was then representing TVA on the council, was previously appointed to head that committee at the Tableague, Oklahoma, meeting in September 1991. Following the Cape Girardeau meeting, Max solicited my help. He wrote: “Formation of such an association is vital to the support and implementation of the Trail’s comprehensive management and use plan.” I began my work. Charting the association required a set of bylaws, as well as articles of incorporation. Since I was practicing law in Missouri, it was decided that the association would be incorporated in my state.

Joined by this common interest and work, Max Ramsey and I would become good friends. His selection of me as the committee chairperson was wise; Max possesses good organizational skills and already had a good working relationship with many of those associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. His early inclusion of a such a broad swath of people in forming the association has considerably benefited the organization since its formation.

The incorporation required three signatures, and, besides mine, Max suggested that the two other incorporators be the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Wilma Mankiller, and the principal chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Jonathan L. Taylor. Max cleared this process through the offices of each chief. During this same time period, the Advocacy Committee began examining draft copies of the proposed bylaws. In a letter dated December 11, 1992, Max was circulating both a draft of the bylaws and the proposed articles of incorporation drawn by TVA staff attorney, Sarah Yates. These circulars went to John E. Cook, Regional Director of the Southwest Region of the National Park Service; Duane King, Chairman of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council, David M. Gaines, Chief, Branch of Long Distance Trails, Trail, Bill Cunningham and Bob Friedrich, Jr., both members of the advisory council; Chief Wilma Mankiller; and Dawnena Walkingstick Darnall. Dawnena would later serve as the Association’s first executive director (or secretary/treasurer, as it was then designated).

In March 1993, I mailed the original copies of the Articles of Incorporation to Chief’s Mankiller and Taylor for the committee’s approval, following an address correction required by the Secretary of State’s office, these incorporation documents were submitted in formal form to the Secretary for filing on May 18, and the charter was granted the following day, May 19.

The Advocacy Committee had continued its work on the bylaws through the spring and finalized them by the time the council met in Nashville—just eight days after the association was chartered. On the second day of the Nashville meeting, the Association was organized under its charter and the bylaws were adopted. The officers, who were elected on the basis of Duane King’s motion from the floor, included me as president, Max Ramsey as vice-president, and Dawnena Darnall as secretary/treasurer.

While the incorporation and adoption of the Association’s bylaws were the necessary groundwork to begin, it was only a beginning. The most challenging part would be to turn the idea into a viable and effective organization for the Trail of Tears.

Looking back, I don’t think of any of us had any idea of what lay ahead. Sometimes, and this may have been one such moment, it is best not to know.

Within a month of the adjournment of the Nashville meeting, Dawnena and I joined Max at his home in Knoxville to chart our course. My hand notes of the meeting reveal discussion of a motley group of ideas and goals. Among the more lofty thorny discussed were a long newsletter and a newsletter. Eventually, we returned from the clouds and directed Dawnena to purchase some stationary, design a membership brochure, and begin building a mailing list for memberships. This meeting set in motion much of her work through the balance of 1993.

In December of that year she attended the National Trails conference in Kansas City, Missouri, specifically to learn about the other trail organizations and to come back with some ideas on memberships. She sent out her proposals in a letter to the executive board, which were acted upon. Her focus was on membership growth, which was ambitious desires and kept the organization phase of the Association on a steady course.

Only one executive board meeting was held in 1994: March 3 in Florence, Alabama. John Cook; Joe Teaff, David Gaines, Mary Proctor, and Duane King joined the three officers at that meeting. Following the meeting, FINANCING, memberships, and the need for a central office location dominated the agenda and were referred to the membership for its notes. Perhaps one of the more notable accomplishments that year was Dawnena’s obtaining an official tax-exempt status 501(c)(3) recognition. The Board of Directors of the Association that status on August 23, 1995.

