

# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter



October-November 2015

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



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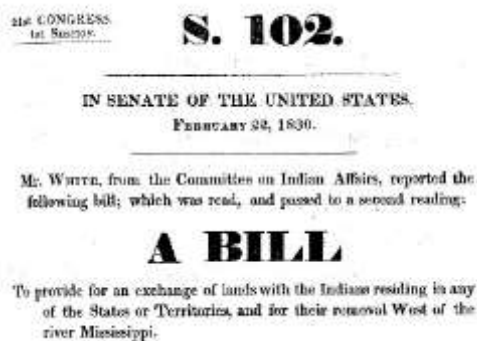
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### Guest Speaker Pat Cummins, President Native American Association at Magness Library



Pat Cummins, a Cherokee descendant and president of the non-profit Native History Association of Nashville, TN presented a power

point presentation at the Magness Library focusing on the northern land route of the Cherokee Trail of Tears that passed through Middle Tennessee and Warren County beginning in the Fall of 1838. In 2012, the Native History Association discovered a previously forgotten 1 1/2 mile long segment of the Trail of Tears through a portion of Rutherford County now owned by the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers near Percy Priest Lake at a location known as Old Jefferson. Mr. Cummins discussed the details of this exciting discovery and also covered another significant Trail of Tears discovery in Nashville. The Native History Association's 2013 discovery of the remains of the first bridge to cross the Cumberland River and used by the 11,000 northern land route Cherokee on their way to Oklahoma Indian Territory. Both locations have proven to be very important interpretive locations that now provide the public with tremendous educational insight into the history of the Trail of Tears in Tennessee.



"Removal" of the Native people east of the Mississippi to lands in the west as a policy of the United States originated with Thomas Jefferson, who was elected President in 1801. Jefferson made a deal with the state of Georgia in 1802, promising to secure the title to all Cherokee land within the state in exchange for Georgia giving up its claim on territory that later became the states of Mississippi and Alabama. In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase transferred title of a vast area west of the Mississippi River from France to the United States, giving Jefferson the means to not only honor the deal with Georgia, but also to solve the "Indian problem" in the eastern U.S. His plan was to acculturate the Indians, manipulate them into incurring trade debts, and then pressure them into

paying off those debts by exchanging their land for parcels of the newly acquired U.S. land in the west. Indian nations that refused to be assimilated would be removed by force.

Many Indian nations did make land cessions in following years. By 1819 Cherokee territory had been reduced to the point that they felt they could cede no more. The Cherokee National Council passed a law that required Council approval of any future land transfers, and the penalty for violating the law was death.

In 1828, pressure for Indian removal to the west greatly increased after the Cherokee adopted a constitution and a republican form of government modeled on that of the United States and began publishing a bi-lingual newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix. This enraged many citizens of Georgia, and when the discovery of gold on Cherokee territory began to be public knowledge, Georgia's desire for the land reached a fever pitch.

In November 1828 Andrew Jackson, who was known to favor Indian removal, was elected President. Barely a month after his election, the Georgia state legislature passed a law annexing Cherokee land in the state, extending Georgia state law over the Cherokee, declaring all Cherokee laws null and void after June 1830, and banning all Cherokees (and Creeks) as witnesses against any white man in court. This was the first of a series of oppressive laws aimed at forcing the Cherokee out of Georgia. The Cherokee refused to recognize Georgia's authority on Cherokee land, and the state began to actively harass Cherokee citizens.

In his State of the Union address in December, 1829, Andrew Jackson proposed that the president of the United States be authorized to exchange land in the west for Indian land in the east and to assist the Indians with their "removal". This exchange would require ratified treaties and would be "voluntary" for the Indians, but for the tribes who refused Jackson made it clear that their existence as nations would not be tolerated and they would be subject to the laws of the states.