Memberships continued to dominate the Association’s efforts into the spring of 1995. The Association’s three officers met again in Knoxville in the TVA building on February 13. The full board convened when the Chattanooga meeting that was to begin on March. The Association seemed well on course, but it was shortly after the Chattanooga meeting that our work and plans began to unravel.

In April I received word from Dawnena that she and her husband, Russ, would be making a work trip to Bob Hope Hospital in Nashville. Frankly, I had no contingency for the loss of our executive director and there was no time to look elsewhere before she moved. Records and equipment were stored near her home in Simpsonville, South Carolina, with instructions to ship them when we could make suitable arrangements.

Before her departure, Dawnena had devoted considerable time and effort to organizing the Association. We all believed that her efforts would eventually be successful. At the time, I thought her loss to be irreplaceable and an end to our combined efforts. I did not know that I would voice the opposite. I was being a hopeful advocate while harboring private thoughts of failure. But to the logistics of salvaging the Trail of Tears Association looked daunting and largely insurmountable. I cannot overstate the seemingly hopeless circumstance we were in.

I would like to believe that some of the creative magic we experienced on a clear spring evening in Georgia in 1992 welled up at this moment—dueling ideas, some other friendly force, rose up from years past to save the Association.

Late that fall my telephone rang, it was Bobbie Heffington, a member of the Advisory Council from Little Rock, Arkansas. She had this friend and he might be willing to take on the work of the Association.

I was soon bumping along I-40 on my way to Memphis, Tennessee, to meet with Paul Austin, executive director of the American Indian Center of Arkansas. A luncheon with Bobbie and Paul was shortly followed by another meeting that included Max Ramsey held in

Riley Bock with Dawnena Darnall at Rattlesnake Springs near Chattooga in 1995.

Postscript

In the ten years since the Association’s charter, many others not mentioned in this piece have contributed to its progress and mission. With the recent ending of the Charter of the Advisory Council, the Association set in its bylaws “to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail” carries additional responsibility and urgency for the Association. This responsibility increases because it is now the only civilian organization dedicated solely to the Trail of Tears assisting the National Park Service. That the Association is now ten years old and has yet to reach a degree of self-sufficiency and is still seeking and accomplishes its mission imparts an urgency of task upon us all. Let us follow the course charted for us in 1993 and rise to the challenge of making the Trail of Tears Association an effective advocate for the Trail, our common heritage, and its national purpose.
As part of the “signing family” within a larger “family” of trail infrastructure needs, the National Trails System Office has been looking at prototypes of site identification signs, as well as other types of trail auto and pedestrian directional and informational signing. Eventually, we hope that visitor infrastructure needs for “building” the trail will form a coherent “kit of parts” along the entire trail. This “kit of parts” will help form a singular sense of identity, place, and utility for the National Historic Trail that will allow visitors to truly have a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail experience from one site, interpretive facility, or trail segment, to the next. The prototype signing fits this same model in attempting to create a coherent identity for the national historic trail.

This Sequoyah Birthplace Museum sign is an alternative example for national historic trail site identification.

Another national historic trail site identification sign example.

A sign concept identifying a certified interpretive facility as a national historic trail visitor center.

Another concept study for a national historic trail site identification sign.
The Trail of Tears Association held its 7th annual conference on Tuesday, October 15, 2002, through Friday, October 18, 2002. The conference evaluations proved the 7th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium a success. Out of the approximately 190 individuals who attended, 71 voted on the overall conference evaluation forms. Out of those responses, 53% had never attended a TOTA conference before, while 11% had attended every year previous.

The conference began with a Trail of Tears Association Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday afternoon, followed by a reception at the hotel where the conference took place.

Afterwards, Wednesday morning by the TOTA President, Jack Baker, and the Arkansas chapter President, Dan Littlefield, conferences chose from one of three breakfast sessions to attend, including William Lee from the Oklahoma Historical Society on the investigations of a steamboat wreck on the Red River in 1840 destined for Fort Towson in the Choctaw Nation; Dan Littlefield from the American Native Press Archives in Little Rock on strategies and resources for researching the Chickasaw and Chickasaw removal; and the National Park Service on their current work on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

After having lunch, the Cherokee Choir performed for the conferences, and then Paul Austin, the executive director of TOTA, handed out door prizes.

The first set of afternoon sessions commenced just after lunch and included presentations by Jim Files and Robert Scoggins from the Arkansas chapter President, Dan Littlefield from the North Carolina chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, and Lindsay Robertson of the Trail of Tears Historic Site. Despite the bus cancellation, approximately 130 individuals, including several from the Partnership conference, attended the tour on Friday to Tablequah, Oklahoma, the capitol of the Cherokee Nation. This tour included visits to the Cherokee Heritage Center, the Murrell Home, various Cherokee National buildings, the Cherokee Nation tribal complex, and Fort Gibson, and included a traditional Cherokee dinner. At the dinner, Principal Chief Chad Smith spoke and the Cherokee Children’s Choir performed.

The conference began their conference with a reception after the TOTA business meeting on Thursday evening. All TOTA conferences were invited to attend this reception.

Wednesday evening ended with a reception and tour at the Fort Smith National Historic Site. Even with sprinkles of rain and unexpectly cool evening, the conference enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and punch while flutist Lewis Johnson played traditional Cherokee music.

Thursday morning began with a presentation by Duane King from the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles on the Bell and Benge Routes in Arkansas. After this general assembly, conferences again broke out into three different sessions, which included sessions with Blue Clark from the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The webpage will not only be user-friendly but will also be completely interactive. Visitors will be able to navigate through the vast data holdings and even input data themselves into an open review area. Eventually we will all be part of a new cyber community of trail enthusiasts.

A principal feature of the GIS webpage is the identification of the trail routes that are under consideration for addition to the national historic trail. These include the Bell Route; the Benge Route; the removal routes in Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina; and the land routes. Please visit the website at www.nps.gov/tefe and link to “Detailed Trail Maps” from there you will be able to focus on many segments of the designated national historic trail or review the “Routes Under Study.”

Your input is encouraged! If you have suggestions on any feature of the webpage, e-mail us at mardr@nps.gov with the subject “Trail of Tears GIS webpage suggestions.”

In their areas. The webpage is in its early stages and will be accessible to all users. When fully developed, it will hold a treasure trove of data that will include not only route alignments but also information on historic properties and certified sites along the trail. The webpage will not only be user-friendly but will also be completely interactive. Visitors will be able to navigate easily through the vast data holdings and even input data themselves into an open review area. Eventually we will all be part of a new cyber community of trail enthusiasts.

The Partnership for the National Trails System began their conference with a reception after the TOTA business meeting on Thursday evening. All TOTA conferences were invited to attend this reception.

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The Conference visit with two of the conference presenters, Blue Clark (far left) and Ted Isham (second from left), at one of the conference lunches.

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Congressmen in Tennessee and Georgia Take Interest in TRTE

As a direct result of Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (TRTE) partners and NPS cooperative efforts and interest, a public meeting/workshop to explore development of a regional plan for the NHT in the Chattanooga area was hosted by Congressmen Zach Wamp. In an unprecedented show of support and interest for the TRTE, Congressman Wamp spent four hours in a structured meeting and workshop that involved participants addressing specific issues and topics concerning the TRTE.

Some 100 participants took part in the meeting/workshop that was covered by local press and TV. Many of the Tennessee chapter members participated, along with Trail of Tears Association President Jack Baker and Coordinator Jerra Quinton, Chattanooga area TRTE interests, local officials, pending and certified site partners, tribal representatives, and many others. Pending funding and resources, the NPS National Trails System Office–Santa Fe (NTSO) hopes to pursue development of a regional plan for the Chattanooga area that would develop this area as a “model TRTE segment.” In the evening, a banquet was hosted by the Friends of Moccasin Bend to honor Congressman Wamp for his efforts in Chickamauga Chattanooga National Military Park. Part of the Bell and Drume detachments crossed the bend and ferried across the Tennessee River here.