In February 1830 Jackson's proposal was introduced in Congress as legislation commonly referred to as the Indian Removal Act. The bill was very controversial and the debate in Congress was fierce, with opposition in the Senate lead by Theodore Frelinghuysen, who gave a 6-hour speech against the bill at one point. Daniel Webster, Henry Clay,

and David Crockett, among many other legislators, also opposed it. Senators and Congressmen on both sides of the issue introduced many memorials from their constituents supporting or opposing the bill. On April 26, 1830, the Indian Removal Act passed the Senate on a vote of 28 to 19. A month later, the Jacksonians finally won the fight when the act passed the House by an even narrower 6-vote margin, 103 to 97, on May 26. Jackson wasted no time in signing the bill into law on May 28, 1830. The Choctaw signed the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in September of 1830 and were the first to be "voluntarily" removed to Indian Territory. 5,000 Choctaws remained in Mississippi, eventually establishing a reservation in 1944 and gaining federal recognition as the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in 1945.

Many Muscogee (Creek) had already emigrated west under earlier treaties. In 1832 leaders of the Muscogee remaining in Alabama signed a removal treaty, but the majority resisted leaving their ancestral homeland and in 1836 the U.S. army began the forced removal of the remaining Muscogee people. Some managed to avoid removal and stayed behind and eventually gained federal recognition as the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. The Seminole in Florida signed the Treaty of Payne's Landing in 1832, agreeing to move west if suitable land was found. A delegation of chiefs toured the proposed area and supposedly signed a treaty at Fort Gibson in Arkansas Territory in 1833, agreeing that the land was acceptable, but when they returned home they renounced the treaty, with some saying they never signed it and others saying they were forced to sign. The majority of Seminoles refused to move, and tensions eventually erupted into the Second Seminole War in 1835. This war lasted 7 years and resulted in the forced removal of just over 3,000 Seminoles. A small number of Seminoles managed to hide out in the swamps of south Florida. Despite a Third Seminole War in the 1850's, they never signed a peace treaty and their descendants are still there. The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians are both federally recognized Indian tribes.

The Chickasaw in Mississippi signed a removal treaty in the summer of 1830, but suitable land in the west could not be found. In 1832 they agreed to accept financial compensation for their land. In

1837 they bought part of the Choctaw's land in Indian Territory and removed to the west.

The Cherokee resisted removal by legal means, petitioning the United States Supreme Court for relief from Georgia's anti-Cherokee laws, arguing that the laws were unconstitutional and violated treaties with the Cherokee. They eventually won their case in 1832 with the Court ruling in *Worcester vs. Georgia* that the Cherokee nation "is a distinct community occupying its own territory in which the laws of Georgia can have no force". This was a hollow victory however, because President Andrew Jackson refused to enforce the decision, leaving the Cherokee at the mercy of Georgia's predations. Faced with what they perceived to be a hopeless cause, a minority group of Cherokee leaders signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, agreeing to move to Indian Territory. Although the majority of the Cherokee and their elected government disavowed this treaty, the United States used it as the basis for forcing the Cherokee to remove to the west in 1838. A small group of Cherokee avoided the removal and eventually organized as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina.

Although the Indian Removal Act was aimed mainly at the Indian nations in the South, it was also used to negotiate removal treaties with the Shawnee, Sauk and Fox, Potawatomie, Ottawa, Omaha, Miami and other smaller tribes.

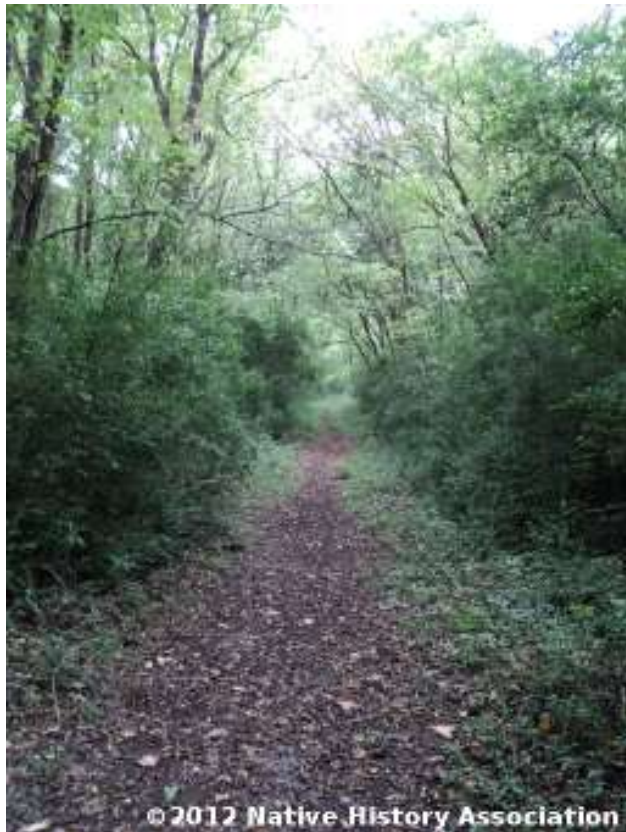
#### Tragic Connections

Some historians see a direct link between Andrew Jackson's refusal to enforce the Supreme Court decision in *Worcester vs. Georgia* and the outbreak of the Civil War, 23 years after the Cherokee were forcibly removed. A case can be made that letting Georgia in effect nullify federal law strengthen the South's position on state's rights. The case for this link to the Civil War has been made at least as far back as Horace Greeley's *American Conflict: A History of The Great Rebellion*, published in 1864. If you accept that connection, it may not be too much of a stretch to say that the Indian Removal Act played a role in sending the entire United States down a Trail of Tears.

Trail of Tears sign at Stones River Civil War Battlefield



Interpretive Sign at the Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
*The Cherokee passed through Murfreesboro on the Trail of Tears in 1838, following what's now Old Nashville Pike, which lies beyond the rail fence. The Stones River National Cemetery is visible in the background. 2,971 men are known to have died in the Battle of Stones River during the Civil War in 1862-63.*



A section of the [Trail of Tears National Historic Trail](#) crosses the Old Jefferson Site, located on Corps of Engineers property in Rutherford County, near Smyrna, Tennessee.

The site is near the East Fork Recreation Area and the Trail of Tears segment is part of a multi-use horse/hiking trail called the [Twin Forks Horse Trail](#), which is open to the public.

"Trail of Tears" is the term used for the several routes taken by the Cherokee during their forced emigration to Indian Territory, now known as Oklahoma, in the late 1830's. There were three main land routes and one water route. Two of the land routes and the water route originated in southeast Tennessee, and all four passed through the state. These routes are part of the National Historic Trail system managed by the National Park Service.

[Old Jefferson](#) is the site of a town that was founded in 1802 at a fork in the Stones River. Several detachments of Cherokee passed through the town in 1838. The main land route of the Trail of Tears followed what is now Highway 70S from McMinnville to Murfreesboro, and on to Nashville, but the detachments that passed through Old Jefferson followed an alternate route that departed from the main route west of Readyville and passed north of Murfreesboro in order to avoid tolls on the main route.



#### **Middle Tennessee Historic Sites Associated With The Indian Removal Act:**

**1823 Nashville Toll Bridge Site** - Nashville's first bridge, opened in 1823, was used by the Cherokee during the Trail of Tears in 1838. A remnant of the bridge structure is still visible in downtown Nashville.

**David Crockett State Park** - In Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is named for the Tennessee frontiersman who opposed the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and fought and died at the Alamo in Texas in 1836. The park features the "Trail of Tears Interpretive Retracement Trail" where visitors can

hike intact sections of the original road used by a detachment of Cherokees who passed through the park on the Trail of Tears in 1838.

**Chickasaw Treaty Council Of 1830** - The first treaty council held under the Indian Removal Act took place in Franklin, Tennessee during the month of August in 1830. The Franklin Masonic Hall, where the Chickasaw delegation met President Andrew Jackson, still stands and is a National Historic Landmark.