The next day, the invitation and organization of Tennessee chapter members Bill and Agnes Jones, Steve Burns and Aaron Mahr from the National Trails System Office–Santa Fe of the National Park Service joined Jack Baker and Jerra Quinton from the Trail of Tears Association and Bobby Davenport and Rick Woods from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) at an informal meeting at the Van Buren County Historical Society in Spencer, Tennessee, with the county executive, Carolyn Houston, and freshman Congressman Lincoln Davis. After TRTE partners provided the congressman with information and background on the TRTE within his district, the congressman expressed a strong interest in supporting the TRTE. He was especially interested in advancing efforts with the TPL on several miles of pristine TRTE segment that the Huber Corporation might donate to the Cherokee Nation.

Later that evening, Steve, Aaron, Jack, and Jerra met up with local officials, community members, board members, and Executive Director Carey Tilley at the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home in Rome, Georgia, for a meeting with fresh- man Congressman Phil Gingrey and local office staff from Georgia Senator Saxby Chambliss. They provided to the congress- man and the senator’s staff background on the TRTE in general and within northwest Georgia and the Chieftains museum and its role and importance to the TRTE.

While visiting the southeast, Aaron and Steve visited several other sites and met with local interested parties. Among those visits were Golconda, Illinois, where poten- tial contacts were made for documentation of the NHT through Golconda, as well as for possible interpretive and site develop- ment opportunities for visitor use in this area. Afterward, they, along with local indivi- duals, met at Campground Church, a site with springs, graves, and camps used by the Cherokees during removal and with high historic integrity. In another section near Golconda, Aaron and Steve visited what the NPS office has identified as a potential “model trail segment” for several reasons: it is in the middle of the Trail; much of this section of the TRTE on public land; it retains outstanding segment resources; it is generally rural; supplemental economic benefit from tourism is likely; and it is a dramatic and tragic part of the Trail of Tears’ story. This is where the detachments were camped and trapped between the frozen Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in the dead of a brutal winter, and many Cherokees died. Interest is high among locals in this area to develop the TRTE, and draft certification agreements are under way.

Steve and Aaron also met with Bill Troope, Assistant Greenways Director for the City of Nashville, regarding the city’s draft certi- fication agreement, which will be redrafted to narrow the scope to specific sites identi- fied for interpretation that coincide with current development of the city’s greenway trails. On that same day, Steve and Aaron retraced the TRTE northwest of Nashville to Guthrie, Kentucky, where they spoke with locals about the need for development of the TRTE in that area. The owners of Grey’s Inn, the site where Chief Whitepath allegedly drank from a well before making a few miles to Hopkinsville where he died, expressed great interest in making the site a certified TRTE site.

While visiting Audubon Acres, Steve and Aaron met with the Board of Directors and discussed their new certification and NPS potential technical assistance in visitor use development of the site and development of a master plan. This property provides a unique opportunity to interpret the lifestyle of the common Cherokee at the time of removal, the experience of removal, and the beginning of the Trail of Tears from the doorsteps of their homes. A design charrette is being planned to develop this master plan in October 2003 to coincide with the Trail of Tears Association conference in Cherokee, North Carolina.

Congressman Zach Wamp from Tennessee describes his vision for the Trail in his state. To read more about Aaron and Steve’s visits, log on to the website at www.nps.gov/trte.

Congressman Lincoln Davis (seated) meets with TRTE partners (sitting left to right) Aaron Mahr, Rick Wood, Jack Baker, Jerra Quinton, Agnes Jones, Steve Burns, Carolyn Houston, Bill Jones, and (kneeling) Bobby Davenport.

Call the hotel at (838) 497-9181 and make your reservations by September 6, 2003, to receive the group rate of $69. Look for the conference pre-registration form in the mail sometime this summer.

Reasons to come to this year’s conference:

It’s the same week as the Cherokee Fall Festival.