**Old Jefferson** - A hikable section of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail crosses the Old Jefferson Site, located on Corps of Engineers property in Rutherford County, near Smyrna, Tennessee.

**Port Royal State Park** - Once used as an encampment site by the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears, this Tennessee state park is an official site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Features "The Trail of Tears" hiking trail, an original, preserved section of the Trail of Tears certified by the National Park Service.

**Pulaski / Giles County Trail of Tears Memorial** - Located in Pulaski, Tennessee, commemorates the history of the Trail of Tears in the area.

**Stones River National Battlefield** - The Cherokee passed through what is now Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, during their forced emigration to Indian Territory during the Trail of Tears in 1838. The route through the battlefield is part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.



**Trail of Tears Historic Trail**



**Members and Guest enjoy the presentation.**





October refreshments' were provided by Jean Hobbs and Carolyn Lance.

## Election of 2016 WCGA Officers Set for November

Election of officers for the 2016 calendar year is set for the November 21 meeting.

If you have an interest in becoming active as an officer with our organization, please contact Vice President Rachel Scott Hillis email to [rhillis@blomand.net](mailto:rhillis@blomand.net). We need candidates for the following offices:  
 Web Page Administrator  
 Newsletter Editor

WCGA next meeting  
 Saturday, November 21, 2 p.m.



## Representing WCGA On The Radio



WCGA President Cheryl Watson Mingle & Kenneth Crabtree and Kearney Andrews - Snipe Hunters with the Snipes Family of America Reunion were guest for the "Behind The Mike" radio show on October 14. Pictured is Kelly Marlowe who is host for the show on 96.0 AM radio in McMinnville.

## Do You Have CIVIL WAR SOLIDERS who lived in WARREN COUNTY before, during or after the war?

Submit your Civil War Solider for entry in our upcoming Warren County Civil War Soliders BOOK'S

You may obtain forms on our Facebook Page or at the Magness Library Genealogy Department

## WCGA is on Facebook!

Come visit us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Warren-County-Genealogical-Association/135126859883450>

We're also on the web, visit us at:  
[www.tngenweb.org/wcgate](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgate)

## Great Christmas Presents



The Courthouse, McMinnville, TN  
 (First in a series)

First Methodist Church, McMinnville, TN  
 (Second in a series)

The Birthing Tree, McMinnville, TN  
 (Third in a series)

Hebe, McMinnville, TN  
 (Forth in a series)

All four available for \$18 each at  
 Southern Museum

201 E. Main Street, McMinnville  
 Open Wed., Fri., Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m. and  
 Warren Co. Genealogical Association  
 County Administrative Building 201 Locust St.  
 Open Fridays 1:00-4:00 p.m

# MINUTES FROM THE MEMBER'S MEETING ON September 19, 2015

## CALL TO ORDER

The Warren County Genealogy Association meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m., September 19, 2015, by President Cheryl Mingle. Eighteen members were in attendance.

## MINUTES

Minutes from the August meeting were read by Secretary Scarlett Griffith and approved on motion by Wanda Gant and seconded by Chris Keathley.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurers report was given by Allen Jaco. End of August balance was 5010.35.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership report** was then given by Allen: We have 6 members renewing membership for 2015; Blair, Boyd (Larry), Glenn, Henning, Pearl and Sandlin. We have 2 new members in August, Lanita Boyd and Rachel Scott Hillis.

**Circulation:** nothing new to report.

**Programs:** Rachel, our new Vice President and Program Director announced that our October meeting had to be moved forward one week to October 24 due to our guest speaker for that day. Pat Cummins, President of Native History Association will be speaking on the Trail of Tears, Cherokee Indian heritage and their removal from their homeland to Oklahoma territory. Expecting a larger attendance than usual, the meeting will be held at the Magness Library, upper level in the auditorium.

**Publicity:** President Mingle is doing her usual good job of publicizing our group on upcoming events. With the help of "Behind the Mike" with Kelley Marlowe, third Thursday in the month, the Standard newspaper and Face book, she gets the word out on all our activities. Radio guest for this month was Cheryl Mingle with information on the beginning of Warren County fairs beginning in 1859 and 40 year member of the fair board, Morris Griffith on the fair from its current location in 1954 to the present.

Our **Research** specialist is still at NHC rehab. Bonita is doing well and will hopefully be back with us soon.

**Bulletin editor,** Chris Keathley has the Fall and Winter edition on schedule, with distribution at the November meeting. Thanks are in order to he and Wilma Davenport to see these are received by all our members.

**Newsletter:** This position was taken on by our President. It is a hard act to follow! Doyle Speaks our long time editor moved back to his home state. He did an outstanding job. Cheryl is doing a great job in taking this over. A newsletter editor is needed as is someone to do the Webpage.

**Office:** Evelyn and Martha are doing great with keeping the office up. Nothing new to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Scarlett reported on a couple of places for our "Christmas" social. If you have any suggestions on places for us to have this

activity, please let us know. A decision will have to be made soon.

Christine Bouldin told us an important story concerning DNA. In conversation with Carolyn Townsend Hillis she learned Carolyn had lost many family members from cancer. Through DNA, cousins began contacting cousins and others about the cancer gene, who has had it and who has the gene that might show up in their future. A person in California found relatives to compare this to. He then had the test to see if he had also inherited it. In his case, and to his great relief he did not. One great mark for DNA.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

WCGA is taking part in the Autumn Street Fair October 3rd. Chris Keathley and Monty Wanamaker has invited our group to bring books, keepsakes and other items to the museum for sale during the street fair. Chris will be having a showing of his photos of "Hebe" and other subjects of interest. You won't want to miss this opportunity to view these beautiful photos. Set-up will be Friday afternoon. Some of the members will assist in this.

A brief report was given on the first meeting of the committee that is to put together the book on "Civil War Soldiers". Meeting went well with the help of Pat Burgess who has completed work on the Coffee County soldiers as our "coach" and guide in this process. She is to be interviewed by Jonathan Womack for BLTV Friday morning, September 25th. Televised date has not been announced.

## **PROGRAM**

Programs were provided by Rachel Scott Hillis, "Preserving Your Keepsakes" and Cheryl Watson Mingle, "History of the Warren County Fairs". Their presentations are printed in the September/October newsletter in detail.

Refreshments today were provided by Barbara Bates and Glenda Cantrell

Meeting adjourned.  
Submitted by Secretary Scarlett Griffith.



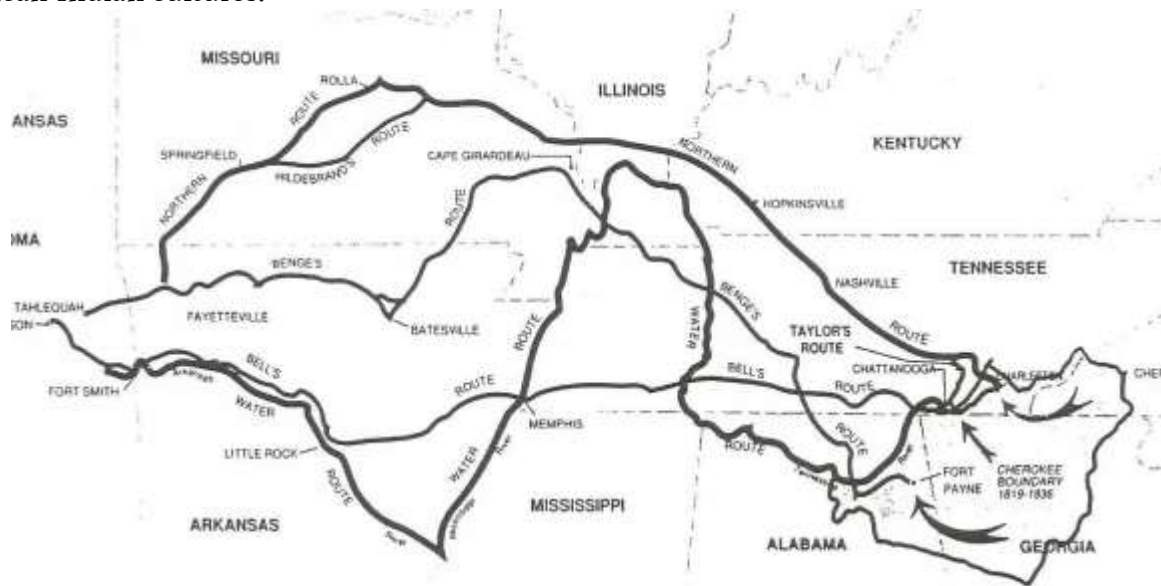
**WCGA's annual Christmas luncheon will be held at noon on Friday, December 11, at The Corners on the River in Readyville. The meal will include a meat, 2 vegetables, salad, roll, dessert, drink and tip for \$20 each. A minimum of 20 people is required. Members who plan to attend should sign up in advance with Scarlett Griffith.**