Two tours will include visits to Fort Butler, the Valleytowns Baptized Mission, the Unicoi Turnpike, Peachtree Mound, the Junaluska Museum, Kituhwa Mound, and the Cherokee County Historical Museum, among others.

A reception and book signing at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian will commence the conference activities.

The town of Cherokee has tons to do, such as visiting the various Cherokee craft shops, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and Harráh’s Casino.

Tentative Schedule for the 2003 TOTA Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>Keynote: Chief, Cherokee Nation</td>
<td>8:30 - 9:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:00 AM</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>9:45 - 10:45 AM</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM - Noon</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>NPS Update</td>
<td>10:45 - 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Keynote: Chief, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>11:00 AM - Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 - 2:15 PM</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 - 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>Children’s Choir</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM (approx.)</td>
<td>Fall Festival Parade</td>
<td>Tour to Fort Butler</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Valleytowns Baptized Mission, the Unicoi Turnpike, Peachtree Mound, and the Cherokee County Historical Museum</td>
<td>Tour to the Junaluska Museum and Kituhwa Mound</td>
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Chapter Evaluation Form

Please help us assist our chapters in serving the needs of their members by completing this form.
Deadline to return to National TOTA office: June 2, 2003

Registration Information
1. State Chapter Membership (please check only ONE per form):
   _Arkansas  _ Georgia  _ Missouri  _ N. Carolina  _ Oklahoma  _ Tennessee

2. Affiliation:
   _ Individual  _ Corporate  _ Nonprofit (other than TOTA)  _ Government
   _ Other (explain) __________________________

3. Year(s) of membership:

4. Membership fee:
   _ Fee paid by me personally, not reimbursable
   _ Fee paid/reimbursable by my employer

Meetings
1. How often does your chapter meet?  _1-3/year  _3-6/year  _More than 6/year  _Never

2. Are you satisfied with the number of times per year your chapter meets?  _Yes  _No
   If no, how often would you like to meet? _______________________________________

3. Do you receive meeting notices enough in advance to make arrangements to attend?  _Yes  _No

4. Do you attend these meetings . . . ?  _always  _almost always  _seldom  _never

5. If you seldom or never attend your chapter meetings, please tell us why.
   ________________________________________________________________

6. Are you updated on these meetings when you are UNABLE to attend?  _Yes  _No
   If no, would you be interested in receiving a meeting update when you miss?
   _Yes  _No
   In what manner would you prefer to be updated?  _regular mail  _email  _newsletter  _I do not care to be updated.

7. Are you satisfied with the agenda of the chapter meetings?  _Yes  _No
   If no, please explain: ________________________________________________

8. Are you satisfied with the location of the chapter meetings?  _Yes  _No
   If no, where would you rather meet? _____________________________________

Leadership
1. Do you feel the performance of the chapter board of directors is . . . ?
   _Excellent  _Good  _Fair  _Poor
   If “poor,” please give reason(s) for your assessment: _________________________

2. Are you happy with the election process for the chapter board of directors?  _Yes  _No
   If no, please explain: ________________________________________________

Communication
1. Do you receive communication from your chapter . . . ?
   _Regularly  _Every once in a while  _Seldom  _Never

2. What type(s) of communication does your chapter use? Please place a 1 – 3 next to the three
   most often used.
   _Regular Mail  _Email  _Phone  _Newsletters  _Fax

Participation/Engagement
1. Are you an active member of your chapter?  _Yes  _No
   If not, would you like to be?  _Yes  _No  _Unable to be active
   If not, is it because your chapter does NOT meet your needs?  _Yes  _No

2. Have you volunteered specific services to your chapter that have NOT been utilized?
   _Yes  _No

3. Do you feel your skills and willingness to contribute to chapter goals are fully utilized by your chapter?
   _Yes  _No

Additional comments/questions:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Optional:
Name:_________________________________________  _Yes, I need a response to questions asked above.

Return to:  Jerra Quinton
National Trail of Tears Association
1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, AR  72207