## **THE TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION**

### **THE STORY.....**

In the spring and summer of 1838, more than 15,000 Cherokee Indians were removed by the U. S. Army from their ancestral homeland in North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama. Held in concentration camps through the summer, they were then forced to travel over 1,000 miles, under adverse conditions to Indian Territory, which is now Oklahoma. Thousands died. The Cherokees came to call the event "Nunahi-Duna-Dlo-Hilu-I," or "Trail Where They Cried."

This catastrophic journey, one of the darker events in American history, not only affected the Cherokee, but has symbolized the removal of the other Southeastern and Eastern Indian tribes. The grim result of U. S. Government American Indian Removal Policy, the forced relocations devastated American Indian cultures.



The routes designated as the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail are the Water and Northern routes.

### **THE MISSION....**

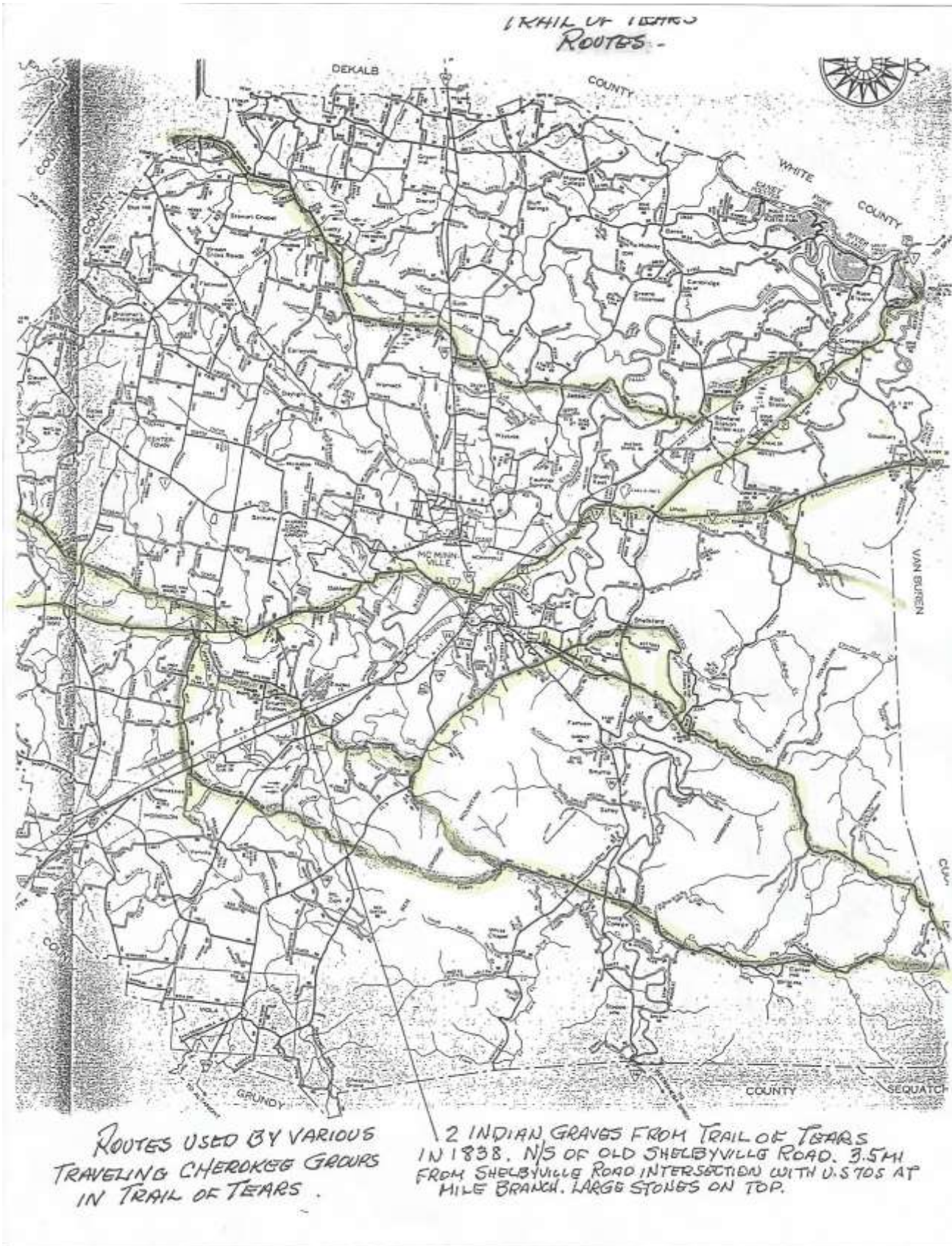
In 1987, Congress passed Public Law 100-192, designating two of the routes taken by the Cherokee people in their removal as a National Historic Trail within the National Trails System. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is administered by the National Park Service.

In 1993, under the auspices of the Secretary of the Interior and the Trail of Tears Advisory Council, the Trail of Tears Association was created and incorporated in Missouri as a non-profit organization. The corporation papers were signed by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and the Principal Chief, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The Association has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of Trail of Tears National Historic Trail resources; to promote awareness of the Trail's legacy, including the effects of the U. S. Government's Indian Removal Policy on the Cherokees and other tribes; and to perpetuate the management and development techniques that are consistent with the National Park Service's trail plan.

Please visit the Tennessee Chapter, Trail of Tears Association website under construction at [www.tntota.com](http://www.tntota.com)





**Warren County Tennessee Trail of Tears Routes**

# Do You Think You Are Trying To Connect To Warren County?

66 people have proven it!

They received Certificates for

## Warren County – McMinnville First Pioneer Families

**There's still time for you** to make your connection by submitting copies of an official record linking you to Warren County before 1820. Those records can be birth, marriage, death, probate or will, church, cemetery, funeral or obituary, land records, tax records, court, military records, census, newspaper, or Bible for each generation, including the applicant.

*To qualify for a certificate, suitable for framing, the applicant must directly descend from an ancestor (male or female) who was in Warren County no later than the 1820 census (this includes the boundaries of the original formation of Warren County from White county).*



There is a \$10 application processing fee + \$3.50 shipping for the certificates. All applications and verifying material become the property of the Warren County Genealogical Association.

**Current Tennessee residency is not necessary.**

Applications may be obtained on line at

[www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Warren-County-Genealogical-Association/135126859883450> Facebook page

or may be picked up at

WCGA office at 201 Locust St.

Also available at the Magness Library on Main St.

They should be submitted to

Warren County Genealogical Association,  
c/o First Pioneer Families,  
P. O. Box 411,  
McMinnville TN 37111.